

10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Compilation

August, 2021

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

ENVIRONMENT

Q1. Kailadevi Wildlife sanctuary recently in news is located in which of the following state?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Gujarat
- c) Haryana
- d) Odisha

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

About Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS)

- The Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary (KWS) is the northern extension of the Ranthambore National Park and falls within the buffer zone of the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve. The sanctuary is located in the Karauli district of Rajasthan and falls within the Karauli and Sapotra blocks.
- The sanctuary is bounded on the west by the river Banas and on the south by the river Chambal.
- Kailadevi Wildlife Sanctuary has become a popular reference among environmentalists and conservationists for the community-initiated forest protection committees (referred to as **kulhadi bandh panchayats**) that are operational in the area. These forest protection committees prevent the carrying of axes into the forests, a symbol of protecting the forests.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Withania somnifera sometimes seen in news is a?

- a) Traditional Indian herb
- b) Alien invasive weed
- c) Extinct reptile species
- d) A sacred grove

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Ashwagandha** (Withania somnifera) is commonly known as 'Indian winter cherry'.
- **It is a traditional Indian herb** that boosts energy, reduces stress, and makes the immune system stronger.
- **Ashwagandha** has also shown success in treating both acute and chronic rheumatoid arthritis.
- **Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)** is an autoimmune disease that can cause joint pain and damage throughout your body.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Network for Greening of the Financial System (NGFS)

1. It was set up during the Paris 'One Planet Summit' for central banks and supervisors
2. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is not a member in NGFS

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

About NGFS

- It was set up during the 2017 Paris 'One Planet Summit' for central banks and supervisors to share best practices in climate-related risk management practices.
- The network already has 95 central banks as members and 15 multilateral financial institutions as observers.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) joined NGFS in April 2021.

Read more: [RBI must come clean where it stands on climate change](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Forest Rights Act, 2006:

1. Title rights are given only for land that is actually being cultivated by the concerned family.
2. One of the objectives of the act is to ensure food security of the forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers.

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

About Forest Rights Act, 2006:

- **The Forest Rights Act** is also known as Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.
- **The act recognizes the rights** of the Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD), on the forest resources.

Objectives of the Act:

- **To undo the historical injustice that** occurred to the forest-dwelling communities
- **To ensure land tenure**, livelihood, and food security of the forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers
- **To strengthen the conservation regime** of the forests by including the responsibilities and authority of Forest Rights holders for sustainable use, conservation of biodiversity, and maintenance of ecological balance.

The Act identifies four types of rights:

- **Title rights:** It gives Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes(FDST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers(OTFD) the right to ownership to land farmed by tribals or forest dwellers subject to a maximum of 4 hectares.
 - **Ownership is only for land** that is actually being cultivated by the concerned family, and no new lands will be granted.
- **Use rights:** Right of extracting Minor Forest Produce, grazing areas among others.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- **Relief and development rights:** To rehabilitate in case of illegal eviction or forced displacement and to basic amenities, subject to restrictions for forest protection.
- **Forest management rights:** It includes the right to protect forests and wildlife.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.5) Mzinervarya Pentali sometimes in news is a?

- a) Frog species
- b) Type of plant
- c) Butterfly species
- d) Tribal artform

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

About Minervarya Pentali:

- **Minervarya Pentali** is a new frog species from the genus Minervarya. It is also among the smallest known Minervarya frogs.
- **The species** was discovered from the Western Ghats. The species is endemic to the southern Western Ghats.
- **The species** has been named after former DU Vice-Chancellor and plant geneticist Deepak Pentali.

About Minervarya:

- **Minervarya** is a genus of frogs in the family Dicroglossidae. The identity and taxonomic status of all known members of this genus are from Peninsular India.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.6) Karenia brevis was sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following correctly explains it?

- a) It is a light pollution identified throughout the globe recently
- b) It is a new plant species discovered in Amazon emitting CO₂ on large scale
- c) It is an algae that cause red tide in Florida coast
- d) It is a new frog specis discovered in Western Ghats

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- Florida has been battling outbreaks of red tide, caused by the algae *Karenia brevis*, for several years.
- This year's bloom may have been aggravated due to the release of contaminated water into Tampa Bay earlier.
- Tampa Bay, arm of the Gulf of Mexico, indenting the west coast of Florida, US.

About Harmful Algae Bloom

- Harmful Algal Blooms, or HABs, occur when colonies of algae grow out of control and produce toxic or harmful effects on people, fish, shellfish, marine mammals and birds.
- While many people call these blooms 'red tides,' scientists prefer the term harmful algal bloom.

Source: [Down to Earth](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Banni Grasslands:

1. They extend to both states of Gujarat & Rajasthan
2. Maldhari community is normally associated with Banni Grasslands.
3. It has been demarcated as a reserve forest.

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:

About Banni Grasslands:

- **Firstly, Banni Grassland** is situated near the Great Rann of Kutch in Gujarat. It is considered to be the largest Grassland in Asia.
- **Secondly, the grassland** spreads over 2,618 kilometers and accounts for almost 45% of the pastures in Gujarat.
- **Thirdly, Formation:** The word 'Banni' comes from the Hindi word 'banai', meaning made. The land here was formed from the sediments that were deposited by the Indus and other rivers over thousands of years.
- **Fourthly, Ecosystem:** Two ecosystems, wetlands and grasslands are juxtaposed in Banni.
- **Fifthly, Vegetation:** The vegetation in Banni is sparse and highly dependent on rainfall. It is dominated by low-growing forbs and graminoids, many of which are halophiles (salt-tolerant), as well as scattered tree cover and scrub. The grasslands were traditionally managed by a system of rotational grazing.
- **Sixthly, Flora and Fauna:** The area is rich in flora and fauna with 192 species of plants, 262 species of birds, several species of mammals, reptiles, and amphibians.
- **Seventhly, Reserve Forest:** In 1955, the court notified the grassland will be a reserve forest. In, 2019, the NGT ordered to demarcate the boundaries of the Banni grassland and restricted non-forest activities.
- **Lastly, Significance:** Wildlife Institute of India (WII) has identified this grassland reserve as one of the last remaining habitats of the cheetah in India. Also, a possible reintroduction site for the species.

Source: [Down to Earth](#)

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding Anaimalai flying frog

1. The frog is endemic to the southern part of the Western Ghats.
2. It is under the Endangered category of IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Recently, Frog enthusiast in Kerala has constructed two ponds at Windermere Estate to restore the habitat for the Anaimalai flying frog.

About Anaimalai flying frog:

- **Anaimalai flying frog** (*Racophorus pseudomalabaricus*) is also known as the False Malabar Gliding Frog.
- The frog is endemic to the southern part of the Western Ghats.

Conservation Status:

- **IUCN Status:** Critically Endangered

Read more: [How the critically endangered Anaimalai flying frog got a new home](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding Kyoto protocol:

1. Kyoto Protocol is based on the principle of “common but differentiated responsibility”.
2. It is the only global treaty with binding limits on GHG emissions.
3. USA has never ratified the Kyoto protocol.

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 the statements are correct

About Kyoto protocol:

- The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan in 1997 and came into force in 2005. It aimed at cutting GHG emissions across the developed world by about 5% by 2012 compared with 1990 levels. While India ratified the Protocol in 2002, USA never ratified it and Canada withdrew from it in 2012.
- Kyoto Protocol is based on the principle of “**common but differentiated responsibility**” and is the only global treaty with binding limits on GHG emissions

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.10) Which of the following country has banned sunscreen to protect its corals?

- a) Singapore
- b) Thailand
- c) Indonesia
- d) India

Correct Answer B

Explanation: Statement b is correct: Recently, Thailand banned the use of sunscreen to protect its corals from their adverse impacts. Palau and Hawaii have also imposed similar restrictions in the past.

Source: [DowntoEarth](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding IPCC (Inter government panel of Climate Change)

1. It was established by the UNEP and WMO.
2. It does not conduct its own research

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 the statements are correct

- It is the international body for assessing the science related to climate change.
- It was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.
- Like the UNFCCC, the IPCC has nearly 200 countries as members, representing almost all of the mankind. While it does not conduct its own scientific research, it assesses and synthesizes scientific output from around the world

Source: [DTE](#)

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)

1. The project aims to enhance the resilience of Indian agriculture to climate change and climate vulnerability through strategic research and technology demonstration.
2. It is a network project of the ministry of environment forest and climate change

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has informed Rajya Sabha about National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture(NICRA)

About NICRA:

- **National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA)** is a network project of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) launched in February 2011.
- **Aim:** The project aims to enhance the resilience of Indian agriculture to climate change and climate vulnerability through strategic research and technology demonstration.
- **The research on adaptation** and mitigation covers crops, livestock, fisheries and natural resource management.

Source: [National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture\(NICRA\)](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Q.13) Consider the following pairs regarding Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Working group - Concerned Climate research

1. Working Group-I - Deals with the likely impacts, vulnerabilities, and adaptation issues
2. Working Group-II - Deals with the scientific basis for climate change
3. Working Group-III - Deals with actions that can be taken to combat climate change.

Which of the following pairs is/are matched correctly?

Select the answer from the codes given below

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The IPCC reports are created by **three working groups of scientists**.

Working Group	Concerned climate research
Working Group-I	Deals with the scientific basis for climate change
Working Group-II	Deals with the likely impacts, vulnerabilities, and adaptation issues
Working Group-III	Deals with actions that can be taken to combat climate change.

Read more: [IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report: Findings and Suggestions - Explained, pointwise](#)

Q.14) Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which of the following states?

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Haryana
- c) Gujarat
- d) Rajasthan

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: About Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary:

- **Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in the Jhajjar district of Haryana. In 2009, it was declared as a bird sanctuary by the Indian Government.
- **The sanctuary is an important part** of the ecological corridor along the route of Sahibi River which traverses from Aravalli hills in Rajasthan to the Yamuna. The sanctuary is located just 1.5 km from Khaparwas Wildlife Sanctuary.
- **The sanctuary** is an important wetland that provides a safe habitat to numerous animals and plants.
- **A total of 265 species of birds** have been reported from the site. More than 30,000 migratory birds belonging to over 250 species visit Bhindawas throughout the year.

Source: [Article](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding Bioremediation:

1. Bioremediation is the technology that uses microorganisms to break down hazardous substances into less toxic or non-toxic substances.
2. Bioventing, bioleaching, biosparging are the example of ex-situ bioremediation

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 2 is incorrect:** Bioventing, bioleaching, biosparging are the example of **in-situ bioremediation**

Source: [Article](#)

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding Asian Elephants

1. More than 60% of the world's elephant population is in India.
2. Asian elephants are listed as "Critically endangered" on the IUCN Red List of threatened species.
3. Elephant is the Natural Heritage Animal of India.

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:

On World Elephant Day, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has announced that population estimation of elephants and tigers will be done together in 2022.

Elephant Census:

- **The Elephant Census** is conducted once in five years.
- **Method:** It largely relies on States directly counting the number of elephants. In recent years, techniques such as analysing dung samples have also been deployed to estimate birth rates and population trends in elephants.
- **According to the last count in 2017**, there were 29,964 elephants in India.

Asian Elephants:

- IUCN Red List: Endangered
- CITES: Appendix I.
- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I.

Read more: [Common survey to count elephants and tigers](#)

Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding All India Tiger Census:

1. It has been conducted once in four years
2. Madhya Pradesh recorded maximum number of tigers followed by Karnataka and Uttarakhand

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

3. It is conducted by national Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) in collaboration with state departments

Which of the following 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 the statements are correct

Source: [Article](#)

Q.18) Consider the following statements regarding Greater Adjutant Storks:

- 1. They are critically endangered according to the IUCN Red list
- 2. They are included under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act 1992

Which of the following is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Both the statements are incorrect

Greater Adjutant storks are Endangered as per IUCN red list.

They are protected under schedule 4 of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding Great Hornbill:

- 1. They are the cultural symbols of the Nyishi community of Arunachal Pradesh.
- 2. It is listed as endangered in the 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

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct
- Statement 2 is incorrect: It is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN red list.

About Great Hornbill

- **The great hornbill (*Buceros bicornis*)** is also known as the concave-casqued hornbill, great Indian hornbill or great pied hornbill.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- **It is one of the larger members** of the hornbill family. It is found in the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia.
- **The most prominent feature** of the Great Hornbill is the bright yellow and black casque (hard structure on the head of some birds) on top of its massive bill.
- **Festival:** The [Hornbill Festival](#) celebrated in **Nagaland** is named after the bird – Hornbill, which is the most revered and admired bird for the Nagas.
- **Cultural Symbol:** They are the cultural symbols of some ethnic communities in the northeast, specifically the **Nyishi** of Arunachal Pradesh.
- **State Bird:** Great Hornbill is the state bird of Arunachal Pradesh and Kerala.
- **IUCN Status:** Vulnerable
- **Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule I

Source: [Article](#)

Q.20) Eagle's Nest Wildlife Sanctuary recently in news is located in which of the following state?

- a) Assam
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Sikkim
- d) Arunachal

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

About Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary:

- **Eaglenest or Eagle's Nest Wildlife Sanctuary** is a protected area of India in the Himalayan foothills of West Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh.
- **It conjoins** Sessa Orchid Sanctuary to the northeast and Pakhui Tiger Reserve across the Kameng river to the east. It is also a part of the Kameng Elephant Reserve.
- **The sanctuary derives** its name from the Red Eagle Division of the Indian army which was posted in the area in the 1950s.
- **The sanctuary is notable** as a prime birding site due to the extraordinary variety, numbers and accessibility of species.
- **Eaglenest** is the site where Bugun liocichla (a passerine bird species) was first discovered in 1995 and again observed and described in 2006.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.21) Consider the following statements with respect to Indian leopard:

1. Indian leopards are known for their ability to adapt to a variety of habitats
2. It is listed as vulnerable under IUCN red list
3. Jhalana in Rajasthan became India's first leopard reserve in 2016

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

All the statements are correct.

About Indian Leopard or Common Leopard:

- The Indian leopard (*Panthera pardus fusca*) is a leopard subspecies widely distributed on the Indian subcontinent. These are known for their ability to adapt to a variety of habitats.
- **Vegetation:** In India, the leopard is found in all forest types, from tropical rainforests to temperate deciduous and alpine coniferous forests. It is also found in dry scrubs and grasslands, the only exception being desert and the mangroves of Sundarbans.
- **Distribution:** Its range stretches from the Indus River in the west, the Himalayas in the north, and all the way to the lower course of the Brahmaputra in the east.
- **Conservation Status:**
 - **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable
 - **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I
 - **CITES:** Appendix I

Source: [Article](#)

Q.22) Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary is recently seen in news. The sanctuary is located in which of the following state?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Gujarat
- d) Himachal Pradesh

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Four more wetlands from India – two from Haryana and two from Gujarat – have been recognised as Ramsar sites of international importance. With this, the number of Ramsar sites in India are 46.

The wetlands that have received the Ramsar Site tag are Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary and Sultanpur National Park from Haryana; and Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary and Wadhvana Wetland from Gujarat.

About Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary:

- **Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary** is situated in Gujarat. The sanctuary lies on the Central Asian Flyway.
- **Built in:** Thol Lake was initially built in 1912 as a tank by the Gaekwad regime to provide irrigation facilities to farmers.
- **Wildlife Sanctuary:** In 1988, it was declared as a wildlife sanctuary by the state government to protect the birdlife found in this open-water wetland site.
- **Bird species:** The lake supports more than 320 bird species, including more than 30 threatened waterbird species such as the critically endangered White-rumped Vulture and Sociable Lapwing; and the vulnerable Sarus Crane and Common Pochard.

Read more: [Four new Ramsar wetland sites recognised in India](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Q.23) Consider the following statements with regard to National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS):

1. It was first adopted to monitor outdoor air quality by CPCB
2. It monitors level of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Statement 2 is incorrect- It monitors 8 major pollutants - Particulate matters (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀), sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, benzene, ammonia and ozone. It does not include carbon dioxide.

Source: [Times of India](#)

Q.24) Consider the following statements regarding Slender loris:

1. It is nocturnal in nature and comes under “endangered” category of IUCN red list
2. It is believed that these animals have medicinal properties.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

About Slender loris:

- Slender loris (*Loris tardigradus*) is secretive and has **nocturnal** habits. It usually travels from the canopy of one tree to another
- It has been listed as ‘**Endangered**’ by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature
- It is under **Schedule I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**, to provide the highest level of legal protection
- They are usually solitary but sometimes found in pairs
- It is believed that these animals have some **medicinal properties**, they are captured and sold.
- Habitat loss, electrocution of live wires and road accidents are other threats that have caused its populations to dwindle.

Source: [Down to Earth](#)

Q.25) Ratchet mechanism was seen in news recently. The mechanism is related to which of the following?

- a) Afghan peace process
- b) International Finance
- c) Plastic Pollution

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

d) Climate change

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Ratchet Mechanism:

- **Under the Paris Agreement**, countries have submitted Intended nationally determined contributions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions compared to a "business as usual" scenario.
- **The framework also expects** each country to **submit enhanced nationally determined contributions every five** years to ratchet up the ambition to mitigate climate change. This process is informally known as the ratchet mechanism.
- **COP 26** is expected to be the first time that Parties are expected to commit to enhanced ambition since COP21.

Read more: [India, UK plan world bank for green energy](#)

Q.26) Consider the following statements regarding Cheetah:

1. The cheetah is world's fastest "land mammal"
2. While Asian cheetah is under "endangered" category, African cheetah is under "vulnerable" category of IUCN

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct

Statement 2 is incorrect: Asian Cheetah are Critically endangered under IUCN red list. Only 40-50 are left in Iran and it is declared as extinct in India

Source: [Article](#)

Also read: [About Cheetah](#)

Q.27) Consider the following statements regarding Compostable plastic:

1. Compostable plastic can only be composted in industrial composting facilities
2. Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules 2021 completely exempt compostable plastic under the rule

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Both the statements are correct

Source: [Article](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Also read: [Single Use plastic Ban](#)

Q.28) Which of the following is true about Neelakurinji flowers:

1. It is a shrub that is found in the shola forests of the Eastern Ghats in South India.
2. It blossoms once every 12 years.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is wrong: is a shrub that is found in the shola forests of the Western Ghats in Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu

Source: [HT](#)

Q.29) Consider the following statements regarding HFCs (HydroFluoroCarbons):

1. They are man-made and also occur naturally.
2. HFCs are powerful greenhouse gases but weak Ozone depleting substances.

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**
- **Statement 2 is correct**

About HFCs

- **HFCs** are entirely man-made. They are primarily produced for use in refrigeration, air-conditioning, insulating foams and aerosol propellants, with minor uses as solvents and for fire protection.
- **HFCs were developed** to replace stratospheric ozone-depleting substances (ODS) that are currently being phased out under the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.
- **Though HFCs** do not impact the ozone layer, many HFCs are very powerful greenhouse gases and a substantial number are short-lived climate pollutants with a lifetime of between 15 and 29 years in the atmosphere.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.30) Which of the following is/are causes behind declining population of pollinators?

1. Excessive use of fertilizer and pesticides
2. Practice of crop diversification
3. Improper land use practices

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Causes behind declining population of pollinators:

- Destruction of habitat through natural as well as manmade causes
- Improper land-use such as excessive grazing
- Excessive use of fertilizer and **increased trend of monoculture farming**
- High pesticide uses to increase the yield of crops
- Climate change is considered as fourth leading cause behind declining population of pollinators

Also read: [Why the Global South needs birds and bees more than the North?](#)

Q.31) Consider the following statements regarding Kigali Amendment:

1. It is a legally binding agreement between the signatories
2. It upholds the principle of Common but Differential Responsibility

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

About Kigali amendment:

It is a legally binding agreement between the signatories. And, there are non-compliance measures to ensure its implementation.

It sets different targets for countries depending upon the states of development, different socio-economic constraints, and varying technological and scientific capacities.

The Kigali Agreement upholds the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities.

The agreement classifies the signatory parties into three as per the phase-down schedules to freeze and reduce the production of HFCs.

- The first group consists of developed countries, led by the US and the European Union countries, that would have started the phase-down of HFCs by 2019, and reduce the level to 15% of 2012 level by the year 2036.
- The second group consists of developing economies such as China, Brazil, and also some African States that will start the phase-down by 2024 and decrease it to 20% of 2021 levels by the year 2045.
- The third group (in which India is placed) consists of developing economies and also some of the hottest nations, that will start the phase-down by 2028 and reduce the level to 15% of 2024-26 levels by the year 2047. Examples: Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia

Source: [Article](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Q.32) Consider the following statements regarding Fishing cats:

1. It is the state animal of West Bengal
2. It is listed as 'vulnerable' under IUCN red list
3. Shrinking of tropical forest due to Palm oil cultivation in tropical areas has emerged as biggest threat to fishing cats in South and Southeast Asia

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

About Fishing cats:

- The fishing cat is one of only two animals among the 40 odd members of the cat family which can survive in wet landscape
- It is the top predator of the wetland ecosystem
- Fishing cat has double layered coat which keeps its skin from getting wet
- The fishing cat is the **state animal of West Bengal**
- It is protected under **Schedule 1** of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- **IUCN status:** It is listed as "vulnerable" under IUCN red list
- **CITES status:** The fishing cat is included on CITES Appendix II
- **Habitat-** It prefers wetland ecosystem and traditionally found in the South and Southeast Asia's rivers such as Ganga, Brahmaputra, Godavari, Krishna, Irrawaddy and Chao Phraya
- **Threat-** Shrinking of wetland ecosystem, marshes, mangrove, and grassland has emerged as biggest threat

Source: [Article](#)

Q.33) Consider the following statement regarding Land Degradation and Desertification Atlas of India:

1. It has been prepared by Space Application Centre under ISRO
2. The report highlighted that rainfed farming land is more prone to erosion than the irrigated land

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

Both the statements are correct

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Land Degradation and Desertification Atlas of India is been prepared by Space Application Centre under ISRO
- **Statement 2 is correct:** According to the report, agriculture unirrigated land is more prone to erosion than the irrigated land

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Source: [Article](#)

Q.34) Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary, sometimes in news, is located in which of the following states?

- a) Mizoram
- b) Manipur
- c) Assam
- d) Nagaland

Correct Answer C

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.35) Consider the following statements regarding Zoological survey of India

1. Its objective is to promote survey, exploration, research of faunal diversity of India
2. Its headquarter is in New Delhi

Which of the following is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

- Statement 1 correct:
- Statement 2 is incorrect: Its headquarter is in Kolkata

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.36) Consider the following statements regarding **fishing cat**

1. It is the top predator of the wetland ecosystem
2. It is the state animal of Jharkhand.
3. It is listed as “vulnerable (VU)” under the IUCN red list

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Around 87% of world's wetland ecosystem have been lost due to anthropogenic activities threatening wildlife species such as fishing cat.

About Fishing Cat:

- The fishing cat is one of only two animals among the 40 odd members of the cat family which can survive in wet landscape
- It is the top predator of the wetland ecosystem
- Fishing cat has double-layered coat which keeps its skin from getting wet.
- The fishing cat is the **state animal of West Bengal.**
- **Conservation status:**

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- **Schedule 1** of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- **IUCN status:** It is listed as “vulnerable (VU)” under IUCN red list
- **CITES status:** The fishing cat is included on CITES **Appendix II**

Read more: [Meet the fishing cat: Protecting this shy species will save our precious wetlands](#)

Q.37) Acetabularia jalakanyakae sometimes seen in news is a type of?

- a) Fish
- b) Algae
- c) Frog
- d) Weed

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

- Acetabularia jalakanyakae is a bright green algae with a size as small as 20 to 40 mm.
- This algae species is named after the word ‘jalakanyaka’ which means ‘goddess of oceans’ or ‘mermaid’ in the Sanskrit language.
- It is the first species of the genus Acetabularia discovered in India.

Source: [Tribune](#)

Q.38) Consider the following statements regarding Forum for Decarbonizing Transport:

1. It will formulate strategies and develop appropriate business models to accelerate electric mobility in India.
2. It has been launched by NITI Aayog in collaboration with International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

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

About Forum for Decarbonizing Transport:

- **The forum will be a one-stop platform** for initiating dialogues between the stakeholders and partners that will help in achieving specific results in reducing emissions from the transport sector.
- **It will work in close coordination** with all the stakeholders to formulate strategies and develop appropriate business models to accelerate electric mobility in India.

Significance of this Forum:

- In India, transport is the third most CO₂ emitting sector with road transport contributing to more than 90% of total CO₂ emissions.
- The Indian government through its various policies is promoting decarbonization of transport with a major focus on electric mobility.
- Hence, a coordinated effort like this forum will help enable investment, encourage adoption, and ensure fair operation in the EV industry.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Source: [Article](#)

Q.39) Consider the following statement regarding light pollution:

1. There are five components of light pollution: Urban sky glow, light trespass, glare, uplight and clutter.
2. While Urban sky glow is the brightening of the night sky over urban inhabited areas, Glare refers to falling of light in an area where it is not intended or needed

Which of the above statement is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: d

Explanation:

Both the statements are correct

Source: [Article](#)

Q.40) Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI) was recently seen in the news. Which of the following organisation release this particular index?

- a) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- b) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- c) Greenpeace International
- d) United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Recently UNICEF along with 'Fridays with Future' launched a new report called **"The Climate Crisis Is a Child's Rights Crisis"** highlighting the impact of climate change on the lives of children.

The report introduces the new **Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI)**, a composite index that ranks nations based on children's exposure to climate shocks, providing the first comprehensive look at how exactly children are affected by the climate crisis

Read more: [Climate crisis putting a billion children at 'extremely high risk,' warns new UN report](#)

Q.41) Consider the following statements regarding Vultures:

1. They are relatively social birds with an average lifespan of 50-80 years in the wild
2. Vultures don't have a voice box, so they communicate via grunts and hisses

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: The average lifespan of Vulture is 10-30 years

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About Vultures:

- Vultures belong to the Accipitridae family, whose members include eagles, hawks and kites
- They are relatively social birds with an average lifespan of 10-30 years in the wild, nest on tall trees or rocky cliffs
- Vultures are slow breeders and so the survival of every individual is very crucial
- They have excellent eyesight and strong sense of smell, and hence can detect the presence of dead animals from great distances
- Vultures don't have a voice box, and so they cannot sing. They communicate via grunts and hisses
- Unlike other raptors, vultures have weak legs and claws (talons)
- They do not carry food; instead, they regurgitate food and feed their young ones
- Vultures have a highly acidic stomach that helps them digest a rotting carcass and kill disease-causing bacteria

Source: [Article](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Student READY Programme:

1. It provides practical experience in real-life situations in rural agriculture to undergraduate students.
2. It is an initiative of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)

Which of the above statement is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The programme aims to provide rural entrepreneurship awareness, practical experience in real-life situations in rural agriculture and creating awareness to undergraduate students about practical agriculture and allied sciences.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is an initiative of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Operation Blue Freedom was sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following statement explains it correctly?

- a) It is an Indian military operation carried out in Kargil which led to India's victory over Pakistan
- b) It is a mission undertaken by the Indian Air Force for airdropping supplies over the besieged town of Jaffna in Sri Lanka to support the Tamil Tigers during the Sri Lankan Civil War.
- c) It is a social impact venture aimed at rehabilitating people with disabilities through adaptive adventure sports.
- d) It is an operation carried out by Indian Navy in the Gulf Region to ensure safe passage of Indian Flag Vessels transiting through the Strait of Hormuz.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Operation Vijay:

It was launched by the Indian Army to recapture the Indian territories from Pakistani intruders in the Kargil-Drass sector in 1999.

Operation Poomalai

It is a mission undertaken by the Indian Air Force for airdropping supplies over the besieged town of Jaffna in Sri Lanka to support the Tamil Tigers during the Sri Lankan Civil War.

Operation Blue Freedom

- Operation Blue Freedom is a social impact venture aimed at rehabilitating people with disabilities through adaptive adventure sports.
- It aims to shatter the common perception of pity, charity and inability associated with people with disabilities and recreate it to one of dignity, freedom and ability.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- It was launched in 2019 by Team CLAW.

Operation Sankalp:

In the backdrop of the deteriorating security situation in the Gulf region, post attacks on merchant ships in the Gulf of Oman in June 2019, Indian Navy had commenced Maritime Security Operations, code named Op SANKALP, in the Gulf Region on 19 June 2019 to ensure safe passage of Indian Flag Vessels transiting through the Strait of Hormuz.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding “AI For All’ initiative:

1. It is an initiative of NITI Aayog.
2. The content under the initiative is also accessible for visually impaired people.

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 AI For All Initiative has been launched by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in collaboration with Intel.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The content is also compatible with various talkback applications to make it accessible for visually impaired people.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana:

1. It is a centrally-sponsored scheme.
2. Aims to provide aids and assistive living devices to senior citizens belonging to Below Poverty Line category
3. Scheme is implemented by Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is a central sector scheme funded by the Senior Citizen Welfare Fund (SCWF)
- **Statement 2 & 3 are correct**

Source: [Article](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding **Structured Assessment For Analysing Learning (SAFAL)**

1. It is a competency-based assessment for all grades in School
2. It was introduced by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Recently, the Prime Minister has launched the SAFAL assessment framework and Vidya Pravesh Scheme on the first anniversary of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

About SAFAL:

- **SAFAL** stands for Structured Assessment For Analysing Learning.
- **Purpose:** It is a competency-based assessment for grades 3, 5 and 8 introduced by the Central Board of Secondary Education(CBSE).
- **SAFAL will be used** to assess the progress of foundational skills and basic learning outcomes among students.

Read more: [PM launches SAFAL for CBSE students, Vidya Pravesh for preschoolers](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding **National Centre for Disease Control**

1. It functions as the nodal agency in the country for disease surveillance facilitating prevention and control of communicable diseases.
2. The Institute is under administrative control of the Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer C

Explanation: Recently, the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare presided over the 112th Annual Day celebrations of National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).

About NCDC:

- The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), formerly **National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD)**, had its origin as the Central Malaria Bureau, **established at Kasauli (Himachal Pradesh) in 1909.**
- **NICD was transformed into the NCDC** with a larger mandate of controlling emerging and re-emerging diseases in **2009.**
- It functions as the **nodal agency in the country for disease** surveillance facilitating prevention and control of communicable diseases.
- It is also a **national level institute for training specialized manpower for public health, laboratory sciences and entomological services** and is involved in various applied research activities.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- The Institute is under administrative control of the Director General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The Institute has its headquarters in Delhi.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding **National Commission of Minorities (NCM)**

1. It is a constitutional body
2. The Commission will evaluate the progress of the development of minorities under the Union and 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: B

Explanation:

Recently, the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has informed that the erstwhile Minority Commission had recommended for setting up of a Committee to establish a National Integration-cum-Human Rights Commission for promotion of secular traditions and national integration.

About the National Commission of Minorities(NCM):

- **National Commission for Minorities (NCM)** is a statutory body set up in 1993 under the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992.
- **Section 2 of the NCM Act** stipulates that 'Minority' for the purposes of the Act means a community notified as such by the Central Government.
- **Initially**, five religious communities namely Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Zoroastrians(Parsis) were notified as minority communities. In 2014, Jains were also notified as another minority community.

Functions of NCM:

- **evaluate** the progress of the development of minorities under the Union and States;
- **monitor the** working of the safeguards provided in the Constitution and in laws enacted by Parliament and the State Legislatures;
- **make recommendations** for the effective implementation of safeguards for the protection of the interests of minorities by the Central Government or the State Governments;

Read more: [Revaluation of Minority Commission](#)

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding **Sabki Yojna Sabka Vikas Campaign:**

1. It is aimed at helping youths from rural areas to develop industry-relevant technological skills.
2. Scheme has been launched by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Correct Answer: D

Both statements are incorrect

About Sabki Yojna Sabka Vikas Campaign:

- Sabki Yojna Sabka Vikas campaign has been launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj from 2nd October 2020 to 31st January 2021. It was also launched during 2018 and 2019.
- **Aim:** To help Gram Panchayats (GPs) in the preparation of a convergent and holistic Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) through the identification of sectoral infrastructural gaps in respective areas.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana:

1. Beneficiaries are identified through Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC)
2. It was launched by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

About Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)

- Launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- **Aim:** To replace unclean cooking fuels used in the most underprivileged households with clean and more efficient LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas).
- **Objective of the scheme:** a) Empower women and protect their health b) Reduce the serious health hazards associated with cooking based on fossil fuel c) Reduce the number of deaths in India due to unclean cooking fuel and d) To prevent young children from significant number of acute respiratory illnesses caused due to indoor air pollution.
- **Beneficiaries:** Under the scheme, an adult woman member of a below poverty line family identified through the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) is given a deposit-free LPG connection with financial assistance of Rs 1,600 per connection by the Centre.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP):

1. Central Dam Safety Organization is the coordinating and supervising agency.
2. It incentivizes revenue generation for sustainable operation & maintenance of dams

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

About Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project:

- The Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement project was launched in 2012 under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (now **Ministry of Jal Shakti**). It is a World Bank-assisted project.
- **The Central Dam Safety Organisation** of the Central Water Commission is coordinating and supervising the Project implementation

Significance Of the Project –

1. Strengthen dam safety initiatives taken by the Government of India through physical rehabilitation of selected dams by addressing various concerns to improve safety and operational performance
2. Incentivise revenue generation for sustainable operation & maintenance of dams
3. Infuse global know-how, innovative technologies in dam safety
4. The introduction of a risk-based approach to dam asset management will help effectively allocate financial resources towards priority dam safety needs
5. Complements the provisions in the Dam Safety Bill 2019, by ensuring capacity building of the dam owners as well as the proposed regulators
6. Generate employment opportunities equivalent to approximately 10,00,000 person days for unskilled workers, and 2,50,000 person days for working professionals.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding Sports and its development in India

1. Sports is under the Concurrent List of 7th Schedule
2. Under Target Olympic Podium Scheme or TOPS athletes and sports persons will get customized training from top coaches

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: Sports is a state subject under 7th Schedule.

Under Target Olympic Podium Scheme or TOPS athletes and sportspersons will get customized training from top coaches at modern and well-equipped sports facilities and institutions.

Other schemes and initiatives to promote Sports in India includes,

- (i) Khelo India Scheme
- (ii) Assistance to National Sports Federations
- (iii) Special Awards to Winners in International sports events and their Coaches
- (iv) National Sports Awards, Pension to Meritorious Sports Persons
- (v) Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Sports Welfare Fund
- (vi) National Sports Development Fund
- (vii) Running Sports Training Centres through Sports Authority of India

Source: [PIB](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE):

1. It was established as a statutory body to conduct a survey on the facilities available for technical education.
2. It accredits graduate and postgraduate programs at Indian institutions.

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:** All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) was **set up in November 1945** as a **national-level Apex Advisory Body to conduct a survey** on the facilities available for technical education and to promote development in the country in a coordinated and integrated manner. AICTE attained statutory status in the year 1987 under the AICTE Act.
- **Statement 2 is correct**

Source: [Article](#)

Q.13) Bhuria committee sometimes seen in news is related to?

- a) Extending 73rd and 74th amendments to scheduled areas.
- b) Working of the capital market infrastructure institutions.
- c) Assessment of methodology of poverty line measurement.
- d) created to formulate policy on disinvestment.

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- Government set up Dileep Singh Bhuria Committee for extending the provisions of 73rd and 74th amendments to scheduled areas.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding Standard and Labelling Programme (S&L)

1. The S&L program covers a star rating for 26 appliances/equipment's all of them must provide a star rating.
2. It is the initiative of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Recently, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has proposed the “star rating” or “labeling” norms for Tyres for better fuel-saving and comfortable driving.

About Standard and Labelling Programme (S&L):

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- **Standard and Labelling Programme(S&L)** is one of the major initiatives of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE).
- **Objective:** To provide the consumer with an informed choice about the energy-saving and thereby the cost-saving potential of the relevant marketed product.
- **The scheme targets** the display of energy performance labels on high energy end-use equipment & appliances and lays down minimum energy performance standards.
- **Presently**, the S&L program covers a star rating for 26 appliances/equipment including 10 for which it is mandatory. The other appliances are presently under the voluntary labeling phase.

Read more: [Star Rating proposed for Tyres for better fuel saving and comfortable driving](#)

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding MPLAD scheme

1. It is a Central Sector scheme under the auspices of Ministry of Rural development.
2. Funds can also be used for implementation of the schemes such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna etc

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: About the MPLADS

- **Statement 1 is incorrect-** It is a central government scheme formulated in 1993 under the control of Ministry of Rural Development. Later this scheme was transferred to Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation
- **Statement 2 is correct**

Source [Article](#)

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding Bell of Faith scheme:

1. It aims to provide security to those senior citizens who are staying alone.
2. It has been launched by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

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:** Bell of Faith Scheme was launched by the Kerala Police in 2018. It aims to provide security to senior citizens staying alone as part of Kerala's Community Policing Scheme.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

About Bell of Faith Scheme:

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

Source: [Article](#)

Q.17) What is the objective of the Project REPLAN?

- a) Making of plastic-mixed handmade paper
- b) Recycling of used batteries
- c) Clean-up of natural beaches
- d) Promotion of eco-tourism

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: About Project REPLAN

- KVIC, as part of its commitment to Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, had started manufacturing of plastic-mixed handmade paper under its project REPLAN (REducing PLastic in Nature).
- In this project, the waste plastic is collected, cleaned, chopped, beaten and treated for softness.
- After that, it is mixed with the paper raw material i.e. cotton rags pulp in a ratio of 80 % (pulp) and 20% (plastic waste).
- The institute has sold over six lakh handmade plastic mixed carry bags since September 2018.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.18) What is the objective of e-Samiksha initiative of government of India?

- a) Real time online system for monitoring and follow up action on the decisions taken by the Government.
- b) A switchover to paperless office and efficient decision making.
- c) Effective monitoring of the progress of ease of doing business across the country
- d) To access the implementation of Border Area's Development Programme.

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding e-RUPI

1. It will work without any card, digital payment app, or internet banking access.
2. Private sector can also leverage e-RUPI as part of their employee welfare and corporate social responsibility programs.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

About e-RUPI:

- **e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless instrument for digital payment.** It is founded on the Unified Payment Interface(UPI) platform.
- **Purpose:** It is designed to be a person and purpose-specific digital payment solution. It seeks to ensure that government schemes reach intended beneficiaries in a targeted and leak-proof manner, with **limited touchpoints** between the government and the beneficiary.
- **Developed by:** National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) in collaboration with the Department of Financial Services (DFS), the Union Health Ministry, and the National Health Authority (NHA).

Source: [Article](#)

Q.20) Consider the following statements regarding Chief of Defence Staff (CDS):

1. The CDS will be a four-star General/Officer who will act as the Principal Military Advisor to the Prime Minister on all tri-services matter
2. Its creation was recommended by a Group of Ministers (GoM) tasked with studying the Kargil Review Committee (1999) report.
3. The CDS will be the permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC).

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:

The CDS will be a four-star General/Officer who will act as the Principal Military Advisor to the **Defence Minister**

Source: [Article](#)

Q.21) Consider the following statements regarding National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER)

1. It is India's oldest and largest independent, non-profit, economic policy research institute.
2. It undertakes grant-funded research and commissioned studies for governments and industry.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Even as the national skill mission failed to expand vocational education in schools, the Union education ministry has recently tied up with the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER).

National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER) will help CBSE schools to expand vocational education & to make skilling programmes more effective in schools

About the NCAER:

- It was established in 1956. It is India's oldest and largest independent, non-profit, economic policy research institute.
- Furthermore, it undertakes grant-funded research and commissioned studies for governments and industry, and is one of the few think tanks globally that also collect primary data.

Read more: [Centre ropes in NCAER to help expand vocational education in CBSE schools](#)

Q.22) NK Vishwanathan committee sometimes seen in news is related to?

- a) Reforms in arbitration and reconciliation process.
- b) Assess regulatory measures taken by RBI for UCBs.
- c) Strengthening securities market in India.
- d) Tackling the problem of NPAs with PSBs.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

NK Vishwanathan committee

- The expert committee on primary (urban) co-operative banks, headed by former RBI deputy governor N S Vishwanathan, is expected to submit its report within a fortnight.
- Its mandate is to take stock of the regulatory measures taken by the RBI and other authorities for UCBs and assess their impact over the past five years.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.23) Consider the following statements regarding PM-DAKSH portal:

1. The portal has been developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in collaboration with NIC.
2. It also includes an entrepreneurship development program.
3. It has been launched by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 and 3 are incorrect**
- **Statement 2 is correct**

About PM-DAKSH Portal:

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- **PM-DAKSH** stands for Pradhan Mantri Dakshta Aur Kushalta Sampann Hitgrahi Yojana.
- **Nodal Ministry:** It was launched by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (MoSJ&E) in 2020-21.
- **Purpose:** It is a National Action Plan for skilling marginalized persons covering SCs, OBCs, EBCs, DNTs, Sanitation workers including waste pickers.
- **Developed by:** The Portal has been developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, in collaboration with National e-Governance Division (NeGD).
- **Features:** Under this Programme, eligible target groups are being provided with skill development training programmes on
 - a. Up-skilling/Reskilling
 - b. Short Term Training programme
 - c. Long Term Training Programme
 - d. Entrepreneurship Development Program (EDP).
- **Implementation:** The training programs are being implemented through Government Training Institutes, Sector Skill Councils constituted by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and other credible institutions.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.24) Consider the following statements regarding National Legal Services Authority (NALSA):

1. One of the functions of NALSA is to organize Lok Adalats.
2. Free legal aid under its provisions is available to any member of SC, ST and OBC community.

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:** There is no provision of free legal aid for OBCs
- Read more [here](#)

Source: [Article](#)

Q.25) Consider the following statements regarding Seekho aur kamao scheme:

1. It is being implemented by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
2. One of its provisions is to improve the employability of existing workers.
3. It ensures placements of trainees in both organized and unorganized sector.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is being implemented by Ministry of Minority Affairs
- **Statement 2 is correct**
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It ensures a placement of 75% of trainees (minimum) and out of that at least 50% are placed in organized sector.

About Seekho aur Kamao Scheme:

- **Seekho aur Kamao (Learn & Earn)** is a scheme implemented by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- **Purpose:** It is a Skill development scheme for the youth of the 14 – 35 years age group. It aims at providing employment and employment opportunities, improving the employability of existing workers, school dropouts etc.
- **Implementation:** The scheme is implemented through selected expert Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs).
- **The scheme ensures** placements of a minimum of 75% trainees, out of which at least 50% placement is in the organized sector.
- **Moreover,** Post-placement support of Rs. 2000/- per month is provided to placed trainees under the scheme for two months as placement assistance.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.26) Which of the following statement is true about PM-KISAN Yojna

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
2. Amount of 6000 per year is directly transferred into bank account of all landholding farmers

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

PM Kisan Yojna: It is a Central Sector scheme launched by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare in 2019.

- Its objective is to augment the income of the farmers by providing income support to all landholding farmers' families across the country and to enable them to take care of expenses related to agriculture and allied activities as well as domestic needs.
- The Scheme initially provided income support to all small and Marginal Farmers' families across the country, holding cultivable land up to 2 hectares. Its ambit was later expanded to cover all farmer families in the country irrespective of the size of their land holdings

Source [IndianExpress](#)

Q.27) Consider the following statement regarding e-Rupi

1. It is a cashless and contactless method for Digital Payment
2. e-Rupi doesn't require any internet connection
3. It has been developed by National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

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 the statements are correct

About e-Rupi

- This pre-paid voucher is **provided directly to beneficiaries via a QR code or SMS**.
- It **doesn't require an internet connection**, a smartphone, or an app, and, most importantly, is person and purpose dependent.
- The service provider gets paid in a **timely manner** but only after providing the service such as medical care, medicines, nutritional support, books, subsidies, etc.
- It is done by redeeming the e-voucher that's been paid for by the sponsor, such as the government, a philanthropic foundation, or a private- sector Corporate Social Responsibility initiative.

Source [LiveMint](#)

Q.28) Consider the following statements regarding Parliamentary Committee on Official Language

1. Committee's mandate is to review the progress made in the use of Hindi for the Official purposes of the Union.
2. It comprises of members from Lok Sabha only.
3. As a convention, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is elected as Chairman of the Committee from time to time.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct
- Statement 2 is incorrect
- Statement 3 is incorrect

About Parliamentary Committee on Official Language:

- **The Parliamentary Committee on Official Language** was set up in 1976 under section 4 of the Official Languages Act, 1963.
- **Mandate:** The Committee shall review the progress made in the use of Hindi for the Official purposes of the Union and submit a report to the President making recommendations. The President shall then lay the report before each House of Parliament and send it to all the State Governments.
- **Composition:** The Committee comprises 30 members of Parliament, 20 from Lok Sabha and 10 from Rajya Sabha.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- **Chairman:** The Chairman of the Committee is elected by the members of the Committee. As a convention, the Union Home Minister has been elected as Chairman of the Committee from time to time.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.29) Consider the following statements regarding Purchasing Manufacturer's Index (PMI):

1. Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an indicator of business activity in the manufacturing sector only
2. It is published by FICCI in association with Quality Council of India

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

About Purchasing manager's Index:

- PMI or Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an indicator of business activity both in the manufacturing and **services sectors**. It indicates the economic health and investor's sentiments about the manufacturing and services sectors of the country.
- **Publisher:** PMI data is compiled by Markit Economics and **published by the Japanese firm Nikkei**. PMI is calculated separately for both Manufacturing (Manufacturing PMI) and Services sectors (Services PMI) and then a composite index is published.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.30) Consider the following statement with respect to Quality of life for elderly index

1. It has been launched by Ministry of social justice
2. Rajasthan leads the ranking in the aged state category

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation

Source: [Article](#)

Q.31) Which of the following is the objective of "Ujjwala", a scheme of government

- a) To provide electricity to every household in the country by 2022
- b) To provide LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line
- c) To provide financial assistance to start-up entrepreneurs in field of Renewable energy
- d) For the construction of smart cities across the country

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Correct Answer B

Explanation: About Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY):

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was launched by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas in 2018.

Aim: To replace the unclean cooking fuels mostly used in rural India with the clean and more efficient LPG(Liquefied Petroleum Gas).

Under the scheme, an adult woman member of a below poverty line family identified through the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) was given a deposit-free LPG connection with the financial assistance of Rs 1,600 per connection by the Centre.

Target: Initially the target was the installation of 5 crores LPG connections by 2019. But the target was revised to 8 crores which was achieved in August 2019.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.32) Consider the following statements regarding MGNREGA

1. It is a guaranteed wage employment scheme applicable in both rural and urban areas
2. It provides provision for 1/3 reservation for women
3. Gram Sabha has the power for issuing of job cards

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: MGNREGA guarantees 100 days of work a year to every rural household with an aim to enhance the livelihood security of people.

Statement 2 is correct

Statement 3 is correct

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.33) Consider the following statements regarding Central Sector Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation (CSISAC) scheme

1. The scheme is implemented through the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)
2. The government also provides a Guarantee for procurement operations of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED).

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 Minister of State for Cooperation has informed Rajya Sabha about the Central Sector Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation (CSISAC) scheme.

About Central Sector Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation (CSISAC) scheme:

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- **CSISAC scheme** is the result of a merger of two erstwhile schemes of 11th Five-Year Plan viz;
 - a. Restructured Central Sector Scheme for Assistance to National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) Programmes for Development of Cooperatives and
 - b. Central Sector Scheme for Education & Training.
- **Objective:** To provide financial assistance for improving the economic conditions of cooperatives, remove regional imbalances, and speed up cooperative development in agricultural and allied sectors.
- **Implementing Agency:** Assistance is provided under the scheme through the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)

Key features of the scheme

- **Financial assistance** is provided under the scheme for marketing, storage, and processing of agricultural produce, besides the supply of agricultural inputs.
- **The government also provides** a Guarantee for procurement operations of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED).

Source: [Increasing Cooperative Activities in Agriculture Sector](#)

Q.34) Consider the following statements regarding Samagra Shiksha scheme?

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme under the Ministry of Human Resource and Development
2. Its aim is to improve the quality of college 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: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct

Statement 2 is incorrect:

Samagra Shiksha is an Integrated Scheme for School Education. It has been launched throughout the country as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with effect from the year 2018-19.

Merged Schemes: The scheme subsumes the three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), and Teacher Education (TE).

Aim: To ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education.

Coverage: It is an overarching programme for the school education sector, extending from pre-school to class XII.

Source [PIB](#)

Q.35) Consider the following statements regarding PM Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY):

1. It covers Food crops , Commercial Crops and horticulture crops only
2. It provides premium of 1.5% for Kharif crops, 2% for Rabi cops & 5% for horticulture.
3. The scheme was launched under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Warfare

Which of the following is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 and 2 only

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

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

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

PMFBY

Aim: To provide comprehensive insurance cover against failure of the crop thus helping in stabilizing the income of the farmers.

Statement 1 is incorrect: It covers a) food crops b) oilseed crops and c) annual commercial/horticultural crops.

Statement 2 is incorrect: The prescribed premium is a) 2% for Kharif crops b) 1.5% for Rabi crops and c) 5% for commercial and horticultural crops. Balance of actuarial premium is shared equally between State and Central government

Statement 3 is correct

Source: [DTE](#)

Q.36) Operation Blue Freedom sometimes seen in news is related to?

- a) India's attempt to ensure freedom in Indian Ocean
- b) It is the code name of military operation carried out in 1984
- c) To train team of disabled people to scale Siachen Glacier
- d) To increase the production of Fisheries in India?

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

Operation Blue Freedom

- It is an attempt to create world record by team of disabled people to scale Siachen Glacier-Worlds highest battlefield.
- The expedition will take place till Kumar post
- The team of disabled people is trained by "Team CLAW—a team of Armed Force Veterans".
- This operation shall place India on the global stage as a leader in empowering Divyangjan & will set benchmark for other nations also.
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will flag off this operation on the Independence Day

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.37) SonChiraiya was recently seen in news. Which of the following correctly explains it?

- a) It is a new form of handicraft art getting popular in Maharashtra
- b) It is a brand and logo for the marketing of urban Self-Help Group (SHG) products.
- c) It is a new scheme to popularize solar energy products in India
- d) It is a traditional wood-crafting style popular in the Deccan

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched 'SonChiraiya'.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

About SonChiraiya:

- **SonChiraiya** is a brand and logo for the marketing of urban Self-Help Group (SHG) products.
- **This will help in** improving visibility and global access for the products made by urban SHG women.

Read more: [MoHUA launches one brand -'SonChiraiya' – for Urban SHG products](#)

Q.38) With reference to “Aseem Portal”, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is launched by the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship
2. It is an artificial intelligence-based platform that aims to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities

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:

About Aseem Portal

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has launched ‘Atma Nirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping’ (ASEEM) portal.

Facts:

- **ASEEM Portal:** It is an artificial intelligence-based platform that aims to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities by providing employers a platform to assess the availability of skilled workforce and formulate their hiring plans.
- **Developed by:** The portal has been developed by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in collaboration with Better Place.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.39) Consider the following statements regarding National Monuments Authority (NMA):

1. It is a statutory body.
2. Its major function is the management of the prohibited and regulated area around the centrally protected monuments.

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

About National Monuments Authority (NMA):

National Monuments Authority (NMA) has been set up under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

It has been set up as per provisions of The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010.

Functions: To protect and preserve monuments and sites through management of the prohibited and regulated area around the centrally protected monuments.

- **One of the important** responsibilities of NMA is also to consider grant of permissions to applicants for construction related activity in the prohibited and regulated area.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.40) Consider the following statements regarding TAPAS portal:

1. It has been launched by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
2. It shall maintain a database of impoverished artisans in all the aspirational districts.

Which of the above statements is/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**

About TAPAS Portal:

Developed by: National Institute of Social Defence, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

What is it? It is a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) platform that offers various courses in the field of social defence.

Objective: The main objective of introducing courses on social defence is to impart training and enhance the knowledge and skills for the capacity building of the participants

Courses: It will provide five basic courses

- a. Drug (Substance) Abuse Prevention,
- b. Geriatric/Elderly Care,
- c. Care and Management of Dementia,
- d. Transgender Issues
- e. Comprehensive course on Social Defence Issues.

Eligibility: The courses can be taken up by anyone who wishes to enhance his or her knowledge on the topics and there is no fee for joining.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.41) Consider the following statements regarding SAMVAD Programme

1. It is a National Initiative and Integrated Resource that works in protection of women.
2. The programme is led by National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS)

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The Union Minister of Women and Child Development has launched the 2nd phase of SAMVAD programme.

About SAMVAD Programme:

- **SAMVAD** stands for **S**upport, **A**dvocacy & **M**ental health interventions for children in **V**ulnerable circumstances And **D**istress.
- **Mandate:** It is a National Initiative and Integrated Resource that works in child protection, mental health and psychosocial care.
- **Aim:** To provide mental health outreach for children who are abandoned and orphaned, child survivors of trafficking, or in conflict with law.
- **Implementation:** The programme is led by National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences(NIMHANS). It is funded by Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Read more: [Union WCD Minister launches 2nd Phase of SAMVAD](#)

Q.42) Consider the following statements regarding Mid-Day Meal Scheme

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme under Ministry of Food & Public Distribution.
2. Children belonging to age group of 6-14 years are covered under it.
3. All government & Government aided schools including Madrasas under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan are covered under it.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is wrong

Statement 2 & 3 are correct

About MDMS

- It is a centrally sponsored scheme under Ministry of Education
- **Under the Scheme**, cooked meals are provided to every child within the age group of six to fourteen years and studying in classes I to VIII.
- **Cooked meal having nutritional standards** of 450 calories and 12 gm of protein for primary (I-V class) and 700 calories and 20 gm protein for upper primary (VI-VIII class).
- **If the Mid-Day Meal is not provided in school** on any school day due to non-availability of food grains or any other reason. Then the State Government shall pay food security allowance by 15th of the succeeding month.
- **Coverage:** All children in government and aided schools and madrasas supported under Samagra Shiksha.

Source [Live Mint](#)

Q.43) Consider the following statements regarding Vriksharopan Abhiyan

1. It is a tree plantation campaign. Seedlings will also be distributed under the campaign
2. The Campaign is organized by the Ministry of Coal.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

The Ministry of Coal will be launching Vriksharopan Abhiyan - 2021 as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations.

About Vriksharopan Abhiyan:

- **Organized by:** It is a tree plantation campaign to be organized by the Ministry of Coal.
- **Under the initiative,** large scale plantations will be carried out in colonies, offices, and mines and in other suitable areas of coal and Ignite PSUs. Seedlings will also be distributed in the nearby areas for promoting plantation by society.
- **Target:** It is expected that more than 300 plantation sites in and around coalfields across the country will be connected during the *Abhiyan*.

Read more: [Vriksharopan Abhiyan - 2021 of Coal Ministry to be Launched as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebrations](#)

Q.44) Consider the following statements regarding National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM):

1. It works as an attached office of Ministry of Earth Sciences
2. It provides scientific and technical inputs to the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan.

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 National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM) is a research institute under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- **Statement 2 is correct**

Source: [Article](#)

Q.45) Consider the following statements regarding National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organization (NATMO):

1. It works under Ministry of Earth Sciences.
2. It's one of the functions is to help in increasing speed and efficiency in the field of mapping with the help of installation of Automated Mapping System.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect**
- **Statement 2 is correct**

About National Atlas & Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO):

- **NATMO** is a subordinate office under the Department of Science & Technology.
- **Mandate:** It is involved in the compilation of the National Atlas of India. Apart from that, it also makes National Atlas in regional languages. NATMO also helps in increasing speed and efficiency in the field of mapping with the help of installation of Automated Mapping System. It also offers training to geologists who want to venture into this field.
- **Headquarters:** Kolkata, West Bengal

Source: [Article](#)

Q.46) Meira Paibi sometimes in news is associated with?

- a) Community policing
- b) Traditional handicrafts
- c) Medieval architecture
- d) Biodiversity conservation

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Meira Paibi (Torch-bearers) in Assam: The women of the Manipuri Basti in Guwahati help with improving the law and order problem in their area, by tackling drug abuse among the youth. They light their torches and go around the basti guarding the entry and exit points, to prevent the youth of the area from going out after sunset.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.47) Consider the following statements regarding Perform, Achieve and Trade (PAT) Scheme:

1. It involves a market-based compliance mechanism that aims to accelerate improvements in energy efficiency in energy-intensive industries.
2. It is a flagship scheme of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

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

About Perform, Achieve and Trade(PAT) Scheme:

- **Launched by:** Ministry of Power
- **Aim:** PAT is a market-based compliance mechanism that aims to accelerate improvements in energy efficiency in energy-intensive industries.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- **Nodal Agency:** It is a flagship programme of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency under the National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE).

Key Features of the Scheme:

- **The scheme** seeks to enhance cost-effectiveness through certification of excess energy savings in energy-intensive industries.
- **Under the scheme**, an Energy Audit is done to verify the baseline data (current level of efficiency) and thereafter energy saving targets are given.
- **Energy Saving Certificates (ESCerts)** are issued to those plants that have achieved excess energy savings over their targets.
- **Units that are unable to meet the targets** either through their own actions or through the purchase of ESCerts are liable to financial penalty under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.48) Consider the following statements regarding Desertification and Land degradation Atlas of India:

1. It has been released by Space Application Centre under ISRO
2. According to atlas India is on track to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 2 is incorrect: Against the claim made by government, the report highlights that degradation and desertification has rather increased

About Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India:

- **ISRO** (Space Application Centre) released the **Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India** which highlighted that India is **not on track** to achieve its national commitment of land degradation neutrality against the claim made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Findings of the report:

- 97.85 million hectares (mha) of India's total geographical area underwent land degradation during 2018-19, which is 29.7 per cent of the country's overall land area
- In 2003-05, the degraded land area was 94.53 mha, which increased to 96.40 mha in 2011-13
- Besides land degradation, desertification has also increased. 83.69 mha underwent desertification in 2018-19, compared to 81.48 mha in 2003-2005 and 82.64 mha in 2011-13
- Most of the degradation and desertification is contributed by Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Ladakh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana
- India witnessed an increase in the level of desertification in 28 of 31 states and Union territories between 2011-13 and 2018-19
- However, land degradation and desertification were declining in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Telangana in 2018-2019

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Source: [Article](#)

Q.49) Consider the following statements regarding Mid-day Meal Scheme

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme under Ministry of Education
2. Scheme guarantees one meal to all children in government and aided schools and madrasas supported under Samagra Shiksha.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

About MDMS : It is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in 1995 by the Ministry of HRD.

Features of the Scheme:

- **Under the Scheme**, cooked meals are provided to every child within the age group of six to fourteen years and studying in classes I to VIII.
- **Cooked meal having nutritional standards** of 450 calories and 12 gm of protein for primary (I-V class) and 700 calories and 20 gm protein for upper primary (VI-VIII class).
- **If the Mid-Day Meal is not provided in school** on any school day due to non-availability of food grains or any other reason. Then the State Government shall pay food security allowance by 15th of the succeeding month.

Coverage: All children in government and aided schools and madrasas supported under Samagra Shiksha.

Source: [Business Standard](#)

Q.50) Consider the following statements regarding WEP Nxt:

1. It will focus on India's startup ecosystem to enable more women-owned businesses across the country.
2. It has been launched by NITI Aayog 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

Connect Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** WEP Nxt is the next phase of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP). It will be working with India's startup ecosystem to enable more women-owned businesses across the country.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** NITI Aayog and Cisco have launched the next phase of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) called "WEP Nxt".

Source: [PIB](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Q.51) Consider the following statements regarding SAMRIDH Scheme:

1. It aims to create a conducive platform for Indian Software Product start-ups to secure investments for scaling their business.
2. It has been launched by Ministry of Skill development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

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:** It aims to create a conducive platform for Indian Software Product start-ups to enhance their products and secure investments for scaling their business.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has launched the SAMRIDH Scheme.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.52) Consider the following statements regarding MANTHAN Hackathon-2021

1. It is a hackathon based on national interests and challenges faced by our intelligence agencies in the fields
2. It is organized by the Ministry of Defence

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is a hackathon based on national interests and challenges faced by our intelligence agencies in the fields such as Fake Content Detection, Cybercrime, Image, Video and Data Analytics, etc.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is organized by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) in coordination with the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education and AICTE.

Read more: [MoE's Innovation Cell, AICTE and BPR&D launched MANTHAN- 2021 hackathon](#)

Q.53) Consider the following statements regarding National Mission on Edible Oils- Oil Palm:

1. It is Centrally Sector Scheme that aims to boost domestic production of Palm Oil and reduce its dependence on import
2. The scheme offers price assurance to the farmers

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** that aims to boost domestic production of Palm Oil and reduce its dependence on import
- **Statement 2 is correct:** if the market is volatile, then the Centre will pay the difference in price to the farmers through direct benefit transfer

Source: [Article](#)

Q.54) Consider the following statement regarding Financial Management Index:

1. It is published by Ministry of Panchayati Raj
2. Social Audit is one of the key parameter to judge the efficiency of state performance

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect- It is released by Ministry of Rural Development

About Financial management Index:

- **Aim:** To rank states on efficient management of financial resources allocated for implementing rural development programmes.
- **Parameters:** The index will rank the States on the basis of following parameters:
 - Preparation of annual plan and projecting the requirement of funds for the financial year;
 - Expeditious release of State's share;
 - Timely utilization of the funds and submission of the Utilization Certificates;
 - Optimum implementation of Public Financial Management System (PFMS) & Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT);
 - Internal Audit and
 - Social Audit.
- **Significance:** The performance of the States in the Index would promote the spirit of competitive, cooperative federalism amongst States.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.55) Consider the following statements regarding Flexibilisation Scheme:

1. Scheme allows power generation companies to meet their supply obligations via renewable power instead of thermal power alone.
2. Under the scheme any power generating company having coal/lignite/gas-based thermal generating station may establish or procure renewable energy generating capacity

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

About Flexibilisation Scheme:

Flexibilisation Scheme was launched by the Government of India in the year 2018.

The scheme allows power generation companies to meet their supply obligations via renewable power instead of thermal power alone.

Under the scheme, any power generating company having coal/lignite/gas-based thermal generating stations may establish or procure renewable energy generating capacity anywhere in the country, either at existing stations or at new locations.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.56) Consider the following statements regarding Jan Shikshan Sansthan(JSS) Scheme

1. Scheme is currently run by Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
2. It aims to provide vocational skills in non-formal mode to both non-literate and neo-literates.
3. The scheme is implemented through NGOs with 100% grants from the Government of India.

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

About Jan Shikshan Sansthan(JSS) Scheme:

- **The Scheme of Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS)** was formerly known as the Shramik Vidyapeeth scheme. The scheme was launched in 1967 and was renamed as Jan Shikshan Sansthan in 2000.
- **Nodal Ministry:** The scheme was transferred from the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship in 2018.
- **Mandate:** To provide vocational skills in non-formal mode to non-literate, neo-literates, persons with a rudimentary level of education up to 8th and school drop-outs up to 12th standard in the age group of 15-45 years.
- **Target Group:** The priority groups are women, SC, ST, minorities and other backward sections of the society.
- **Implementation:** The scheme is implemented through NGOs with 100% grants from the Government of India.
- **At present,** 233 JSSs in 25 States and 3 Union Territories are functional. The annual coverage of the beneficiaries is around 4 lakh, out of which 85% are women.

Source: [Article](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Q.57) Which of the following is the objective of Ujjwala scheme:

- It aims to provide electricity to every household by 2022
- It provides financial assistance to revive power distribution companies
- It aims to provide free LPG connection to poor households
- It aims to provide immunization to children and pregnant women

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

About Ujjwala

Launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.

Aim: To replace unclean cooking fuels used in the most underprivileged households with clean and more efficient LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas).

Objective of the scheme: a) Empower women and protect their health b) Reduce the serious health hazards associated with cooking based on fossil fuel c) Reduce the number of deaths in India due to unclean cooking fuel and d) To prevent young children from significant number of acute respiratory illnesses caused due to indoor air pollution.

Source [The Hindu](#)

Q.58) Consider the following statements regarding 'Ubharte Sitaare' Alternative Investment Fund:

- It aims to provide debt and equity funding to export-oriented MSMEs.
- The fund has been set up jointly by NABARD in collaboration with SBI

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct
- Statement 2 is incorrect

About 'Ubharte Sitaare' Alternative Investment Fund:

- Aim:** To provide debt and equity funding to export-oriented MSMEs as well as providing them with the required technological support to make their businesses more competitive.
- Setup by:** The fund has been set up jointly by Exim Bank and SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India).

Source: [Article](#)

Q.59) Consider the following statements regarding Yuktdhara Portal:

- The portal will help in facilitating new MGNREGA assets using remote sensing and geographic information system-based data.
- Portal utilizes Bhuvan for its purposes.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Both statements are correct.

About Yuktdhara Portal:

- **Yuktdhara** is a geospatial planning portal under [Bhuvan](#).
- **Purpose:** The portal will help in facilitating new MGNREGA assets using remote sensing and geographic information system-based data.
- **Developed by:** The portal is a culmination of joint efforts of the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and the **Ministry of Rural Development**.
- **Name:** The name of the portal is very apt as the word 'Yukt' is derived from Yojanam, indicates the planning and 'Dhara' indicates the flow.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.60) Consider the following statements regarding National Monetisation Pipeline:

1. One of its objectives is to unlock the value of investments in brownfield public sector assets by tapping institutional and long-term capital.
2. The top three sectors identified for asset monetisation include railways, airports and coal mining.

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

About National Monetisation Pipeline:

Prepared by: It was prepared by NITI Aayog in consultation with infrastructure line ministries, based on the mandate for 'Asset Monetisation' under Union Budget 2021-22.

Note: Asset monetisation consists of a limited period transfer of performing assets (or disposing of non-strategic / underperforming assets) to unlock "idle" capital and reinvesting it in other assets or projects that deliver improved or additional benefits.

Objectives:

- To unlock the value of investments in brownfield public sector assets by tapping institutional and long-term capital, which can thereafter be leveraged for public investments.
- **A brownfield investment** is a form of investment in which a company or government entity purchases or leases existing production facilities to launch a new production activity.
- To enable 'Infrastructure Creation through Monetisation' wherein the public and private sector collaborate, each excelling in their core areas of competence, so as to deliver socio-economic growth.

Source: [Article](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Q.61) Consider the following statement regarding National Digital Health Mission:

1. It is a voluntary healthcare programme that aims to reduce the gap among stakeholders such as doctors, hospitals and other healthcare providers
2. Under the initiative a unique health Id with 12 digits will be created for each individual

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 2 is incorrect: It creates 14-digit Unique health Id for each individual unlike Aadhaar which is a 12-digit unique Id

About NDHM:

- It is a voluntary healthcare programme that aims to reduce the gap among stakeholders such as doctors, hospitals and other healthcare providers by bringing them together and connecting them in an integrated digital health infrastructure.
- **Components:** The mission comprises six key building blocks or digital systems namely HealthID, DigiDoctor, Health Facility Registry, Personal Health Records, e-Pharmacy & telemedicine.
- **Health Id:** It is a 14-digit serial number which will be generated for each individual. The Id will be a repository of all health-related information of a person such as medical tests, previous prescriptions, diagnosis, treatments and all historical health records.
- **Implementation:** The National Health Authority (NHA) would design, build, roll-out and implement the mission.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.62) Operation “Devi Shakti” in news is related to

- a) To evacuate Indian & foreign nationals from Afghanistan following Taliban takeover
- b) To evacuate Indian citizens, fleeing from Libyan Civil War
- c) To evacuate Indian & foreign nationals from conflict zone during Lebanon war
- d) To evacuate Indian & foreign nationals from Yemen during 2015 Yemen crisis

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Source [Indian Express](#)

Q.63) Consider the following statements regarding Project Bachpan:

1. The project aims to eradicate the menace of child malnutrition in and around the surrounding areas of National Coalfields Limited.
2. It is an initiative launched by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct
- Statement 2 is incorrect

About Project Bachpan:

- **Project Bachpan** was launched based on the MoU signed between Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) and Singrauli District Administration, Madhya Pradesh.
- **Aim:** The project aims to eradicate the menace of child malnutrition in and around the surrounding areas of NCL.
- **Under the Project**, nutritional needs of more than 260 undernourished children will be taken care of. This will ensure the malnourished children's good health and wellbeing

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.64) Consider the following statements regarding **Enforcement Directorate (ED)**

1. It is a specialized financial investigation agency under the Department of Revenue
2. It is mandated with the task of enforcing the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) only

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 recently stated that the investigation agencies (CBI, ED) should not keep the "sword hanging" over the accused and there must be **time-bound completion of investigations**.

About Enforcement Directorate

- Directorate of Enforcement is a specialized financial investigation agency under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- On 1 May 1956, an 'Enforcement Unit' was formed, in the Department of Economic Affairs, for handling Exchange Control Laws violations under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947.
- In the year 1957, this Unit was renamed as 'Enforcement Directorate'.
- It is mandated with the task of enforcing the provisions of two special fiscal laws
 - Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA)
 - The Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).

Read more: [CBI, ED can't keep sword hanging over accused: Supreme Court](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC):

1. It is the first national repository for life science data in India.
2. The centre shall implement the Biotech-PRIDE 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: C

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

About IBDC

- **The Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC)** is the first national repository for life science data in India.
- **Purpose:** IBDC is mandated to archive all life science data generated from publicly funded research in India.
- **Supported by:** The data center is supported by the Government of India (GOI) through the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).

About Biotech-PRIDE Guidelines:

- **The Biotech-PRIDE Guidelines** have been developed by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- **Aim:** The guidelines are aimed at providing a well-defined framework and guiding principle to facilitate and enable sharing and exchange of biological knowledge, information and data.
- **Implementation:** The guidelines will be implemented through the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC).
- **Significance:** The exchange of information will help in promoting research and innovation in different research groups across the country.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding NISAR:

1. It is a joint Earth-Observation mission by ISRO and NASA.
2. It will be able to observe minor changes in land, vegetation, and cryosphere.
3. It is a dual band radar imaging mission.

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

About NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) Mission:

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- **NISAR** is a joint Earth-Observation mission between ISRO and NASA. It aims to make global measurements of land surface changes using advanced radar imaging.
- **Objective:** To improve understanding of the impact of climate change on Earth's changing Ecosystems, land and coastal processes, land deformations, and Cryosphere.
- **Features:** It is a dual-band (L-band and S-band) Radar imaging mission with the capability of full polarimetric and interferometric modes of operation, to observe minor changes in land, vegetation, and cryosphere.
- **Contributions:** NASA is developing L-band SAR and associated systems. While ISRO is developing S-band SAR, spacecraft bus, the launch vehicle, and associated launch services.
- **Launch Year:** NISAR is proposed to be launched in early 2023.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.3) Consider the following SARS – COV Variants

1. Alpha Variant
2. Kappa Variant
3. Theta Variant
4. Beta Variant
5. Epsilon Variant

Which of the above-mentioned variant is/are under **World Health Organisation's Variants of Interest** category?

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Recently, The US Center for Disease Control (CDC) has revealed that the Delta variant of the coronavirus spreads as easily as chickenpox with a transmission rate up to nine times more than the original strain.

About the SARS – COV Variants:

Image Source: Hindustan Times

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding National Center for Seismology (NCS):

1. It monitors earthquake swarm and aftershock activity by deploying temporary observatory close to the affected region.
2. It works as an attached office of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
3. It prepares and publishes the seismic zonation map of India.

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 and 2 are correct**
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Seismic Zonation map of India is prepared by Bureau of Indian Standards based on the historical seismicity and strong ground motions.
- Read more about NCS [here](#)

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Ozone:

1. The stratospheric ozone also called Good Ozone occurs naturally in the upper atmosphere.
2. Ozone generally disintegrates after sunset.

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

About Ozone:

- **Ozone** is a gas composed of three atoms of oxygen. Ozone occurs both in the Earth's upper atmosphere and at ground level. It can be good or bad, depending on where it is found.
- **The stratospheric ozone** also called Good Ozone occurs naturally in the upper atmosphere. There, it forms a protective layer that shields us from the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays.
- **On the other hand,** Ozone at ground level is a harmful air pollutant, because of its effects on people and the environment, and it is the main ingredient in "smog".
- Ozone generally disintegrates after sunset. It is because, in the absence of sunlight, NO_x further reacts with ozone to neutralize it.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Aflatoxin M1:

1. Aflatoxins are a group of naturally occurring toxins.
2. They impact humans and animals but not crops.

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:** Aflatoxins are mycotoxins i.e. a group of naturally occurring toxins produced mainly by moulds such as *Aspergillus flavus* and *Aspergillus parasiticus*.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** They have adverse effects on humans, animals, and crops that result in illnesses and economic losses. Aflatoxin M1 (AFM1) is the hydroxylated metabolite of aflatoxin B1 (AFB1) and can be found in milk or milk products obtained from livestock that have ingested contaminated feed.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding GM Crops:

1. To produce a GM plant, new DNA is transferred into plant cells.
2. Bt cotton is the only genetically modified (GM) crop that has been approved for commercial cultivation in India

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

Both statements are correct

- Read more [here](#)

Source: [Article](#)

Q.8) Which of the following is/are referred to as the fifth dimension of warfare?

1. Cyberspace
2. Biogenic weapons
3. Deep space

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- Cyberspace is often termed as the fifth dimension of warfare.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding Deep Ocean Mission (DOM)

1. A manned submersible will be developed to carry three people to a depth of 6,000 metres in the ocean is one of the key components of the mission
2. Department of Science is the nodal agency for the implementation of the mission

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Recently, The Government has informed in the Rajya Sabha that Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) will be implemented at a total budget of Rs. 4077 Cr for 5 years. And all the components of the mission will commence in 2021.

About the Mission:

- The focus of the mission will be on deep-sea mining, ocean climate change advisory services, underwater vehicles and underwater robotics related technologies.
- The Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) will be the nodal Ministry implementing this multi-institutional mission.

Key Components of the mission:

1. A manned submersible will be developed to carry three people to a depth of 6,000 metres in the ocean with a suite of scientific sensors and tools. An Integrated Mining System will be developed for mining polymetallic nodules at those depths in the central Indian Ocean.
2. Development of Ocean Climate Change Advisory Services.
3. Development of a component for searching deep sea flora and fauna, including microbes, and studying ways to sustainably utilise them.
4. It will also have a component to explore and identify potential sources of hydrothermal minerals that are sources of precious metals formed from the earth's crust along the Indian Ocean mid-oceanic ridges.
5. It has a component for studying and preparing detailed engineering design for offshore Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) powered desalination plants.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.10) Food fortification is widely popular now a days. What is/are the benefits of food fortification?

1. Helps to meet the body requirement of micronutrients
2. Alteration of food characteristics
3. Improves immunity
4. Increase cognitive abilities

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Recently, a group of health experts in India have raised concerns about the country's strategy to fight malnutrition through food fortification. They argued for "extreme caution" in implementing new chemical interventions to address micronutrient deficiencies.

Benefits of Food Fortification:

- **High benefit-to-cost ratio:** Food fortification has a high benefit-to-cost ratio. The Copenhagen Consensus estimates that every 1 Rupee spent on fortification results in 9 Rupees in benefits to the economy. While an initial investment to purchase both the equipment and the vitamin and mineral premix is required, the overall costs of fortification are extremely low.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- **No socio-cultural barriers:** Fortification does not require any changes in food habits and patterns of people. It is a socio-culturally acceptable way to deliver nutrients to people
- **No alteration of food characteristics:** It does not alter the characteristics of the food like the taste, aroma or the texture of the food
- **Quick implementation:** It can be implemented quickly as well as show results in improvement of health in a relatively short period of time.
- **Wide reach:** Since the nutrients are added to widely consumed staple foods, fortification is an excellent way to improve the health of a large section of the population, all at once.

Source: [Food Fortification in India – Explained, pointwise](#)

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding **Indigenous Aircraft Carrier(IAC) ‘Vikrant’**

1. It is the first aircraft carrier designed and built in India.
2. All the material and equipment of Vikrant is completely indigenous.

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 much-awaited sea trials of India’s maiden indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC-1) ‘Vikrant’ have begun recently.

About Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) ‘Vikrant’:

- **IAC-1 Vikrant** has been designed by the Indian Navy’s Directorate of Naval Design (DND). It is being built at Cochin Shipyard Limited(CSL), a Public Sector Shipyard under the Ministry of Shipping.

Key Features of IAC-01 Vikrant:

- **Vikrant** is the first aircraft carrier designed and built in India. It has over 76 percent of the material and equipment which is indigenous.
- **Vikrant is named after the** Majestic-class aircraft carrier, which was operated by the Indian Navy from 1961 to 1997.
- **The ship is 262 m long**, It has over 2,300 compartments designed for a crew of around 1700 people including specialised cabins to accommodate women officers.

Read more: [INS Vikrant, India’s first indigenous aircraft carrier, heads out to sea](#)

Q.12) Consider the following statements regarding **Graphene:**

1. Graphene oxide can be used to increase the shelf-life of perishable commodities like fruits.
2. It is world’s thinnest and most conductive material.

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Indian Scientists have developed a composite paper made of carbon (graphene oxide) loaded with preservatives that can be used as wrappers to help extend shelf life of fruits.

About Graphene:

- Graphene is a **single layer (monolayer) of carbon atoms** arranged in a honeycomb-like pattern.
- **Graphene is considered** to be the world's thinnest, strongest and most conductive material – of both electricity and heat.
- **Uses:** It can be used in applications ranging from miniaturised **electronics to biomedical devices** like computers, solar panels, batteries, sensors and other devices.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.13) Jezero crater sometimes in news is located on which of the following?

- a) Moon
- b) Jupiter
- c) Mars
- d) Saturn

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: NASA's Perseverance rover is exploring the Jezero Crater on Mars and attempting to collect its first rock samples. However, no rock samples were collected during the first attempt.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding Marburg hemorrhagic fever:

1. It is a zoonotic disease.
2. There is no approved vaccine or treatment for this disease.
3. The virus belongs to same family as Ebola virus.

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

All statements are correct

About Marburg Virus:

- **Marburg virus disease(MVD)** was formerly known as Marburg hemorrhagic fever.
- **The virus causes** hemorrhagic fever and belongs to the same family (Filoviridae family) as the Ebola virus.
- **First Case:** The virus was initially detected in 1967 after simultaneous outbreaks in Marburg and Frankfurt in Germany; and in Belgrade, Serbia.
- **Symptoms:** The common symptoms of a virus are fever, headache, fatigue, abdominal pain and gingival haemorrhage.
- **Transmission:** Marburg is transmitted to people from fruit bats. The virus spreads among humans through **direct contact with the bodily fluids** of the patient, surfaces and materials

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- **Fatality Rate:** The case fatality rate is around 50%. Case fatality rates have varied from 24% to 88% in past outbreaks, depending on virus strain and case management.
- **Treatment:** There are **no approved vaccines or antiviral treatments** for the virus yet. Early supportive care with rehydration and symptomatic treatment improves survival.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.15) DABUS sometimes seen in news is related to?

- a) Nano-technology
- b) Artificial Intelligence
- c) Space warfare
- d) Blockchain

Correct Answer: b

Explanation:

DABUS stands for **device for the autonomous bootstrapping of unified sentience**, created by **Stephen Thaler**, a pioneer in the field of AI and programming.

The system mimics human brainstorming and creates new inventions. DABUS is a particular type of AI, often referred to as “**creativity machines**” because they are capable of independent and complex functioning.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.16) Consider the following statements regarding EOS-03 mission:

1. It was launched by ISRO in collaboration with European space agency.
2. It aims to study the influence of climate change on the Arctic region.

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:

Source: [Article](#)

Q.17) Which of the following is/are a species of an oil-cleaning bacteria?

1. Alcanivorax borkumensis
2. Natrialba Swarupiae
3. Geobacter bacteria

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:

Below are some examples of oil-cleaning bacteria:

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- **NY3:** The “NY3” has an “extraordinary capacity” to produce rhamnolipids that can help break down oil and then degrade some of its most serious toxic compounds.
- **Geobacter bacteria:** They were the first organisms found to oxidise organic compounds to carbon dioxide. They can convert the organic compounds in oil spills into carbon dioxide.
- **Alcanivorax borkumensis:** This rod-shaped microbe lives in all the world’s oceans with a special preference for oil-polluted areas, as it uses hydrocarbon molecules for food.
- **Oilzapper:** Developed by TERI & partly supported by the DBT (Department of Biotechnology), the Oilzapper is essentially a cocktail of five different bacterial strains that are immobilized and mixed with a carrier material (powdered corncob). The Oilzapper feeds on hydrocarbon compounds present in crude oil and oily sludge (a hazardous hydrocarbon waste generated by oil refineries) and converts them into harmless CO₂ and water.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.18) Consider the following statements regarding NISAR mission:

1. It is a collaboration between NASA and ISRO for a joint earth-observation satellite.
2. It will be launched using GSLV Mk-3 satellite launching vehicle.
3. ISRO will provide radars and the communication system of the satellite

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 2 is incorrect: NISAR satellite will be launched using GSLV Mk-2

Statement 3 is incorrect: Both radars (L type) and communication system will be provided by NASA. ISRO will provide the spacecraft bus, the second type of radar (called the S-band radar), the launch vehicle and associated launch services

Source: [Article](#)

Read more: [NISAR](#)

Q.19) Consider the following statements about rare disease

1. It is also known as Orphan Disease, affects only a small number of people
2. Most of the rare diseases are genetic in origin and so disproportionately impact children.

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:

All the statements are correct

Source [PIB](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Q.20) Consider the following statements:

1. Gravity bends the light in the process of attracting it.
2. GPS on our phones is an example of the application of special theory of relativity.

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

Special theory of relativity

Einstein's theory establishes that time moves slower within a moving body when measured from a point at rest (but moves normally within the moving body itself) and the length of the moving body contracts when measured from an outside point at rest.

When a moving body emits light, the length contraction and time slowdown of the moving body are just exactly what are needed to restore the speed of light to its constant value.

An example of the application of the special theory of relativity is the **use of GPS on our phones**

- Satellites account for time differences in their clocks due to their high speed and their positions away from earth's gravity, and then calculate the geolocation.

General theory of relativity

- It tries to **explain how does gravitational force act instantaneously between massive stars and planets** that are millions of miles away
- Einstein took help of geometry of curved spaces and multi-dimensional geometry to understand the effect of gravitational force.
- As per this theory, space and time form a continuum, like a fabric, and every object in the universe distorts this fabric, like a large ball distorts a tight trampoline sheet. **This distortion is gravity.**
- It produces two effects.
 - One, the fabric causes any other object in the vicinity to move towards the heavier object and this is why gravity causes an object to pull things towards it
 - Two, it bends light in the process of attracting it which is recently captured by LIGO observatory
- This theory applies to all forms of motion, including those where gravity does not appear.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.21) Consider the following statement regarding Advanced Chaff Technology

1. It is used by militaries worldwide to protect their assets from radar and radio frequency(RF) guiding mechanisms of the enemy missile.
2. India so far did not have this technology indigenously

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an Advanced Chaff Technology to safeguard fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) against hostile radar threats.

What is Advanced Chaff Technology?

- **Chaff is an electronic countermeasure technology.** It is used by militaries worldwide to protect their assets like naval vessels and aircraft **from radar and radio frequency (RF) guiding mechanisms of the enemy missile.**
- A very little quantity of chaff material deployed in the air acts as a decoy.
- **The chaff** deployed in the air reflects multiple targets for the missile guidance systems, thus misleading the enemy radars or deflecting adversary missiles.

Read more: [DRDO develops Advanced Chaff Technology for Indian Air Force](#)

Q.22) Which of the following is/are applications of **Facial Recognition Technology**?

1. Better identification of criminals
2. Biometric attendance at companies
3. Student authentication mechanism

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

All the statements are correct

Source: [Article](#)

Q.23) Consider the following statements about Chikungunya disease

1. It is a bacterial disease transmitted to humans by the mosquitoes
2. At present, there is no vaccine to treat/prevent Chikungunya disease

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is a viral disease transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes. Chikungunya virus is most often spread to people by *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes. These are the same mosquitoes that transmit dengue virus.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Presently, There is no vaccine to prevent or medicine to treat Chikungunya virus infection.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.24) Consider the following statements regarding **Zycov-D vaccine**

1. It is the world's first and India's indigenously developed DNA based vaccine for COVID-19.
2. The vaccine is an intradermal vaccine which means it is applied using a 'needle-free injector'.
3. Zycov-D will be given in single dose

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Drugs Controller General of India's (DCGI's) has granted emergency approval for Zycov-D vaccine.

About Zycov-D:

- **Zycov-D** is a DNA plasmid-based Covid-19 vaccine developed by Zycov Cadilla Group in partnership with the Department of Biotechnology under the '[Mission COVID Suraksha](#)'.
- **It is the world's first** and India's indigenously developed DNA based vaccine for COVID-19.
- **The vaccine is an** intradermal vaccine which means it is applied using a 'needle-free injector'.
- **The vaccine is to be administered** in humans, including Children and adults 12 years and above.
- **Unlike other Covid-19 vaccines** which are given in two doses, Zycov-D will be given in three doses with an interval of 28 days between each dose.

Read more: [Zyudus Cadila vaccine gets emergency nod](#)

Q.25) Consider the following statements regarding **phagocytosis**

1. It is a process by which the immune cells ingest and destroy foreign and damaged cells
2. The phagocyte may be a free-living one-celled organism or one of the body cells

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:

A new study has identified for the first time that specialised immune cells (phagocytic cells) exist in certain varieties of sea corals and anemones. These cells help understand how the **organisms protect themselves from viruses and bacteria** in the marine ecosystem.

What is phagocytosis?

- Immune cells ingest and destroy foreign and damaged cells through a process called phagocytosis.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- The phagocyte may be a free-living one-celled organism, such as an amoeba, or one of the body cells, such as a white blood cell.
- In some forms of animal life, such as amoebas and sponges, phagocytosis is a means of feeding.
- In higher animals, phagocytosis is chiefly a defensive reaction against infection and invasion of the body by foreign substances (antigens).

Source: [Down To Earth](#)

Q.26) Consider the following statements regarding mRNA vaccines:

1. They use live viruses to trigger an immune response in the body.
2. mRNA Vaccines are stable at high temperatures, making packaging and distribution easy.

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.

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Traditional vaccines perform this task by introducing a dead, inactive or modified portion of a virus into our body so that our immune system can learn to recognize and fight this foreign invader. **On the other hand,** mRNA vaccines are a new type of vaccine. They don't use live viruses to trigger an immune response. Instead, they supply mRNA that instructs our cells to make a version of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein that will trigger an immune response. Once triggered, the body will make antibodies. These antibodies will help to fight the infection if the real virus enters the body in the future.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** mRNA Vaccines are not as stable at high temperatures, making packaging and distribution difficult.

Source: [Article](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Agriculture - MAJOR CROPS, CROPPING PATTERNS AND ASSOCIATED TECHNOLOGIES

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **Kendu Leaf**

1. It is native to India and Sri Lanka.
2. Odisha is the top producer of Kendu leaves in India
3. These are used to treat malaria, diarrhoea, and dysentery

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently, several children were seen collecting kendu leaves in the Joradobra Phadi (kendu leaf collection center) in Odisha's Kalahandi district. This was a clear violation of child rights and also a reflection of the shoddy state of affairs across the state.

About Kendu Leaf:

- **Kendu Leaf** is a species of flowering tree in the family Ebenaceae. It is native to India and Sri Lanka.
- **The states producing Kendu leaves** in India comprise mainly Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, and Maharashtra.

Kendu Leaf in Odisha:

- **Kendu leaf** is called the green gold of Odisha. It is a nationalized product, like bamboo and the sal seed. It is one of the most important non-wood forest products in Odisha.
- **Odisha is the third-largest producer** of kendu leaf, after Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

Uses of Kendu Leaf:

- **The Kendu leaves** are used to wrap bidis, a popular smoke among the locals.
- **Tribals living in remote forests**, pluck the Kendu leaves and sell them in the market to earn their livelihood.
- **Traditional medical practitioners** use Kendu Leaves to treat malaria, diarrhoea, and dysentery. Due to their antimicrobial properties, the leaves are applied to cuts and bruises as well.

Read more: [Kendu leaf trade: Stringent laws needed to keep children out](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Yojana (PDDUUKSY)**

1. The scheme aims to develop the human resource in organic farming, natural farming and cow based economy for environmental sustenance and soil health.
2. The scheme was launched by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Recently, Government has organized 108 training programmes for the awareness of the farmers across 24 states/UTs under the Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Yojana(PDDUUKSY).

About the scheme:

- **The scheme** was launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
 - **Aim:** To develop the human resource in organic farming, natural farming and cow based economy for environmental sustenance and soil health.
 - **Objectives:**
 - **To build** skilled Human Resource at village level who are relevant for development organic farming and sustainable agriculture.
 - **Provide** rural India with technical support in the field of Organic Farming or Natural Farming or Rural Economy or Sustainable Agriculture.
 - **Implementation:** Education wing of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research(ICAR).
- Read More: [Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Unnat Krishi Shiksha Yojana\(PDDUUKSY\)](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

International Relations - ORGANIZATIONS, INITIATIVES AND CAMPAIGNS

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **International Air Transport Association (IATA)**

1. It is a trade association for the world's airlines.
2. It is headquartered in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

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 the statements are correct

About IATA:

- International Air Transport Association (IATA) is a trade association for the world's airlines.
- It represents some 290 airlines primarily major carriers, representing 117 countries, accounting for 82% of total air traffic.
- It was established in April 1945 and is a successor to International Air Traffic Association established in 1919.
- It is headquartered in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Read more: [International Air Transport Association \(IATA\)](#)

Source: [Business Standard](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding **United Nation Security Council**

1. The council's presidency always remains with the permanent members
2. The council is headquartered at New York.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Recently, India assumed the presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the month of August 2021.

About UNSC:

The UN Security Council is **one of the UN's 6 main organs**. The other 5 organs are; the General Assembly, the Trusteeship Council, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Secretariat. It is aimed at maintaining international peace and security. It held its first session on 17 January 1946 in Westminster, London.

Headquarters: New York, United States

Members Countries: The UNSC has 15 members consisting of permanent and non-permanent members.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Presidency: The Presidency of the UNSC rotates alphabetically among 15 members every month.

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

Q.3) Abraham Accords was sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following correctly explains it?

- This is a peace process between the United States, Afghanistan government and Taliban
- This is an informal agreement between European Nations to permit free movement of fully vaccinated individual
- These are a joint statement made between Israel, the United States and the United Arab Emirates to normalize Israel-UAE relations.
- These are agreement between India and China to resolve bilateral disputes in peaceful manner

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Abraham Accords

These are a joint statement made between Israel, the United States and the United Arab Emirates on August 13, 2020. It also refers to the agreement reached between Israel, Bahrain and the UAE to normalise relations between the them.

The accords are named after the patriarch Abraham regards as a prophet in both Judaism and Islam.

Read more: [Abraham Accords](#)

Source: [Making a case for Indo-Abrahamic accord](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding **Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP)**

- It is an international organization and political association of Lusophone nations where Portuguese is an official language.
- India has joined the CPLP as Associate Observer in this year.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Minister for External Affairs said that India has joined the Community of Portuguese Language Countries, CPLP as Associate Observer in July this year. this sets a new platform for strengthening India's historic bonds of friendship with Lusophone countries.

About CPLP:

- The Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) is also known as the Lusophone Commonwealth.
- It is an international organization and political association of Lusophone nations across four continents, where Portuguese is an official language.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- The CPLP consists of 9 member states and 32 associate observers, located in Europe, South America, Asia, Africa and Oceania, totaling 37 countries and 4 organizations.
- It was founded in 1996, in Lisbon.

Source: [All India Radio](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding **Hunger Hotspots Report**

1. It is jointly released by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Food Program (WFP)
2. According to the report, India is one of the Hunger Hotspot

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 Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Food Program (WFP) has released a new report titled "Hunger Hotspots".

About Hunger Hotspots Report:

- **The Hunger Hotspots Report** is an early-warning analysis of countries and situations called hotspots where acute food insecurity is likely to deteriorate over the coming months.
- **Hunger** is expected to rise in 23 global hotspot countries in the next three months.
- **The highest alerts** for "catastrophic" situations are in Ethiopia's Tigray region, southern Madagascar, Yemen, South Sudan and northern Nigeria.
- **Note:** India is not one of the Hotspot countries.

Read more: UN warns hunger is expected to rise in 23 global hotspots

Q.6) **Samudra Shakti** is a joint naval exercise between India and which other country?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Thailand
- c) Brunei
- d) Philippines

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- Samudra Shakti is a joint naval exercise between India and Indonesia

Source: [Article](#)

Q.7) Match List-I with List-II and select correct answers using code given below

Defence exercise Country with which India is participating

- | | |
|--------------------|--------|
| 1. Mitra Shakti | France |
| 2. Dharma Guardian | Japan |
| 3. Zair Al Bahr | Oman |
| 4. Indra | Russia |

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

- a) 1 and 2 only

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

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

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Defence exercise Country with which India is participating

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| 1. Mitra Shakti | Sri Lanka |
| 2. Dharma Guardian | Japan |
| 3. Zair Al Bahr | Qatar |
| 4. Indra | Russia |

Source: [TheHindu](#)

Q.8) Consider the following statements regarding QUAD

1. It is a formal grouping which meets in 2+2 format
2. It includes India, Japan, Australia, USA
3. Malabar exercise is conducted under the aegis of QUAD

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

QUAD:

Statement 1 is incorrect--It is an informal group and it does not include defence ministers meeting

Statement 2 is correct

Statement 3 is incorrect --Malabar exercise is standalone exercise and not linked to Quad. It is an annual trilateral naval exercise between the navies of India, Japan, and the USA which is held alternately in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Source: [Hindustan Times](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statement regarding ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations):

1. It was established with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration.
2. Its founding countries are Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

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**

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** its founding members are **Malaysia**, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand

About ASEAN:

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand.
- It was established with the signing of an ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the ministers of the founding countries.
- Its founding countries are Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- Eventually, Brunei Darussalam then joined on 7 January 1984, Vietnam on 28 July 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999, making up to ten Member States of ASEAN

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding **International Solar Alliance**

1. The membership of ISA is limited to countries partially or entirely located within the tropics.
2. The ISA is headquartered in Gurugram, Haryana.

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:

- Membership to the ISA was earlier limited to 121 countries, which were partially or entirely located within the tropics. This didn't allow major solar energy economies such as Germany to join the alliance that is being increasingly seen as a foreign policy tool. So, on 8th January 2021, The ISA opened its Membership to all Member States of the United Nations.
- Recently, Germany became the 5th country to sign International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement after amendments to it entered into force.
- The ISA is headquartered in Gurugram, Haryana.

Source: [All India Radio](#)

Q.11) **Uniting for Consensus group includes which of the following countries?**

1. China
2. Pakistan
3. Argentina

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:

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- Uniting for Consensus (UfC) is a movement, nicknamed the **Coffee Club**, that developed in the 1990s in opposition to the possible expansion of the United Nations Security Council.
- **UFC group – Pakistan, South Korea, Italy and Argentina**

Source: [Article](#)

Q.12) The Carbon Border Tax is sometime seen in news is associated with which of the following organization?

- a) European Union
- b) G20
- c) G7
- d) ASEAN

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Source: [Article](#)

Q.13) Consider the following statement regarding Information Fusion Centre (IFC)

1. It links all the coastal radar chains to generate a seamless real-time picture of the India's coastline.
2. Only the countries having white shipping agreements with India are IFC partners.

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.

About IFC-IOR:

- The IFC-IOR has been established at the Indian Navy's Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) in Gurugram, Haryana.
- It is the single point center linking all the coastal radar chains to generate a seamless real-time picture of the nearly 7,500-km coastline.
- It has been established with the vision of strengthening maritime security in the region and beyond by building a common coherent maritime situation picture and acting as a maritime information hub for the region.
- The IFC will share White Shipping Information with the countries. White shipping refers to commercial shipping information about the movement of cargo ships.
- All Countries that have signed the white shipping information agreement with India are IFC partners.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.14) Consider the following statements about UNSC:

1. It has 5 permanent & 15 non-permanent members
2. India has become a non-permanent member for the first time since independence
3. UNSC non-permanent members are selected for a two-year period.

Which of the following is/are not correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The council has 15 members: the five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members elected for two-year terms.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** India, for the eighth time, has entered the UNSC as a non-permanent member recently. It will stay on the council for two years i.e., 2021-22
- **Statement 3 is correct**

Recently, India assumed the presidency of UNSC for the month of August 2021

Source: The [Hindu](#)

Q.15) Consider the following statements regarding UNCLOS (United Nation Convention on the Law of Sea)

1. It is an international treaty which was adopted and signed at Rio conference
2. It replaced the four Geneva Conventions concerned with territorial sea, contiguous zone etc
3. International Sea Bed Authority is created under the convention

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: About UNCLOS:

- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is an international treaty which was adopted and signed in 1982.
- It lays down a comprehensive regime of law and order in the world's oceans and seas establishing rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources
- It replaced the four Geneva Conventions of April, 1958, which respectively concerned the territorial sea and the contiguous zone, the continental shelf, the high seas, fishing and conservation of living resources on the high seas.
- The Convention has created three new institutions on the international scene: the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the International Seabed Authority, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

Source: [Article](#)

Q.16) Zayed Talwar is a bilateral naval exercise between India and which other country?

- a) Saudi Arabia
- b) UAE
- c) Qatar
- d) Oman

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Source: [Article](#)

Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding The Internet Governance Forum (IGF):

1. This mode of engagement is referred to as the multi-stakeholder model of Internet Governance.
2. Funding of Internet Governance forum is managed by the UN Secretariat.

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:** IGF is financed through the extra-budgetary Trust Fund Account managed by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

Source: [Article](#)

Q.18) Consider the following statements about UNCLOS

1. It is the only international convention which provides framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces.
2. India is not the member of UNCLOS

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: India became a signatory to the UNCLOS in 1982

Source: [TheHindu](#)

Q.19) Consider the following statements regarding the non-refoulement principle:

1. Principle applies regardless of whether a person flees from a country that enjoys peace or a country involved in an armed conflict.
2. Non-refoulement is also enshrined under the Convention against Torture.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Both statements are correct

- The principle of *non-refoulement* is codified in **Article 33 of the Refugee Convention** and in regional refugee law instruments.
- Over the past decades, however, the principle has also been included in human rights treaties, such as
 - the **Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment** (Article 3),
 - the **International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance** (Article 16)
- The principle of *non-refoulement* **applies** regardless of whether a person flees from a country that enjoys peace or a country involved in an armed conflict. If there are substantial grounds for believing that the individual in question would be in danger of being subjected to violations of certain fundamental rights, the person cannot be returned. This would be the case, for instance, for a leader of an opposition group who would in all likelihood be tortured or summarily executed upon return.
- The principle of *non-refoulement* **prohibits** not only the direct forcible return of persons in the above-described situations, but also indirect measures that have the same effect.
- Principle of non-refoulement applies not only to recognized refugees, but also to those who have not had their status formally declared.
- The non-refoulement obligation under Article 33 of the 1951 Convention is **binding on all organs of a State party to the 1951 Convention and/or the 1967 Protocol**.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.20) Exercise Al-Mohed Al-Hindi is a bilateral naval exercise between India and which of the following country?

- Iran
- Turkey
- Saudi Arabia
- Azerbaijan

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Exercise Al-Mohed Al-Hindi** is a bilateral naval exercise between India and Saudi Arabia.
- **Purpose:** The exercise will showcase the reflection of growing defence and military cooperation between India and Saudi Arabia.
- **Features:** The exercise comprises a number of shore and sea-based drills between the two navies. From the Indian side, INS Kochi participated in the exercise.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.21) Consider the following statements regarding Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES):

1. It is specialised agency of UN focusing on biodiversity and ecosystem services
2. Secretariat of IPBES is provided by the UNEP

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect: It is not a United Nations body

Statement 2 is correct

About IPBES:

- The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is an independent intergovernmental body established by States
- Objective- to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development
- It was established in Panama City, on 21 April 2012 by 94 Governments.
- It is not a United Nations body. However, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services to IPBES.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.22) Consider the following statements UNITE AWARE Platform

1. It is the platform for funding startups selected through Defence India Startup Challenge
2. India in partnership with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations has launched this platform.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

India's External Affairs Minister has announced the launch of the UNITE AWARE platform.

About UNITE AWARE Platform:

- **Launched by:** India in partnership with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Operational Support.
- **Purpose:** UNITE Aware is a technology platform that **utilises modern surveillance technology for real-time threat assessments** to UN peacekeepers and helps them enhance their security.

Read more: [Foreign Minister announces rollout of tech to help protect U.N. peacekeepers](#)

Q.23) Consider the following statements regarding the Prime Global Cities Index:

1. It has been released by World Economic Forum
2. While Delhi's ranking witnessed fall, both Mumbai and Bangalore improved their performance

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Both the statements are incorrect

Source: [Article](#)

Q.24) “Zayed Talwar “naval exercise held between India & which of the following countries

- a) Audi Arabia
- b) Iran
- c) Israel
- d) UAE

Correct Answer D

Source : [The Hindu](#)

Q.25) Which of the following gives the ‘Human Development Report’ ranking to the countries of the world?

- a) World Economic Forum
- b) International Monetary Fund
- c) UN Development Programme
- d) World Health Organization

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

India ranked 131 among 189 countries on the Human Development Index (HDI) for 2019, slipping two places from the previous year, according to the Human Development Report (HDR) 2020 released by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

The other indices that form the part of the Report are:

1. Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI),
2. Gender Development Index (GDI),
3. Gender Inequality Index (GII) and
4. Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.26) **The Future of Jobs** report was recently seen in news. Which of the following organization has released the report?

- a) World Bank
- b) International Labour Organization
- c) UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)
- d) World Economic Forum (WEF)

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

In 2020, World Economic Forum (WEF) came out with its report titled – *The Future of Jobs*.

Significance

The report tries to answer this question – will Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology take over our jobs?

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Findings

- **Double-disruption:** Automation, in tandem with the COVID-19 recession, is creating a 'double-disruption' scenario for workers. While some businesses surveyed indicated that they are set to reduce their workforce due to technology integration, some have plans to expand their workforce. Some businesses also plan to expand their use of contractors for task-specialized work.
- **By 2025, the time spent on current tasks at work by humans and machines will be equal.** In 2020, humans did 2/3rd of work and machines the rest; just five years hence, the human-machine split will be nearly equal.

Read more: [Data science and digital coding could soon be the new English](#)

Q.27) Villingli, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi were sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following correctly explains them?

- a) Tribes in Afghanistan
- b) Newly discovered methane deposits in Iran
- c) Islands of Maldives
- d) New species of frogs

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently, India and Maldives have signed a pact for the construction of a \$500 million Greater Male Connectivity Project.

The project involves the construction of a 6.74-km-long bridge and causeway link that will connect the Maldives capital Malé with the neighbouring islands of Villingli, Gulhifalhu and Thilafushi.

Read more: [What signing of the \\$500m India-Maldives mega-infra project means](#)

Q.28) Incel Movement was seen in the news recently. Which of the following correctly explains the movement?

- a) It is a movement that support the local population to fight against western countries and to become independent like the Taliban
- b) It is a movement of men which have a deep resentment towards both women and other men who are sexually active.
- c) It is a movement that oppose any actions that degrade environment.
- d) It is a movement that is against the technological equipments and they support old traditional method to improve people to people connectivity.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Experts have warned that the 'incel' movement is slowly becoming a threat to law and order.

- The movement came into the spotlight yet again in the UK's Plymouth, where a 22-year-old man shot dead five people, including a toddler.

About Incel Movement:

- Incels are a large online community of men who describe themselves as "involuntary celibates".(Celibates means a person who abstains from marriage and sexual relations).
- Men who are part of this movement have a deep resentment towards both women and other men who are sexually active.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- They blame women for their own lack of sexual and social status. Moreover, an extreme section of Incels even advocates violence against women.

Read more: [What is the incel movement?](#)

Q.29) Konkan exercise, in news, held between India & which of the following countries

- USA
- Japan
- UK
- Australia

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

Source: [HT](#)

Q.30) Consider the following statements regarding United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification:

1. legally binding international agreement which links environment and development to sustainable land management
2. Desertification is a type of land degradation in which the biological productivity of land is lost due to natural processes only

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 2 is incorrect

About UNCCD:

- It was established in 1994
- It is the **sole legally binding international agreement** linking environment and development to sustainable land management.
- The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the dryland, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found
- The Convention's 197 parties work together to improve the living conditions for people in drylands, to maintain and restore land and soil productivity, and to mitigate the effects of drought.
- The UNCCD is particularly committed to a bottom-up approach, encouraging the participation of local people in combating desertification and land degradation.
- The UNCCD secretariat facilitates cooperation between developed and developing countries, particularly around knowledge and technology transfer for sustainable land management.
- The UNCCD collaborates closely with the other **two Rio Conventions– The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- **India** for the first time hosted the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (**COP-14**) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September 2019

Source: [Article](#)

Q.31) Consider the following statement regarding Regional Economic Cooperation Council:

1. The 37th ASEAN Summit led to emergence of RCEP which will be world's largest trading bloc
2. Apart from ASEAN members USA, Japan and Australia are its key member

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 2 is incorrect

About RCEP:

- The 37th ASEAN Summit led to the emergence of RCEP.
- **Members:** It consists of 16 members, including 10 members from Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as well as South Korea, China, Japan, Australia and New Zealand.
- Members of the RCEP make up nearly a third of the world's population and account for 29% of global gross domestic product (GDP)
- It aims to eliminate tariffs on import in the next 20 years. It also includes provisions on intellectual property, telecommunications, financial services, e-commerce and professional services.
- Negotiations over an RCEP deal began in 2012. **India** was also part of the negotiations, but it **pulled out** in 2019 over concerns that lower tariffs could hurt local producers

Source: [Article](#)

Q.32) Oslo Accords was recently seen in the news. Which of the following correctly explains the accord?

- a) These are the agreements signed between the US and the Taliban regarding the withdrawal of US military
- b) These are the series of agreements signed between developing countries to reduce nuclear weapon arsenal
- c) These are the agreements between ISIS and the Taliban to spread Islamic rule in the entire West Asia region
- d) These are series of agreements between Israel and the Palestinians signed in the 1990s

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

- August 20, 2021 marks 28 years since the Oslo I Accord was finalized and signed after multiple rounds of intense secret negotiations, in a bid to advance a lasting peace process for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Oslo Accords

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Oslo Accords are a series of agreements between Israel and the Palestinians signed in the 1990s.

- Oslo I (1993) is formally known as the Declaration of Principles (DOP).
- The accord was the result of secret negotiations facilitated by then-US president Bill Clinton, and later followed up in 1995 by the Oslo II Accord.
- Oslo Accords were heralded by many as the closest to ever truly solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.33) Exercise Indradhanush is a joint bilateral exercise between India and?

- a) UK
- b) Australia
- c) France
- d) Malaysia

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

It is a joint bilateral air exercise between India and the UK started in 2006.

Q.34) Consider the following statements regarding World water week 2021

1. The world water week is hosted and conducted by UN-Water
2. The theme for 2021 is Building Resilience Faster.

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 National Mission for Clean Ganga(NMCG) recently hosted a Meet & Mingle session on 'Integrated River Basin Management(IRBM): Stakeholder Engagement on the Stockholm World Water Week 2021.

- World Water Week is the leading annual global event for concretely addressing the planet's major water issues. The world water week is **hosted and conducted by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)**.
- For 2021, World Water Week is being held entirely online.
- The theme for 2021 is **Building Resilience Faster**.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.35) Consider the following statement regarding The World Climate and Security report 2020:

1. It has been published by World Economic Forum
2. According to the report, forced displacement and scale of natural disasters would decrease by 2040

Which of the following statement is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Source: [Article](#)

Q.36) Consider the following statements regarding **Arctic Council**:

1. Ottawa declaration led to establishment of Arctic Council
2. While China is an associate member, India has been its Observer

Which of the following is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 2 is incorrect- Both India and China are its observer member

Source: [Article](#)

Q.37) Consider the following pairs of India's evacuation mission

1. Operation Devi Shakti - Afghanistan
2. Operation Safe Homecoming – Nepal
3. Operation Sukoon - Lebanon

Which of the above pairs is/are matched correctly?

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

India has given a name to its operation to evacuate its citizens from war-torn Afghanistan. It has called the operation as 'Operation Devi Shakti'.

Operation Safe Homecoming was performed in Libya during the Libyan Civil war

Read more: [India's evacuation mission from Afghanistan named "Operation Devi Shakti"](#)

Q.38) Consider the following statement regarding International Solar Alliance:

1. It is an intergovernmental body registered with United Nation
2. It is open only for the countries which lies between two tropics

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

Statement 2 is incorrect: the recent amendment to ISA charter has made it open to all the member countries of ISA

About ISA:

- It is an **intergovernmental body** registered with **the United Nations** under Article 102 of the UN Charter.
- The ISA is open to 122 countries, most of them located between the **Tropics of Cancer** and **Capricorn**.
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was conceived as a coalition of solar-resource-rich countries to address their special energy needs.
- It is a treaty-based organization working to create a global market system to tap the benefits of solar power and promote clean energy applications

Source: [Article](#)

Q.39) Which among the following has released the “**The Climate Crisis Is a Child’s Rights Crisis**”?

- IUCN and UNEP
- UNICEF and UNEP
- UNICEF and Fridays for Future
- World bank and WEF

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Source: [Article](#).

Q.40) Consider the following statements regarding UNHRC

1. It is responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the world.
2. Its provisions are binding on the member countries
3. India, is the member of UNHRC

Which of the above statement 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:

About UNHRC [UNHRC](#)

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.41) 1988 Sanctions Committee sometimes seen in news is associated with?

- a) The sanctions measures imposed by the Security Council against Taliban
- b) To monitor and implement the arms embargo on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.
- c) to oversee the UN sanctions imposed against the Iran’s nuclear and ballistic missile programme.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

d) To monitor the implementation of the resolution, which requested countries to implement a wide range of counter-terrorism measures

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

GEOGRAPHY

Q.1) Nubra river is a tributary of which of the following river?

- a) Lidder
- b) Shyok
- c) Jhelum
- d) Chenab

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- Nubra is the right bank tributary of Shyok River.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Pensilungpa Glacier was sometime seen in news. It is located in which of the following State/UT?

- a) Assam
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Kerala
- d) Ladakh

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

According to a recent study by Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), Pensilungpa Glacier (PG) located in Ladakh's Zaskar Valley is retreating.

Key Findings of the Study:

- **Pensilungpa Glacier (PG)** located in Zaskar, Ladakh is retreating. The study has attributed the retreat to an **increase in the temperature and decrease in precipitation during winters.**
- **The study also points** to the significant influence of debris cover on the mass balance and retreat of the glacier's endpoint, especially in summer.
- **It is also possible** that the **precipitation of summer periods at higher altitudes will change from snow to rain**, and that may influence the summer and winter patterns.

Read more: [Increasing Temperature and Low Winter Precipitation are Causing Retreat of Glaciers in Zaskar Valley, Ladakh](#)

Q.3) Parechu river is the tributary of which of the following rivers?

- a) Spiti
- b) Shyok
- c) Tons
- d) Pabbar

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

- Parechu river is a left bank tributary of the Spiti river.

Source: [Article](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC):

1. It carries warm surface waters from the tropics towards the Equator.
2. Melting of glaciers weakens this circulation.
3. It is distributed to all ocean basins via the Antarctic circumpolar current.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** AMOC carries warm surface waters from the tropics towards the Northern Hemisphere, where it cools and sinks. It then returns to the tropics and then to the South Atlantic as a bottom current. From there it is distributed to all ocean basins via the Antarctic circumpolar current.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Researchers have found that a part of the Arctic's ice called the "Last Ice Area" has also melted. The freshwater from the melting ice reduces the salinity and density of the water. Now, the water is unable to sink as it used to and weakens the AMOC flow.
- **Statement 3 is correct**

Source: [Article](#)

Q.5) Euboea or Evia Island was recently seen in the news. In which of the following country the island is located?

- a) Egypt
- b) Spain
- c) Indonaesia
- d) Greece

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Wildfires are continuing to rip through the Greek island of Evia with strong winds driving flames towards villages. Greece is experiencing its most severe heatwave in 30 years in which temperatures have spiked to 45C.

About Euboea:

Euboea or Evia is the second-largest Greek island in area and population, after Crete.

It is separated from Boeotia in mainland Greece by the narrow Euripus Strait.

Euboea was believed to have originally formed part of the mainland, and to have been separated from it by an earthquake. This is fairly probable, because it lies in the neighbourhood of a fault line.

Source: [All India Radio](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding landslide:

1. It occurs either in cold climates or in high altitudes where the mass of the saturated rock waste moves down the slope.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

2. It is caused by natural as well as anthropogenic factors
3. Earthquake & Rainfall are some of the triggers for the landslides

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer B

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect: That is the definition of solifluction

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.7) Consider the following statement with respect to solar geo-engineering:

1. It is specific form of albedo modification to reduce incoming solar radiation
2. Placing of huge mirrors in the orbit, brightening of natural clouds are some of the methods of solar geo-engineering

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Both the statements are correct

Source: [Article](#)

Q.8) Kanal Istanbul was seen recently in news. The canal connects which of the following two seas?

- a) Sea of Marmara and Aegean Sea
- b) Black Sea and Sea of Marmara
- c) Aegean Sea and Mediterranean Sea
- d) None of the above

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

The Kanal Istanbul, an under-construction shipping route running parallel to the strategically critical Bosphorus Strait, is fast gaining prominence as a major divisive issue in Turkey.

About the Kanal Istanbul:

Source: Wikipedia

- It is a planned canal that connects the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara.
- The planned canal will run parallel to the Bosphorus Strait, a natural waterway that separates Europe and Asia, which for centuries has served as a key outlet for Russian ships entering the Mediterranean Sea.
- Since 1936, passage through the Strait has been governed by the Montreux Convention, a multilateral treaty that allows ships to go across almost free of cost during peacetime, and which tightly restricts the movement of naval vessels.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- Analysts also believe that the canal was planned to circumvent Montreux Convention
- Turkish leaders say that the new canal, which will run on the European side of Bosphorus, will be safer and faster to navigate compared to the Bosphorus, making it a more attractive option for commercial ships

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements regarding corals

1. Corals are known as rainforests of the sea
2. In India, coral reefs can only be found near Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep Islands.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Statement 2 is incorrect: In India, it can be found in Gulf of Mannar, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep islands and the Gulf of Kutch

Source: [DTE](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Economy - MONEY AND BANKING

Q.1) Minsky moment was sometimes seen in the news. Which of the following correctly explains the term?

- It is a plan to establish multiple new startups to weed out inefficient firms
- It is the time where the government's fiscal deficit goes beyond the ability of government to repay them.
- It marks the decline of asset prices, causing mass panic and the inability of debtors to pay their interest and principal.
- It is a plan to establish a Sodium fast reactor demonstration project collaboration with private and government.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Our small and medium scale sector is facing a Minsky moment.

- The Minsky moment marks the decline of asset prices, causing mass panic and the inability of debtors to pay their interest and principal.
- India has reached its Minsky moment. Several banks and financial institutions have collapsed in the last 18 months in India.
- As a result of the above causes, credit growth is at a multi-year low of 5.6%. Banks do not want to risk any more loans on their books.
- This will further dampen demand for real estate and automobiles once the pent-up demand is over.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Read more: [A cycle of low growth, higher inflation](#)

Q.2) Which of the following is/are ways by which advanced-economy firms can ensure input supply chain resilience?

- Shifting production to developing countries
- Having a lower inventory size
- Diversification of input sources

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Only statement 3 is correct

Ways to strengthen supply-chain resilience

There are three ways firms can make their input supplies more resilient, and only one of them requires government involvement.

1]. Re-shoring production from developing countries: One option is to re-shore production from developing countries. COVID-crisis, by increasing the relative costs of supply chains, has accelerated a re-shoring trend that began with the 2008-09 global financial crisis. Supply

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

chains have become more expensive. The price of containers used to ship goods from Asia to the West have risen eightfold.

- Re-shoring means to transfer a business operation that was moved overseas back to the country from which it was originally relocated.

2]. Creation of large inventories: A second way for firms to insure against supply-chain shocks is to create large inventories.

3]. Diversification of input sources: Companies can dual-source or even triple-source inputs, relying on suppliers from different continents to counter the risk. But this diversification strategy has its limits. For example, a highly specialized supplier that invests in research and development for a specific input is not easily replaceable.

- **Heavy regional concentrations** of suppliers also make diversification difficult. Most producers of chips, battery cells, rare earth materials and pharma ingredients are based in Asia.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.3) Kuthiran Tunnel was sometimes seen in the news. The tunnel is located in which of the following state/UT?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Assam
- c) Kerala
- d) Jammu and Kashmir

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari instructed to open one side of the Kuthiran Tunnel in Kerala.

About the Kuthiran Tunnel:

- This is the first road tunnel in Kerala and it will drastically improve connectivity to Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- The 1.6 km long tunnel is designed through Peechi- Vazahani wildlife sanctuary.
- The road will improve connectivity to important ports and towns in North – South Corridor without endangering wildlife.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statement about the Monetary policy of India:

1. The primary objective of monetary policy is to maintain price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth.
2. RBI has been given exclusive jurisdiction over monetary policy in India under Banking Regulation Act 1949

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Correct Answer: A

Explanation:

About Monetary Policy

Monetary policy refers to the policy of the central bank with regard to the use of monetary instruments under its control to achieve the goals specified in the Act. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is vested with the responsibility of conducting monetary policy. This responsibility is explicitly mandated under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

Objective: The primary objective of monetary policy is to maintain price stability while keeping in mind the objective of growth. Price stability is a necessary precondition to sustainable growth. In May 2016, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934 was amended to provide a statutory basis for the implementation of the flexible inflation targeting framework

Source: [Article](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding Insolvency and Bankruptcy code 2016

1. The code replaced all the existing laws and created a uniform procedure to resolve insolvency and bankruptcy disputes
2. The code aims to resolve insolvencies in a strict time-bound manner – the evaluation and viability determination must be completed within 180 days.
3. It has created Information utilities to keep a record of debts given by creditors along with details of repayments/ dishonor of debt.

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:

About IBC 2016:

- The 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. The framework includes:
 - a. **Insolvency Professionals:** They will **administer** the resolution process. They also manage the assets of the debtor and provide information for creditors to assist them in decision-making.
 - b. **Insolvency Professional Agencies:** The insolvency professionals will be registered with insolvency professional agencies. The agencies would conduct examinations to certify the insolvency professionals and enforce a code of conduct for their performance.
 - c. **Information utilities:** They will keep a record of debts given by creditors along with details of repayments/ dishonor of debt.
 - d. **Adjudicating authorities:** They will give the approval to initiate the resolution process, appoint the insolvency professional, and approve the final decision of creditors.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- i. **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT):** It is the adjudicating authority for companies and limited liability entities
- ii. **Debt Recovery Tribunal:** It is the adjudicating authority for individuals and partnership firms.
- e. **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board:** The Board will **regulate** insolvency professionals, insolvency professional agencies and information utilities set up under the Code.
 - The code aims to resolve insolvencies in a strict time-bound manner – the evaluation and viability determination must be completed within 180 days.
 - Moratorium period of 180 days (extendable up to 270 days) for the Company. For startups and small companies, the resolution time period is 90 days which can be extended by 45 days.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding SWIFT:

1. It provides a network that enables financial institutions worldwide to send and receive information about financial transactions.
2. It is a global member-owned cooperative that is headquartered in Belgium.

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

- Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) provides a network that enables financial institutions worldwide to send and receive information about financial transactions in a secure, standardized and reliable environment. In other words, It transports messages from one bank to its intended bank recipient.
- SWIFT is a global member-owned cooperative that is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. It was founded in 1973 by a group of 239 banks from 15 countries. It was formed as a co-operative utility to develop a secure electronic messaging service and common standards to facilitate cross-border payments.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Public Enterprises Survey

1. This is the first time the survey is conducted in India
2. Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) under Ministry of Finance will conduct the survey

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: Recently, The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Ministry of Finance has released the Annual Public Enterprises Survey 2019-20.

Brief history of the Public Enterprises (PE) survey:

- **The Estimates Committee** in its 73rd Report (2nd Lok Sabha) in Financial Year 1959-60 recommended that there should be a detailed report highlighting the performance of CPSEs.
- **The Bureau of Public Enterprises** under the Ministry of Finance (now Department of Public Enterprises in the Ministry of Finance) drafted the first Public Enterprises Survey in the Financial Year 1960-61.

Public Enterprises Survey 2019-20

- **The Public Enterprises Survey 2019-20** is the 60th publication in this series. It provides essential statistical data for all CPSEs from various perspectives.

Source: [DPE brings out 60th annual Public Enterprises Survey 2019-20](#)

Q.8) Which of the following group of countries share border with Afghanistan

- a) Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Russia
- b) Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan
- c) Iran, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan
- d) China, Iran, Russia

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

It is bordered by Pakistan to the east and south, Iran to the west, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan to the north, and China to the northeast

Source: [India.com](#)

Q.9) With which following group of countries Israel share its border with:

- a) Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt
- b) Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Jordan
- c) Cyprus, Turkey, Jordan, Egypt
- d) Turkey Syria, Iraq, Yemen

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Israel, a country in the Middle East bordering the eastern end of Mediterranean Sea Israel borders Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Palestinian territories of West bank and Gaza Strip it shares maritime borders with Cyprus

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.10) Consider the following statements regarding Palm oil production and consumption in India:

1. India is the largest consumer of palm oil in the world
2. Palm oil production is leading to environmental issues such as deforestation and peat land conversion
3. Despite being second largest producer of palm oil, India is a net importer

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: A

Statement 3 is incorrect- Indonesia is the largest producer of palm oil, followed by Malaysia

Source: [Article](#)

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding Bullion

1. Bullion refers to physical gold and silver of high purity
2. It is often held as reserves by central banks
3. Bullion is always considered as a legal tender

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, 3

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has launched the pilot run for the International Bullion Exchange.

What is Bullion?

- Bullion refers to **physical gold and silver of high purity** that is often kept in the form of bars or coins.
- Bullion can sometimes be considered legal tender and is often held as reserves by central banks or held by institutional investors.
- **Investors can buy** or sell bullion through dealers who are active on one of several global bullion markets.

Read more: [Pilot Launch of International Bullion Exchange – The Gateway for Bullion Imports](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

History - INDIA UNDER GANDHIAN PHASE (TILL 1947)

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**

1. Bose left his Civil Services' apprenticeship after the Jallianwalla Bagh massacre
2. He acknowledges Gopala Krishna Gokhale as his political guru.
3. At the Tripuri Session in 1939, Netaji again won the presidential elections against Gandhi's candidate Pattabhi Sitaramayya.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Recently, the government has declared 23rd January as Parakram Diwas to commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

About Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose:

- **Subhas Chandra Bose was** born on January 23, 1897, in Cuttack, Orissa. He was affectionately called Netaji.
- **In England**, he appeared for the Indian Civil Service competitive examination in 1920 and came out fourth in the order of merit.
- **However**, Bose was deeply disturbed by the Jallianwalla Bagh massacre and left his Civil Services' apprenticeship midway to return to India in 1921.
- **After returning to India**, Netaji joined the Indian National Congress. He started working under Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das whom he later acknowledged as his political guru.
- **In 1939 at the Tripuri Session**, Netaji again won the presidential elections against Gandhi's candidate Pattabhi Sitaramayya. But due to ideological differences with Gandhi, Bose resigned and left congress.

Read more: [Parakram Diwas to commemorate 125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

POLITY - EXECUTIVE

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding Governor's pardoning powers:

1. Governor can pardon, suspend, remit or commute the death sentence.
2. The Governor cannot grant pardon, reprieve or commutation in respect to punishment or sentence by a court-martial.

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: Governor cannot pardon a death sentence.

Statement 2 is correct

Pardoning Power of Governor:

- **Under Article 161**, the Governor shall have the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites, or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person. But the person should be convicted of any offence against any law which is under the executive power of the State.
- **Exceptions:**
 - The Governor cannot pardon the death sentence (the President has the power to do so). But the Governor can suspend, remit or commute the death sentence.
 - The Governor cannot grant pardon, reprieve, respite, suspension, remission, or commutation in respect to punishment or sentence by a court-martial. However, the President can do so.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Classical languages and Eighth Schedule of Indian Constitution

1. All the Classical Languages are listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
2. Unlike classical languages, there are no fixed criteria or guidelines for any language to be considered for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule.

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 the statements are correct.

Recently, the Union Minister of Education has informed in the Lok Sabha about the various steps taken by the government to promote the Languages in Eighth Schedule.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

About Eighth Schedule:

- It lists the official languages of the republic of India. Part XVII of the Indian constitution deals with the official languages in Articles 343 to 351.
- However, there are no fixed criteria for any language to be considered for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule.
- The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution consists of the following 22 languages

About Classical languages:

- Currently there are six languages that enjoy the 'Classical' status in India.
- The Ministry of Culture provides the guidelines regarding Classical languages. These are,
 - High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years;
 - A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.
 - The literary tradition is original and not borrowed from another speech community.
 - The classical language and literature being distinct from modern, there may also be a discontinuity between the classical language and its later forms or its offshoots.
- All the Classical Languages are listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Source: [PIB](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. Right to Strike is a fundamental right.
2. Essential Defence Services Bill curtails right to strike under certain circumstances for services like army, police etc.

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:** Right to strike is not a Fundamental Right
- **Statement 2 is correct**

Source: [No Fundamental Right To Strike](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP):

1. It functions under Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. ITBP personnel have also been deployed abroad in UN peacekeeping missions.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

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Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Both statements are correct

About ITBP:

- **Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBPF)** is a Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Origin:** ITBP was **initially raised in 1962 under the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Act, 1949** in the backdrop of **1962 during the India-China War**
- However, in 1992, parliament enacted the **ITBPF Act** and the rules were framed in 1994.
- **Mandate:** ITBP is India's primary border patrol organization for its border with China's Tibet Autonomous Region. It is also deployed for **Anti Naxal Operations** and other **internal security duties**.
- **Moreover**, ITBP personnel have also been deployed abroad in UN peacekeeping missions.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.5) In the Indian Parliament, purpose of adjournment Sine Die is

- To allow discussion on definite matter of urgent public importance
- To suspend the sitting of house for a particular period
- To terminate the sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period
- To postpone proceedings to check inappropriate behavior on part of some members

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

Adjournment Sine Die:

It means terminating the sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period. . The power of this lies in with the presiding officer of the house.

Source: [TOI](#)

Q.6) Consider the following statements regarding Parliamentary Committees

1. It works under the direction of Speaker/ Chairman
2. It has a secretariat provided by the President of India
3. Recommendations of these committees are of binding in nature
4. It presents its report to the house or to the Speaker/Chairman

Which of the following is/ are correct?

- 1, 2, 3
- 2 & 4
- 1 & 4
- 2, 3, 4

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

Statements 1 & 4 are correct

Statement 2 is incorrect: It has a secretariat provided by Lok Sabha/ Rajya Sabha

Statement 3 is incorrect: Parliament is not bound by recommendations of these committees. However, they hold a lot of weight.

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Source [The Hindu](#)

Q.7) Consider the following statements regarding Ayushman Bharat Jan Arogya yojana (PMJAY):

1. PMJAY will provide insurance up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year for in-patient secondary and tertiary treatment
2. Under the scheme the states are responsible for empaneling the hospitals

Which of the following is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: Both the statements are correct

Source: [Article](#)

Also read: [PMJAY](#)

Q.8) The 52nd Constitution Amendment deals with which of the following?

- a) Reservation of 30 % posts for women in government recruitments
- b) Free and compulsory education for all children between age of 6-14 years
- c) Continuation of reservation for backward classes in government employment
- d) Provides provisions related to Anti defection law in India

Correct Answer D

Explanation:

About Anti defection

- The 10th schedule was added to the constitution by the **52nd amendment in 1985**. This deals with the Anti defection process.
- The objective behind such a law was to prevent **political defections and provide stability** to the ruling government.
- As per the 10th schedule, a member can be disqualified if he/she votes contrary to his party directions. The **speaker/chairman** is the final deciding authority in this regard.
- The law is applicable to Parliament as well as state legislatures. Further, any person disqualified for defecting cannot get a ministerial position unless he/she gets re-elected.

Source [TOI](#)

Q.9) Consider the following statements about National Human Right Commission (NHRC)

1. It has the power of civil court and can grant interim relief.
2. It cannot investigate the complaint registered after one year of incident.
3. Its recommendations are binding in nature.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Statement 1 & 2 are right

Statement 3 is wrong

About NHRC

- NHRC investigates grievances regarding the violation of human rights either suo moto or after receiving a petition.
- It has the powers of a civil court and can grant interim relief.
- It has the power to interfere in any judicial proceedings involving any allegation of violation of human rights.
- It can visit any jail or any other institution under the control of the State Government to see the living conditions of the inmates and to make recommendations thereon.
- NHRC can only make recommendations, without the power to enforce decisions.
- A large number of grievances go unaddressed because NHRC cannot investigate the complaint registered after one year of incident.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

Q.10) Consider the following statements about Speaker

1. He/ She holds the office during the pleasure of the President
2. Speaker has the authority to decide whether the bill is money bill or not and his decision is final
3. Speaker continues in office even after the dissolution of the House & until immediately before the first meeting of the house

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

About Speaker: Speaker is the constitutional and ceremonial head of the House.

- Speaker holds Office from the date of his/her election till immediately before the first meeting of the next Lok Sabha (for 5 years).
- Once elected is eligible for re-election.
- Whenever the Lok Sabha is dissolved, the Speaker does not vacate his office and continues till the newly-elected Lok Sabha meets.

Source [Indian Express](#)

Q.11) Consider the following statements regarding the Social Audit:

1. It is legally mandated under section 17 of the MGNREG Act for all works in gram panchayat
2. Social audit is one of the key parameter to judge efficiency of states under Financial Management Index

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: d

Explanation:

About social audit:

- Section 17 of the MGNREG Act mandates social audit of all works in gram panchayats
- The Audit of Scheme Rules were notified in 2011, and The Auditing Standards for Social Audit were notified in 2016
- Social audit is a key parameter to judge the efficiency of states in management of finances under, Financial Management Index released by Rural Development Ministry
- The 2011 Rules say the state government will facilitate the social audit of work done under MGNREGA in every GP once every six months.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.12) Which of the following Fundamental Rights have been provided only to citizens of India and not to the foreigners living in India?

- a) Equality before law
- b) Freedom of Speech and expression
- c) Protection of life and personal liberty
- d) Freedom of religious practice

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Source [The Hindu](#)

Q.13) Consider the following statements regarding Chairman of Rajya Sabha house:

1. The vice president of India is the ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha
2. He has the authority to decide whether a bill is money bill or not
3. Like the speaker, he is also the member of the house

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct

Statement 2 is incorrect: The speaker decides whether the bill is money bill or not & his decision on this question is final

Statement 3 is incorrect: Unlike the Speaker (who is the member of the house), the chairman of Rajya Sabha is not the member of the house

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.14) Consider the following statements regarding **misconduct of members of Rajya Sabha**

1. The Rules of the House empower Parliament to inflict any punishment on its members
2. The power to suspend an MP is vested in the house, not the chairman.

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Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

- There are speculations in the Rajya Sabha (RS) over the punishment to MP for the misconduct.
- Chairman has the power to conduct smooth proceedings of the house.
- If any rules are violated, the Chairman has the power to initiate disciplinary action.
- However, the power to suspend an MP is vested in the house, not the chairman. The chairman only names the member, while the Parliamentary Affairs minister or any other minister moves the motion for suspending the member.
- But the Rules of the House **do not empower Parliament to inflict any punishment** on its members **other than suspension** for creating disorder in the House.

Read more: [How are Rajya Sabha members punished for misconduct in the House?](#)

Q.15) Which of the following is/are true about Supreme Court:

1. Supreme Court is the guarantor and defender of fundamental rights of citizens.
2. Writ jurisdiction of High Court is narrower than of Supreme Court

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Statement 2 is wrong: SC can issue writ only for the enforcement of Fundamental rights and not for other purposes. HC, on the other hand, can issue writ not only for the enforcement of FR but also for other purposes.

Thus, Writ jurisdiction of High Court is wider than of Supreme Court

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.16) The power to increase the number of judges in the Supreme court of India is vested in

- a) The Parliament
- b) The President of India
- c) The Chief justice of India
- d) Law Commission of India

Correct Answer A

Explanation:

Source [Indian Express](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Q.17) Consider the following statements regarding statehood of Delhi

1. Strength of Council of ministers is fixed at 15% for Delhi including the Chief Minister.
2. Chief Minister of Delhi is appointed by President of India not be the Lt governor

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 strength is fixed at 10% of total strength of the assembly

Statement 2 is correct: CM of Delhi is appointed by the President of India. The other ministers are appointed by the president on the advice of the CM. The ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President

Source: [TOI](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Governance: Judiciary and Tribunal

Q.1) B.N Srikrishna committee seen in news is related to

- To regulate digital lending platform in India
- To see Feasibility of Variable Capital Companies in International Financial Services Centres
- To review institutionalization of arbitration mechanism in India
- To formulate policy on disinvestment

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

B.N Srikrishna committee

Dispute management: -

- **Creation of IMC (inter-ministerial committee) with official from Min of finance, external affairs and law.**
- Hiring of external lawyers with expertise in BITs, Designated fund to fight BITs
- Creating post of "International law advisor" to the govt of India as a single authority to deal with all BITs

Dispute resolution-

- Establishment of BIT appellate mechanism and multilateral investment court.
- Focus on ISDS (investor state dispute resolution) mechanism as given in India's model BIT as an appellate mechanism to settle BIT disputes.

Source [IndianExpress](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statement regarding Abanindranath Tagore:

- He was associated with Indian Society of Oriental Art
- His work was majorly inspired from Western models of Art
- He was the creator of the iconic "Bharat Mata" painting

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct: He laid the foundation of 'Indian Society of Oriental Art' and later went on to establish the Bengal school of art.

Statement 2 is incorrect: He was the first major supporter of Swadeshi values in Indian art. To counter the western influence of art, he modernized Mughal & Rajput styles to give rise to modern Indian painting.

Statement 3 is correct: His other famous paintings include The Passing of Shah Jahan (1900), My Mother (1912-13), Fairyland illustration (1913), and Journey's End (circa 1913).

Source: [TheHindu](#)

Q.3) Quit India Movement was launched in response to

- Cabinet Mission plan
- Cripps Proposal

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- c) Simon Commission Report
- d) Wavell Plan

Correct Answer B

Explanation: British government sent a delegation to India under Sir Stafford Cripps to negotiate with the INC, a deal to obtain total cooperation during the war in return of progressive devolution and distribution of power from the crown and the Viceroy to an elected Indian legislature. The talks failed, as they did not address the key demand of self-government and only making an offer of limited dominion status which was unacceptable to the Indian movement

Source: [PIB](#)

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Agriculture - AGRI ALLIED SECTOR

Q.1) Consider the following statements regarding **IndiGau**

1. It is India's first Cattle Genomic Chip for the conservation of all the cattle species
2. These chips are launched by the Ministry of Science & Technology

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer: B

Explanation:

Recently Union Minister of Science & Technology has launched "IndiGau".

- **IndiGau** is India's first **Cattle Genomic Chip** for the conservation of pure varieties of indigenous cattle breeds like Gir, Kankrej, Sahiwal, Ongole etc.
- **Developed by:** National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NAIB), Hyderabad, an autonomous institution under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology.

Source: [Union Minister releases 'IndiGau' SNP based chip for conservation of cattle breeds](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL HISTORY: PRE-HISTORIC INDIA & INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

Q.1) Consider the following statements about Indus Valley civilization:

1. Evidences of temples have been found in this civilization.
2. Harappan knew the art of writing but their script has not been deciphered yet.
3. Chanhudaro was the only town without a citadel.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Correct Answer B

Explanation:

Statement 1 is wrong: No evidence of temples has been found in this civilization.

Statement 2 & 3 are correct

Source [Live Mint](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to city of Dholavira:

1. It lies on the island of Khadir Bet in Great Rann of Kutch
2. It has been recently included in UNESCO's world heritage list

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 and 2

Correct Answer: C

Explanation

Both the statements are correct.

Source: [Article](#)

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding Dravidian languages

1. These are a family of some 70 languages spoken primarily in South Asia.
2. The Dravidian language with the most speakers at present is Tamil

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 new research paper published in the journal 'Nature' has provided some interesting new insight into the linguistic culture of the Indus Valley Civilization. The paper said, Ancestral Dravidian languages were possibly spoken by a significant population in the Indus Valley civilization.

About the Dravidian Languages

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- Dravidian languages, a family of some 70 languages spoken primarily in South Asia. They are spoken by more than 215 million people in India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.
- The Dravidian languages with the most speakers are (in descending order of number of speakers) Telugu, Tamil, Kannada and Malayalam, all of which have long literary traditions. Smaller literary languages are Tulu and Kodava.
- There are also a number of Dravidian-speaking Scheduled Tribes, such as the Kurukh in Eastern India and Gondi in Central India.

Read more: [An ancient Dravidian language link with the Indus Valley civilisation](#)

Q.4) Consider the following statements regarding **Saroop**

1. It is a physical copy of Sri Guru Granth Sahib, also called Bir in Punjabi.
2. The Sikhs consider the saroop of Guru Granth Sahib as a living guru
3. The fifth Sikh master, Guru Arjan Dev declared the Guru Granth Sahib as the living Guru of the Sikhs.

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

Among the most striking images emerging from the flight of Sikhs from Afghanistan have been those of Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri carrying on his head, one of the saroops of the holy Guru Granth Sahib flown in from that country.

About Saroop:

- Saroop is a physical copy of Sri Guru Granth Sahib, also called Bir in Punjabi. Every Bir has 1,430 pages, which are referred to as Ang. The verses on every page remain the same.
- The Sikhs consider the saroop of Guru Granth Sahib a living guru and treat it with utmost respect. They believe that all the 10 Gurus were the same spirit in different bodies, and the Guru Granth Sahib is their eternal physical and spiritual form.
- It was the fifth Sikh master, Guru Arjan Dev, who compiled the first Bir of the Guru Granth Sahib in 1604, and installed it at the Golden Temple in Amritsar.
- Later, the tenth Sikh master, Guru Gobind Singh, added verses penned by the ninth master, his father Guru Tegh Bahadur, and compiled the Bir for the second and last time.
- It was in 1708 that Guru Gobind Singh declared the Guru Granth Sahib the living Guru of the Sikhs.

Source: [Indian Express](#)

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding **Hampi the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire**

- a) It is located in the Krishna river basin
- b) Krishnadevaraya made Hampi as the capital city.
- c) By 1500 CE, Hampi became the world's largest medieval-era city.
- d) Wide chariot streets flanked by the row of pillared mandapas is the unique feature of Hampi

Which of the above statement is true?

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Correct Answer: D

Explanation:

Recently, the Vice-president of India visited monuments at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hampi in Vijayanagara district, Karnataka.

About Hampi:

- Hampi was the capital of the Vijayanagara Empire in the 14th century. The old city of Hampi was a prosperous, wealthy and grand city near the Tungabhadra River, with numerous temples, farms and trading markets.
- Harihara and Bukka of Sangama dynasty made Hampi as capital after the formation of the empire.
- By 1500 CE, Hampi-Vijayanagara was the world's second-largest medieval-era city after Beijing, and probably India's richest at that time, attracting traders from Persia and Portugal.
- One of the unique features of temples at Hampi is the wide chariot streets flanked by the row of pillared mandapas.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

Modern history

Q.1) Which of the following statement about Rabindranath Tagore is correct

1. He was the first non-European to receive the Nobel prize for his work on Gitanjali
2. He renounced his knighthood in 1915 because of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre
3. He wrote the national anthems of India & Bangladesh

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:

Statement 2 is incorrect: In 1915 Tagore was awarded knighthood by the British King George V. He renounced his knighthood in 1919 because of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre

Source [Indian Express](#)

Q.2) Consider the following statements

1. He belonged to the Ezhava caste.
2. He involved in Vaikom Satyagraha which is against untouchability and caste discrimination in Hindu society
3. His works include Atmopadesa Satakam and Daiva Dasakam

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

- a) E V Ramasamy Naicker
- b) Kandukuri Veeresalingam
- c) Sree Narayana Guru
- d) Ramalinga Swamigal

Correct Answer: C

Explanation:

Recently, The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has paid tributes to Sree Narayana Guru on his Jayanti.

About Narayana Guru:

- Narayana Guru (1855 – 1928) was a philosopher, spiritual leader and social reformer in India.
- He was born into a family that belonged to the Ezhava caste.
- He led a reform movement against the injustice in the caste-ridden society of Kerala in order to promote spiritual enlightenment and social equality.
- Shri Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam (also known as SNDP Yogam) is an Indian spiritual organization that was formally founded by Dr. Padmanabhan Palpu in 1903, with the guidance of Shri Narayana Guru. The main aim of SNDP Yogam was to spiritually uplift the people of the Ezhava/Tiyyar communities.
- Vaikom Satyagraha (1924–25) was a social protest in erstwhile Travancore against untouchability and caste discrimination in Hindu society of Kerala. Sree Narayana Guru involved himself with the Vaikom Satyagraha and extended much co-operation.

10 PM Compilation for the Month of August, 2021

- He published 45 works in Malayalam, Sanskrit and Tamil languages which include Atmopadesa Śatakam, a hundred-verse spiritual poem and Daiva Dasakam, a universal prayer in ten verses.

Source : [PIB](#)

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