

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

12th to 17th July, 2021

10 PM Compilation for the Week - 12th July to 17th July, 2021

Government schemes/initiatives

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **Press Council of India**

1. It does not have the power to review the functioning of electronic media like radio, television and internet media.
2. They can penalize newspapers, news agencies, editors and journalists for violation of the guidelines.

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 Press Council of India was first set up in the year 1966 by the Parliament on the recommendations of the First Press Commission.
- **Aim:** To preserve the freedom of the press and maintain and improve the standards of the press in India.
- The present Council functions under the Press Council Act, 1978. It is a statutory, quasi-judicial authority functioning as a **watchdog of the press, for the press and by the press.**
- **Limitations of PCI:**
 - They cannot penalize newspapers, news agencies, editors and journalists for violation of the guidelines.
 - The PCI **only overviews the functioning** of print media. It can enforce standards upon newspapers, journals, magazines and other forms of print media.
 - It **does not have the power to review the functioning** of electronic media like radio, television and internet media.

Read more: [Press Council of India \(PCI\)](#)

Source: [Times of India](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **Lightning**

1. Increasing global temperature will increase the frequency of lightning
2. Intercloud or intracloud (IC) lightning is more dangerous than the Cloud to ground (CG) lightning

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:

A study published in 2015 found out that, an increase of one degree Celsius would increase the frequency of lightning strikes by 12 percent.

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Urbanisation, increased population and a warmer climate guarantee an intensification of human exposure to lightning hazards.

What is lightning?

Lightning is a very rapid and massive discharge of electricity in the atmosphere. It is the process of occurrence of a natural 'electrical discharge of very short duration and high voltage between a cloud and the ground or within a cloud.

- There are two types of lightning. Such as,
 - **Intercloud or intracloud (IC) lightning:** These are visible and harmless.
 - **Cloud to ground (CG) lightning:** This is harmful as the 'high electric voltage discharge for very short time leads to electrocution.

Source: [Down To Earth](#)

Q.3) Damini App was sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following is the potential application of the App?

- a) The App provides online registration and filing of Personal Income Tax from the upcoming year.
- b) The app interlinks all the government Covid-19 digital response including the CoWIN Platform
- c) It monitors the lightning occurrence all over India and alerts the user by a GPS based notification.
- d) The app provides information regarding the number of green plantations taken alongside the National Highways in India

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Damini App was developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM-Pune) and Earth System Science Organization (ESSO) under the ministry of earth sciences.

- The app monitors the lightning occurrence all over India and alerts the user of lightning near them by a GPS notification under 20 km and 40 km.
- Further, the Damini app also triggers warning about lightning strikes **three hours in advance** which can help reduce losses to life and property.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.4) Bryum Bharatiensis was sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following correctly explains it?

- a) It is a new snake species discovered in Western Ghats.
- b) It is a salt-secreting salt-tolerant mangrove species found in mangrove formations in India.
- c) It is a cold-blooded marine reptilian species
- d) It is a new plant species of moss discovered by Indian scientists in Antarctica

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: A team of Indian scientists has discovered a new plant species in Antarctica named **Bryum Bharatiensis**.

About Bryum Bharatiensis:

- **Bryum bharatiensis** is a species of moss. It was discovered by a team of researchers from the Central University of Punjab.

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- **Mosses** are small, non-vascular flowerless plants in the taxonomic division Bryophyta. They are distributed throughout the world except in salt water and are commonly found in moist shady locations.
- **Named after:** The species has been named after Bharati, the Indian research station in Antarctica. The station itself was named after the Hindu goddess Bharati.

Read more: [Bryum Bharatiensis](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Nyaya-Vikas-2.0:

1. It is an online monitoring system to track the pendency of cases in the Supreme Court.
2. It has been developed with technical assistance of ISRO.

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:** Portal monitors the physical and financial progress of such judicial infrastructure projects by geo-tagging completed and ongoing infrastructure projects.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It has been set up by Deptt of Justice with technical assistance from ISRO.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) scheme

1. The scheme aimed at infrastructure development such as entry points, last mile connectivity, basic tourism facilities and others
2. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme financed by the Central and State 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: A

Explanation: PRASHAD projects were recently inaugurated in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.

About PRASHAD scheme:

- It is also called as the 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive' (PRASHAD).
- It is a Central Sector Scheme fully financed by the Government of India.
- Launched by the Ministry of Tourism in the year 2014-15.
- Objective: Integrated development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations.
- It includes infrastructure development such as entry points (Road, Rail and Water Transport), last mile connectivity, basic tourism facilities.

Source: [PIB](#)

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Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding CPGRAMS:

1. The system provides online access to all citizens including those in Armed Forces personnel to report their grievances.
2. Right to Information (RTI) matters are not taken up for redressal by CPGRAMS.

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

- **Centralized Public Grievances Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS)** is a web-based application developed by the National Informatics Centre(NIC) in association with the Directorate of Public Grievances(DPG) and the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances(DARPG).
- **Purpose:** The application aims to enable submission of grievances by the aggrieved citizens from anywhere and anytime (24×7) basis to Ministries who scrutinize and take action for speedy and favorable redress of these grievances.
- **Issues that are not taken up for redressal by CPGRAMS:**
 - Sub Judice cases or any matter concerning judgment given by any court.
 - Personal and family disputes.
 - RTI matters.
 - Anything that impacts upon territorial integrity of the country or friendly relations with other countries.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding School Innovation Ambassador Training Program:

1. It aims at training students in multiple areas including design thinking and IPR.
2. Program has been launched by Ministry of Human Resource and Development in collaboration with Microsoft.

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 incorrect.

- **The School Innovation Ambassador Training Program** is a one of its kind training program for School Teachers.
- **Aim:** It aims at training 50,000 school teachers. The training areas will include Innovation, Entrepreneurship, IPR, Design Thinking, Product Development, Idea Generation, and many more.

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- **This program has been designed** by the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

Source: [Article](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding **International Cooperation and Convention Centre – Rudraksh**

1. The objective is to dedicate an ideal platform for social and cultural interactions between people
2. The centre has been built with the assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency.

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 Prime Minister has inaugurated the International Cooperation and Convention Centre – Rudraksh in Varanasi.

About Rudraksh:

- **Rudraksh** is an international cooperation and convention centre that will offer a glimpse of the cultural richness of Varanasi.
- **The centre has been built** with the assistance from Japan International Cooperation Agency.
- **Purpose:** The centre has been developed with the objective to dedicate an ideal platform for social and cultural interactions between people and strengthen the city's competitiveness by developing the tourism sector.

Read more: [PM inaugurates the International Cooperation and Convention Centre – Rudraksh in Varanasi](#)

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding **Indian Council of Agriculture Research**

1. It is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE)
2. It is the apex body for coordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture
3. It is headquartered at Mumbai

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: Recently, the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) celebrated its 93rd foundation day and on the occasion, the Kisan Sarthi platform was launched.

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About Indian Council of Agriculture Research:

- It is an autonomous organisation under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- It was established in July 1929 and was formerly known as the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.
- It is headquartered at New Delhi.
- It is the apex body for coordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding India Industrial Land Bank (IILB) Portal

1. The portal serves as a one-stop solution to the free and easy accessibility of all industrial information
2. It was developed by Department of Commerce.

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 India Industrial Land Bank (IILB), a GIS-based portal, has seen a 30% increase in page views each month since April 2021.

- IILB portal is a GIS-enabled database of industrial areas/clusters to adopt a committed approach towards resource optimization, industrial upgradation and sustainability.
- It was developed by the Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- The portal serves as a one-stop solution to the free and easy accessibility of all industrial information
- It also provides links to State GIS Portals and State Land Banks

Source: [PIB](#)

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Science and Technology

Q.1) Indian government has recently made the CoWIN platform an open-sourced platform. Which of the following is/are the benefit of **Open-Source applications**?

1. Cost saving
2. Better bug-fixing of application
3. Less collaboration between developers

Select the correct option from the code given below

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: CoWIN is the digital platform for the Covid-19 vaccination drive. Earlier this month, the government said that India would allow CoWIN to be an open-source for all countries to access, adapt and use, thereby becoming one of many countries that have open-sourced their government projects.

About Open-Source software:

Red Hat, the world's leading open-source software solutions company, explains open source as "a term that originally referred to open source software (OSS). **Open-source software is code that is designed to be publicly accessible** — anyone can see, modify, and distribute the code as they see fit.

Benefits of OSS:

- OSS is often **cheaper, more flexible**, and has **more longevity** than its proprietary peers because it is developed by communities rather than a single author or company.
- Software and bugs go hand-in-hand. Proprietary software does what is called 'blackbox' testing. In open-source, the code is open, which makes it possible for many more people to look at the code, and they can do a much better job than blackbox testing
- More collaboration, learning and development of OSS.

Source: [Business Standard](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)**

1. It is transmitted by mosquitoes and is characterized by high fever and inflammation of the brain.
2. Japanese Encephalitis virus (JEV) is the major cause of AES in India

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 Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has provided tap water supply to more than 97 lakh households in five JE-AES (Japanese Encephalitis-Acute Encephalitis Syndrome) affected states. The five states with priority districts are Assam, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

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About Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES):

- Acute Encephalitis Syndrome(AES) also known as ‘Chamki Fever’ or Litchi Virus is an umbrella term used for infections that causes inflammation irritation or swelling on the brain.
- **Cause:** Viruses, bacteria, fungi and a range of agents. However, Japanese encephalitis (JE) virus is the most common cause of AES in India
- **Symptoms:** Acute onset of fever, change in mental status (mental confusion, disorientation, delirium, or coma) and new-onset of seizures.

Read more: [Acute Encephalitis Syndrome](#)

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Cassini-Huygens mission:

1. It is a joint collaboration between NASA, JAXA and ROSCOSMOS.
2. It was the first mission to orbit Saturn.
3. Huygens prob was the first human-made object to land on a world in the distant outer solar system.

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: **The Cassini-Huygens mission** is a collaboration between NASA, ESA (European Space Agency), and the Italian Space Agency.
- Statement 2 & 3 are correct: Cassini-Huygens was a mission of firsts. First to orbit Saturn. First landing in the outer solar system. Also, first to sample an extraterrestrial ocean. the European Huygens probe—the first human-made object to land on a world in the distant outer solar system.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding African Swine Fever (ASF)

1. It is a zoonotic disease.
2. ASF is listed in the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

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:** ASF is not a threat to human beings, since it only spreads from animals to other animals.

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- **Statement 2 is correct:** ASF is a disease listed in the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code and must be reported to the OIE.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding **Artemis Accords**

1. It aims to ensure space exploration is conducted in a safe, sustainable and transparent manner.
2. India is a founding member of this accord

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:

- Artemis Accords ensures that space exploration is conducted in a **safe, sustainable and transparent manner and in full compliance with international law.**
- The **founding members** of the Artemis Accords are **Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and the US.**
- As more countries establish a presence in outer space, via research stations, satellites, or even rocket launchers, these **accords provide a set of principles** to create a safe and transparent environment that inspires exploration, science, and commercial activities.

Source: [The Business Standard](#)

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

1. They do not produce any reproductive structure like seed, or flower.
2. They present only in terrestrial ecosystem
3. Algae, bryophytes, lichens, ferns and fungi are the best-known groups of cryptogams.

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: C

Explanation: Recently, India's first cryptogamic garden was inaugurated in the Chakrata town of Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

About Cryptograms:

- The word "Cryptogamae" implies 'hidden reproduction', referring to the fact that they do not produce any reproductive structure, seed, or flower. Due to this, they are called "flowerless" or "seedless plants" or 'lower plants'.
- These are present in aquatic and terrestrial places.
- Algae, bryophytes, lichens, ferns and fungi are the best-known groups of cryptogams.

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

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Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding **Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover (VIPER) Mission**

1. It will be the resource mapping mission on Martian Terrain
2. The Mission will be launched by NASA in 2023.

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: NASA has announced the launch of the Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover(VIPER) Mission in 2023.

About VIPER Mission:

- **VIPER Mission** is a mobile robot to be launched by NASA in the year 2023.
- **It will be the first** resource mapping mission on any other celestial body.
- **Celestial Body** is any natural body outside the Earth's atmosphere. Easy examples are the Moon, Sun, and the other planets of our solar system.

Objectives of the Mission:

- To get a closer view of the Moon's South Pole
- To evaluate the concentration of water as well as other potential resources on its surface
- To understand if it is possible for human life to sustain there, by using locally available resources.

Read more: [Volatiles Investigating Polar Exploration Rover\(VIPER\) Mission](#)

Q.8) Which of the following is/are the **potential hazard of Liquid Oxygen**

1. It can cause severe skin and eye irritation and burns as well as frostbite.
2. It can cause neurological syndrome
3. It can cause epilepsy-like convulsions and prolonged exposure will lead to death

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: Liquid oxygen has a pale blue colour and is a cryogenic liquid. Cryogenic liquids are liquefied gases that have a normal boiling point below -238 degrees Fahrenheit (-150 degrees Celsius).

Hazards of Liquid Oxygen:

- Contact with liquid oxygen can cause **severe skin and eye irritation** and burns as well as **frostbite**.
- Similarly, Inhalation of 80 per cent oxygen at one atmospheric pressure for more than 12 hours can **cause irritation of the respiratory tract, nausea, dizziness, vision loss, coughing, chest pain** etc.

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- A characteristic **neurological syndrome** can be observed when pure oxygen is inhaled at pressures greater than two or three atmospheres.
- Characteristic **epilepsy-like convulsions**, which may be preceded by visual disturbances such as loss of peripheral vision, also occur. Continued exposure can cause severe convulsions, **leading to death**.
- Some common materials like asphalt, kerosene, cloth, wood, paint, tar and dirt containing oil or grease can **react violently with liquid oxygen** at certain pressures and temperatures

But these **effects are reversible after reduction of oxygen pressure**.

Source: [Down to Earth](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding Venus:

1. It's often called Earth's twin because it's similar in size and density.
2. It's the hottest planet in our solar system.
3. On Venus, the Sun rises in the west and sets in the east.

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: All statements are correct:

- Venus is the second planet from the Sun and is Earth's closest planetary neighbor. It's one of the four inner, terrestrial (or rocky) planets, and it's **often called Earth's twin** because it's similar in size and density. These are not identical twins, however – there are radical differences between the two worlds.
- It's the **hottest planet in our solar system**, even though Mercury is closer to the Sun. Surface temperatures on Venus are about 900 degrees Fahrenheit (475 degrees Celsius) – hot enough to melt lead.
- Venus rotates on its axis backward, compared to most of the other planets in the solar system. This means that, **on Venus, the Sun rises in the west and sets in the east**, opposite to what we experience on Earth.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding Registration Convention:

1. The convention requires states to furnish to the United Nations with details about the orbit of each space object.
2. It is administered by NASA in collaboration with European Space Agency (ESA).

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 Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (commonly known as the Registration Convention) was considered and negotiated by the Legal Subcommittee from 1962.
- It was **adopted by the General Assembly in 1974** and opened for signature on 14 January 1975 and entered into force on 15 September 1976.
- The convention requires states to furnish to the United Nations with details about the orbit of each space object. A registry of launchings was already being maintained by the United Nations as a result of a General Assembly Resolution in 1962.
- **Administered by:** The Registration Convention and four other space law treaties are administered by the **United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UN-COPUOS)**.
- The registration includes the following information
 - The name of launching State
 - An appropriate designator of the space object or its registration number
 - Date and territory or location of the launch
 - Basic orbital parameters (Nodal period, Inclination, Apogee and Perigee)
 - The general function of the space object
- Information on registered objects is available at the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA).

Source: [Article](#)

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding **Solar power generation**

1. Rooftop solar panels are more efficient than floating solar panels
2. The Solar Park Scheme was launched by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy

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:

NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL), a 100% subsidiary of NTPC, will set up the country's single largest solar park at Rann of Kutch in Gujarat.

- **Floating solar** refers to a solar power production installation mounted on a structure that floats on a body of water, typically an artificial basin or a lake.
- As opposed to conventional rooftop solar panels, floating ones perform between 5% to 15% better because of the cooling effect of the water, and are not impacted by shading from other buildings

About Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects Scheme

- **The Solar Park Scheme** was launched by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy in 2014.
- **Under this scheme**, it was proposed to set up at least 25 Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects. It aimed at over 20,000 MW of solar power installed capacity within a span of 5 years starting from 2014-15.

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- **The capacity of the Scheme** has now been enhanced from 20,000 MW to 40,000 MW in 2017. The parks are also proposed to be set up by 2021-22.

Read more: [NTPC to build India's largest solar park in Rann of Kutch](#)

Source: [AIR](#)

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding **Suborbital Flight**

1. Suborbital Flights occur when a spacecraft reaches space, but its velocity is such that it cannot orbit the Earth once they reach there.
2. The objects need to travel more than 28,000 km/hr to reach suborbital Flights.

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: Virgin Group founder Richard Branson and five others undertook a trip to the “edge of space”, and reached an altitude of 85 km from Earth before returning. Such a trip is called a Suborbital Flight.

- **Suborbital Flights** occur when a spacecraft reaches space, but its velocity is such that it cannot orbit the Earth once they reach there.

How does Suborbital Flight work?

- **When an object** travels at a horizontal speed of about 28,000 km/hr or more, it goes into orbit. **Satellites need to reach** that threshold speed in order to orbit Earth.
- **Any object** traveling slower than 28,000 km/hr must eventually return to Earth.
- **However**, Unity spacecraft traveled far enough to reach the “edge of space”. These are suborbital flights because they will not be traveling fast enough to orbit Earth once they reach there.

Read more: [Suborbital flight: Fast enough to reach space, not stay there](#)

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding different types of Ultraviolet (UV) light:

1. UV-B has the ability to penetrate deeply into the dermis.
2. UV-C has the shortest wavelength and is the most harmful UV radiation.

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:** UV A has the ability to penetrate deeply into the middle layers of our skin i.e. dermis
- **Statement 2 is correct:** UV C has the shortest wavelength and is almost completely absorbed by the Ozone.

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Source: [Article](#)

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding Vikas Engine

1. These are liquid fuelled rocket engines conceptualized and designed by the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre(LPSC)
2. The engine is used in the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) alone

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: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully conducted the third long-duration hot test of the liquid propellant Vikas engine for the Gaganyaan programme.

About Vikas Engine:

- **Vikas** is a family of liquid fuelled rocket engines conceptualized and designed by the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre(LPSC) in the 1970s.
 - **LPSC** is a research and development centre functioning under Indian Space Research Organisation.
- **The engine is used in the** Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) series of expendable launch vehicles for space launch use.
- **ISRO** tested the Vikas Engine this time as part of the engine qualification requirements for the Gaganyaan Mission.

Source: [ISRO successfully conducts test of Vikas Engine for Gaganyaan Program](#)

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding Cytomegalovirus (CMV):

1. Virus remains asymptomatic in patients with normal immunity.
2. During pregnancy CMV infection can pass on the virus to their babies.
3. Humans can be infected by animal strains of CMV.

Which of the above statements 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: Cytomegalovirus (CMV)** is also known as Human Herpesvirus 5 (HHV-5). It is a common herpes virus that often causes natural infections in childhood and remains asymptomatic in patients with normal immunity.
 - **Once infected**, the virus is retained in the body for life. Most people don't realise that they have been infected by CMV because it rarely causes problems in healthy people.

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- **The symptoms** usually surface only when carriers become immunocompromised, such as those suffering from cancer, AIDS, or those who have recently had transplants.
 - **Statement 2 is correct:** Expecting mothers who develop an active CMV infection during pregnancy can pass on the virus to their babies, which is known as **congenital CMV**. Children born with it may or may not show symptoms.
 - **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Humans cannot be infected by animal strains of CMV.
- Source:** [Article](#)

ForumIAS

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History/ Art and Culture

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **Kesaria Buddha stupa**

1. The stupa is said to be the tallest and the largest Buddhist stupa in the world
2. It is located in Uttar Pradesh
3. Both Fahien and Hsuan Tsang had visited this Stupa

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: C

Explanation: The world-famous Kesaria Buddha stupa in east Champaran district of Bihar is waterlogged following floods in some parts of the district.

About Kesaria Buddha stupa:

- The stupa is said to be the tallest and the largest Buddhist stupa in the world.
- It is located in Kesariya, at a distance of 110 kilometers from Patna, in the East Champaran district of Bihar.
- The first construction of the Stupa is dated to the 3rd century BCE. The original Kesaria stupa probably dates to the time of Ashoka (circa 250 BCE), as the remains of a capital of a Pillar of Ashoka were discovered there.
- Two great foreign travelers, Fahien and Hsuan Tsang, had visited this place in ancient times and have left interesting and informative accounts of their travels.
- The discovery of gold coins bearing the seal of the famous emperor Kanishka of the Kushan dynasty (AD 30 to AD 375) goes on to further establish the ancient heritage of Kesaria.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **Kashi Annapurna Temple**

1. The current Annapurna Mandir was constructed in the 18th century by Maratha Peshwa Bajirao I.
2. The temple is constructed in Nagara architecture.

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:

- Annapurna Devi Mandir is one of the most famous Hindu temples (Mandir) in the holy city of Varanasi.
- This temple is dedicated to goddess Annapurna, the Hindu goddess for nourishment and is a form of the goddess Parvati.
- The current Annapurna Mandir was constructed in the 18th century by Maratha Peshwa Bajirao I.

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- The temple is constructed in Nagara architecture.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Kesaria Buddha Stupa:

1. It is regarded as the tallest and the largest Buddhist stupa in the world.
2. The current Kesaria Stupa belongs to Ashoka dynasty.

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**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: The original Kesariya stupa** probably dates to the time of Ashoka (circa 250 BCE) as the remains of a capital of a Pillar of Ashoka were discovered there. **The current stupa** dates to the Gupta Dynasty between 200 AD and 750 AD and may have been associated with the 4th century ruler Raja Chakravarti.

Source: [Article](#)

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Statutory, Regulatory and various Quasi-judicial Bodies

Q.1) Consider the following regarding Bar Council of India:

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It sets standards for legal education in India

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.

The Bar Council of India is a **statutory body** created by Parliament under the **Advocates Act, 1961** to regulate and represent the Indian bar. It performs the regulatory function by prescribing standards of professional conduct and etiquette and by exercising disciplinary jurisdiction over the bar.

Functions: It sets standards for legal education and grants recognition to Universities whose degree in law will serve as qualification for enrollment as an advocate.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding C-TAP:

1. It was launched by WHO, in partnership with the Government of India.
2. It is being utilized for sharing intellectual property, technology and data to increase access to medical products related to COVID 19

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:** COVID-Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) was launched by WHO, in partnership with the Government of Costa Rica, under a global Solidarity Call to Action endorsed by nearly 40 Member States.
- **Statement 2 is correct**

Source: [Article](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB):

1. It has been established under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
2. It provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanations:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** CPCB has been constituted in 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
- **Statement 2 is correct**

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Khadi Village Industries Commission (KVIC):

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It is an apex organization under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

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 2 is incorrect

- **The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** is a statutory body formed in 1957 under Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.
- **Nodal Ministry:** It is an apex organisation under the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises.
- **Mandate:** The KVIC is charged with the planning, promotion, organisation and implementation of programs for the development of Khadi and other village industries in the rural areas in coordination with other agencies

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding National Archives of India (NAI):

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It is the nodal agency for the implementation of the Public Records 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: B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect: It functions as an Attached Office of the Department of Culture under the Ministry of Culture.

- **Established in:** It was originally established as the Imperial Record Department in 1891 in Calcutta (Kolkata). This department was transferred to New Delhi in 1911. Later, it was shifted into the present building in 1926.
- **Purpose:** NAI is a custodian of the non-current records of the enduring value of the Indian Government. It holds them in trust for the use of administrators and scholars.

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Statement 2 is correct: Rules: NAI is the nodal agency for the implementation of the Public Records Act, 1993 and Public Record Rules, 1997.

Source: [Article](#)

ForumIAS

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MAPPING

Q.1) Arrange the following seas from North to South:

1. Adriatic
2. Mediterranean
3. Ionian

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: C

Explanation:

The correct order from North to South is -

- Adriatic
- Ionian
- Mediterranean

Q.2) Which of the following countries share a border with Black Sea?

1. Turkey
2. Greece
3. Serbia

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Greece and Serbia do not share a border with Black Sea. Following countries do:

- Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey, and Ukraine.

Q.3) Arrange the following lakes from north to south:

1. Edward
2. Kivu
3. Albert

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Correct order is -

- Lake Albert

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- Lake Edward
- Lake Kivu

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) Which of the following countries share border with Iran?

1. Kuwait
2. Armenia
3. Turkey

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: B

Explanation: Kuwait doesn't share a border with Iran.

Countries bordering Iran are:

- Pakistan
- Afghanistan
- Turkmenistan
- Azerbaijan
- Armenia
- Turkey
- Iraq

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

1. Ascension
2. St Helena
3. Tristan da Cunha

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Correct order from North to South is:** Ascension islands – St Helena – Tristan da Cunha

Source: [Places in news](#)

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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Global Education Coalition (GEC):

1. It has been launched by World Bank in collaboration with NITI Aayog.
2. It aims to provide education remotely using both low-tech and no-tech approaches.

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:** The Global Education Coalition has been launched by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It aims to help countries in mobilizing resources and implementing innovative and context-appropriate solutions to provide education remotely, leveraging hi-tech, low-tech and no-tech approaches

Source: [Article](#)

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ENVIRONMENT

Q.1) Lemru Elephant reserve is proposed to be set up in which of the following states?

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) Bihar
- c) Odisha
- d) West Bengal

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Lemru Elephant Reserve** was approved by Chhattisgarh Government in 2005 and got central approval in 2007.
- **Lemru is one of the two elephant reserves** being planned to prevent human-elephant conflict and to provide a permanent habitat for the elephants.
 - **The other is the Badakhhol Tamorpingla Elephant Reserve**, which was approved by the Chhattisgarh Government in 2011. Tamorpingla wildlife sanctuary already exists in the state, but no work on this elephant reserve has begun yet.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Avicennia marina sometimes seen in news is a?

- a) A cold-blooded marine reptilian species
- b) Wetland inhabiting species of sparrow
- c) salt-secreting salt-tolerant mangrove species.
- d) Frog species endemic to western ghats

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Avicennia marina** is also called Banhi in Odia. It is one of the most prominent mangroves species found in all mangrove formations in India.
- **Features:** It is a salt-secreting and extraordinarily salt-tolerant mangrove species that grows optimally in 75% seawater and tolerates >250% seawater.
- **Significance:** It is among the rare plant species which can excrete 40% of the salt through the salt glands in the leaves, besides its extraordinary capacity to exclude salt entry to the roots.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.3) Which of the following can be categorized as Cryptogamic plants?

- 1. Liverworts
- 2. Ferns
- 3. Algae

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

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Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

All of them are cryptogamic plants

- A **cryptogam** is a plant or a plant-like organism that reproduces by spores without flowers or seeds.
- **The term Cryptogamae** means “hidden reproduction”, referring to the fact that no seed is produced. Thus, cryptogams represent the non-seed-bearing plants.
- **Cryptogamic plants** include Algae, mosses, liverworts, lichens, ferns, and fungi

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) Recently India set up its first Green Hydrogen Mobility Project. In which of the following locations the plant is going to be set up?

- Ladakh
- Spiti valley
- Coorg
- Girnar

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd has signed a MoU with the Union Territory of Ladakh to set up India's First Green Hydrogen Mobility Project in Ladakh Region.

Note: Green Hydrogen is clean hydrogen generated by using renewable energy such as solar power and wind energy. The by-products are water and water vapor.

About India's First Green Hydrogen Mobility Project:

- **The Green Hydrogen Mobility Project will enable** NTPC to help Ladakh in developing a carbon-free economy based on renewable sources and green hydrogen.
- **Features:** As part of the project, NTPC has planned to ply 5 hydrogen buses in the Ladakh region. The company will also be setting up a solar plant and a green hydrogen generation unit in Leh.
- **Significance:** This project will put Leh as the first city in the country to implement a green hydrogen-based mobility project.

Q.5) Mukundra Tiger Reserve sometimes seen in news is located in?

- Maharashtra
- Rajasthan
- Uttarakhand
- Gujarat

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The Rajasthan government will develop a tiger corridor connecting the newly proposed '[Ramgarh Tiger Reserve](#)', Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.6) Ranthambore Tiger Reserve was recently seen in the news. Which of the following state the reserve is located in?

- Tamil Nadu
- Madhya Pradesh

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- c) Rajasthan
- d) Maharashtra

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The Rajasthan government will develop a tiger corridor connecting the newly proposed 'Ramgarh Tiger Reserve', Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve.

About the Proposed Tiger Corridor

- **The Proposed Tiger Corridor** will be developed by relocating eight villages.
- **The corridor is being developed** to deal with the issue of overpopulation of tigers, which Ranthambore tiger reserve is facing currently.
- **Ranthambore Tiger Reserve** has a population of around 65 tigers currently. On the other hand, Mukundra reserve is left with just one Tiger.
- **Thus, this tiger corridor** is proposed to balance the population distribution.

About Ranthambore Tiger Reserve

- **Ranthambore National Park and Tiger Reserve** is located in Rajasthan. It is located at the junction of the Aravali and Vindhya hill ranges.
- **River:** The park is bounded to the north by the Banas River and to the south by the Chambal River.
- **Named after:** The park is named after the historic Ranthambore Fort, which lies within the park.
- **Comprises:** Two protected areas namely Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary and Sawai Mansingh Wildlife Sanctuary are linked by narrow corridors to the core of Ranthambore NP and all these together comprise the Tiger Reserve.

Read more: [Rajasthan to develop corridor connecting 3 tiger reserves](#)

Q.7) Fit for 55 proposal was sometimes seen in news is related to?

- a) Achieving Sustainable Development Goals related to healthcare.
- b) Cutting of Greenhouse Gas emissions & reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
- c) Awareness campaign promoting various financial products in tier-II cities.
- d) Elimination of open-defecation practice to curb spread of infectious diseases.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- The European Union has unveiled some of the **world's most ambitious proposals, titled "Fit for 55"**, to reduce carbon emissions and wean its 27 members off fossil fuels. The plan aims to **cut their output of greenhouse gases by 55% by 2030**, compared with 1990 levels.
- The commission's proposals **require endorsement by the European Parliament and leaders of European national governments** before they become law, a process that is expected to take around two years.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.8) Consider the following statements

1. It is the second tiger reserve in the Uttarakhand
2. The Park extends over the Shivalik Range in the northwest to the Rawasan River in the southeast, with the Ganges dividing it into two parts.

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3. Some of the basic features of the Shivalik formations are to be seen in the park and is rightly known as a veritable storehouse of Shivalik biodiversity and ecosystems.

Which of the following reserve is described in the statements above?

- a) Jim Corbett National Park
- b) Periyar National Park/Tiger Reserve
- c) Rajaji National Park
- d) Kuno National Park

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Uttarakhand government has decided to keep the Jim Corbett National Park and the Rajaji Tiger Reserve open all year round to boost tourism.

About Rajaji National Park

It is a national park and tiger reserve that encompasses the Shivaliks, near the foothills of the Himalayas.

- It was declared as a tiger reserve in 2015 and is the second tiger reserve in the Uttarakhand and 48th Tiger Reserve of India.
- The park extends over the Shivalik Range in the north-west to the Rawasan River in the southeast with the Ganges dividing it into two parts.
- Some of the basic features of the Shivalik formations are to be seen in the park and is rightly known as a veritable storehouse of Shivalik biodiversity and ecosystems.

Read more: [Rajaji National Park](#)

Source: [Times of India](#)

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Economy

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **Government Securities (G-secs)**

1. It is a tradable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments.
2. State Governments can issue both, treasury bills and bonds or dated securities.

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, The Reserve Bank of India(RBI) has announced the launch of the RBI Retail Direct scheme.

About RBI Retail Direct Scheme:

- **RBI Retail Direct Scheme** is a one-stop solution to facilitate investment in government securities (G-secs) by individual investors.
- **Under the scheme**, retail investors (individuals) will have the facility to open and maintain the 'Retail Direct Gilt Account' (RDG Account) with the RBI.

About G-Sec:

- **A Government Security(G-Sec)** is a tradable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments. It acknowledges the Government's debt obligation.
- **Such securities** are short-term (usually called treasury bills, with original maturities of less than one year) or long-term (usually called Government bonds or dated securities with an original maturity of one year or more).
- **In India, the Central Government** issues both, treasury bills and bonds or dated securities. **While the State Governments** issue only bonds or dated securities which are called the State Development Loans (SDLs).

Read more: [G-secs: RBI unveils Retail Direct Scheme](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **Bharat Interface for Money-Unified Payments Interface (BHIM-UPI)**

1. It is interoperable with other Unified Payment Interface (UPI) applications, and bank accounts.
2. The BHIM-UPI is so far available only within Indian Territory

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 The Union Minister of Finance of India along with her counterpart, the Finance Minister of Bhutan has jointly launched BHIM-UPI in Bhutan. This made Bhutan the second country after Singapore to have BHIM-UPI acceptance at merchant locations.

About BHIM-UPI:

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- Bharat Interface for Money(BHIM) is Unified Payments Interface(UPI) based payment interface application that allows real time fund transfer
- The app has been launched in 2016.It was developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

1. WPI tracks inflation at the producer level and CPI captures changes in prices levels at the consumer level.
2. CPI does not capture changes in the prices of services, which WPI does.

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, the Office of the Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has released the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for the month of June, 2021.

Difference between CPI and WPI:

WPI tracks inflation at the producer level and CPI captures changes in prices levels at the consumer level.

WPI does not capture changes in the prices of services, which CPI does.

Read more: [Understanding WPI/CPI/PPI and more.](#)

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International Relations

Q.1) Cairo Consensus was recently seen in the news. Which of the following statements are related to the Cairo Consensus?

- a) The consensus aims to reduce global warming in African Countries
- b) The consensus aims to take welfare-based approach for population control
- c) The consensus aims to increase funding for Infrastructure projects in Low- and Middle-income countries
- d) The consensus aims to provide free vaccine for low- and marginal-income populations.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) articulated a bold new vision about the relationships between population, development and individual well-being. The conference was held in Cairo.

During the conference, 179 countries adopted a forward-looking, **20-year Programme of Action** (extended in 2010) that continues to serve as a **comprehensive guide to people-centred development progress**. It was also called as **Cairo Consensus**.

The Cairo Consensus called for the **promotion of reproductive rights, empowering women, universal education, maternal and infant health to untangle the knotty issue of poverty and high fertility**. The consensus also demands an increase in the rate of modern contraceptive prevalence, male contraception.

Source: [International Conference on Population and Development, 1994](#)

Geography

Q.1) Caucasus Mountain system lying in which of the following countries?

1. Russia
2. Georgia
3. Turkey

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: A

Relevance: Recently, India has gifted one part of the holy relics of 17th century St. Queen Ketevan to the Georgian government.

Caucasus Mountain system is lying between the Black Sea (west) and the Caspian Sea (east). It spread over Russia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia.



Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **Tropical Rainforests**

1. These are closed-canopy forests growing within 28 degrees north or south of the equator.
2. They are very wet places, receiving more than 200 cm rainfall per year, either seasonally or throughout the year.
3. They have uniformly high Temperatures between 20°C and 35°C.

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: According to a recent study, Amazon Forests have started emitting Carbon dioxide (CO₂) instead of absorbing it.

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About Amazon Forests:

- These are large tropical rainforests occupying the drainage basin of the Amazon River and its tributaries in northern South America.
- The Amazon rainforests cover about 80% of the Amazon basin and they are home to nearly a fifth of the world's land species and is also home to about 30 million people including hundreds of indigenous groups and several isolated tribes.

About Tropical forests:

- Tropical forests are closed-canopy forests growing within 28 degrees north or south of the equator.
- They are very wet places, receiving more than 200 cm rainfall per year, either seasonally or throughout the year.
- Temperatures are uniformly high - between 20°C and 35°C.
- Such forests are found in Asia, Australia, Africa, South America, Central America, Mexico and on many of the Pacific Islands.

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Virtual Water Trade

1. The virtual water trade is the idea that when goods and services are exchanged, so is virtual water.
2. Countries export water-intensive crops and products and import less water-intensive commodities to increase their water availability

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 virtual water trade is the idea that when goods and services are exchanged, so is virtual water. When a country imports one tonne of wheat instead of producing it domestically, it is saving about 1,300 cubic meters of real indigenous water.

For instance, water-guzzling activities are getting outsourced for production to other countries. Thus, crops, meat, leather, chemicals, and industrial goods are imported to ensure a positive water balance. For example, Mexico imports maize and in doing so, it saves 12 billion cubic meters per year of its national water resources.

Countries export less water-intensive crops and products and export less water-intensive commodities to increase their water availability

Source: [Relation between Agri exports and water stress – Explained, Pointwise](#)

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MISC

Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Wasting is defined as low weight-for-age.
2. A child who is underweight may be stunted, wasted or both.

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:** Wasting is defined as low weight-for-height. It often indicates recent and severe weight loss, although it can also persist for a long time.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Underweight is defined as low weight-for-age. A child who is underweight may be stunted, wasted or both.

Source: [Article](#)

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HEALTH

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Primary Health Care:

1. It provides whole-person care for health needs throughout the lifespan, not just for a set of specific diseases.
2. The National Health Policy 2017 advocated allocating resources of up to two thirds of total health budget to Primary Health care.
3. Developed nations spend a large share of their healthcare budgets on primary care.

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

- Primary health care is a whole-of-society approach to health and well-being centred on the needs and preferences of individuals, families and communities. It provides whole-person care for health needs throughout the lifespan, not just for a set of specific diseases
- The National Health Policy (NHP) 2017 advocates allocating resources of up to two thirds of total health budget to Primary Health care.
- Developed nations such as the UK, Australia, Canada, Netherlands and Sweden spend a large share of their federal healthcare budgets on primary care.

Source: [Article](#)

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POLITY

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding the Contempt of Court:

1. Scandalizing the Court is a criminal offence in India.
2. Supreme Court and High Courts derive their contempt powers from the Constitution.

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 **Contempt of Courts Act, 1971** divides contempt into civil and criminal contempt.

- **Civil contempt** refers to the willful disobedience of an order of any court.
- **Criminal contempt** includes any act or publication which: (i) 'scandalises' the court, or (ii) prejudices any judicial proceeding, or (iii) interferes with the administration of justice in any other manner.
- '**Scandalising the Court**' broadly refers to statements or publications which have the effect of undermining public confidence in the judiciary.

Statement 2 is correct. The **superior courts (Supreme Court and High Courts)** derive their contempt powers from the Constitution.

- **Article 129 and 215** provide that Supreme Court and every High Court (respectively) shall be a court of record and shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding dismissal of civil servants

1. A state government employee can be dismissed or removed by an authority subordinate to the one that appointed him/her.
2. If a government employee is convicted in a criminal case, s/he can be dismissed without a Departmental Enquiry (DE).

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: The Lt Governor of Jammu and Kashmir(J&K) has dismissed 11 J&K government employees for alleged terror links under provisions of Article 311(2)(c) of the Constitution.

- **Article 311(1):** It says that no government employee either of an all India service or a state government shall be dismissed or removed by an authority subordinate to the own that appointed him/her.
- **Article 311(2):** It says that no civil servant shall be dismissed or removed or reduced in rank except after an inquiry in which s/he has been informed of the charges and given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of those charges.

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Exceptions to Article 311(2):

- **2(a):** It says that if a government employee is convicted in a criminal case, he can be dismissed without a Departmental Enquiry (DE).
- **2(b)** – It says that the government employee can be dismissed if the authority empowered to dismiss or remove a person or to reduce him in rank is satisfied that for some reason, it is not reasonably practicable to hold inquiry or
- **2(c):** It says that the government employee can be dismissed when the President or the Governor is satisfied that in the interest of the security of the state. It is not required to hold such an inquiry.

Read more: [Dismissal of J&K govt employees: What the Constitution says?](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Adjournment Motion.

1. It is introduced to draw the attention of the House to a definite matter of urgent public importance.
2. It can be moved in Rajya Sabha as well as Lok Sabha.

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, the Shiromani Akali Dal (Political Party) has decided to move an Adjournment Motion in the Lok Sabha against the government on the three controversial farm laws.

About Adjournment Motion:

- It is introduced in the Lok Sabha to draw the attention of the House to a definite matter of urgent public importance. It involves an element of censure against the government.
- It can be moved only in Lok Sabha.
- It is regarded as an extraordinary device as it interrupts the normal business of the House. It needs the support of 50 members to be admitted.
- The discussion on this motion should last for not less than two hours and thirty minutes.

Source: [The Hindu](#)