

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

5th to 10th July, 2021

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Economy

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **Equalisation Levy**

1. The tax is applicable to both resident and non-resident digital service providers.
2. Companies with a turnover of more than Rs. 2 crores, will pay this levy.

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:

India recently joined the OECD-G20 framework for a global minimum tax. As per the deal, India needs to withdraw the contentious 2 percent equalisation levy on e-commerce operators by 2023.

About Equalisation Levy:

In 2016 India introduced a 6% equalisation levy. But the levy was restricted to online advertisement services (commonly known as “**digital advertising taxes**” or DATs). In simple terms, the levy applied on the payments made to a non-resident by the Indians for advertising on their platform.

The government in 2020 introduced an amendment to the equalisation levy in the Finance Bill 2020-21. The important amendments include,

- A **2% Digital Service Tax (DST)** was imposed on non-resident, digital service providers. With this amendment, the **foreign digital service providers** have to pay their fair share of **tax on revenues generated in the Indian digital market**.
- The amendment **widens the tax to include a range of digital services**. These services include digital platform services, software as a service, data-related services, and several other categories including e-commerce operations.
- Companies with a turnover of more than Rs. 2 crores, will pay this tax.

Source: [Business Standard](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **Current and Capital Account Convertibility**

1. Capital account convertibility allows us to carry out all investment transactions across geographies without constraints
2. India has full Capital Account Convertibility, but Current Account Convertibility is still a work in progress.
3. Current account convertibility gives us the freedom to convert the rupee into any internationally accepted currencies and vice versa

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Since August 1993, there is full current account convertibility in India but capital account convertibility is still a work in progress. **(Statement 2 is wrong)**

Current Account Convertibility gives us the freedom to convert the rupee into any internationally accepted currencies and vice versa. On the other hand, the Capital Account Convertibility allows us to carry out all investment transactions across geographies without constraints.

Source: [Business Standard](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding **Debt Recovery Tribunals**

1. They are established under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest (SARFAESI) Act
2. An application for recovery of debt can be made to the DRTs for all debts valued at more than 20 lakhs.

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:

About Debt Recovery Tribunals(DRT):

- Debt Recovery Tribunals have been established following the passing of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act (RDDBFI), 1993.
- The primary goal and function of DRT is the recovery of loaned money from borrowers which is owed to banks and financial institutions from customers.
- This Tribunal is also the second court of appeal in respect of cases filed under The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest(SARFAESI) Act,2002.

Jurisdiction:

- An application for recovery of debt can be made to the DRTs for all debts valued at more than 20 lakhs. For lesser amounts, the banks and financial institutions can approach Civil Courts.
- No court in the country other than the Supreme Court(SC) and the High Court(HC) and that too only under articles 226 and 227 of the Constitution have jurisdiction against a judgment of DRAT.

Source: [Livemint](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code**

1. National Company Law Tribunal(NCLT) is the adjudicating authority for companies and limited liability entities
2. Defaulter and the creditors cannot close the insolvency case in any condition.
3. Debt Recovery Tribunal is the adjudicating authority for individuals and partnership firms

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy code replaced all the existing laws and created a uniform procedure to resolve insolvency and bankruptcy disputes.
- It allows creditors to assess the viability of a debtor as a business decision. Further, the creditors can agree with the plan for its revival or suggest for a speedy liquidation.
- The Code creates a **new institutional framework**. This framework facilitated a formal and time-bound insolvency resolution process and liquidation.
 - **National Company Law Tribunal(NCLT)**: It is the adjudicating authority for companies and limited liability entities
 - **Debt Recovery Tribunal**: It is the adjudicating authority for individuals and partnership firms.
- **Section 12A under the IBC**: This section allows the **defaulter and the creditors to close the insolvency case**. With banks going in for a one-time settlement with defaulting promoters. This is being **used as a loophole under the IBC**

Source: [Livemint](https://www.livemint.com)

Q.5) Which of the following is/are the function(s) of the National Statistics Office (NSO)?

1. Prepares national accounts as well as publishes annual estimates of national product
2. Organizes and conducts periodic all-India Economic Censuses
3. Conducts the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: All statements are correct

National Statistics Office (NSO) is mandated with the following responsibilities:
— prepares national accounts as well as publishes annual estimates of national product, government and private consumption expenditure, capital formation, savings, estimates of capital stock and consumption of fixed capital

— compiles and releases the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) every month in the form of 'quick estimates'; conducts the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI); and provides statistical information to assess and evaluate the changes in the growth, composition and structure of the organized manufacturing sector;

— organizes and conducts periodic all-India Economic Censuses and follow-up enterprise surveys, provides an in-house facility to process the data collected through various socio-economic surveys and follow-up enterprise surveys of Economic Censuses.

The National Statistics Office (NSO) released today the first Advance Estimates (AE) of GDP for

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the year 2020-21. The real GDP at 2011-12 prices in 2020-21 has been estimated to contract by 7.7 per cent and nominal GDP at current prices by 4.2 per cent.

Q.6) The K-shaped economic forecast for economy sometimes seen in news implies?

- Global economy plunging into slowdown led by emerging economies (country)
- The statistical economic recovery on account of base effect
- Segments of economy recovering at different rates after a slowdown/recession
- The economic recovery on account of increased government spending

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: A K-shaped recovery is a post-recession scenario in which one segment of the economy begins to climb back upward while another segment continues to suffer. If illustrated, the economic growth would roughly resemble the two diverging diagonal lines of the letter “K” – hence the name. This is in contrast to an even, uniform recovery across sectors, industries, or groups of people. It is being predicted that economies across the world are experiencing a K-shaped recovery post lockdown due to COVID-19.

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):

- The Reserve Bank's Monetary Policy Department assists the MPC in formulating the monetary policy.
- Each member of the MPC has one vote, and in the event of an equality of votes, the Governor has a second or casting vote.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Both statements are correct

Explanation

- Read [here](#)

Source: [Article](#)

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding the Eight Core Industries:

- Combined weight of eight core industries is more than fifty percent in Index of Industrial Production (IIP)
- Electricity has highest weightage in the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Both statements are incorrect.

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Quick Estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) are released by NSO on 12th of every month with a six weeks lag and compiled with data received from source agencies, which in turn receive the data from the producing factories/ establishments. Combined weight of eight core industries is 40.27 percent of IIP with base 2011-12.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The monthly Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) is a production volume index released by Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA). ICI measures collective and individual performance of production in selected eight core industries viz. Coal, Crude Oil.

Q.9) Which of the following outcomes lead to **Tax Terrorism**?

1. Complex tax structure
2. Ambiguity in Tax laws
3. Discretionary power of Tax officials

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: D

Explanation:

Tax Terrorism' essentially means the **undue exercise of power by tax authorities to levy taxes using legal or extra-legal means**. The Vodafone case is a classic example, when despite the Supreme Court order ruling in favour of the company, **tax laws were amended, retrospectively**.

Essentially, tax terrorism is an outcome of the existing tax framework.

1. **Complex tax structure** — Numerous taxes apply even on seemingly simple transactions. Such a web of taxes acts adversely to smooth flow of business.
2. **Ambiguity in laws** — This bends the law in favour of those who implement it. Vague definitions have led to disputes over the applicability of Minimum Alternate Tax, Capital gains tax, etc. in cases like the Vodafone and Cairn Energy Plc.
3. **High imbalance** — The IT Act allows CBDT to send notices just based on suspicion that one has under-reported his income or miscalculated taxes. Such discretion on the authorities, at times, is misused.

Read more: [Tax terrorism](#)

Source: [Business Standard](#)

Q.10) Which of the following prominent cases are related to **Retrospective Taxation**?

1. Cairn Energy Plc case
2. Vodafone India case
3. Devas Multimedia case

Select the correct option from the code given below

- a) 1 and 2 only

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Retrospective taxation cases involving Cairn and Vodafone.** In both these cases, India has lost arbitration cases internationally, that too in unanimous verdicts.
- **Devas Multimedia**, which has won a case against Antrix Corporation (a subsidiary of the Indian Space Research Organisation) for **arbitrary cancellation of a contract**. As Devas subsequently argued in a US court, nine arbitrators and three international tribunals had deemed the termination of the Devas-Antrix deal as unlawful. The sums involved in each of these cases run to more than a billion dollars.

Source: [Business Standard](#)

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Geography and Agriculture

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **Indus Waters**

1. Ujh river is the tributary of Sutlej River
2. India can use the water in western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab) for non-consumptive needs.

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 Jal Shakti minister said that, "India is working on exercising its rights to stop excess water flowing to Pakistan under the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 to irrigate its own lands".

- India is working on a plan to divert the waters of Ujh, which is one of the main tributaries of the Ravi river that flows into Pakistan.

About Indus water treaty:

- The Indus Waters Treaty, 1960 is a water-distribution treaty between India and Pakistan.
- The Indus system comprises of Indus River, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej. The basin is mainly shared by India and Pakistan with a small share for China and Afghanistan.
- Under the Indus treaty, all the waters of three eastern rivers namely Ravi, Sutlej and Beas were allocated to India for exclusive use.
- On the other hand, the waters of Western rivers namely Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab were allocated to Pakistan.
- But India can use the water in western rivers in non-consumptive needs. Here non-consumptive means we can use it for irrigation, storage and even for electricity production

Source: [Livemint](#)

Q.2) **Last Ice Area** was sometimes seen in the news. In which of the following area the place is located?

- a) Antarctic
- b) Arctic
- c) The Himalayas
- d) The Alps

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The 'Last Ice Area' (LIA), located in the Arctic's Ice north of Greenland, has started melting earlier than what the scientists had expected.

About the Last Ice Area:

- This region is located north of Greenland and Ellesmere Island in the Canadian territory of Nunavut.
- This area was believed to be strong enough to withstand global warming.

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- The total disappearance of summer ice in the Arctic was estimated by the year 2040, however the 'Last Ice Area' was the exception.

Importance:

- It was thought to be able to help ice-dependent species as ice in the surrounding areas melted away.
- It is used by polar bears to hunt for seals who use ice to build dens for their offspring. Walrus too, use the surface of the ice for foraging (to search for food).

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding **Heatwaves**

1. Heatwave is a natural disaster under the National Disaster Management Act of 2005
2. National Disaster Management Authority declares heatwaves in India based on temperature.
3. Wet-bulb temperature is associated to heatwaves and human body.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: In 2015 did the Indian government declare the heatwave a natural disaster under the National Disaster Management Act of 2005.

IMD declares a heatwave based on temperature. A heatwave is proclaimed when the highest temperature at a station surpasses 45°C; if it exceeds 47°C, it is referred to as a severe heatwave. Heatwaves in coastal and hilly locations are declared using similar criteria.

The human body **reacts to a combination of heat and humidity** known as the '**wet-bulb temperature**'. Only a few humans can tolerate a wet-bulb temperature exceeding 35°C because their bodies can no longer cool themselves.

- Many **regions of India now experience wet-bulb temperatures exceeding 32°C** during certain parts of the year. However, we are not declaring such days to be heatwaves, endangering the lives of people engaged in manual labour.

Source: [Times of India](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding **Bhalia Wheat**.

1. It is a type of short grain wheat cultivated in parts of Uttar Pradesh.
2. The unique characteristic of the Bhalia wheat is that it is grown in the rainfed condition without irrigation
3. The Bhalia variety of wheat received GI certification.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The first shipment of Geographical Indication (GI) certified Bhalia variety of wheat was exported to Kenya and Sri Lanka from Gujarat.

About Bhalia Wheat:

- **Bhalia Wheat** is also known as Daudkhani Wheat. It is a type of long grain wheat cultivated in Bhal region in the north of Gulf of Khambhat, Gujarat, India.
- **Characteristics:** The unique characteristic of the Bhalia wheat is that it is grown in the rainfed condition without irrigation and cultivated in around two lakh hectares of agricultural land in Gujarat.
- **GI Tag:** The Bhalia variety of wheat received GI certification in 2011. The registered proprietor of GI certification is Anand Agricultural University, Gujarat.
- **Nutritional Benefits:** Bhalia Wheat is rich in Gluten, a type of amino acid. It has high protein content and is sweet in taste.

Read more: [Exports of GI certified Bhalia wheat from Gujarat begins](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund**.

1. The fund provides medium – long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects.
2. It is a Central Sector Scheme launched by the Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW).

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 Union Cabinet has given its approval to the various modifications in Central Sector Scheme of Financing Facility under 'Agriculture Infrastructure Fund'.

Changes under the Fund:

- Eligibility has now been extended to State Agencies/APMCs, National & State Federations of Cooperatives, Federations of Farmers Producers Organizations (FPOs) and Federations of Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- The power has been delegated to Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare to make necessary changes with regard to addition or deletion of beneficiary.
- The period of financial facility has been extended from 4 to 6 years upto 2025-26 and overall period of the scheme has been extended from 10 to 13 upto 2032-33.

About Agriculture Infrastructure Fund(AIF):

- It is a Central Sector Scheme launched by the Department of Agriculture Cooperation and Farmers Welfare(DAC&FW).
- **Aim:** To provide medium – long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects. This includes post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through incentives and financial support.
- **Funding:** Under the scheme, banks and financial institutions will provide Rs. 1 Lakh Crore as loans to eligible beneficiaries.

Read more: [Agriculture Infrastructure Fund\(AIF\)](#) Source: [PIB](#)

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Environment

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **Fly Ash**

1. Fly ash includes substantial amounts of silicon dioxide (SiO_2), aluminium oxide (Al_2O_3), ferric oxide (Fe_2O_3) and calcium oxide (CaO).
2. When combined with water they cause leaching of heavy metals in ground water.
3. It also helps in soil conservation, and helps in root development system of trees.

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

Explanation: National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited has invited Expression of Interest (EOI) for sale of fly ash from the designated plants of the Middle East and other regions.

About Fly Ash:

- It is called fly ash because it is transported from the combustion chamber by exhaust gases.
- It is collected from the exhaust gases by electrostatic precipitators or bag filters
- **Composition:** Fly ash includes substantial amounts of silicon dioxide (SiO_2), aluminium oxide (Al_2O_3), ferric oxide (Fe_2O_3) and calcium oxide (CaO).
- Harmful Effects:
 - Fly ash particles are toxic air pollutants. They can trigger heart disease, cancer, respiratory diseases and stroke.
 - When combined with water they cause leaching of heavy metals in ground water.
 - It also pollutes the soil, and affects the root development system of trees.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.2) Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) was recently seen in news. In which of the following the tiger reserve is located?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Bihar
- d) Uttar Pradesh

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Authorities in Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) have started planning for conservation of vultures after 150 of the birds were sighted recently in the protected area.

- Different species of vultures including Egyptian vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*), Griffon vulture (*Gyps fulvus*), White-rumped vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*) and Himalayan griffon (*Gyps himalayensis*) were among the 150 individuals spotted in the reserve.

Source: [Down To Earth](#)

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Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding **Discrete Auroras**

1. These are new type of auroras found in the Earth at night times.
2. It is found by the UAE's Hope spacecraft

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 UAE's Hope spacecraft has captured images of glowing atmospheric lights in the Mars night sky, known as discrete auroras.

- Unlike auroras on Earth, which are seen only near the north and south poles, Discrete Auroras (DA) on Mars are seen all around the planet at night time.
 - An Aurora is a display of light in the sky predominantly seen in the high latitude regions (Arctic and Antarctic). It is also known as a Polar light.
- These Auroras are traced out where energetic particles excite the atmosphere after being funneled down by a patchy network of crustal magnetic fields that originate from minerals on the surface of Mars.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.4) Which of the following is a source of methane emissions?

1. Landfills
2. Fracking of natural gas
3. Ruminants

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 are sources of methane emissions

- Methane is emitted from a variety of anthropogenic (human-influenced) and natural sources. Anthropogenic emission sources include landfills, oil and natural gas systems, agricultural activities, coal mining, stationary and mobile combustion, wastewater treatment, and certain industrial processes.
- Stomachs of cattle, fermentation in rice fields, fracking for natural gas, coal mines, festering bogs, burning forests — they all produce methane.

Source: [Article](#)

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Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC):

1. IPCC itself does not monitor climate related data or parameters.
2. India is a member of IPCC.
3. It has been awarded with a Nobel Peace Prize in the past.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: d

Explanation:

- IPCC is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. It was established in 1988 by UNEP and WMO (World Meteorological Organization) to provide policymakers with regular scientific assessments related to climate change.
- **India is also a member of IPCC.** IPCC itself **does not conduct any research** nor does it monitor climate related data or parameters. Instead, thousands of scientists from all over the world contribute to the work of IPCC on a voluntary basis.
- IPCC has so far published five Assessment Reports (AR) and will publish the sixth report (AR6) in 2021-22. IPCC also publishes special reports like “IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5oC”. For its outstanding work, it has also **received Nobel Peace Prize in 2007**.
- IPCC established National Green House Gas Inventories Program (NGGIP) to provide methods for estimating national inventories of greenhouse gas emissions to and removals from the atmosphere. The guidance produced by the NGGIP is used by countries that are party to the UNFCCC to estimate the emissions and removals that they report to the UNFCCC.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.6) Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve was recently seen in the news. In which of the following State the tiger reserve is located?

- a) Bihar
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Madhya Pradesh

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Recently, a rare Melanistic Leopard (commonly known as Black Panther) has been recorded in Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR) of Maharashtra.

Strategically, the Tiger Reserve is located in the heart of central Indian Tiger landscape which contributes almost one sixth of the total tiger population of the country.

Sightings of the black leopard were earlier reported in the Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve and the Pench Tiger Reserve in Maharashtra.

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

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Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding *Stenella longirostris*:

1. It is found in the tropical and sub-tropical zones of the world.
2. It is listed as a vulnerable species in the IUCN Red List.

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**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is listed as Least Concern (LC) under IUCN red list.

Names - common, scientific, regions etc... Advanced About Assessment process

Spinner Dolphin

Stenella longirostris

CITATION
Braulik, G. & Reeves, R. 2018. *Stenella longirostris* (errata version published in 2019). *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* 2018: e.T20733A156927622. <https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2018.2.RLTS.T20733A156927622.en>. Downloaded on 07 July 2021.

NOT EVALUATED DATA DEFICIENT LEAST CONCERN NEAR THREATENED VULNERABLE ENDANGERED CRITICALLY ENDANGERED EXTINCT IN THE WILD EXTINCT
NE DD LC NT VU EN CR EW EX

Q.8) Baisipalli wildlife sanctuary sometimes in news is located in?

- a) Telangana
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Odisha
- d) Andhra Pradesh

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- Baisipalli Sanctuary is one of the eminent wildlife sanctuaries in Odisha that vividly illustrates the diverse natural heritage of the east Indian state.
- Read [more](#)

Source: [Article](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding common palm civet:

1. It is found in southern and southeast Asia.
2. It is a terrestrial mammal only.

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3. It is classified as a Vulnerable species in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is both a terrestrial and arboreal mammal.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It is classified as Least Concern (LC) under IUCN Red list.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.10) *Gravelyia boro*, *Dexippus kleini*, *Proszynskia diatrete*, *Piranthus decorus* have been in news recently. What species do they belong to?

- a) Spider
- b) Snake
- c) Butterfly
- d) Fish

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

All are species of spiders

- Two species of spiders sharing the same space – the Jharbari range of western Assam’s Chirang Reserve Forest – have spun a web of cheer for fauna in India.
- *Gravelyia boro*, the burrow spider, is new to science. *Dexippus kleini*, the oriental jumping spider, has been recorded for the first time since its original description 129 years ago by Swedish arachnologist Tord Tamerlan Teodor Thorell about 2,600 km away in Sumatra.
- The name of the burrow spider has been derived from the Bodo community, one of the largest ethnolinguistic groups in Assam and predominantly inhabiting the area where the new species of spider was recorded

Source: [Article](#)

Q.11) Which of the following is/are the causes of Urban heat island effect

1. High amount of evapotranspiration
2. Building of skyscrapers
3. Close construction
4. Waste heat from Vehicles, factories

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation: A recent report by Climate Trends said that **most parts of India experience 12-66 days of potentially deadly heat and humidity combinations** in a year. The report also pointed out that the **temperature will increase 4.3 degrees Celsius by 2100** relative to pre-industrial temperature.

Key findings of the report:

- Most of India experiences 12-66 days of a combination of potentially deadly heat and humidity, with hotspots along the east coast.
- The report **warned of a substantial worsening of the situation even by 2050.**
- The report also warns that in **hot conditions, humans cool themselves by sweating; but if the humidity is too high, sweating no longer works**, and the human also risks dangerous overheating.

Causes of Urban Heat Island:

- The **lack of evapotranspiration** in the city leads to the city experiencing higher temperatures than its surroundings.
 - **Evapotranspiration:** Evaporation involves the movement of water to the surrounding air, and transpiration refers to the movement of water within a plant and a subsequent lot of water through the stomata (pores found on the leaf surface) in its leaves. Grass, plants, and trees in the suburbs and rural areas do this.
- **Close construction:** When houses, shops, and industrial buildings are constructed close together, it can create an Urban Heat Island. Building materials are usually very good at insulating, or holding in heat. This insulation makes the areas around buildings warmer.
- **Waste heat** from vehicles, factories, and air conditioners may add warmth to their surroundings, further exacerbating the heat island effect
- **Building of skyscrapers:** When there is no more room for an urban area to expand, engineers build upward, creating skyscrapers. All this construction means waste heat—and heat that escapes insulation has nowhere to go. It lingers in and between buildings in the UHI.
- **Urban haze**—The haze of air pollution that hangs over many cities can act as a miniature greenhouse layer, preventing outgoing thermal radiation (heat) from escaping from urban areas.

Read more: [Urban heat island – causes, impact and solutions: Explained, Pointwise](#)

Source: [Article](#)

Q.12) In which of the following state, India's first **National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC)** has been planned?

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Work on India's first dolphin research centre was set to start in Patna post-monsoon. The National Dolphin Research Centre would boost conservation efforts for river dolphins and would provide an opportunity for in-depth research on them.

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The NDRC is coming up on the 4,400 square metre plot of land on the premises of Patna University, near the banks of the Ganga.

Bihar is home to around half of the estimated 3,000 Gangetic dolphins in India.

About Gangetic Dolphin:

- The Gangetic river dolphin is India's national aquatic animal.
- It is a Schedule I animal under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- It has been declared an endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- The Gangetic river dolphin is one of four freshwater dolphin species in the world.
- The other three are found in the Yangtze river in China (now extinct), the Indus river in Pakistan and the Amazon river in South America.
- The dolphin is found in India, Bangladesh and Nepal. It is blind and finds its way and prey in river waters through echolocation.
- Dolphins prefer water that is at least five to eight feet deep. They are usually found in turbulent waters, where there are enough fish for them to feed on.
- Gangetic dolphins live in a zone where there is little or no current, helping them save energy. If they sense danger, they can dive into deep waters. The dolphins swim from the no-current zone to the edges to hunt for fish and return

Source: [Down To Earth](#)

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding Gangetic River Dolphin:

1. The dolphin is found in India, Bangladesh and Nepal.
2. It has been declared a vulnerable species under IUCN red list

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

Statement 1 is correct

Explanation About Gangetic Dolphin:

- The Gangetic river dolphin is India's national aquatic animal.
- It is a **Schedule I** animal under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- It has been declared an **endangered (EN)** species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- The Gangetic river dolphin is **one of four freshwater dolphin species** in the world.
- The other three are found in the Yangtze River in China (now extinct), the Indus river in Pakistan and the Amazon river in South America.
- The dolphin is **found in India, Bangladesh and Nepal**. It is blind and finds its way and prey in river waters through echolocation.
- Dolphins prefer water that is at least five to eight feet deep. They are usually found in turbulent waters, where there are enough fish for them to feed on.
- Gangetic dolphins **live in a zone where there is little or no current**, helping them save energy. If they sense danger, they can dive into deep waters. The dolphins swim from the no-current zone to the edges to hunt for fish and return.

Source: [Article](#)

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Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding **High-Altitude Yak**.

1. They are endemic to the Tibetan Plateau and the adjacent high-altitude regions.
2. National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY) is located at Jammu & Kashmir

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 National Research Centre on Yak (NRCY) at Dirang in Arunachal Pradesh's West Kameng district has tied up with the National Insurance Company Ltd. for insuring the high-altitude yak.

- NRCY is a premier research institute exclusively engaged in research and development of yak in India. It was established in 1989 by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.
- **About High-Altitude Yak:**
 - The Yak belong to the Bovini tribe, which also includes bison, buffaloes, and cattle. It can tolerate temperatures as low as -40 degrees Celsius.
 - They are endemic to the Tibetan Plateau and the adjacent high-altitude regions.
 - The yak-rearing states of India are Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir.
 - **IUCN Red list status:** Vulnerable
 - **CITES:** Appendix I
 - **Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972:** Schedule I

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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Government schemes/Initiatives

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding an anti-methanogenic feed supplement ‘**Harit Dhara**’ (HD)

1. It is prepared using condensed and hydrolysable tannin-rich plant-based sources abundantly available in the country.
2. It is developed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)

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:

- **Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)** institute has developed an anti-methanogenic feed supplement ‘**Harit Dhara**’.
- **Harit Dhara** is prepared using condensed and hydrolysable tannin-rich plant-based sources abundantly available in the country.
- Tropical plants containing **tannins** (bitter and astringent chemical compounds) are known to suppress or remove protozoa from the rumen.
- Harit Dhara acts by decreasing the population of protozoa microbes in the rumen. Which is responsible for hydrogen production and making it available to the archaea for reduction of CO₂ to methane.

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **Project BOLD** (Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought)

1. It seeks to create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones.
2. It is implemented by the DARE (Department of Agricultural Research and Education)

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 Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched a project named Bamboo Oasis on Lands in Drought (BOLD) from the village NichlaMandwa in Udaipur, Rajasthan.

- It is the first of its kind exercise in India. Project BOLD seeks to **create bamboo-based green patches in arid and semi-arid land zones**.
- 5000 saplings of special bamboo species – BambusaTulda and Bambusa Polymorpha specially brought from Assam – have been planted over 25 bigha (16 acres approx) of vacant arid Gram Panchayat land. KVIC has thus created a world record of planting the highest number of bamboo saplings on a single day at one location.

Source: [PIB](#)

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Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding revised BharatNet Project:

1. Viability gap funding will be provided by the government.
2. Project will be implemented in all Indian states

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 revised BharatNet Project will be implemented through [Public-Private Partnership\(PPP\)](#) model with a total cost of ₹29,430 crores. Of this, the Government will provide the viability gap fund of ₹19,041 crores.

- **Viability Gap Fund** means a grant to support projects that are economically justified but not financially viable.

Aim: The project which initially aims to connect all the gram panchayats of the country through optic fiber for providing broadband services; it will now have two new components:

- **The first will be that** BharatNet will now extend up to all inhabited villages beyond the gram panchayats (GPs) in the 16 states.
- **Second,** the project will also now include the creation, upgradation, operation, maintenance, and utilization of BharatNet by the private sector partner who will be selected by a competitive international bidding process.

Coverage: The 16 States covered under the project are: Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding New IT Rules 2021 for social media

1. Social media platforms has to compulsorily identify the first originator of the information in India, upon government or court order
2. Social media companies have to publish a weekly compliance report.
3. Significant social media intermediaries are social media platforms with a large user base.

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:

- Social media companies are **prohibited from hosting or publishing any unlawful information**. This information is “in relation to the interest of the sovereignty and integrity of India, public order, friendly relations with foreign countries, etc”.
- **If such information is hosted or published the government can take down such information within 24 hours**. The user will be **given a notice** before his/her content is taken down.

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- Traceability mechanism: This provision requires the **social media platforms to compulsorily identify the first originator of the information** in India, upon government or court order.
- Social media platforms are classified into **two categories**
 - **Social media intermediaries** – Platforms that have a limited user base.
 - **Significant social media intermediaries** – These are the platforms with a large user base.

Source: [Times of India](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding NIPUN Bharat Mission:

1. It aims to improve foundational literacy and numeracy of children in the age group of three to nine years.
2. It emphasizes the importance of using a child's mother tongue in teaching.

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:

- **NIPUN Bharat Mission** aims to improve foundational literacy and numeracy of children in the age group of three to nine years.

Key Features of the Mission:

- **Implementation:** The mission will be implemented by the Union Education Ministry in collaboration with states through the flagship school education program Samagra Shiksha.
- **Target:** The mission has set a target that by 2026-27, every Class 3 child should be able to read with understanding at the rate of at least 60 words per minute. Further, the child should be able to read and write numbers up to 9,999 and solve simple multiplication problems.
- **Survey:** A National Achievement Survey of Class 3 students will be conducted to set a baseline to track the future progress of the mission.
- **Mother Tongue:** The mission also emphasizes the importance of using a child's mother tongue in teaching, a principle of the National Education Policy 2020.

Source: [Article](#)

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

1. It is implemented by Ministry of Agriculture.
2. Certification under NPOP is given through a process of third-party certification.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: It was launched and is implemented by Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Statement 2 is correct
 - **Purpose:** NPOP grants organic farming certification to products through a process of third-party certification.
 - **The program also involves** the accreditation program for Certification Bodies, standards for organic production, promotion of organic farming and marketing, etc.
 - **Implementation:** It is implemented by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB):

1. It works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
2. It is going to establish fish cryobanks in different parts of India in collaboration with National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources (NBFGGR).

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:** It was established in **2006** as an **autonomous organization** under the administrative control of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
 - Now, it works under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** NFDB and the **National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources** (NBFGGR) will establish fish cryobanks in different parts of the country.
 - This would be the **first time in the world when Fish Cryobanks** will be established, enhancing fish production and increasing prosperity among the fish farmers.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.8) Project 523 sometimes seen in news is related to?

- a) Finding of antimalarial medications
- b) Development of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles
- c) Human Genome technology
- d) Constuction of Suez Canal

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Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- Project 523 is a code name for a 1967 secret military project of the People's Republic of China to find antimalarial medications

Source: [Article](#)

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History/Art and Culture

Q.1) Consider the following statements

1. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had called him the “maker of modern India.”
2. He was an ardent disciple of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa
3. He preached ‘neo-Vedanta’, an interpretation of Hinduism through a Western lens, and believed in combining spirituality with material progress. He also established the Belur Math, which became his permanent abode.

Which of the following personality is described above?

- a) Dadoba Pandurang
- b) Swami Vivekananda
- c) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
- d) Swami Sahajanad

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Death Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda - 4th July

About Swami Vivekananda:

- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had called him the “maker of modern India.”
- He was an ardent disciple of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa
- He preached ‘neo-Vedanta’, an interpretation of Hinduism through a Western lens, and believed in combining spirituality with material progress. He also established the Belur Math, which became his permanent abode.
- He pushed for national integration in colonial India, and his famous speech remains as the one that he gave in Chicago in 1893

Source: [All India Radio](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding the Goods and Services Tax Council:

1. Union Minister of State for Finance is the ex-officio Vice-Chairperson of the Council.
2. One-half of the total number of Members of the Goods and Services Tax Council constitute the quorum at its meetings.
3. It can recommend any special rate for a specified period, to raise additional resources during any natural calamity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The Members of the Goods and Services Tax Council choose one amongst themselves to be the Vice-Chairperson of the Council for such period as they may decide.

One-half of the total number of Members of the Goods and Services Tax Council shall constitute the quorum at its meetings.

The Goods and Services Tax Council’s mandate includes that it can make recommendations to the Union and the States on any special rate or rates for a specified period, to raise additional resources during any natural calamity or disaster

Source: [Business Standard](#)

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Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding **Central Vista development project** prior Independence.

1. The Central Vista development was led by architects Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker
2. It was inaugurated by Viceroy Lord Linlithgow.

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:

- Britain's King George V on December 12, 1911, at his coronation announced the transfer of the seat of the Government of India from Calcutta to the ancient Capital of Delhi.
- These 20 years-long projects of Central Vista development were led by architects Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker. It was completed in 1927 and inaugurated by Viceroy Lord Irwin.
- Central Vista is 3.2 kilometre area in Delhi housing Parliament House, Rashtrapati Bhavan, North and South Blocks, Rajpath, India Gate, National Archives and the then princes' houses around India Gate.
- In the 1962 Master plan of Delhi, site was declared a heritage precinct as an "important site to meet the aspirations of a rich culture".

Read more: [Central Vista Project](#)

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

Q.4) Consider the following pairs.

Martial arts - State

1. Thag Ta - Sikkim
2. Silambam - Tamil Nadu
3. Mardani Khel - Maharashtra

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Recently, an Indian named Ganesan Sandhirakasan has won the top prize in a government-initiated competition for migrant workers in Singapore for his performance of Silambam.

About Silambam:

Silambam is an ancient weapon-based martial art that emerged in Tamilakam, which is now Tamil Nadu region of India. It is one of the oldest martial arts in the world

Martial Arts in India:

- Paika- Odisha
- Thag Ta- Manipur
- Kalaripayattu- Kerala

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- Pari Khanda- Bihar
- Choliya- Uttarakhand
- Pang Lhabso- Sikkim
- Gatka- Punjab
- Musti Yudha- Uttar Pradesh
- Mardani Khel- Maharashtra

Source: [Indian Express](#)

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International Relations

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **OECD-G20 framework for a global minimum tax**

1. Companies with Euro 20 billion revenues and a profit margin above 10 percent would be taxed in jurisdictions
 2. The pact will bring the top 5000 digital companies into the global taxation pact.
- 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: India recently joined the OECD-G20 framework for a global minimum tax. But the deal will bring certain challenges to India.

Under the agreed outline of the OECD multilateral solution, a portion of profits of companies with Euro 20 billion revenues and a profit margin above 10 percent would be taxed in jurisdictions where they have sales

What India and other developing countries demanding?

India and other developing countries were fighting to include companies with at least Euro 1 billion in revenues as against the final proposal of Euro 20 billion revenues and a profit margin above 10 per cent. This will cover at least 5,000 global entities.

Source: [Business Standard](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process**

1. It is a regional initiative of Pakistan and the Republic of Turkey.
2. The process aims to promote economic and political cooperation for Afghanistan peace through dialogue and confidence-building measures (CBMs).
3. India is one of the participating countries of the process

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

About Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process:

- **Heart of Asia Istanbul Process** is a regional initiative of Afghanistan and the Republic of Turkey. It was launched in November 2011 in Istanbul, Turkey.
- The process **aims to promote** economic and political cooperation for Afghanistan peace through dialogue and confidence-building measures (CBMs).
- **Composition:** The platform comprises 15 participating countries, 17 supporting countries, and 12 supporting regional and international organizations.
 - **India** is one of the participating countries and India co-hosted the 6th Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference in Amritsar, Punjab in 2016.

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- Other participating countries are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

Q.3) Quad-plus often seen in news includes which of the following countries?

1. Brazil
2. Israel
3. Malaysia

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

Explanation:

- Quad-plus formulation (Including Brazil, Israel, New Zealand, South Korea, and Vietnam apart from Quad members)

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Leaders Summit on Climate

1. It was hosted by the French President on Earth Day.
2. India-U.S. climate and clean energy Agenda 2030 Partnership was announced at this Leaders Summit

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

About Leaders Summit on Climate:

- **Leaders Summit on Climate** is a conference hosted by the United States(US) President on Earth Day.
- **The summit coincides** with the fifth anniversary of the opening of the **Paris Agreement** on climate change for signature.
- **Further, the summit** is also a precursor to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) that will take place later this year in Glasgow.
- **India-U.S. climate and clean energy Agenda 2030 Partnership** was announced at this Leaders Summit on Climate.
- **Goals of the Partnership:**
 - Firstly, to mobilise finance and speed clean energy deployment;
 - Secondly, to demonstrate and scale innovative clean technologies needed to decarbonise sectors including industry, transportation, power, and buildings.
 - Thirdly, to build capacity to measure, manage and adapt to the risks of climate-related impacts.

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Read more: [Article](#)

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Somatic cells:

1. They are used by sexually reproducing organisms to pass on genes from generation to generation.
2. Being diploid, they contain two sets of chromosomes.

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:** Sexually reproducing organisms use germ cells, not somatic cells, to pass on genes from generation to generation.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Somatic cells are diploid, meaning that they contain two sets of chromosomes, one inherited from each parent.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding a Red Corner Notice:

1. A red corner notice is an international arrest warrant.
2. INTERPOL publishes a Red Corner Notice at the request of a member country.
3. Each member country decides what legal value it gives to a Red Corner Notice.

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:** A red corner notice is not an international arrest warrant. It is an international wanted persons notice.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Red Notices are published by INTERPOL at the request of a member country, and must comply with INTERPOL's Constitution and Rules.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** INTERPOL cannot compel the law enforcement authorities in any country to arrest someone who is the subject of a Red Notice. Each member country decides what legal value it gives to a Red Notice and the authority of their law enforcement officers to make arrests.

Source: [Article](#)

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Q.7) Durand Line sometimes seen in news is a border between?

- a) India and China
- b) Afghanistan and India
- c) India and Bhutan
- d) Afghanistan and Pakistan

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- The Durand Line is the 2,640-kilometer (1,640-mile) border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. It's the result of an agreement between Sir Mortimer Durand, a secretary of the British Indian government, and Abdur Rahman Khan, the emir, or ruler, of Afghanistan. The agreement was signed on November 12, 1893, in Kabul, Afghanistan.
- The Durand Line as served as the official border between the two nations for more than one hundred years, but it has caused controversy for the people who live there.

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Science and Technology

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **Quantum Computing**

1. It employs the principles of quantum mechanics to store information in 'qubits'.
2. Quantum Computing can help in Computational Chemistry, Financial Portfolio Optimisation and Drug Design

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 quantum computer employs the principles of quantum mechanics to store information in 'qubits' instead of the typical 'bits' of 1 and 0.

Qubits work faster because of the way such circuits are designed, and their assurance is that they can do intensive number-crunching tasks much more efficiently than the fastest comparable computers.

Potential applications include:

- Machine Learning
- Computational Chemistry
- Financial Portfolio Optimisation
- Logistics and Scheduling
- Drug Design
- Cyber Security

Read more: [Potential applications of Quantum Computing](#)

Source: [Livemint](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **Lambda Variant**

1. The strain was first identified in Peru in December 2020.
2. India has not yet reported any case of LV.
3. It is declared as a 'variant of concern' by WHO.

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

Explanation: After the cases of Delta Variant of Covid-19 continuously rising, a new variant called Lambda Variant (LV) is emerging as a new threat. The strain was first identified in Peru in December 2020. Now around 81% of samples found to be carrying it in Peru. India has not yet reported any case of this new variant.

The LV has greater infectivity than the Alpha and Gamma variants (known to have originated in the UK and Brazil respectively).

The World Health Organisation (WHO) designated this variant seventh and the newest Variant of Interest (VOI).

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Source: [The Indian Express](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding **Tocilizumab**

1. It is used to treat the cytokine storm condition in the body.
2. WHO approved the use of Tocilizumab for COVID-19 treatment.

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 World Health Organization (WHO) has approved the use of **Interleukin-6 (IL-6) blockers** — tocilizumab and sarilumab — as part of COVID-19 management protocol.
 - IL-6 is an inflammatory marker that is responsible for a cytokine storm in the body, mostly in the second phase of COVID-19 infection.
 - In other words, when the immune system mounts a fight against SARS-CoV-2, at times, it starts attacking the body's other systems. This is known as inflammation. The inflammation is followed by a drop in oxygen saturation levels (hypoxia) and other complications.
 - An increase in IL-6 levels may lead to a progression of the disease towards a severe form.
- The WHO gave this recommendation on the basis of meta-analysis of 27 clinical trials for this drug conducted on 10,000 patients.
 - Tocilizumab already forms a part of the Indian government's COVID-19 treatment protocol, though as an off-label drug. As far as Indian protocol is concerned, the government says the patient must be severely ill, with ICU admission for 24-48 hours, to be prescribed this drug
- However, the Tocilizumab has extremely high price and poor availability.

Source: [Down To Earth](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding **Khadi Prakritik Paint**

1. It is an eco-friendly, non-toxic paint with anti-fungal, antibacterial properties.
2. Cow dung is the main ingredient of this paint
3. It is developed by the Department of Animal Husbandry.

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Recently Minister for Road Transport and Highways & MSME has declared himself the "Brand Ambassador " of Khadi Prakritik Paint.

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About Khadi Prakritk Paint

- It has been conceptualized by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and later developed by Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute, Jaipur (a KVIC unit).
- **Key Characteristics:**
 - It is a first-of-its-kind eco-friendly, non-toxic paint with anti-fungal, antibacterial properties.
 - Based on **cow dung as its main ingredient**, the paint is cost-effective and odorless and has been certified by Bureau of Indian Standards.
 - The paint is free from heavy metals like lead, mercury, chromium, arsenic, cadmium and others.

Read more: [Khadi Prakritk Paint](#)

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Vaccine Booster Shots

1. The aim of booster shots is to increase the magnitude of protection by producing more antibodies
2. Only for the fully-vaccinated individual is eligible for booster shots
3. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has approved booster shots for Covid-19

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Recently, Pfizer and BioNTech have announced that they would seek regulatory authorization for a third booster dose of their Covid-19 vaccine

- A booster is a means of strengthening one's immune system against a particular pathogen.
- It may be exactly the same original vaccine, in which case its goal is to increase the magnitude of protection by producing more antibodies.
- These shots are only for the fully-vaccinated.
- Booster shots are yet to get a nod from the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- In fact, the WHO has expressed caution in encouraging third doses.

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Kappa Variant of Covid-19

1. This variant is first identified in India
2. It is recognised as a 'variants of concern' by the WHO.

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: Recently, two cases of the Kappa variant of Covid-19 have been recorded in Uttar Pradesh (UP).

- According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Kappa is one of the two Covid-19 variants, the other being Delta, first identified in India.
- It is still listed among 'variants of interest' and not 'variants of concern' by the WHO.

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

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POLITY

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Draft Consumer Protection Rules (Direct Selling) 2021:

1. Every direct selling entity carrying business in India will be required to have at least one office in India.
2. No direct selling entity will be allowed to participate in any money circulation Scheme except those authorized by RBI

Which of the above statement 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:** As per draft rules every direct selling entity carrying out business in India will have to be registered with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and must have at least one office in India.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Money circulation schemes are banned under the Prize chits and money circulation schemes (banning) act 1978 and the respective State Governments have the power to take action against the persons involved in such schemes.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Nandini Sundar & others versus the State of Chhattisgarh judgement is related to?

- a) Protection of tribal rights by curbing misuse of govt power
- b) Constitutional validity of section 377 of IPC
- c) reservation for economically backward categories
- d) Prevention of sexual harassment at the workplace

Correct Answer: A

Explanation

- The Supreme Court (SC) delivered a historic judgment on 5th July 2011 in **Nandini Sundar and others versus the State of Chhattisgarh case**.
- The judgment was aimed to curb the misuse of power by the government and protect tribal rights.

About the Judgment:

- The court **banned Salwa Judum**. It was a vigilante movement started in 2005 and sponsored by the Chhattisgarh and Central government. The movement ostensibly aimed to fight against the Maoists.
- The judges also ruled that the use of **surrendered Maoists and untrained villagers in frontline counter-insurgency operations** as Special Police Officers (SPOs) was unconstitutional.
 - It directed that the existing **SPOs be redeployed in traffic management or other such safe duties**.

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- **Other matters like** prosecution of security forces for human rights violations, and rehabilitation of villagers who had suffered violence, **were left pending**. The State had been asked to submit comprehensive plans for this.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.3) Shetty Commission sometimes seen in news is related to?

- a) Pay structure, allowances and conditions of service of Judicial Officers.
- b) Development and Management of Social Sector/Services
- c) introduction of carbon taxes and incentives for renewable energy
- d) Reforming PSU banks' corporate lending mechanism.

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

First National Judicial Pay Commission

- It was constituted in 1996, pursuant to the order of the Supreme Court of India in All India Judges Association case.
- It was headed by Justice K. Jagannatha Shetty, former Judge of the Supreme Court.
- It was also referred to as the Justice Shetty Commission.
- The commission gave a comprehensive report in the year 1999, covering not merely the pay structure, allowances and conditions of service of Judicial Officers but also various other aspects concerning the Courts and judicial administration.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Central Information Commission (CIC).

1. It was established by the Right to Information Act (2005).
2. The Chief Information Commissioner is eligible for reappointment.

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 Supreme Court has directed the Union of India and all States to file status reports on the latest developments regarding vacancies and pendency in the Central Information Commission (CIC) and State Information Commissions (SICs).

About Central Information Commission (CIC):

- The CIC was established by the Central Government in 2005, under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005). It is not a constitutional body.
- It consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners.
- The Chief Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner shall hold office for such term as prescribed by the Central Government or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. They are not eligible for reappointment.

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- They are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the Prime Minister.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. As per Constitution, any law made by the State which abridges the Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy shall be void.
2. Any amendment of the Constitution made under Article 368 does not fall under the definition of 'law' under Article 13 of Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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 protection against the laws by Parliament is not provided to Directive Principles as it is explicitly provided to Fundamental Rights under Article 13. Article 13(2) state that the State shall not make any law which takes away or abridges the rights conferred by this Part and any law made in contravention of this clause shall, to the extent of the contravention, be void.
- **Statement 2 is correct.** Article 13(3): In this article, unless the context otherwise requires,—
 - (a) "law" includes any Ordinance, order, bye-law, rule, regulation, notification, custom or usage having in the territory of India the force of law;
 - (b) "laws in force" includes laws passed or made by a Legislature or other competent authority in the territory of India before the commencement of this Constitution and not previously repealed, notwithstanding that any such law or any part thereof may not be then in operation either at all or in particular areas.

Article 13(4) Nothing in this article shall apply to any amendment of this Constitution made under article 368.

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Statutory, Regulatory and various Quasi-judicial Bodies.

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding National board for Wildlife (NBWL):

1. It is chaired by the Prime Minister.
2. No alteration of boundaries in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries can be done without the approval of the NBWL.

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

- **NBWL** is a statutory body constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- **Chairman:** Prime minister.
- **Vice-Chairperson:** Minister of Environment, Forests & Climate Change.
- **Functions:** Its role is advisory in nature and advises the Central Government on framing policies and measures for the conservation of wildlife in the country.
- **The board has the power** to review all wildlife-related matters and approve projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries.
- **No alteration of boundaries** in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries can be done without the approval of the NBWL.

Source: [Article](#)