

1. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Sun is the largest object in our solar system, comprising 99.8% of the system's mass.
2. The diameter of the Sun is 190 times that of the Earth.

Options:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Sun is the largest object in our solar system, comprising 99.8% of the system's mass.
- The diameter of the Sun is 109 times that of the Earth.

2. With reference to the InSight mission, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. It is part of NASA's Discovery Program.
2. InSight is the first mission dedicated to looking deep beneath the Martian surface.

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport (InSight) mission is a robotic lander designed to study the deep interior of the planet Mars. It is intended to study the interior structure and composition of Mars as well as to detect Marsquakes and other seismic activity, advancing understanding of the formation and evolution of terrestrial planets.
- It is part of NASA's Discovery Program.
- The Discovery Program is a series of Solar System exploration missions funded by the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) through its Planetary Missions Program Office.
- As of June 2021, the most recently selected Discovery missions are VERITAS and DAVINCI+, the fifteenth and sixteenth missions in the program.

3. Consider the following statements:

1. The Rajya Sabha has no power either to reject or to amend a Money Bill.
2. The Rajya Sabha cannot vote on the Demands for Grants.
3. The Rajya Sabha cannot discuss the Annual Financial Statement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Though the Rajya Sabha has no power either to reject or to amend a Money Bill or vote on the Demands for Grants, it can discuss the Annual Financial Statement.

4. Coffee Club, an informal group was sometimes seen in news. Which of the country is *not* present in the Club?

(a) Japan

(b) Italy

(c) Pakistan

(d) Canada

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- **Uniting for Consensus (UFC)** is a movement, nicknamed the **Coffee Club** that developed in the 1990s in opposition to the possible expansion of permanent seats in the United Nations Security Council.
- Under the leadership of Italy, it aims to counter the bids for permanent seats proposed by G4 nations (**Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan**) and is calling for a consensus before any decision is reached on the form and size of the Security Council.

5. Section 66A of IT Act, 2000 deals with which of the following?

(a) The punishment for sending “offensive” messages through a computer or any other communication device like a mobile phone or a tablet.

(b) Blocking the content on online platforms in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India.

(c) Trying to hack into the data stored in the computer

(d) Provision of penalties for breach of privacy

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Blocking the content on online platforms in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India – **Section 69A.**
- The punishment for sending “offensive” messages through a computer or any other communication device like a mobile phone or a tablet – **Section 66 A.**
- Trying to hack into the data stored in the computer – **Section 66.**
- Provision of penalties for breach of privacy – **Section 66 E.**

6. With respect to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), which of the following statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. The UNSC has 10 non-permanent members, elected on a regional basis to serve three-year terms.
2. The body's presidency rotates monthly among its members.
3. India recently assumed presidency of the UNSC.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- India recently assumed the presidency of the United Nations Security Council for the month of August and is set to organise key events in three major areas of maritime security, peacekeeping and counter-terrorism.
- The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the organs of the United Nations and is charged with the maintenance of international peace and security.
- Its powers include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment

- of international sanctions, and the authorization of military action through Security Council resolutions; it is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states.

- **Members:** The Security Council consists of fifteen members. Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, and the United States—serve as the body's five permanent members. These permanent members can veto any substantive Security Council resolution, including those on the admission of new member states or candidates for Secretary-General.

- The Security Council also has 10 non-permanent members, elected on a regional basis to serve two-year terms. The body's presidency rotates monthly among its members.

7. Which of the following is *not* a part of Lakshadweep Islands?

- (a) Amindivi Islands
- (b) Laccadive Islands
- (c) Minicoy Island
- (d) Coco Island

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- India's smallest Union Territory, Lakshadweep is an archipelago consisting of 36 islands with an area of 32 sq km. It is directly under the control of the Centre through an administrator.

- The Capital is Kavaratti and it is also the principal town of the UT. Pitti island, which is uninhabited, has a bird sanctuary.
- There are three main Group of islands:
 1. Amindivi Islands
 2. Laccadive Islands
 3. Minicoy Island.
- Amindivi Islands are the northernmost while Minicoy island is the southernmost. All are tiny islands of coral origin (Atoll) and are surrounded by fringing reefs.
- The Coco Islands are a small group of islands in the northeastern Bay of Bengal. They are part of the Yangon Region of Myanmar.

8. With reference to Manual Scavenging, consider the following statements:

1. It is in contravention with fundamental rights in India.
2. The employment of people as Manual Scavengers is banned in India.

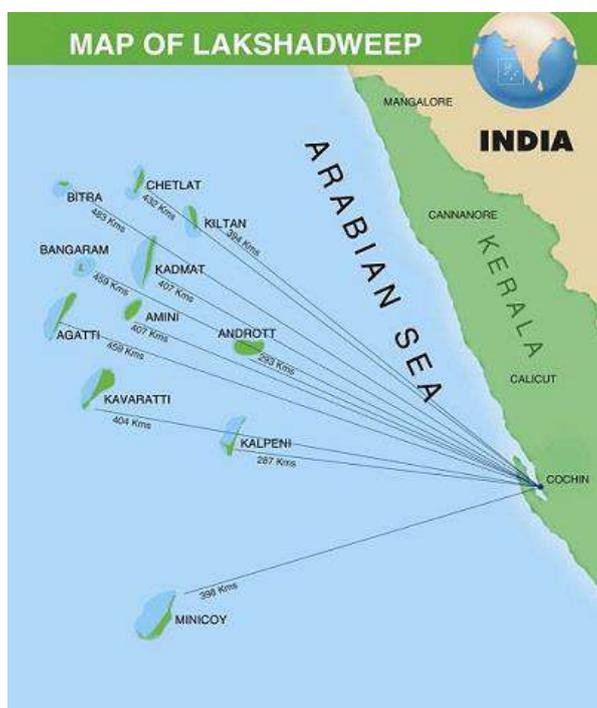
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Manual scavenging is defined as “the removal of human excrement from public streets and dry latrines, cleaning septic tanks, gutters and sewers”.
- The practice is driven by caste, class and income divides.
- Therefore, manual scavenging is in contravention with Article 21 of the Constitution, which guarantees ‘Right to Life’ and that too with personnel dignity.
- Fundamental rights in India are the rights guaranteed under Part III (Articles 12-35) of the Constitution of India.
- In 1993, India banned the employment of people as manual scavengers (The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993).



9. With reference to the Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, consider the following statements:

1. He was feudatory of the Mughals and Aurangazab conferred the title of Sawai to Jai Singh.
2. His lineage can be traced back to the Kuchwaha Rajput clan who came to power in the 12th century.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II (1693-1744) was a great warrior and astronomer. He came to power at the age of 11 on the death of his father Maharaja Bishan Singh.
- He was feudatory of the Mughals and Aurangazab conferred the title of Sawai to Jai Singh, meaning one and a quarter, a title that all of Jai Singh's descendants kept.
- He was trained by the best teachers and scholars in art, science, philosophy and military affairs. Jai Singh's lineage can be traced back to the Kuchwaha Rajput clan who came to power in the 12th century.
- He built Astronomy Observatories at Delhi, Jaipur, Varanasi, Ujjain and Mathura known as the Jantar Mantar.

- Jaipur gets its name from him. Recently it has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

10. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 340 of the Indian Constitution deals with the appointment of a commission to investigate the conditions of backward classes.
2. The Justice Rohini Commission was appointed in 2017 for the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Article 340 of the Indian Constitution deals with the appointment of a commission to investigate the conditions of backward classes.
- It deals with the need to, inter alia, identify those "socially and educationally backward classes", understand the conditions of their backwardness, and make recommendations to remove the difficulties they face.
- The Justice Rohini Commission was constituted in October 2017 under Article 340 of the Constitution.

- It is considering the sub-categorization of OBC quota and if any particular community or group of communities are benefiting most from the OBC quota and how to iron out anomalies.
- The OBCs are granted 27% reservation in jobs and education under the central Government.
- The need for sub-categorisation arises out of the perception that only a few affluent communities among the over 2,600 included in the Central List of OBCs have secured a major part of this 27% reservation.
- Sub-categorisation would ensure a more equitable distribution of opportunities in Central Government jobs and educational Institutions.



1. Which of the following are the advantages of Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR)?

1. It helps in saving irrigation water
2. Less labour required
3. Planting cost is saved
4. It will save energy

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Direct seeding is the sowing of seeds directly in the soil, by-passing the need for nurseries and irrigation.
- Direct seeded crops require less labour and tend to mature faster than transplanted crops. In this method, plants are not subjected to stresses such as being pulled from the soil and re-establishing fine rootlets. It will save energy and planting cost is saved.
- It is an economical measure that helps in conserving water, nutrients, etc.

2. Who among the following are entitled to Free Legal Services?

1. BPL cardholders
2. A woman is entitled to free legal aid irrespective of her income or financial status
3. An Industrial Workman

4. A member of a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Article 39 A of the Constitution of India provides for free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of the society, to promote justice on the basis of equal opportunity.
- Article 14 and Article 22 (1), obligate the State to ensure equality before the law. To receive those services, the person acquiring them should fall under the following categories:
 - ✓ People with disability
 - ✓ Women and children
 - ✓ People who are members of SC & ST communities
 - ✓ Victims of poverty (beggars) and human trafficking
 - ✓ Industrial workmen
 - ✓ People under custody
 - ✓ People who are victims of natural disasters, caste or ethnic violence, etc.
 - ✓ People with an annual income lower than 1 lakh

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, disabilities have been increased from 7 to 21 and the State Governments will have the power to add more types of disabilities.
2. Every child with benchmark disability between the age group of 6 and 18 years shall have the right to Free Education.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, disabilities have been increased from 7 to 21.
- Only the Central Governments will have the power to add more types of disabilities.
- State governments must take measures to minimise the impact of disability.
- Every child with benchmark disability between the age group of 6 and 18 years shall have the right to Free Education.

4. With respect to the Detention Laws, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. In general the person arrested has to be informed for the cause he has been arrested, but in the case of the National Security Act, the person can be held up to ten days without being informed of the reason.
2. Article 22(1) of the Constitution allows the detainee to seek legal advice from a legal practitioner, but under the NSA, he is not allowed for a lawyer during the period.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Typically, if a person is arrested, then he/she enjoy certain rights bestowed by the Indian Constitution. The person has to be informed of the reason for the arrest. Under Section 50 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), the person arrested has to be informed. However, in the case of the NSA, the person can be held up to ten days without being informed of the reason.
- Sections 56 and 76 of the same penal code guarantee the detained person to be produced before a court within 24 hours.
- Apart from this, Article 22(1) of the Constitution allows the detainee to seek

legal advice from a legal practitioner. However, under the NSA, none of these above mentioned basic rights is permitted to the suspect.

- **So both the statements are correct.**

5. Which of the following diseases are transmitted by *Aedes aegypti* mosquitos?

1. Malaria
2. Zika
3. Dengue
4. Chikungunya

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Usually, people get malaria by being bitten by an infective female **Anopheles mosquito**. Only Anopheles mosquitoes can transmit malaria and they must have been infected through a previous blood meal taken from an infected person.
- **Aedes aegypti** mosquitoes are responsible for transmitting dengue, chikungunya and Zika virus. **So, answer is c.**

6. With respect to the Rice fortification, consider the following statements:

1. Fortifying rice involves grinding broken rice into powder, mixing it with nutrients, and then shaping it into rice-like kernels using an extrusion process.
2. Regular milled rice is low in micronutrients and serves primarily as a source of carbohydrate only.
3. Fortified rice contains Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B12, Folic Acid, Iron and Zinc.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Rice fortification is the practice of increasing the content of essential micronutrients in rice and to improve the nutritional quality of the rice.
- Fortifying rice involves grinding broken rice into powder, mixing it with nutrients, and then shaping it into rice-like kernels using an extrusion process. **So, statement 1 is correct.** These fortified kernels are then mixed with normal rice in a 1:100 ratio, and distributed for consumption.

- Rice is the world's most important staple food. An estimated 2 billion people eat rice every day, forming the mainstay of diets across large of Asia and Africa.
- Regular milled rice is low in micronutrients and serves primarily as a source of carbohydrate only. The fortification of rice is a major opportunity to improve nutrition.
So, statement 2 is correct.

- Fortified rice are contains Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B12, Folic Acid, Iron and Zinc. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

7. Srisaileam Dam, sometimes seen in news is built across which of the following River?

- Krishna
- Godavary
- Cauvery
- Tunghabhadra

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The water war between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana appears to be hotting up with the authorities of both the States stepping up security on their respective sides at the Nagarjuna Sagar and Srisaileam dams.
- Several floods in the region have created a need for repair and maintenance of the Srisaileam dam.
- The Srisaileam dam is constructed across the Krishna River in Andhra Pradesh.
- It is located in the Nallamala hills.

- The Krishna River is the second biggest river in peninsular India after the Godavari River.
- It originates near Mahabaleshwar (Satara) in Maharashtra.
- It runs from four states Maharashtra (303 km), North Karnataka (480 km) and the rest of its 1300 km journey in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh before it empties into the Bay of Bengal.
- **Tributaries:** Tungabhadra, Mallaprabha, Koyna, Bhima, Ghataprabha, Yerla, Warna, Dindi, Musi and Dudhganga.
- Pattiseema Lift Irrigation project is the first river-linking project in India, connecting Godavari with Krishna through the Polavaram right canal. It will divert surplus Godavari water to Krishna river.



8. Consider the following statements, with regard to Pangolins:

1. They are anteaters found in the Himalayan and north-eastern region of India.
2. All the seven species of Pangolins are found in India.
3. Indian Pangolin is listed as endangered in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The pangolin, also called scaly anteater, is an elongated, armour-plated insectivore mammal.
- Seven species of pangolin are found across the world, of which, two are found in India, namely Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) and Chinese pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*).
- The Indian Pangolin is found throughout the country south of the Himalayas, excluding the north-eastern region while the Chinese Pangolin ranges through Assam and the eastern Himalayas.
- The Chinese pangolin is distinguished from other Asian pangolins by its almost helmeted appearance, smaller scales than the Indian pangolin.

- As per International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the pangolin is part of the “red list”.
- While the Indian pangolin is listed as “endangered” and the Chinese pangolin has been listed as “critically endangered”.
- All pangolin species are listed in Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Appendix I.
- In India, pangolins, both Indian and Chinese, are protected under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.

9. Consider the following statements, with regard to Ozone in atmosphere:

1. It is present in the troposphere of the earth's atmosphere.
2. It protects human beings from harmful Ultraviolet (UV) radiation.
3. The ground-level ozone is produced when nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) react in sunlight and stagnant air.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Ozone (composed of three atoms of oxygen) is a gas that occurs both in the

Earth's upper atmosphere and at ground level. Ozone can be "good" or "bad" for health and the environment, depending on its location in the atmosphere.

- The 'good' ozone present in the earth's stratosphere layer protects human beings from harmful Ultraviolet (UV) radiation whereas the ground level ozone is highly reactive and can have adverse impacts on human health.
- Ground level ozone is dangerous for those suffering from respiratory conditions and asthma.
- Ground-level ozone is a colorless and highly irritating gas that forms just above the earth's surface.
- It is called a "secondary" pollutant because it is produced when two primary pollutants react in sunlight and stagnant air.
- These two primary pollutants are nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

10. Consider the following, with regard to 'e-RUPI':

1. It is a type of virtual currency launched by the Government of India.
2. It can be used for delivering services under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
3. The private sector can leverage it as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- e-RUPI is a cashless and contactless method for digital payment. It is a Quick Response (QR) code or SMS string-based e-voucher, which is delivered to the mobile of the users.
- The users will be able to redeem the voucher without needing a card, digital payments app, or internet banking access, at the service provider.
- It connects the sponsors of the services with the beneficiaries and service providers in a digital mode without any physical interface. The mechanism also ensures that the payment to the service provider is made only after the Transaction is Completed.
- The system is pre-paid in nature and hence, assures timely payment to the service provider without the involvement of any intermediary.
- In effect, e-RUPI is still backed by the existing Indian rupee as the underlying asset and specificity of its purpose makes it different to a virtual currency and puts it closer to a voucher-based payment system.

- It is expected to ensure a leak-proof delivery of welfare services and can also be used for delivering services under schemes meant for providing drugs and nutritional support under Mother and Child welfare schemes, drugs & diagnostics under schemes like Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, fertiliser subsidies etc.
- Even the private sector can leverage these digital vouchers as part of their employee welfare and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programmes.



1. With respect to the pardoning powers of the President of India and US, consider the following statements:

1. Pardoning power for Indian President is granted without limit while this power cannot be exercised in cases of impeachment for US President.
2. Clemency is a broad executive power, that the President is not answerable for his pardons in US while in Indian pardons may have judicial review for the purpose of ruling out any arbitrariness.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

What is the extent of the US President's power to pardon?

- US President has the constitutional right to pardon or commute sentences related to federal crimes.
- This power is granted without limit and cannot be restricted by Congress.
- Similarly, Clemency is a broad executive power, and is discretionary- meaning the President is not answerable for his pardons, and does not have to provide a reason for issuing one.

Limitations with respect to Indian President:

- This power cannot be exercised in cases of impeachment. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The power only applies to federal crimes and not state crimes.
- Clemency powers of the Indian President under article 72:
 - ✓ It says that the President shall have the power to grant pardons, reprieves, respites or remissions of punishment or to suspend, remit or commute the sentence of any person convicted of any offence.

When the President of India can exercise these Powers?

- In all cases where the punishment or sentence is by a court martial;
- In all cases where the punishment or sentence is for an offence against any law relating to a matter to which the executive power of the Union extends;
- In all cases where the sentence is a sentence of death.

How these powers are exercised?

- This power of pardon shall be exercised by the President on the advice of Council of Ministers. The constitution does not provide for any mechanism to question the legality of decisions of President or governors exercising mercy jurisdiction.

- But the SC in Epuru Sudhakar case has given a small window for judicial review of the pardon powers of President and governors for the purpose of ruling out any arbitrariness. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code:

1. Bankruptcy is the situation where the debtor is not in a position to pay back the creditor while insolvency is the legal declaration of bankruptcy.
2. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code can be triggered if there is a minimum default of Rs 1 crore.
3. The code will apply to all sorts of business entities including corporate companies, partnerships, and limited liability partnerships except the individuals.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are **not** correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Insolvency is the situation where the debtor is not in a position to pay back the creditor.
- For a corporate firm, the signs of this could be a slow-down in sales, missing of payment deadlines etc.

- Bankruptcy is the legal declaration of Insolvency. So the former is a financial condition and latter is a legal position. All insolvencies need not lead to bankruptcy.
- The code will apply to all sort of business entities including corporate companies, partnerships, limited liability partnerships, individuals etc.
- In March 2020, the government raised the threshold for invoking insolvency under the IBC to Rs 1 crore from Rs 1 lakh with a view to prevent triggering of such proceedings against small and medium enterprises that are facing currently the heat of coronavirus pandemic.

3. With reference to powers of the Governor, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. Governor has the discretionary powers to invite the leader of the largest party/alliance, post-election, to form the government.
2. The Governors report on the breakdown of the constitutional machinery is beyond the judicial review of the judiciary.
3. There is no fixed term for governor's office, but he/she can be terminated if the acts are upheld by courts as unconstitutional and malafide.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 2 and 3 only

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Governor has the discretionary powers to invite the leader of the largest party/alliance, post-election; to form the government. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The **S.R. Bommai verdict allows the Supreme Court to investigate claims of malafide in the Governor's report** however the SC said that while the subjective **satisfaction of the President regarding such a breakdown was beyond judicial scrutiny. So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The term of governor's office is normally 5 years but it can be terminated earlier by:
 - ✓ Dismissal by the president on the advice of the council of minister headed by the prime minister of the country.
 - ✓ Dismissal of governors without a valid reason is not permitted. However, it is the duty of the President to dismiss a governor whose acts are upheld by courts as unconstitutional and malafide.
 - ✓ Resignation by the governor
 - ✓ **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

4. Pangong Tso Lake, a disputed lake is sometimes seen in news. With respect to the same, consider the following statements:

1. Pangong Tso or Pangong Lake in the Himalayas is situated at an elevation of 4,225 m extends from Ladakh, India to the Tibetan Autonomous Region, China.
2. It is also a part of the Indus River basin area.
3. This is the first trans-boundary wetland in South Asia under the Ramsar convention.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Pangong Tso or Pangong Lake is an **endorheic lake** (also called closed or terminal basins or internal drainage systems or basins) in the Himalayas is situated at an elevation of 4,225 m (13,862 ft).
- It is 134 km (83 mi) long and extends from Ladakh, India to the Tibetan Autonomous Region, China. **So, statement 1 is correct**
- Approximately 60% of the length of the lake lies within the Tibetan Autonomous Region.

- The lake is 5 km (3.1 mi) wide at its broadest point. All together it covers 604 km².
- During winter the lake freezes completely, despite being **saline water**.
- It is **not a part of the Indus River basin** area and geographically a separate landlocked river basin. **So, statement 2 is not correct**
- The lake is in the process of being identified under the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international importance. This will be the first trans-boundary wetland in South Asia under the convention. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

5. With reference to light pollution, consider the following statements:

1. Skyglow is one of the components of light pollution.
2. It has environmental consequences for humans, wildlife, and the climate.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The inappropriate or excessive use of artificial light – known as Light Pollution (LP).

- The Skyglow is an omnipresent sheet of light across the night sky in and around. Components of light pollution include:

- **Glare:** Excessive brightness that causes visual discomfort
- **Skyglow:** Brightening of the night sky over inhabited areas
- **Light trespass:** Light falling where it is not intended or needed
- **Clutter:** Bright, confusing and excessive groupings of light sources.
- Light pollution can have serious environmental consequences for humans, wildlife, and our climate, in the following ways:

- **Disrupting the ecosystem and wildlife:** Plants and animals depend on Earth's daily cycle of light and dark rhythm to govern life-sustaining behaviours such as reproduction, nourishment, sleep and protection from predators.

- **Harming human health:** Like most life on Earth, humans adhere to a Circadian Rhythm — our biological clock — a sleep-wake pattern governed by the day-night cycle. Artificial light at night can disrupt that cycle.

6. Consider the following, with regard to Milk Fortification Project:

1. It is launched to address vitamin deficiency in consumers.

2. It is launched by the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) in collaboration with FAO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Milk Fortification Project was launched to address vitamin deficiency in consumers. It has seen significant progress in the past two years.
- About 25 milk federations, producer companies or milk unions across 20 States in the country are fortifying about 55 lakh litres of milk per day.
- The fortification is being carried out as per Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) developed by NDDDB and FSSAI (Food Safety and Standards Authority of India).
- The Milk Fortification Project, was launched by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB) in collaboration with World Bank and Tata Trusts, as a pilot project on 5th September, 2017.
- The project aims to process about two million tonnes of fortified milk, reaching around 30 million consumers.

- The duration of the project is 23 months. It is financed by the South Asia Food and Nutrition Security Initiative (SAFANSI), administered by the World Bank.

7. Consider the following statements regarding transgenic crops:

1. Bt Brinjal is the only transgenic crop allowed in India.
2. Bt cotton is a transgenic crop that produces toxic protein against the pest called pink bollworm.
3. The genetic modification is DMH-11 mustard enabled self-pollination in the crop.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- A Genetically Modified or transgenic crop is a plant that has a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the use of modern biotechnology.
- For example, a GM crop can contain a gene(s) that has been artificially inserted instead of the plant acquiring it through pollination.

- Bt cotton is the only GM crop that is allowed in India. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- It has alien genes from the soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) that allows the crop to develop a protein toxic to the common pest pink bollworm. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Herbicide Tolerant Bt (Ht Bt) cotton, on the other hand is derived with the insertion of an additional gene, from another soil bacterium, which allows the plant to resist the common herbicide glyphosate.
- In Bt brinjal, a gene allows the plant to resist attacks of fruit and shoot borers.
- In DMH-11 mustard, genetic modification allows cross-pollination in a crop that self-pollinates in nature. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

8. Which one among the following statements best describes the Copenhagen Consensus?

- (a) It is a project that seeks to establish priorities for advancing global welfare using methodologies based on the theory of welfare economics
- (b) It aims to catalyse rapid reductions in short-lived climate pollutants to protect human health, agriculture and the environment
- (c) It refers to a set of free-market Economic Ideas

(d) It is an intergovernmental treaty concerned with the conservation of wildlife and habitats

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Copenhagen Consensus is a project that seeks to establish priorities for advancing global welfare using methodologies based on the theory of welfare economics using cost-benefit analysis.
- The project considers possible solutions to a wide range of problems, presented by experts in each field. These are evaluated and ranked by a panel of economists.

9. Which of the following are the initiatives undertaken by the Government for the welfare and upliftment of the minority communities?

1. USTTAD
2. Hamari Darohar
3. Nai Manzil
4. Sakhi Scheme
5. Sanskritik Sadbhav Mandap

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- USTTAD Scheme aims at upgrading the Skills and Training of minority communities by the preservation of

traditional ancestral Arts and Crafts. It also envisages boosting the skill of craftsmen, weavers and artisans who are already engaged in the traditional ancestral work.

- Hamari Dharohar is a scheme to preserve the rich heritage of minority communities under the overall concept of Indian Culture.
- Nai Manzil Scheme aims to benefit the minority youths who do not have a formal school-leaving certificate in order to provide them with formal education and skills, and enable them to seek better employment and livelihoods in the organised sector.
- The Sakhi scheme aims to facilitate access to an integrated range of services including medical aid, police assistance, legal aid/case management, psychosocial counselling, and temporary support services to women affected by violence.
- The “Sanskritik Sadbhav Mandap” is being constructed by Union Minority Affairs Ministry under Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karykram (PMJVK). It is a community centre that will be utilized for various socio-economic-cultural activities, skill development training, coaching, different sports activities, relief activities during disasters such as Corona.

10. Consider the following statements:

1. Under the preventive detention as enshrined under Article 22, a person cannot be detained for more than three months.
2. The grounds of detention should be communicated to the detenu.
3. Both the Parliament and the State Legislature can make a law of preventive detention for reasons connected with the security of a state, defence, maintenance of Public order.

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Article 22 deals with the protection against arrest and detention in certain cases. This article is applicable to both citizens and non-citizens. This provision extends certain procedural safeguards for individuals in case of an arrest.
- Under the preventive detention as enshrined under Article 22, a person cannot be detained for more than three months.
- The grounds of detention should be communicated to the detenu.
- Both the Parliament and the State Legislature can make a law of Preventive Detention for reasons connected with the

-
- security of a state and maintenance of public order. For reasons connected to defence, only the parliament can make laws of preventive detention.



1. Consider the following statements with respect to Saubhagya Scheme:

1. The scheme was launched to provide free electricity to all households (both APL and poor families) in rural areas and poor families in urban areas.
2. Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) is the nodal agency for the scheme.
3. Beneficiary households for free electricity connections under the scheme are identified using SECC 2011 data.

Which of the given statements is/are **Incorrect**?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The scheme was launched to provide free electricity connections to all households (both APL and poor families) in rural areas and poor families in urban areas.
- Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) is the nodal agency for the scheme.
- Beneficiary households for free electricity connections under the scheme are identified using SECC 2011 data.

2. Which among the following are applications of Coir geo-textiles?

1. Rainwater Harvesting
2. Promoting quick vegetation
3. Improvement of sub-grade soil strength in road pavements
4. Stabilization of side slopes to check soil erosion
5. Construction of roads

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All of the given options are applications of Coir geo-textiles.

3. Which of the given statements with respect to project CHAMAN is/are correct?

1. It is a pioneer project to provide strategic development to the horticulture sector in order to increase farmer's income.
2. Crops such as Rice, Wheat, Mustard and Jute are assessed under CHAMAN project using remote sensing technology and satellites.

Options:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Coordinated Horticulture Assessment and Management using geo-iNformatics (CHAMAN) is a pioneer project to provide strategic development to the horticulture sector in order to increase farmer's income.
- The project was launched for crop production forecasting of horticulture crops.
- The seven crops assessed under the project are Potato, Onion, Tomato, Chilli, Mango, Banana and Citrus.

4. The 'Red Tide', sometimes seen in the news is related to?

- (a) Ocean Acidification
- (b) Harmful Algal Bloom
- (c) Disruption of Water Cycle
- (d) Rapid increase in Antimicrobial Resistance

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- 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.

- One of the best known HABs in the US occurs nearly every summer along Florida's Gulf Coast.
- This type of bloom is caused by a species of dinoflagellate known as *Karenia brevis*.
- On the other hand, blooms in freshwater lakes and reservoirs are most commonly caused by blue-green algae (also known as cyanobacteria).
- Blue-green algae blooms have a direct relation to agricultural and urban runoff. Nutrient pollution encourages the growth of cyanobacteria.

5. In context to the Crew Space Transportation-100 (CST-100), consider the following statements:

1. It is part of an uncrewed test flight to the International Space Station (ISS).
2. The mission is part of NASA's Commercial Crew Program.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Recently, the launch of Boeing's uncrewed Starliner Orbital Flight Test-2 (OFT-2) has been postponed once again.

- The spacecraft, which is called the Crew Space Transportation-100 (CST-100), is part of an uncrewed test flight to the International Space Station (ISS).
- The mission is part of NASA's Commercial Crew Program.
- The CST-100 spacecraft has been designed to accommodate seven passengers or a mix of crew and cargo for missions to low-Earth orbit.
- For NASA service missions to the ISS, it will carry up to four NASA-sponsored crew members and time-critical scientific research.
- The Starliner is supposed to carry more than 400 pounds of NASA cargo and crew supplies.
- The Starliner has an innovative, weldless structure and is reusable up to 10 times with a six-month turnaround time.

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution 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, It can be noted that there is 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 official languages:
 - Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Bodo, Santhali, Maithili and Dogri.
- Of these languages, 14 were initially included in the Constitution.
- Sindhi language was added by the 21st Amendment Act of 1967.
- Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali were included by the 71st Amendment Act of 1992.
- Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali were added by the 92nd Amendment Act of 2003 which came into force in 2004.

6. Consider the following:

1. The Eight Schedule of the Indian Constitution enlists the official languages of the Republic of India.
2. There is no fixed criteria to include a language among the official languages of India.
3. Kashmiri and Assamese were included among the official languages of India by the 71st Amendment Act of 1992.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- Assamese and Kashmiri were included among the official languages of India since the beginning and not after any Amendment.

7. With respect to the MPLADS, which of the statements given below are *not* correct?

1. Under the scheme, Funds are released in the form of grants in-aid directly to the MPs of that particular constituency.
2. The liability of funds not released in a particular year is carried forward to the subsequent years, subject to eligibility.
3. The district authorities can recommend any development measures which the MPs implement the development works.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Funds are released in the form of grants in-aid directly to the district authorities. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The funds released under the scheme are non-lapsable.
- The liability of funds not released in a particular year is carried forward to the subsequent years, subject to eligibility. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

- The MPs have a recommendatory role under the scheme. They recommend their choice of works to the concerned district authorities who implement these works by following the established procedures of the concerned state government. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

- The district authority is empowered to examine the eligibility of works sanction funds and select the implementing agencies, prioritise works, supervise overall execution, and monitor the scheme at the ground level.

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Commission for Air Quality Management for NCR and Adjoining areas:

1. The Commission, which will be a permanent body, will have over 20 members and will be chaired by a retired official of the level of Secretary to the GoI or Chief Secretary of a state.
2. If its directions are contravened, the Commission will have the power to impose a fine of up to Rs 1 crore and imprisonment of up to 5 years.
3. The commission will now supersede all the bodies related to air quality, except the NGT and EPCA.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Commission, which will be a permanent body, will have over 20 members and will be chaired by a retired official of the level of Secretary to the GoI or Chief Secretary of a state. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- If its directions are contravened, the Commission will have the power to impose a fine of up to Rs 1 crore and imprisonment of up to 5 years. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- By forming a new commission, the government has taken the issue of air pollution out of the purview of the judiciary.
- Only NGT, (and not civil courts) is authorised to hear cases where the commission is involved.
- The central government has got itself out of the clutch of Supreme Court and closed down SC-appointed EPCA. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

9. The 'Financial stability Report' is released by

(a) Reserve Bank of India

(b) Financial Stability Development Council

(c) SEBI

(d) NABARD

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Reserve Bank of India recently releases the Financial Stability Report (FSR).
- The FSR reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** on risks to financial stability.
- It gives a picture of the resilience of the financial system.
- The Report also discusses issues relating to the development and regulation of the financial sector.
- The report analyses the overall state of the various segments as well as highlights the risk-related issues that could cause potential challenges.

10. Which among the following statements are correct about the removal of the judge of a Supreme Court of India?

1. The judge of the Supreme Court may be removed from his current office by an order of the President.
2. There are only two grounds of removal, incapacity or proved misbehaviour.
3. So far, no judge of the Supreme Court has been removed by impeachment.
4. The procedure for the removal of the judges is regulated by the Judges Enquiry Act (1968).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All the statements are factual regarding the removal of the Judge of the Supreme Court.



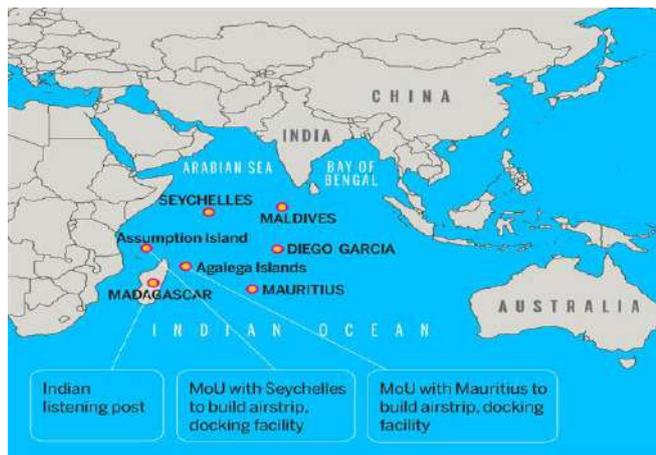
1. Agalega Island, sometimes seen in news belongs to which of the following country?

- (a) Mauritius
- (b) Madagascar
- (c) Seychelles
- (d) Maldives

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Three hundred people live on the small Mauritian archipelago of Agaléga. They watch as their home is turned slowly into an Indian naval base.



2. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Union Territories (UT) in India?

1. No UT has their representation in Rajya Sabha.
2. For a UT to become a state, a constitutional amendment under Article 368 is not needed.
3. Delhi and Puducherry are the only UTs having a Legislative Assembly.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect as the UTs of Delhi, Pondicherry and Jammu and Kashmir have their representation in Rajya Sabha. The population of the other UTs are too small to have any representation in the Rajya Sabha.
- Statement 2 is correct as union territories are placed under Article 239-241, to confer statehood it requires normal amendment of constitution under article 2 to create a new state.
- Statement 3 is incorrect as apart from Delhi, Pondicherry and Jammu and Kashmir have the Legislative Assembly and a council of ministers headed by a chief minister.

3. Arrange the following ports in news from west to east:

1. Basra
2. Gwadar
3. Bandar abbas
4. Chabahar

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

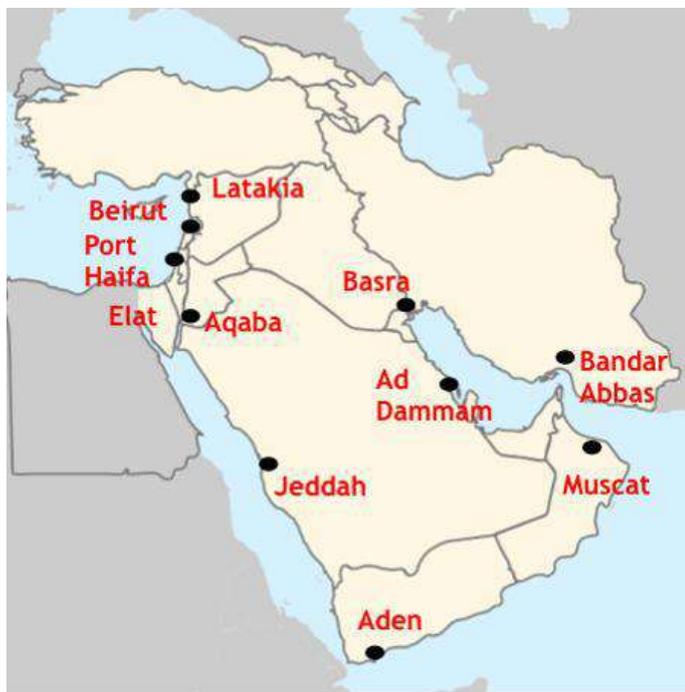
- (a) 1-3-4-2
- (b) 1-3-2-4

(c) 3-1-4-2

(d) 3-4-2-1

Answer: a)

Explanation:



(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1 and 2 only

(d) 1 and 3 only

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Information Technology Act, 2000, the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), 1973 and the Telegraph Act, 1885 are the three laws that deal with suspension of Internet services.
- But before 2017, Internet suspension orders were issued under section 14 of the CrPC.
- In 2017, the central government notified the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Service) Rules under the Telegraph Act to govern suspension of Internet. These Rules derive their powers from Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, which talks about interception of messages in the “interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India”.
- Despite the 2017 rules, the government has often used the broad powers under Section 144.
- India also tops the list of Internet shutdowns globally. According to Software Freedom Law Centre’s tracker, there have been 381 shutdowns since 2012, 106 of which were in 2019.

4. With respect to the suspension of Internet services, which of the following statements are correct?

1. According to the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services [Public Emergency or Public Service] Rules, 2017 only the Home Secretary of the country and a secretary of a state’s home department can pass such an order.
2. It also states that any such order should be taken up by a review committee within five days.
3. Before 2017, Internet suspension orders were issued under section 144 of the CrPC.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

What did the SC judgment say on the rules to be followed?

- The court recognised that the 2017 Rules are the only procedure to be followed to suspend Internet services in the occurrence of a “public emergency” or for it to be “in the interest of public safety”.
- The verdict reiterated that the competent authority to issue an order under the Suspension Rules, in ordinary circumstances, would be the Secretary to the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The Rules also say that in case the confirmation does not come from a competent authority, the orders shall cease to exist within a period of 24 hours.
- Clear reasons for such orders need to be given in writing, and need to be forwarded to a Review Committee by the next working day.
- The confirmation must not be a mere formality, but must indicate independent application of mind by the competent authority to the order passed by the authorised officer, who must also take into account changed circumstances if any, etc.
- According to the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services [Public Emergency or Public Service] Rules, 2017 only the Home Secretary of the country and a secretary of a state’s home department can pass such an order. These also state that any such order should be taken up by a review committee within Five Days.

5. In context to Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), consider the following:

1. It makes decisions regarding new policies and capital acquisitions for the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force.
2. It also makes decisions for the Indian Coast Guard.
3. The Union Minister of Defence is the Chairman of the DAC.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) is the highest decision-making body in the Defence Ministry for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the three services (Army, Navy and Air Force) and the Indian Coast Guard.
- The Minister of Defence is the Chairman of the Council.
- It was formed, after the Group of Ministers recommendations on 'Reforming the National Security System', in 2001, post Kargil War (1999).

6. Consider the following, with reference to Swinhoe's Softshell Turtle:

1. It has a great cultural significance in Vietnam.
2. It plays an important role in maintaining Seafloor Biosystem
3. Its IUCN status is Critically Endangered.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Swinhoe's Softshell Turtle is also known as the Hoan Kiem turtle or Yangtze giant softshell turtle.
- In Vietnam, these animals have great cultural significance as people in Hanoi revere this creature as a living god.
- Some researchers have highlighted their importance to the seafloor biosystem, where they contribute by enriching soil nutrients and facilitating seed dispersion.
- Protection Status:
- **IUCN Red List:** Critically Endangered
- **CITES:** Appendix II

7. Consider the following statements, with regard to the Minimum Public Shareholding:

1. Its rule requires all listed companies in India to have at least 25% of their equity shares held by the public.
2. Public shareholders in the MPS can be individuals as well as Financial Institutions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) (also called free float) rule requires all listed companies in India to ensure that at least 25% of their equity shares are held by non-promoters, i.e. public.
- Public shareholders could be individual or financial institutions and they normally buy shares through public offer or secondary markets.
- In order to bring more transparency in the working of listed companies, the concept of minimum public shareholding was introduced.
- In 2010, SEBI amended the Securities Contracts Regulation Rules to insist on this 25% public float for private sector companies.

- The average promoter holding in India is among the highest globally.
- In the 2019-20 Budget, the government had proposed to increase the minimum public float from 25% to 35%.

8. Consider the following statements with respect to Anaimalai flying frog:

1. It is endemic to the southern part of the Western Ghats.
2. Its IUCN status is Endangered.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Anaimalai Flying Frog is found in the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala in the Western Ghats of India in the tropical evergreen forests. It is endemic to the southern part of the Western Ghats.
- It is also called the false Malabar gliding frog.
- As a semi-arboreal species of frog, the Anaimalai Flying Frog is found in the lower canopy and under story levels of the forests.
- Its IUCN status is Critically Endangered.

9. With reference to Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (NavIC), which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. It is designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India as well as the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary.
2. ISRO has built a total of eight satellites in the IRNSS series; of which seven are currently in orbit, three of these satellites are in Geostationary Orbit (GEO) while the remaining in Geosynchronous Orbits (GSO).

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (NavIC) is designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India as well as the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary.
- It was developed in India by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and its commercial wing ANTRIX.
- ISRO has built a total of nine satellites in the IRNSS series; of which eight are currently in orbit, three of these satellites

- are in Geostationary Orbit (GEO) while the remaining in Geosynchronous Orbits (GSO).

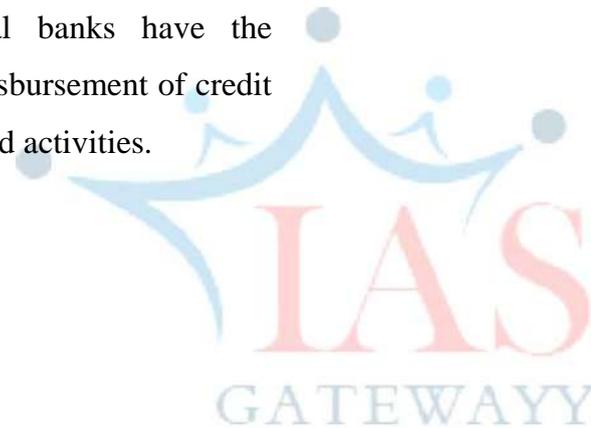
10. In India, which of the following have the highest share in the disbursement of credit to agriculture and allied activities?

- (a) Commercial Banks
- (b) Cooperative Banks
- (c) Regional Rural Banks
- (d) Microfinance Institutions

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- In India, commercial banks have the highest share in the disbursement of credit to agriculture and allied activities.



1. Consider the following statements:

1. The rate at which banks buy back the securities they keep with the RBI at a later period is called as Repo Rate.
2. Cash Reserve Ratio corresponds to the percentage of cash each bank has to keep as cash reserve with RBI (in their current accounts) corresponding to the deposits they have.
3. The banks and other financial institutions in India have to keep a fraction of their total net time and demand liabilities in the form of liquid assets to be called as statutory liquidity ratio.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- **REPO rate** (now 4%) denotes Re Purchase Option – the rate by which RBI gives loans to other banks. In other words, it is the rate at which banks buy back the securities they keep with the RBI at a later period. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Bank gives loan to the public at a higher rate, often 1% higher than REPO rate, at a rate known as **Bank Rate** (now 4.25%).
- RBI at times borrows from banks at a rate lower than REPO rate, and that rate is

known as **Reverse REPO rate** (now 3.35%).

- **CRR or Cash Reserve Ratio** corresponds to the percentage of cash each bank has to keep as cash reserve with RBI (in their current accounts) corresponding to the deposits they have. For example, say if State Bank of India (SBI) got a total deposit of Rs. 1 crore with them, they need to keep 3 % of that as cash reserve with RBI (around 3 lakh rupees). **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The banks and other financial institutions in India have to keep a fraction of their total net time and demand liabilities in the form of liquid assets such as G-secs, precious metals, approved securities etc. The Ratio of these liquid assets to the total demand and time liabilities is called **Statutory Liquidity Ratio** (18%). **So, statement 3 is correct.**

2. Consider the following statements:

1. As per Article 343(1) of the Constitution of India, Hindi in Devanagari script shall be the official language of the Union.
2. Article 343(2) provided that English shall also be continued to be used in official work of the Union for a period of 15 years from the date of commencement of the constitution.

3. According to the Official Languages Act, 1963 use of English was continued even after the said date in 1965.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- As per Article 343(1) of the Constitution of India, Hindi in Devanagari script shall be the official language of the Union. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Article 343(2) provided that English shall also be continued to be used in official work of the Union for a period of 15 years from the date of commencement of the constitution, i.e., up to the 25th of January 1965. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Again, article 343(3) made provisions for the continuation of English even after 25th January 1965 by empowering the parliament to make laws to that effect. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- Accordingly, the Official Languages Act, 1963 was passed which provided for the continued use of English even after the said date in 1965.
- As per the Act, both English and Hindi shall be used for certain specified purposes

- like resolutions, rules, general orders, notifications, press communiqués, administrative and other reports, licenses, tenders, etc.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT):

1. It is a quasi-judicial body constituted under the Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013.
2. The President, chairperson and Judicial Members of the Appellate Tribunal are appointed after consultation with the President of India.
3. It can only hear and dispose appeals against any orders passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

Which of the statement(s) given below is/are **not** correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) is a quasi-judicial body constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 for hearing appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT), with effect from 1st June, 2016. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

- The President, chairperson and Judicial Members of the Appellate Tribunal are appointed after consultation with the **Chief Justice of India. So, statement 2 is not correct.**

- NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).
- NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.
- NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

4. Consider the following statements:

1. Voting rights for NRIs were introduced only in 2011, through an amendment to the Representation of the People Act 1950.
2. An NRI can vote in the constituency in which her place of residence, as mentioned in the passport, is located.
3. Recently Election Commission has extended postal ballots facility to the NRIs.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Voting rights for NRIs were introduced only in 2011, through an amendment to the Representation of the People Act 1950.
- An NRI can vote in the constituency in which her place of residence, as mentioned in the passport, is located.
- She can only vote in person and will have to produce her passport in original at the polling station for establishing identity.
- Recently Election Commission has extended postal ballots facility to the NRIs. However, it has also said that postal ballots facility would not be extended to NRIs for the upcoming elections to the Assam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and West Bengal Assemblies.
- **So, all the three statements are correct.**

5. With reference to EOS-03 satellite, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is the first military communication satellite developed by the ISRO for the Indian defense forces.
2. It provides real-time inputs to naval warships, submarines and maritime aircraft and networking capabilities to its naval assets on the high seas.

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The EOS-03 is a state-of-the-art agile satellite that will enable real-time monitoring of natural disasters, water bodies, crops, forest cover changes, among others.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will soon launch an Earth Observation Satellite from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, at Sriharikota.

6. Consider the following statements about Surendranath Banerji:

1. Banerji was the founder of one of India's first political organizations, the Indian National Association.
2. Banerji published the newspaper 'The Bengalee'.

3. Banerji supported the Morley-Minto reforms (1909) but was a critic of the proposed method of civil disobedience advocated by Mahatma Gandhi.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Banerji was the founder of one of India's first political organizations, the Indian National Association in 1876 in association with Anandmohan Bose.
- Banerji published the newspaper 'The Bengalee'.
- Banerji supported the Morley-Minto reforms in 1909 but was a critic of the proposed method of civil disobedience advocated by Mahatma Gandhi.

7. There has been a persistent deficit budget year after year. Which action/actions of the following can be taken by the Government to reduce the deficit?

1. Reducing revenue expenditure
2. Introducing new welfare schemes
3. Rationalizing subsidies
4. Reducing import duty

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 only

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Introducing new welfare schemes will entail additional expenditure for the Government.
- Reducing import duty will result in the reduction of revenue inflow for the Government.
- Hence these two measures will only increase the deficit for the government and not decrease it.

8. Consider the following statements, with regard to Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

1. It is a statutory body established after an act of the Parliament.
2. It has developed a recyclable plastic-mixed handmade paper under Project REPLAN

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Recently, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has secured Patent registration for its innovative Plastic-mixed

Handmade Paper developed to reduce plastic menace from nature.

- The plastic-mixed handmade paper (which is recyclable and eco-friendly) was developed under Project REPLAN (REducing PLAstic from Nature).
- The project was launched in September 2018 as part of KVIC's commitment to Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan.
- KVIC is a statutory body established under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.
- The KVIC is charged with the planning, promotion, organisation and implementation of programmes for the development of Khadi and other village industries in the rural areas in coordination with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary.
- It functions under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

9. In context to Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), Consider the following statements:

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
3. The Funds released under this scheme to district authorities are not lapsable.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3 only

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- MPLAD is a Central Sector Scheme that was announced in December 1993.
- The objective of the scheme is to enable the Members of Parliament (MP) to suggest and execute developmental works of capital nature based on locally felt needs with an emphasis on the creation of durable assets.
- Initially, it came under the control of the Ministry of Rural Development. Later, in October 1994, it was transferred to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- Under MPLADs, funds released to district authorities are not lapsable, while funds not released by the government in a particular year are carried forward.

10. Consider the following statement, with regard to Constitution Amendment Bills:

1. It can be introduced in either House of Parliament.
2. It cannot be passed by simple majority.
3. In case of deadlock, there is a provision of joint sittings.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- A Constitution Amendment Bill under article 368 can be introduced in either House of Parliament.
- As per the procedure laid down in the Constitution, Constitution Amendment Bills can be of three types viz.
- requiring a simple majority for their passage in each House.
- requiring special majority for their passage in each House i.e., a majority of the total membership of a House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting (article 368).
- requiring special majority for their passage and ratification by Legislatures of not less than one-half of the States by resolutions to that effect passed by those Legislatures (proviso to clause (2) of article 368).
- There is no provision of joint sittings on a Money Bill or a Constitution Amending Bill.

1. Which of the following UN conventions has India ratified to?

1. Convention against Torture
2. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
3. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- India signed the treaty (Convention against Torture) in 1997, but never ratified it.
- In 2010, the Bill was sent to a Parliamentary Committee whose recommendations were never accepted, and the Bill lapsed in 2014.
- At Geneva, 30 countries, including Germany, Australia, Japan, Israel and Russia, called on India to ratify the convention.

2. The Law Commission has recommended the Government to frame a standalone anti-torture law directly making the State responsible for any injury inflicted by its agents on citizens. In its efforts towards anti torture which of the following statements are correct?

1. India has signed the U.N. Convention against Torture.
2. The Prevention of Torture Bill is pending in Parliament.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- India has signed the convention in 1997 but not ratified it yet. In 2017, the law commission has proposed the bill to cabinet for its consideration.

3. Which of the given statements with respect to the twin Keck Observatory telescopes is/are correct?

1. They are the world's most scientifically productive optical and infrared telescopes.
2. They are located in Atacama Desert of northern Chile.
3. The project is funded by scientific organisations of Canada, China, India, Japan and USA.

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The twin Keck Observatory telescopes sit atop Maunakea on Hawai'i, and are the world's most scientifically productive optical and infrared telescopes. Each telescope weighs 300 tons and operates with Nanometer Precision.
- The W. M. Keck Foundation (U.S. based) funded both the original Keck I telescope and six years later, its twin, Keck II.

4. Which of the given statements with respect to PM-DAKSH Yojana is/are correct?

1. It is a National Action Plan for skilling of marginalized persons covering SCs, OBCs, EBCs, Sanitation workers.
2. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
3. Its components include upskilling/reskilling, short term training programme, long term training programme and entrepreneurship development program.

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The PM-DAKSH Yojana is a National Action Plan for skilling of marginalized persons covering SCs, OBCs, EBCs,

Sanitation workers. It includes upskilling/reskilling, short term training programme, long term training programme and entrepreneurship development program.

- It is being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

5. In India, cluster bean (Guar) is traditionally used as a vegetable or animal feed, but recently the cultivation of this has assumed significance. Which one of the following statements is correct in this context?

- (a) The oil extracted from seeds is used in the manufacture of biodegradable plastics
- (b) The gum made from its seeds is used in the extraction of shale gas
- (c) The leaf extract of this plant has the properties of anti-histamines
- (d) It is a source of high quality biodiesel

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Guar gum is derived from guar seeds, a legume crop that grows in semi-arid regions of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Haryana. Drilling companies use it to thicken water that is mixed with sand and pumped through shale rock cracks to extract gas.

6. Sakteng Wildlife Sanctuary sometimes seen in news is the disputed territory between

- (a) India and Bhutan
- (b) India and China

- (c) China and Bhutan
(d) Nepal and China

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- It is located in the eastern most part of Bhutan, consists of alpine meadow and temperate and warm broadleaf forests.
- China has already stopped funding for the Sakteng sanctuary from the U.N. Development Programme's Global Environment Facility (GEF), on the grounds that it was "disputed" territory.

7. In context to Abanindranath Tagore, consider the following statements:

1. He was associated with the Bengal School of Painting.
2. He was the creator of the iconic 'Bharat Mata' painting.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Bengal School of Painting is also called the Renaissance School or the Revivalist School, as it represented the first modern movement of Indian art.
- It rediscovered the glories of Indian art and consciously tried to produce what is

considered truly Indian art inspired by the creations of the past.

- Its leading artist was Abanindranath Tagore and its theoretician was E.B. Havell, the principal of the Calcutta School of Art.
- Many of his paintings focused on themes of Indian mythology and cultural heritage, they are important sources for studying the modern art movement in India and for art historians.
- His unique interpretation of swadeshi themes created a new awakening and heralded a revival of Indian art. He was the creator of the iconic 'Bharat Mata' painting.

8. In context to the 'Capital Gain Tax', consider the following statements:

1. It will be required to be paid for that amount in the year in which the transfer of the capital asset takes place.
2. It can be reduced by deducting the capital losses that occur when a taxable asset is sold for less than the original purchase price.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Capital gain refers to an increase in a capital asset's value and is considered to be realized when the asset is sold. This gain or profit comes under the category of 'income'.
- Hence, the capital gain tax will be required to be paid for that amount in the year in which the transfer of the capital asset takes place. This is called the capital gains tax, which can be both short-term or long-term.
- Long-term Capital Gains Tax: It is a levy on the profits from the sale of assets held for more than a year. The rates are 0%, 15%, or 20%, depending on the tax bracket.
- Short-term Capital Gains Tax: It applies to assets held for a year or less and is taxed as ordinary income.
- Capital gains can be reduced by deducting the capital losses that occur when a taxable asset is sold for less than the original purchase price.
- The total of capital gains minus any capital losses is known as the "net capital gains".
- Capital assets are significant pieces of property such as homes, cars, investment properties, stocks, bonds, and even collectibles or art.

9. Consider the following statements:

1. India has been elected for eight terms as a non-permanent member of UNSC.

2. India is a member of the Uniting for Consensus (UFC) group, which supports India's permanent membership at UNSC.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- India is currently (in 2021 and 2022) a non-permanent member of the UNSC and is president for the month of August. Before this, India has served seven times in the UN Security Council.
- Uniting for Consensus or informally called "coffee club", comprising 40-odd member states, has been instrumental in holding back reforms to the United Nations Security Council.
- Most members of the club are middle-sized states who oppose bigger regional powers grabbing permanent seats in the UN Security Council.
- The prime movers of the club include Italy, Spain, Australia, Canada, South Korea, Argentina and Pakistan.
- While Italy and Spain are opposed to Germany's bid for Security Council's permanent membership, Pakistan is opposed to India's bid.

- G-4 is a group of four countries i.e. Brazil, Germany, India and Japan which support each other's bids for permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

10. Assam is *not* bordered by which of the following states?

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Sikkim
- (c) Mizoram
- (d) West Bengal

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Assam is located in the northeast of India. The state shares its borders with Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura, and West Bengal.
- The state shares international borders with Bangladesh, Myanmar, and the Kingdom of Bhutan.



1. With reference to 8888 Uprising, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It was a series of protests and marches in Hong Kong.
2. It was against mainland China's proposal to introduce a new National Security Law.

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Also referred to as the 8888 Uprising, the 1988 pro-democracy uprising was a series of nationwide protests and marches in Myanmar that peaked in August 1988.
- Myanmar marked the anniversary of a 1988 pro-democracy uprising.

2. Which of the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is/are correct?

1. It is a scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for providing LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.
2. The Scheme provides financial support for each LPG connection to the BPL households, interest-free loan to purchase stoves and refills by Oil Marketing Companies.

Options:

- (a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both

(d) None

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is a scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for providing LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households. Identification of the BPL families will be done through Socio-Economic Caste Census Data.
- The Scheme provides financial support for each LPG connection to the BPL households, interest-free loan to purchase stoves and refills by Oil Marketing Companies.

3. The parliamentary Committee on public accounts

1. Consists of not more than 25 members of the Lok Sabha.
2. Scrutinizes appropriation and finance accounts of the Government.
3. Examines the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) examines the audit reports submitted by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India before the President who lays it before each house of the Indian Parliament.
- The Public Accounts Committee scrutinizes appropriation and finance accounts of the Government. That public expenditure is not only examined from a legal and formal point of view to discover technical irregularities but also from the point of view of the economy, prudence, wisdom, and propriety.
- The committee has 22 members, 15 from Lok Sabha (Lower House) and 7 members from Rajya Sabha.
- The members of PAC are elected from the Parliament every year with proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote. The Speaker appoints the chairperson from amongst the members. As a convention, the chairperson has been from the opposition party.

4. Which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct regarding the Collegium system?

1. It is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through judgments of the SC, and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution.

2. The Second Judges Case expanded the Collegium to a five-member body, comprising the CJI and four of his senior-most colleagues.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- It is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through judgments of the SC, and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution.
- The SC collegium is headed by the CJI and comprises four other senior most judges of the court.
- A HC collegium is led by its Chief Justice and four other senior most judges of that court.
- Names recommended for appointment by a HC collegium reaches the government only after approval by the CJI and the SC collegium.
- Judges of the higher judiciary are appointed only through the collegium system and the government has a role only after names have been decided by the collegium.

- The government's role is limited to getting an inquiry conducted by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) if a lawyer is to be elevated as a judge in a High Court or the Supreme Court.

- ✓ **Intelligence Bureau (IB):** It is a reputed and established intelligence agency. It is authoritatively controlled by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ✓ It can also raise objections and seek clarifications regarding the collegium's choices, but if the collegium reiterates the same names, the government is bound, under Constitution Bench judgments, to appoint them as judges.

Evolution of the Collegium System:

- **First Judges Case (1981):**

- ✓ It declared that the "primacy" of the Chief Justice of India (CJI)'s recommendation on judicial appointments and transfers can be refused for "cogent reasons."
- ✓ The ruling gave the Executive primacy over the Judiciary in judicial appointments for the next 12 years.

- **Second Judges Case (1993):**

- ✓ SC introduced the Collegium system, holding that "consultation" really meant "concurrence".
- ✓ It added that it was not the CJI's individual opinion, but an institutional opinion formed in consultation with the two senior-most judges in the SC.

- **Third Judges Case (1998):**

- ✓ SC on President's reference expanded the Collegium to a five-member body, comprising the CJI and four of his senior-most colleagues.

5. The Sixth Assessment Report on Climate Change was recently released by

- (a) UNEP
- (b) IPCC
- (c) UNFCCC
- (d) Greenwatch

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The current global warming trends overall are likely to lead an increase in annual mean precipitation over India, with more severe rains expected over southern India in the coming decades, says the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s on its Sixth Assessment Report.
- IPCC Working Group III is responsible for assessing the mitigation of climate change – responses and solutions to the threat of dangerous climate change by reducing emissions and enhancing sinks of the greenhouse gases that are responsible for global warming.
- Comprehensive scientific assessment reports are published every 6 to 7 years; the previous one (Fifth Assessment Report), was completed in 2014, and provided the

main scientific input to the Paris Agreement.

6. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading international body for the assessment of climate change. With respect to IPCC, consider the following statements.

1. Its membership is open to all member countries of the United Nations (UN).
2. It was established by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
3. Scientists from all over the world contribute to the work of the IPCC on a voluntary basis without receiving pecuniary incentives.
4. It publishes “Assessments Reports” on an annual basis addressing climate change related issues.

Which of the statements given below are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- As an intergovernmental body, membership of the IPCC is open to all member countries of the United Nations (UN) and WMO.

- Currently 195 countries are Members of the IPCC. Governments participate in the review process and the plenary Sessions.
- It was established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1988 to provide the world with a clear scientific view on the current state of knowledge in climate change and its potential environmental and socio-economic impacts.
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is a huge and yet very small organization. Thousands of scientists from all over the world contribute to the work of the IPCC on a voluntary basis as authors, contributors and reviewers. None of them is paid by the IPCC.
- The work of the IPCC is guided by a set of principles and procedures. The first report was published in 1990; second in 1995; third in 2001; fourth in 2007; Fifth in 2013-14; and the sixth very recently in 2021.
- These are published materials composed of the full scientific and technical assessment of climate change.

7. Consider the following statements:

1. Though states could come out with their own Bills to some extent to override the statutes of passed by the Parliament, none of those Bills would be effective unless the President accords his consent to such Bills.

2. It's the sole prerogative of the President whether to sign the state Bills or not.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Both the statements are correct.

8. In context to National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), consider the following statements:

1. It is a quasi-judicial body established under the Companies Act, 2013.
2. It is bound by the Code of Civil Procedure.
3. Any person aggrieved by any order of the NCLT may file an appeal to the Supreme Court.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

National Company Law Tribunal:

- The Central Government constituted National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) under section 408 of the Companies Act, 2013 in 2016.

- It has been set up as a quasi-judicial body to govern the companies registered in India and is a successor to the Company Law Board.

- It is bound by the rules laid down in the Code of Civil Procedure and is guided by the principles of natural justice, subject to the other provisions of this Act and of any rules that are made by the Central Government.

- The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 to hear appeals against the orders of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).

- Any person aggrieved by any order of the NCLAT may file an appeal to the Supreme Court.

9. Consider the following:

1. The Phase I and II of the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) have been launched by the Government of India.

2. DHARMA is a web-based tool developed to capture Important data for all Dams.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- India ranks third globally after China and the United States of America, with 5334 large dams in operation.
- These dams are vital for ensuring the water security of the Country.
- Indian dams and reservoirs play an important role in the economic and agricultural growth of the country by storing approximately 300 billion cubic meter of water annually.
- The Government of India, with financial assistance from the World Bank initiated the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) in April 2012.
- It was a State Sector Scheme with a Central component.
- It had rehabilitation provision for 223 dams located in seven States (Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand) with 10 Implementing Agencies on board.
- A web-based tool called Dam Health and Rehabilitation Monitoring Application (DHARMA) has been developed to capture important data for all dams and use it for appropriate monitoring and development of rehabilitation protocols.
- Based on the success of DRIP, the Ministry of Jal Shakti initiated another externally funded Scheme DRIP Phase II and Phase III.

- The scheme was approved in October 2020.
- The Phase II of the Scheme is being co-financed by two multilateral funding Agencies - World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), with funding of US\$ 250 million each.
- The funding pattern of Scheme is 80:20 (Special Category States), 70:30 (General Category States) and 50:50 (Central Agencies).

10. Consider the following statements, with regard to Quit India Movement:

1. It was also known as August Kranti.
2. Mahatma Gandhi launched this movement at the All-India Congress Session of Nagpur.
3. The slogans of 'Quit India' and 'Simon Go Back' were given by Aruna Asaf Ali.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

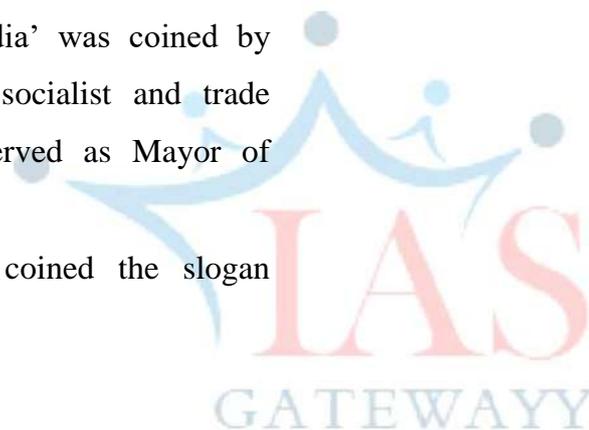
- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) All the above

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- On 8th August 1942, Mahatma Gandhi gave a clarion call to end the British rule and launched the Quit India Movement at the session of the All-India Congress Committee in Mumbai.

- On 8th Aug 2021, India completed 79 years of Quit India Movement also known as August Kranti. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- Gandhiji gave the call “Do or Die” in his speech delivered at the Gowalia Tank Maidan, now popularly known as August Kranti Maidan.
- Aruna Asaf Ali popularly known as the 'Grand Old Lady' of the Independence Movement is known for hoisting the Indian flag at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Mumbai during the Quit India Movement.
- The slogan ‘Quit India’ was coined by Yusuf Meherally, a socialist and trade unionist who also served as Mayor of Mumbai.
- Meherally had also coined the slogan “Simon Go Back”.



1. In context to the PM-KISAN scheme, consider the following statements:

1. An Amount of Rs. 6,000 per year is directly transferred into the bank accounts of small and marginal farmers only.
2. It is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India.
3. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Under the scheme, the Centre transfers an amount of Rs 6,000 per year, in three equal instalments, directly into the bank accounts of all landholding farmers irrespective of the size of their landholdings.
- It was launched in February 2019.
- It is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India. However, The entire responsibility of identification of beneficiary farmer families rests with the State/UT Governments.
- It is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

2. With reference to the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) system, consider the following statements:

1. It is a one-stop National Public Procurement Portal.
2. It is mandatory for Ministries and the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) to procure goods and services from GeM.
3. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is the nodal agency for the maintenance of GeM.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- GeM is a one-stop National Public Procurement Portal to facilitate online procurement of common use Goods & Services required by various Central and State Government Departments/Organizations/Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). The procurement of goods and services by Ministries and the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) is mandatory for goods and services available on GeM.
- It also provides the tools of e-bidding and reverse e-auction to facilitate the government users to achieve the best value for their money.

- It was launched in 2016 to bring transparency and efficiency to the government buying process.
- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is the nodal agency for the maintenance of GeM.

3. In context to Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, consider the following:

1. It is the international body for assessing the science related to climate change.
2. It was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- 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.

- IPCC assessments provide a scientific basis for governments at all levels to develop climate related policies, and they underlie negotiations at the UN Climate Conference – the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

4. With respect to the Census, consider the following statements:

1. The Census was first started under British Viceroy Lord Mayo in 1872.
2. The first synchronous census in India was held in 1881 and since then, censuses have been undertaken uninterruptedly once every ten years.
3. The responsibility of conducting the decennial Census rests with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are *not* correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The census provides information on size, distribution and socio-economic,

demographic and other characteristics of the country's population.

- The Census was first started under British Viceroy Lord Mayo in 1872. It helped in framing new policies, Government programs to uplift areas of improvement in the community. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The first synchronous census in India was held in 1881. Since then, censuses have been undertaken uninterruptedly once every ten years. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The responsibility of conducting the decennial Census rests with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India under **Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. So, statement 3 is not correct.**
- The Census is one of the most credible sources of information on the following:
 - ✓ Demography.
 - ✓ Economic Activity.
 - ✓ Literacy and Education.
 - ✓ Housing & Household Amenities.
 - ✓ Urbanization, Fertility, and Mortality.
 - ✓ Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
 - ✓ Language.

5. 'Bhashan Char Island' sometimes seen in news belongs to which of the following country?

- (a) Sri Lanka
- (b) India

- (c) Myanmar
- (d) Bangladesh

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Bhasan Char also known as Char Piya is an island in Hatiya, Bangladesh.
- Located 34 kilometres (21 miles) from the mainland, its name in Bengali means "floating island."
- The island was formed with Himalayan silt in 2006 spanning 40 square kilometres.
- It is underwater from June to September annually because of the monsoon, and it has no flood fences.
- In June 2015, the Bangladeshi government suggested resettling Rohingya refugees on the island under its Ashrayan Project.
- The proposal was characterized by the UN Refugee Agency as "logistically challenging".

6. 'Rohingyas' are a group of people sometimes seen in news belong to which of the following country?

- (a) Bhutan
- (b) Nepal
- (c) Myanmar
- (d) Bangladesh

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Rohingyas are an Ethnic group, mostly Muslims. They were not granted full citizenship by Myanmar.

- They were classified as “resident foreigners or associate citizens”.
- Ethnically they are much closer to Indo-Aryan people of India and Bangladesh than to the Sino-Tibetans of the Country.
- Few years ago, religious and ethnic tensions between the Rohingya Muslims and the Rakhine Buddhists (who make up the majority of the population in Myanmar) escalated into widespread, deadly rioting.
- Hundreds of thousands were forced to flee. Since then, ongoing violent attacks have forced even more people to leave their homes.
- The Myanmar Government says that Rohingya people are not Burmese citizens – but the Rohingya have been living in Myanmar for generations. Today, they are a people with no home or citizenship.
- Rohingya people are being widely abused and exploited. They are one of the most persecuted minorities in the world.

7. With reference to the Foreigners Tribunal, which of the statements given below are correct?

1. The Foreigners Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies, to determine if a person staying illegally is a foreigner or not.
2. Under the provisions of Foreigners Act 1946 and Foreigners (Tribunals) Order 1964, both Foreigners Tribunals and

Ministry of Home Affairs are empowered to declare a person as a foreigner.

3. A rejected person would have 120 days from the date of receiving the rejection slip to approach a Foreigners’ Tribunal (FT) for judging their Citizenship Status.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

- The tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies, to determine if a person staying illegally is a “foreigner” or not. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Every individual, whose name does not figure in the final National Register of Citizens (NRC), can represent his/her case in front of the appellate authority i.e. Foreigners Tribunals (FT).
- Assam has set up FTs, specifically to handle the cases of 19.06 lakh people left out of the updated NRC.
- Under the provisions of Foreigners Act 1946 and Foreigners (Tribunals) Order 1964, **only Foreigners Tribunals** are empowered to declare a person as a foreigner. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

- The Assam Police Border Organisation, a wing of the State police tasked with detecting foreigners, readies the cases for the tribunals to decide who is a foreigner and who is not.
- According to the Centre's standard operating procedures, a rejected person would have **120 days** from the date of receiving the rejection slip to approach a Foreigners' Tribunal (FT) for judging their citizenship status. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

8. The grouping "extended troika" is seen in news in which of the following contexts?

- (a) Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations.
- (b) Afghanistan peace process.
- (c) The Israeli–Palestinian peace process.
- (d) Abraham Accords.

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Extended troika consisting of Russia, China, the United States and Pakistan is scheduled to meet soon in Doha on the Afghanistan peace process.

9. Consider the following statements:

1. The territorial sea extends seaward up to 12 nautical miles from its baselines and includes not only the surface but also the airspace.

2. Only civilian foreign ships are allowed innocent passage through the territorial waters.
3. The U.S. has not ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) None of the above

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- As per the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the sovereignty of a coastal State extends beyond its land territory and internal waters to an adjacent belt of sea, described as the territorial sea.
- The territorial sea extends seaward up to 12 nautical miles from its baselines and includes not only the surface but also the airspace over the territorial sea as well as to its bed and subsoil.
- As per the UNCLOS, all ships, including warships, regardless of cargo, armament or means of propulsion, enjoy the right of innocent passage through the territorial sea.
- Foreign ships exercising the right of innocent passage through the territorial sea shall comply with all such laws and regulations and all generally accepted international regulations relating to the prevention of collisions at sea and in a

manner not prejudicial to its peace, good order, or security.

- The U.S. has not ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

10. Consider the following statements in respect of Trade Related Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce (TRAFFIC):

1. TRAFFIC is a bureau under United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. The mission of TRAFFIC is to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the 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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- TRAFFIC is a leading NGO working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.
- Established in 1976 by IUCN and WWF to respond to the growing threats posed by unsustainable and illegal wildlife trade, TRAFFIC plays a leading role as a global wildlife trade specialist.

1. With reference to the Indra Sawhney case, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. The Court rejected the additional reservation of 10% for poorer sections of higher castes, but it upheld the constitutional validity of 27% reservation for the OBCs with certain conditions.
2. No reservation in promotions; reservation should be confined to initial appointments only.
3. The carry forward rule in case of unfilled vacancies should not violate 50% rule.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- In the famous **Mandal case (Indra Sawhney v. Union of India 1992)**, the scope and extent of **Article 16(4)**, which provides for reservation of jobs in favour of backward classes, has been examined thoroughly by the Supreme Court.
- Though the Court has rejected the additional reservation of 10% for poorer sections of higher castes, it upheld the constitutional validity of 27% reservation for the OBCs with certain conditions, viz,

- ✓ The advanced sections among the OBCs (the creamy layer) should be excluded from the list of beneficiaries of reservation.
- ✓ No reservation in promotions; reservation should be confined to initial appointments only. Any existing reservation in promotions can continue for five years only (i.e., upto 1997).
- ✓ The total reserved quota should not exceed 50% except in some extraordinary situations. This rule should be applied every year.
- ✓ The 'carry forward rule' in case of unfilled (backlog) vacancies is valid. But it should not violate 50% rule.
- ✓ A permanent statutory body should be established to examine complaints of over-inclusion and under-inclusion in the list of OBCs.

- However, it is also to be noted that the Parliament has passed the 124th Constitution Amendment Bill (10% Quota Bill) to provide for 10% reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) among the general category candidates in higher education and government employment in the year 2019.
- **So, all the three statements are correct.**

2. With reference to the Socially Educational and Backward Class (SEBC), which of the statement(s) given below is/are **not** correct?

1. The President alone is empowered to identify SEBCs and include them in a list to be published under Article 342A (1) of the Constitution.
2. The States could only make suggestions to the President or the statutory commissions concerned for inclusion, exclusion or modification of castes and communities to be included in the List.
3. Once published, under Article 342A (1), the list can only be amended through a law enacted by Parliament.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Parliament recently passed a constitutional amendment aimed at restoring the rights of the States and the Union Territories to maintain their own list of socially and educationally backward classes (SEBCs), commonly known as Other Backward Classes (OBCs).
- The Bill seeks to restore the power of State governments to identify Other Backward

Classes that are socially and economically backward.

- Please note that In May 2021, the Supreme Court, in an order, had empowered only the Central government for such identification. The Bill amends this to provide that the President may notify the list of socially and educationally backward classes only for purposes of the central government.
- This central list will be prepared and maintained by the central government. The Bill enables states and union territories to prepare their own list of socially and educationally backward classes.
- This list must be made by law, and may differ from the central list.
- Article 338B of the Constitution mandates the central and state governments to consult the NCBC on all major policy matters affecting the socially and educationally backward classes.

3. Which of the following are considered as the protected areas under the Indian Rhino Vision 2020?

1. Kaziranga National Park
2. Pobitora wildlife sanctuary
3. Laokhowa wildlife sanctuary
4. Burachapori wildlife sanctuary
5. Dibru Saikhowa wildlife sanctuary

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only

- (b) 1, 2 and 5 only
(c) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
(d) All the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Launched in 2005, Indian Rhino Vision 2020 is an ambitious effort to attain a wild population of at least 3,000 greater one-horned rhinos spread over seven protected areas in the Indian state of Assam by the year 2020.
 - Seven protected areas are Kaziranga, Pobitora, Orang National Park, Manas National Park, Laokhowa wildlife sanctuary, Burachapori wildlife sanctuary and Dibru Saikhowa wildlife sanctuary.
 - It is a collaborative effort between various organisations, including the International Rhino Foundation, Assam's Forest Department, Bodoland Territorial Council, World Wide Fund - India, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.
4. The provisions of the Constitution which are related to the federal structure of the polity can be amended by a special majority of the Parliament and with the consent of half of the state legislatures by a simple majority. Which of the following provisions can be amended this way?
1. Distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the states.
 2. Representation of states in Parliament.

3. Abolition or creation of legislative councils in states.
4. Fifth Schedule—administration of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes.

Select the correct Answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Parliament can abolish a Legislative Council (where it already exists) or create it (where it does not exist) by a simple majority, that is, a majority of the members of each House present and voting, if the legislative assembly of the concerned state, by a special majority (supported by majority of the strength of the house and 2/3rd majority of the present and voting i.e., Absolute + Special Majority), passes a resolution to that effect.
- 5th Scheduled Areas under the Constitution is “such areas as the President may by order declare to be Scheduled Areas”. At present, 10 States namely Andhra Pradesh,
- Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana have Fifth Schedule Areas.

5. With reference to Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP), consider the following:

1. It is a Central Armed Police Force functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. It is deployed on border guarding duties from Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to NathuLa in Sikkim only.
3. It is also deployed for Anti Naxal operations and other internal security duties.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Indo-Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP) is a Central Armed Police Force functioning under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
- Other Central Armed Police Forces are: Assam Rifles (AR), Border Security Force (BSF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), National Security Guards (NSG) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- The ITBP was raised on 24th October, 1962 during the India-China War and is a border guarding police force specializing in high altitude operations.

- Presently, ITBP is deployed on border guarding duties from Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh covering 3488 km of Indo-China Border.
- The Force is also deployed for Anti Naxal operations and other internal security duties.
- ITBP was initially raised under the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Act, 1949. However, in 1992, parliament enacted the ITBPF Act and the rules were framed in 1994.

6. In context to Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS-4), consider the following:

1. It is conducted by WHO in collaboration with UNICEF.
2. As per the survey, about 40% decline is witnessed in tobacco use among 13-15 year-old school going children in India in the last decade.
3. Tobacco use among school going children was highest in Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS-4) was conducted in 2019 by the International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).
- It serves as a regional centre for Training and Research in Population Studies for the the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) region.
- The first three rounds of GYTS were conducted in 2003, 2006 and 2009.

Major Findings of the GYTS-4:

- There has been a 42% decline in tobacco use among 13-15 year-old school going children in the last decade.
- Nearly one-fifth of the students aged 13-15 used any form of the tobacco product (smoking, smokeless, and any other form) in their life.
- Use of any form of tobacco was higher among boys. Prevalence of tobacco use among boys was 9.6% and among girls was 7.4%. Tobacco use among school going children was highest in Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram and lowest in Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka.

7. Consider the following, with reference to the Asiatic lion:

1. It is a critically endangered species under the IUCN Red list.

2. Gir forests in Gujarat is its only natural habitat.
3. The Project Lion was launched in 2020 for the conservation of the Asiatic Lion.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- India is the only home to the majestic Asiatic Lion, which inhabits the protected territory of Sasan-Gir National Park (Gujarat).

Protection Status:

- IUCN Red List: Endangered.
- CITES: Appendix I for populations of India, all other populations are included in Appendix II.
- Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972: Schedule I
- The Project Lion was launched in 2020 by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) for the conservation of the Asiatic Lion.
- It focuses on the last remaining wild population in Gujarat's Asiatic Lion Landscape (ALL).
- It was launched on the lines of Project Tiger and Project Elephant.

8. Consider the following statements regarding 6th Schedule

1. It deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the states of Assam, Manipur, Tripura and Mizoram.
2. The governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- 6th schedule deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four north-eastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- The governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts. The governor can appoint a commission to examine and report on any matter relating to the administration of the autonomous districts or regions. He may dissolve a district or regional council on the recommendation of the commission.

9. Which of the following statements given below is/are correct?

1. The Mercalli scale measures the intensity of the earthquake shock.

2. The intensity scale takes into account the visible damage caused by the event.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

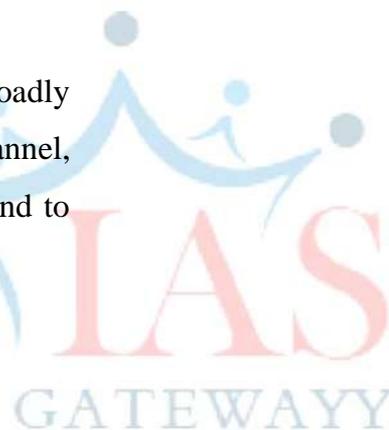
- The earthquake events are scaled either according to the magnitude or intensity of the shock. The magnitude scale is known as the Richter scale.
- The magnitude relates to the energy released during the quake. The magnitude is expressed in numbers, 0-10.
- The Richter magnitude scale is a scale of numbers used to tell the power (or magnitude) of earthquakes. Charles Richter developed the Richter Scale in 1935. His scale worked like a seismogram, measured by a particular type of seismometer at a distance of 100 kilometers (62 mi) from the earthquake.
- The intensity scale is named after Mercalli, an Italian seismologist. The intensity scale takes into account the visible damage caused by the event. The range of intensity scale is from 1-12.

10. 11-degree channel separates which of the following?

- (a) Lakshadweep and Maldives
- (b) Minicoy and rest of Lakshadweep
- (c) Amini Island and the Canannore Island
- (d) None of the above

Answer: c)

- The islands of the Arabian Sea include Lakshadweep and Minicoy. These are scattered between 8°N-12°N and 71°E - 74°E longitude.
- The entire island group is built of coral deposits. There are approximately 36 islands of which 11 are inhabited.
- The entire group of islands is broadly divided by the Eleven-degree channel, north of which is the Amini Island and to the south of the Canannore Island.



1. Consider the following reserves regarding the Tiger Reserves:

1. Tiger Reserves are declared by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) via Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006.
2. To declare an area as Tiger Reserve, the state governments forward their proposals in this regard to NTCA.
3. No alternation of boundary can be done without the recommendation of State Governments and without the advice of the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Tiger Reserves are declared by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) via Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006 under centrally sponsored scheme called Project Tiger. So, statement 1 is correct.
- To declare an area as Tiger Reserve, the state governments can forward their proposals in this regard to NTCA. So, statement 2 is correct.

- Central Government via NTCA may also advise the state governments to forward a proposal for creation of Tiger Reserves.
- Tiger Reserves are managed by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- No alternation of boundary can be done **without the recommendation of National Board for Wild Life and without the advice of the Tiger Conservation Authority. So, statement 3 is not correct.**

2. Consider the following reserves regarding the Elephants:

1. African elephants are listed as vulnerable and Asian elephants as endangered in IUCN Red List of threatened species.
2. Kerala has the highest number of elephants, followed by Assam and Karnataka.
3. The very first elephant reserve was the Singhbhum Elephant Reserve of Jharkhand.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- ✓ There are three subspecies of Asian elephant – the Indian, Sumatran and Sri Lankan.

- ✓ The Indian has the widest range and accounts for the majority of the remaining elephants on the continent.
 - ✓ African elephants are listed as “vulnerable” and Asian elephants as “endangered” in IUCN Red List of threatened species.
 - ✓ The elephant has been accorded the highest possible protection under the Indian wildlife law through its listing under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Appendix I under Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
 - ✓ Government of India has launched various initiatives for conservation of elephants.
 - As estimated, there are 101 elephant corridors, of which almost 70% are used regularly.
 - Nearly three-quarters of the corridors are evenly divided among southern, central and north-eastern forests.
 - The rest are found in northwest Bengal and the north-western region.
 - Some of these passages are precariously narrow, at only a hundred metres wide.
 - Nilgiris - There are an estimated 6,500 elephants in just the Brahmagiri-Nilgiris-Eastern Ghats ranges.
 - Karnataka has the highest number of elephants, followed by Assam and Kerala.
 - There are around 32 Elephant Reserves in India. The very first elephant reserve was the Singhbhum Elephant Reserve of Jharkhand.
3. ‘Power sharing Agreement’, was recently seen in news. It is related to which of the following country?
- (a) Israel
 - (b) Afghanistan
 - (c) Pakistan
 - (d) China
- Answer: b)**
- Explanation:**
- As security forces retreated across the country, Kabul (Afghanistan) handed a proposal to Taliban negotiators in Qatar offering a power-sharing deal in return for an end to fighting.
 - The Taliban had been given an offer about a “government of peace” without providing more specifics.
 - Authorities in Kabul have now effectively lost most of northern and western Afghanistan and are left holding a scattered archipelago of contested cities also dangerously at risk of falling to the Taliban.
 - The conflict has escalated dramatically since May, when US-led forces began the

- final stage of a troop withdrawal due to end later this month following a 20-year occupation.
- The loss of Ghazni will likely pile more pressure on the country's already overstretched airforce, needed to bolster Afghanistan's dispersed security forces who have increasingly been cut off from reinforcements by road.
- Pro-Taliban social media accounts also boasted of the vast spoils of war their fighters had recovered in recent days, posting photos of armoured vehicles, heavy weapons, and even a drone seized by the insurgents at abandoned Afghan military bases.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 makes it obligatory upon the user industries handling 179 types of chemicals and compounds to subscribe a special insurance policy to cover the liabilities likely to arise on account of any disaster.
2. The Act establishes an Environment Relief Fund (ERF), which is subscribed by all such user industries by an amount equal to the annual premium amount of such insurance policies.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Public Liability Insurance (PLI) Act, 1991 makes it obligatory upon the user industries handling 179 types of chemicals and compounds and other classes of flammable substances to subscribe a special insurance policy to cover the liabilities likely to arise on account of any chemical (industrial) disaster/accident and payable to those affected people who are not the workers on 'no fault basis'/'absolute liability'.
- The Act establishes an **Environment Relief Fund (ERF)**, which is subscribed by all such user industries by an amount equal to the annual premium amount of such insurance policies.
- PLI Act is administered by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change.
- **So, both the statements are correct.**

5. In context to the Public Enterprises (PE) Survey, consider the following statements:

1. It is the single largest source of information on Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs)
2. It is released by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Ministry of Heavy Industries.

3. It was started as a part of New Economic Policy, 1991.

Which of the above statements is/are not correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Public Enterprises (PE) Survey is a 100% enumeration of the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) universe.
- It is the single largest source of information on CPSEs and acts as a basis for informed policymaking.
- It is released by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Ministry of Finance.
- Recently, the government reallocated the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) to the finance ministry from the ministry of heavy industries.
- The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) started bringing out the Public Enterprises Survey from the financial year 1960-61 on the recommendations of the Estimates Committee of the 2nd Lok Sabha, 73rd report (1959-60).

6. Consider the following statements, with regard to Kaziranga National Park:

1. It is the single largest undisturbed area in the Brahmaputra Valley floodplain.
2. It has the highest density of one-horned rhinos in the world.
3. It is listed as one of the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Kaziranga National Park is located in the State of Assam and covers 42,996 Hectare (ha).
- It is the single largest undisturbed and representative area in the Brahmaputra Valley floodplain.
- It was declared as a National Park in 1974.
- It has been declared a Tiger Reserve since 2007. It has a total tiger reserve area of 1,030 sq km with a core area of 430 sq. km.
- Kaziranga National Park was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985.
- It is also recognized as An Important Bird Area by Bird Life International.
- It is home to the largest number of one-horned rhinos in the world.

- Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary has the highest density of one-horned rhinos in the world and second highest number of Rhinos in Assam after Kaziranga National Park.

7. Consider the following statements, with regard to the Bhils:

1. They are associated with the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka.
2. They are the second biggest tribe in Rajasthan after Minas.
3. They are classified as Scheduled Tribes in Rajasthan.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Bhil are one of the largest tribal groups, living in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- They are the biggest tribe in Rajasthan.
- They are classified as scheduled tribes in Rajasthan.
- Bhil women wear traditional saris while men are dressed in long frocks and pyjamas. The woman put on heavy ornaments made of silver, brass along with

rosaries of beads and silver coins and earrings.

Other Tribes in Rajasthan:

- **Sahariyas:** Sahariyas are one of the most backward Rajasthani tribes.
- **Minas:** Minas is the second biggest tribe in Rajasthan.
- They are known to be the inhabitants of Indus Valley Civilization.
- **Gadiya Lohars:** Gadiya Lohars are known to be a small Rajput Rajasthan tribe.
- **Garasias:** Garasias are another small Rajput Rajasthan tribe.

8. Identify the correct statement/s from the following regarding anaemia.

1. One of its common cause is deficiency of folic acid and vitamin B12.
2. The proportion of anaemic children and women is comparatively lower in Gujarat and West Bengal.”

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Indian women and children are overwhelmingly anaemic, according to the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2019-20 released this month, and the condition is the most prevalent in the Himalayan cold desert.

- The condition of having a lower-than-normal number of red blood cells or a quantity of haemoglobin. It can make one feel tired, cold, dizzy, and irritable and short of breath, among other symptoms.
- A diet which does not contain enough iron, folic acid or vitamin B12 is a common cause of anaemia.
- Some other conditions that may lead to anaemia include pregnancy, heavy periods, blood disorders or cancer, inherited disorders and infectious diseases.

9. Consider the following statements in context to Dibru-Saikhowa National Park.

1. It has been designated as a biosphere reserve.
2. The park is bounded by the Brahmaputra and Dibru Rivers in the north and Lohit river in the south.
3. It is the largest Salix swamp forest in north-eastern India with a tropical monsoon climate.

Select the correct code using the codes given below.”

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Assam has asked the State’s Forest and Revenue departments to permanently

rehabilitate the indigenous forest dwellers of the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park.

- DSNP is a national park in Assam located in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts.
- It was designated a Biosphere Reserve in July 1997 with an area of 765 sq. km.
- The park is bounded by the Brahmaputra and Lohit Rivers in the north and Dibru river in the south.
- It mainly consists of moist mixed semi-evergreen forests, moist mixed deciduous forests, canebrakes and grasslands.
- It is the largest Salix swamp forest in north-eastern India, with a tropical monsoon climate with a hot and wet summer and cool and usually dry winter.

10. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI)?

1. Its function is limited to training of health workers across the developing world and cannot provide funding to strengthen health systems.
 2. It has observer status at the World Health Assembly.”
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Union Health Minister has been nominated by the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) as a member on the GAVI Board.
- GAVI is a public-private global health partnership with the goal of increasing access to immunisation in poor countries.
- GAVI has observer status at the World Health Assembly.
- GAVI has been praised for being innovative, effective, and less bureaucratic than Multilateral Government Institutions like the WHO.
- Members: the WHO, UNICEF, the World Bank, the vaccine industry in both industrialized and developing countries and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Among Others.
- GAVI programmes can often produce quantified, politically appealing, easy-to-explain results within an election cycle, which is appealing to parties locked in an Election Cycle.

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Midday Meal Scheme:

1. The scheme guarantees one meal to all children in government and aided schools and madaras supported under Samagra Shiksha.
2. Students up to Class VIII are guaranteed one nutritional cooked meal at least 200 days in a year.
3. The Scheme comes under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The scheme guarantees one meal to all children in government and aided schools and madaras supported under Samagra Shiksha. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Students up to Class VIII are guaranteed one nutritional cooked meal at least 200 days in a year. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Scheme comes under the Ministry of HRD. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**
- It was launched in the year 1995 as the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP – NSPE), a centrally sponsored scheme. In

2004, the scheme was relaunched as the Mid Day Meal Scheme.

- The Scheme is also covered by the National Food Security Act, 2013.

2. Consider the following statements:

1. Active pharmaceutical ingredient is a chemical compound that is the most important raw material to produce a finished medicine.
2. About 40% of the paracetamol API manufactured in the country is consumed in the domestic market, while the rest is meant for exports.
3. Since, being a leading supplier of high-quality medicines to several countries, Indian pharmaceutical industry is highly self-sufficient in APIs.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are

not correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) None

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Active pharmaceutical ingredient is a chemical compound that is the most important raw material to produce a finished medicine. So, statement 1 is correct.

- ←.....→
- About 40% of the paracetamol API manufactured in the country is consumed in the domestic market, while the rest is meant for exports. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
 - Despite, being a leading supplier of high-quality medicines to several countries, Indian pharmaceutical industry is highly dependent on China for APIs. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

3. Right to Education is enshrined in which of the articles of the Indian Constitution?

1. Article 21A
2. Article 45
3. Article 44
4. Article 47

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Constitution (Eighty-sixth Amendment) Act, 2002 inserted Article 21-A in the Constitution of India to provide free and compulsory education of all children in the age group of six to fourteen years as a Fundamental Right in such a manner as the State may, by law, determine.

- Article 45 Constitution of India: Provision for early childhood care and education to children below the age of six years. [The State shall endeavour to provide early childhood care and education for all children until they complete the age of six years.]

4. With respect to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), consider the following statements:

1. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India.
2. It regulates control over the import of drugs, approval of new drugs, clinical trials and approves licences to all kind of drugs in India.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is the National

Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India. So, **statement 1 is correct.**

- It is the Central Drug Authority for discharging functions assigned to the Central Government under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.
- Major Functions are as follows:
 - ✓ Regulatory control over the import of drugs, approval of new drugs and clinical trials.
 - ✓ Approval of certain licences as Central Licence Approving Authority
- Drug Controller General of India (DCGI): DCGI is responsible for approval of licences of specified categories of drugs such as blood and blood products, IV fluids, vaccines and sera in India. It comes under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. So, statement 2 is correct.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. It is an inactive state resembling deep sleep.
2. The body temperature is lowered and breathing and heart rates slow down.
3. It can be seen in Polar bears, Rodents, and Bats.

The above statements most appropriately describe which of the following biological processes?

- (a) Aestivation
- (b) Sexual Dimorphism
- (c) Chromism
- (d) Hibernation

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Hibernation is an inactive state resembling deep sleep in which certain animals living in cold climates pass the winter.
- In hibernation, the body temperature is lowered and breathing and heart rates slow down.
- It protects the animal from cold and reduces the need for food during the season when food is scarce.
- Normally, Polar bears, Rodents, and Bats are some animals that show hibernation.
- Recently, new research in zebrafish has demonstrated how induced hibernation (torpor) may protect humans from the elements of space, Especially Radiation, During Space Flight.

6. With reference to the UN Convention on the Status of Refugees 1951, Consider the following statements:

1. It defines refugees as foreign nationals who enter the country without valid travel documents.
2. India is a signatory to this convention.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Under the 1951 UN Convention on the Status of Refugees and the subsequent 1967 Protocol gives the definition of a refugee.
- According to it, the word refugee pertains to any person who is outside their country of origin and unable or unwilling to return owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.
- However, the foreign nationals who enter the country without valid travel documents are treated as illegal migrants. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- India is not a signatory to the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereon. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), also called the Palermo Convention) is an United Nations-sponsored multilateral treaty against transnational organized crime. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It was adopted in Palermo in Italy in 2000, entered into force in 2003.
- The idea behind having an international convention against organized crime was that if crimes could cross borders, so must law enforcement.
- India joined UNTOC in 2002.
- This protocol is the first global legally binding instrument with an agreed definition on trafficking in persons. In addition the protocol aimed at protecting and assisting victims of human trafficking.

7. With reference to the 'Palermo Convention', consider the following statements:

1. It is an United Nations-sponsored multilateral treaty against transnational organized crime.
2. The protocol aimed at protecting and assisting victims of human trafficking.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

8. Which of the given statements with respect to Quality of Life for Elderly Index is/are correct?

1. The Index was created by NITI Aayog to shed light on problems faced by elderly citizens in India.
2. Its framework includes four pillars of Financial Well-being, Social Well-being, Health System and Income Security.

Options:

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Quality of Life for Elderly Index has been created by the Institute for Competitiveness at the request of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).
- The index designed to shed light on problems faced by elderly citizens in India, includes four pillars of Financial Well-being, Social Well-being, Health System and Income Security.

9. Which among the following is/are Earth Observation Satellites?

1. Megha-Tropiques
2. SARAL
3. OCEANSAT
4. IRNSS-1A
5. Bhaskara-I

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- IRNSS-1A is the first navigational satellite in the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System series of satellites.
- The other four satellites mentioned are all earth observation satellites.

- Megha-Tropiques is an Indo-French Joint Satellite Mission for studying the water cycle and energy exchanges in the tropics.
- The Satellite with ARGOS and ALTIKA (SARAL) is a joint Indo-French satellite mission for oceanographic studies.
- Oceansat-1 or IRS-P4 was the first Indian satellite built primarily for ocean applications. It was a part of the Indian Remote Sensing Programme satellite series.
- Bhaskara-I was India's first low orbit Earth Observation Satellite.

10. Which of the given statements is/are correct?

1. The demographic dividend is the economic Growth Potential resulting out of changing population age structure in a country.
2. When the dependency ratio is minimum and the pyramid shows a bulge in the middle portion, a country is said to be in the 'demographic dividend' phase.
3. In India, the year 2018 is known as the year of the demographic divide.

Options:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The year 1921 is known as the demographic divide for India for the reason that before this year, the population was not constant, sometimes it increased and at other times it decreased.
- The growth scale of the population was usually low before 1921. But after this year, there has been a considerable and constant increase in the population.



1. Consider the following statements regarding the Vehicular Scrappage Policy:

1. Old vehicles will have to pass a fitness test before re-registration and as per the policy government commercial vehicles more than 20 years old and private vehicles which are over 15 years old will be scrapped.
2. As a disincentive, increased re-registration fees would be applicable for vehicles 15 years or older from the initial date registration.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Old vehicles will have to pass a fitness test before re-registration and as per the policy government commercial vehicles more than 15 years old and private vehicles which are over 20 years old will be scrapped. So, statement 1 is not correct.
- As a disincentive, increased re-registration fees would be applicable for vehicles 15 years or older from the initial date registration. So, statement 2 is correct.
- The state governments may be advised to offer a road-tax rebate of up to 25% for

- personal vehicles and up to 15% for commercial vehicles to provide incentive to owners of old vehicles to scrap old and unfit vehicles.

2. Consider the following statements regarding Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021:

1. The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of the identified single-use plastic will be prohibited with effect from the 1st July, 2022.
2. The ban will also apply to commodities made of compostable plastic.
3. The permitted thickness of the plastic bags, currently 50 microns, will be increased to 75 microns from 30th September, 2021, and to 120 microns from the 31st December, 2022.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- These rules prohibit specific single-use plastic items which have “low utility and high littering potential” by 2022.
- The manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of the identified single-use plastic will be prohibited with

effect from the 1st July, 2022. So, **statement 1 is correct.**

- The ban will not apply to commodities made of compostable plastic. So, **statement 2 is not correct.**
- For banning other plastic commodities in the future, other than those that have been listed in this notification, the government has given industry ten years from the date of notification for compliance.
- The permitted thickness of the plastic bags, currently 50 microns, will be increased to 75 microns from 30th September, 2021, and to 120 microns from the 31st December, 2022. So, **statement 3 is correct.**
- Plastic bags with higher thickness are more easily handled as waste and have higher recyclability.

3. India is *not* a signatory to which of the following agreements?

1. COMCASA
2. GSOMIA
3. BECA
4. LEMOA

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (d) None of the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- India recently signed BECA too, while India is a signatory to all other agreements.

4. Which of the following best describes the Merchant Discount Rate (MDR)?

- (a) MDR is charge or fee imposed on merchant by bank for accepting payment from their customers in usage of credit or debit cards.
- (b) MDR is charge or fee imposed on merchant by the government for accepting payment from their customers in usage of credit or debit cards.
- (c) MDR is discount rate given for merchant by bank for accepting payment from their customers in usage of credit or debit cards.
- (d) MDR is discount rate given for merchant by government for accepting payment from their customers in usage of credit or debit cards.

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- MDR is charge or fee imposed on merchant by bank for accepting payment from their customers in credit and debit cards every time card is used for payments (like swiping) in their stores.
- MDR charges are usually shared in pre-agreed proportion between them and are expressed in percentage of transaction amount.
- MDR compensates bank issuing card, bank which puts up swiping machine (Point-of-

Sale or PoS terminal) and network providers such as MasterCard or Visa for their services.

- In India, the RBI specifies maximum MDR charges that can be levied on every card transaction.
- But now, Finance Ministry has notified that Digital transactions made using RuPay credit cards, or UPI QR codes will not face additional charges for merchants or customers from the beginning of next year.
- All shops, business establishments and companies with an annual turnover of Rs. 50 crore or more have been mandated to offer these modes of payment to customers.

5. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct in context to polarization?

1. Polarization is a property of light that represents the direction that the light wave oscillates.
 2. It helps in inferring the presence of clouds.”
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Recently, a group of astrophysicists have found that the closest known brown dwarf, Luhman 16A shows signs of cloud bands similar to those seen on Jupiter and Saturn.

- They used the technique of polarimetry to determine the properties of atmospheric clouds outside of the solar system.

Polarimetry:

- The concept of polarimetry technique was put forth by Indian astrophysicist Sujan Sengupta, that the light emitted by a cloudy brown dwarf, or reflected off an extrasolar planet, will be polarised.
- Polarimetry is the study of polarization. Polarization is a property of light that represents the direction that the light wave oscillates.
- When light is reflected off of particles it can favor a certain angle of polarization. By measuring the preferred polarization of light from a distant system, astronomers can deduce the presence of clouds.
- However, in case of Luhman 16A, the researchers have found the actual structure of the clouds (not only their presence).
- The polarimetry technique isn't limited to brown dwarfs. It can also be applied to exoplanets orbiting distant stars, or even stars. However, light from brown dwarfs is ideal for the study.”

6. Select the correct statement/s with reference to African swine fever sometimes seen in news.

1. It is a non-contagious and curable Disease .
2. It spreads very rapidly from humans to Humans.
3. It mainly affects domestic and wild pigs.”

- ←-----→
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) All the above

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Centre has advised the Assam state government to go for culling of pigs affected by the African Swine Fever (ASF).

African swine fever:

- It is a highly contagious and fatal animal disease that infects and leads to an acute form of hemorrhagic fever in domestic and wild pigs. The mortality is close to 100% and since the fever has no cure, the only way to stop its spread is by culling the animals. Hence, statements 1 is incorrect while the 3rd statement is correct.
- It was first detected in Africa in the 1920s.
- ASF is not a threat to human beings since it only spreads from animals to other animals.
- ASF is a disease listed in the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code and thus, reported to the OIE.”

7. Stringency Index recently seen in news is related to:

- (a) Growth rate of economy
- (b) Coronavirus
- (c) Speed of satellite
- (d) Climate change

Answer: b)

- The Oxford University has created a Stringency Index which shows how strict a country’s measures were and at what stage of the Covid-19 spread, it enforced these.

Stringency Index:

- The Government Response Stringency Index is a composite measure based on various response indicators including school and workplace closures, stay-at-home policies and travel bans, rescaled to a value from 0 to 100.
- A higher index score indicates a higher level of stringency (100 = strictest response).
- It is among the metrics used by the Oxford Coronavirus Government Response Tracker (OxCGRT).
- The Tracker has a team of 100 Oxford community members who update a database of 17 indicators of government response.”

Tag: Geography

8. In context to the Glacial lake outburst flood, consider the following statements:

1. It occurs when the water dammed by glacier moraine is released suddenly.
2. Climate change is slowing the occurrence of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

(d) Neither 1 and 2

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- A Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) refers to the flooding that occurs when the water dammed by a glacier or a moraine (accumulations of dirt and rocks fallen onto the glacier surface) is released suddenly.
- When glaciers melt, the water in glacial lakes accumulates behind loose, natural “glacial/moraine dams” made of ice, sand, pebbles and ice residue.
- Unlike earthen dams, the weak structure of the moraine dam leads to the abrupt breach of the dam on top of the glacial lake which could cause flash floods in the downstream areas. According to NDMA, glacial retreat due to climate change occurring in most parts of the Hindu Kush Himalaya has given rise to the formation of numerous new glacial lakes, which are the major cause of GLOFs.

9. Consider the following statements, with regard to Greater Adjutant Storks:

1. Assam is the only known breeding ground of Greater Adjutant Storks in India.
2. Greater Adjutant Storks are listed as endangered in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Greater Adjutant is a member of the stork family, Ciconiidae.
- There are about 20 species in the family.
- They are long-necked large birds.
- Once found across South and Southeast Asia, the Greater Adjutant is one of the most threatened stork species in the world.
- There are only three known breeding grounds – one in Cambodia and two in India (Assam and Bihar).

Protection Status:

- **IUCN Red List:** Endangered.
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972:** Schedule IV

10. Consider the following statements, with regard to Ballistic missile:

1. A ballistic missile is a rocket-propelled self-guided strategic-weapons system.
2. India is signatory to the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOG).

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- A Ballistic Missile is a rocket-propelled self-guided strategic-weapons system that follows a ballistic trajectory to deliver a payload from its launch site to a predetermined target.
- It can carry conventional high explosives as well as chemical, biological, or nuclear munitions.
- The International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (ICOC), now known as the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOB), is a political initiative aimed at globally curbing ballistic missile proliferation.
- India is a signatory to this convention.
- Established in April 1987, the voluntary Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) aims to limit the spread of ballistic missiles and other unmanned delivery systems that could be used for chemical, biological, and nuclear attacks.
- India has joined the MTCR.

1. With respect to the Rice fortification, consider the following statements:

1. Fortifying rice involves grinding broken rice into powder, mixing it with nutrients, and then shaping it into rice-like kernels using an extrusion process.
2. Regular milled rice is low in micronutrients and serves primarily as a source of carbohydrate only.
3. Fortified rice contains Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B12, Folic Acid, Iron and Zinc.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Rice fortification is the practice of increasing the content of essential micronutrients in rice and to improve the nutritional quality of the rice.
- Fortifying rice involves grinding broken rice into powder, mixing it with nutrients, and then shaping it into rice-like kernels using an extrusion process. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- These fortified kernels are then mixed with normal rice in a 1:100 ratio, and distributed for consumption.

- Rice is the world's most important staple food. An estimated 2 billion people eat rice every day, forming the mainstay of diets across large of Asia and Africa.
- Regular milled rice is low in micronutrients and serves primarily as a source of carbohydrate only. The fortification of rice is a major opportunity to improve nutrition. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

- Fortified rice are contains Vitamin A, Vitamin B1, Vitamin B12, Folic Acid, Iron and Zinc. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

2. Which of the following country is not bordered by Afghanistan?

- (a) Kyrgyzstan
- (b) Turkmenistan
- (c) Uzbekistan
- (d) Tajikistan

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Afghanistan is a country located in the southern region of Central Asia.
- The country covers a total area of 252,000 square miles, has a population size of approximately 34.65 million, and a large number of these individuals live in the capital city of Kabul.
- Afghanistan is covered by several types of terrain, including deserts in the south, plains in the north, and the Hindu Kush Mountains extend throughout most of the country.

- Afghanistan is the ninth largest landlocked country in the world and shares its borders with six countries and one disputed territory.
- The countries that share borders with Afghanistan are Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, China, and Iran.



4. While Oxo-Biodegradable plastics possess same strength and weight as conventional plastics, Hydro-Biodegradable Plastics, though thicker and heavier, they are weaker than conventional plastics.
5. Oxy biodegradable plastics require exposure to one or more degradation promoters like sunlight, heat or micro-organisms for them to degrade.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) All the above
- (b) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- All the statements are correct.

3. Consider the following statements with respect to the types of plastics:

1. Oxo-Biodegradable plastics are usually made from a by-product of oil-refining and can be recycled as part of a normal plastic waste-stream.
2. Hydro-Biodegradable Plastics are initiated by hydrolysis and usually made from starch and they damage recycle unless extracted from feedstock.
3. Both Oxo-Biodegradable and Hydro-Biodegradable Plastics emit CO₂ while degrading but Oxo-bio plastics do not emit methane at any stage.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the e-Commerce Models in India:

1. In the marketplace model the e-commerce firm simply acts as a platform that connects buyers and sellers.
2. In the inventory-based the inventory of goods sold on the portal is owned or controlled by the e-commerce company.
3. FDI is allowed only in the marketplace model and not in the inventory-based model.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- E-commerce companies can operate under two different models in India.
- The first is the marketplace model where the e-commerce firm simply acts as a platform that connects buyers and sellers. FDI is allowed in e-commerce companies in this model.
- The second model is inventory-based where the inventory of goods sold on the portal is owned or controlled by the e-commerce company. FDI is not allowed under this model.
- **So, all the three statements are correct.**

5. Consider the following statements, with regard to IBSA:

1. It is a trilateral, developmental initiative between India, Brazil and South Africa.
2. It is the first example of South-South Cooperation (SSC).
3. The funding of the developmental projects of IBSA is done by the African Development Bank.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The IBSA is a trilateral, developmental initiative between India, Brazil and South Africa to promote South-South cooperation and exchange.
- The grouping was formalized and named the IBSA Dialogue Forum when the Foreign Ministers of the three countries met in Brasilia (Brazil) on 6th June 2003 and issued the Brasilia Declaration.
- The idea of South-South Cooperation (SSC) is not new.
- Its genesis can be traced back to the decades of efforts by countries and groupings working together to ensure South-South solidarity such as Bandung conference 1955, Non-Aligned Movement 1961, G77 grouping, UNCTAD, the Buenos Aires Plan of Action 1978, and the 2009 Nairobi declaration.
- IBSA does not have a headquarters or a permanent executive secretariat.
- The IBSA Fund (India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation), established in 2004, is a
- unique Fund through which development projects are executed with IBSA funding in fellow developing countries.

- The fund is managed by the United Nations (UN) Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). Each IBSA member country is required to contribute \$1 million per annum to the fund.

6. Consider the following statements:

1. A person who is convicted for insulting the National Flag is disqualified to contest in the elections to the Parliament and state legislature for 6 years.
2. Part IV-A of the Indian Constitution mentions the fundamental duty of every citizen of India to respect the National Flag.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Indian flag was adopted in its present form during a meeting of the Constituent Assembly held on 22nd July, 1947.

Rules Governing the Tricolour:

- The Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950:
- It restricts the use of the national flag, the coat-of-arms used by a government department, the official seal of the President or Governor, the pictorial

representation of Mahatma Gandhi and the Prime Minister, and the Ashoka Chakra.

- The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971:
- It prohibits the desecration of or insult to the country's national symbols, including the national flag, the Constitution, the national anthem and the Indian map.
- A person who is convicted for the following offences under the Act is disqualified to contest in the elections to the Parliament and state legislature for 6 years.
- Offence of insulting the National Flag,
- Offence of insulting the Constitution of India,
- Offence of preventing the singing of the National Anthem.

The Flag Code of India, 2002:

- It allowed the unrestricted display of the Tricolour as long as the honour and dignity of the flag were being respected.
- The flag code did not replace the pre-existing rules governing the correct display of the flag.
- It was, however, an effort to bring together all the previous laws, conventions and practices. It is divided into three parts — a general description of the tricolour, rules on display of the flag by public and private bodies and educational institutions, and rules for display of the flag by governments and government bodies.

- It mentions that the tricolour cannot be used for commercial purposes, and cannot be dipped in salute to any person or thing.
- Moreover, the flag should not be used as a festoon, or for any kind of decoration purposes.
- For official display, only flags that conform to the specifications as laid down by the Bureau of Indian Standards and bearing their mark can be used.

Part IV-A of the Constitution:

- The Part IV-A of the Constitution (which consists of only one Article 51-A) specifies the eleven Fundamental Duties.
- According to Article 51A (a), it shall be the duty of every citizen of India to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem.

7. Consider the following , with regard to SAMVAD program:

1. It is launched for the management of mental health issues of the prisoners and prison staff.
2. It is a 24/7 toll-free helpline to provide support to people facing anxiety, stress, depression, suicidal thoughts and other mental health concerns.
3. The programme is aimed at mental health outreach for children who are abandoned and orphaned or child survivors of trafficking.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched the 2nd phase of the SAMVAD programme.
- The programme is aimed at mental health outreach for children who are abandoned and orphaned, child survivors of trafficking, or in conflict with law.
- It stands for: Support, Advocacy & Mental health interventions for children in vulnerable circumstances and Distress (SAMVAD).
- The initiative is funded by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- It is led by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS).
- The NIMHANS is the apex centre of mental health and neuroscience education. It operates autonomously under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The NIMHANS guidelines are issued for the management of mental health issues of the prisoners and prison staff.
- KIRAN is a 24/7 toll-free helpline, to provide support to people facing anxiety,

stress, depression, suicidal thoughts and other mental health concerns.

- Manodarpan is aimed to provide psychosocial support to students, family members and teachers for their mental health and well-being during the times of Covid-19.

8. With reference to India's biodiversity, Ceylon frogmouth, Coppersmith barbet, Gray-chinned minivet and White-throated redstart are

- (a) Birds
- (b) Primates
- (c) Reptiles
- (d) Amphibians

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Ceylon Frogmouth also known as Sri Lanka Frogmouth is a nocturnal Small Bird from Sri Lanka.
- Coppersmith Barbet is an Asian barbet.
- Gray-Chinned Minivet is a bird from the Campephagidae family.
- White throated redstart is a species of bird in the family Muscicapidae. It is found in Nepal, Bhutan, central China and far northern areas of Myanmar and Northeast India.

9. 'Brasilia Declaration' led to the establishment of:

- (a) IBSA
- (b) BRICS

(c) SAARC

(d) SCO

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- IBSA brings together India, Brazil and South Africa.
- In 2003, the foreign ministers of these three countries met at Brasilia and issued the Brasilia Declaration which led to the establishment of IBSA.

10. Consider the following statements in context to "happy hypoxia" sometimes seen in news.

1. This condition is characterized by extremely low blood oxygen levels in humans.
2. Such patients show signs of breathlessness.
3. Patients with such a condition live in great distress.

Select the correct code from the codes given below.

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Amidst the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, medical practitioners have reported a condition called silent or happy hypoxia, in which patients have extremely low blood oxygen levels, yet they do not show signs of breathlessness.

Silent Hypoxia:

- It is a form of oxygen deprivation that is harder to detect than regular hypoxia because patients appear to be less in distress.
- Covid pneumonia, a serious medical condition found in severe Covid-19 patients, is preceded by silent hypoxia.
- Many Covid-19 patients with oxygen levels below 80% look at ease and alert. There have been a few cases of oxygen levels below 50% as well
- Those with such low levels of oxygen would normally appear extremely ill but not in silent hypoxia cases
- In many cases, Covid-19 patients with silent hypoxia did not exhibit symptoms such as shortness of breath or coughing until their oxygen fell to acutely low levels, at which point there was a risk of acute respiratory distress (ARDS) and organ failure.

1. With reference to the Foreigners Tribunal, which of the statements given below are correct?

1. The Foreigners Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies, to determine if a person staying illegally is a foreigner or not.
2. Under the provisions of Foreigners Act 1946 and Foreigners (Tribunals) Order 1964, both Foreigners Tribunals and Ministry of Home Affairs are empowered to declare a person as a foreigner.
3. A rejected person would have 120 days from the date of receiving the rejection slip to approach a Foreigners' Tribunal (FT) for judging their citizenship status.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

- The tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies, to determine if a person staying illegally is a “foreigner” or not. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Every individual, whose name does not figure in the final National Register of Citizens (NRC), can represent his/her case in front of the appellate authority i.e. Foreigners Tribunals (FT).

- Assam has set up FTs, specifically to handle the cases of 19.06 lakh people left out of the updated NRC.
- Under the provisions of Foreigners Act 1946 and Foreigners (Tribunals) Order 1964, **only Foreigners Tribunals** are empowered to declare a person as a foreigner. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The Assam Police Border Organisation, a wing of the State police tasked with detecting foreigners, readies the cases for the tribunals to decide who is a foreigner and who is not.
- According to the Centre's standard operating procedures, a rejected person would have **120 days** from the date of receiving the rejection slip to approach a Foreigners' Tribunal (FT) for judging their citizenship status. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

2. Gorkha Soldiers Regiment is sometimes seen in news is in the context of which of the following countries?

1. India
2. Britain
3. Nepal
4. Bhutan

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

(d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Currently, the Gorkhas comprise up to 3% of the British Army, and in 2015 completed 200 years of service there.
- Impressed by their discipline and ferocity in Anglo-Nepalese War of 1814-16, the British decided to recruit Gorkha soldiers starting in 1815. Since then, the Gurkhas have fought on the side of the British Empire in almost every war, including both World Wars. Upon Independence in 1947, the question of allotting the 10 regiments of Gorkha soldiers arose. This was settled by the **Britain-India-Nepal Tripartite Agreement**. So, answer is b.

- In 1948, India created an 11th Gorkha Rifles regiment to accommodate the Gorkhas who refused to depart with the now-British regiments.
- Later, the British Army amalgamated their four regiments into a combined Royal Gorkha Rifles (RGR) regiment consisting of three battalions. The RGR was subsequently deployed in Britain's remaining colonies in Asia, including Malaysia, Singapore, and Hong Kong, to fill the vacuum created by departing Indian regiments such as the Sikhs, which were stationed there earlier.

3. Consider the following pairs:

| Ramsar Sites | State |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Sultanpur National Park | Haryana |
| 2. Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary | Punjab |
| 3. Thol | Uttar Pradesh |
| 4. Wadhvana | Gujarat |

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- **Sultanpur National Park, Haryana:** More than 10 globally threatened, including the critically endangered sociable lapwing, and the endangered Egyptian Vulture, Saker Falcon, Pallas's Fish Eagle and Black-bellied Tern birds are found here.
- **Bhindawas Wildlife Sanctuary, Haryana:** It is a human-made freshwater wetland. It is also the largest in Haryana.
- **Thol, Gujarat:** It is a Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat lies on the Central Asian Flyway and more than 320 bird species can be found here.

- It supports more than 30 threatened waterbird species, such as the critically endangered White-rumped Vulture and
 - Sociable Lapwing, and the vulnerable Sarus Crane, Common Pochard and Lesser White-fronted Goose.
 - **Wadhvana, Gujarat:** It is internationally important for its birdlife as it provides wintering ground to migratory waterbirds, including over 80 species that migrate on the Central Asian Flyway. Pallas's fish-Eagle, the vulnerable Common Pochard, and the near-threatened Dalmatian Pelican, Grey-headed Fish-eagle and Ferruginous Duck are some birds found here.
4. Which of the following is *not* a compulsory feature of Panchayati Raj?
- (a) Organisation of Gram Sabha
- (b) Creation of a three-tier Panchayati Raj Structure at the district, block and Village levels
- (c) Providing reservation for backward Classes.
- (d) Reservation for Women in Panchayats up to 33% and reservation of Seats for SC/ST, in Panchayats, in proportion to their population.

Answer: c)

Explanation:

Compulsory Provisions include:

- Organisation of Gram Sabha;

- Creation of a three-tier Panchayati Raj Structure at the district, block and Village levels;
- All the Seats in a Panchayat shall be filled by persons Chosen by direct elections from territorial Constituencies in the Panchayat area;
- The minimum age for contesting elections to Panchayats to be 21 years.
- Reservation for Women in Panchayats up to 33%
- Reservation of Seats for SC/ST, in Panchayats, in proportion to their population;
- Creation of a State Election Commission to conduct elections.
- Fixed 5 years tenure of Panchayats.
- Each State is to Constitute a State Finance Commission every five years to review the financial position of the Panchayat.

Voluntary Provisions include:

- Giving Voting rights to members of the Union and State Legislatures in these bodies;
- Providing reservation for backward Classes.
- Giving the Panchayats financial autonomy and there under the power to levy taxes, fees, etc.
- Devolution of Powers to the Panchayat bodies to perform functions as provided in the XI Schedule.

- This does not have any direct link to the delay in judicial processes.

5. Which of the following is/are likely reasons for judicial delays?

1. Ambiguity in laws
2. Low judges to population ratio
3. Judicial Vacancies
4. Parliamentary Democracy

Select the correct option from below:

- (a) 1 & 2
(b) 1, 2 & 3
(c) 2 & 3
(d) All of the Above

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Ambiguity in the laws triggers litigation – causing inconvenience to citizens, courts and other stakeholders. This not only leads to increased litigations but also delays in the Judicial Process.
- Inadequate number of judges is one reason behind delay in judicial process. With low judges to population ration, the system would not be able to keep pace with new cases. Unfilled judicial vacancies lead to mounting arrears of cases pending in the various courts leading to judicial delays.
- A parliamentary democracy is a system of government in which citizens elect representatives to a legislative parliament to make the necessary legislations and decisions for the country.

6. Who among the following cannot receive foreign contribution as per the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA)?

1. Political party
2. A candidate for election
3. Publisher of a registered Newspaper
4. Member of any legislature
5. Editor or correspondent of a registered Newspaper

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- As per Section 3(1) of the Foreign Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010, foreign contribution cannot be accepted by any:
 - ✓ Candidate for election
 - ✓ Correspondent, columnist, cartoonist, editor, owner, printer or publisher of a registered newspaper
 - ✓ Judge, government servant or employee of any Corporation or any other body controlled or owned by the Government
 - ✓ Member of any legislature
 - ✓ Political party or office bearer thereof

- ✓ Organization of a political nature as may be specified by the Central Government
- ✓ Association or company engaged in the production or broadcast of audio news or audio-visual news or current affairs programmes through any electronic mode, or any other electronic form
- ✓ Correspondent or columnist, cartoonist, editor

7. Which of the given statements with respect to Visceral Leishmaniasis is/are INCORRECT?

1. It is one of the neglected tropical diseases caused by a protozoan parasite.
2. It is transmitted by the bite of female Phlebotomine sandflies.
3. It is endemic to the Indian subcontinent.
4. In India, humans are the only known reservoirs of the infection.

Options:

- (a) 2 and 4 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) None of the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Visceral leishmaniasis (VL), also known as kala-azar, is the most severe form of leishmaniasis and is associated with high fatality.
- It is the second most parasitic killer after malaria.

- Leishmaniasis is caused by protozoan parasites which are transmitted by the bite of infected female phlebotomine sandflies.
- It is one of the neglected tropical diseases. The disease affects some of the poorest people and is associated with malnutrition, population displacement, poor housing, a weak immune system and lack of financial resources.
- It is endemic to the Indian subcontinent.
- In India, humans are the only known Reservoirs of the Infection.

8. Consider the following, with regard to TAPAS initiative:

1. It is an initiative for young and aspiring minds to provide them an integrated platform and portal for online courses.
2. It aims to provide high quality educational channels through DTH across the length and breadth of the country on a 24X7 basis.
3. It is a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) platform which offers various courses in the field of social defence for the capacity building of stakeholders.

Which of the statements given above are **Incorrect?**

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment has launched an online portal TAPAS (Training for Augmenting Productivity and Services).
- It offers various courses in the field of social defence for the capacity building of stakeholders. It is an initiative of National Institute of Social Defense (NISD).
- It is a standard MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) platform with course material such as filmed lectures and e-study material.
- The platform has been made with a quadrant approach of Video, Text, Self-Assessment and Discussions.
- The five basic courses are on Drug (Substance) Abuse Prevention, Geriatric/Elderly Care, Care and Management of Dementia, Transgender Issues and on comprehensive course on Social Defence Issues.

Other Digital Learning initiatives:

- **SWAYAM:** Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), was launched by the Ministry of Education to provide one integrated platform and portal for online courses.
- **SWAYAM Prabha:** It is an initiative of the Ministry of Education to provide 32 High Quality Educational Channels through DTH across the length and breadth of the country on a 24X7 basis.

- **NEAT:** It aims to use Artificial Intelligence to make learning more personalized and customized as per the requirements of the learner.

9. Consider the following:

1. The Doha talks is the first-ever meeting between the Taliban and the Afghan government.
2. It was in the Doha talks where the US administration promised to withdraw all the American troops from Afghanistan by May 2021.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Taliban has seized Kabul, the capital city of Afghanistan, raising questions over the US and NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) trained Afghan Forces.
- The Taliban have proclaimed that there will be no witch hunt, that it will respect a transitional process, and that it will work for a future Islamic system that is acceptable to all.

- Peace Talks between Taliban, Afghanistan and USA:

Murree Talks:

- In 2015 the US had sent a representative to the first-ever meeting between the Taliban and the Afghan government that was hosted by Pakistan in Murree in 2015.
- However, the Murree talks did not progress.

Doha Talks:

- In 2020, before the Doha Talks started, the Taliban had maintained that they would hold direct talks only with the US, and not with the Kabul Government, which they did not recognise.
- In the agreement, the US Administration promised that it would withdraw all American troops from Afghanistan by 1st May, 2021.
- The deadline has been pushed to 11th September 2021.
- This provided the Taliban a sense of victory and demoralised the Afghan troops.
- The Taliban promised to reduce violence, join intra-Afghan peace talks and cut all ties with Foreign Terrorist Groups.

10. In context to the Census in India, consider the following statements:

1. The 'Ain-e-Akbari' included comprehensive data pertaining to population, industry, wealth and many other characteristics.

2. The first census of India was conducted during the reign of Governor-General Lord Mayo.
3. The census in India is conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- In India, a census is conducted every decade and Census 2021 will be the 16th national census of the country.
- Census will be conducted by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The earliest literature 'Rig Veda' reveals that some kind of population count was maintained during 800-600 BC.
- During the regime of Mughal king Akbar, the administrative report 'Ain-e-Akbari' included comprehensive data pertaining to population, industry, wealth and many other characteristics.
- The First Census was conducted in India in 1872 (although non-synchronously in different parts) during the reign of Governor-General Lord Mayo.

- The newly established office of the registrar general and census commissioner launched and completed the first Census of India in 1881.



1. Which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct regarding the Collegium system?

1. It is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through judgments of the SC, and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution.
2. The Second Judges Case expanded the Collegium to a five-member body, comprising the CJI and four of his senior-most colleagues.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- It is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through judgments of the SC, and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution.
- The SC collegium is headed by the CJI and comprises four other senior most judges of the court.
- A HC collegium is led by its Chief Justice and four other senior most judges of that court.

- Names recommended for appointment by a HC collegium reaches the government only after approval by the CJI and the SC collegium. Judges of the higher judiciary are appointed only through the collegium system and the government has a role only after names have been decided by the collegium. The government's role is limited to getting an inquiry conducted by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) if a lawyer is to be elevated as a judge in a High Court or the Supreme Court.

✓ **Intelligence Bureau (IB):** It is a reputed and established intelligence agency. It is authoritatively controlled by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

✓ It can also raise objections and seek clarifications regarding the collegium's choices, but if the collegium reiterates the same names, the government is bound, under Constitution Bench judgments, to appoint them as judges.

Evolution of the Collegium System:

• **First Judges Case (1981):**

- ✓ It declared that the "primacy" of the Chief Justice of India (CJI)s recommendation on judicial appointments and transfers can be refused for "cogent reasons."
- ✓ The ruling gave the Executive primacy over the Judiciary in judicial appointments for the next 12 years.

• **Second Judges Case (1993):**

- ✓ SC introduced the Collegium system, holding that “consultation” really meant “concurrence”.
- ✓ It added that it was not the CJI’s individual opinion, but an institutional opinion formed in consultation with the two senior-most judges in the SC.

• **Third Judges Case (1998):**

- SC on President’s reference expanded the Collegium to a five-member body, comprising the CJI and four of his senior-most colleagues.

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Article 25 says that all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right to freely profess, practice and propagate religion. However, these rights are subject to public order, morality, health and other provisions relating to fundamental rights.
- The rights under Article 26 are also subject to public order, morality and health but not subject to other provisions relating to the Fundamental Rights. Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.
- According to Article 26, every religious denomination or any of its section shall have the following rights: (a) Right to establish and maintain institutions for religious and charitable purposes; (b) Right to manage its own affairs in matters of religion; (c) Right to own and acquire movable and immovable property; and (d) Right to administer such property in accordance with law. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Article 27 lays down that no person shall be compelled to pay any taxes for the promotion or maintenance of any particular religion or religious denomination. This provision prohibits only levy of a tax and not a fee. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

2. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 26 gives Right to Religious Institutions subject to public order, morality and other Fundamental Rights.
2. Religious Institutions have Fundamental Right to own and acquire movable and immovable property.
3. Article 27 lays down that no person shall be compelled to pay any taxes for the promotion of any Particular Religion.
4. Religious Institutions recognised by the State are prohibited for religious Instructions.

Which of the above statements given above are correct?

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

- Article 28 distinguishes between four types of educational institutions: (a) Institutions wholly maintained by the State. (b) Institutions administered by the State but established under any endowment or trust. (c) Institutions recognised by the State. (d) Institutions receiving aid from the State. In (a), religious instruction is completely prohibited while in (b), religious instruction is permitted. In (c) and (d), religious instruction is permitted on a voluntary basis (not prohibited). Hence, statement 4 is incorrect.

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Law and Order and Police are placed in the state list in the eighth schedule of the Indian Constitution.
2. The NCT Delhi Police, Law and Order are controlled by the Union Government.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Law and Order and Police are placed in the state list in the **seventh schedule** of the Indian Constitution. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

- The NCT of Delhi, under Article 239 AA, has been given a special status.
- It gives powers of law-making and administration to an elected legislature and the council of ministers. But, puts **two subjects — public order and police —** directly under the Union government, however, with exceptions- Two sections of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) —129 & 130 — give the Executive Magistrate certain powers relating to **“unlawful assembly”**. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Under these two limited powers, the Executive Magistrate, who reports to the Chief Minister, can issue orders relating to public security.

4. Which of the following weather events are formed due to precipitation?

1. Fog
2. Smog
3. Acid Rain
4. Smoke
5. Mists

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The main forms of precipitation include Drizzle, Rain, Sleet, Snow, Graupel (small particles of snow with a fragile crust of ice; soft hail), Hail, Fog, Smog, Mists.

5. Consider the following statements, with regard to Khasi community:

1. It is the largest tribe of Meghalaya.
2. Khasi people refer to themselves as A'chiks.
3. The inheritance of property and succession in the Khasi community runs through the Female Line.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Khasi people are an indigenous ethnic group of Meghalaya in north-eastern India. They have a distinctive culture and are the largest tribe of Meghalaya.
- The Garos, who call themselves A'chiks, are the second largest tribe in Meghalaya.
- The Khasi speak a Mon-Khmer language of the Austroasiatic stock.
- Both inheritance of property and succession to tribal office run through the

female line, passing from the mother to the youngest daughter.

- They are divided into several clans. Wet rice (paddy) provides the main subsistence; it is cultivated in the valley bottoms and in terrace gardens built on the hillsides.

6. Consider the following, with regard to Hirakud Dam:

1. The dam is built across river Mahanadi.
2. It is the longest dam of India.
3. The Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary is located near this Dam.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Hirakud Dam is a multipurpose scheme conceived by Er. M. Visveswaraya in 1937, after recurrence of devastating floods in Mahanadi river.
- Its first hydro power was commissioned in 1956.
- It is the longest dam of India.
- The dam is built across river Mahanadi at about 15 km upstream of Sambalpur town of Odisha.

- The Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary is located near Hirakud dam. It is bounded on the east and north by the huge Hirakud reservoir.
- It is one of the select few sanctuaries in the state supporting both Terrestrial and Aquatic Biodiversity.

7. Consider the following, with regard to Maharaja Ranjit Singh:

1. He formed an empire by overthrowing Misls.
2. He employed a large number of European officers in his army.
3. He ruled the northwest Indian subcontinent.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Maharaja Ranjit Singh was the founder of the Sikh Empire by overthrowing Misls.
- At that time, Punjab was ruled by powerful chieftains who had divided the territory into Misls.
- Misls refer to the sovereign states of the Sikh Confederacy that rose during the 18th century in the Punjab region in the northern part of the Indian subcontinent after the collapse of the Mughal Empire.

- He ruled the northwest Indian subcontinent in the early half of the 19th century.
- He combined the strong points of the traditional Khalsa army with western advances in warfare to raise Asia's most powerful indigenous army of that time.
- He also employed a large number of European officers, especially French, to train his Troops.
- He appointed a French General to modernize his Army.

8. 'Operation Meghdoot' was an:

- (a) Operation to seize control of the Siachen Glacier
- (b) Operation to end the rule of the Nizam of Hyderabad
- (c) Indian operation to push back the infiltrators from the Kargil Sector
- (d) Indian Army-led rescue and relief mission in quake-hit Nepal

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Operation Meghdoot was the codename for an Indian military operation to take control over the Siachen Glacier in Kashmir.

9. Which of the given statements with respect to Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) is/are **Incorrect**?

1. It is an annual index designed and published by Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

2. It assesses national performances based on GHG Emissions, Renewable Energy, Energy Use and Climate Policy.
3. India is among the top 10 countries in CCPI 2021.

Options:

- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 3 only
(d) None of the above

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) is published by Germanwatch in cooperation with the NewClimate Institute and Climate Action Network International.
- The CCPI evaluates 57 countries and the European Union, which together generate 90%+ of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- Using standardised criteria, the CCPI looks at four categories, with 14 indicators: Greenhouse Gas Emissions (40% of the overall score), Renewable Energy (20%), Energy Use (20%), and Climate Policy (20%). The CCPI's unique climate policy section evaluates countries' progress in implementing policies working towards achieving the Paris Agreement goals.
- It creates transparency in climate policy, makes it possible to compare climate protection efforts, and lets evaluate progress and setbacks.

- Thus as an independent monitoring tool, the CCPI has a leading role in informing on the Paris Agreement's implementation phase.
- India remains in the top 10 for the second year in a row in CCPI 2021, occupying rank 10.

10. Which of the given statements with respect to the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is/are correct?

1. It is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology.
2. It has the dual objective of Entrepreneurship promotion and Innovation promotion.
3. ARISE-ANIC was launched under the mission to promote a creative, innovative mindset in schools by setting up dedicated innovation workspaces.

Options:

- (a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) None of the above

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative of the NITI Aayog.
- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) envisions the creation and promotion of a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of our country.

- AIM's objective is to develop new programmes and policies for fostering innovation in different sectors of the economy, provide platforms and collaboration opportunities for different stakeholders, and create an umbrella structure to oversee the innovation & entrepreneurship ecosystem of the country.
- The Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE-ANIC program is a national initiative to promote research & innovation and increase the competitiveness of Indian startups and MSMEs.
- Atal Tinkering Labs aim to promote a creative, innovative mindset in schools. These ATLs are dedicated innovation workspaces of 1200-1500 square feet where do-it-yourself (DIY) kits on latest technologies like 3D Printers, Robotics, Internet of Things (IoT), Miniaturized electronics are installed using a grant of Rs 20 Lakhs from the government so that students from Grade VI to Grade XII can tinker with these technologies and learn to
 - create innovative solutions using these technologies.
 - This will enable create a problem solving, innovative mindset within millions of students across the country.

1. Which of the following statement(s) regarding Special Marriage Act 1954 is/are correct?

1. It was created to validate and register interreligious and inter-caste marriages in India.
2. People of the same faith can also marry under this act.
3. The act validates the marriage between two consenting adults belonging to different faiths, and there is strict punishment for those who forcibly convert the other partner just for the sake of marriage.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Special Marriage Act 1954 is the legislation made to validate and register interreligious and inter-caste marriages in India. It allows two individuals to solemnize their marriage through a civil contract without any religious formalities to be carried out under the Act.
- While considering the age, the male must be at least 21 and the female be 18 at least. This Act includes Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists marriages. This act applies to all Indian states, except Jammu & Kashmir.

- This Act applies not only to Indian citizens who belong to different castes and religions but also to Indian nationals who live abroad. **Hence statement 1 is correct.**
- People of the same faith can also marry under this act but separate laws for marriage also exist in their respective faith. **Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- In case all of the conditions under the act are fulfilled, the parties are supposed to give a notice for their marriage to the Marriage Officer in an area.
- The provisions under the Act require parties to an intended marriage to publish their private details for public scrutiny 30 days prior to the intended marriage.
- Anyone who believes that either of the given parties do not fulfill all the required conditions can file an objection against the marriage and the marriage officer can reject the marriage.
- Further the act only validates the marriage of two people belonging to different faiths, but there is no punishment for those who forcibly convert the other partner just for the sake of marriage. **Hence statement 3 is not correct.**

2. Consider the following regarding Interfaith Marriages:

1. Unlike regular marriages, both the bridegroom and the bride must be at least 21 years of age at the time of marriage.
2. At the time of their marriage, both parties must be Monogamous.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The bridegroom must be at least 21, and at the time of the marriage, the bride must be at least 18 years of age. This is the minimum age limit respectively for a boy/girl to marry. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- At the time of their marriage, both parties must be monogamous; i.e., they must be unmarried and at that time should not have any living spouse. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- In order to be able to decide for themselves, the parties should be mentally fit, i.e., they must be sane at the time of marriage.

3. UNITE Aware, sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following?

- (a) a mobile tech platform developed by India to provide terrain-related information to the UN peacekeepers
- (b) a mobile application developed by India to detect the fake news on social media
- (c) a movement initiated by Ministry of Home Affairs for the unity of Indian states
- (d) None of these

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- UNITE AWARE is a mobile tech platform developed by India to provide terrain-related information to the UN peacekeepers so as to ensure their safety.
- It is being developed in partnership with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Operational Support.
- India has spent 1.64 million USD for this project.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. United Nations Peacekeeping is a joint effort between the UNSC and UNGA.
2. The financing of UN Peacekeeping operations is the collective responsibility of all UN Member States.
3. The top 5 providers of assessed contributions to United Nations Peacekeeping operations for 2020-2021 are

the P5 or the Permanent members of the UNSC.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are *not* correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- While decisions about establishing, maintaining or expanding a peacekeeping operation are taken by the Security Council, the financing of UN Peacekeeping operations is the collective responsibility of all UN Member States.
- Every Member State is legally obligated to pay their respective share towards peacekeeping. This is in accordance with the provisions of Article 17 of the Charter of the United Nations.
- The top 5 providers of assessed contributions to United Nations Peacekeeping operations for 2020-2021 are:
 - ✓ United States (27.89%).
 - ✓ China (15.21%).
 - ✓ Japan (8.56%).
 - ✓ Germany (6.09%).
 - ✓ United Kingdom (5.79%).

- United Nations Peacekeeping is a joint effort between the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support.
- Every peacekeeping mission is authorized by the Security Council.
- UN peacekeepers (often referred to as Blue Berets or Blue Helmets because of their light blue berets or helmets) can include soldiers, police officers, and civilian personnel.
- Peacekeeping forces are contributed by member states on a voluntary basis.
- Civilian staff of peace operations are international civil servants, recruited and deployed by the UN Secretariat.

5. Consider the following statements, with regard to Khasi community:

1. It is the largest tribe of Meghalaya.
2. Khasi people refer to themselves as A'chiks.
3. The inheritance of property and succession in the Khasi community runs through the female line.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Khasi people are an indigenous ethnic group of Meghalaya in north-eastern India. They have a distinctive culture and are the largest tribe of Meghalaya.
- The Garos, who call themselves A'chiks, are the second largest tribe in Meghalaya.
- The Khasi speak a Mon-Khmer language of the Austroasiatic stock.
- Both inheritance of property and succession to tribal office run through the female line, passing from the mother to the youngest daughter.
- They are divided into several clans. Wet rice (paddy) provides the main subsistence; it is cultivated in the valley bottoms and in Terrace Gardens built on the Hillside.

6. Consider the following, with regard to Hirakud Dam:

1. The dam is built across river Mahanadi.
2. It is the longest dam of India.
3. The Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary is located near this Dam.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Hirakud Dam is a multipurpose scheme conceived by Er. M. Visveswaraya in 1937, after recurrence of devastating floods in Mahanadi river.
- Its first hydro power was commissioned in 1956.
- It is the longest dam of India.
- The dam is built across river Mahanadi at about 15 km upstream of Sambalpur town of Odisha.
- The Debrigarh wildlife sanctuary is located near Hirakud dam. It is bounded on the east and north by the huge Hirakud reservoir.
- It is one of the select few sanctuaries in the state supporting both terrestrial and aquatic Biodiversity.

7. Consider the following, with regard to Maharaja Ranjit Singh:

1. He formed an empire by overthrowing Misls.
2. He employed a large number of European officers in his Army.
3. He ruled the Northwest Indian Subcontinent.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Maharaja Ranjit Singh was the founder of the Sikh Empire by overthrowing Misl.
- At that time, Punjab was ruled by powerful chieftains who had divided the territory into Misls.
- Misls refer to the sovereign states of the Sikh Confederacy that rose during the 18th century in the Punjab region in the northern part of the Indian subcontinent after the collapse of the Mughal Empire.
- He ruled the northwest Indian subcontinent in the early half of the 19th century.
- He combined the strong points of the traditional Khalsa army with western advances in warfare to raise Asia's most powerful indigenous army of that time.
- He also employed a large number of European officers, especially French, to train his troops.
- He appointed a French General to modernize his army.

8. Shishu, Kishore, Tarun - 3 categories of intervention are linked with which of the following government schemes/programs?

- (a) Mission Indradhanush
- (b) PM Janani Suraksha yojana
- (c) Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana
- (d) Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Under the aegis of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency Ltd. (MUDRA) has created products/schemes. The interventions have been named 'Shishu', 'Kishore' and 'Tarun' to signify the stage of growth/development and funding needs of the beneficiary micro unit/entrepreneur and also provide a reference point for the next phase of graduation/growth to look forward to:
 - ✓ **Shishu:** covering loans up to 50,000/-
 - ✓ **Kishore:** covering loans above 50,000/- and up to 5 lakh
 - ✓ **Tarun:** covering loans above 5 lakh and up to 10 lakh.

9. In the context of Indian history, the Rakhmabai case of 1884 revolved around

1. Women's right to gain education
2. Age of consent
3. Restitution of conjugal rights

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- In the context of Indian history, the Rakhmabai case of 1884 revolved around:

age of consent and restitution of conjugal rights.

- She was the first practising female doctor in colonial India. She was involved in the case that contributed to the enactment of the Age of Consent Act, 1891.
- Long back, the concept of restitution of conjugal rights faced its first legal test in 1885 in the case of Dadaji Bhikaji vs Rakhmabai.
- Rakhmabai Raut was married to Dadaji Bhikaji at the age of 11. However, she stayed at the house of her widowed mother after her marriage.
- Rakhmabai's step-father supported her when she refused to stay with Bhikaji and his family at his house. This led to Dadaji Bhikaji vs Rakhmabai case in 1885.
- Bhikaji asked for "restitution of conjugal rights".
- Justice Pinhey gave judgment in favour of Rukhmabai and said, "Rakhmabai was a young woman and was married off in helpless infancy and therefore cannot be forced".
- After many criticised the judgment as diminishing Hindu customs, the case came up for retrial.
- There were debates around internal reforms vs external reforms, Hindu vs English law and respecting ancient customs and traditions.

- The final judgment in 1887 had asked Rakhmabai to live with her husband or face imprisonment for six months instead.
- Finally, Queen Victoria settled the matter by overruling the court order and dissolved her marriage.

10. Which of the given statements best describes the Indian Army's 'Operation Sadbhavana'?

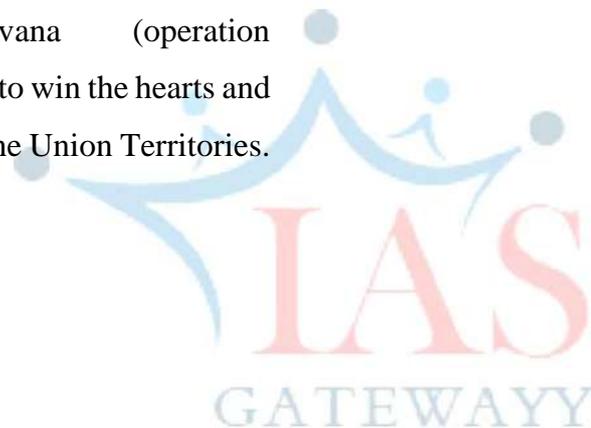
- (a) Humanitarian assistance that supplied relief packages to Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh.
- (b) Civilian outreach program in Jammu and Kashmir aimed at winning the hearts and minds of residents of the two Union Territories.
- (c) Civic action programs for people in the North Eastern states of India for developing harmonious feelings and positive attitude towards the army.
- (d) Evacuation operation launched to bring back diplomats and security personnel stranded in the Indian Embassy in Kabul in the wake of intense fighting between Afghan forces and the Taliban militants.

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Operation Sadbhavana (Goodwill) is a unique initiative undertaken by the Indian Army in Jammu & Kashmir to address the aspirations of people affected by terrorism.

- The focus of Operation Sadbhavana is to improve the overall core social indices of Education, Women & Youth Empowerment, and Healthcare with simultaneous thrust on capacity building through the implementation of community/infrastructure Development Projects.
- The Army will sponsor 110 students from Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to its residential public schools and higher education institutions across the country from the current academic year as part of Operation Sadbhavana (operation goodwill), which aims to win the hearts and minds of residents of the Union Territories.



1. Consider the following about the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer:

1. It entered in force after Montreal protocol.
2. It includes legally binding reduction goals for the use of CFCs.
3. It has been ratified by all United Nations Member states.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are not correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- It acts as a framework for the international efforts to protect the ozone layer.
- These are laid out in the accompanying Montreal Protocol. However, it does not include legally binding reduction goals for the use of CFCs, the main chemical agents causing ozone depletion.
- It was agreed upon at the 1985 Vienna Conference and entered into force in 1988 (Montreal in 1989).
- It is one of the most successful treaties of all time in terms of universality. It has been ratified by 197 states (all UN members as well as the Niue, Holy See and the Cook Islands) as well as European Union.

- Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete targets phasing out production of numerous Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs).
- Under it production and consumption of key ODSs like chlorofluorocarbon (CFCs), Methyl Chloroform, CTC halons and Methyl Bromide have been phased-out globally.
- Recently, the Union Government approved the ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on phasing down climate-damaging refrigerant Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

2. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading international body for the assessment of climate change. With respect to IPCC, consider the following statements.

1. Its membership is open to all member countries of the United Nations (UN).
2. It was established by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
3. Scientists from all over the world contribute to the work of the IPCC on a voluntary basis without receiving pecuniary incentives.
4. It publishes “Assessments Reports” on an annual basis addressing climate change Related Issues.

Which of the statements given below are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- As an intergovernmental body, membership of the IPCC is open to all member countries of the United Nations (UN) and WMO.
- Currently 195 countries are Members of the IPCC. Governments participate in the review process and the plenary Sessions.
- It was established by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1988 to provide the world with a clear scientific view on the current state of knowledge in climate change and its potential environmental and socio-economic impacts.
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is a huge and yet very small organization. Thousands of scientists from all over the world contribute to the work of the IPCC on a voluntary basis as authors, contributors and reviewers. None of them is paid by the IPCC.

- The work of the IPCC is guided by a set of principles and procedures. The first report was published in 1990; second in 1995; third in 2001; fourth in 2007; Fifth in 2013-14; and the sixth very recently in 2021.
- These are published materials composed of the full scientific and Technical Assessment of climate change.

3. Which of the following persons are included under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016?

1. Acid Attack Victims
2. Every child with benchmark disability between the age group of 6 and 18 years shall have the right to free education
3. Speech and Language Disability and Specific Learning Disability have been added for the First Time

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

About Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016:

- It replaced the 1995 Act.
- It brought Indian law in line with the United National Convention on the Rights

of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), to which India is a signatory.

- Disability has been defined based on an evolving and dynamic concept.
- The types of disabilities have been increased from existing 7 to 21 and the Central Government will have the power to add more types of disabilities.
- Speech and Language Disability and Specific Learning Disability have been added for the first time.
- Acid Attack Victims have been included.
- In addition, the Government has been authorized to notify any other category of specified disability.
- The appropriate governments have been given the responsibility to take effective measures to ensure that the persons with disabilities enjoy their rights equally with others.
- Every child with benchmark disability between the age group of 6 and 18 years shall have the right to free education.
- Government funded educational institutions as well as the government recognized institutions will have to provide inclusive education to the children with disabilities.
- It provides for penalties for offences committed against persons with disabilities and also violation of the provisions of the new law.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the Solar Eclipse:

1. Solar eclipses occur when the Sun, Moon and earth all fall in the same line and Earth passes between the Sun and the Moon, casting a shadow on the Moon.
2. Annual Solar Eclipse occurs annually while the total solar eclipse occurs once in a Decade.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The **Solar eclipse** happens when the moon while orbiting the Earth comes in between the sun and the Earth, due to which the moon blocks the sun's light from reaching the Earth, causing an eclipse of the sun or a solar eclipse.
- There are three types of eclipses.
- **Total solar eclipse** happens when the sun, moon and Earth are in a direct line. The dark silhouette of the Moon completely covers the intense bright light of the Sun. Only the much fainter solar corona is visible during a total eclipse which is known as a Totality.

- **Partial Solar Eclipse** happens when the shadow of the moon appears on a small part of the sun.
- **Annular Solar Eclipse**, which happens when the moon is farthest from the Earth, which is why it seems smaller. In this type of an eclipse, the moon does not block the sun completely, but looks like a “dark disk on top of a larger sun-colored disk” forming a “ring of fire”.
- **Lunar Eclipses** occur when the Sun, Moon and earth all fall in the same line and Earth passes between the Sun and the Moon, casting a shadow on the Moon.
- Total solar eclipses are rare events. Although they occur somewhere on Earth every 18 months on average, it is estimated that they recur at any given place **only once every 360 to 410 years, on average.**

5. The Indian Navy undertook bilateral exercise ‘Zayed Talwar 2021’ with
- (a) Saudi Arabia
 - (b) United Arab Emirates
 - (c) Qatar
 - (d) Bahrain

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Indian Navy recently undertook bilateral exercise ‘Zayed Talwar 2021’ with UAE Navy off the coast of Abu Dhabi.

6. Which of the following is/are famous for Sun temples?

- 1. Arasavalli
- 2. Amarakantak
- 3. Omkareshwar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Arasavalli in the Srikakulam district of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh is famous for its Suryanarayana temple dedicated to Lord Surya (sun god).
- Amarkantak is a well-frequented Hindu pilgrimage centre that is popularly known as “Teerthraj” – “the king of pilgrimages”. It is popular for its ancient temples of Kalachuri and the Sarvodaya Jain temple. Three rivers – the holy Narmada, the Sone and the Johila emerge here from the womb of Amarkantak. A rising stream of Narmada can be seen at the Narmada Udgam Temple which is the most visited place in Amarkantak.
- Omkareshwar is a Hindu temple dedicated to God Shiva.

7. Which of the following is/are the schemes launched under National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE)?

1. Energy Efficiency Financing Platform (EEFP)
2. Perform Achieve and Trade Scheme (PAT)
3. Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY)
4. Market Transformation for Energy Efficiency (MTEE)
5. Framework for Energy Efficient Economic Development (FEEED)

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE) is one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan for Climate Change taken by the Indian government to promote the market for energy efficiency by fostering innovative policies and Effective Market Instruments.
- NMEEE includes the following four Specific Energy Efficiency Initiatives.
- **Perform Achieve and Trade (PAT):** Assigning energy reduction targets to large energy-intensive Industries and distributing Energy Saving Certificates

(ESCerts) on achievement of the targets. These ESCerts can then be traded.

- **Market Transformation for Energy Efficiency (MTEE):** Promoting the adoption of energy-efficient equipment and appliances through innovative business models.
- **Energy Efficiency Financing Platform (EEFP):** Increasing the confidence of financial institutions and investors to support Energy Efficiency Initiatives.
- **Framework for Energy Efficiency Economic Development (FEEED):** Promoting energy efficiency initiatives by hedging against Investment Risks.

8. Consider the following:

1. The judges of the higher judiciary are appointed only through the collegium System.
2. The government cannot raise an objection on the collegium's reiteration for appointment of a Judge.

Which of the statements given above is/ correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Collegium System is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has

evolved through judgments of the SC, and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution.

- Judges of the higher judiciary are appointed only through the collegium system and the government has a role only after names have been decided by the collegium.
- The government's role is limited to getting an inquiry conducted by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) if a lawyer is to be elevated as a judge in a High Court or the Supreme Court.
- It can also raise objections and seek clarifications regarding the collegium's choices, but if the collegium reiterates the same names, the government is bound, under Constitution Bench judgments, to appoint them as Judges.

9. Consider the following, with regard Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB):

1. It is constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. It provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is a statutory organisation which was constituted in September, 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
- It was also entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- It serves as a field formation and also provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- Principal Functions of the CPCB:
 - To promote cleanliness of streams and wells in different areas of the States by prevention, control and abatement of water pollution.
 - To improve the quality of air and to prevent, control or abate Air Pollution in the Country.

10. In context to the 'UNITE Aware' platform, consider the following statements:

1. It is launched by India in collaboration with the United Nations (UN).
2. It aims to deploy a UN peacekeeping mission to deal with the crisis in Afghanistan.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

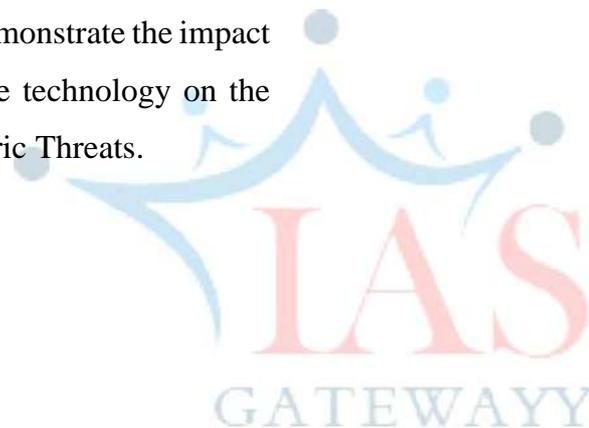
- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- India, in collaboration with the United Nations (UN), has launched a technology platform to ensure the safety and security of peacekeepers who are operating across the world.
- The launch of the UNITE AWARE platform came as India assumed the Presidency of the 15-nation UN Security Council for the month of August.
- This project aims to demonstrate the impact of modern surveillance technology on the detection of Asymmetric Threats.



1. The area known as ‘Golan Heights’ sometimes appears in the news in the context of the events related to,

- (a) Central Asia
- (b) Middle East
- (c) South-East Asia
- (d) Central Africa

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Golan Heights is a rocky plateau with an area of 1,800km² on the border between Israel and Syria in south-western Syria.



2. ‘Two state solution’, sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following countries?

- (a) India and Pakistan
- (b) Israel and Palestine
- (c) China and Taiwan
- (d) North and South Korea

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The “two-state solution” is based on a UN resolution of 1947 which proposed two states – one would be a state where Zionist Jews constituted a majority, the other

where the Palestinian Arabs would be a majority of the population.

3. Israel is bordered by which of the following sea(s)?

- 1. Mediterranean Sea
- 2. Red Sea
- 3. Sea of Galilee
- 4. Dead Sea

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Israel is bordered by Mediterranean Sea only. Sea of Galilee is a fresh water lake in Israel and Dead Sea is a salt lake in Israel
- Mediterranean Sea is in the West of Israel.
- Red Sea bordering countries are Djibouti, Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Egypt and Yemen.

4. Ali Musliyar, Variamkunnath Ahmad Haji were prominent for which of the following event during Indian Independence

- (a) Moplah revolt
- (b) Vellore Sepoy Mutiny
- (c) Champaran Satyagraha
- (d) Kheda Satyagraha

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Malabar Rebellion leaders Variamkunnath Kunhamed Haji, Ali Musaliar and 387 other “Moplah martyrs” will be removed from the Dictionary of Martyrs of India’s Freedom Struggle.
- A three-member panel, which reviewed the entries in the fifth volume of the dictionary, brought out by the Indian Council for Historical Research (ICHR), is understood to have recommended the deletion as it felt that the 1921 rebellion was never part of the independence struggle but a fundamentalist movement focused on religious Conversion.

5. In context to the Tungabhadra River, Consider the following statements:

1. It is a tributary of Krishna River, which drains into the Arabian Sea.
2. Pampa Sagar Dam is built across Tungabhadra River.
3. It’s major tributaries are the Bhadra, Haridra, Vedavati, Tunga.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- It is a sacred river in southern India that flows through the state of Karnataka to

Andhra Pradesh. The ancient name of the river was Pampa. The river is approximately 710 km long, and it drains an area of 72,200 sq km.

- It flows in a more or less northwest direction before joining the eastern river Krishna. The Krishna River finally ends into the Bay of Bengal.
- Tungabhadra dam also known as Pampa Sagar is a multipurpose dam built across Tungabhadra River in Hosapete, Ballari district of Karnataka. It was built by Dr. Thirumalai Iyengar in 1953. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- It’s major tributaries are the Bhadra, the Haridra, the Vedavati, the Tunga, the Varda and the Kumdavathi.

6. With reference to Adopt a Heritage Project, consider the following statements:

1. It is a collaborative effort by the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture , Archaeological Survey of India and State/UTs Governments.
2. The security individuals guarding the sites/monuments selected under the project are called the Monument Mitras.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Launched on 27th September, 2017 (World Tourism Day), Adopt a Heritage Project is a collaborative effort by the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and State/UTs Governments.
 - The sites/monuments are selected on the basis of tourist footfall and visibility and can be adopted by private and public sector companies and individuals — known as Monument Mitras — for an initial period of five years.
 - The Monument Mitras are selected by the ‘oversight and vision committee,’ co-chaired by the Tourism Secretary and the Culture Secretary, on the basis of the bidder’s ‘vision’ for development of all amenities at the heritage site.
 - The corporate sector is expected to use Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds for the upkeep of the site.
7. In context to the ‘Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM)’ Scheme, consider the following statements:
1. It has provisions for solar agriculture water pumps and solarisation of existing Grid connected Agriculture pumps.

2. It can reduce DISCOMs’ burden of subsidy on agriculture consumption of Electricity.
3. The nodal ministry for the scheme is the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) has provision for the decentralised renewable energy plants, Solar agriculture water pumps and solarisation of existing Grid connected Agriculture pumps.
- As farmers will be less dependent on subsidized electricity, the PM KUSUM scheme will support the financial health of electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs) by reducing the burden of subsidy to the agriculture sector.
- The scheme was launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) in 2019.

8. Which of the given statement/s with respect to Green Hydrogen is/are INCORRECT?

1. Hydrogen is labelled Green Hydrogen when the carbon emission generated from the production process is captured and stored.
2. Pyrolysis is the Process followed for its production.
3. This is the cleanest form of hydrogen generation since the by-products are just Water and Water Vapour.

Options:

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) None of the above

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Green hydrogen – also referred to as “clean hydrogen” – is produced by using clean energy from surplus renewable energy sources, such as solar or wind power, to split water into two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom through a process called electrolysis.
- This is the cleanest form of hydrogen generation since the by-products are just water and water vapour.
- Green hydrogen is produced in a climate-neutral manner and it could play a vital role in global efforts to reduce emissions to net zero by 2050.

- Pyrolysis process is the thermal decomposition of materials at elevated temperatures in an inert atmosphere (absence of Oxygen)

9. Which of the following steps have been taken by the Government to promote indigenization in the Defence Sector?

1. Up to 51% FDI is allowed through the Automatic Route in the Defence Sector.
2. Up to 100% FDI is allowed by Government Route in the Defence Sector.
3. Setting up of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) framework.
4. Notifying positive Indigenisation List.

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Central government has increased the foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in the defence sector from 49 to 74 per cent under automatic route and beyond 74 per cent through the government route
- In order to promote indigenization in the defence sector, the government has also introduced the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) framework and also come out with a positive indigenisation list for Defence Products.

- The Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) framework aims at the creation of an ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes & academia.
- It provides them grants/funding and other support to carry out R&D which has good potential for future adoption for Indian defence and aerospace needs.
- iDEX will be funded and managed by the 'Defence Innovation Organization (DIO)'.

Explanation:

- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

10. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
2. It, among other things, will also impart training in soft skills, entrepreneurship, financial and digital literacy.
3. It aims to align the competencies of the unregulated workforce of the country to the National Skill Qualification Framework.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

1. Consider the following statements regarding ‘Article 44 of the Indian Constitution’:

1. The article states that ‘The State shall Endeavor to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India’.
2. It is one of the Liberal-Intellectual Principle of DPSP in Part IV of the Indian Constitution.
3. Although the Indian constitution was compiled by Dr. BR Ambedkar, it was Pandit Nehru who introduced Article 44 to the constitution which sought to establish India’s status as a secular state.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Article 44 states that ‘The State shall endeavor to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India’. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is one of the Liberal-Intellectual Principle of DPSP in Part IV of the Indian Constitution. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Although the Indian constitution was compiled by Dr. BR Ambedkar, it was

- Pandit Nehru who introduced Article 44 to the constitution which sought to establish India’s status as a ‘secular state’. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

2. Consider the following statements regarding Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967:

1. Under UAPA, both Indian and foreign nationals and can be charged even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India.
2. Under the UAPA, the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in maximum 180 days after the arrests and the duration can be extended further after intimating the court.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- UAPA passed in 1967 aims at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.
- Unlawful activity refers to any action taken by an individual or association intended to disrupt the territorial integrity and sovereignty of India.

- The Act assigns absolute power to the central government, by way of which if the Centre deems an activity as unlawful then it may, by way of an Official Gazette, declare it so.
 - It has death penalty and life imprisonment as highest punishments.
 - Under UAPA, both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged. It will be applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Under the UAPA, the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in maximum 180 days after the arrests and the duration can be extended further after intimating the court. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The 2004 amendment, added “terrorist act” to the list of offences to ban organisations for terrorist activities, under which 34 outfits were banned.
 - Till 2004, “unlawful” activities referred to actions related to secession and cession of territory. In August 2019, Parliament cleared the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 to designate individuals as terrorists if the individual commits or participates in acts of terrorism, prepares for terrorism, promotes terrorism or is otherwise involved in terrorism.
 - The Act empowers the Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA) to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property when the case is investigated by the said agency.
 - The Act also empowers the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases of terrorism in addition to those conducted by the DSP or ACP or above rank officer in the state.
3. Consider the following statements:
1. BUNKER convention, came into force in 2008 and is administered by the UNEP.
 2. Under the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution, 2001, the owners of vessels are responsible for damage caused by Oil Leaks.
 3. The Convention was adopted to ensure that adequate, prompt, and effective compensation is available to persons who suffer damage caused by spills of oil, when carried as fuel in Ships' Bunkers.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
- (a) 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 2 and 3 only
- Answer: d)**
- Explanation:**
- Under the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution,

2001, the owners of vessels are responsible for damage caused by oil leaks. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

- This convention, also known as BUNKER convention, came into force in 2008 and is administered by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Convention was adopted to ensure that adequate, prompt, and effective compensation is available to persons who suffer damage caused by spills of oil, when carried as fuel in ships' bunkers. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

4. In India, which of the following species are considered as Invasive species?

1. Red Eared Turtle
2. Senna Specatblis
3. Forked Fanwort
4. Eucalyptus

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- After the Pink Bloom, an alien flower named **Forked Fanwort**, that choked the Avala Pandi canal at Perambra in Kerala, yet another invasive species, **red-eared**

slider turtle is posing a major threat to the biodiversity of waterbodies in the State.

- Most species such as Eucalyptus, Wattle (Acacia), introduced from Australia, have become highly invasive. In the last few years, the Forest Department has taken measures to stop the invasive species from spreading such as planting native floral species.
- Senna spectabilis is a plant species of the legume family (Fabaceae) in the subfamily Caesalpinioideae native to South and Central America. They are often grown as an ornamental in front yards, parks, gardens, buildings etc. due to their bright yellow flowers that bloom during the Summer Months.

5. Consider the following, with reference to Shankaracharya:

1. He propounded the Doctrine of Advaita.
2. Brahmasutrabhasya and Bhajagovinda Stotra are the major works of Shankaracharya.
3. He was responsible for reviving Hinduism in India when Buddhism was gaining Popularity.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Shankaracharya was also known as Adi Shankara. Born in Kaladi, Kerala in 788 CE.
- Propounded the Doctrine of Advaita (Monism) and wrote many commentaries on the Vedic canon (Upanishads, Brahma Sutras and Bhagavad Gita) in Sanskrit. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Major Works of Shankaracharya:

- Brahmasutrabhasya (Bhashya or commentary on the Brahma Sutra).
- Bhajagovinda Stotra.
- Nirvana Shatakam.
- He was responsible for reviving Hinduism in India to a great extent when Buddhism was gaining popularity.
- Established four Mathas in the four corners of India and the tradition continues to this day.

6. Consider the following statements, with regard to Loktak Lake:

1. It is the largest freshwater lake in the North-east region of India.
2. It is popularly known as Madhuri Lake.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

Geo-heritage sites in Northeast:

- Majuli (Assam): A river “island”, among the world’s largest, in Brahmaputra River.
- The island is also the hub of spiritualism in Assam.
- Sangetsar Tso (Arunachal Pradesh): It is popularly known as Madhuri Lake. hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- It is close to the border with Tibet and was formed due to the damming of a river during a major earthquake in 1950.
- Loktak Lake (Manipur): It is the largest freshwater lake in the Northeast.
- The attractions of this lake are the ‘phumdis’ or floating biomass and the ‘phumsangs’ or huts of fishermen on them.
- The Keibul Lamjao National Park, the only floating wildlife habitat on earth, is on the southwestern part of the lake and is the last natural habitat of the sangai or brow-antlered Dancing Deer.

7. In context to the Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to impart vocational skill training at the doorstep of the beneficiaries with a minimum cost and infrastructure.
2. It is implemented through NGOs with 100% grants from the Government of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Scheme of Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) formerly known as Shramik Vidyapeeth was a unique creation of the Government of India and has been implemented through Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the country since 1967. The scheme was renamed as JSS in 2000. It was transferred from the Ministry of Education (erstwhile Ministry of Human Resource Development) to the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship in July, 2018. The JSSs are imparting vocational skill training programmes at the door step of the beneficiaries with a minimum cost and infrastructure.
- JSSs are unique in the sense that they do not provide only vocational skills but also include an element of life skills which can help the beneficiary in day-to-day life.
- The priority groups are women, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, minorities and other backward sections of the society.
- It is implemented through NGOs with 100% grants from the Government of India. JSSs are registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

- The affairs of Jan Shikshan Sansthan are managed by the respective Board of Management approved by the Government of India.
- Scope of Work of JSS: Develop/Source appropriate curriculum and training modules covering vocational elements, General Awareness and life enrichment Components.

8. Which of the following is/are Erosional landforms due to Glaciers?

1. Cirque
2. Esker
3. Moraine

Options:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Cirque is an erosional landform formed by the action of glaciers. Cirques are bowl-shaped depressions that glaciers carve into mountains and valley sidewalls at high elevations.
- Eskers and moraines are depositional landforms created by glacial action.
- Eskers are ridges made of sands and gravels, deposited by glacial meltwater flowing through tunnels within and

underneath glaciers, or through meltwater channels on top of glaciers.

- Moraines are accumulations of dirt and rocks that have fallen onto the glacier surface or have been pushed along by the glacier as it moves. The dirt and rocks composing moraines can range in size from powdery silt to large rocks and boulders.

9. Consider the following statements:

1. The Legislative Council of a State in India can be larger in size than half of the Legislative Assembly of that particular State
2. The Governor of a State nominates the Chairman of Legislative Council of that Particular State.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Strength of the legislative council is from 40 to one third that of the legislative assembly.
- The constitution has fixed the maximum and minimum limits but actual strength is fixed by Parliament.
- The legislative Council elects its Chairman, who plays the role of presiding officer and

Deputy Chairman from amongst its members.

10. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act?

1. NDPS Act views drug offences very seriously and penalties are uniform Irrespective of the quantity
2. It is only the central government which can add or omit from the list of Psychotropic substances

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act views drug offences very seriously and penalties are stiff. The quantum of sentence and fine varies with the offence. For many offences, the penalty depends on the quantity of drug involved – small quantity, more than small but less than commercial quantity or commercial quantity of drugs. Small and Commercial quantities are notified for each drug.
- Power to add to or omit from the list of psychotropic substance is available only with the Central Government.

1. ‘Mandal Commission’ was sometimes seen in news is constituted for which of the following purposes?

- (a) To revamp the sick PSU’s
- (b) Report on the working of capital market Infrastructure Institutions
- (c) Reservations for OBC’s
- (d) To review the Methodology for Measurement of Poverty

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- In exercise of the powers conferred by Article 340 of the Constitution, the President appointed a backward class commission in December 1978 under the chairmanship of B. P. Mandal.
- The commission was formed to determine the criteria for defining India’s “socially and educationally backward classes” and to recommend steps to be taken for the advancement of those classes.
- The Mandal Commission concluded that India’s population consisted of approximately 52 percent OBCs, therefore 27% government jobs should be reserved for them.
- The commission has developed eleven indicators of Social, Educational, and Economic Backwardness.

- Apart from identifying backward classes among Hindus, the Commission has also identified backward classes among non-Hindus (e.g., Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, and Buddhists).
- It has generated an all-India other backward classes (OBC) list of 3,743 castes and a more underprivileged “depressed backward classes” list of 2,108 castes.

2. With reference to the Indra Sawhney case, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. The Court rejected the additional reservation of 10% for poorer sections of higher castes, but it upheld the constitutional validity of 27% reservation for the OBCs with certain conditions.
2. No reservation in promotions; reservation should be confined to initial appointments only.
3. The carry forward rule in case of unfilled vacancies should not violate 50% rule.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

- In the famous **Mandal case (Indra Sawhney v. Union of India 1992)**, the scope and extent of **Article 16(4)**, which provides for reservation of jobs in favour of backward classes, has been examined thoroughly by the Supreme Court.
 - Though the Court has rejected the additional reservation of 10% for poorer sections of higher castes, it upheld the constitutional validity of 27% reservation for the OBCs with certain conditions, viz,
 - ✓ The advanced sections among the OBCs (the creamy layer) should be excluded from the list of beneficiaries of reservation.
 - ✓ No reservation in promotions; reservation should be confined to initial appointments only. Any existing reservation in promotions can continue for five years only (i.e., upto 1997).
 - ✓ The total reserved quota should not exceed 50% except in some extraordinary situations. This rule should be applied every year.
 - ✓ The 'carry forward rule' in case of unfilled (backlog) vacancies is valid. But it should not violate 50% rule.
 - ✓ A permanent statutory body should be established to examine complaints of over-inclusion and under-inclusion in the list of OBCs.
 - However, it is also to be noted that the Parliament has passed the 124th Constitution Amendment Bill (10% Quota Bill) to provide for 10% reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) among the general category candidates in higher education and government employment in the year 2019.
 - **So, all the three statements are correct.**
3. Any cabinet minister can be arrested by a law Enforcement Agency on which of the following Occasions?
1. Any criminal case is registered against him/her.
 2. Any civil case is registered against him/her.
 3. During preventive detention.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) 2 and 3 only
- Answer: a)**
- Explanation:**
- **In case the Parliament is not in session:** Any cabinet minister can be arrested by a law enforcement agency if any criminal case is registered against him/her. Section 22 of the Rules of Procedures and Conduct of Business of the Rajya Sabha are

- followed in this case and the police or the judge or even the magistrate would have to inform the chairman of the Rajya Sabha regarding the reason for the arrest. The Chairman must also be informed about the place of detention and imprisonment in a proper format.
 - It is in the privileges of the Parliament, in civil cases specially that they cannot be arrested during the continuance of the house. This is also the process in case of 40 days before or after the commencement of the House proceedings.
 - This is mentioned in section 135 of the Code of Civil Procedure. The privilege of freedom however does not extend to criminal offences or in cases where detention under preventive detention is a must.
4. With reference to the differences between the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), consider the following statements:
1. The NGT has been established by an Act whereas the CPCB has been created by an executive order of the Government.
 2. The NGT provides environmental justice and helps reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts whereas the CPCB promotes cleanliness of streams and wells, and aims to improve the quality of air in the country.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The NGT was established by the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 whereas the CPCB has been created by the Water act, 1974. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

5. Consider the following statements, with regard to Jim Corbett National Park:

1. It is the first National Park of India.
2. It was established in 1936 as Hailey National Park to protect the endangered Bengal tiger.
3. It falls in the areas of Shivalik and Outer Himalayan Geological Provinces.

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Jim Corbett Tiger Reserve is located in Nainital district of Uttarakhand. The Project Tiger was launched in 1973 in Corbett National Park (first National Park

of India), which is part of Corbett Tiger Reserve.

- The national park was established in 1936 as Hailey National Park to protect the endangered Bengal tiger.
- It is named after Jim Corbett who played a key role in its Establishment.
- The core area forms the Corbett National Park while the buffer contains reserve forests as well as the Sonanadi Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The entire area of the reserve is mountainous and falls in the Shivalik and Outer Himalaya geological provinces.
- Ramganga, Sonanadi, Mandal, Palain and Kosi are the major rivers flowing through the Reserve.

6. In context to the 'Yuktdhara portal', consider the following statements:

1. It is a new geospatial planning portal under 'Bhuvan'.
2. It is a joint effort of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Ministry of Science and Technology.
3. It will serve as a repository of geotagged assets created under the various National Rural Development Programmes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Ministry of Rural Development has launched a new geospatial planning portal, 'Yuktdhara' to help in facilitating the new MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) assets with the use of remote sensing and GIS (Geographic Information System) based information.
- It is a new portal under 'Bhuvan'.
- It is a culmination of joint efforts of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Ministry of Rural development made towards realising a G2G (Government-to-Government) service for rural planning in support of decentralised decision making. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Previously launched, ISRO's Geoportal Bhuvan is presently a de-facto geospatial platform for several developmental planning activities across India.
- It will serve as a repository of assets (geotags) created under the various National Rural Development Programmes, such as MGNREGA, Per Drop More Crop Programmes, Integrated Watershed Management Programme, and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, along with the field photographs.

- It will integrate a wide variety of thematic layers, multi-temporal high-resolution earth observation data with the analysis tool.
- Planners will be able to analyse previous assets under various schemes and facilitate the identification of new works using online tools. Prepared plans will be then evaluated by appropriate authorities under State Departments.

7. Consider the following, with reference to the Earthquakes:

1. It is caused by the sudden release of the transmitted pressure of moving lithospheric or Crustal Plates.
2. The location below the earth's surface where the earthquake starts is called the epicentre.
3. Wadati–Benioff zones are associated with the deep Earthquakes.

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The earthquake is characterized by severe shaking of the ground and severe shaking of structures above the ground.
- They move slowly and steadily over the Earth's interior and many smaller plates.

Earthquakes are basically tectonic, that is, moving plates are mainly responsible for the shaking in the ground.

- The location below the earth's surface where the earthquake starts is called the hypocenter, and the location directly above it on the surface of the earth is called the epicentre.
- Deep earthquakes (300-700 km) are produced in Wadati–Benioff zones.
- It is a zone of subduction, along which earthquakes are common, which are produced by the interaction of a downgoing oceanic crustal plate against a Continental Plate.

8. Consider the following statements with respect to Chakmas and Hajongs:

1. They came to India from Bhutan after being displaced due to the submergence of their land due to the construction of the Kaptai dam.
2. Chakmas are predominantly Buddhists and Hajongs are Hindus.
3. They are both identified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Chakmas and Hajongs came to India in the 1960s from Bangladesh (East Pakistan) after being displaced due to the submergence of their land due to the construction of the Kaptai dam.
- Chakmas are predominantly Buddhists and Hajongs are Hindus.
- They are both not identified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

9. With reference to 'Financial Stability and Development Council', consider the following statements:

1. It is an organ of NITI Aayog.
2. It is headed by the Union Finance Minister.
3. It Monitors Macroprudential supervision of the Economy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Financial Stability and Development Council was set up in 2010.
- It is headed by the Union Finance Minister.
- It falls under the Department of Economic Affairs.
- It monitors Macroprudential supervision of the Economy.

10. "SARTHAQ" often in news is:

- (a) An initiative launched to improve the proficiency in reading and numeracy among children in the age group of 3 to 9 years.
- (b) An implementation plan for school education launched in pursuance of the goals of National Education Policy 2020.
- (c) National teachers' platform built to host Open Educational Resources (OER) and tools for teachers in schools, teacher educators in Teacher Education Institutes (TEIs) and student teachers.
- (d) An initiative to provide skills and right competencies to women so that they can take up Gainful Employment.

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- SARTHAQ, developed by the Department of School Education and Literacy, is an indicative and suggestive implementation plan for school education. It will help in the implementation of the National Education Policy in the country.

1. Consider the following:

1. Chakma and Hajong are ethnic communities who fled from erstwhile east Pakistan and settled in Arunachal Pradesh.
2. Chamkas are Predominantly Hindus while the Hajongs are Buddhists.
3. Chamkas and Hajongs come directly under the ambit of Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Chakmas and Hajongs are ethnic people who lived in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, most of which are located in Bangladesh.
- Chakmas are predominantly Buddhists, while Hajongs are Hindus. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- They are found in northeast India, West Bengal, Bangladesh and Myanmar.
- They fled erstwhile East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) in 1964-65 and came to India and settled in Arunachal Pradesh.

Reasons:

- Chakmas lost their land to the development of the Kaptai Dam on the Karnaphuli River, Bangladesh.

- Hajongs faced religious persecution as they were non-Muslims and did not speak Bengali.
- For a very long time local people have been protesting against Chakmas and Hajongs because of their differing ethnicity.
- In 2015, the Supreme Court directed the Centre to grant citizenship to Chakma and Hajongs who had migrated from Bangladesh in 1964-69.
- However, these communities do not directly come under the ambit of the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019 (CAA) because Arunachal Pradesh is among the states exempted from the CAA since it has an Inner Line Permit to regulate entry of outsiders..

2. Consider the following, with regard to Hampi:

1. It is located in the Tungabhadra basin in Bellary district.
2. The wide chariot streets flanked by the row of pillared mandapas is one of the unique features of temples of this city.
3. By 1500 CE, it was India's richest and the world's second-largest medieval-era city after Beijing.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The site of Hampi comprises mainly the remnants of the capital city of the Vijayanagara Empire (14th-16th century CE), the last great Hindu Kingdom.
- It encompasses an area of 4187, 24 hectares, located in the Tungabhadra basin in Bellary District, Central Karnataka.
- Hampi's spectacular setting is dominated by river Tungabhadra, craggy hill ranges and open plains with widespread physical remains.
- One of the unique features of temples at Hampi is the wide chariot streets flanked by the row of pillared mandapas.
- Its Famous places include Krishna temple complex, Narasimha, Ganesa, Hemakuta group of temples, Achyutaraya temple complex, Vitthala temple complex, Pattabhirama temple complex, Lotus Mahal complex, etc.
- The old city of Hampi was a prosperous, wealthy and grand city.
- 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.
- The Vijayanagara Empire was defeated by a coalition of sultanates; its capital was conquered, pillaged and destroyed by

- sultanate armies in 1565 (Battle of Talikota), after which Hampi remained in ruins.

3. In context to National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP), consider the following statements:

1. The assets of the central and state Government Public sector undertakings will be divested.
2. It envisages asset monetisation of Greenfield projects.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) estimates an aggregate monetisation potential of Rs. 6 lakh crores through core assets of the Central Government, over a four-year period, from FY 2022 to FY 2025.
- The plan is in line with Prime Minister's strategic divestment policy, under which the government will retain a presence in only a few identified areas with the rest tapping the private sector.
- It aims to unlock value in brownfield projects by engaging the private sector, transferring them revenue rights and not

ownership in the projects, and using the funds generated for infrastructure creation across the country.

4. Consider the following statements

1. In a socialist society the government decides what goods are to be produced in accordance with the needs of society.
2. The desires of individual consumers are given Much Importance.

Which of the statements given above is/are

Incorrect?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- In a capitalist society the goods produced are distributed among people not on the basis of what people need but on the basis of Purchasing Power—the ability to buy Goods and Services.
- In a socialist society the government decides what goods are to be produced in accordance with the needs of society. It is assumed that the government knows what is good for the people of the country and so the desires of Individual Consumers are not given much importance.

5. Which of the following steps will held the Government to reduce the deficit budget?

1. Reducing Revenue Expenditure
2. Introducing new Welfare Schemes
3. Rationalizing Subsidies

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Unnecessary revenue expenditure bloats the fiscal deficit, and since it forms the majority of government spending, its reduction has a very large effect on the Fiscal Deficit.
- It will Further Increase the fiscal deficit.
- Subsidies are a major component of government spending, and its reduction will cut down Fiscal Deficit.

6. Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA), seen in news, was signed between India and which of the following countries?

- (a) Japan
- (b) Russia
- (c) Australia
- (d) None of the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- India and the United States signed the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA). This agreement would facilitate exchange of geospatial information between India and United States for both military and civilian use.

7. Consider the following statements regarding World Trade Organization (WTO)

1. It is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations.
2. India has been a founding member of WTO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. World Trade Organization, as an institution, was established in 1995. It replaced General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) which was in place since 1946.
- The WTO officially commenced on 1 January 1995 under the Marrakesh

Agreement, signed by 123 nations on 15 April 1994. India has been a member of GATT since 1948; hence it was party to Uruguay Round and a founding member of WTO.

8. Which of the given statements with respect to Global Manufacturing Risk Index is/are correct?

1. It is published annually by the World Bank.
2. India has become the second most desired manufacturing destination according to the Global Manufacturing Risk Index 2021.
3. The Index ranks 190 countries against each other Assessing Costs, Risks and Conditions Impacting Manufacturing.

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Global Manufacturing Risk Index, 2021 brought out by real estate consultant Cushman & Wakefield has ranked India as the second-most sought-after Manufacturing Destination Globally.
- The first spot is occupied by China.
- The Index assessed the most advantageous locations for manufacturing among 47 countries.

- The rankings are determined based on four parameters: the country's capability to restart Manufacturing, Business Environment, Operating costs, and the risks.
- Operating cost competitiveness has been India's biggest strength in the assessment.

9. Consider the following statements:

1. Phishing is the method of trying to gather Personal Information using deceptive emails and websites.
2. Malware is a type of malicious software Designed to block access to a computer System until a sum of money is paid.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are Correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Phishing is the method of trying to gather personal information using deceptive emails and websites. So, statement 1 is correct.
- Malicious software or malware can be described as unwanted software that is installed in your system without your consent.
- Ransomware is a type of malicious software designed to block access to a

computer system until a sum of money is paid. So, statement 2 is not correct.

10. Consider the following statements, with regard to Mahanadi river:

1. It is the largest peninsular river system of India.
2. The river flows through the states of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
3. India's tallest dam is built on the Mahanadi River.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Mahanadi River system is the third largest of peninsular India after Godavari and Krishna, and the largest river of Odisha state.
- The catchment area of the river extends to Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand and Maharashtra.
- Its basin is bounded by the Central India hills on the north, by the Eastern Ghats on the south and east and by the Maikala range on the west.

- The Hirakud dam is built across river
- Mahanadi at about 15 km upstream of
- Sambalpur town in the state of Odisha.
- The Tehri Dam, tallest in India, is a multipurpose rock and earth-fill embankment dam on the Bhagirathi River near Tehri in Uttarakhand, India



1. Consider the following statements:

1. The Minimum Support Price is fixed on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
2. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) of the Union government takes a final decision on the level of MSPs and other recommendations made by the CACP.
3. The Indian Agriculture Research Institute (ICAR), the nodal central agency of the Government of India, along with other State Agencies undertakes procurement of MSP crops.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Minimum Support Price is fixed on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) of the Union government takes a final decision on the level of MSPs and other recommendations made by the CACP. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

- The Food Corporation of India (FCI), the nodal central agency of the Government of India, along with other State Agencies undertakes procurement of MSP crops. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

2. Consider the following statements:

1. The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 was enacted to ensure the easy availability of essential commodities to consumers which are sold to the consumers later.
2. Essential items under the Act include drugs, fertilisers, pulses and edible oils, and petroleum and petroleum products.
3. The Centre recently brought masks and hand sanitisers under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (EC Act) in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 was enacted to ensure the easy availability of essential commodities to consumers and to protect them from exploitation by unscrupulous traders. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

- The Act provides for the regulation and control of production, distribution and pricing of commodities which are declared as essential.
 - Essential items under the Act include drugs, fertilisers, petroleum and petroleum products. Pulses and edible oils have been recently removed. So, statement 2 is not correct.
 - The Act aim at maintaining/increasing supplies/securing equitable distribution and availability of these commodities at fair prices.
 - Centre invokes the ECA Act's provisions to impose stock limits in case of price/quantity distortions in the market to ensure adequate availability of essential commodities at reasonable prices.
 - States are the implementing agencies to implement the EC Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black marketing & Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, by exercising powers delegated to them.
 - The list of essential commodities is reviewed from time to time with reference to their production and supply and in consultation with concerned Ministries/Departments.
 - Currently, the restrictions like licensing requirement, stock limits and movement restrictions have been removed from almost all agricultural commodities.
- The recent amendment to the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules 2011 is linked to the ECA. The Government can fix the retail price of any packaged commodity that falls under the ECA.
 - The Centre recently brought masks and hand sanitisers under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (EC Act) in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak. So, statement 3 is correct.
3. Which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct regarding the Collegium system?
1. It is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through judgments of the SC, and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution.
 2. The Second Judges Case expanded the Collegium to a five-member body, comprising the CJI and four of his senior-most Colleagues.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
- Answer: a)

Explanation:

- It is the system of appointment and transfer of judges that has evolved through judgments of the SC, and not by an Act of Parliament or by a provision of the Constitution.
- The SC collegium is headed by the CJI and comprises four other senior most judges of the court.
- A HC collegium is led by its Chief Justice and four other senior most judges of that court.
- Names recommended for appointment by a HC collegium reaches the government only after approval by the CJI and the SC collegium.
- Judges of the higher judiciary are appointed only through the collegium system and the government has a role only after names have been decided by the collegium.
- The government's role is limited to getting an inquiry conducted by the Intelligence Bureau (IB) if a lawyer is to be elevated as a judge in a High Court or the Supreme Court.
- ✓ **Intelligence Bureau (IB):** It is a reputed and established intelligence agency. It is authoritatively controlled by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ✓ It can also raise objections and seek clarifications regarding the collegium's choices, but if the collegium reiterates

- ✓ the same names, the government is bound, under Constitution Bench judgments, to appoint them as judges.

Evolution of the Collegium System:

• **First Judges Case (1981):**

- ✓ It declared that the “primacy” of the Chief Justice of India (CJI)s recommendation on judicial appointments and transfers can be refused for “cogent reasons.”
- ✓ The ruling gave the Executive primacy over the Judiciary in judicial appointments for the Next 12 Years.

• **Second Judges Case (1993):**

- ✓ SC introduced the Collegium system, holding that “consultation” really meant “concurrence”.
- ✓ It added that it was not the CJI's individual opinion, but an institutional opinion formed in consultation with the two senior-most judges in the SC.

• **Third Judges Case (1998):**

- ✓ SC on President's reference expanded the Collegium to a five-member body, comprising the CJI and four of his senior-most colleagues.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. Fair and remunerative price (FRP) is the minimum price at which rate sugarcane is to be purchased by sugar mills from farmers.

2. To protect the interests of farmers, the concept of Minimum Selling Price (MSP) of sugar was introduced in 2018 to enable them to clear cane price dues of farmers.
3. Under the provisions of Sugar Price (Control) Order, 2018, the Government will fix the Minimum Selling Price (MSP).

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Prices of sugar are market driven & depend on demand & supply of sugar. However, with a view to protect the interests of farmers, the concept of Minimum Selling Price (MSP) of sugar was introduced in 2018 so that industry may get at least the minimum cost of production of sugar, so as to enable them to clear cane price dues of farmers.
- In exercise of the powers conferred under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, Government has notified Sugar Price (Control) Order, 2018.
- Under the provisions of said order, the Government will fix the Minimum Selling Price (MSP).

- MSP of sugar has been fixed taking into account the components of Fair & Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane and minimum conversion cost of the most efficient mills.
- Also, the State Advised Prices (SAP) are announced by key sugarcane producing states which are generally higher than FRP.
- Fair and remunerative price (FRP) is the minimum price at which rate sugarcane is to be purchased by sugar mills from farmers.
- The Federal/Central Government announces Fair and Remunerative Prices which are determined on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACAP) and are announced by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, which is chaired by the Prime Minister.

5. In context to “Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2021” Report, consider the following:

1. It is released by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).
2. Asia and the Pacific's economy has significantly improved and has contributed as much as 35% to global GDP in 2019.
3. The labour force participation rates among both women and men have declined in between 2019 to 2020.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Recently, Asian Development Bank (ADB) released a report titled as the Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific 2021.
- It presents comprehensive economic, financial, social and environmental statistics for ADB’s 49 regional members.
- Key Findings of Report:
- Poverty: The pandemic pushed 75-80 million people in the developing Asia-Pacific into extreme poverty in 2020.
- Contribution to Global GDP: Asia and the Pacific's economy has grown at a robust pace in recent years and contributed as

- much as 35% to global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in current US dollars in 2019.
- But Covid-19 took a toll just when weaker domestic investment and slowing global trade and economic activity started to challenge this momentum.
- Household Income: A significant number of households engaged in business were severely affected by the Pandemic.
- Unemployment: As unemployment rates increased by at least 20% in 2020 due to the pandemic across the globe, the Asia-Pacific region lost an estimated 8% of working hours.
- Labour Force Participation: From 2019 to 2020, labour force participation rates among women, on average, declined by 1.4%, while labour force participation rates among men declined by 0.8%.

6. The ‘EASE 4.0 reforms agenda’ , sometimes seen in the news is related to

- (a) Manufacturing sector reforms
- (b) Global taxation reforms
- (c) Higher judiciary reforms
- (d) Banking reforms

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- EASE Reforms Agenda was launched in January 2018 jointly by the government and PSBs.

- It was commissioned through Indian Banks' Association and authored by Boston Consulting Group.

Various Stages under EASE Reforms

Agenda:

- EASE 1.0: The EASE 1.0 report showed significant improvement in PSB performance in resolution of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) transparently.
- EASE 2.0: EASE 2.0 was built on the foundation of EASE 1.0 and introduced new reform Action Points across six themes to make reforms journey irreversible, strengthen processes and systems, and drive outcomes. The six themes of EASE 2.0 are:
 - Responsible Banking;
 - Customer Responsiveness;
 - Credit Off-take,
 - PSBs as UdyamiMitra (SIDBI portal for credit management of MSMEs);
 - Financial Inclusion & Digitalisation;
 - Governance and Human Resource (HR).
- Ease 3.0: It seeks to enhance ease of banking in all customer experiences, using technology.
- EASE 4.0 commits PSBs to tech-enabled, simplified and collaborative banking to further the agenda of customer-centric Digital Transformation.

7. In context to the Forum for Decarbonizing Transport, consider the following statements:

1. It was jointly launched by NITI Aayog and World Resources Institute (WRI), India.
2. It is a part of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) project.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Recently, Forum for Decarbonizing Transport was jointly launched by NITI Aayog and World Resources Institute (WRI), India.
- The forum is a part of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)-Transport Initiative for Asia (NDC-TIA) project, which focuses on developing a coherent strategy of effective policies and the formation of a multi-stakeholder platform for decarbonising transport in the region.

8. Which of the following is/are correct regarding e-Shram?

1. It is a database of unorganised sector workers.
2. e-Shram card contains a 12 digit unique number which will help the card holders access social security schemes.
3. It was launched in 2020.

Select the correct option from below:

- (a) 1 & 2
- (b) 1 & 3
- (c) 2 & 3
- (d) All of the Above

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Union Ministry of Labour has launched the National Database of Unorganised workers (E-Shram) portal.
- The E-Shram portal will maintain a database of workers in the country's unorganised sector.
- Unorganised workers, BOCW Workers, SHG members, domestic workers, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, street vendors, rickshaw-pullers, brick-kiln workers, agricultural labourers, MGNREGA workers, fishermen, shopkeepers and small retailers can register on the website.
- The new E-Shram portal will help in accessing social security schemes available for the Unorganised Workers.

- The workers who register on the portal will get an e-SHRAM card which will have a 12 digit unique number. This card is aimed at the integration of the Centre's social Security Schemes

9. Consider the following statements:

1. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) was established in 1988 as a statutory body for regulating the securities market.
2. An appeal against the order of SEBI can be directly filed in the Supreme Court.
3. SEBI has no power to freeze the bank accounts of a violator.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- (a) 1 & 2
- (b) 1 & 3
- (c) 2 & 3
- (d) All of the Above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India was constituted on April 12, 1988, as a non-statutory body through an Administrative Resolution of the Government for dealing with all matters relating to the development and regulation of the securities market and investor protection and to advise the Government on all these matters.

- SEBI was given statutory status and powers through an Ordinance promulgated on January 30, 1992. SEBI was established as a statutory body on February 21, 1992. The Ordinance was replaced by an Act of Parliament on April 4, 1992.
- Persons aggrieved by an order of Adjudicating Officer passed under the SEBI Act cannot file an appeal directly at the Supreme Court but can prefer an appeal to Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT). If not satisfied by the order of the SAT, he/she can approach the Supreme Court.
- SEBI has the power to freeze the bank accounts of a violator.
- The swamp deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii*), the state animal of Madhya Pradesh, is seeing a revival in the Kanha National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR) after having been perilously close to extinction for a long time.

10. Which one of the following protected areas is well-known for the conservation of a sub-species of the Indian swamp deer (*Barasingha*) that thrives well on hard ground and is exclusively graminivorous?

- (a) Kanha National Park
- (b) Manas National Park
- (c) Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary
- (d) Tal Chhapar Wildlife Sanctuary

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The barasingha, also called swamp deer, is a deer species distributed in the Indian subcontinent.

1. To the 'Children's Climate Risk Index', consider the following statements:

1. It is launched by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in collaboration with Fridays for Future.
2. India is among four South Asian countries where children are most at risk of the impacts of Climate Change.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Recently, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in collaboration with Fridays for Future launched a report named 'The Climate Crisis Is a Child Rights Crisis: Introducing the Children's Climate Risk Index'.
- It is the first comprehensive analysis of climate risk from a child's perspective.
- Earlier an analysis, based on Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN) index, had shown the impact of Climate Change on children across the world.
- Children's Climate Risk Index ranks countries based on children's exposure to climate and environmental shocks, such as

- Cyclones and Heatwaves, as well as their vulnerability to those shocks, based on their access to essential services.
- Pakistan (14th), Bangladesh (15th), Afghanistan (25th) and India (26th) are among four South Asian countries where children are at extremely high risk of the impacts of the Climate Crisis.
- India is among four South Asian countries where children are most at risk of the impacts of climate change threatening their Health, Education, and Protection.

2. Consider the following statements:

1. Right to be Forgotten (RTBF) is a part of the broader right of privacy under Article 21.
2. The right to privacy is declared as a fundamental right in K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India case in 2017.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Right to be Forgotten (RTBF) is the right to have publicly available personal information removed from the internet, search, databases, websites or any other public platforms, once the personal

information in question is no longer necessary, or relevant.

- The RTBF gained importance after the 2014 decision of the Court of Justice of the European Union (“CJEU”) in the Google Spain case.
- In Puttaswamy v. Union of India case, 2017, the Right to Privacy was declared a fundamental right by the Supreme Court.
- The SC noted that the RTBF was a part of the broader right of privacy.
- The RTBF emerges from the right to privacy under Article 21 and partly from the right to dignity under Article 14.

3. Consider the following statements regarding SAMRIDH Programme:

1. It has been launched by the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).
2. It aims at creating a conducive platform to Indian hardware product start-ups.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has launched the ‘Start-up Accelerators of

MeitY for pRодукt Innovation, Development and growth (SAMRIDH)’ programme.

- The programme aims to create a conducive platform to Indian Software Product start-ups to enhance their products and secure investments for scaling their business.
- Being implemented by MeitY Start-up Hub (MSH).
- MSH acts as a national coordination, facilitation and monitoring centre that will integrate all the incubation centres, start-ups and innovation related activities of MeitY.
- Also, aims to further the Indian start-up growth which has seen the emergence of 63 Unicorns and is now the third largest unicorn hub globally with a total valuation of USD 168 billion.

4. With respect to the powers of the Lieutenant Governor (LG) of the UT of J&K, consider the following statements:

1. Police, public order, All India Services and anti-corruption, will fall under the executive functions of the LG, implying that the Chief Minister or the Council of Ministers will have no say in their functioning.
2. In case of difference of opinion between the LG and a Minister when no agreement could be reached even after a month, the decision of the Lieutenant Governor shall

be deemed to have been accepted by the Council of Ministers.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Both the statements are correct.

5. Which among the following statements are correct about the removal of the judge of a Supreme Court of India?

1. The judge of the Supreme Court may be removed from his current office by an order of the President.
2. There are only two grounds of removal, incapacity or proved misbehaviour.
3. So far, no judge of the Supreme Court has been removed by impeachment.
4. The procedure for the removal of the judges is regulated by the Judges Enquiry Act (1968).

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All the statements are factual regarding the removal of the Judge of the Supreme Court.

6. Which of the following is *not* present in the state of Assam?

- (a) Deepar beel
- (b) Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary
- (c) Orang Tiger Reserve
- (d) Loktak Lake

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Loktak Lake is the largest freshwater lake in Northeast India (Manipur), and is famous for the phumdis (heterogeneous mass of vegetation, soil, and organic matter at various stages of decomposition) floating over it. This ancient lake plays an important role in the economy of Manipur.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has recently notified the eco-sensitive zone of Deepar Beel Wildlife Sanctuary on the southwestern edge of Guwahati.
- Deepor Beel is located to the south-west of Guwahati city, in Kamrup district of Assam, India.
- It is a permanent freshwater lake, in a former channel of the Brahmaputra River, to the south of the main river.
- It is a wetland under the Ramsar Convention which has listed since November 2002, for undertaking

conservation measures on the basis of its biological and environmental importance.

- Considered as one of the largest beels in the Brahmaputra valley of Lower Assam, it is categorised as a representative of the wetland type under the Burma monsoon forest biogeographic region.
- It is also an important bird sanctuary habituating many migrant species.
- Freshwater fish is a vital protein and source of income for these communities; the health of these people is stated to be directly dependent on the health of this wetland ecosystem.
- Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary and Orang Tiger Reserve are both present in the state of Assam.

7. The Supreme Court sometimes issues Stay Order in few cases to temporarily stop a judicial proceeding through an order. What are the essential conditions considered to issue the same?

1. the balance of Convenience does not favour the alleged Violator
2. the stay order does not cause irreparable Harm or Injury
3. there should be a prima facie case for Granting the stay order

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Stay Order is the act of temporarily stopping a judicial proceeding through the order of a court.
- A stay is a suspension of a case or a suspension of a particular proceeding within a case.
- A judge may grant a stay on the motion of a party to the case or issue a stay sua sponte, without the request of a party.
- **The Three Conditions** include: the balance of convenience does not favour the alleged violator; the stay order does not cause irreparable harm or injury; and there should be a prima facie case for granting the stay order.

8. Right to privacy includes which of the following rights?

1. Right to be left alone
2. Right to be forgotten
3. Freedom of Silence

Options:

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The right to be left alone and the right to be forgotten are components of the right to privacy.
- The right to silence/freedom of silence is a legal principle that guarantees any individual the right to refuse to answer questions from law enforcement officers or court officials. This can be the right to avoid self-incrimination or the right to remain silent when questioned. Art 20(3) of the Indian Constitution provides the right against self-incrimination.
- It gives the accused the right to remain silent even During Interrogation.

9. Consider the following statements with respect to Universal Postal Union:

1. It is a United Nations specialized agency.
2. It was established by the Treaty of Rome.
3. It is the oldest international organization worldwide.
4. Its headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Universal Postal Union is a United Nations specialized agency and the postal

sector's primary forum for international cooperation.

- It was established by the Treaty of Bern of 1874.
- UPU's headquarters is located in Bern, Switzerland.
- The International Telecommunication Union (founded in 1865) is the first and oldest international organization—being established employing a treaty, and creating a permanent secretariat, with Global Membership.

10. With reference to Sambhar Lake, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is India's largest inland salt lake in Rajasthan.
2. It is surrounded by the Aravali hills on all sides.
3. Sambhar has been designated as a Ramsar site.

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The world-famous Sambhar Salt Lake is located in the state of Rajasthan about 80 km southwest of Jaipur.
- The Sambhar Lake is the country's largest inland saline water body.

- It is surrounded by the Aravali hills on all sides.
- Sambhar Lake is a wetland of ‘international importance’ under the Ramsar Convention.
- The lake is known for being a habitat for a large number of migratory species during the winter season. It includes species like flamingoes, pelicans and waterfowls among others.



1. Which of the following were the outcomes of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre that took place in 1919?

1. General Dyer was removed from command and exiled to Britain.
2. Mahatma Gandhi, as a sign of condemnation, renounced his British Knighthood.
3. In 1922, the Rowlett Act was repealed by the British.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Considered the ‘The Butcher of Amritsar’ in the aftermath of the massacre, General Dyer was removed from command and exiled to Britain. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi, as a sign of condemnation, renounced their British Knighthood and Kaiser-i-Hind medal respectively. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- In 1922, the infamous Rowlett Act was repealed by the British. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

- Michael O’Dwyer, the then Lieutenant-Governor of Punjab, who had approved the actions of Dyer, was assassinated by Udham Singh in London in 1940 as revenge against the massacre.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code:

1. Bankruptcy is the situation where the debtor is not in a position to pay back the creditor while insolvency is the legal declaration of bankruptcy.
2. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code can be triggered if there is a minimum default of Rs 1 crore.
3. The code will apply to all sorts of business entities including corporate companies, partnerships, and limited liability partnerships except the individuals.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are **not** correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Insolvency is the situation where the debtor is not in a position to pay back the creditor.
- For a corporate firm, the signs of this could be a slow-down in sales, missing of payment deadlines etc.

- Bankruptcy is the legal declaration of Insolvency. So the former is a financial condition and latter is a legal position. All insolvencies need not lead to bankruptcy.
- The code will apply to all sort of business entities including corporate companies, partnerships, limited liability partnerships, individuals etc.
- In March 2020, the government raised the threshold for invoking insolvency under the IBC to Rs 1 crore from Rs 1 lakh with a view to prevent triggering of such proceedings against small and medium enterprises that are facing currently the heat of coronavirus pandemic.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs):

1. It is like a mutual fund, which enables direct investment of small amounts of money from possible individual/institutional investors in infrastructure to earn a small portion of the income as return.
2. InvITs can be treated as the modified version of REITs designed to suit the specific circumstances of the infrastructure sector.
3. They are similar to REIT but invest in infrastructure projects such as roads or highways which take some time to generate steady cash flows.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

What are Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvIT)?

- It is like a mutual fund, which enables direct investment of small amounts of money from possible individual/institutional investors in infrastructure to earn a small portion of the income as return.
- InvITs can be treated as the modified version of REITs designed to suit the specific circumstances of the infrastructure sector.
- They are similar to REIT but invest in infrastructure projects such as roads or highways which take some time to generate steady cash flows.

What are Real Estate Investment Trusts (REIT)?

- A REIT is roughly like a mutual fund that invests in real estate although the similarity doesn't go much further.
- The basic deal on REITs is that you own a share of property, and so an appropriate share of the income from it will come to

you, after deducting an appropriate share of expenses.

- Essentially, it's like a group of people pooling their money together and buying real estate except that it's on a large scale and is regulated.

4. Israel is bordered by which of the following sea(s)?

1. Mediterranean Sea
2. Red Sea
3. Sea of Galilee
4. Dead Sea

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Israel is bordered by Mediterranean Sea only. Sea of Galilee is a fresh water lake in Israel and Dead Sea is a salt lake in Israel
- Mediterranean Sea is in the West of Israel.
- Red Sea bordering countries are Djibouti, Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Egypt and Yemen.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. BCG vaccine is currently the only licensed vaccine for TB
2. Farther a country is from the equator, the higher is the Efficacy of BCG Vaccine

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- BCG (Bacillus Calmette-Guerin) is a vaccine against tuberculosis (TB) in Humans.
- TB continues to be a major public health problem in the world. According to the WHO's Global TB Report, 10 million people developed TB in 2019 with 1.4 million deaths. India accounts for 27% of these cases.
- Currently, BCG is the only licensed vaccine available for the prevention of TB. It is the world's most widely used vaccine with about 120 million doses every year and has an excellent safety record.
- One intriguing fact about BCG is that it works well in some geographic locations and not so well in others. Recent studies into the efficacy of the BCG vaccine have noted that farther a country is from the

- equator, the higher is the efficacy of BCG Vaccine. BCG has a high efficacy in the UK, Norway, Sweden and Denmark; and little or no efficacy in countries on or near the equator like India, Kenya and Malawi, where the burden of TB is higher. These regions also have a higher prevalence of environmental mycobacteria. It is believed that these may interfere with the protective effect against TB.

6. Which of the following adds/add carbon dioxide to the carbon cycle on the planet Earth?

1. Volcanic action
2. Respiration
3. Photosynthesis
4. Decay of organic matter

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Photosynthesis is the process by which plants use sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide to create oxygen and energy in the form of sugar.
- Thus photosynthesis removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere from the atmosphere.

- Volcanic action, respiration and decaying of organic matter adds carbon to the carbon cycle.

7. Oodaaq Island recently seen in news is part of

- (a) Japan
(b) Indonesia
(c) Greenland
(d) Antarctica

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Oodaaq or Oodap Qeqertaa is a bank of gravel and silt northeast of Greenland that has been considered by some to be the most northerly point of land on Earth, though a number of other places have also been given that title since its discovery.
- Scientists have recently discovered what is believed to be the world's northernmost landmass — a yet-to-be-named island north of Greenland that could soon be swallowed up by seawaters. The new island is 780 m north of Oodaaq.

8. Consider the following statements, with regard to 'Sambhar lake':

1. It is India's largest inland saline water body.
2. It was declared a Ramsar site in 1990.
3. It receives water from the Ghaggar River.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- 'Sambhar lake' is located 80 km south-west of Jaipur in east-central Rajasthan, it is the country's largest inland saline water body.
- Represents the depression of the Aravalli Range.
- It is famous for the production of brine/salt, houses one of the largest salt manufacturing units in the country.
- Thousands of migratory birds every year.
- A wetland of 'international importance' under the Ramsar Convention, declared in 1990.
- Receives water from six rivers, namely Samaod, Khari, Mantha, Khandela, Medtha, and Roopangarh.
- Mostly xerophytic type (Xerophyte is a plant adapted for growth under dry conditions).
- Flamingoes, pelicans and the waterfowls are commonly sighted.

9. Consider the following, with regard to the Jallianwala Bagh Incident?

1. Martial law was proclaimed in Punjab after the incident.
2. Mahatma Gandhi gave up the title of Kaiser-i-Hind.
3. The incident paved the way for the Non Cooperation Movement (NCM).

Which of the above statements are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

Post Jallianwala Bagh Incident:

- The shooting was followed by the proclamation of martial law in the Punjab that included public floggings and other humiliations. Indian outrage grew as news of the shooting and subsequent British actions spread throughout the subcontinent.
- The Bengali poet and Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore renounced the knighthood that he had received in 1915.
- Mahatma Gandhi gave up the title of Kaiser-i-Hind, bestowed by the British for his work during the Boer War (South African War, 1899-1902). Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The sole Indian representative at that time in the Viceroy's Executive Council - Chettur Sankaran Nair (1857-1934) - resigned from his post in protest.
- Lord Chelmsford was the Viceroy.
- On 14th October, 1919, the Disorders Inquiry Committee was formed to inquire about the massacre. It later came to be known as the Hunter Commission after the name of chairman, Lord William Hunter.

- It also had Indian members.
- The Hunter Commission in 1920 censured Dyer for his actions and was directed to resign from his appointment as Brigade Commander.
- The Indian National Congress appointed its own non-official committee that included Motilal Nehru, C.R. Das, Abbas Tyabji, M.R. Jayakar, and Gandhi to look into the shootings.
- Gandhi soon began organizing his first large-scale and sustained nonviolent protest (satyagraha) campaign, the Non Cooperation Movement (1920–22) which proved a step in the direction of ending the British rule of India 25 years later.

10. In context to Milky Sea Phenomenon, consider the following statements:

1. It is a rare form of marine bioluminescence.
2. It arises from a saprophytic relationship between luminous bacteria and microalgae.
3. The positive phase of Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) creates the favourable conditions for Milky Sea Genesis.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- It is a rare form of marine bioluminescence where the nocturnal ocean surface produces a widespread, uniform and steady whitish glow.
- Bioluminescence is light produced by a chemical reaction within a living organism.
- It is also called mareel.
- Arises from a saprophytic relationship between luminous bacteria and microalgae that expresses on the macroscale.
- A strain of luminous bacteria called *Vibrio harveyi* colonizing algae at the water's surface has been found.
- Luminous bacteria cause the particles they colonize to glow. The purpose of this glow could be to attract fish that eat them.
- These bacteria thrive in the guts of fishes, so when their populations get too big for their main food supply, a fish's stomach makes a great second option.
- During its positive phase, the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) corresponds to warm/wet conditions with warm pooling waters on the western side of the Indian Ocean, and cool/dry conditions with strong easterly winds on the eastern side. These winds generate upwelling of cool, nutrient-rich coastal waters which drift offshore with the currents, leading to algal blooms over a broad region, and potentially, conditions favourable for Milky Sea Genesis.

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Nuclear Enrichment increases the proportion of U-235 through the process of isotope separation.
2. For nuclear reactors, enrichment is required up to 90% or more which is known as Highly Enriched Uranium/reactor-grade uranium.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Natural uranium consists of two different isotopes - nearly 99% U-238 and only around 0.7% of U-235.
- U-235 is a fissile material that can sustain a chain reaction in a nuclear reactor.
- Enrichment process increases the proportion of U-235 through the process of isotope separation (U-238 is separated from U-235). **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- For nuclear weapons, enrichment is required up to 90% or more which is known as Highly Enriched Uranium/weapons-grade uranium.
- For nuclear reactors, enrichment is required up to 3-4% which is known as Low Enriched Uranium/reactor-grade uranium.

- **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

2. Which of the following countries are included in the Six Party Talks?

1. US
2. UK
3. Russia
4. France
5. Germany

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) All the above
(b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
(c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) None of the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Six-Party Talks between North Korea, South Korea, Japan, China, Russia, and the United States began in 2003 with the goal of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula. However, these talks have been suspended since April 2009.

3. With reference to the Inner Line Permit, which of the statements given below are correct?

1. It is a document required by non- natives to visit or stay in a state that is protected under the ILP system.
2. At present five North Eastern states are covered under ILP namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya and Nagaland.

3. ILP is only for the citizens of India and foreigners are not included in the laws of Inner line Permit.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- It is a document required by non- natives to visit or stay in a state that is protected under the ILP system. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- At present, four North Eastern states are covered under ILP namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland. So, statement 2 is not correct.
- The demand by Tribal organisations of Meghalaya for ILP system to restrict the entry of outsiders into the State has turned into violent protests
- Both the duration of stay and the areas allowed to be accessed for any non-native are determined by the ILP.
- The ILP is issued by the concerned state government and can be availed both by applying online and in person.
- An ILP is only valid for domestic tourists.

For foreign tourists in:

- ✓ **Manipur:** No permit is required. But, have to register themselves.

✓ **Mizoram:** No permit is required. But, need to register.

✓ **Nagaland:** No permit is required. However, they need to register.

✓ **Arunachal Pradesh:** Tourists need a Protected Area Permit (PAP) or Restricted Area Permit (RAP) from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

- So, statement 3 is correct.

4. Which of the following tribes belong to the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands?

1. Onges
2. Jarawas
3. Sentinelese
4. Shompens

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- PVTG in Andaman archipelago include the Great Andamanese, Jarawas, Onges, Sentinelese, and Shompens.

5. In context to Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs), consider the following statements:

1. They are designed to pool small sums of money for investment in infrastructure Projects.
2. They are regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
3. They are suitable for high net worth Individuals.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

About Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvIT):

- They are designed to pool small sums of money from a number of investors to invest in assets that give cash flow over a period of time. Part of this cash flow would be distributed as a dividend back to investors.
- They are instruments that work like mutual funds.
- InvITs are structured so as to give investors an opportunity to invest in infrastructure assets with predictable cash flows, while the asset owners can raise upfront resources against future revenue cash flows from those assets, which in turn can be deployed in new assets or used to repay debt.

- InvITs are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014.
- The minimum investment amount in an InvIT Initial Public Offering (IPO) is Rs 10 lakh, therefore, InvITs are suitable for high-net-worth individuals, institutional and non-institutional investors.

6. In context to the e-Shram Portal, Consider the Following Statements:

1. Every registered worker will be issued an e-Shram card containing a 12 digit unique number.
2. All registered unorganised workers will be provided accidental insurance coverage through Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) for a year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- e-Shram Portal is aimed to register 38 crore unorganised workers such as construction labourers, migrant workforce, street vendors, and domestic workers, among others.

- The workers will be issued an e-Shram card containing a 12 digit unique number.
- All registered unorganised workers will be provided accidental insurance coverage through Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) for a year.
- The sanctioned amount is Rs 2 lakh for accidental death and permanent disability and Rs 1 lakh in case of partial disability.
- The workers can also get access to Union and state government social security benefits through e-SHRAM portal. The portal and registration will be useful for the Union and State Governments to provide assistance to eligible workers in case of Natural Calamities or Pandemic.

7. Consider the following, with reference to the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY):

1. It is a National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services.
2. It allows the account holders to withdraw money in the form of a short-term loan.
3. There has been a continuous increase in the percentage of operative accounts under PMJDY.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana is a National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services, namely, Banking/Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner.
- Its main objective is ensuring access to various financial services to the excluded sections i.e. weaker sections & low income groups at an affordable cost and using the technology for the same.
- It allows the Jan Dhan account holders to withdraw money upto Rs. 10,000 (OverDraft Facility) in the form of a short-term loan. This limit was earlier Rs. 5,000 but the government doubled the amount last year.
- The number of accounts under the PMJDY rose to 43.04 crore in August 2021 from 17.9 crore in August 2015.
- There has been a continuous increase in the percentage of operative accounts which is an indication that more and more of these accounts are being used by customers on a Regular Basis.

8. India entered into Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS) with which among the following countries?

- (a) Japan
- (b) Australia

- (c) USA
(d) Russia

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- As part of the efforts to further deepen the defence cooperation between India and Russia, India and Russia are expected to conclude the bilateral logistics agreement, Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS) during the upcoming Russian Defence Minister's visit to India.
- This means Indian ships or aircraft can now use Russian ports or airfields without having to take permission or make immediate payments. India has already signed a similar agreement with the USA. The LEMOA or the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement between India and the United States was signed in 2016.

9. Who among the following Mughal emperors shifted emphasis from illustrated manuscripts to the album and individual portraits?

- (a) Humayun
(b) Akbar
(c) Jahangir
(d) Shah Jahan

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- During Akbar's reign, many manuscripts were illustrated, the prominent being Razmnamah, the Persian translation of Mahabharata. It was during Jahangir's

reign that manuscripts became less important and individual portraits became more prominent.

- Jahangir shifted emphasis from illustrated manuscripts to the album and individual portraits.

10. Consider the following statements regarding the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):

1. It operates under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. CBI derives power to investigate from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
3. The Director of CBI has been provided security of two-year tenure, by the Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013.

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the premier investigating agency of India. It operates under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- The CBI is not a statutory body. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

-
- The Director of CBI has been provided security of two-year tenure in office by the CVC Act, 2003.

