

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

June, 2021

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Q.1) Kabasura Kudineer sometimes seen in news is a:

- a) folk ritual of Nagas
- b) a Siddha medicine for fevers
- c) Forest deity of Niyamgiri
- d) Species of water buffalo

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- **Kabasura Kudineer:** It is a **Siddha medicine** for the treatment of fevers. It is now being used to treat asymptomatic, mild, and moderate COVID-19 infection cases.
 - It increases immunity and **acts as an immune-modulator** as this virus adversely affects the immune response.
 - Siddha is a traditional medicine originating in South India. It is one of the oldest systems of medicine in India.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Local sheet seen in news is a:

- a) An extragalactic region of space
- b) weather phenomenon in Himalayas
- c) layer of fly ash on vegetation near power plants
- d) deposition of lava near caldera

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- The Local Sheet in astronomy is a nearby extragalactic region of space where the Milky Way, the members of the Local Group and other galaxies share a similar peculiar velocity.

Source: The Hindu (30th May 2021)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Metadata:

1. It is often defined as data about data
2. It helps to organize, find and understand data

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:** Metadata is simply data about data. It means it is a description and context of the data. It helps to organize, find and understand data.
- **For example:** Every time you take a photo with your smartphone camera following metadata is gathered and saved with it:
 - date and time
 - filename

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- camera settings
- geolocation
- Read more about Metadata [here](#)

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements on **Neglected Tropical Diseases**

1. These diseases are common in the tropical regions of Africa, Asia, and the Americas
2. These are not preventable and also not treatable
3. London Declaration deals with the eradication program of these disease.

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:

- **Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD)** are a group of infections. These diseases are most common in the tropical regions of Africa, Asia, and the Americas among marginalized communities. The basic reason behind them is no access to clean water or safe ways to dispose of human waste.
- **These diseases** generally receive less funding for research and treatment than diseases like tuberculosis, HIV-AIDS, and malaria.
- **Some examples of NTDs** include snakebite envenomation, scabies, yaws, trachoma, Leishmaniasis, and Chagas disease.
- **Cases:** NTDs affect more than a billion people globally. However, the diseases are preventable and treatable.
- **London Declaration** on Neglected Tropical Diseases was a collaborative disease eradication program. It launched on 30 January 2012 in London.

Read more: [Neglected Tropical Diseases](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements on **Tobacco consumption** in India

1. India adopted the tobacco control provisions under WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC)
2. Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) include bidis, hookah and gutka also in the 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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- India adopted the tobacco control provisions under WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC).
- Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003:

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- It replaced the Cigarettes Act of 1975 (largely limited to statutory warnings- ‘Cigarette Smoking is Injurious to Health’ to be displayed on cigarette packs and advertisements. It did not include non-cigarettes).
- The 2003 Act also included cigars, bidis, cheroots, pipe tobacco, hookah, chewing tobacco, pan masala, and gutka.
- Promulgation of the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Ordinance, 2019: It prohibits Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement of e-Cigarettes.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.6) What is the objective of the DaVinci plus mission?

- a) Investigate presence of water on Mars
- b) Geologic history of moon’s surface
- c) Explore Saturn’s rings in detail
- d) Analyse thick & cloudy Venus atmosphere

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: NASA recently announced two new robotic missions to Venus

- **DaVinci Plus** will analyze the thick, cloudy Venusian atmosphere in an attempt to determine whether the inferno planet ever had an ocean and was possibly habitable. A small craft will plunge through the atmosphere to measure the gases. It will be the first U.S.-led mission to the Venusian atmosphere since 1978.
- **Veritas:** The other mission, called **Veritas**, will seek a geologic history by mapping the rocky planet’s surface.

Each mission — launching sometime around 2028 to 2030 — will receive \$500 million for development under **NASA’s Discovery program**.

- The U.S. and the former Soviet Union sent multiple spacecraft to Venus in the early days of space exploration. NASA’s Mariner 2 performed the first successful flyby in 1962, and the Soviets’ Venera 7 made the first successful landing in 1970.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.7) Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) was sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following clearly explains it?

- a) It is the pilot project carried out successfully using Hyperloop train concept
- b) It is an Artificial Sun experiment conducted by China.
- c) It is a new superconducting project that achieved superconductivity at ambient temperature and normal pressure.
- d) It is an advanced superconducting mission that is performed in International Space Station.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: China’s Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST), also known as ‘Artificial Sun’ experiment, has set a new record in the latest experiment. Recently it achieved a plasma temperature of 216 million Fahrenheit (120 million C) for 101 seconds.

- It is believed that the temperature at the core of the Sun is 15 million C, which also means that the temperature produced by (EAST) is nearly seven times that of the Sun.

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- It is a significant step in the country's quest to unlock clean and limitless energy, with minimal waste products.
- The mission mimics the energy generation process of the sun.
- The reactor consists of an advanced nuclear fusion experimental research device located in Hefei, China.

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. SARS-CoV-2 genome is a single-stranded RNA in which mutations of a virus occur frequently.
2. RNA viruses are more error-prone than DNA viruses during virus replication.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** RNA viruses have high mutation rates—up to a million times higher than their hosts—and these high rates are correlated with enhanced virulence and evolvability, traits considered beneficial for viruses
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Due to high mutation the replication cycles of RNA virus are more error-prone.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding an anti-hail gun:

1. A mixture of ethylene gas and air is used.
2. It generates shock waves to prevent hailstone formation

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:** A mixture of acetylene gas and air is used.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Anti-hail gun is a machine that generates shock waves to disrupt the growth of hailstones in clouds.

Source: [Anti-hail gun](#)

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the Performance Grading Index (PGI):

1. It has been released by Ministry of Human Resource and Development.
2. It is based on data from multiple sources including National Achievement Survey and Public Financial Management System.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: b

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** PGI is released by the Education Ministry
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The information on the indicators are drawn from data available with the Department of School Education (DoSEL) from the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE), National Achievement Survey (NAS) of NCERT, Mid-Day Meal website, Public Financial Management System (PFMS) and the information uploaded by the States and UTs on the Shagun Portal.

Q.11) Which of the following statements correctly defines **Superconductivity**?

- a) Some materials offering zero resistance at very low temperature
- b) Some materials offering infinite resistance at very low temperature
- c) Semiconductors offering conducting high conductivity due to photoelectric effect
- d) Insulators offering high conductivity at very high temperatures

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Superconductivity is a phenomenon displayed by some materials when they are cooled below a certain temperature, known as the superconducting critical temperature. Below a certain “critical” temperature, materials undergo transition into the superconducting state, characterized by two basic properties: firstly, they offer no resistance to the passage of electrical current.

When resistance falls to zero, a current can circulate inside the material without any dissipation of energy. Secondly, provided they are sufficiently weak, external magnetic fields will not penetrate the superconductor, but remain at its surface. This field expulsion phenomenon is known as the Meissner effect, after the physicist who first observed it in 1933.

Q.12) Which of the following is/are potential applications of **Calcium nitrate**?

1. Agricultural fertilizer
2. Waste water treatment
3. As baking soda

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Calcium nitrate also known as **Norwegian saltpeter** is mainly produced as a **fertilizer**, used for plant nutrition purposes, and for **wastewater treatment**. It is a source of both calcium and nitrogen, for plants.

‘Calcium Nitrate’ & ‘Boronated Calcium Nitrate’ is now being manufactured for the first time in India by Gujrat State Fertilizers and Chemicals -GSFC India Ltd. GSFC launched these two

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products in the retail market for the first time from Solan in Himachal Pradesh and Bhavnagar in Gujarat.

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding Alzheimer disease:

1. It causes the brain to atrophy.
2. It is thought to be caused by the abnormal build-up of proteins in brain cells.

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

- **Alzheimer's disease** is a progressive **neurologic disorder** that causes the brain to shrink (atrophy) and brain cells to die.
- The disease is the most common **cause of dementia**— a continuous decline in thinking, behavioural and social skills that affect a person's ability to function independently.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.14) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Arihant - Nuclear-powered Submarine
2. Sarthak - Offshore Patrol Vessel
3. Airavat - Amphibious Warfare Vessel

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: All of the above are correctly matched.

INS Arihant is the lead ship of India's Arihant class of **nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines**. The 6,000 tonne vessel was built under the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project at the Ship Building Centre in the port city of Visakhapatnam.

Recently an **Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV)** for the Indian Coast Guard was launched today and re-christened as Indian Coast Guard Ship '**Sarthak**'. It has been designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited.

INS Airavat is a **Shardul-class amphibious warfare vessel** of the Indian Navy. It was built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers in Kolkata. Primarily designed for amphibious assault operations, Airavat's missions also include **humanitarian assistance & disaster relief (H**

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding the Measles:

1. Measles is caused by a virus in the paramyxovirus family and it is normally passed through direct contact and through the air.
2. Measles is a human disease and is not known to occur in animals.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Measles.

- Measles is **caused by a virus in the paramyxovirus** family and it is normally passed **through direct contact and through the air.**
- The virus infects the respiratory tract, and then spreads throughout the body. **Measles is a human disease and is not known to occur in animals.**
- Measles is a highly contagious, serious disease caused by a virus. Before the introduction of measles vaccine in 1963 and widespread vaccination, major
- epidemics occurred approximately every 2–3 years and measles caused an estimated 2.6 million deaths each year.
- Accelerated immunization activities have had a major impact on reducing measles deaths. During 2000– 2018, measles vaccination prevented an estimated 23.2 million deaths.

Global measles deaths have decreased by 73% from an estimated 536000 in 2000 to 142,000 in 2018.

Q.16) Consider the following Covid-19 Variants of Concern along with their earliest documented countries.

Variant - Earliest documented Country

- 1. Alpha Variant – South Africa
- 2. Beta Variant – The UK
- 3. Delta Variant – India
- 4. Gamma Variant - Brazil

Which of the above variants is/are matched correctly?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- The WHO has recently given a new classification to SARS-CoV-2 variants of interest (VOI) and variants of concern (VOC) on the basis of greek letters. The objective was to create easy-to-pronounce and non-stigmatising labels for VOI and VOC.
- However, the established nomenclature systems for naming and tracking of SARS-CoV-2 genetic lineages by GISAID, Nextstrain and Pango will remain in use for the scientific research.
- The new classification is as follows:
 - VOC B.1.1.7 will be called Alpha Variant. It was earliest documented in the United Kingdom (September 2020).

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- VOC B.1.351 will be called Beta Variant. It was earliest documented in South Africa (May 2020).
- VOC P.1 will be called Gamma Variant. It was earliest documented in Brazil (November 2020).
- VOC B.1.617.2 will be called Delta Variant. It was earliest documented in India (October 2020).

Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding CHIME telescope:

1. It uses AI-powered analog signal processing to detect Fast Radio Bursts
2. Four parabolic moving antennas are employed to track entire sky as earth rotates

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

Both statements are wrong.

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The telescope has a powerful digital signaling processor that works at about seven terabits per second – equivalent to a few percent of the world's internet traffic. This digital signal processor reconstructs and looks in thousands of directions simultaneously. That's what helps it to detect FRBs a thousand times more often than a traditional telescope.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The CHIME telescope functions a bit differently from others used for radio astronomy. Most radio astronomy is done by rotating a large dish to focus light from different parts of the sky. On the other hand, the CHIME telescope comprises four massive parabolic radio antennas. It has no moving parts, and it receives radio signals each day from half of the sky as the Earth rotates.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.18) 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.

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Japan's Akatsuki Venus Climate Orbiter, launched in 2010, has been studying Venus atmosphere since 2015.

Q.19) SolarWinds, Hafnium, Nobellium and DarkSide were seen in the news recently. Which of the following correctly explains them?

- These are the recent cyber attacks that occurred in the world on civilian infrastructure
- These are new stars identified in distant galaxies
- These are a new type of semiconductor chips that use very little energy
- 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.20) Consider the following statements regarding Gas hydrates:

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

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- 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.

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Q.21) 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.22) 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.
- Read more [here](#)

Source: [Article](#)

Q.23) 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.

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- 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](#)

Q.24) Consider the following statements regarding the **International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor**:

1. It is a large-scale scientific experiment intended to prove the viability of fusion as an energy source.
 2. India is one of the participating countries in the project.
- 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: Both statements are correct.

ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) is a large-scale scientific experiment that intends to prove the viability of fusion as an energy source.

ITER is currently under construction in the south of France. Seven partners—**China, the European Union, India, Japan, Korea, Russia and the United States**—have pooled their financial and scientific resources to build this fusion reactor.

ITER will not produce electricity, but it will resolve critical scientific and technical issues in order to take fusion to the point where industrial applications can be designed. By producing 500 MW of fusion power from 50 MW of power injected in the systems that heat the plasma—a "gain factor" of 10—ITER will open the way to the next step: a demonstration fusion power plant.

A fusion reactor would produce virtually no CO₂ or atmospheric pollutants, and its radioactive waste products would mostly be very short-lived compared to those produced by conventional nuclear fission reactors.

Q.25) Consider the following statements regarding the **Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)**:

1. It is a Statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
 2. The SERB-POWER scheme has been specifically designed to promote Women Scientists.
- 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: Statement 1 is correct. The **Science and Engineering Research Board**

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(SERB) is a statutory body established through an Act of Parliament, 2008. The mandate is to support basic research in emerging areas of Science & Engineering.

Statement 2 is correct. “**SERB-POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research)**”, designed exclusively for women scientists was launched recently. SERB POWER Scheme will have two components namely (i) SERB-POWER **Fellowship** (ii) SERB- POWER **Research Grants**. While a Search-cum-Selection Committee constituted for The purpose will help in identifying the POWER Fellowship, the existing Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) mechanism will be used to select the POWER Research Grants. It is proposed to institute 25 POWER Fellowships annually. A total of 50 Power Grants each Will be sanctioned in Level I & Level II per annum

Q.26) With regard to edge computing, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It can be used for automation of cars.
2. It requires extra bandwidth compared to traditional computing.
3. It can be used to monitor air quality and temperature patterns in a room

Answer using the codes given below

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. In simple terms, Edge computing is a computing that's done at or near the source of the data, instead of relying on the cloud at one of a dozen data centers to do all the work. In case of edge computing data storage and processor will be in the car. So it can take instant decisions in case of emergency.

Statement 2 is incorrect. Edge computing has another huge benefit – it saves bandwidth, since data is not being sent on the network. In facial recognition and motion analytics cameras, for instance, the savings can be huge because those images require massive bandwidth. “The edge processor can process images and only relay the processed data to the data centre for further analytics, reducing traffic.

Statement 3 is correct. The edge devices monitor air quality and temperature patterns in a room and send alerts to the central building management system when any of the indices breach the threshold level. Company founder Harit Soni says the solution is being used by real estate services provider JLL India to monitor the air quality of office spaces it manages.

Q.27) Consider the following statements regarding **Nipah virus**

1. Case Fatality Rate (CFR) among Nipah virus infected person is higher than the Covid-19
2. Nipah Virus is an DNA or Deoxy-ribonucleic acid virus
3. There is no medicine or vaccines available against the virus.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Recently a survey by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Institute of Virology has picked up samples with the possible presence of antibodies against the Nipah virus. These samples were collected from some bat species on a cave in Mahabaleshwar, a popular hill station in Maharashtra.

About Nipah Virus:

- It is a zoonotic, RNA or Ribonucleic acid virus . It is closely related to Hendra virus
- Nipah virus is considered dangerous as there is no medicine or vaccines available and the death rate among those affected is high. While the Case Fatality Rate (CFR) among COVID-19 affected patients is between 1-2%, that for Nipah infections is in the range of 65-100%.
- Fruit bats, also called flying foxes, are the animal reservoir for NiV in nature
- Infection with NiV is associated with encephalitis (swelling of the brain) and can cause mild to severe illness and even death.

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

Q.28) Consider the following statements regarding mRNA technology:

1. mRNA are single-stranded molecules carrying information from DNA to the cells.
2. Scientists can design mRNA and make them generate proteins on demand.

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

Messenger RNA (or mRNA) refers to single-strand RNA molecules that carry instructions from our DNA to cells.

- mRNA tells them what proteins they should produce and when.
- For a while now, scientists have been able to design mRNA, introduce them into living cells, and get them to make proteins on demand.
- **Numerous applications:** Getting the body to produce proteins to supplement natural deficiencies, improve blood flow, or even reverse the effects of life-threatening diseases like multiple sclerosis.
- Perhaps the most ingenious use of this technology is in combating disease. If mRNA can instruct the body to produce proteins that mimic the shape of an invading virus (the spike protein in COVID's case), we can train our immune system in advance to identify dangers and create antibody defences for when a real virus comes along.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.29) Consider the following statements regarding Peter Pan Syndrome

1. It is a psychological condition that is used to describe an adult who is socially immature.
2. The WHO (World Health Organization) recognized Peter Pan Syndrome as a mental health disorder

Which of the statements given above, is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Recently, a special court in Mumbai granted bail to an accused of sexually assaulting a minor as he was suffering from Peter Pan Syndrome (PPS).

About Peter Pan Syndrome:

- It is a psychological condition that is used to describe an adult who is socially immature.
- People who develop behaviours of living life carefree, finding responsibilities challenging in adulthood, and basically never growing up suffer from PPS.
- The term was coined by psychologist Dan Kiley to explain the behaviour of such men who 'refuse to grow' and behave their age in 1983.
- Dan Kiley got the idea of PPS after noticing Peter Pan, a fictional character created by Scottish novelist James Matthew Barrie.
- The WHO (World Health Organization) does not recognise Peter Pan Syndrome as a health disorder, many experts believe it is a mental health condition that can affect one's quality of life.

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

Q.30) Consider the following statements regarding **Trusted Telecom Portal (TTP)**

1. The Portal will mandate telecom service providers to use equipment through trusted or authentic sources only.
2. The portal is part of the national security directive.

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: Chinese telecom gear giant Huawei Technologies has sought permission for access to the government's 'Trusted Telecom Portal' so that it can share details about the telecom products which telecom service providers have agreed to buy from it.

What is the 'Trusted Telecom Portal (TTP)'

Government recently launched a 'trusted telecom' portal as a part of the **national security directive** on the telecommunications sector.

- **Background:** The development has come following the government's efforts to ensure security of telecom networks, especially wrt fifth generation (5G) service. The initiative is widely believed to discourage the use of China-made gear in the country's core networks.
- The new portal is under the Cyber wing of the National Security Council Secretariat
- **Objective:** Portal will mandate telecom service providers to use equipment through trusted or authentic sources only.
- **How will it work?**

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- The TSPs will be able to access the Trusted Telecom Portal and indicate the telecom products they plan to buy, along with the vendor.
- The details of these vendors, the products, the critical components and their sources are then populated in the portal by the telecom service providers. Vendors will also be given access to the portal.
- The government will assess the vendors and the sources of the components to determine trusted sources and trusted products and this decision will be intimated to the vendor and the telecom provider.

Q.31) Which of the following organization recently released '**Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2020**'?

- a) International Energy Agency (IEA)
- b) The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
- c) International Energy Forum
- d) The Energy and Resources Institute(TERI)

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Recently, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) released the 'Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2020' report.

Key findings of the report:

- The year 2020 (with 261 GW installed) was a **record year for renewables deployment** despite the Covid-19- pandemic. The addition was almost 50% higher than that made in 2019 and represented 82% of the global new power capacity.
- **Replacing Coal with Renewables** will save operators USD 32 billion a year and reduce annual carbon dioxide emissions by around three billion tonnes.
- **Reducing Cost of Renewables:** In about 10 years (2010-2020), the cost of power produced from commercial solar PVs fell by 85%, concentrating solar power (CSP) 68%, onshore wind 68% and offshore wind 48%.

Source: [DTE](#)

Q.32) Consider the following statements regarding **Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018**

1. A special court (designated under the PMLA, 2002) may declare an individual as a fugitive economic offender.
2. The value of the offence has to be at least Rs. 50 crore to declare a person as a Fugitive Economic Offender (FEO)

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 Enforcement Directorate has transferred assets worth Rs. 8,441.50 crore to public sector banks that suffered losses to the tune of Rs. 22,585.83 crore due to frauds committed allegedly by Vijay Mallya, Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi.

- All the three have been declared 'Fugitive Economic Offenders' by PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act) Court in Mumbai.

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About Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018:

- It seeks to confiscate properties of economic offenders who have left the country to avoid facing criminal prosecution or refuse to return to the country to face prosecution.
- Fugitive Economic Offender (FEO): A person against whom an arrest warrant has been issued for committing an offence listed in the Act and the value of the offence is at least Rs. 100 crore.
- After hearing the application, a special court (designated under the PMLA, 2002) may declare an individual as a fugitive economic offender.
- It may confiscate properties which are proceeds of crime, Benami properties and any other property, in India or abroad.
- Upon confiscation, all rights and titles of the property will vest in the central government, free from encumbrances (such as any charges on the property).
- The central government may appoint an administrator to manage and dispose of these proper

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.33) Consider the following statement regarding Delta Plus variant

1. Delta Plus has the same mutation that was first seen in the Beta Variant in South Africa
2. This variant binds more easily to lung cells and is potentially resistant to monoclonal antibody therapy.

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: A new variant of the coronavirus has been detected in some states. It is a further mutation of prevalent Delta variant which had a huge role to play in the country's second covid-19 wave. Health authorities here have termed the Delta Plus, or B.1.617.2.1, a variant of concern.

About Delta plus variant:

- **More transmissible:** This version evolved from its predecessor Delta. Further, Delta Plus also has the same mutation that was first seen in the Beta Variant in South Africa. This combination can make it all the more transmissible.
- The health ministry says this variant **binds more easily to lung cells** and is **potentially resistant to monoclonal antibody therapy**.
- There is also no data on **how existing treatments or even vaccines will work against** this variant.
 - **Vaccine escape** is possible if this variant evades the antibodies produced against the surface spike protein by developing shape-changing mutations in that protein.

Source: [Livemint](#)

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Q.34) Consider the following statements regarding **Project Seabird**

1. The project involves creation of a naval base at Karwar on the west coast of India
2. It is the project of Karnataka State government to provide a naval base to Indian Navy.

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: Recently, the Union Defence Minister has reviewed the status of the Indian Navy's Project Seabird at the Karwar Naval Base.

About Project Seabird:

- **Project Seabird** is the largest naval infrastructure project at Karwar, Karnataka.
- **The project involves** creation of a naval base at Karwar on the west coast of India.
- **Upon completion**, the project will provide the Indian Navy with its largest naval base on the west coast and also the largest naval base east of the Suez Canal.

Phases of the Project Seabird:

- **Phase I** comprises construction of a deep-sea harbour, breakwaters, dredging, a township, a naval hospital, dockyard uplift centre and a ship lift.
- **Phase II** was cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Security in 2012. It envisages expanding facilities to house additional warships and set up a new Naval Air Station among other plans.
- **Moreover**, the Navy's lone aircraft carrier **INS Vikramaditya** is also based at Karwar. The base also has the country's first sealift facility, a unique shiplift and transfer system for docking and undocking ships and submarines.

Source: [TOI](#)

Q.35) Consider the following statements regarding **LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging)**

1. It is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges & variable distances.
2. These light pulses combined with other data recorded by the airborne system generate precise, three-dimensional information

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 Union Environment Minister has released detailed project reports of the light detection and ranging(LiDAR) based survey of forest areas in 10 states.

- **LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging):** It is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges & variable distances.

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- **Working:** These light pulses combined with other data recorded by the airborne system generate precise, three-dimensional information about the shape of the Earth and its surface characteristics.
- **Instrument:** LiDAR instrument principally consists of a laser, a scanner, and a specialized GPS receiver. Airplanes and helicopters are the most commonly used platforms for acquiring LiDAR data over broad areas.

Applications: LiDAR is used for agriculture, hydrology and water management systems, geology-related applications and also in archaeology.

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ENVIRONMENT

Q.1) Balukhand-Konark wildlife sanctuary in news is located in which of the following state?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Odisha
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Bihar

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- Sanctuary is located in Odisha.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding to **BlackBucks**

1. They are under Least Concern category of International Union for Conservation of Nature red list.
2. Black buck is a State Animal of Punjab, Haryana, and Andhra Pradesh

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: According to a census carried out by the Odisha State Forest Department, Odisha's blackbuck population has doubled in the last six years.

- **The blackbuck** (*Antelope cervicapra*) is also known as the Indian antelope. It is an antelope native to India and Nepal.
- **Habitat:** It inhabits grassy plains and lightly forested areas with perennial water sources.
- **State Animal:** Blackbuck has been declared as the State Animal of Punjab, Haryana, and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Protection Status:**
 - **IUCN Status:** Least Concern
 - **Wildlife Protection Act 1972:** Schedule I
 - **CITES:** Appendix III
- **Religious Significance:**
 - **The blackbuck is routinely depicted in miniature paintings** of the Mughal era (16th to 19th centuries) depicting royal hunts often using cheetahs.

Read More: [BlackBuck](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding **species in forest**

1. Forests Specialists include species that can adapt to modified habitats such as orchards and degraded forests
2. Forest Generalists include species that search for food and breed only in dense protected Forests.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Statements are interchanged

- Forest Generalists include species that can adapt to modified habitats such as orchards and degraded forests. Example, Pigeon and Black Kite
- Forest Specialists include species that search for food and breed only in dense protected Forests. For example, Rufous-bellied woodpecker, greater yellow nape

Read more: [Decline in forest bird species in the Western Himalayas Region](#)

Q.4) Litoria Mira was sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following clearly explains it?

- a) It is a newly discovered coral species in Indian Ocean
- b) It is a microscopic alga sent to the International Space Station
- c) It is a new frog species discovered in the rainforests of New Guinea
- d) It is a new snake species discovered in the Sahara Desert.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- A research team led by Griffith University has discovered a new Frog Species in New Guinea. It has been named Litoria Mira.
- It has a unique combination of moderately large size, webbing on hand, relatively short and robust limbs, and small violet patch of skin on the edge of its eyes.
- Moreover, it was found that the litoria Mira looks similar to the Australian green tree frog. However, there is only one difference, the former is usually green while Litoria Mira usually has chocolate coloring.

Read more: [Litoria Mira](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Nature-based solutions (NbS)

1. It means sustainable management and the use of nature to tackle socio-environmental challenges.
2. Disaster risk, climate change risk and biodiversity loss can reduce using NbS

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: Nature-based solutions(NbS) refer to sustainable management and the use of nature to tackle socio-environmental challenges.

These challenges range from disaster risk reduction, climate change and biodiversity loss to food and water security as well as human health.

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Recently, the State of Finance for Nature Report has been released. The report recommended more investments in “Nature-based solutions”.

Read more: [State of Finance for Nature Report](#)

Q.6) Which of the following method is used to **treat oil spills** in the sea?

1. Using biological agents
2. Using chemical dispersants
3. Skimming
4. Using Sorbents
5. In situ burning

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

There are a few ways to clean up oil spills including:

- **Skimming:** It involves removing oil from the sea surface before it is able to reach the sensitive areas along the coastline.
- **In situ burning:** It means burning a particular patch of oil after it has concentrated in one area.
- **Releasing chemical dispersants** helps break down oil into smaller droplets. It makes it easier for microbes to consume, and further, break it down into less harmful compounds.
- **Natural actions** in aquatic environments such as weathering, evaporation, biodegradation and oxidation can also help reduce the severity of an oil spill. It also accelerates the recovery of an affected area.
- **Sorbents:** Various sorbents (e.g., straw, volcanic ash, and shavings of polyester-derived plastic) that absorb the oil from the water are used.
- **Dispersing agents:** These are chemicals that contain surfactants or compounds that act to break liquid substances such as oil into small droplets. They accelerate its natural dispersion into the sea.
- **Biological agents:** Nutrients, enzymes, or microorganisms such as Alcanivorax bacteria or Methylocella silvestris that increase the rate at which natural biodegradation of oil occurs are added.

Read More: ["Oil Spill" at Sri Lanka's Coast](#)

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding **Black Carbon (BC)**:

1. It is the most solar energy-absorbing component of particulate matter.
2. Black carbon over highly reflective surfaces, like snow, may cause a significant positive radiative forcing.

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

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Formed by the incomplete burning of fossil fuels, biofuels and biomass, black carbon, has a diameter of less than 2½ microns (PM_{2.5}). A major constituent of soot, black carbon is the most solar energy-absorbing component of particulate matter and can absorb one million times more energy than CO₂.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Energy is constantly flowing into the atmosphere in the form of sunlight that always shines on half of the Earth's surface. Some of this sunlight (about 30 percent) is reflected back to space and the rest is absorbed by the planet
 - Radiative forcing is the difference b/w this incoming and the outgoing radiation. More the difference, more is the heating of the earth.
 - Snow reflects the radiation while Black carbon absorbs it. Absorption results in heating effect leading to a positive radiative forcing. (*Negative radiative forcing means earth is cooling down*)

Q.8) Biodiversity conservation is extremely important. In this respect, consider the following statements regarding the National Biodiversity Act:

1. Act established biodiversity boards in states and Union Territories
2. Any grievances related to the order of the National Biodiversity Authority or a State Biodiversity Board under this Act, shall be taken to the Supreme Court of India
3. Offences under the act are cognizable and non-bailable

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Act established biodiversity boards in states only, not in UTs.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Any grievances related to the determination of benefit sharing or order of the National Biodiversity Authority or a State Biodiversity Board under this Act, shall be taken to the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Offences under National Biodiversity Act are cognizable and non-bailable

Source: [Article](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI):

1. Multilateral development banks, private sector, and academic & knowledge institutions are a part of CDRI
2. It is the second major coalition launched by India outside of the ambit of United Nations

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

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is a multi-stakeholder global partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and academic and knowledge institutions. It addresses the challenges of building resilience into infrastructure systems and development associated with it.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** CDRI is the second major coalition launched by India outside of the UN, the first being the International Solar Alliance.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding the Blue-finned Mahseer:

1. It is found in Krishna River basin and other rivers of Deccan plateau
2. It travels upstream during rains.
3. It is listed as a vulnerable species in the IUCN Red list

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Blue Finned Mahseer is found in the Mula-Mutha River close to the Indian city of Pune, a part of the Krishna River basin. It is also found in other rivers of the Deccan Plateau.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Species is migratory and travels upstream during rains.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It is listed as a Least Concern (LC) species in IUCN Red list

Source: [Blue finned mahseer](#)

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding Corbevax Vaccine

1. The vaccine will inject the spike protein(the rest of the virus is absent) into the body to develop immunity against a SARS-CoV-2
2. The technology to inject spike protein was completely new, and Corbevax Vaccine is the first vaccine to use this technology to treat any disease.

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:

Recently Indian government has placed an advance order to block 300 million doses of a new Covid-19 vaccine, Corbevax from Hyderabad-based company Biological E.

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- **Corbevax** is a recombinant protein subunit vaccine. The vaccine is being indigenously produced by Biological E, Hyderabad-based Pharmaceutical company.
- **Made up of:** The Corbevax vaccine is made up of a specific part of SARS-CoV-2 — the spike protein on the virus's surface.
- **Spike proteins** allow the virus to enter the cells in the body so that it can replicate and cause disease.
- **However, in Corbevax Vaccine the spike protein** alone is given to the body. So, it is not expected to be harmful as the rest of the virus is absent. The body is expected to develop an immune response against the injected spike protein.
- **Therefore, when the real virus** attempts to infect the body, it will already have an immune response ready that will make it unlikely for the person to fall severely ill.
- The technology to inject spike protein to develop immunity against a disease is not new. It has been used previously in making hepatitis B vaccines. However, Corbevax is the first vaccine made for COVID-19 to use this technology.

Read more: [Corbevax Vaccine](#)

Q.12) Which of the following **conservation reserve(s)** is/are correctly matched?

1. Sariska Tiger Reserve - Rajasthan
2. Pakke Tiger Reserve - Assam
3. Nameri National Park - Arunachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correctly matched. **Sariska Tiger Reserve** is in the Alwar district, Rajasthan. It mainly comprises scrub-thorn arid forests, dry deciduous forests, grasslands, and rocky hills. This area was a hunting preserve of the Alwar state and was declared a wildlife reserve in 1955.

In 2004, it was reported that no tigers were sighted in the reserve. In July 2008, two tigers from Ranthambhore National Park were relocated to Sariska Tiger Reserve. Another female tiger was relocated in February 2009. **By 2020, the tiger population in the reserve has risen to 20.**

Option 2 is incorrectly matched. **Pakke Tiger Reserve**, also known as Pakhui Tiger Reserve, in the Pakke Kessang district of Arunachal Pradesh. The habitat types are lowland semi-evergreen, evergreen forest and Eastern Himalayan broadleaf forests.

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Nameri National Park** is in the eastern Himalayas in the Sonitpur District of Assam, Nameri shares its northern boundary with the Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary of Arunachal Pradesh.

The vegetation type of Nameri is of semi-evergreen, moist deciduous forests with cane and bamboo brakes and narrow strips of open grassland along rivers **Jia-Bhoroli and Bor Dikorai**.

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Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding Sea snot:

1. It can kill aquatic organisms including corals and sponges.
2. It causes water borne diseases like Cholera.

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

Both statements are correct.

- **Sea Snot** is also known as **Sea Saliva or Marine Mucilage**. It is a collection of thick, slimy, mucus-like substance found in the sea. It is composed of compounds secreted by marine organisms.
 - **Mucilage** is a thick, gluey substance produced by nearly all plants and some microorganisms.

Source: [Sea Snot](#)

Q.14) Kalakkad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, recently in news, is located in which of the following state?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

Tamil Nadu has 5 tiger reserves:

- Kalakad-Mundanthurai
- Mudumala
- Sathyamangalam
- Anamalai
- Srivilliputhur Meghamalai

Source: [Article](#)

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM):

1. It aims for a better co-ordination, identification, and resolution of problems related to air quality in the national capital region (NCR) and adjoining areas.
2. In case of any conflict, the orders or directions of the Commission will prevail over the orders of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

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: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance, 2020** was promulgated in October, 2020.

It provides for constitution of a CAQM for better co-ordination, research, identification, and resolution of problems related to air quality in the **national capital region (NCR) and adjoining areas**.

Adjoining areas refers to areas in the states of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh where any source of pollution may cause adverse impact on air quality in the NCR.

Statement 2 is correct. The Commission is to be the sole authority with jurisdiction over matters defined in the Ordinance and in case of any conflict, the orders or directions of the Commission will prevail over the orders of the state governments (of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh), the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), state PCBs, and state-level statutory bodies.

Q.16) E-100 pilot project sometimes seen in news is related to:

- a) Promotion of Biofuels
- b) Manufacturing of solar panels
- c) Fabrication of Lithium-ion batteries
- d) Distribution of e-rickshaws

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- E-100 pilot project was launched in Pune to mark the World Environment Day on Saturday. The ambitious project aims to set up a network for production and distribution of ethanol across the nation.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.17) Tropical wet evergreen-type forest of the western ghats, extends to over 600 square kilometers and provides a habitat for three big carnivores- tiger, leopard, and wild dog- amongst several other species such as lion-tailed macaque. The place is also origin of three rivers- the nethravathi, the Tunga River and the Bhadra River". The above description defines which of the following national park?

- a) Rajiv Gandhi national park (Nagarhole)
- b) Bannerghatta national park
- c) Bandipur national park
- d) Kudremukh national park

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The Kudremukh National Park is located at a distance of 96 km from the district of Chikmagalur in the state of Karnataka in India.

- Nestled in the Western Ghats, the park is spread over an area of over 600 sq km at an altitude of 1,894 m above sea level.
- The Kudremukh National Park derives its name from a hill top that resembles the shape of the head of a horse.

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- The park houses four ranges named Kudremukh, Kerekatte, Kalasa, and Shimoga. The entire park is covered by thick forests with various species of flora. It is also surrounded by tea and coffee plantations.
- The Kudremukh National Park falls under the Global Tiger Conservation Priority-I, under the format developed by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and World Wide Fund-USA.
- It is also the origin of three very well-known rivers – the Nethravathi, the Tunga and the Bhadra.

□□

A statue of Lord Varaha at a height of six feet can be found inside an ancient cave and a temple of goddess Bhagavathi is also present here. These attract many tourists, mainly pilgrims, here.

- Kudremukh National Park is home to several species of flora and fauna. Eucalyptus, casuarinas, acacia auriculiformis and Grevillea Robusta are some of the species of flora found here.
- Together with a wide array of wildlife consisting of tigers, leopards, wild dogs, Malabar giant squirrels, common langurs, sloth bears, gaurs, porcupines, sambar, spotted deer, barking deer, jackals, giant flying squirrels and mongoose found here.

Q.18) Consider the following statements regarding Gharial:

1. It is described as Critically Endangered in IUCN red list of threatened species.
2. Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary is populated with Gharials.
3. They are also known as Marsh Crocodiles.

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: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Gharial is listed as Critically Endangered (CE) under IUCN.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary owes its name to the narrow stretch of River Mahanadi that is "sat-kosh" or seven miles long near Tikarpada, 60km south of Angul. It is known for the gharials, mugger crocodile and rare freshwater turtles like Chitra indica and Trionyx (Aspideretes) gangeticus
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Gharials are different as compared to Marsh Crocodiles (Muggers)

Source: [Article](#)

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding the Vehicle Scrapage 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 Scrapage policy

Select your answer from the codes given below:

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

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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.20) 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 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.21) 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

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- 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.22) "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.
- **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](#)

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Q.23) 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.24) 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, amla, Bamboo and other trees.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.25) Consider the following statements regarding **Black Softshell Turtle**

1. It is a freshwater turtle species found in India and Bangladesh.
2. It is a vulnerable species in IUCN Red list
3. It does not have any legal protection under the Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Recently, The Hayagriva Madhava Temple Committee in Assam has signed an MoU with Turtle Survival Alliance India, Help Earth, and Assam Forests Department to conserve the Black Softshell Turtle.

- **Black Softshell Turtle** is a species of freshwater turtle. It is found in India and Bangladesh.
- **Distribution:**
 - Brahmaputra's drainage and Near Temple Ponds in Assam
 - Bangladesh (Chittagong and Sylhet)
- **IUCN Status:** Critically Endangered
- **Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** It does not enjoy legal protection.
- **Significance:**
 - Temple Ponds in Assam conserve Turtles based on religious grounds.
 - At the Bayazid Bostami shrine in Chittagong, Bangladesh, the black softshell turtle is known as mazari (inhabitant).

Read more: [Black Softshell Turtle](#)

Q.26) Consider the following statements regarding Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction:

1. The framework is implemented by UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC)
2. It is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action

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: Sendai Framework is implemented by United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- Statement 2 is correct: It was adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held from March 14 to 18, 2015 in Sendai, Miyagi, Japan. It is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.

Q.27) Consider the following statements regarding Pygmy Hog:

1. It is native to alluvial grasslands in the foothills of the Himalayas.
2. It is an indicator species.
3. It's listed as a vulnerable species in the IUCN Red List.

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

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Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Pygmy Hog is the smallest member of the pig family. It is native to alluvial grasslands in the foothills of the Himalayas at elevations of up to 300 m. The only known population of Pygmy Hog lives in Assam, India and possibly southern Bhutan.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Pygmy Hog is an indicator species. Its presence reflects the health of its primary habitat, the tall, wet grasslands of the region.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It is listed as Endangered species in IUNC Red List.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.28) Ramgarh Vishdhari wildlife sanctuary was seen in news recently. In which of the following state the sanctuary is located in?

- Madhya Pradesh
- Jharkhand
- Rajasthan
- Kerala

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Recently, the Ramgarh Vishdhari wildlife sanctuary received a nod from the National Tiger Conservation Authority's (NTCA) technical committee to become the 4th Tiger reserve of Rajasthan. This will be the 52nd Tiger Reserve of India.

- The tigers were believed to have disappeared from the sanctuary in 1999. The sanctuary currently has leopards, sambhars, chitals, wildboars, smaller cats, caracals, chinkaras and nilgai.
- The total area of 1,017 sq. km that has been identified as the reserve area comprising two forest blocks
 - Bhilwara, territorial forest block of Bundi and
 - Indargarh – It falls under buffer zone of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve (RTR).

Source: [Times of India](#)

Q.29) Nagarhole Tiger Reserve recently in news is located in which of the following state?

- Tamil Nadu
- Karnataka
- Andhra Pradesh
- Telangana

Correct Answer: b

Explanation

- Nagarhole Tiger Reserve previously known as **Rajiv Gandhi (Nagarahole) National Park**, was named after the river 'Nagarahole' which literally means 'Serpent River' (Nagara=Serpent; Hole=River) in Kannada language.
- Nagarahole tiger reserve forms a critical connecting habitat for tigers and elephants to other areas of Western Ghats through Brahmagiri wildlife sanctuary and to the Eastern Ghats through Bandipur Tiger reserve.

Source: [Article](#)

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Q.30) Consider the following statements regarding **Ambergris**

1. It is a solid waxy substance originating in the intestine of the sperm whale
2. Ambergris has bad fragrances.
3. Sperm Whales are found in temperate and tropical waters throughout the world.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Recently, the Mumbai Police has arrested five people and seized nearly 9 kg of Ambergris.

About Ambergris:

- Ambergris, French for grey amber, is generally referred to as whale vomit.
- It is a solid waxy substance originating in the intestine of the sperm whale
- It floats around the surface of the water body and at times settles on the coast.
- Because of its high value it is referred to as floating gold. 1 kg of ambergris is worth Rs 1 crore in the international market.
- It is used in the perfume market, especially to create fragrances like musk

About Sperm whale:

- Sperm whale, (*Physeter catodon*), also called cachalot, the largest of the toothed whales, easily recognized by its enormous square head and narrow lower jaw.
- They are found in temperate and tropical waters throughout the world.
- Protection Status:
 - IUCN Red List: Vulnerable
 - Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: schedule I
 - CITES: Appendix I

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

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POLITY

Q.1) Section 304-B of the Indian Penal Code(IPC) was recently seen in news. Which of the following option the section is dealing with?

- This section deals with Defamation against government of India
- It deals with Offences Relating to Elections
- This section deals with Dowry related deaths in India
- This section deals with Cruelty by husband or his relatives to wife

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The Supreme Court in its recent judgement has widened the scope of Section 304-B of the Indian Penal Code(IPC). This section punishes persons accused of dowry deaths.

Sections 499 to 502 – It deals with defamation cases in India

Section 171 - Offences Relating to Elections

Section 304-B - Dowry related deaths

Section 489A - It deals with Husband or relative of husband of a woman subjecting her to cruelty

Read more: [Section 304-B](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements related to **Sedition law** in India

- A person charged under this law has to live without their passport and must produce themselves in the court whenever required.
- Sedition trail was initiated against Jogendra Chandra Bose, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi also.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- In India, Sedition falls under **section 124A of the IPC (Indian Penal Code)**. It is defined as **any action that brings or attempts to bring contempt or hatred towards the government of India**. Sedition cases are punishable with a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.
- It is classified as “cognisable”(No need Court warrant to arrest the person) and a “non-bailable” and “non-compoundable” offence.
- A person charged under this law has to live without their passport and must produce themselves in the court whenever required.
- The section was introduced initially to deal with increasing Wahabi activities between 1863 and 1870. These activities posed a challenge to the colonial government.
- Some of the most famous sedition trials of the late 19th and early 20th century involved Indian nationalist leaders.
 - The first among them was the trial of **Jogendra Chandra Bose** in 1891. He was the editor of the newspaper, Bangobasi. He wrote an article criticizing the Age of

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Consent Bill for posing a threat to the religion and for its coercive relationship with Indians.

- It was also **used to prosecute Bal Gangadhar Tilak** (for his writings in Kesari) in **1897**.
- The other well-known case was the sedition trial of **Mahatma Gandhi** in 1922. Gandhi had called Sedition “**the prince among the political sections of the IPC designed to suppress the liberty of the citizen**”.

Read more: [Sedition law need relook said SC](#)

Q.3) Concepts of nation & State are routinely seen in news. In this regard consider the statements below:

1. A nation may not be always a state
2. A state can be larger than a nation

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

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The state is a people organized for law within a definite territory while the nation is a group of people psychologically bound together while sharing common joys and sorrows. A nation may not be always a state; India was not a state before August, 1947.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A state may be larger than a nation. The former USSR had, within it, more than a hundred nationalities.
 - Conversely, a nation may be larger than a state; a nationality may spread over two states. The Korean nationality is spread over two states: North Korea and South Korea.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules:

1. Pension of government servants is subject to their conduct after retirement.
2. There is a cooling-off period of one year for Bureaucrats wanting to join politics post-retirement.

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:** The pension of government servants is subject to their conduct after retirement.

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o Rule 8 of the CCS Pension Rules says: “Future good conduct shall be an implied condition of every grant of pension and its continuance... The appointing authority may, by order in writing, withhold or withdraw a pension or a part thereof, whether permanently or for a specified period, if the pensioner is convicted of a serious crime or is found guilty of grave misconduct

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** There is no rule to stop government servants from joining politics after their retirement. In 2013, the Election Commission had written to the DoPT and Law Ministry, suggesting a cooling-off period for bureaucrats joining politics after retirement, but it was rejected

Source: [Article](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding **Mental Health Care Act (MHCA) 2017**

1. Every person has the right to appoint a nominee to take, all health-related decisions on his/her behalf.
2. Every person can state how to be treated or not be treated for any of his/her mental illness in future.

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: **Mental Health Care Act (MHCA) 2017 repealed** the Mental Health Act, 1987. The Act seeks to ensure the rights of the person with mental illness to receive care and to live a life with dignity. Few salient provisions of the Act are,

- **Central and State Mental Health Authorities:** The Act established these authorities for regulation & coordination of mental health services in India.
- **Right to make an Advance Directive:** Under this, every person can state how to be treated or not be treated for the illness during a future mental health situation.
- **Right to appoint a Nominated Representative:** Every person also has the right to appoint a nominee to take, on his/her behalf, all health-related decisions.
- **Changes in Section 309 of the Indian Penal Code:** This section of IPC criminalized the attempt to commit suicide. After the enactment of the Act, a person who attempts to commit suicide will be presumed as a person “**suffering from severe stress**”. The person will also not subject to any investigation or prosecution.

Read more: [Mental health in India](#)

Q.6) Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression includes which of the following?

1. Freedom of silence
2. Right to picket & strike
3. Freedom of commercial advertisement

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- Article 19 guarantees to all citizens the following six rights:
 - to freedom of speech and expression;
 - to assemble peaceably and without arms;
 - to form associations or unions;
 - to move freely throughout the territory of India;
 - to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India
 - to practise any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business
- As per Supreme Court of India, Right to freedom of speech and expression includes the following rights
 - Right to propagate one's views as well as views of others
 - Freedom of press
 - Freedom of commercial advertisement
 - Right against tapping of telephonic conversation
 - Right to telecast, that is, government has no monopoly over electronic media
 - Right against bandh called by a political party or organization
 - Right to know about government activities
 - Freedom of silence
 - Right against imposition of pre-censorship on a newspaper
 - Right to demonstration or picketing but not right to strike

Source: [Article](#)

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Central Vigilance Commission (CVC):

1. It was set up on the recommendation of Santhanam Committee
2. CVC functions under the administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs

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:** The Central Vigilance Commission was set up by the Government in February, 1964 on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by Shri K. Santhanam, to advise and guide Central Government agencies in the field of vigilance.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The CVC is not controlled by any Ministry/Department. It is an independent body which is only responsible for the Parliament.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.8) What does the Kedarnath judgement case (1962) relate to?

- a) Doctrine of basic structure
- b) Scope of offence of sedition in the IPC
- c) Amendability of Fundamental Rights
- d) Regarding the imposition of President's Rule on states

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- In a landmark verdict in 1962 in Kedarnath case, a Constitution Bench of the top court upheld the validity of section 124A (sedition) of the IPC, but also attempted to restrict the colonial-era law's scope for misuse by trying to demarcate the difference between which acts amounted to sedition and which ones did not.
- Read more in [this](#) article

Source: [Article](#)

Q.9) Right to fair trial is guaranteed under which of the fundamental rights?

- Article 14
- Article 21
- Article 15
- Article 32

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- A fair trial is an open trial by an impartial judge in which all parties are treated equally. The right to fair trial is one of the fundamental guarantees of human rights and rule of law, aimed at ensuring administration of justice.
- **Article 21 of the Indian Constitution:** No person shall be deprived of his life and personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding **SDG India Index 2020-21**

1. It is an index released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
2. It is the 3rd edition of SDG India Index.
3. Kerala and Chandigarh have topped the index in State and Union Territory category respectively.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- All of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **The SDG India Index** was launched in 2018 by [NITI Aayog](#). It was developed in collaboration with the **United Nations**.
- **Aim:** As the States, progress will determine India's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. The index aims to instil competition among States to improve their performance across social indices.
- The 2020-21 index is the 3rd edition of SDG India Index.
- **States:**
 - Kerala has topped the index with a score of 75.
 - It was followed by Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu with a score of 74.

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- **UTs:** Chandigarh maintained its top spot among the UTs with a score of 79, followed by Delhi (68)

Read more: [SDG India Index 2020-21](#)

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the Child Welfare Committee (CWC):

1. Under the Juvenile Justice Act, state governments can constitute one or more CWCs for one district
2. High Court shall be the grievances redressal authority for the Child Welfare Committee.

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

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The State Government by notification in the Official Gazette can constitute for every district, one or more Child Welfare Committees under the Juvenile Justice Act.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The District Magistrate shall be the grievances redressal authority for the Child Welfare Committee and anyone connected with the child, may file a petition before the District Magistrate

Source: [Article](#)

Q.12) Which of the following is/are exempt from disclosure of information under the Right to Information Act, 2005?

1. The disclosure of which may constitute contempt of court
2. Information received in confidence from foreign Government
3. The disclosure of which would endanger the life or physical safety of any person

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Section 8 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 provides for exemption from disclosure of information:

- (a) information, disclosure of which would prejudicially affect the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State, relation with foreign State or lead to incitement of an offence;
- (b) Information which has been expressly forbidden to be published by any court of law or tribunal or the disclosure of which may constitute **contempt of court;**
- (c) Information, the disclosure of which would cause a breach of privilege of Parliament or the State Legislature;

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- (d) information including commercial confidence, **trade secrets or intellectual property**, the disclosure of which would harm the competitive position of a third party, unless the competent authority is satisfied that larger public interest warrants the disclosure of such information;
- (e) Information available to a person in his fiduciary relationship, unless the competent authority is satisfied that the larger public interest warrants the disclosure of such information;
- (f) Information received in **confidence from foreign Government**;
- (g) Information, the disclosure of which would **endanger the life** or physical safety of any person or identify the source of information or assistance given in confidence for law enforcement or security purposes;
- (h) Information which would impede the process of investigation or apprehension or prosecution of offenders;
- (i) Cabinet papers including records of deliberations of the Council of Ministers, Secretaries and other officers; (shall be made public after the decision has been taken)
- (j) Information which relates to personal information the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or interest

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding the **article 226 of the Constitution?**

1. The writ of habeas corpus cannot be issued by a High Court.
2. High Courts are not competent to issue writs on violation of fundamental rights.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: D

Explanation: Both statements are incorrect.

As per **article 226(1) of the Constitution** every High Court shall have power, throughout the territories in relation to which it exercises jurisdiction, to issue to any person or authority, including in appropriate cases, any Government, within those territories directions, orders or writs, including writs in the nature of habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, quo warranto and certiorari, or any of them, for the enforcement of any of the rights conferred by Part III and for any other purpose.

Q.14) 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

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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.15) 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:

- **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.16) Global Gender Gap Report is released by:

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

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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.17) 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](#)

Q.18) 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

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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.19) 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](#)

Q.20) 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

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- 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.21) 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.
- 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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Q.22) Consider the following statements on **Right to be Forgotten (RTBF)**

1. It is a right to remove private information about a person from Internet searches and other directories under some circumstances.
2. It is mentioned explicitly in the Indian Constitution.

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 Delhi High Court ordered the removal of easy access from one of its own judgments. The move respected the petitioner's **right to be forgotten (RTBF)** and aimed to prevent post-acquittal stigmatization

Right to be Forgotten

- It is a right to remove private information about a person from Internet searches and other directories under some circumstances.
- It empowers individuals to ask organisations to delete their personal data.
- Likewise, it allows the individuals to determine the development of their life in an autonomous way without being perpetually stigmatized for a specific action performed in the past.
- It is not explicitly available to the Indian masses. However, it has been implicitly recognised by courts as part of the right to privacy under Article 21 of the Indian Constitution

Read more: [Right to be forgotten](#)

Q.23) Consider the following statements regarding **Inland waterways in India:**

1. The first waterway to be declared National was the Allahabad to Haldia stretch of the Ganga – Bhagirathi-Hooghly
2. Cost of developing waterway is much less as compared to rail or road.

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

- Rivers, lakes, canals, backwaters and reservoirs primarily constitute the source for inland waterways. A stretch of water, not part of the sea, over which craft of a carrying capacity not less than 50 tonnes can navigate when normally loaded is called navigable inland waterway.
- The first waterway to be declared National was the Allahabad to Haldia stretch of the Ganga – Bhagirathi-Hooghly.
- **Cost savings:**
 - Fuel and Energy Efficient: It is fuel-efficient compared to the other modes of transport, rail and road. For example, the Integrated National Waterways

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Transportation Grid Study states that one litre of fuel will move 24 tons through one kilometer on road, 85 on rail and 105 km on inland water transport. Further, 1 HP can 150 kg on road, 500 kg on rail and 4000 kg on water.

- Cost of developing waterways is much lower than rail & road.
- Reduces transportation and transition losses

- Read More [here](#)

Source: [Article](#)

Q.24) Which of the following is a type of micro-irrigation?

1. Spray irrigation
2. Sub-surface irrigation
3. Bubbler irrigation

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

There are mainly five types of Micro Irrigations System

- Sprinkler irrigation
- Drip irrigation
- Spray irrigation
- Sub-surface irrigation
- Bubbler irrigation

Q.25) Consider the following statements regarding penal provisions for suicide attempts in India

1. Section 301 mentions punishment for people for suicide attempts.
2. mental healthcare act abolished all form of punishment for suicide attempts.

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. Section 309 of the Indian Penal Code provides for the penal provision for attempting suicide. If a person is suffering from any mental trauma or illness, he or she should be given reformatory treatment rather than a deterrent punishment which is "simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year [or with fine, or with both]".

Statement 2 is incorrect. In 2017, Parliament passed the Mental Healthcare Act. Section 115 (1) of the Act provides, that any person who attempts to commit suicide shall be presumed, unless proved otherwise, to have severe stress and shall not be tried and punished under the said Code.

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However, this law applies only to those suffering from mental illness. There is presumption of severe stress in case of an attempt to die by suicide.

Q.26) Consider the following statements:

1. Betting and gambling is listed under the Concurrent List of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
 2. The Information Technology Act 2000 explicitly prohibits online betting and gambling.
- 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. 'Betting and gambling' is listed as **Entry 34 under the State List** of Seventh Schedule under the Constitution.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The **Information Technology Act 2000** regulates cyber activities in India but does not explicitly regulate or mention online betting or gambling. Various states have their own legislation on gambling, and most States have an exemption for games of skill.

Q.27) Consider the following statements regarding the "Gupta period":

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

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

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

Correct answer: B

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

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

Q.28) Consider the following statements regarding **Electoral Trust Scheme**

1. The Scheme lays down a procedure for grant of approval to an electoral trust
2. The scheme was notified by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: For the first time, an electoral trust (under Electoral Trust Scheme, 2013) has declared donation through electoral bonds. But it hasn't revealed the names of the political parties that received the money, citing anonymity guaranteed under the electoral bond scheme.

According to the Association of Democratic Reforms (ADR), this "practice is against the spirit of the Electoral Trusts Scheme, 2013.

About the Scheme:

- Electoral Trust is a non-profit organization formed in India for orderly receiving of the contributions from any person.
- Electoral Trusts Scheme, 2013 was notified by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). The provisions related to the electoral trust are under Income-tax Act, 1961 and Income tax rules-1962.
- **Objective:** It lays down a procedure for grant of approval to an electoral trust which will receive voluntary contributions and distribute the same to the political parties.
 - A political party registered under section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 shall be an eligible political party and an electoral trust shall distribute funds only to the eligible political parties.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.29) Public Interest Litigation (PIL) is often in news. In this respect, consider the following statements:

1. For filing a PIL, the plaintiff should have a personal interest or claim in the matter.
2. PIL cannot be filed against a private party.

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:** For filing a public interest litigation (Article 32 or Article 226 of the Constitution), the plaintiff need not have a personal interest or claim in the matter. The PIL must serve a matter of public interest.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** A PIL cannot be filed against a private party. A private party, however, can be included as the respondent after the concerned authority is made a party to the PIL.

Source: [Article](#)

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Q.30) KK Gupta commission sometimes seen in news is related to:

- a) Vaccine procurement and distribution
- b) Doubling farmers income
- c) Delimitation in Jammu & Kashmir
- d) Resolution of NPAs

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- Assembly seats in J&K were delimited in 1963, 1973 and 1995. The last exercise was conducted by the **Justice (retired) K K Gupta Commission** when the state was under President's Rule and was based on the 1981 census, which formed the basis of the state elections in 1996.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.31) Consider the following statements regarding the National Emergency (Article 352):

1. President proclaims a national emergency only after receiving a written recommendation from the cabinet.
2. President can declare a national emergency only on the actual occurrence of war or external aggression.

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

- Under Article 352, the President can declare a national emergency when the security of India or a part of it is threatened by war or external aggression or armed rebellion.
- It may be noted that the president can declare a national emergency even before the actual occurrence of war or external aggression or armed rebellion, if he is satisfied that there is an imminent danger.
- The President, however, can proclaim a national emergency only after receiving a written recommendation from the cabinet.
- This means that the emergency can be declared only on the concurrence of the cabinet and not merely on the advice of the prime minister.
- In 1975, the then Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi advised the president to proclaim emergency without consulting her cabinet. The cabinet was informed of the proclamation after it was made, as a fait accompli.
- The 44th Amendment Act of 1978 introduced this safeguard to eliminate any possibility of the prime minister alone taking a decision in this regard.

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GEOGRAPHY AND AGRICULTURE

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **Edible oils**

1. More than 50% of India's domestic edible oil demand is met from imports
2. Palm oil is accounted for majority of Indian imports

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: In India, Edible oil prices have risen sharply in recent months. According to the data from the **Department of Consumer Affairs**, the prices of six edible oils — groundnut oil, mustard oil, vanaspati, soya oil, sunflower oil and palm oil — have risen between 20% and 56% at all-India levels in the last one year.

- **India's production of oilseeds** is too little to fulfil the domestic demand. Therefore, India is dependent on imports.
- **India is one of the largest importers** of oilseed and edible oils in the world. About 56% of the domestic edible oil demand is met from imports.
- **The major sources of these imports** are
 - Argentina and Brazil for soybean oil;
 - Indonesia and Malaysia palm oil; and
 - Ukraine and Argentina for sunflower oil.
- Palm oil accounted for the lion's share of the total imports (62 per cent), followed by soya oil and sunflower oil (21 per cent and 16 per cent, respectively).

Read more: [Edible oil prices](#)

Q.2) Which of the following is/are matched correctly?

Tropical cyclone – named by

1. Fani - Bangladesh
2. Bulbul - Oman
3. Amphan – Sri Lanka

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- In 2000, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) agreed to start assigning names for cyclones over the North Indian Ocean basin using a list of names suggested by the countries surrounding the ocean basin. Initially, India expressed reservations to naming cyclones and after four years of continuous deliberations, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) initiated the naming of the North Indian Ocean storm with Cyclone Onil in September 2004.

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- There are six regional specialised meteorological centres (RSMCs) and five regional Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres (TCWCs) across the globe to monitor cyclogenesis, issue advisories and name cyclones.
 - **RSMC, New Delhi** is, therefore, responsible for naming cyclones over the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea
 - As per the WMO guidelines, a list of 64 names was drawn in 2004 using the suggested names from eight countries in the region. In May 2020, Cyclone Amphan became the last cyclone to get its name from the old list.
 - In 2020, a new list of cyclone names (above) was issued by IMD, following WMO guidelines
 - The names for India include Gati, Tej, Murasu, Aag, Vyom, Jhar, Probaho, Neer, Prabhanjan, Ghurni, Ambud, Jaladhi and Vega.
- Fani – Bangladesh
 - Bulbul – Pakistan
 - Amphan – Thailand

Source: [Article](#)

Q.3) Which of the following countries border Lithuania?

1. Russia
2. Latvia
3. Estonia

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: A

Explanation

- Lithuania is bordered by following countries –
 - Latvia
 - Russia
 - Poland
 - Belarus

Source: [Article](#)

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

1. Lake Timsah
2. Lake Manzala
3. Great Bitter Lake

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

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Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- **Correct order is** – Lake Manzala, Lake Timsah, Great Bitter Lake, Little Bitter Lake

Source: [Suez Canal](#)

Q.5) HRMN 99 was sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following clearly explains it?

- a) It is a self-pollinating apple variety that does not require long chilling hours for flowering and fruit setting
- b) It is a new Soybean variety that resist wider range of crop disease and provide good yields
- c) It is a new type of dwarf mango variety that bear fruits around the year
- d) It is higher biomass yielding bamboo species that has the potential to mitigate Climate Change.

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **HRMN 99** is a self-pollinating apple variety that does not require long chilling hours for flowering and fruit setting. Recently a farmer from Himachal Pradesh has developed this variety.
 - Commercial cultivation of this apple variety has been initiated in Manipur, Jammu, low lying areas of Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka Chhattisgarh, and Telangana, and fruit setting has been expanded to 23 states & UTs so far.
- **MACS 1407** is a high-yielding and pest-resistant variety of soybean. It is suitable for cultivation in the states of Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and North-Eastern states.
- **Sadabahar** is a new type of dwarf mango variety that bear fruits around the year. The fruit is resistant to most major diseases and common mango disorders.
- **Beema or Bheema Bamboo** is a superior clone selected from Bambusa balcooa. It is a higher biomass yielding bamboo species. Beema Bamboo is said to be the best 'carbon sink' to mitigate carbon dioxide emissions.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding **Milk production in India**

1. India accounts for more than one-fifth of the global milk production
2. The value of milk is lower than the value of rice and wheat combined.
3. Small and marginal farmers own the majority of cattle and buffaloes.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Every year, the first day of June is observed as World Milk Day. During the World Milk Day celebrations Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying announced the **launch of the National Awards for the Cattle and Dairy sector, the Gopal Ratna Awards**

- India is the world's largest milk producer. India accounts for over one-fifth of the global milk production. This is followed by the US, China, Pakistan and Brazil.

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- Small and marginal farmers own 33 percent of land and about 60 percent of female cattle and buffaloes.
- The value of milk is more than that of rice and wheat combined. Value of output of milk is more than Rs 7.72 lakh crore during 2018-19 at current prices which is more than the value of output of wheat and paddy together.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding **Nano Liquid Urea**

1. Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) has launched the world's first Nano Urea Liquid
2. It can curtail the requirement of normal urea by at least 50%

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, IFFCO has launched the world's first Nano Urea Liquid.

- **Nano Urea Liquid** is a nutrient to provide nitrogen to plants as an alternative to conventional urea.
- **Developed by:** Nano Urea Liquid has been developed indigenously through proprietary technology at IFFCO's Nano Biotechnology Research Centre(NBRC) in Gujarat.
- Nano Liquid Urea can curtail the requirement of urea by at least 50%. This will in turn reduce India's dependence on urea imports.
- The conventional urea is 30-40% effective in delivering nitrogen to plants while the effectiveness of the Nano Urea Liquid is over 80%.

Read more: [Nano Urea Liquid](#)

Q.8) **Devika River project** was seen in the news recently. In which of the following state/UT the project is getting implemented?

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Assam
- c) Jammu and Kashmir
- d) Punjab

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Recently, the Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region has **asked for suggestions for the Devika River project in Udhampur, J&K.**

About the project:

- The work on the project was started in March 2019 under the **National River Conservation Plan (NRCP).**
- Under the project, bathing "ghats" (places) on the banks of the Devika River will be developed, encroachments will be removed, natural water bodies will be restored

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About the Devika River:

- It originates from the hilly Suddha Mahadev temple in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir. The river flows down towards western Punjab (now in Pakistan) where it **merges with the Ravi river**.
- The river holds religious significance as it is revered by Hindus as the **sister of river Ganga**.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research(CSIR)

1. It is funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology
2. The Prime Minister is the president of the organisation
3. It is headquartered in Delhi

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Recently, the Prime Minister chaired a meeting of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Society through video conference.

- It is the largest research and development (R&D) organisation in India. It has a pan-India presence and has a dynamic network of 37 national laboratories, 39 outreach centres, 3 Innovation Complexes and 5 units.
- The **Prime Minister is the President** (Ex-officio) and the **Union Minister of Science and Technology** is the **Vice President** (Ex-officio).
- CSIR is **funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology** and it operates as an autonomous body through the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- It is headquartered in Delhi

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.10) Which of the following countries share border with Rwanda?

1. Tanzania
2. Kenya
3. Uganda

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

Following countries border Rwanda:

- Burundi

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- Tanzania
- Uganda

Read more [here](#)

Q.11) Strait of Bosphorus connects Black Sea to:

- a) Aegean Sea
- b) Caspian Sea
- c) Sea of Marmara
- d) Mediterranean Sea

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

- Strait of Bosphorus connects Marmara Sea to Black Sea.
- Dardanelles Strait connects Marmara Sea to Aegean Sea

Source: [Article](#)

Q.12) Arrange the following lakes from north to south:

1. Tanganyika
2. Edward
3. Kivu

Select your answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Correct order from north to south is:

- Lake Edward
- Lake Kivu
- Lake Tanganyika

Source: [Rwanda](#)

Q.13) Arrange the following from North to South:

1. Black Sea
2. Aegean Sea
3. Dardanelles Strait

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- **Correct order from North to South is** – Black Sea – Dardanelles Strait – Aegean Sea

Source: [Article](#)

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Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding the **Lead mineral resources in India:**

1. The main ore of lead is galena and it is found in the sedimentary rocks of limestone and sandstone.

2. Rajasthan is the sole producer of lead ore 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: C

Explanation: The **main ore of lead is galena. It is found in the sedimentary rocks of limestone and sandstone.**

- Rajasthan is the richest state in terms of availability and variety of minerals in the country and produces about 57 different minerals.
- **Rajasthan is the sole producer of lead** & zinc ores, selenite and wollastonite.
- The Zawar area (Udaipur) of Rajasthan is famous for the production of Lead.

Q.15) Arrange the following from left to right:

- 1. Cape Agulhas
- 2. Port Elizabeth
- 3. Cape of Good Hope

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

The correct order is: -

- Cape of Good Hope, Cape Agulhas, Port Elizabeth

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding the **Farmer Producer Organization (FPO):**

1. Farmers, Local representatives and other interested parties are the shareholders of FPO.

2. NABARD has dedicated funds to promote FPOs.

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: An FPO, formed by a **group of farm producers**, is a registered body with producers as shareholders in the organization.

It deals with business activities related to the farm produce and it works for the benefit of the member producers.

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- **Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) is providing support for promotion of FPOs.**
- **NABARD has dedicated Funds like Producer Organisation Development Fund (PODF) and PRODUCE for promotion of FPOs.**
- Financing FPOs through NABARD's subsidiary NABKISAN Finance Ltd., digitisation of FPO data, development of performance measurement tool, etc. have also contributed to the ongoing efforts.
- Besides, NABARD is running an awareness campaign on the role of FPOs in building resilience against climate change, increase in productivity and optimal efficiency in the agri value chain.

Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding the Commission for Agricultural Cost and Prices (CACP)

1. The commission recommends MSP (Minimum Support Price) for cereals, pulses, oilseed and commercial crops.
2. The commission is responsible for recommending FRP (Fair and Remunerative Price) for sugarcane

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:

The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India. It came into existence in January 1965.

- CACP recommends MSPs of 23 commodities, which comprise 7 cereals (paddy, wheat, maize, sorghum, pearl millet, barley and ragi), 5 pulses (gram, tur, moong, urad, lentil), 7 oilseeds (groundnut, rapeseed-mustard, soyabean, seasmum, sunflower, safflower, nigerseed), and 4 commercial crops (copra, sugarcane, cotton and raw jute).
- The CACP also recommends the fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.18) Arrange the following from North to South:

1. Sulu Sea
2. Celebes Sea
3. Philippines Sea

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

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- The correct order is – Philippines Sea, Sulu Sea, Celebes Sea

Q.19) Chidiya Tapu sometimes seen in news is located in:

- Lakshadweep
- Andaman & Nicobar
- West Bengal
- Maharashtra

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

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

Source: [Article](#)

Q.20) Which of the following states does not border Nagaland?

- Mizoram
- Arunachal
- Manipur

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

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



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Q.21) 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.22) 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.23) 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.24) 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

Q.25) 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](#)

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Q.26) 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.
- **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.27) 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.

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- 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.28) 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

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'](#)

Q.29) Consider the following statements on **Biotech-Krishi Innovation Science Application Network (Biotech-KISAN)**

1. These hubs fulfil the technological requirement of farmers and generate agriculture and bio-resource related jobs
2. The programme is implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture.

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 Ministry of Science and Technology has issued a Special Call for the North East Region as a part of its Mission Programme “Biotech-Krishi Innovation Science Application Network (Biotech-KISAN)”.

- It is a scientist-farmer partnership scheme launched in 2017.
- It is a pan-India program, following a hub-and-spoke model. The Programme stimulates entrepreneurship and innovation in farmers and empowers women farmers.

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- The Biotech-KISAN hubs are expected to fulfil the technology required to generate agriculture and bio-resource related jobs. Further, they also provide better livelihood by ensuring biotechnological benefits to small and marginal farmers.
- Farmers are also exposed to the best global farm management and practices.
- It is a farmer-centric scheme developed by and with farmers under the **Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology**.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.30) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “**Red Soils**” in India?

1. Red soils develops on old crystalline rocks.
2. Red soils differ from place to place on the basis of the parental rock material and climatic conditions.
3. Rich in minerals like potassium and Phosphorus.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Red soils.

Statement 1 is correct: Red soil develops on crystalline igneous rocks in areas of low Rainfall in the eastern and southern part of the Deccan Plateau. Along the piedmont zone of the Western Ghat, long stretch of area is occupied by red loamy soil. Yellow and red soils are also found in parts of Odisha and Chattisgarh and in the southern parts of the middle Ganga plain.

Statement 2 is correct: The soil develops a reddish colour due to a wide diffusion of iron in crystalline and metamorphic rocks. It looks yellow when it occurs in a hydrated form.

Statement 3 is incorrect: The fine-grained red and yellow soils are normally fertile, whereas coarse-grained soils found in dry upland areas are poor in fertility. **They are generally poor in nitrogen, phosphorous, Potassium and humus.**

Q.31) Consider the following statements regarding the **Farmer Producer Organization (FPO)**:

1. Farmers, Local representatives and other interested parties are the shareholders of FPO.
2. NABARD has dedicated funds to promote FPOs.

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: An FPO, formed by a **group of farm producers**, is a registered body with producers as shareholders in the organization.

- It deals with business activities related to the farm produce and it works for the benefit of the member producers.

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- **Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) is providing support for promotion of FPOs.**
- **NABARD has dedicated Funds like Producer Organisation Development Fund (PODF) and PRODUCE for promotion of FPOs.**
- Financing FPOs through NABARD's subsidiary NABKISAN Finance Ltd., digitisation of FPO data, development of performance measurement tool, etc. have also contributed to the ongoing efforts.
- Besides, NABARD is running an awareness campaign on the role of FPOs in building resilience against climate change, increase in productivity and optimal efficiency in the agri value chain.

Q.32) Consider the following statements regarding plantation of Rubber in India:

1. There are no plant species in India that can breed with natural rubber.
2. Natural rubber is a native of warm humid Amazon forests.

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

Both statements are correct

- Natural rubber is a native of warm humid Amazon forests and is not naturally suited for the colder conditions in the Northeast which is one of the largest producers of rubber in India.
- Due to this, the growth of young rubber plants remains suspended during the winter months. This leads to progressive drying of the soil.
- There are no plant species in India that can breed with natural rubber

Source: [Article](#)

Q.33) Agricultural Ministry is planning to create a digital Agristack. In this light, consider the following statements:

1. Each farmer will be provided a unique farmer's ID, which will be linked to the Aadhaar number.
2. It will also contain details related to land ownership and soil health.

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

Both statements are correct

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- **Agristack:** The project will collect granular data to provide growers with a range of customized services. Like, what to plant, where to sell, market information on price movements, and linkages to formal credit arrangements.
- Each farmer will be provided a unique farmer's ID, which will be linked to her Aadhaar number.
- It will contain details related to land ownership, the crops she grows, soil health and the benefits available under government schemes such as direct cash transfers, crop insurance and subsidized credit.

Source: [Article](#)

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Q.1) Operation Turquoise was seen in news recently. Which of the following statements correctly explains the operation?

- a) It is a rescue operation conducted by India in Maldives
- b) It is a military operation conducted by France in Rwanda
- c) It is a military operation conducted by Germany in Kenya
- d) It is a rescue operation conducted by India in Myanmar

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- During Genocide in Rwanda, France was accused of acting as a staunch ally of the Hutu-led government that ordered the killings.
- **In 1994, France deployed** a UN-backed military force in Rwanda called Operation Turquoise– which was able to save some people. However, it was accused of sheltering some of the genocide’s perpetrators.

Read more: [Rwanda Genocide 1994](#)

Q.2) Six-day war sometimes seen in news is related to:

- a) Bangladesh
- b) Israel
- c) Rwanda
- d) Taiwan

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- The Six-Day war was the third in the long line of Arab-Israeli wars that started in 1948, around the time of the creation of the Israeli state. Beginning on June 5, 1967, the war spanned only six days during which Israel almost decimated Egypt’s air force and captured new territory
- Israel fought against a combined force of Egypt, Jordan, Syria. The war ended on June 10, 1967.
- Read more in this [article](#)

Source: [Article](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD):

1. Most OECD members are high-income economies with a very high Human Development Index (HDI)
2. It has official UN Observer status
3. Financial Action Task Force (FATF) works under administrative control of OECD

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

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Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Most OECD members are high-income economies with a very high Human Development Index (HDI) and are regarded as developed countries. As of 2017, the OECD member states collectively comprised 62.2% of global nominal GDP (US\$49.6 trillion) and 42.8% of global GDP (Int\$54.2 trillion) at purchasing power parity
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The OECD is an official United Nations observer.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** FATF & OECD are two separate organizations. They are not related to each other.
 - The OECD's Committee on Fiscal Affairs (CFA) has been working with the FATF since 1998 to improve international and domestic cooperation between tax and anti-money laundering authorities as a way of enhancing governments' ability to combat these activities.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation**

1. It's a Eurasian political, economic and military organisation aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
2. SCO Secretariat and Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) are the two permanent bodies under SCO

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:

The Union Government approved the signing and ratification of an Agreement on 'Cooperation in the field of Mass Media' between all the Member States of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

- SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation. It was created in 2001.
- It's a Eurasian political, economic and military organisation aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.
- The SCO's official languages are Russian and Chinese.
- Eight countries are part of SCO, which are: Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.
- SCO has two Permanent Bodies:
 - SCO **Secretariat in Beijing (China)**, and
 - Executive Committee of the **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent (Uzbekistan)**.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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Q.5) Which of the following is/are defense exercise(s) involving **India and Bangladesh**?

1. Sampriti
2. Ajeya Warrior
3. Shantir Ogrosena

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Exercise **AJEYA WARRIOR with United Kingdom** is an important exercise in terms of the security challenges faced by both the nations in the realm of changing facets of global terrorism. The exercise is conducted alternatively in United Kingdom and India.

SAMPRITI is a series of the joint exercise between India and Bangladesh, it is a very important military & diplomatic initiative between both countries.

Multinational Military Exercise **SHANTIR OGROSHENA 2021** (Front Runner of the Peace) was recently held at Bangladesh to commemorate the birth centenary of Bangladesh 'Father of the Nation' Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and mark glorious 50 years of liberation. India, Bhutan and Sri Lanka were the participating countries along with observers from the U.S., the U.K., Russia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Singapore.

Q.6) Which of the following organisation releases the **World Employment and Social Outlook report**?

- a) International Labour Organisation
- b) World Bank
- c) World Health Organisation
- d) International Monetary Fund

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has released the annual World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2021 (WESO) report.

- **The report analyses** key labour market issues including unemployment, labour underutilisation, working poverty, income inequality, labour income share and factors that exclude people from decent work.
- It highlights how the COVID-19 crisis had worsened pre-existing inequalities by hitting vulnerable workers harder.
- Key findings of the report:
 - **COVID-induced job loss:** Covid-19 induced jobs loss will reach 75 million in 2021, before falling to 23 million in 2022.
 - **Global Unemployment:** Unemployment is expected to stand at 205 million people in 2022. This far greater than the 187 million in 2019. This corresponds to an unemployment rate of 5.7%.
 - **Child Labour:** The crisis has also appeared to reverse the decade of progress in battling child labour and forced labour.

Read more: [World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2021 \(WESO\) report](#)

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GOVERNMENT SCHEMES/INITIATIVES

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Mid-Day Meal scheme:

1. British colonial government introduced mid-day meal programme for the first time in India
2. Agmark quality and branded items are procured for preparation of mid-day meals

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

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In 1925, a Mid-Day Meal Programme was introduced for disadvantaged children in Madras Municipal Corporation. By the mid 1980s three States viz. Gujarat, Kerala and Tamil Nadu and the UT of Pondicherry had universalized a cooked Mid-Day Meal Programme with their own resources for children studying at the primary stage
- **Statement 2 is correct:** As per guidelines issued by Government of India, schools are to procure AGMARK quality and branded items for preparation of mid-day meals.
 - AGMARK is a certification mark for agricultural produce, assuring that they conform to a grade standard notified by Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (DMI), Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare under Agricultural Produce (Grading Marking) Act, 1937

Source: [Mid-Day Meal Scheme](#)

Q.2) Bell of Faith Scheme was recently seen in news. Which of the following is the aim of the scheme?

- a) The scheme aims to provide security and support to orphaned children in Sikkim
- b) The scheme aims to provide security to senior citizens staying alone in home in Kerala
- c) The scheme aims to provide free oxygen supplies to needy persons in Karnataka
- d) The scheme aims to provide financial support to women led families in Punjab

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Kerala's 'Bell of Faith' scheme will be expanded to the villages to reach senior citizens staying alone. Earlier, the scheme was successfully implemented in a number of urban households in Kerala.

About Bell of Faith Scheme:

- **Bell of Faith Scheme** was launched by the Kerala Police in 2018. It aims to provide security to senior citizens staying alone as part of Kerala's Community Policing Scheme.
- **Under the Scheme**, police have installed a bell in the senior citizens' houses.
- **The neighbour** will get an alert with an alarm when the senior citizen rings the bell during an emergency.
- **The neighbour can immediately** rush to the house or contact the police or hospital.

Read more: [Bell of Faith Scheme](#)

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Q.3) Consider the following statement regarding National Commission for Protection of Child Rights:

1. With respect to NCPCR, a child is defined as a person in the 0 to 18 years age group.
2. It is a statutory body

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

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Commission's Mandate is to ensure that all Laws, Policies, Programmes, and Administrative Mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Child is defined as a person in the 0 to 18 years age group.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** NCPCR was set up in March 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005. It is under administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding India's Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Action Plan:

1. India is the first country to adopt a national action plan for reduction of NCDs in response to WHO's global action plan
2. It aims to eliminate premature deaths from NCDs till 2025
3. It addresses household pollution too.

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: C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In response to the "WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013-2020", India is the first country to adopt such a National Action Plan to reduce premature deaths due to NCDs.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Indian action plan is aimed at reducing (not eliminating) the number of global premature deaths from NCDs by 25% by 2025.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The global action plan has suggested 9 targets for countries to set. But India has taken the unprecedented step of setting a tenth target to address household air pollution. India's National Monitoring Framework for Prevention and Control of NCDs has committed for a 50% relative reduction in household use of solid fuel and a 30% relative reduction in prevalence of current tobacco use by 2025.

Source: [Article](#)

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Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding National Child Labour Project (NCLP) scheme:

1. It was initiated for rehabilitation of child labour all over India.
2. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme

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

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Government had initiated the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 1988 to rehabilitate working children in 12 child labour endemic districts of the country
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is a central sector scheme

Note: Read more about the project [here](#)

Source: [Article](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding One Nation One Standard Mission

1. Recognition of Standard Developing Organization(SDO) is part of the mission
2. It is launched by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)

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:

- To attain the One Nation One Standard vision of the Government of India, BIS launched BIS Standard Developing Organization (SDO) Recognition Scheme.
- The scheme aims to fulfil the One Nation One Standard mission of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The scheme provides recognition for Standard Developing Organization (SDO)
- Recently, the Research Design & Standards Organization (RDSO) of Indian Railways has become the first Institution to be declared a Standard Developing Organization (SDO).
 - Research Designs & Standards Organization is the sole R&D Wing of the Ministry of Railways.
 - RDSO is one of India's leading Standard formulating bodies.
 - It undertakes standardization work for the railway sector.
 - It is situated in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

Source: [PIB](#)

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Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding **Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)**

1. It is the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention
2. India is not a member of the organization
3. It is headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands

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

Recently, the OPCW has told the United Nations Security Council that it investigated 77 allegations against Syria, and concluded in 17 cases chemical weapons were likely or definitely used.

- OPCW is an intergovernmental organisation and the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention, which entered into force on 29 April 1997.
- **Headquarters:** The Hague, Netherlands.
- **Member states** 193 (All states party to the CWC are automatically members). 4 UN Member States are not a member of CWC. They are Egypt, Israel, North Korea and South Sudan. Of these Israel signed CWC but didn't ratify it.
- **Nobel Peace Prize:** The organisation was awarded the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize "for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons, with the most recent being in Syria civil war
- **The OPCW-The Hague Award:** It is an annual award founded by the OPCW. The Award honours individuals and institutions that have significantly contributed towards the goal of a world free of chemical weapons.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.8) Operation Sagar Aaraksha-II was recently seen in the news. The operation is carried out by India and which of the following country?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has been tirelessly engaged in fighting a major fire on board the Chemical laden container vessel MV X-Press Pearl anchored off Colombo since 25 May 2021.

- The coordinated joint operation between India and Sri Lanka undertook to respond to potential environmental danger has been called **Sagar Aaraksha-II**.
- Indian Coast Guard ships, including the specialised pollution response vessel Samudra Prahari and offshore patrol vessel Vajra, standby in the vicinity to respond to the developing situation.

Source: [PIB](#)

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Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding **UN Special Rapporteurs**

1. They are independent experts who work on a country or a thematic mandate specified by the United Nations Human Rights Council.
2. They do not receive any financial compensation for their work from the United Nations.

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, U.N. special rapporteurs seek information from the Government of India on alleged human rights violations in Jammu & Kashmir

About U.N. special rapporteurs:

- They are independent experts working on behalf of the United Nations. They work on a country or a thematic mandate specified by the United Nations Human Rights Council.
- They have mandates to report and advise on human rights (civil, cultural, economic, political, and social) from a thematic or country-specific perspective.
- Rapporteurs do not receive any financial compensation for their work from the United Nations.

Source: [Frontline](#)

Q.10) World Energy Investment Report is released by:

- a) UNFCCC
- b) IEA
- c) WB
- d) UNEP

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- The [International Energy Agency](#) (IEA) has releases the World Energy Investment Report 2021

Source: [Article](#)

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding Global Compact initiative:

1. It is world's largest voluntary corporate sustainability initiative
2. Companies producing or manufacturing tobacco are barred from its membership
3. It was launched by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

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 only

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

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- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is the world's largest voluntary corporate sustainability initiative
- **Statement 2 is correct:** On 12 September 2017, the UN Global Compact instituted a new exclusion for tobacco companies. This decision recognizes that tobacco products are in direct conflict with UN goals, particularly with the right to public health, and undermines the achievement of SDG 3. This product-based exclusion is strictly limited to companies that produce and/or manufacture tobacco or are part of a joint venture, have a subsidiary or affiliate stake in a company that produces and/or manufactures tobacco
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Global Compact Initiative was announced by the then UN Secretary-General in 1999. It was officially launched at UN Headquarters in New York City in 2000.
- Read more [here](#)

Source: [Article](#)

Q.12) Which of the following statements is/are correct about “Blue Dot Network”?

1. It is jointly launched by USA, Japan, Australia and India to counter China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
2. It is launched on the sidelines of the 33rd ASEAN Summit in Singapore.
3. It is an initiative that aims to bring governments, the private sector and civil society together to promote “high quality, trusted standards for global infrastructure development”.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Blue Dot Network.

Led by the **US’s International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the Blue Dot network was jointly launched by the US, Japan (Japanese Bank for International Cooperation) and Australia** (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) in November 2019 on the sidelines of the 34th ASEAN Summit in Thailand.

It is meant to be a multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to bring governments, the private sector and civil society together to promote “**high quality, trusted standards for global infrastructure development**”.

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding UN Secretary-General Appointment:

1. UN Secretary General is appointed by UN Security Council (UNSC) on the recommendation of UN General Assembly.
2. A candidate needs to secure at least sixty per cent votes of total membership of UN Security Council.

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

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** UN Sec Gen is appointed by UNGA on the recommendation of UNSC.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** To be selected as a UN Secretary-General, a candidate must receive the votes of at least 9 (60%) members of the United Nations Security Council, with no vetoes from permanent members.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding **G7 Summit**

1. The decisions taken by leaders during annual summits are not binding in nature
 2. India is attending the G7 Summit as a guest for the first time in history this year
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: The G7 (Group of Seven) is an organisation of the world's seven largest so-called advanced economies. They are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the United States.

- **The group** does not have a formal constitution or a fixed headquarters. The decisions taken by leaders during annual summits are non-binding.
- **The G7 summit** for this year is held virtually by the UK.
- **Guest Countries this year includes** India along with Australia, the Republic of Korea and South Africa are guest countries for the Summit.
 - **Since 2014**, this is the second time Indian PM will be participating in a G7 meeting.
 - **India had been invited** by the G7 French Presidency in 2019 to the Biarritz Summit as a “Goodwill Partner”.

Read more: [G7 Summit 2021](#)

Q.15) Global Liveability Index is released by:

- a) **Economic Intelligence Unit**
- b) **World Bank**
- c) **UN Habitat**
- d) **IMF**

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) has released the Global Liveability Index 2021
- The index assesses the locations that provide the best and the worst living conditions around the world. It assesses 140 cities around the world.

Read more: [Article](#)

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Q.16) Maitree is a military exercise between India and which other country?

- a) Myanmar
- b) Thailand
- c) Malaysia
- d) Indonesia

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- Maitree is an annual Joint Military Exercise which is being conducted alternatively in Thailand and India since 2006

Source: [Article](#)

Q.17) Which of the following country has recently made Bitcoin as their official legal currency?

- a) El Salvador
- b) China
- c) Argentina
- d) The United Kingdom

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

El Salvador has become the first country in the world to officially classify Bitcoin as a legal currency.

- **El Salvador** has made Bitcoin a legal currency. This means that the bitcoin must be accepted when offered as payment for goods and services. The tax contributors can also pay through bitcoin.
- **The US dollar** will continue to circulate alongside Bitcoin as the national currency in El Salvador.

Read more: [El Salvador made Bitcoin a legal currency](#)

Q.18) 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.

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- **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.19) 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.
 - 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.20) 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.

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

Source: [Article](#)

Q.22) 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.

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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.23) 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

Source: [Article](#)

Q.24) 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.

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- Read more [here](#)

Source: [Article](#)

Q.25) 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](#)

Q.26) Which of the following organisation recently released the **Global Peace Index?**

- a) Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP)
- b) Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
- c) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- d) The Global Peace Foundation

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

The 15th edition of Global Peace Index 2021 has been released.

- **The Global Peace Index** is released by the Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP), an international think tank.
- **Aim:** The index presents the most comprehensive analysis of trends in peace. It ranks countries according to their levels of peacefulness and identifies potential determinants of peace.
- **Coverage:** The index measures the peacefulness of 163 countries and territories. It covers 99.7% of the world's population.
- Key findings of the 2021 index
 - **India** has been ranked 135th in the 2021 Global Peace Index.
 - **Iceland** has topped the peace index. It was followed by New Zealand, Denmark, and Portugal.

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- **Out of the 10 most peaceful countries** in the world, 8 are from Europe.
- **Afghanistan is the least peaceful** country in the world for the fourth consecutive year.

Read more: [Global Peace Index](#)

Q.27) Which of the following statements is correct?

- a) Only an army general can become the Theatre command
- b) India used its Theatre command in Kargil war.
- c) While India's Eastern Theatre command is operational, its western theatre command is still under consideration.
- d) Strategic Forces Command is a joint command of India.

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: A theatre command is a military structure wherein all the assets of the army, air force and navy in a particular theatre of war are under the operational control of a three-star general.

India operates the 4th largest military in the World, but with each service acting independent of each other There is no Theatre command of India.

Source- [The Hindu](#)

Q.28) Consider the following statements regarding **Antarctic Treaty**

1. The treaty facilitates militarization and scientific research in the Antarctic Continent
2. It is the only example of a single treaty that governs a whole continent.

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, the 60th anniversary of the Antarctic Treaty was celebrated.

- The Antarctic treaty remains the only example of a single treaty that governs a whole continent.
- The Antarctic Treaty was signed between 12 countries in Washington on 1st December 1959
- The Treaty makes the the Antarctic Continent a demilitarized zone to be preserved for scientific research only.
- Antarctica is defined as all of the land and ice shelves south of 60°S latitude.
- Head Quarters: Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Source: [Down To Earth](#)

Q.29) Which of the following is also known as the Strasbourg court?

- a) European Court of Human Rights
- b) International Criminal Court
- c) Permanent court of settlement
- d) International Military tribunal

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Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- The European Court of Human Rights (ECHR or ECtHR), also known as the Strasbourg Court is an international court of the Council of Europe which interprets the European Convention on Human Rights. The court hears applications alleging that a contracting state has breached one or more of the human rights enumerated in the Convention or its optional protocols to which a member state is a party. The European Convention on Human Rights is also referred to by the initials "ECHR". The court is based in Strasbourg, France.

Source: [Article](#)

ForumIAS

ECONOMICS

Q.1) Based on which of the following factors does Gender Development Index (GDI) measure gender gap in human development?

1. Healthy life
2. Knowledge
3. Command over economic resources

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- The GDI measures differences in male and female achievements in three basic dimensions of human development: health, education and command over economic resources.
 - The health dimension is captured by female and male life expectancy at birth.
 - Education is measured using two indicators—female and male expected years of schooling for children and female and male mean years of schooling for adults ages 25 and older.
 - Command over economic resources is measured by female and male estimated earned income.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Which of the following correctly defines the term ‘Positive indigenisation list’?

- a) items which can only be purchased from domestic sources
- b) these items are to be procured only from within SAARC countries
- c) Export ban is imposed on the items in this list
- d) items in this list face zero import duties

Correct Answers: A

Explanation

- The Defence Ministry recently notified the second negative import list — now renamed as the ‘positive indigenisation list’ — of 108 items that can now be **only** purchased from indigenous sources. The new list takes the total number on the list to 209.
- Introduced in August 2020, the negative list essentially means that the Armed Forces—Army, Navy and Air Force—will only procure such items from domestic manufacturers.
 - The manufacturers could be private sector players or Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).

Source: [Article](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements on essential medicine imports

1. Covid-19 Vaccines imported from foreign countries are Tax free in India
 2. Oxygen Concentrators imported from foreign countries attract more GST than edible oils
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Recently the 43rd meeting of GST council **failed to provide an immediate tax break for critical pandemic relief supplies** despite States and industry pressing for waivers.

- India levies **5% GST on vaccines**, and on relief supplies from abroad.
- Similarly, India also levies 12% GST on Oxygen Concentrators. On the other hand, the edible oil attracts only 5% GST.

[Source](#)

Q.4) Which of the following is/are considered as fixed assets under Gross Fixed Capital Formation?

1. Breeding stock
2. Transport Equipment
3. Software

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

- Gross capital formation (GCF) refers to the aggregate of gross additions to fixed assets (i.e., fixed capital formation), increase in stocks of inventories, during a period of account and net acquisition of valuables.
- Broadly **two types of fixed assets** namely **construction** and **machinery & equipment** (including **transport equipment, software, breeding stock**, draught animals, dairy cattle and the like) are covered.
 - **What is not considered as fixed asset?**

Construction for military purposes (other than construction or alteration of family dwellings for military personnel), defence equipment, durable goods in the hands of the households and increase in the stocks of defence materials are **excluded** from the scope of gross capital formation.
- However, capital outlays of defence enterprises on ordinance and clothing factories are included.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.5) Which of the following correctly defines the phenomenon of rent-seeking?

- a) Seeking to gain added wealth without any equivalent contribution of productivity.
- b) Charging high rent from tenants without any legal agreement.
- c) Extraction of high rates of interest from tenant farmers irrespective of a low agricultural output.
- d) Refers to high import duties imposed by certain countries on a specific list of goods.

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Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- Rent seeking is an economic concept that occurs when an entity seeks to gain wealth without any reciprocal contribution of productivity.
- The term rent in rent seeking is based on the economic definition of “rent,” which is defined as economic wealth obtained through shrewd or potentially manipulative use of resources.
- An example of rent seeking is when a company lobbies the government for grants, subsidies, or tariff protection.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.6) Gini co-efficient often seen in news is related to:

- a) Economic inequality
- b) Industrial efficiency
- c) Population control
- d) Policy rate transmission

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- Gini index or Gini ratio is a statistical measure of economic inequality in a population.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding **base erosion and profit shifting?**

1. It refers to tax planning strategies used by multinational enterprises that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules.
2. The developing suffer disproportionately due to BEPS.

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: Base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) refers to tax planning strategies used by multinational enterprises that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules to avoid paying tax. Developing countries’ higher reliance on corporate income tax means they suffer from BEPS disproportionately.

BEPS practices cost countries USD 100-240 billion in lost revenue annually. Working together within OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS, over 135 countries and jurisdictions are collaborating on the implementation of 15 measures to tackle tax avoidance, improve the coherence of international tax rules and ensure a more transparent tax environment.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.8) Consider the following regarding to Foreign Direct Investments.

1. Reinvested earning of an FDI holder is not considered as an FDI.
2. Intra-company debt transactions between direct investors and affiliate enterprises are considered as FDI.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: FDI is the category of international investment. It reflects the objective of obtaining a lasting interest from a resident entity in one economy to an enterprise in another economy.

FDI consists of three components:

- **Equity capital:** It is the FDI purchase of shares of an enterprise in a country other than its own.
- **Reinvested earnings:** It comprises the direct investors' share (in proportion to direct equity participation) of earnings not distributed. Such retained profits by affiliates are reinvested.
- **Note:** The earnings of the share are distributed to the investor in the form of dividends by affiliates, or earnings not remitted.
- **Intra-company loans or intra-company debt transactions:** It refers to short- or long-term borrowing and lending of funds between direct investors (or enterprises) and affiliate enterprises.

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding the **mRNA vaccines**:

1. It puts a weakened or inactivated germ into human bodies.
2. It delivers the instructions for cells on how to make a protein to trigger an immune response inside the body.

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 **traditional vaccines** consist of either killed or weakened forms of a virus or bacterium. These provoke an immune response that allows the body to fight off the actual pathogen later on.

RNA vaccines deliver genetic information that allows the body's own cells to produce a viral protein. Synthetic mRNA that encodes a viral protein can borrow this machinery to produce many copies of the protein. These proteins stimulate the immune system to mount a response, without posing any risk of infection.

COVID-19 mRNA vaccines give instructions for cells to make spike protein, that is found on the surface of the virus that causes COVID-19.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Bharat Biotech International are looking at bringing the messenger RNA platform to India after seeing its successful use in quick development of covid-19 vaccines by US-based Pfizer and Moderna.

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Q.10) Silver economy sometimes in news is related to?

- a) Elderly in our society
- b) Production of microchips
- c) Mining of silver
- d) Vaccine manufacturing

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- It is the system of production, distribution and consumption of goods and services aimed at using the purchasing potential of **older and ageing people** and satisfying their consumption, living and health needs.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding digital service tax imposed by India

1. India levies 2% of digital service taxes on income generated from digital services in India.
2. India's DST applies to both "resident" and "non-resident" companies

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: The DST imposes a **2% tax on revenue** (*revenue, not income. Both are different*) generated from a broad range of digital services offered in India, including

- Digital platform services
- Digital content sales
- Digital sales of a company's own goods
- Data-related services
- Software-as-a-service, and several other categories of digital services

Companies with a turnover of over Rs. 2 crore, will pay this levy on the consideration received for online sales of goods and services.

India's DST only applies to "non-resident" companies. The tax applies as of April 1, 2020, with no retrospective element (*retrospective taxation means tax has to be paid on income earned in the past*).

Read more: [Digital Service Tax](#)

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding the Industrial Information System (IIS) portal:

1. It has been developed by the Department for promotion of Industry & Internal Trade.
2. It provides real time information on the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in different industries 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

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Correct answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. **Department for promotion of Industry & Internal Trade has developed Industrial Information System (IIS)** portal, a GIS-enabled database of industrial areas/clusters across the country to adopt a committed approach towards resource optimization, industrial upgradation and sustainability.

Statement 2 is incorrect. **Industrial Information System (IIS)** aims to provide:

-Information on available land for prospective investors looking at setting up units in the Country

-GIS Mapping of Industrial Clusters

-The system also holds the information about the existing External and Internal Infrastructure such as rail, road, air and port connectivity and other common facilities in and around the manufacturing clusters

-Links to State GIS Portals and State Land Banks

At present, the database covers more than 3,350 parks/clusters covering about 475,000 hectares land across 31 States/UTs.

Q.13) Consider the following statements:

1. Case fatality ratio (CFR) is the proportion of individuals diagnosed with a disease who die from that disease.
2. The infection fatality ratio (IFR) for a disease estimates proportion of deaths among all infected individuals.

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: Both statements are correct.

There are two measures used to assess the proportion of infected individuals with fatal outcomes. The first is infection fatality ratio (IFR), which estimates this proportion of deaths among all infected individuals. The second is case fatality ratio (CFR), which estimates this proportion of deaths among identified confirmed cases.

The true severity of a disease can be described by the **Infection Fatality Ratio:**

Serological testing of a representative random sample of the population to detect evidence of exposure to a pathogen is an important method to estimate the true number of infected individuals.

Case fatality ratio (CFR) is the proportion of individuals diagnosed with a disease who die from that disease and is therefore a measure of severity among detected cases:

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding **Platform work:**

1. Platform workers use an online platform to access other organizations or individuals to solve specific problems or to provide specific services.
2. As per Code on Social Security 2020, central government will set up social security fund for platform workers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

Correct answer: C

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct. The **Code on Social Security** provides definition of **Platform Work** as a work arrangement outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship in which organizations or individuals use an online platform to access other organizations or individuals to solve specific problems or to provide specific services.

Statement 2 is correct. The Code on Social Security, 2020 states that the central government will set up **social security funds for unorganized workers, gig workers and platform workers**.

Further, state governments will also set up and administer separate social security funds for unorganized workers. It also makes provisions for registration of all three categories of workers - unorganized workers, gig workers and platform workers.

Q.15) Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Ratle Hydroelectric Plant - Chenab River
- 2. Dul Hasti Hydroelectric Plant - Jhelum River
- 3. Baglihar Hydroelectric Plant - Ravi River

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct answer: A

Explanation: Option 1 is correctly matched. The **Ratle Hydroelectric Plant** is a run-of-the-river hydroelectric power station currently under construction on the **Chenab River**, in Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir.

Option 2 is incorrectly matched. **Dul Hasti** is a 390 MW hydroelectric power plant in Kishtwar district, Jammu and Kashmir, India built by NHPC. The power plant is a run-of-the-river type on **Chandra River**, a tributary of Chenab River,

Option 3 is incorrectly matched. **Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Project** is a run-of-the-river power project on the **Chenab River** in the Ramban district, Jammu and Kashmir.

Pakistan often accuses India of violation of Indus Water Treaty regarding construction of these power plants. India does have the right to build power plants on 'western rivers' under IWT provide it does not impede the water flow to Pakistan.

Q.16) Which of the following correctly defines the term '**monopsony**'?

- a) A single enterprise is being supplier of a particular commodity or service
- b) An industry being dominated by a small group of large suppliers
- c) An industry being dominated by small group of buyers
- d) A single buyer substantially controlling the market

Correct answer: D

Explanation: A **monopsony** is a market condition in which there is only one buyer, the monopsonist. It is a market structure in which a single buyer substantially controls the market as the major purchaser of goods and services offered by many would-be sellers.

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An **oligopoly** is a market structure in which a few firms dominate. When a market is shared between a few firms, it is said to be highly concentrated.

A **monopoly** contains a single firm that produces goods with no close substitute.

Q.17) Which of the following most correctly defines **MICE Tourism**?

- a) Travelling for business purposes
- b) Tourism in wilderness environments
- c) Tourism product tailored for a particular audience/market segment
- d) Historical sites and monuments tourist attractions

Correct answer: A

Explanation: In tourism, travelling for business is referred to as **MICE tourism**; which stands for **Meetings, Incentives, Conference/ Conventions and Exhibitions/ Events**. It is also referred to as the Meetings Industry. The travel sellers specializing in MICE are usually affiliated with large corporate agencies because it requires advance planning and organization. There are Conventions and Visitor Bureau (CVB), India Convention promotion Bureau (ICPB) and others, which are working for the promotion of MICE in India.

Q.18) Consider the following statements

- 1. Direct taxes go entirely to the Central government in India
- 2. As per recommendations of 15th Finance Commission, Central government is supposed to distribute 41% of its total revenue to the states.

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 India, direct taxes go entirely to the Central government.

Statement 2 is correct. As per 15th Finance Commission (FC) report The Central government is supposed to distribute 41% of its gross tax revenues (reduced from 42% after the formation of new Union Territories in Jammu and Kashmir) to the State governments.

Source – [The Hindu](#)

Q.19) Consider the following statements about the **Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, 2020**

- 1. The new rules seek to ban all flash sales on e-commerce platforms.
- 2. The rules are released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

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:

- **Specific flash sales or back-to-back sales** “which limit customer choice, increase prices and prevents a level playing field are **not allowed**” But other flash sales are permitted.
- **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has earlier released a few sets of rules to govern the e-commerce operators. Now, the **new rules** are issued by the **Consumer Affairs ministry** to deal with ‘unfair’ trade practices that hurt customers.

Read more: [e-commerce rules under the Consumer Protection Act](#)

Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding **World Investment Report 2021**

1. India’s FDI inflows decreased in 2020 along with the shrink in global investment flows.
2. The report is released by UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

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: UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has released its World Investment report 2021

Key findings:

- **India was 5th biggest recipient:** India’s FDI rose 27% to \$64 billion in a year when **global investment flows shrank** 35% to \$1 trillion. This peculiar phenomenon happened due to the following reason:
 - **Mergers and acquisitions (M&A)**, especially in the technology space due to increased demand for digital products and services.
 - India saw huge investments from overseas with major deals involving ICT (Implementation of information and Communication Technology), health, infrastructure, and energy.
- **India, China and Hong Kong** were among the countries saw a rise in 2020.
- **FDI outflows** from South Asia fell 12% to USD 12 billion, due to a drop in investment from India.

Read more: [World Investment Report 2021](#)

Q.21) Which of following statement is **incorrect** regarding recusal of judges?

1. Only CJI can take the decision on recusal of a judge from a case.
2. Procedure for recusal is mentioned in the constitution. ‘
3. A judge cannot recuse himself if there is no conflict of interest.

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

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Correct answer: D

Explanation

Statement 1 is incorrect. The decision to recuse generally comes from the judge herself as it rests on the conscience and discretion of the judge to disclose any potential conflict of interest. In some circumstances, lawyers or parties in the case bring it up before the judge. If a judge recuses, the case is listed before the Chief Justice for allotment to a fresh Bench.

Statement 2 is incorrect. There are no formal rules governing recusals, although several Supreme Court judgments have dealt with the issue

Statement 3 is incorrect. there are some instances where judges have recused even if they do not see a conflict but only because such an apprehension was cast, there have also been several cases where judges have refused to withdraw from a case.

Q.22) Consider the statements below:

1. Economic growth rate is low
2. Inflation is high
3. Unemployment is high

Which type of inflation do above conditions indicate?

- a) Deflation
- b) Stagflation
- c) Creeping inflation
- d) Hyperinflation

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- In economics, stagflation or recession-inflation is a situation in which the inflation rate is high, the economic growth rate slows, and unemployment remains steadily high. It presents a dilemma for economic policy, since actions intended to lower inflation may exacerbate unemployment.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.23) Consider the following statements regarding Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER)

1. An increase in a nation's REER is an indication that its exports are becoming more cheaper
2. An increase in a nation's REER is an indication that its imports are becoming more cheaper

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:

Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER)

- It is the weighted average of a country's currency in relation to an index or basket of other major currencies. The weights are determined by comparing the relative trade balance of a country's currency against that of each country in the index.

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- An increase in a nation's REER is an indication that its exports are becoming more expensive and its imports are becoming cheaper. It is losing its trade competitiveness.

Source: [Livemint](#)

Q.24) Consider the following statements regarding Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC):

1. ARCs are regulated by RBI as a Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)
2. 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) is allowed in ARCs under the automatic route.
3. They can undertake lending activities too.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- ARC is a company registered under the Companies Act and registered with Reserve Bank of India under section 3 of The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002.
 - Securitization refers to the conversion of loans such as auto, house, credit cards, etc. of banks and lenders into debt instruments
- **Legal basis of an ARC:** SARFAESI Act provides the legal basis of setting up an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) in India
- **Regulation:** ARCs are regulated by RBI as a Non-Banking Financial Company [NBFC] (under RBI Act, 1934). They function under the supervision and control of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- **100% foreign direct investment (FDI)** in asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) under the automatic route.
- ARCs are **not permitted** to undertake lending activities. They can only do securitization and reconstruction activities.
- One ARC can be a sponsor or investor in another ARC or it can acquire debt from another ARC.
- **Read in-depth about [ARC](#)**

Source: [Article](#)

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Government schemes and initiatives

Q.1) YounTab scheme was seen in the news recently. In which of the following is the objective of the scheme?

- It is a scheme that provides access to all elderly care products and services developed by startups
- It is a scheme for government doctors in Kerala to access patients previous history digitally
- It is the scheme for students in Ladakh to encourage digital learning and bridge the digital divide.
- It is an Author Mentorship scheme that aims to mentor authors under the age of 30.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Ladakh Lt Governor has launched the **YounTab scheme for students in the Union Territory to encourage digital learning.**

Objective: YounTab scheme formulated to encourage digital learning, bridge the digital divide and mitigate the Covid pandemic disruptions.

Mobile tablets has been distributed to the students of 9 to 12 class as part of the first phase of the YounTab Scheme. A total of 12 thousand 300 students of 6th to 12th class from government schools will benefit from the scheme.

Source: [All India Radio](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding SAGE initiative:

- It has been launched by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- The initiative aims to help start-ups that are interested in the field of providing services for elderly care.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- Statement 1 is incorrect:** (Seniorcare Ageing Growth Engine) SAGE Initiative has been launched by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJ&E)
- Statement 2 is correct:** Initiative has been launched with an aim to provide “one-stop access” for elderly care. The portal will provide access to all elderly care products and services developed by credible start-ups

Source: [SAGE](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding the objectives of Revitalizing Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) by 2022:

- Qualitatively upgrade the research and academic infrastructure in India to global best standards by 2022.
- To create separate Institutes of National Importance for girls.
- To cater to the requirements of the Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas, and medical institutions like AIIMSs in a faster time frame.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The RISE by 2022 is an attempt to translate the objectives into action plan by making available resources from the market. The objectives of RISE by 2022 are:

Qualitatively upgrade the research and academic infrastructure in India to global best standards by 2022.

Make India into an education hub by making available high quality research infrastructure in Indian higher educational institutions.

To allow access of HEFA funding to institutions like Central Universities, AIIMS, IISERs and newly created Institutes of National Importance, without creating any additional burden to the students.

To **bring greater accountability and speed in execution** of infrastructure projects and avoid all cost/time over-runs, moving from the block-grant mode to projectmode for all infrastructure projects.

To **cater to the requirements of the Kendriya Vidyalayas and Navodaya Vidyalayas, and medical institutions like AIIMSs** in a faster time frame.

Q.4) Performance Grading Index is released by:

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Ministry of Education
- c) Finance Ministry
- d) Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- Performance Grading Index (PGI) is a tool to provide insights on the status of school education in States and UTs. This includes key levers that drive their performance and critical areas for improvement.
- **Released by:** Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Ministry of Education.

Source: [Performance Grading Index](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Surakshit hum Surakshit tum campaign:

1. Primary aim is to provide home care support to COVID patients who are asymptomatic
2. Initiative is led by District Magistrates
3. Local volunteers and civil society organisations shall also be engaged to provide psychosocial support

Which of the above answers is/are correct?

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

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d) 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer: D

Explanation

All statements are correct

- **Surakshit Hum Surakshit Tum Abhiyaan** has been launched in 112 aspirational districts.
- **Aim:** To assist district administrations in providing home-care support to COVID-19 patients who are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms.
- **Features of the initiative:**
 - **Firstly**, the initiative will be **led by district magistrates** in partnership with local NGOs.
 - **Secondly**, the NGOs will help mobilise **local volunteers**. They shall be trained so that they can provide support to affected families by educating them to follow Covid-19 protocols. They shall also be trained to provide **psycho-social support** and **timely updates** about patients to the administration.
 - **Thirdly**, local leaders, civil societies and volunteers will also work with district administrations to address emerging problems across key focus areas of the Aspirational Districts Programme.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN) Abhiyaan:

1. The objective is to reduce malnutrition in all districts of India.
2. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing the POSHAN Abhiyaan.

Which of the above states 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

- Vision of POSHAN Abhiyaan is to ensure attainment of malnutrition free India by 2022. The objective of POSHAN Abhiyaan to reduce stunting in identified Districts of India with the highest malnutrition burden by improving utilization of key Anganwadi Services and improving the quality of Anganwadi Services delivery. Its aim to ensure holistic development and adequate nutrition for pregnant women, mothers and children.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) is implementing POSHAN Abhiyaan in 315 Districts in first year, 235 Districts in second year and remaining districts will be covered in the third year.

Source: [Article](#)

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Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding the **Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)**:

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Education.
2. It provides finance at competitive interest rates to educational institutions and supplements it with grants by channelizing CSR funds.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct answer: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect. **Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)** is a joint venture of **Ministry of Education, Government of India and Canara Bank**.

HEFA is registered under **Section 8 [Not-for-profit]** under the Companies Act 2013 as a Union Govt company and as Non-deposit taking NBFC with RBI.

Statement 2 is correct. HEFA Vision: To enable India's premier educational institutions to excel and reach the top in global rankings by financing building world class infrastructure including R&D Infra.

HEFA Mission: To provide timely finance at competitive interest rates for capital assets creation in India's educational institutions and supplement it with grants by channelizing CSR funds from the corporate and donations from others.

Q.8) Which of the following institution has released the document '**Vision 2035: Public Health Surveillance in India**'?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Indian Council for Medical Research
- c) National Center for Disease Control
- d) World Health Organisation

Correct answer: A

Explanation: **NITI Aayog** released a white paper **Vision 2035 - Public Health Surveillance in India**. The white paper lays out India's vision for public health surveillance through the integration of the three-tiered public health system into Ayushman Bharat.

It also spells out the need for expanded referral networks and enhanced laboratory capacity. The building blocks for this vision are an interdependent federated system of governance between the Centre and states.

Q.9) 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

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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.10) 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

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 LGBTIQIA+ community to change them heterosexual.
- Recently, the Madras High Court has banned the conversion therapy and issued guidelines for mainstreaming LGBTIQIA+ 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 LGBTIQIA+ community](#)

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Q.11) 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.12) 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

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](#)

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Q.13) 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.14) 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

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](#)

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Q.15) 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.16) 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
- 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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STATUTORY BODIES

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS):

1. It is a statutory body.
2. Union Minister for Science and Technology acts as the president of BIS.

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:** It is a statutory body established under BIS Act 2016
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Bureau is a Body Corporate consisting of 25 members representing both Central and State governments, Members of Parliament, industry, scientific and research institutions, consumer organizations and professional bodies; with **Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution** as its **President** and with Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution as its Vice-President.

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MISC

Q.1) I-Familia, sometimes seen in news, is related to:

- a) Interpol
- b) NCRB
- c) FBI
- d) UN police

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- [Interpol](#) has launched a new global database named “I-Familia”.
- **I-Familia** is a global database launched to identify missing persons through family DNA. It will help the police to solve cases in member countries.

Source: [I-Familia](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Civil Registration System (CRS) in India:

1. Implementation of Registration of Births and Death Act, is vested with state governments.
 2. The Civil Registration System has been linked to the National Population Register (NPR).
- 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

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Post-independence, the Registration of Births and Death Act (RBD Act) was enacted in 1969 to promote uniformity and comparability in the registration of Births and Deaths across the country and compilation of vital statistics based thereon.
 - With the enactment of the Act, registration of births, deaths and still births became mandatory in India.
 - The Registrar General, India (RGI) at the Central Government level coordinates and unifies the activities of registration throughout the country. However **implementation of the statute** is vested with the **State Governments**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The [Civil Registration System](#) has been linked to the NPR.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.3) Operation Pangea sometimes seen in news is related to:

- a) sale of counterfeit and illicit medicines
- b) Money laundering and tax evasion
- c) Manufacturing of illegal arms and weapons
- d) Human trafficking across international border

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

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- **Operation Pangea** is an international effort to target the online sale of counterfeit and illicit health products. It also aims to raise public awareness of the potential dangers of buying medicines online.
 - **The first time** Operation Pangea was conducted was in 2008.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding the **Dhole** wild dog:

1. It is endemic to Asian continent.
2. It is listed as endangered in the IUCN Red List.

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: Both statements are correct.

Dhole is the wild dog of Asia that was once found throughout much of the continent, but this species is now endangered and has a much restricted range.

It is an extant species in Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; India; Indonesia; Lao People's Democratic Republic; Malaysia; Myanmar; Nepal and Thailand.

Dhole is listed as **Endangered species in IUCN Red List** of Threatened Species with decreasing population trend. It is also listed in **CITES Appendix II**.

Q.5) Tax Inspectors Without Borders, is a joint initiative between OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) and which another organization?

- a) UNDP
- b) WB
- c) UNODC
- d) IMF

Correct answer: A

Explanation:

- Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) is a joint initiative of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supporting countries in **building tax audit capacity**.
- TIWB Programmes complement the broader efforts of the international community to strengthen co-operation on tax matters and contribute to the domestic resource mobilization efforts of developing countries.

Source: [Pib](#)

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HISTORY

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding freedom fighter **Ram Prasad Bismil**

1. He chiefly drafted the constitution of the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA).
2. He was tried under the Kakori Conspiracy Case.
3. In his later years, he believed that freedom cannot be achieved by violence.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Recently, the Ministry of Culture organised a special ceremony at Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh to mark the birth anniversary of freedom fighter Ram Prasad Bismil.

- Ram Prasad Bismil, born on 11th June, 1897 in Shahjahanpur was amongst the most notable Indian revolutionaries who fought against British colonialism.
- He wrote powerful **patriotic poems in Urdu and Hindi** under the **pen name of Bismil** from age of 19.
- He formed the **Hindustan Republican Association** with leaders like Bhagat Singh and Chandrasekhar Azad and its **constitution was drafted chiefly by Bismil**.
- He participated in the Mainpuri conspiracy of 1918, and the Kakori conspiracy of 1925 with Ashfaq Ullah Khan and Roshan Singh to protest against the British Rule.
- He was martyred at Gorakhpur Jail on 19th December, 1927 just aged 30, for his role in Kakori conspiracy.
- While in jail, he wrote '**Mera Rang De BasantiChola**' and '**Sarfroshi Ki Tamanna**' which became the anthem for freedom fighters.
- He always believed that freedom cannot be achieved without violence, bloodshed, which meant his views were in **stark contrast to Mahatma Gandhi's ideals of 'ahimsa'**.

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

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](#)

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

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Hayagriva Madhava Temple in Assam

1. The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu
2. The temple is revered by Buddhists also, as they believe that here only Buddha attained Nirvana.

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 Hayagriva Madhava Temple Committee in Assam has signed an MoU with Turtle Survival Alliance India, Help Earth, and Assam Forests Department to conserve the Black Softshell Turtle.

- **The Hayagriva Madhava temple** exists in a hilly place which is located at Hajo nearby Guwahati, Assam. The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu.

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- **Built by:** The present temple structure was constructed by King Raghudeva Narayan in 1583.
 - According to Historians, the temple was built during the Pala period of 10th-12th century A. D.
- **Significance:** The temple is revered by Buddhists also, as they believe that the Hayagriva Madhava temple is the place where Buddha attained Nirvana. Thus, the temple becomes an ancient pilgrimage centre for both Hindus and Buddhists.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.5) In which of the following place the **National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)** is planned?

- a) Arikamedu
- b) Lothal
- c) Baruch
- d) Muziri

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Recently Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways sign an MoU for Cooperation in Development of National Maritime Heritage Complex(NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat.

About NMHC:

- It would be developed as an international tourist destination, where the maritime heritage of India from ancient to modern times would be showcased.
- There will also be many pavilions where all coastal states in India and union territories can showcase their artifacts and maritime heritage.
- The unique feature of NMHC is the recreation of ancient Lothal city, which is one of the prominent cities of the ancient Indus valley civilization.
 - According to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), Lothal had the world's earliest known dock, which connected the city to an ancient course of the Sabarmati river

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding **Savitribai Phule**

1. She is the first female teacher in India
2. She opened the Home for the Prevention of Infanticide where Brahmin widows could safely deliver their children and leave them for adoption if they so desired.
3. she wrote '*Mang Maharanchya Dukhavisatha*' (About the Grief of Mahar and Mangs)' at the mere age of fourteen)

Answer using the codes given below

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

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Correct Answer: A

Explanation: About Savitribai Phule:

- Savitribai Phule was an Indian activist, thinker, social reformer and writer from Maharashtra.
- Savitribai along with her husband Jyotirao Phule had played an important role in improving women's rights in India.

Contributions:

- She established the Mahila Seva Mandal to raise awareness for issues concerning women's rights.
- She became the first female teacher in India in 1848 and opened a school for girls along with her husband Jyotirao Phule.
- She opened a women's shelter called the Home for the Prevention of Infanticide where Brahmin widows could safely deliver their children and leave them there to be adopted if they so desired.

Note: **Muktabai Salve** wrote '*Mang Maharanchya Dukhavisatha* (About the Grief of Mahar and Mangs)' at the mere age of fourteen. She was a student of school for girls set up by Savitribai Phule and Jyotirao Phule.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Read more: [Savitribai Phule](#)

Q.7) Consider the following statements

1. He was born in the city of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
2. He was a 15th century mystic poet, saint and social reformer and a proponent of the Bhakti Movement.
3. The major part of his work was collected by the fifth Sikh guru, Guru Arjan Dev.
4. His legacy is still going on through a separate sect and He was best known for his two-line couplets

The above statements reflect which of the following personality.

- a) Ramananda
- b) Chaitanya
- c) Sant Kabir Das
- d) Tulsidas

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Recently, Sant Kabir Das Jayanti was observed on 24th June, 2021 to mark the birth anniversary of Sant Kabirdas.

About Sant Kabirdas:

- **Panth of Kabir:** It is a religious community that considers him as the founder and Kabir's legacy is still going on through this sect.
- Kabir Das' writings had a great influence on the Bhakti movement and includes titles like Kabir Granthawali, Anurag Sagar, Bijak, and Sakhi Granth.
- He was best known for his two-line couplets, known as '**Kabir Ke Dohe**'.
- His verses are found in Sikhism's scripture **Guru Granth Sahib**.

Source: [PIB](#)