

1. Consider the following pairs:

Name of the Port	Country
1. Sitwe Port	- Myanmar
2. Chabahar Port	- Iran
3. Gwadar Port	- Pakistan
4. Hambantota Port	- Sri Lanka

Which of the pairs given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All the above pairs are correctly matched.

2. With reference to the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), consider the following statements:

- The CPEC is the flagship project of the multi-billion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- CPEC eventually aims at linking the city of Gwadar in South Western Pakistan to China's North Western region Xian through a vast network of highways and railways.
- The proposed project will be financed by heavily-subsidised loans, that will be disbursed to the Government of Pakistan by Chinese banks.

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

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

(c) 2 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3 only

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The CPEC is the flagship project of the multi-billion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a pet project of Chinese President Xi Jinping, aimed at enhancing Beijing's influence around the world through China-funded infrastructure projects. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The 3,000 km-long China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) consists of highways, railways, and pipelines.
- CPEC eventually aims at linking the city of Gwadar in South Western Pakistan to China's North Western region Xinjiang of Kashgar province through a vast network of highways and railways. Xian connects **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- The proposed project will be financed by heavily-subsidised loans, that will be disbursed to the Government of Pakistan by Chinese banks. **So, statement 3 is correct.**



3. Gorkha Soldiers Regiment is sometimes seen in news 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.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the National Population Register (NPR):

1. The NPR database would contain demographic as well as biometric details.
2. It is not mandatory for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR.
3. As per the provisions of the NPR, a resident identity card will be issued to individuals over the age of 18.

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:

- It is a Register of usual residents of the country.

- It is being prepared at the local (Village/sub-Town), sub-District, District, State and National level under provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.
- It is **mandatory** for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- A usual resident is defined for the purposes of NPR as a person who has resided in a local area for the past 6 months or more or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next 6 months or more.
- To create a comprehensive identity database of every usual resident in the country.
- The NPR database would contain demographic as well as biometric details. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- As per the provisions of the NPR, a resident identity card (RIC) will be issued to individuals over the age of 18. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- This will be a chip-embedded smart card containing the demographic and biometric attributes of each individual.
- The UID number will also be printed on the card.

5. Consider the following statements, with regard to Small Finance Bank (SFB):

1. It is registered as a Public Limited Company under the Companies Act, 2013.
2. It is mandated to extend 75% of its adjusted net bank credit to the Priority Sector Lending (PSL).
3. It is governed only by the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

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: a)

Explanation:

- Small Finance Banks (SFBs) are the financial institutions which provide financial services to the unserved and unbanked region of the country.
- SFB is registered as a public limited company under the Companies Act, 2013. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It needs to open at least 25% of its banking outlets in unbanked rural centres.
- SFBs are required to extend 75% of its adjusted net bank credit to the Priority Sector Lending (PSL).
- The RBI mandates banks to lend a certain portion of their funds to specified sectors, like agriculture, Micro, Small and Medium

- Enterprises (MSMEs), export credit, education, housing, social infrastructure, renewable energy among others.
- SFBs are governed by the provisions of the:
- Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934;
- Banking Regulation Act, 1949;
- Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999;
- Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007;
- Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005;
- Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961;
- Other relevant Statutes and the Directives issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and other regulators from time to time.

6. Consider the following statements, with regard to the West Nile Virus (WNV):

1. It is not considered pathogenic for birds.
2. The disease caused by WNV is spread by infected Mosquitoes.
3. The WNV can lead to a fatal neurological Disease in Humans.

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) All the above

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The West Nile Virus (WNV) is a member of the flavivirus genus and belongs to the Japanese encephalitis antigenic complex of the family Flaviviridae.
- It is commonly found in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, North America and West Asia.
- WNV was first isolated in a woman in the West Nile district of Uganda in 1937.
- It was identified in birds in the Nile delta region in 1953. Before 1997, WNV was not considered pathogenic for birds.
- WNV causes an infectious disease spread by infected mosquitoes. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- It spreads from birds to humans with the bite of an infected Culex mosquito.
- It can lead to a fatal neurological disease in humans.
- The virus causes West Nile fever in around 20% of cases, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). It is related to the Zika, Dengue and Yellow Fever Viruses.

7. Consider the following statements, with reference to The National Mission on Edible Oil-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP)

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
2. The oil palm farmers will be provided Financial Assistance

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:

- National Mission on Edible Oil-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) is a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme. It is proposed to have an additional 6.5 lakh hectares for palm oil by 2025-26.
- It will involve raising the area under oil palm cultivation to 10 lakh hectares by 2025-26 and 16.7 lakh hectares by 2029-30.
- Oil palm farmers will be provided financial assistance and will get remuneration under a price and viability formula.
- The Viability Formula is a Minimum Support Price-type mechanism and the government will fix this at 14.3% of Crude Palm Oil (CPO) price.
- It will eventually go up to 15.3%.
- Another focus area of the scheme is to substantially increase the support of inputs/interventions.
- Special assistance will be given to replant old Gardens for their Rejuvenation.

8. Consider the following statements:

1. They are a fine variant of shawls spun from cashmere wools.
2. These shawls were indicators of wealth and part of a rich woman's dowry in India, Nepal and Pakistan.
3. It has been registered under the Geographical Indications Registry of India

The above statements best describe:

- (a) Shahtoosh shawl
- (b) Kani shawl
- (c) Pashmina shawl
- (d) Paisley shawl

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Kashmir has been known for producing the most exclusive Pashmina Shawls in the world. Kashmir Pashmina Shawl making is rooted in the valley of Kashmir, where artisans follow age-old processes and techniques.
- The name Pashmina has been derived from the Persian word "Pashm" meaning a weavable fibre precisely wool. The cashmere wool used for making Pashmina comes from a special breed of Kashmiri goat – Changthangi found in the high altitude regions of the Himalayas.
- The fine variant of spun cashmere is derived from the animal-hair fibre forming the downy undercoat of the Changthangi goat.

- The Pashmina shawls were considered luxury items and were indicators of wealth and part of a rich woman's dowry in India, Nepal and Pakistan.
- Kashmir Pashmina or Cashmere has a unique geographical origin & unique method of making. "Kashmir Pashmina" has been registered under the Geographical Indications Registry of India.

- Some brominated flame retardants have been identified as persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic to both humans and the environment and were suspected of causing neurobehavioral effects and endocrine disruption.
- Given the high resistance they offer to environmental degradation they persist in the environment for long periods.

9. Brominated flame retardants are used in many household products like mattresses and upholstery. Why is there some concern about their use?

1. They are highly resistant to degradation in the Environment.
2. They are able to accumulate in Humans and Animals.

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:

- Brominated flame retardants (BFRs) are organobromine compounds that have an inhibitory effect on combustion chemistry and tend to reduce the flammability of products containing them. (Flame-retardant)

10. 38th Parallel recently seen in news demarcates

- (a) USA and Mexico
(b) Turkey and Syria
(c) North and South Korea
(d) Africa and Europe

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- 38th parallel is the popular name given to the latitude line that roughly demarcates North Korea and South Korea.



1. Consider the following statements:

1. A conspicuous red crown adorns the head.
2. The bird is revered by the community of Monpas as an embodiment of the sixth Dalai Lama.
3. It was recently declared as the state bird of Ladakh.

The above statements describe which of the following?

- (a) Bengal Florican
- (b) Black Necked Crane
- (c) Hornbill
- (d) White Rumped Vulture

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Black Necked Crane was recently declared as the state bird of Ladakh.
- They have upper long neck, head, primary and secondary flight feathers and tail are completely black and body plumage is pale gray/whitish. Both the sexes are almost of the same size but male is slightly bigger than female.
- A conspicuous red crown adorns the head.
- The juveniles have a brownish head and neck and plumage is slightly paler than that of an adult.
- The bird is revered by the community of Monpas (major Buddhist ethnic group of Arunachal Pradesh) as an embodiment of the sixth Dalai Lama (Tsangyang Gyatso).

✓ Monpas inhabit the West Kameng and Tawang districts, are essentially Buddhists who follow the Mahayana sect.

- The high altitude wetlands of the Tibetan plateau, Sichuan (China), and eastern Ladakh (India) are the main breeding ground of the species, the birds spend winter at lower altitudes. In Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh, it only comes during the winters.

- In Arunachal Pradesh, it can be seen in three areas:

- ✓ Sangti valley in West Kameng district.
- ✓ Zemithang in Tawang district.
- ✓ Chug valley in Tawang district.

- **Threats Include:**

- ✓ Damage to the eggs and chicks, caused by feral dogs.
- ✓ Loss of habitat due to human pressure (Development Projects) on the wetlands.
- ✓ Increased grazing pressure on the limited pastures near the wetlands.

- **Steps for their Conservation:** World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF-India) in collaboration with the Department of Wildlife Protection, Jammu & Kashmir, has been working towards conservation of high-altitude wetlands, with black-necked cranes as a priority species in Ladakh region. In Arunachal Pradesh, WWF is

working for the conservation of the small wintering population.

● **Protection Status:**

- ✓ **IUCN Red List:** Near Threatened
- ✓ **CITES:** Appendix I
- ✓ **Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I

2. With reference to Indian elephants, consider the following statements:

1. The leader of an elephant group is female.
2. The maximum gestation period can be 22 months.
3. An elephant can normally go on calving till the age of 40 years only.
4. Among the States in India, the highest Elephant Population is in Kerala.

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Calves generally live with the mother till they are five years old after which the males leave the herd but the females remain. **Statement 1 is correct** and **Statement 3 is Incorrect.**

- Elephants have the longest gestation period of all mammals. These gentle giants' pregnancies last for more than a year and a half. The average gestation period of an elephant is about 640 to 660 days, or roughly 95 weeks. **Statement 2 is Correct.**
- Karnataka has the highest number of elephants in India. **Statement 4 is Incorrect.**

3. Snow Leopard was recently declared as the state animal of Ladakh? Which of the following is considered as the Snow leopard capital of the world?

- (a) Jim Corbett National Park
- (b) Hemis National Park
- (c) Dachigam National Park
- (d) Kishtwar National Park

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Snow leopards act as an indicator of the health of the mountain ecosystem in which they live, due to their position as the top predator in the food web.
- Habitats include Mountainous regions of central and southern Asia.
- In India, their geographical range encompasses:
 - ✓ **Western Himalayas:** Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh.
 - ✓ **Eastern Himalayas:** Uttarakhand and Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

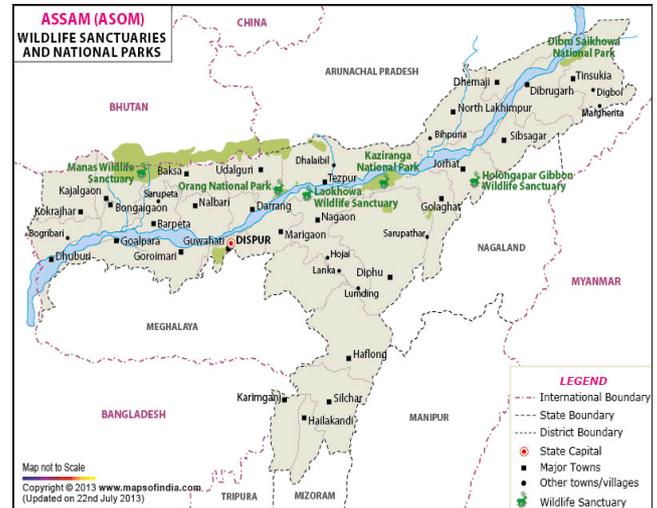
- ✓ **Snow Leopard capital of the world:**
Hemis, Ladakh which is the biggest national park in India and also has a good presence of Snow Leopard.

- (c) 2-3-1-4
(d) 4-1-2-3

● **Protection Status:**

- ✓ The snow leopard is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN-World Conservation Union's Red List of the Threatened Species.
- ✓ In addition, it is also listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES).
- ✓ It is listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.

Answer: a)



- Making trading of animal body parts (i.e., fur, bones and meat) illegal in signatory countries.
- It is also listed in the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), affording the highest conservation status to the species, both Globally and in India.
- It is also protected by several national laws in its Range Countries.

5. Consider the following, with regard to the negative consequences of Sandstorms:

1. Reduced agricultural yield
2. Increased melting of ice
3. Disturbs marine food webs

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Sand and dust storms are common meteorological hazards in arid and semi-arid regions.
- They are usually caused by thunderstorms – or strong pressure gradients associated with cyclones – which increase wind speed over a wide area.

4. Arrange the following from East to west.

1. Manas National Park
2. Kaziranga National Park
3. Orang National Park
4. Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary

Select the correct answer using the code give below:

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

- Impacts of Sandstorms:

Negative:

Affect the Source of Freshwater:

- Very high dust deposition also occurs in the Himalaya-Hindu Kush Mountain range and the Tibetan Plateau, the so-called ‘third pole’ that are the sources for fresh water for more than 1.3 billion people in Asia.

Increases Melting of Ice:

- The deposition of dust on glaciers induces a warming effect, increasing the melting of ice, with direct and indirect impacts on society through numerous issues, including food security, energy production, agriculture, water stress and flood regimes.

On Farmland:

- Dust deposition impacted large portions of farmland in Turkmenistan, Pakistan and Uzbekistan.
- Much of this dust is characterised by high salt content, making it toxic for plants.
- It reduces yield, posing a significant threat to the production of irrigated cotton and other crops.

Positive:

- They can increase the nutrient content in the areas of deposition and Benefit Vegetation.
- Dust deposited on water bodies can alter their chemical characteristics, triggering both positive as well as adverse outcomes.

- Dust particles that carry iron can enrich parts of oceans, improving the phytoplankton balance and impacting Marine Food webs.

6. Consider the following statements regarding Submarine Volcanoes:

1. They cause explosive eruptions beneath the ocean’s surface.
2. They adversely affect the ocean’s surface and may also lead to a Tsunami.

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:

- Submarine volcanoes are exactly what they sound like—volcanoes located beneath the ocean’s surface.
- From Hawaii to Indonesia to Iceland, hundreds of islands across the globe have been formed by submarine volcanoes.
- Because they erupt into water instead of air, submarine volcanoes behave quite differently than terrestrial volcanoes.
- For instance, it’s uncommon for submarine volcanoes to have explosive eruptions.

- The sheer weight of the water above them creates very high pressure, usually resulting in what are known as passive lava flows along the seafloor. Most submarine eruptions do not disturb the ocean surface.

7. With reference to the Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA), consider the following statements:

1. It is an international survey conducted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
2. It is a competency-based test designed to assess the reading, mathematics, and science literacy of 15-year-old students.

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 Programme for International Students Assessment (PISA) is an international survey held every three years, coordinated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

It was first conducted in the year 2000. The PISA test does not assess students on their memory but attempts to evaluate whether students can apply the knowledge they

have gained through primary and secondary education.

- It is a competency-based test designed to assess the ability of the 15-year-old candidates that measures their reading, mathematics, and science literacy every three years to apply their knowledge to real-life Situations.

8. Which of the following statements is/are **Incorrect?**

1. The Supreme Court's collegium has consistently provided for gender diversity and representation in its appointments to the Higher Judiciary.
2. Women's representation in the judiciary is much better at the Supreme Court and High Courts as compared to lower district courts.
3. India has had a woman Chief Justice of India.

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court collegium's record of providing for gender diversity and representation in its appointments to the higher judiciary has been dismal. Only 10 women including the three recently appointed have become SC judges.

- Women's representation in the High Courts stands at a dismal 11%. The lower judiciary fares much better than the higher judiciary when it comes to women representation.
- India has never had a woman Chief Justice of India.

9. India Meteorological Department (IMD) provides for which of the following early warning & forecasting services?

1. Monsoon forecast
2. Tropical cyclones
3. Dust storms
4. Heavy rains and snow
5. Cold and heat waves

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) is an agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India. It is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations and weather forecasting.
- IMD provides early warning & forecasting services for the following:
 - Monsoon forecast

- Tropical cyclones
- Dust storms
- Heavy rains and snow
- Cold and heat waves

10. What is the role of the European Council, one of the principal organs of the European Union (EU)?

- (a) Provides political direction to the European Union
- (b) Acts as the legislature of the European Union
- (c) Pass legislations and exercise control over the budget of the EU
- (d) Settle legal disputes between EU member states

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The European Council is the body of the Heads of state or government of EU member states, President of the European Council and President of the European Commission.
- It is based in Brussels and is presided by the President of the European Council.
- The European Council gives the necessary political impetus for the development of the Union and sets its general objectives and priorities. It is to be noted that it does not legislate.

1. With respect to the Pulicat Lake, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. It is largest brackish water ecosystem in the Country.
2. It is located on the border of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu that lies majorly in Andhra Pradesh.
3. The large varieties of birds like grey pelicans, painted storks, visit the site Annually.

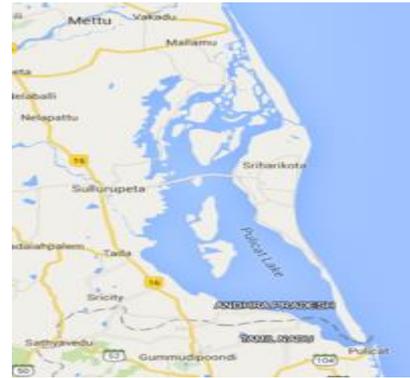
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- It is the second-largest brackish water ecosystem in the country after the Chilika Lake (Odisha).
- It is located on the border of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. It lies majorly in Andhra Pradesh.
- The large varieties of birds like grey pelicans, painted storks, visit the site Annually.
 - ✓ Grey Pelican and Painted Stork both are near-threatened species under IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.



2. Consider the following pairs:

Species	Conservation Site
1. Northern River Terrapin	Sundarbans
2. Red-crowned Roofed Turtle	Chambal
3. Black Softshell Turtle	Temples of Assam

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

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Northern River Terrapin (Batagur baska) is being conserved at the Sunderbans; the Red-crowned Roofed Turtle (Batagur kachuga) at Chambal; and the Black Softshell Turtle (Nilssonina nigricans) at different temples in Assam.
- There are 29 species of freshwater turtles and tortoises in the country.



- a) Northern River Terrapin
- b) Red-Crowned Roofed Turtle
- c) Black Softshell Turtle

3. Which of the following are embodied under the Fundamental Right of Right to Life (Article 21)?

1. Right to Privacy
2. Right to live with human dignity
3. Right to personal liberty

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

About Right to Life (Article 21):

- No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law.
- It confers on every person the fundamental right to life and personal liberty.

How does Right to Privacy and Live with Dignity encompass with Article 21?

- In 2017, the Right to Privacy was declared a fundamental right by the Supreme Court in its landmark verdict.
- The court said at the time that “the right to privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 and as a part of the freedoms guaranteed by Part III of the Constitution”.
- In Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India 1978, the SC gave a new dimension to Article 21 and held that the right to live is not merely a physical right but includes within its ambit the right to live with human dignity.

4. According to the migratory birds, which of the flight paths of India are used by the same for Migration?

1. Central Asian flyway
2. East Asian flyway
3. East Asian–Australasian flyway
4. Pacific Flyway

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The country has three flyways (flight paths used by birds): the Central Asian flyway, East Asian flyway and East Asian–Australasian flyway. **So, the answer is a).**
- The **Asian–East African Flyway** starts from the northern breeding grounds of water birds in Siberia and leads across Asia to East Africa. Little has been published about birds using this flyway.
- The **Central Asian Flyway** starts from the northern breeding grounds of water birds in Siberia and leads across Asia to the Indian subcontinent. Little has been published about birds using this flyway.
- The **East Asian–Australasian Flyway** starts at the Taymyr Peninsula in Russia and Alaska and extends southwards to south eastern Asia, Australia and New Zealand. This flyway overlaps with the West Pacific Flyway. About 60 species of shorebird use this route.
- The **Pacific Flyway** is a north-south flyway for birds migrating from breeding grounds in Alaska and Canada to their overwintering areas in South America, some species travelling as far south as Patagonia.

5. In context to Geographical Indication (GI) Tag Certification, consider the following statements:

1. It is used to identify goods having special features originating from a definite geographical territory.
2. It is covered under the World Trade Organisation’s agreements.
3. It is administered by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks in India.

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: d)

Explanation:

- Geographical Indication (GI) Tag Certification is an indication used to identify goods having special characteristics originating from a definite geographical territory.
- It is used for agricultural, natural and manufactured goods.
- The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 seeks to provide for the registration and better protection of geographical indications relating to goods in India.

- ←----->
- It is also a part of the World Trade Organisation's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
 - It is administered by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and TradeMarks- who is the Registrar of Geographical Indications. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
6. With reference to the Special Drawing Rights (SDR), consider the following statements:
1. It is allocated to the members of the IMF in proportion to their existing quotas.
 2. India's foreign exchange reserves do not incorporate SDR.
 3. Its basket of currencies includes only the US dollar, Japanese yen and Euro.
- 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: a)**
- Explanation:**
- The Special Drawing Rights (SDR) is neither a currency nor a claim on the IMF. Rather, it is a potential claim on the freely usable currencies of IMF members. SDRs can be exchanged for these currencies.
 - The SDR serves as the unit of account of the IMF and some other international organizations.
- The currency value of the SDR is determined by summing the values in US dollars, based on market exchange rates, of a SDR basket of currencies.
 - The SDR basket of currencies includes the US dollar, Euro, Japanese yen, pound sterling and the Chinese renminbi (included in 2016).
 - The SDR currency value is calculated daily (except on IMF holidays or whenever the IMF is closed for business) and the valuation basket is reviewed and adjusted every five years.
 - Quota (the amount contributed to the IMF) of a country is denominated in SDRs.
 - Members' voting power is related directly to their quotas.
 - IMF makes the general SDR allocation to its members in proportion to their existing quotas in the IMF.
 - India's foreign exchange reserves also incorporate SDR other than gold reserves, foreign currency assets and Reserve Tranche in the IMF.
7. The 'World Social Protection Report' is released by which of the following organizations
- (a) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
(b) International Labour Organisation (ILO)
(c) United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
(d) World Bank

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Recently, a International Labour Organization (ILO) report titled ‘World Social Protection Report 2020–22’ has revealed that, globally 4.1 billion people are living without any social safety net of any kind.
- Social Security is a comprehensive approach designed to prevent deprivation, give assurance to the individual of a basic minimum income for himself and his dependents and to protect the individual from any uncertainties.
- Social protection includes access to health care and income security measures related especially to old age, unemployment, sickness, disability, work injury, maternity or the loss of the main breadwinner in a Family, as well as extra support for Families with children.

8. Consider the following statements about the black-necked crane:

1. The black-necked crane (*Grus nigricollis*) is the state bird of Arunachal Pradesh.
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: d)

Explanation:

- Union Territory of Ladakh has declared the Black-necked crane (*Grus nigricollis*) as its state bird.
- Its IUCN status is Near Threatened.

9. Which of the following reports is/are published by International Labour Organization (ILO)?

1. Global Wage Report
2. World Employment and Social Outlook
3. World Social Protection Report

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Reports that are published by International Labour Organization (ILO) are:
- Global Wage Report
- World Employment and Social Outlook
- World Social Protection Report

10. Consider the following statements:

1. Coal-fired power accounts for more than 90% of India’s Electricity Generation.
2. China is the leading coal producer worldwide.

Which of the above statements is/are

Incorrect?

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only

(c) Both

(d) None

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Coal-fired power accounts for more than 70% of India's electricity generation.
- China is the leading coal producer worldwide.



1. Justice B.N. Srikrishna Committee, sometimes seen in news is related to

- (a) Judicial Reforms
- (b) Citizenship Amendment Act
- (c) Data Privacy
- (d) Non-Performing Assets

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Justice Srikrishna committee on data privacy has made specific mention of the need for separate and more stringent norms for protecting the data of children.
- It recommended that companies be barred from certain types of data processing such as behavioural monitoring, tracking, targeted advertising and any other type of processing which is not in the best interest of the child.
- It is widely accepted that processing of personal data of children ought to be subject to greater protection than regular processing of data.
- Safeguarding the best interests of the child should be the guiding principle for statutory regulation on protecting data of children.
- The committee noted that, at present, there were two types of entities processing the personal data of children.
- The first type was services offered primarily to children, such as YouTube

- Kids, Hot Wheels and Walt Disney, and the second were social media services such as Facebook and Instagram.
- The committee recommends that the Data Protection Authority will have the power to designate websites or online services that process large volumes of personal data of children as “guardian data fiduciaries”.

2. Which of the statements given below are correct regarding the Appointment of Chief Justice of High Court?

1. The Chief Justice of High Court is appointed as per the policy of having Chief Justices from their own respective States.
2. The proposal is initiated by the outgoing Chief Justice of the High Court concerned in consultation with two senior-most colleagues.
3. High Court judges are recommended by a Collegium comprising the CJI and two senior-most judges.
4. The recommendation is sent to the Chief Minister, who advises the Governor to send the proposal to the Union Law Minister.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Chief Justice of High Court is appointed as per the policy of having Chief Justices from outside the respective States.

So, statement 1 is not correct.

- The Collegium takes the call on the elevation.

- High Court judges are recommended by a Collegium comprising the CJI and two senior-most judges. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

- The proposal, however, is initiated by the outgoing Chief Justice of the High Court concerned in consultation with two senior-most colleagues. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

- The recommendation is sent to the Chief Minister, who advises the Governor to send the proposal to the Union Law Minister. **So, statement 4 is correct.**

3. Which of the statements given below are correct regarding the guidelines given by the Supreme Court on appointment of DGP in a state?

1. The State governments concerned have to send UPSC the names of the probables three months before the incumbent DGPs are to retire.
2. The Union Home Ministry will prepare a panel of three officers fit to be DGP and send it back.

3. The people within the zone of consideration who have got a clear two years of service and must give due weightage to merit and seniority.

4. On the practice of States appointing “Acting DGPs”, the court rejected the idea of acting or temporary DGPs.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The State governments concerned have to send UPSC the names of the probables three months before the incumbent DGPs are to retire. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

- The UPSC will prepare a panel of three officers fit to be DGP and send it back. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

- The UPSC shall, as far as practicable, choose the people within the zone of consideration who have got a clear two years of service and must give due weightage to merit and seniority. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

- The State, in turn, shall “immediately” appoint one of the persons shortlisted by the UPSC.

- On the practice of States appointing “Acting DGPs”, the court rejected the idea of acting or temporary DGPs, i.e.. States shall appoint a person as permanent DGP. **So, statement 4 is correct.**

4. Consider the following statements regarding the POCSO Act, 2019:

1. The Act increased minimum punishment for penetrative sexual assault from 7 years to 10 years.
2. It also provides for with imprisonment between 20 years to life, with fine if person commits penetrative sexual assault on child below age of 16 years.
3. The Act also defines child pornography as any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct that involves child such as photograph, video, digital or even Computer Generated image indistinguishable from actual child.

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: d)

Explanation:

- **Penetrative sexual assault:** The Act increased minimum punishment for this offence from 7 years to 10 years. It also provides for with imprisonment between

20 years to life, with fine if person commits penetrative sexual assault on child below age of 16 years.

- **Aggravated penetrative sexual assault:** The Act added two more grounds to definition of aggravated penetrative sexual assault. These include: (i) assault resulting in death of child and (ii) assault committed during natural calamity or in any similar situations of violence. It also increases minimum punishment from 10 years to 20 years, and maximum punishment to death penalty.
- **Aggravated sexual assault:** The Act added two more offences to definition of aggravated sexual assault. These include: (i) assault committed during natural calamity and (ii) administering or help in administering any chemical substance or any hormone to child for the purpose of attaining early sexual maturity.
- **Child Pornography:** The Act defines child pornography as any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct that involves child such as photograph, video, digital or even computer generated image indistinguishable from actual child. It also enhances punishments for certain offences related to child pornography.

- **Storage of pornographic material:** It increased punishment for storage of pornographic material with imprisonment between three to five years, or fine, or both. In addition, it also adds two other offences for storage of pornographic material involving children. These include: (i) transmitting, displaying, distributing such material except for the purpose of reporting it and (ii) failing to destroy or delete or report pornographic material involving child.
- So, all the three statements are correct.

(b) 2 only

(c) 3 only

(d) None

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Forests and Protection of Wild Animals and Birds are included in the Concurrent List in the (Seventh Schedule) of the Constitution of India.
- Through the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976 Forests and Protection of Wild Animals and Birds were transferred from State to Concurrent List along with Education, Weights & Measures and Administration of Justice.
- Article 51 A (g) of the Constitution states that it shall be the fundamental duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forests and Wildlife.
- Article 48 A in the Directive Principles of State policy, mandates that the State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. Forests and Protection of Wild Animals and Birds were initially presented in the State List which later transferred to the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India.
2. To protect and improve the natural environment including forests and Wildlife is one of the Fundamental Duty of every citizen in the Part V of the Indian Constitution.
3. Article 48 A in the Directive Principles of State policy, mandates that the State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.

Which of the statements given above is *not* correct?

(a) 1 only

Tag: Hibernation

6. Consider the following:

1. Bats
2. Bears
3. Rodents

The phenomenon of hibernation can be observed in which of the above kinds of animals?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) Hibernation cannot be observed in any of the above

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The phenomenon of hibernation can be observed in Bats, Bears and Rodents.

7. With reference to Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The date of election of Deputy Speaker is fixed by the President.
2. The Constitution sets a time limit for the process of these Elections.

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The date of election of Deputy Speaker is fixed by the Speaker.

- There is no time limit prescribed by the Indian Constitution with respect to the election of Deputy Speaker.
- Article 93 states that the House of the People shall, as soon as may be, choose two members of the House to be respectively Speaker and Deputy Speaker thereof.

8. Which of the following statements with respect to Controller General of Accounts is/are Correct?

1. CGA is an independent constitutional body that derives its mandate from the constitution of India.
2. CGA is the Principal Advisor on Accounting matters to the Union Government.
3. CGA is responsible for the disbursement of Pension in respect of Central Civil Pensioners, Freedom Fighters, High Court Judges, Eg-M.P.s and Eg-Presidents.

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Controller General of Accounts is not a Constitutional body. It comes under the Department of Expenditure in the Finance Ministry.

- It is the Principal Accounting Adviser to the Government of India.

9. With reference to two non-conventional energy sources called ‘coal bed methane’ and ‘shale gas’, consider the following ‘statements:

1. Coal bed methane is the pure methane gas extracted from coal seams, while shale gas is a mixture of propane and butane only that can be extracted from fine-grained Sedimentary Rocks.
2. In India abundant coal bed methane sources exist, but so far no shale gas sources have been found.

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:

- Shale gas has some proportion of methane as well.
- In India, both coal bed methane and shale Gas Sources have been found.

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

1. India accounts for over 50% of the global Production of Coconuts.
2. The World Coconut Germplasm Centre is located in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

3. The secretariat of the International Coconut Community under the aegis of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) is headquartered in Tamil Nadu in India.
4. De-husked coconut and Copra are covered under the government’s Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme.

Options:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- India accounts for around 34% of the global Production of Coconuts.
- The secretariat of the International Coconut Community under the aegis of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) is headquartered in Jakarta.

1. Which of the following diseases are considered to be zoonotic?

1. COVID-19
2. Zika
3. Ebola
4. AIDS

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) All the above

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Zoonotic diseases or zoonoses (diseases transmitted between animals and humans) include Zika virus, Nipah, Ebola virus, avian flu, SARS, MERS, West Nile virus, Lyme disease and yellow fever.
- HIV was a zoonotic disease transmitted to humans in the early part of the 20th century, though it has now mutated to a separate human-only disease. **So, answer is b.**

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Nipah Virus?

1. Nipah virus infection is zoonotic disease which is transmitted from humans to humans.
2. The natural host of the virus are fruit bats belonging to the family Pteropodidae.
3. Pigs can also act as intermediate hosts.

4. It was first identified in Kozhikode District of Kerala in India.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- According to WHO, the Nipah virus infection is a newly emerging zoonosis, that is, a disease transmitted from animals to humans. **So, statement 1 is not correct.** The virus belongs to a new genus termed Henipavirus (subfamily Paramyxovirinae).
- The natural host of the virus are fruit bats belonging to the family Pteropodidae. **So, statement 2 is correct.** In 2004, humans were affected after eating the date palm contaminated by infected fruit bats. Pigs can also act as intermediate hosts. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- It was first identified in 1998 at Kampung Sungai Nipah village, Malaysia. The virus is named after this village. **So, statement 4 is not correct.**
- **The symptoms of Nipah are similar to that of Influenza:** fever, muscle pain, and respiratory problems.
- Inflammation of the brain can also cause disorientation.

- ←----->
- Late onset of Encephalitis can also occur.
 - Sometimes a person can have an asymptomatic infection, and be a carrier of Nipah and not show any symptoms.
 - Currently, there are no vaccines for both humans and animals. Intensive supportive care is given to humans infected by Nipah virus.
 - According to WHO, ribavarin can reduce the symptoms of nausea, vomiting, and convulsions associated with the disease.
 - Individuals infected need to be hospitalised and isolated.
 - Special care should be taken to prevent human-to-human transmission.
 - Surveillance systems should be established to detect the virus quickly and to initiate appropriate control measures.
3. In the Context to the Domicile rule of the J&K and Ladakh, which of the statements are *not* correct?
1. Anyone who has resided for a period of fifteen years in the UT of J&K, but this is not applicable for Ladakh.
 2. Anyone has studied for a period of seven years and appeared in class 10th/12th examination in an educational institution located in the UT of J&K and Ladakh are considered as the Domicile.
 3. Those registered as migrants and their children are not domicile of both J&K and Ladakh.
- 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:
- Anyone “who has resided for a period of fifteen years in the UT of J&K”, but this is not applicable for Ladakh. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Or has studied for a period of seven years and appeared in class 10th/12th examination in an educational institution located in the UT of J&K, but this is not applicable for Ladakh. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - Or those registered as migrants and their children are considered to be domicile of J&K, but this is not applicable for Ladakh. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - Or the children of those central government officials, All India service officials, Officials of Public sector undertaking, autonomous body of central government,
 - public sector banks, officials of statutory bodies officials of central universities and recognized research institutes of central

government who have served in J&K for a period of ten years.

- Or children of residents of J&K who reside outside the Union Territory in connection with employment or business or for other professional or vocational reasons, but whose parents fulfil any of the conditions provided in the latest gazette notification will also be entitled to domicile status.
- The entire above mentioned are the domicile of the J&K.
- According to the Ladakh Resident Certificate Order 2021 passed recently, “any person who possesses a Permanent Resident Certificate (PRC) issued by the competent authority in the districts of Leh and Kargil or belongs to a category of persons who would have been eligible to be issued PRC shall be eligible to receive the ‘Resident Certificate’.”
- The order, temporarily define ‘Resident of Union Territory of Ladakh’ for the purpose of appointment to all the non-gazetted posts borne on the establishment of any department or service of administration of Ladakh”.
- All the Tehsildars have been authorised competent authority to issue the ‘Resident Certificate’.

4. According to law which of the following is the best that describes a domicile?

- (a) Lawful permanent resident in a particular jurisdiction.
- (b) Lawful temporary resident in a particular jurisdiction.
- (c) Refugees from friendly Nations.
- (d) None of the above

Answer: a

Explanation:

- In law, domicile is the status or attribution of being a lawful **permanent resident in a particular jurisdiction**. So, answer is a.

5. Consider the following statements, with regard to Bhitarkanika National Park:

1. It has the second-largest mangrove forest in India and is a Ramsar site.
2. It is located in the estuary of Brahmani, Baitarani, Dhamra, and Mahanadi River systems.
3. It is one of Odisha’s finest biodiversity hotspots which houses 70% of the Country’s Estuarine Crocodiles.

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: d)

Explanation:

- Bhitarkanika National Park has the second-largest mangrove forest in India and is a Ramsar site. It was declared as a Bhitarkanika National Park in the year of 1988.
- Bhitarkanika is located in the estuary of Brahmani, Baitarani, Dhamra, and Mahanadi River systems. It is located in Kendrapara district of Odisha.
- It is one of Odisha's finest biodiversity hotspots and is famous for its mangroves, migratory birds, turtles, estuarine crocodiles, and countless creeks.
- It is said to house 70% of the country's estuarine or saltwater crocodiles, conservation of which was started way back in 1975.

6. In context to the 'Blue Straggler Stars', consider the following statements:

1. These are unusually hot and bright stars.
2. They appear to violate standard theories of Stellar Evolution.

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:

- Blue Straggler Stars are unusually hot and bright stars found in the cores of ancient star clusters known as Globulars.
- Most are located at least several thousand light-years away from the sun, and most are around 12 billion years old or more.
- Blue straggler stars appear to violate standard theories of stellar evolution.
- Under standard stellar evolution, a bunch of stars born at the same time from the same cloud form a star cluster.
- Star formation happens in interstellar molecular clouds: opaque clumps of very cold gas and dust.
- As time passes, each star evolves differently depending on its mass, in which all stars born at the same time should lie on a clearly defined curve in the Hertzsprung-Russell diagram.
- In the case of a blue straggler star, they evolve and move off the main sequence creating a bend in their track, known as the turnoff.
- Since blue stragglers often lie well off this curve, they may undergo Abnormal Stellar evolution.

7. Consider the following statements, with regard to Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC):

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Finance.
2. The Raghuram Rajan committee proposed the creation of FSDC.

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 finance minister chaired the 24th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC).
- FSDC is a non-statutory apex council under the Ministry of Finance constituted by the Executive Order in 2010.
- The Raghuram Rajan committee (2008) on financial sector reforms first proposed the creation of FSDC. It is chaired by the finance minister and its members include the heads of all Financial Sector Regulators (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA & IRDA), Finance Secretary, Secretary of Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Secretary of Department of Financial Services (DFS), and Chief Economic Adviser.

- In 2018, the government reconstituted FSDC to include the Minister of State responsible for the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Secretary of Department of Electronics and Information Technology, Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) and the Revenue Secretary.
- FSDC sub-committee is headed by the Governor of RBI.
- The Council can invite experts to its meeting if required.

8. Which of the given statements with respect to the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) is/are correct?

1. It is a statutory body set up for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development.
2. The Council is chaired by NITI Aayog Chairman.
3. RBI Governor and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman are among its members.

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- It is an apex-level body that was constituted through an executive order in 2010 and works under the Ministry of Finance.
- It is not a statutory body.
- It was set up for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development.
- The Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister.
- Its members are the Governor of Reserve Bank of India; Finance Secretary and/or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs; Secretary, Department of Financial Services; Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance; Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India; Chairman, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority and Chairman, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority. It also includes the chairman of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board (IBBI).

9. If a particular plant species is placed under Schedule VI of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, what is the implication?

- (a) A license is required to cultivate that plant.
- (b) Such a plant cannot be cultivated under any circumstances.
- (c) It is a Genetically Modified crop plant.

(d) Such a plant is invasive and harmful to the Ecosystem.

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Indian Parliament enacted the Wildlife (Protection) Act in 1972, which provides for the safeguard and protection of the wildlife (flora and fauna) in the country.
- Schedule VI of WPA 1972 contains the plants which are prohibited from cultivation and planting. Cultivation of specified plants without a Licence is Prohibited.

10. Which of the following is/are the likely impacts of an increase in atmospheric aerosols?

1. Destruction of stratospheric ozone
2. Affect the rainfall patterns
3. Reduce solar energy generation from photovoltaic and rooftop solar installations

Options:

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

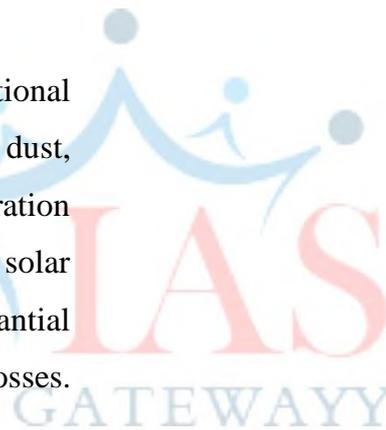
Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Aerosols are minute particles suspended in the atmosphere.
- Aerosols also can act as sites for chemical reactions to take place. These reactions can

lead to the destruction of stratospheric ozone.

- Aerosols serve as cloud condensation nuclei (CCN) and thus have a substantial effect on cloud properties and the initiation of precipitation. Large concentrations of human-made aerosols have been reported to impact rainfall as a result of their radiative and CCN activities.
- Aerosols reduce the speed of winds near the earth's surface, thus leading to a reduction in rainfall. The more is the aerosol pollution, the greater the reduction in rainfall.
- Recently, a team of Indian and international researchers have found that aerosols, dust, and clouds reduce solar energy generation from photovoltaic and rooftop solar installations resulting in substantial economic impact through Financial Losses.



1. Which of the following is/are **not** the recommendations of Swaran Singh Committee with respect to Fundamental Duties?

1. The Parliament may provide for the imposition of punishment or penalty as considered suitable for non-compliance of these duties.
2. Such punishment or law won't be questioned in a court of law for the enforcement of fundamental Rights and in case it caused a breach of fundamental rights.
3. Duty to pay taxes by the citizen was by the citizen was also on the list of fundamental duties.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- In 1976, the committee was set up to make a recommendation for fundamental duties, the need and necessity of which was felt during the emergency period.
- The committee recommended for the inclusion of separate chapter under the heading of Fundamental Duties.

- It will make citizen conscious of their duties while enjoying fundamental rights.
- The government accepted the suggestion and included in a separate article 51A which had ten fundamental duties.
- The government declared that non-inclusion of fundamental duties in the original constitution was a huge mistake which has now been ratified by the present government.
- Although Swaran Singh Committee suggested the incorporation of only eight fundamental duties but the 42nd Amendment had ten duties.

• It is not surprising that not all recommendations were accepted by the then government, some of these non-recommendations are:

1. The Parliament may provide for the imposition of punishment or penalty as considered suitable for non-compliance of these duties.
2. Such punishment or law won't be questioned in a court of law for the enforcement of fundamental Rights and in case it caused a breach of fundamental rights.
3. Duty to pay taxes by the citizen was by the citizen was also on the list of fundamental duties.

2. Which of the statements given below are correct regarding the Tribunals?

1. They were not originally a part of the Constitution.
2. The 44th Amendment Act introduced these provisions in accordance with the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee.
3. Article 323A deals with the Administrative Tribunals.

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:

- Tribunal is a quasi-judicial institution that is set up to deal with problems such as resolving administrative or tax-related disputes. It performs a number of functions like adjudicating disputes, determining rights between contesting parties, making an administrative decision, reviewing an existing administrative decision and so forth. They were not originally a part of the Constitution.
- The 42nd Amendment Act introduced these provisions in accordance with the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee.

- The Amendment introduced Part XIV-A to the Constitution, which deals with 'Tribunals' and contains two articles:

- Article 323A deals with Administrative Tribunals. These are quasi-judicial institutions that resolve disputes related to the recruitment and service conditions of persons engaged in public service.
- Article 323B deals with tribunals for other subjects such as Taxation, Industrial and labour, foreign exchange, import and export, Land reforms, Food, Ceiling on urban property, Elections to Parliament and state legislatures, Rent and tenancy rights.

3. Food Emergency was recently declared in which of the following country?

- (a) Afghanistan
- (b) Mauritius
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Nepal

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- President of Sri Lanka declared an economic emergency on account to contain inflation which saw a huge spike after a steep fall in valuation of its currency caused a spike in Food Prices.

4. With reference to special powers of the Rajya Sabha, consider the following statements:

1. The Rajya Sabha has power to create new All India Services and can also disband an existing All India service.
2. It has power to transfer a subject from the State List to Union List for a specified period by Effective Majority.
3. It can endorse Emergency under Article 352 for a limited period even when the Lok Sabha Remains Dissolved.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Upper House also has some special powers, such as:
 - ✓ Power to transfer a subject from the State List to Union List for a specified period (Article 249).
 - ✓ To create additional All-India Services (Article 312).
 - ✓ Likewise, Rajya Sabha can also disband an existing All India service.
 - ✓ To endorse Emergency under Article 352 for a limited period when the Lok Sabha remains dissolved.

- Statement 2 is incorrect - Article 249 of the constitution provides that Rajya Sabha by a resolution passed by 2/3 of its members present and voting i.e special majority, may authorize the Parliament to pass laws on a matter in the state list, in the national interest.
- (Effective majority - 50% of the strength, strength is calculated by subtracting vacant seats from total strength).

5. Which of the following are correctly matched?

Turtle	Conservation status
---------------	----------------------------

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Red-crowned roofed turtle | Endangered |
| 2. Northern River terrapin | Extinct in the Wild |
| 3. Black softshell turtle | Critically Endangered |

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Red-crowned roofed turtle, Northern River terrapin and Black softshell turtle are critically endangered as per IUCN classification.

6. With reference to Bye-elections, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It should be held within a period of six months from the date of the occurrence of the vacancy
2. Elections need not be conducted if the remainder of the term of a member in relation to a vacancy is less than one year

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- A bye-election is an election used to fill an office that has become vacant between general elections.
- A vacancy may arise as a result of an incumbent dying or resigning, or when the incumbent becomes ineligible to continue in office or when an election is invalidated by voting irregularities.
- In the Indian context, bye-election should be held within a period of six months from the date of the occurrence of the vacancy of a MLA/MP.
- Elections need not be conducted if the remainder of the term of a member in relation to a vacancy is less than one year

7. Consider the following statements with respect to IUCN “Red List of Threatened Species”:

1. It is a comprehensive inventory of the Global Conservation status of animal, fungus and plant species.
2. It defines the extinction risk of species assessed classified into seven categories.
3. Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN) and Vulnerable (VU) species are considered to be threatened with global extinction.

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

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- IUCN “Red List of Threatened Species” is a comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of animal, fungus and plant species. It defines the extinction risk of species assessed classified into nine categories. Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN) and Vulnerable (VU) species are considered to be threatened with Global Extinction.

8. Consider the following statements regarding Tuberculosis:

1. MultiDrug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) is a strain that cannot be treated with the most powerful first-line treatment anti-TB drugs.
2. Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccine is presently the only vaccine available for the prevention of TB.

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:

- Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by a bacterium called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, belonging to the *Mycobacteriaceae* family consisting of about 200 members.
- In humans, TB most commonly affects the lungs (pulmonary TB), but it can also affect other organs (extra-pulmonary TB).
- MultiDrug Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB) is a strain of TB that cannot be treated with the two most powerful first-line treatment anti-TB drugs.
- Extensively Drug Resistant Tuberculosis (XDR-TB) is a form of TB caused by bacteria that are resistant to several of the most effective anti-TB drugs.

- TB is a treatable and curable disease.
- Bacille Calmette-Guérin (BCG) vaccine, which is presently the sole vaccine available for the prevention of Tuberculosis (TB).
- It was developed by two Frenchmen, Albert Calmette and Camille Guerin, by modifying a strain of *Mycobacterium bovis* (that causes TB in cattle). It was first used in humans in 1921.

9. Consider the following statements, with regard to El Nino:

1. It describes the unusual cooling of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
2. It occurs more frequently than La Nina.
3. It brings heavy rainfall in Indonesia and Australia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- El Nino is a climate pattern that describes the unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.
- It is the “warm phase” of ENSO.
- It occurs more frequently than La Nina.

Impact:

- The warmer waters cause the Pacific jet stream to move south of its neutral position. With this shift, areas in the northern US and Canada are dryer and warmer than usual.
- But in the US Gulf Coast and Southeast, these periods are wetter than usual and have increased flooding.
- As El Nino brings rain to South America, it brings droughts to Indonesia and Australia.
- El Nino also has a strong effect on marine life off the Pacific coast.

10. Consider the following statements, with regard to Raptors:

1. It facilitates long-distance seed dispersal which indirectly increases seed production and Pest Control.
2. It Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is an agreement under Bonn Convention for the protection of Migratory Animals.

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:

- A raptor is a bird of prey. A bird of prey is a carnivore (meat eater) that kills and eats mammals, reptiles, amphibians, insects, rodents as well as other birds.

- All raptors have a hooked beak, strong feet with sharp talons, keen eyesight, and a carnivorous diet.
- Raptors prey on a wide range of vertebrates and thus, facilitate long-distance seed dispersal. This indirectly increases seed production and pest control.
- Indonesia has the most raptor species, followed by Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.
- Examples: Owls, vultures, hawks, falcons, eagles, kites, buteos, accipiters, harriers, and osprey.
- Raptors MoU (Global): The Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia is also known as Raptors MoU.
- It is an agreement under Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). CMS or Bonn Convention provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats.
- It is not legally binding.

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Phishing is the method of trying to gather personal information using deceptive e-mails 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.
3. A spyware can access the data usage pattern of the device, gains access to photos and videos as well as other personal information of the user, and then passes it off to a Central Server.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Phishing is the method of trying to gather personal information using deceptive e-mails 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.**

- A spyware app accesses the data usage pattern of the device, gains access to photos and videos as well as other personal information of the user, and then passes it off to a central server. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

2. 'Pegasus, recently seen in news refers to

- (a) a deadly virus in East Africa
- (b) A Spyware developed by Israel
- (c) a fungal infection in plants
- (d) Sea monster that lived million years ago

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The spyware named 'Pegasus' is developed by the Israeli cyber arms firm NSO in 2016.
- Pegasus exploited a weakness in WhatsApp's video-call feature that allowed attackers to inject the spyware on to phones simply by ringing the number of targets' device. It enters the phone even if the call is not answered.
- Once Pegasus is installed, it can access the targeted users' private data, including passwords, contact lists, calendar events, text messages, and live voice calls from popular mobile messaging apps.
- It can also turn the phone into a spying device by switching on its camera or microphone.

3. With respect to the governance of OTT Platforms, consider the following statements:

1. India has three-tier grievance redressal mechanism which one will be at the level of each OTT provider.
2. The complaints will have to be addressed within 15 days, which on failing the complainant can scale it up to a self-regulatory body collectively established by the OTTs.
3. An inter-ministerial committee will be at the third level which is equipped itself with overriding powers in the form of oversight Mechanism.

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: d)

Explanation:

- The new rules lay down a three-tier Grievance Redressal Mechanism.
- One will be at the level of each OTT provider. Each complaint will have to be addressed within 15 days.
- If the complaint is not satisfactorily addressed, then the complainant can scale it up to a self-regulatory body collectively established by the OTTs.

✓ This body will be headed by a retired judge of the Supreme Court, a High Court, or an independent eminent person from the field of media, broadcasting, entertainment, child rights, human rights or other relevant fields.

✓ This self-regulatory body also has “censuring” powers in case of any incriminating content if it is satisfied that there is a need for taking action to delete or modify the content for preventing incitement to the commission of a cognizable offence relating to public order.

- To top this, at the third tier, the government has equipped itself with overriding powers in the form of “oversight mechanism”. An inter-ministerial committee will perform this function and it will largely have the same powers as the collective self-regulatory body of the OTTs.

Is there any Emergency Powers?

- Over and above all this, the government has equipped itself with “emergency” powers.
- The rules state, “in case of emergency nature” the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting may, “if he is satisfied that it is necessary or expedient and justifiable” give orders to block public access of any Information.

- The rules state that he or she has to record the reason for doing so in writing and it will be an Interim Measure.
- Importantly, such orders can be released “without giving an opportunity of hearing” to the publishing platform.

4. Prevention of Cow Slaughter is enshrined in which of the article of the Indian Constitution?

- (a) Article 46
- (b) Article 47
- (c) Article 48
- (d) Article 49

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- In DPSP as per article 48 of Indian Constitution the state shall endeavour to organize agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall in particular take steps for preserving improving the breed, and prohibiting the slaughter, of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle.

5. In context to the cryptocurrencies, consider the following statements:

1. Investors don't earn interest on their holdings of cryptocurrencies, however they can borrow using it as collateral to back a loan.
2. Stablecoins are cryptocurrencies pegged to stable assets and are meant to provide the

steady value of government-issued money in digital form.

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:

- A cryptocurrency is a digital or virtual currency that is secured by cryptography, which makes it nearly impossible to counterfeit or double-spend.
- Lending and borrowing are alternative services offered by cryptocurrencies.
- Investors can earn interest on their holdings of digital currencies - often a lot more than they could on cash deposits in a bank - or borrow with crypto as collateral to back a loan. By law, banks are required to have reserves to ensure that even if some loans go bad, customers can still withdraw funds, whereas crypto banks do not have the same reserve requirements and the institutions they lend to can take risky activities.
- Deposits are not guaranteed by the central bank's backed Deposit Insurance Corp. Cyberattacks, extreme market conditions, or other operational or technical difficulties could lead to a temporary or permanent halt on withdrawals or transfers.

- Stablecoin are cryptocurrencies pegged to stable assets, commonly the dollar. They are meant to provide the steady value of government-issued money in digital form for blockchain transactions, but they are issued by private entities.

6. Consider the following statements, with regard to ‘Manda Buffalo’:

1. They are native to the Western Ghats.
2. They are resistant to parasitic infection and are less Prone to Diseases.

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:

- Manda buffalo, found mainly in the Koraput region, has been recognised as the 19th native breed of buffaloes in the country.
- Native to the Eastern Ghats, Mandas are small sized sturdy buffaloes having a unique coat colour of ash grey and grey with copper colour hair.
- The Manda are resistant to parasitic infections, less prone to diseases and can live, produce and reproduce at low or nil Input Systems.

7. In context to Financial Emergency in India, consider the following statements:

1. It can be proclaimed by the President of India under Article 360 of the Constitution.
2. It has to be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within one month of the date of its issue.
3. All money bills of the state legislature can be reserved for the consideration of the President.

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: c)

Explanation:

- Article 360 empowers the president to proclaim a Financial Emergency if he is satisfied that a situation has arisen due to which the financial stability or credit of India or any part of its territory is threatened.
- A proclamation declaring financial emergency must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within two months from the date of its issue.
- Once approved by both the houses of Parliament, the Financial Emergency continues indefinitely till it is revoked.
- Effects of Financial Emergency:

- Extension of the executive authority of the Union over the financial matters of the States.
- Reduction of salaries and allowances of all or any class of persons serving in the State.
- Reservation of all money bills or other financial bills for the consideration of the President after they are passed by the legislature of the State.

8. The national motto of India, ‘Satyameva Jayate’ inscribed below the Emblem of India is taken from

- (a) Katha Upanishad
- (b) Chandogya Upanishad
- (c) Aitareya Upanishad
- (d) Mundaka Upanishad

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Satyameva Jayate is taken from the Mundaka Upanishad.
- Following the independence of India, it was adopted as the national motto of India. It is inscribed in the Devanagari script at the base of the Lion Capital of Ashoka and forms an integral part of the Indian National Emblem.

9. Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Mutualism- Both species benefit
2. Amensalism- One species benefits, the other is unaffected
3. Commensalism- One species is harmed, the other is unaffected

Options:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Amensalism- One species is harmed, the other is unaffected
- Commensalism- One species benefits, the other is unaffected

Types of Interaction		Species A	Species B
Mutualism	Both species (A & B) benefit from the association	Benefits	Benefits
Commensalism	One species benefits while the other species is not itself affected.	Not affected	Benefits
Amensalism	One species is harmed while the other species is not itself affected.	Not affected	Harmed
Exploitation	One species benefits at the expense of the other species.	Harmed	Benefits
Antibiosis	One species (A) produces a compound that inhibits the other species (B). Species A is unaffected or may benefit.	Benefits	Harmed
Competition	Both species are harmed from the association	Harmed	Harmed

10. Consider the following statements with respect to Komodo dragon:

1. It is the largest living lizard species in the world
2. It is endemic to the Amazon forest
3. Komodo National Park was classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Komodo dragon is a member of the monitor lizard family Varanidae that is endemic to some Indonesian islands.
- Found only in the World Heritage-listed Komodo National Park and neighbouring Flores they are listed as “endangered” under IUCN classification.
- Komodo National Park was classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1991
- It is the largest extant species of lizard.

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme:

1. Minimum investment threshold for MSMEs has been kept at Rs 10 crore and for others at Rs 100 crore.
2. Once qualified, the investor will be incentivised up to 20 times of minimum investment threshold enabling them to utilise their unused capacity.

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 scheme aims to make India a global hub for manufacturing telecom equipment.
- Its eligibility criteria include achievement of a minimum threshold of cumulative incremental investment and incremental sales of manufactured goods.
- The incentive structure ranges between 4% and 7% for different categories and years. Financial year 2019-20 will be treated as the base year for computation of cumulative incremental sales of manufactured goods net of taxes.
- Minimum investment threshold for MSMEs has been kept at Rs 10 crore and for others at Rs 100 crore.

- Once qualified, the investor will be incentivised up to 20 times of minimum investment threshold enabling them to utilise their unused capacity.
- So, both the statements are correct.

2. 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.**

3. Technical textiles are functional fabrics that have applications across various industries. In which of the following it is applied?

1. Automobiles
2. Civil engineering and construction
3. Agriculture
4. Healthcare
5. Industrial safety and personal protection

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- India is the 6th largest producer of Technical Textiles with 6% Global Share, largest producer of cotton & jute in the world.

- ✓ Technical textiles are functional fabrics that have applications across various industries including automobiles, civil engineering and construction, agriculture, healthcare, industrial safety, personal protection etc.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. Textiles & garments industry is labour intensive and leading sector in terms of employment in India.
2. Textile Sector employs more than 21% of total employment.
3. India is the 6th largest producer of Technical Textiles.

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 and 3 only

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Textiles & garments industry is labour intensive sector that employs 45 mn people in India and is second only to the agriculture sector in terms of employment.
- India's textiles sector is one of the oldest industries in the Indian economy, and is a storehouse and carrier of traditional skills, heritage and culture.
- It can be divided into two segments-

✓ The unorganised sector is small scale and uses traditional tools and methods. It consists of handloom, handicrafts and sericulture (production of silk).

✓ The organised sector uses modern machinery and techniques and consists of the spinning, apparel and garments segment.

• It contributes 2.3% to Indian Gross Domestic Product, 7% of Industrial Output, 12% to the export earnings of India and employs more than 21% of total employment.

• India is the 6th largest producer of Technical Textiles with 6% Global Share, largest producer of cotton & jute in the world.

✓ Technical textiles are functional fabrics that have applications across various industries including automobiles, civil engineering and construction, agriculture, healthcare, industrial safety, personal protection etc.

• India is also the second largest producer of silk in the world and 95% of the world's hand woven fabric comes from India.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. The Khilafat movement was launched under the leadership of the Ali Brothers.
2. Treaty of Versailles was a treaty signed between the Allies of World War I and the Ottoman Empire.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

• Khilafat movement was initiated under the leadership of the two Ali brothers namely Mohammed Ali and Shaukat Ali, Maulana Azad, Hakim Ajmal Khan and Hasrat Mohani. The movement was started to support the Sultan of Turkey whom the Muslim population in India considered their religious head.

• The Treaty of Versailles, signed in June 1919 at the Palace of Versailles in Paris at the end of World War I, codified peace terms between the victorious Allies and Germany.

6. Which of the following statements is/are **Incorrect?**

1. The University Education Commission was set up in 1948 under the Chairmanship of Dr. S Radhakrishnan.
2. It recommended the establishment of the University Grants Commission along similar lines to the University Grants Committee of the United Kingdom.

Options:

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

- (c) Both
(d) None

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Government of India appointed a University Education Commission under the chairmanship of Dr. S Radhakrishnan in November 1948. The Commission made a number of significant recommendations on various aspects of higher education and submitted its report in August 1949.
- It recommended the establishment of the University Grants Commission along similar lines to the University Grants Committee of the United Kingdom.

7. Which of the following is/are the function/functions of the Cabinet Secretariat?

1. Preparation of agenda for Cabinet Meetings
2. Secretarial assistance to Cabinet Committees
3. Allocation of financial resources to the Ministries

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Cabinet Secretariat functions directly under the Prime Minister. The administrative head of the Secretariat is the Cabinet Secretary who is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board.
- The business allocated to Cabinet Secretariat under Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 includes Secretarial assistance to the Cabinet and Cabinet Committees.
- The Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for the administration of the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961 and Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 facilitating smooth transaction of business in Ministries/Departments.
- The Secretariat assists in decision-making in Government by ensuring Inter-Ministerial coordination, ironing out differences amongst Ministries/Departments and evolving consensus through the instrumentality of the standing/ad hoc Committees of Secretaries.
- Management of major crisis situations in the country and coordinating activities of various ministries in such a situation is also one of the functions of the Cabinet Secretariat.

- Allocation of financial resources to the Ministries is not a function of the Cabinet Secretariat.

8. Consider the following statements, with regard to river Brahmaputra:

1. It originates under the name Siang from Kailash range.
2. It enters India through Assam.
3. Manas and Subansiri are the tributaries of Brahmaputra.

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:

- Brahmaputra River originates under the name of Siang or Dihang, from the Chemayungdung glacier of the Kailash range near the Mansarovar lake (Tibet).
- It enters India west of Sadiya town in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Tributaries: Dihing River, Dibang River, Lohit River, Dhansiri River, Kolong River, Kameng River, Manas River, Beki River, Raidak River, Jaldhaka River, Teesta River, Subansiri River.

9. Consider the following statements, with regard to Pollen grains:

1. They are male biological structures with the primary role of fertilisation.
2. Inhalation of pollen grains leads to pollinosis and allergic rhinitis.
3. Airborne pollen dominating seasons are spring and autumn.

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: d)

Explanation:

- Pollen grains are male biological structures with the primary role of fertilisation, but when inhaled by humans, they may strain the respiratory system and cause allergies.
- Pollen is released by plants, making millions of people suffer from hay fever, pollinosis and allergic rhinitis.
- About 20-30% of the population suffers from allergic rhinitis or hay fever in India, and approximately 15% develop Asthma.
- According to a study by PGIMER, Airborne pollen dominating seasons are spring and autumn with maximum species when the phenological and meteorological parameters are considered favorable for pollen grains' growth, dispersion, and transmission.

10. With reference to the the Deepor Beel,
consider the following statements:

1. It is a riverine wetland in the Brahmaputra valley of lower Assam.
2. It is the only Ramsar site in Assam declared as an important Bird Area by Birdlife International.

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:

- Deepor Beel (Beel means wetland or large aquatic body in Assamese) located about 10 km Southwest of Guwahati city is considered one of the large and important riverine wetlands in the Brahmaputra Valley of lower Assam.
- Deepor Beel is one of the largest freshwater lakes in Assam and the State's only Ramsar site besides being an Important Bird Area by Birdlife International.

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. 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. Porunai Civilization, one of the ancient civilization which was discovered recently in which of the following state?
- (a) Tamil Nadu
 - (b) Kerala
 - (c) Andhra Pradesh
 - (d) Gujarat

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- A carbon dating analysis of rice with soil, found in a burial urn at Sivakalai in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu, by the Miami-based Beta Analytic Testing Laboratory has yielded the date of 1155 BC, indicating that the Thamirabarani civilisation dates back to 3,200 years.

- The finding has established that the Porunai river [Thamirabarani] civilisation dates back to 3,200 years.
- In the first phase, studies would be undertaken at the ancient port of Muziris, now known as Pattanam, in Kerala.
- The research will be done jointly with Kerala archaeologists to establish the ancientness and culture of the Chera empire. Similar studies would be conducted at Vengi in Andhra Pradesh, Thalaikadu in Karnataka and Palur in Odisha.
- The Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department would conduct research at Quseir al-Qadim and Pernica Anekke in Egypt, which were once part of the Roman empire, as well as in Khor Rori in Oman, to establish the Tamils' trade relations with these countries.
- Potsherds bearing Tamil scripts have been found in these countries.
- Studies would also be conducted in Southeast Asian countries, such as Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam, where King Rajendra Chola had Established Supremacy.

5. Consider the following statements, with regard to Gaudiya Vaishnavism:

1. It is a religious movement inspired by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.
2. Its focus is the devotional worship of Vitthala, an incarnation of lord Vishnu.

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:

- Gaudiya Vaishnavism is a Vaishnava Hindu religious movement inspired by Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.
- Here, “Gaudiya” refers to the Gaura or Gauṛa region of Bengal with Vaishnavism meaning “the worship of Vishnu”.
- The focus of Gaudiya Vaishnavism is the devotional worship (known as bhakti-yoga) of Radha and Krishna, and their many divine incarnations as the supreme forms of God, Svayam Bhagavan.
- Most popularly, this worship takes the form of singing Radha and Krishna’s holy names, such as “Hare”, “Krishna” and “Rama”, most commonly in the form of the Hare Krishna (mantra) also known as kirtan and dancing along with it.

6. Consider the following statements, with regard to C-295 MW aircraft:

1. It is a medium transport aircraft will replace the fleet of Avro-748 planes of the Indian Air Force.
2. It will be jointly produced by Airbus Defence and Space and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has cleared procurement of 56 C-295 MW medium transport aircraft for the Indian Air Force under the Make-in-India initiative in the aerospace sector.
- The C-295MW aircraft will be purchased from Airbus Defence and Space S.A., Spain.
- The C-295 MW is a transport aircraft of 5-10 tonne capacity with contemporary technology.
- It has a rear ramp door for quick reaction and para-dropping of troops and cargo.
- It will be installed with the indigenous Electronic Warfare Suite.

- C-295 MW will replace the Indian Air Force's ageing fleet of Avro-748 planes.
- The Avro-748 planes are a British-origin twin-engine turboprop, military transport and freighter with a 6-tonne freight capacity.
- Airbus Defence and Space and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) will jointly execute the project to equip the air force with the new transport aircraft under the Make-in-India initiative in the aerospace sector.
- Airbus will supply the first 16 aircraft in fly away condition while the remaining 40 will be assembled in India by TASL.

7. In context to Khalsa Order, consider the following statements:

1. It was established by Guru Gobind Singh.
2. They are soldier saints who uphold the highest Sikh virtues.
3. Both men and women can join Khalsa.

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Guru Gobind Singh established the Khalsa order (meaning 'The Pure'), soldier-saints.

- The Khalsa upholds the highest Sikh virtues of commitment, dedication and social consciousness.
- The Khalsa are men and women who have undergone the Sikh baptism ceremony and who strictly follow the Sikh Code of Conduct and Conventions.
- They wear the prescribed physical articles of the faith (5K's: Kesh (uncut hair), Kangha (a wooden comb), Kara (an iron bracelet), Kachera (cotton underpants) and Kirpan (an iron dagger).

8. Consider the following statements:

1. He founded the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company (SSNC) in 1906 to compete against the monopoly of the British India Steam Navigation Company.
2. He was a great believer in the Swadeshi movement.
3. He is sometimes called 'Kappalottiya Tamilan'.

The above statements best describe:

- (a) Subramanya Bharathi
- (b) Chidambaram Pillai
- (c) Rajagopalachari
- (d) E.V.Ramasamy

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Valliyappan Ulaganathan Chidambaram Pillai, popularly known by his initials, V.O. Chidambaram Pillai (also known as Kappalottiya Tamizhan or "The Tamil

Helmsman”), was an Indian freedom fighter and leader of the Indian National Congress.

- He was a great believer in the Swadeshi movement.
- He founded the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company in 1906 to compete against the monopoly of the British India Steam Navigation Company. He launched the first indigenous Indian shipping service between Tuticorin and Colombo with the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company (SSNC), competing against British ships.

9. Which of the following is/are the applications of Doppler radar?

1. Radiology and healthcare
2. Weather Forecasting
3. Submarines
4. Aviation

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Doppler weather radars are remote sensing instruments and are capable of detecting particle type (rain, snow, hail, insects, etc), intensity, and motion. Radar data can be used to determine the structure of storms

and to help with predicting the severity of storms.

- Doppler radars also find usage in the radiology and healthcare sector as well as the aviation sector.
- Submarines use Sonar radars (based on sound waves).

10. What best describes the term ‘low base effect’, with regard to GDP estimates?

- (a) Extremely low GDP growth than anticipated due to abnormal market conditions
- (b) A distortion in the GDP figures that results from abnormally low levels of growth in the corresponding period of the last year
- (c) The base year taken for GDP calculation by accounting for inflationary trends
- (d) None of the above

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The base effect refers to the effect that the choice of a basis of comparison or reference can have on the result of the comparison between data points.
- Example – Using the 2020-21 fiscal year as the base which had recorded a substantially low GDP, would invariably lead to very high growth rates for the 2021-22 fiscal year even if the absolute GDP were to reach only 2020-21 levels.

1. In India a dam is being constructed across a river that lies inside a national park. Who among the following are responsible for Issuing Environmental clearance for the same?

1. Ministry of Environment
2. National Green Tribunal
3. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
4. State Environment Impact Assessment Authority

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Environmental clearance is granted by the **Ministry of Environment**, and the **State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA)**, under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification of 2006.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Himalayan Hindu Kush Region:

1. It is considered as the Third Pole after the North and South Poles due to significant implications for climate.
2. The region spans Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bhutan, China, India, and Nepal only.

3. It contains vast cryospheric zones and is also the world's largest store of snow and ice outside the polar region.

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

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The HKH region spans Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- It traverses about 5 million square kilometres and hosts a large and culturally diverse population.
- It is considered the Third Pole (after the North and South Poles), and has significant implications for climate. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- It contains vast cryospheric zones and is also the world's largest store of snow and ice outside the polar region. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- A recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has highlighted the threat to the HKH region from global warming.

- Floods would become more frequent and severe in the mountainous and downstream areas of the Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra River basins, because of an increase in extreme precipitation events.
- Also, the severity of floods is expected to more than double towards the end of the century.

3. Which of the following are responsible for the Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)?

1. Volcanic Eruption
2. Earthquake
3. Avalanche
4. Build up of Water Pressure

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- A build-up of water pressure, an earthquake or cryoseism, an avalanche of rock or heavy snow, volcanic eruptions under the ice could be the reason for a glacier break.
- The outburst can also happen after a massive displacement of water in a glacial lake when a large portion of an adjacent glacier collapses into it.

- The direct causes of glacial outbursts linked to earthquake, heavy rainfall/snowmelt, long-term dam degradation, etc.

4. Tapovan Hydel Project, sometimes seen in news is located in which of the following state/UT?

- (a) Ladakh
- (b) Jammu & Kashmir
- (c) Himachal Pradesh
- (d) Uttarakhand

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Over hundred persons are missing after the flash flood, caused by the splintering of a glacier, washed away two hydel power projects — the Rishiganga small hydro project and National Thermal Power Corporation's (NTPC) Tapovan project on the banks of the Dhauliganga River in north Uttarakhand.

5. With reference to the cultural history of India, the term 'Panchayatan' refers to

- (a) An assembly of village elders
- (b) A religious sect
- (c) A style of temple construction
- (d) An administrative functionary

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The main shrine is built on a rectangular plinth with four subsidiary shrines that are smaller and at the 4 Corners.

6. Which of the following pollutants is/are emitted from cement industries?

1. Particulate Matter
2. Carbon Monoxide
3. Sulphur Dioxide
4. Nitrogen Dioxide

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:

- The cement industry has been categorized as a highly polluting industry by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- The main pollutants emitted from cement industries include Particulate Matter, Carbon Monoxide, Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂).

7. With reference to Minimum Support Price (MSP), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Minimum Support Price was introduced by the Centre for the first time in the year 1991 to reduce the impact on farming because of LPG reforms.

2. The government announces the MSP at the start of each cropping season.

3. MSP doesn't have any legal stature.

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- MSP for the first time was introduced in the 1960s to incentivize the farmers and boost production.
- The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs. Prices (CACPC).
- There is no statutory backing for these prices or any law mandating their implementation.

8. With reference to the Coronal Mass Ejections, consider the following statements:

1. It is the phenomenon of the sun spewing out vast quantities of gas and plasma.
2. It can have a damaging effect on satellites and radio communication networks on Earth.

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 Sun is an extremely active object, spewing out vast quantities of gas and plasma in many violent events.
- A class of such eruptions are Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs).
- CMEs are the most powerful explosions happening in the solar system.
- When a really strong CME blows past the Earth, it can damage the electronics in satellites and disrupt radio communication networks on Earth.
- The research in the field of CMEs helps to understand Space Weather.
- They can trigger intense light in the sky on Earth, called Auroras.

9. Consider the following statements, with regard to The Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Product (RoDTEP):

1. It is a fully automated route for Input Tax Credit (ITC) in the Goods and Service Tax.
2. It is in compliance with World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules.

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:

- Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Product (RoDTEP) is a fully automated route for Input Tax Credit (ITC) in the GST (Goods and Service Tax) to help increase exports in India.
- ITC is provided to set off tax paid on the purchase of raw materials, consumables, goods or services that were used in the manufacturing of goods or services. This helps in avoiding double taxation and the cascading effect of taxes.
- It was started in January 2021 as a replacement for the MEIS, which was not compliant with the rules of the World Trade Organisation. The RoDTEP Scheme ensures that India stays World Trade Organisation (WTO) compliant.
- The tax refund rates range from 0.5% to 4.3% for various sectors.
- The rebate will have to be claimed as a percentage of the Freight on Board value of exports.

10. Consider the following statements regarding the Anatomy of the Sun:

1. The Chromosphere is the lowest layer of the solar atmosphere.
2. The radiative zone in the Sun is the area where the energy is generated via thermonuclear reactions.

3. Sunspots are the darker and cooler areas on the Sun's surface.

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:

Anatomy of the Sun:

- The Sun's Core - Energy is generated via thermonuclear reactions creating extreme temperatures deep within the Sun's core.
- The Radiative Zone - Energy moves slowly outward, taking more than 1,70,000 years to radiate through this layer of the Sun.
- The Convection Zone - Energy continues to move toward the surface through convection currents of the heated and cooled gas.
- The Chromosphere - This relatively thin layer of the Sun is sculpted by magnetic field lines that restrain the electrically charged solar plasma.
- The Photosphere is the lowest layer of the Solar Atmosphere.
- Sunspots are areas that appear dark on the surface of the Sun. They appear dark because they are cooler than other parts of the Sun's surface.

1. With respect to NCRB, consider the following statements:

1. It was set up based on the recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Taskforce (1985).
2. NCRB brings out the annual comprehensive statistics of crime across the country through 'Crime in India' report.
3. It launches various police-related citizen-centric services on the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) platform.

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:

- NCRB was set-up in 1986 under the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi.
- It was set up based on the recommendations of the **National Police Commission (1977-1981)** and the **MHA's Taskforce (1985)**.
- It was constituted by merging the Directorate of Coordination and Police

- Computer (DCPC), Inter-State Criminals Data Branch of CBI, Central Finger Print Bureau of CBI and Statistical Branch of BPR&D.
- NCRB brings out the annual comprehensive statistics of crime across the country through '**Crime in India**' report.
- Being published since 1953, the report serves as a crucial tool in understanding the law-and-order situation across the country.
- It developed **CCTNS in 2009** which interconnects approximately 15000 police stations and 6000 higher offices across the country.
- CCTNS digitizes data related to FIR registration, investigation and charge sheets in all police stations leading to the development of a national database of crimes and criminals.
- In 2020, the **National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB)** has launched various police-related citizen-centric services on the **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS)** platform.

2. 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.

3. National Company Law Appellate Tribunal can hear appeals against the orders of which of the following Agencies?

1. National Company Law Tribunal
2. Insolvency Bankruptcy Board of India
3. Competition Commission of India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was 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.
- 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), with effect from 1st December, 2016.
- 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) – as per the amendment brought to Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 by Section 172 of the Finance Act, 2017, with effect from 26th May, 2017.



4. Which of the following country is not bordered by Iran?

- (a) Afghanistan
- (b) Turkey
- (c) Iraq
- (d) Syria

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- There are seven countries that Iran shares this long land border with.
- These countries are Iraq, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.
- Of these countries, Turkmenistan shares the longest border with Iran, with the border between the two countries stretching 713 miles.

5. Which of the following is/are finding(s) of Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter?

1. Argon-40
2. Chromium and Manganese
3. Subsurface Water-ice

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

Findings of Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter:

- Detection of Argon-40: The mass spectrometer CHandra's Atmospheric Compositional Explorer 2 (CHACE 2) conducted first-ever in-situ study of the composition of the lunar neutral exosphere from a polar orbital platform.
- It detected and studied the variability of the Argon-40 at the middle and higher latitudes of the Moon, depicting the radiogenic

activities in the mid and higher latitudes of the Lunar interior.

- Detection of Chromium and Manganese: Chandrayaan-2 Large Area Soft X-ray Spectrometer (CLASS) payload has detected minor elements of chromium and manganese through remote sensing.
- Observations of Microflares of the Sun: The observations of microflares of the Sun, during the quiet-Sun period, which provide important clues on the coronal heating problem of the Sun, were made by the Solar X-ray Monitor (XSM) payload.
- Detection of the Hydration Features: The first-ever unambiguous detection of the hydration features of the Moon was achieved by Chandrayaan-2 with its Imaging Infra-Red Spectrometer (IIRS) payload, which captured clear signatures of Hydroxyl and water-ice on the lunar surface.
- Detection of the Subsurface Water-ice: The Dual Frequency Synthetic Aperture Radar (DFSAR) instrument detected signatures of the subsurface water-ice, and achieved high resolution mapping of the lunar morphological features in the polar regions.
- Imaging the Moon: Imaging the moon from 100 km lunar orbit with "best-ever" achieved resolution of 25 cm with its Orbiter High Resolution Camera (OHRC).

- Geological Findings: The Terrain Mapping Camera (TMC 2) of Chandrayaan-2, which is conducting imaging of the Moon at a global scale, has found interesting geologic signatures of lunar crustal shortening, and identification of volcanic domes.
- Study of Moon's Ionosphere: The Dual Frequency Radio Science (DFRS) experiment onboard Chandrayaan-2 has studied the ionosphere of the Moon, which is generated by the solar photo-ionisation of the neutral species of the lunar exosphere.

6. With reference to the Thamirabarani River, consider the following statements:

1. It is a perennial river that originates from the Pothigai hills of the Western Ghats.
2. It flows through Tamil Nadu and empties into the Gulf of Mannar.

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 Thamirabarani civilisation in Tamil Nadu is at least 3,200 years old, reveals carbon dating done on organic material retrieved from archeological excavations in Sivakalai, Thoothukudi district.

- The Thamirabarani or Tamraparni or Porunai is a perennial river that originates from the Agastyarkoodam peak of Pothigai hills of the Western Ghats, above Papanasam in the Ambasamudram taluk.
- It flows through Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi districts and empties at Korkai (Tirunelveli district) into the Gulf of Mannar (Bay of Bengal).
- Thamirabarani River is the shortest river in the state (Tamil Nadu).

7. Consider the following statements:

1. The Thar desert is bordered by the Indus River plain in the west and Aravalli range in southeast.
2. Barkhans are saline lake beds found in the Thar desert.

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 Thar desert is also called the 'Great Indian Desert'.
- It is located partly in Rajasthan state, northwestern India, and partly in Punjab and Sindh provinces, eastern Pakistan.
- It is bordered by the irrigated Indus River plain to the west, the Punjab Plain to the

north and northeast, the Aravalli Range to the southeast, and the Rann of Kachchh to the south.

- The surface of Thar consists of aeolian (wind-deposited) sand that has accumulated over the past 1.8 million years.
- Presents an undulating surface, with high and low sand dunes separated by sandy plains and low barren hills, or bhakars, which rise abruptly from the surrounding plains.
- Barchan, also spelled Barkhan are crescent-shaped sand dune produced by the action of wind predominately from one direction.
- Several playas (saline lake beds), locally known as dhands, are scattered throughout the region.

8. Which of the following statements about Rice Fortification is/are correct?

1. The cooking of fortified rice does not require any special procedure.
2. Rice Fortification process increases the cost

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Food fortification or enrichment is the process of adding micronutrients (essential trace elements and vitamins) to food. It can be carried out by food manufacturers, or by governments as a public health policy which aims to reduce the number of people with dietary deficiencies within a population.
- Fortifying rice makes it more nutritious by adding vitamins and minerals in the post – harvest phase; many of which are lost during the milling and polishing process. Rice fortification may be considered as having the highest potential to fill the gap in current staple food fortification programs as it is the staple food of 65 percent of the Indian population and reaches the most vulnerable and poorer section – with the highest uptake in the government safety net programmes .
- Notably, the cooking of fortified rice does not require any special procedure which will help increase its uptake.
- However, rice Fortification process increases the cost of such rice. Hence the government intervention is essential to make it accessible for poorer sections of the society.

9. Consider the following statements with respect to ATL Space Challenge 2021:

1. It is an initiative of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), ISRO, NASA and ESA.
2. The challenge will allow private players to focus on building new technologies for the space sector

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation and Central Board of Secondary Education successfully launched the ATL Space Challenge 2021 for all school students across the country.
- This is to ensure that students of classes 6 to 12 are given an open platform where they can innovate and enable themselves to solve digital age space technology problems.
- The challenge has been designed for all the school students, mentors and teachers who not only are associated with schools having Atal Tinkering Laboratories but for all the non ATL schools as well.

10. With reference to National Commission for Minorities (NCM), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Constitution of India defines the word 'Minority' on the basis of religion
2. Five religious communities are notified as minority communities
3. Each Member of the commission holds office for a period of three years from the date of assumption of office

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Constitution of India uses the word 'minority' or its plural form in some Articles viz Article 20 to 30 and 350 A to 350 B, but does not define the word 'minority'.
- The Constitution recognises religious and linguistic minorities.
- Six religious communities, viz; Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains have been notified in Gazette of India as minority communities by the Union Government all over India.
- National Commission for Minorities consists of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and five members and all of

- them shall be from amongst the minority communities. Total of 7 persons to be nominated by the Central Government should be from amongst persons of eminence, ability and integrity.
- Each Member holds office for a period of three years from the date of assumption of office.

1. In the context of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) 2010, consider the following statements:

1. Under this act, candidate contesting the election is debarred from receiving contribution.
2. FCRA comes under the purview of the Department of Economic Affairs of Ministry of Finance.

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:

- As per FCRA 2010, the following organizational individuals are debarred from receiving foreign contribution. They are

1. Candidate for election
2. cartoonist, editor, publishers of registered newspaper
3. Judge, government servants or employee of any corporation
4. Member of any legislature
5. Political parties.

- Despite being a law related to financial regulation, this law does not fall within the purview of the RBI but **under the Home Ministry** as it is internal security legislation.

2. With reference to the Open Market Operations (OMO), which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. OMOs are conducted by the RBI by way of sale or purchase of government securities (g-secs) to adjust money supply conditions.
2. The central bank buys g-secs to remove liquidity from the system and sells back g-secs to infuse liquidity into the system.
3. RBI carries out the OMO through commercial banks and does not directly deal with the public.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Open Market Operations (OMO) is one of the quantitative (to regulate or control the total volume of money) monetary policy tools which is employed by the central bank of a country to control the money supply in the economy.
- OMOs are conducted by the RBI by way of sale or purchase of government securities (g-secs) to adjust money supply conditions. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The central bank **sells g-secs to remove liquidity** from the system and **buys back**

g-secs to infuse liquidity into the system.

So, statement 2 is not correct.

- These operations are often conducted on a day-to-day basis in a manner that balances inflation while helping banks continue to lend.
- RBI carries out the OMO through commercial banks and does not directly deal with the public. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- The RBI uses OMO along with other monetary policy tools such as repo rate, cash reserve ratio and statutory liquidity ratio to adjust the quantum and price of money in the System.

3. 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.

4. Consider the following pairs:

Name of Missile	Type
1. K-4 Missile	- Submarine launched ballistic Missile
2. Akash	- Surface to Air Missile
3. Nag	- Anti Tank guided missile

Which of the following pair(s) is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All the three are Correct.

5. In context to the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched with Swachh Survekshan Urban 2021 by the Jal Shakti Ministry.
2. It assesses the state of hygiene, cleanliness and sanitation in rural India as a part of the Centre's initiative to award Open Defecation Free Plus status to villages.

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 Jal Shakti Ministry launched Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021 or rural cleanliness survey 2021 under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase-II.
- Before this, the Swachh Survekshan Grameen had been carried out by the Ministry in 2018 and 2019.
- The Swachh Survekshan Urban 2021 is to be announced. It was introduced by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in 2016.
- Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2021 assesses the state of hygiene, cleanliness and sanitation in rural India as a part of the Centre's initiative to award Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus status to villages. ODF-plus status aims to ensure management of solid as well as liquid waste and is an upgradation of ODF status in which construction of adequate toilets was required so that people did not have to defecate in the open.

6. In context to the Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats (CRISPR) technique, consider the following statements:

1. It depends on the natural tendency of a DNA strand to repair itself, when broken.
2. Its development has led to a Nobel science prize being awarded to a women-only team for the first time.

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:

- CRISPR-Cas9 technology behaves like a cut-and-paste mechanism on DNA strands that contain genetic information. A DNA strand, when broken, has a natural tendency to repair itself. Scientists intervene during this auto-repair process, supplying the desired sequence of genetic codes that binds itself with the broken DNA strand.
- Recently, Emmanuelle Charpentier of France and Jennifer A Doudna of the USA have been awarded the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for developing CRISPR/Cas9 genetic scissors, one of gene technology's sharpest tools.
- It is for the first time a Nobel science prize has gone to a women-only team.

7. In context to Swami Vivekananda, consider the following statements:

1. Subhas Chandra Bose referred to him as the maker of modern India.
2. He preached 'neo-Vedanta'.
3. National Youth Day is held every year to observe his Birth Anniversary.

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

- (c) Both
(d) None

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- NATGRID or the National Intelligence Grid is a part of the radical revamp of the intelligence and security framework of India.
- NATGRID as an idea was mooted after the 2008 – 26/11 Mumbai attacks.
- Initially, State agencies won't have direct access to NATGRID. 10 Central agencies will be able to access the information gathered by NATGRID. They are Intelligence Bureau (IB), Research & Analysis Wing (R&AW), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Enforcement Directorate (ED), Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC), Directorate General of Central Excise and Intelligence (DGCEI) and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
- However, the state agencies can extract the information by contacting these 10 central agencies that have direct access to NATGRID.

Answer: d)

Explanation:

About Swami Vivekananda:

- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had called Vivekananda the “maker of modern India.”
 - Introduced the world to the Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga.
 - He preached ‘neo-Vedanta’, an interpretation of Hinduism through a Western lens, and believed in combining spirituality with material progress.
 - He was born Narendranath Datta on 12th January 1863.
 - National Youth Day is held every year to observe the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
 - In 1893, upon the request of Maharaja Ajit Singh of the Khetri State, he took the name ‘Vivekananda.’
8. With reference to NATGRID, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. NATGRID as an idea was mooted after the 2008 Mumbai attacks.
 2. Initially, State agencies won't have direct access to NATGRID.

Options:

- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only

9. Which of the following schemes will be implemented under PM Kisan SAMPADA Yojana?

1. Mega Food Parks
2. Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure
3. Creation/ Expansion of Food Processing/Preservation Capacities (Unit Scheme)
4. Infrastructure for Agro-processing Clusters
5. Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

Component Schemes under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana are:

- Mega Food Park
- Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure

Creation/Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities:

- Infrastructure for Agro-Processing Clusters
- Creation of Backward & Forward linkages
- Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure
- Operation Greens

Tag: National Council of Applied Economic Research

10. Consider the following statements about the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER):

1. It is one of India's oldest economic and social research institutes formed via a Resolution of the Union Cabinet.
2. National Data Innovation Centre (NDIC) established under NCAER represents India in Global Economic Forums.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) is one of India's oldest and largest independent, non-profit, economic and social research institutes. It was not formed by a resolution of the Union Cabinet. It was set up by funding from the Ford Foundation, the Finance Ministry and Tata Sons.

- It engages in Economic Research.
- NCAER has set up a National Data Innovation Centre (NDIC) to serve as a laboratory for experiments in data collection, interfacing with partners in think tanks, Indian and international

- universities, and government. NDIC forms an important core of NCAER's long-standing data Collection Activities.



1. Consider the following statements:

1. The Paris Agreement of 2016 is an international accord that brings almost 200 countries together in setting a common target to reduce global greenhouse emissions in an effort to fight climate change.
2. A country can only give a notice for leaving at least three years after the Paris Agreement came into force
3. The US is the only country left out of the Global Protocol.

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 U.S. was the only country left out of the global protocol which later on January 2021, the President Joe Biden signed an executive order to rejoin the agreement. Syria and Nicaragua, the last remaining countries who were earlier holding out, also became signatories in 2017.

2. Consider the following statements:

1. Net-zero, which is also referred to as carbon-neutrality, means that a country would bring down its emissions to zero.

2. India, the world's third biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, after the US and China, is the only major player holding out of carbon Neutrality.

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:

- Net-zero, which is also referred to as carbon-neutrality, does not mean that a country would bring down its emissions to zero.
- Rather, net-zero is a state in which a country's emissions are compensated by absorption and removal of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.
- Absorption of the emissions can be increased by creating more carbon sinks such as forests, while removal of gases from the atmosphere requires futuristic technologies such as carbon capture and storage.
- India, the world's third biggest emitter of greenhouse gases, after the US and China, is the only major player holding out.
- India is the only one opposing this target because it is likely to be the most impacted by it.

- Several other countries, including the UK and France, have already enacted laws promising to achieve a net-zero emission scenario by the middle of the century. Even China has promised to go net-zero by 2060.
- The European Union is working a similar Europe-wide law, while many other countries including Canada, South Korea, Japan and Germany have expressed their intention to commit themselves to a net-zero future.

- **Northern Ireland comes under UK.** Ireland is a separate country. So it is not a part of United Kingdom.



3. The United Kingdom comprises of which of the following places?

1. England
2. Wales
3. Ireland
4. Scotland

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- **The United Kingdom, made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, is an island nation in northwestern Europe.**

4. With respect to the Indian Gaur, consider the following statements:

1. The Indian Gaur is the largest and the tallest in the family of wild cattle and is a grazing animal.
2. It is listed as Vulnerable in IUCN Red List, Schedule I under Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.
3. It is also the state animal of Goa.

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:

- The Indian Gaur or Bison (*Bos gaurus*) is the largest and the tallest in the family of wild cattle and is a grazing animal.
- **Threats:**



- ✓ **Food Scarcity:**
- ✓ The destruction in the grasslands has led to the decline in availability of food for these animals.
- ✓ Due to the planting of commercially important trees, the lush grassland has diminished which is the prime source of fodder for this wild cattle.
- ✓ They have to fight for their food due to indiscriminate grazing of domestic animals in the areas.
- ✓ **Poaching:**
- ✓ The illegal hunting of the Indian bison is done for their commercial value as well as due to the high demand of gaur meat in the illegal market of India-Nepal border.
- It is listed as Vulnerable in IUCN Red List, Schedule I under Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.
- Nowadays, this animal is kept well and protected in some of the famous national parks of India like Nagarhole, Bandipur, Kabini and Masinagudi (Mudumalai).
- It is also the state animal of Goa.
- **So all the three statements are correct.**

5. Which of the following statements about SVAMITVA Scheme is/are incorrect?

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

2. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for creating accurate land records.

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) scheme is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- The scheme is a reformative step towards the establishment of clear ownership of property in rural inhabited (Abadi) areas, by mapping of land parcels using drone technology and providing 'Record of Rights' to village household owners with the issuance of legal ownership cards (Property cards/Title deeds) to the property owners.

6. Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD) recently seen in news, was launched by India and

- (a) UK
- (b) France
- (c) Germany
- (d) USA

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD) which is one of the main tracks of the U.S.-India Agenda 2030 Partnership, was initiated during the recently concluded official visit of the U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate to India.
- Climate Action and Finance Mobilization Dialogue (CAFMD) would be based on the following three pillars.
- **Climate action:** It would consist of joint proposals looking at ways to reduce greenhouse gases emissions in the next decade.
- **Renewable Energy:** It would set out a roadmap to achieve the 450GW renewable energy target in transportation, buildings and industry.
- **Finance:** This would involve collaborating on attracting finance for renewable energy projects. It will focus on delivering climate
- finances primarily as grants and concessional finance as envisaged under the Paris Agreement.

7. With reference to Siachen Glacier, which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. Siachen Glacier is located in the eastern Karakoram Range in the Himalayas.
2. It is the longest glacier in the world's non-polar areas.

3. Operation Vijay was the codename for the Indian Armed Forces' operation to seize control of the Siachen Glacier.

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Siachen Glacier is located in the Eastern Karakoram range in the Himalayas, just northeast of Point NJ9842 where the Line of Control between India and Pakistan ends.
- It is the second-longest glacier in the world's non-polar areas.
- Operation Meghdoot was the codename for the Indian Armed Forces' operation to seize control of the Siachen Glacier.

8. Consider the following statements regarding 'Pilibhit Tiger Reserve':

1. It forms part of Terai Arc Landscape in the upper Gangetic Plain.
2. The Surahi range links the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve with Dudhwa National Park.

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 Pilibhit Tiger Reserve is located in Pilibhit district, Lakhimpur Kheri District and Bahraich District of Uttar Pradesh.
- It was designated as a Tiger Reserve in 2014 and was India's 45th Tiger Reserve Project.
- It forms part of Terai Arc Landscape in the upper Gangetic Plain.
- The northern edge of the reserve lies along the Indo-Nepal border while the southern boundary is marked by the river Sharada and Khakra.

Corridor Linkages:

- Pilibhit is an important habitat for tigers owing to its connection with several tiger habitats within the State and outside. They are used by tigers and other Wild Animals.

The Important Linkages are:

- Surahi range - Corbett
- Lagga-Bagga - Shuklaphanta National Park (Nepal)
- Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary – Dudhwa.

9. Consider the following statements:

1. Permafrost regions are always covered in snow.
2. The reduction in Arctic permafrost is expected to release Greenhouse Gases.

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:

- Permafrost is any ground that remains completely frozen - 32°F (0°C) or colder - for at least two years straight.
- These permanently frozen grounds are most common in regions with high mountains and in Earth's higher latitudes - near the North and South Poles.
- Permafrost covers about 15% of the land area of the globe.
- Although the ground is frozen, permafrost regions are not always covered in snow.
- Landscapes with large stretches of permafrost are often called tundra. The word tundra is a Finnish word referring to a treeless plain. Tundra is found at high latitudes and at high altitudes, where the permafrost has a very thin active layer
- According to the latest IPCC report, increasing global warming will result in reductions in Arctic permafrost and the thawing of the ground is expected to release greenhouse gases like methane and carbon dioxide.
- Permafrost entombed and froze the organic material in the ground. If the ground begins to thaw, this material will become available for microorganisms to break down.

- In some environments, the microorganisms will release carbon dioxide, and in others release methane which is about 25 to 30 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.

10. Consider the following statements:

1. The coal-based hydrogen is produced through the electrolysis process.
2. The process of coal gasification chemically transforms the fossil fuel into Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG).

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:

- Coal is one of the important sources of hydrogen making apart from natural gas and renewable energy through Electrolysis.
- Electrolysis is a promising option for carbon-free hydrogen production from renewable and nuclear resources.
- Electrolysis is the process of using electricity to split water into hydrogen and oxygen. This reaction takes place in a unit called an electrolyzer.

- Electrolyzers can range in size from small, appliance-size equipment that is well-suited for small-scale distributed hydrogen production to large-scale, central production facilities that could be tied directly to renewable or other non-greenhouse-gas-emitting forms of electricity production.
- The process of Coal Gasification chemically transforms the fossil fuel into Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG), instead of burning fossil fuel. It produces Syngas which is a mixture consisting primarily of methane (CH₄), carbon monoxide (CO), hydrogen (H₂), carbon dioxide (CO₂) and water vapour (H₂O).
- Syngas can be used to produce a wide range of fertilizers, fuels, solvent and Synthetic Materials.

1. Which of the following is/are the properties of Lithium?

1. Lightest Solid Element under solid conditions
2. Rare Earth Metal
3. Highly Inflammable

Select the correct answer using the code given below?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Lithium is a soft, silvery-white metal with the symbol Li.
- Under standard conditions, it is the lightest metal and the lightest solid element.
- It is highly reactive and flammable, and must be stored in mineral oil.
- It is an alkali metal and a rare metal.
- Rare Metals (RM) include Niobium (Nb), Tantalum (Ta), Lithium (Li), Beryllium (Be), Cesium (Cs) etc.
- Rare Earth (RE) metals include Lanthanum (La) to Lutetium (Lu) besides Scandium (Sc) and Yttrium (Y).

2. With reference to Quad Grouping, consider the following statements:

1. Quad comprises all democratic countries surrounding China.

2. Vaccine diplomacy, climate change, technological innovation are some of the objectives of Quad.

3. Quad is based on the principle of collective defence.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Quad Grouping is a four-nation grouping of India, Australia, the USA and Japan which was established in 2007.
- Quad member countries have also indicated a willingness to expand the partnership through a so-called Quad Plus that would include South Korea, New Zealand, and Vietnam amongst others.
- However, as of now, Quad members are restricted to these four countries only. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- In March 2021, the Quad leaders met virtually and later released a joint statement titled ‘The Spirit of the Quad,’ which outlined the group’s approach and objectives. According to the ‘Spirit of the Quad’, the group’s primary objectives include maritime security, combating the Covid-19 crisis, especially vis-a-vis vaccine diplomacy, addressing the risks of

- climate change, creating an ecosystem for investment in the region and boosting technological innovation. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Despite the potential for cooperation, the Quad remains a mechanism without a defined strategic mission.
- The Quad is not structured like a typical multilateral organisation and lacks a secretariat and any permanent decision-making body.
- Additionally, unlike NATO, the Quad does not include provisions for collective defence, instead choosing to conduct joint military exercises as a show of unity and diplomatic cohesion. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

3. Which of the following global efforts addresses climate change and migration challenges?

1. Cancun Adaptation Framework
2. Sendai Framework
3. Paris Agreement
4. Warsaw Mechanism

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) formally incorporates mobility in the context of climate change in the 2010 Cancun Adaptation Framework, calling on countries for “measures to enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation with regard to climate induced displacement, migration, and planned relocation,” while “taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities”
- The Sendai Framework outlines targets and priorities for action to prevent and reduce disaster risks, including through governance, investment in disaster reduction for resilience, and disaster preparedness, recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction. The Sendai Framework articulates the need to include migrants in disaster risk reduction and management in three places.
- The Preamble of the Paris Agreement states that the “Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on migrants”.
- The UNFCCC Task Force on Displacement, established under the Warsaw Mechanism.

- The Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage focuses on preparing for and addressing loss and damage from both sudden- and slow onset climate change impacts, including effects on mobility.
- The COP24 Decision, informed by a report from the UNFCCC Task Force on Displacement, invites UNFCCC parties to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility in the context of climate change, by considering the needs of migrants and displaced persons, communities of origin, transit and destination, and by enhancing opportunities for regular migration pathways, including through labor mobility.
- Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration recognizes the need to strengthen joint analysis and sharing of information to better map, understand, predict, and address migration movements, such as those that may result from sudden-onset and slow-onset natural disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, as well as develop adaptation and resilience strategies, taking into account the potential implications on migration.
- Global Compact on Refugees provides specific commitments to address the drivers of environmental mobility and develop policies aimed at ensuring greater

protection for those affected by these movements.

4. Which of the statements given below are correct regarding the Tribunals?

1. They were not originally a part of the Constitution.
2. The 44nd Amendment Act introduced these provisions in accordance with the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee.
3. Article 323A deals with the Administrative Tribunals.

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:

- Tribunal is a quasi-judicial institution that is set up to deal with problems such as resolving administrative or tax-related disputes. It performs a number of functions like adjudicating disputes, determining rights between contesting parties, making
- an administrative decision, reviewing an existing administrative decision and so forth.
- They were not originally a part of the Constitution.

- The 42nd Amendment Act introduced these provisions in accordance with the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee.
- The Amendment introduced Part XIV-A to the Constitution, which deals with ‘Tribunals’ and contains two articles:
 - ✓ Article 323A deals with Administrative Tribunals. These are quasi-judicial institutions that resolve disputes related to the recruitment and service conditions of persons engaged in public service.
 - ✓ Article 323B deals with tribunals for other subjects such as Taxation, Industrial and labour, foreign exchange, import and export, Land reforms, Food, Ceiling on urban property, Elections to Parliament and state legislatures, Rent and tenancy rights.

5. With respect to Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), consider the following statements:

1. Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) is the usage and licensing fee that telecom operators are charged by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
2. Revenues from non-core telecom operations are excluded from the AGR.

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:

- Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) is the **usage and licensing fee** that telecom operators are charged by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT). **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is divided into **spectrum usage charges and licensing fees**, pegged between 3-5 percent and 8 percent respectively.
- **Spectrum usage charges** is the charge that is required to be paid by the licensees providing mobile access services, as a percentage of their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR).
 - The spectrum slabs/rates for the same are notified by the Government from time to time. The Cabinet recently approved several measures to extend a lifeline to the cash-strapped telecom sector, including a redefinition of the much-litigated concept of adjusted gross revenue (AGR) to
 - **exclude non-telecom revenue** and a four-year moratorium on players’ dues to the government. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The AGR directly impacts the outgo from the pockets of telcos to the DoT as it is used to calculate the levies payable by operators.

6. With reference to the Spectrum Auction, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. Reliance Jio was the greatest bidder of 5G airwaves in the spectrum auctions which was conducted recently.
2. Foreign companies will have to either set up a branch in India and register as an Indian company, or tie up with an Indian company to be able to retain the airwaves after winning them.

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: b)

Explanation:

- 5G airwaves are not for sale in this auction.
So, statement 1 is not correct.
- All three private telecom players, Reliance Jio Infocomm, Bharti Airtel, and Vi are eligible contenders to buy additional spectrum to support the number of users on their network.
- Apart from these three, new companies, including foreign companies, are also eligible to bid for the airwaves.
 - ✓ Foreign companies, however, will have to either set up a branch in India and register as an Indian company, or tie up with an Indian company to be able to

retain the airwaves after winning them.

So, statement 2 is correct.

7. With respect to Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), which of the statements given below are correct?

1. USOF ensures that there is universal non-discriminatory access to quality ICT services at economically efficient prices to people in rural and remote areas.
2. It was created under the Department of Telecommunications in 2002.
3. It is a non-lapsable fund and all credits to this fund require parliamentary approval.

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:

- USOF ensures that there is universal non-discriminatory access to quality ICT services at economically efficient prices to people in rural and remote areas.
- It was created under the Department of Telecommunications in 2002.
- It is a non-lapsable fund, i.e., the unspent amount under a targeted financial year does not lapse and is accrued for next years' spending.

- All credits to this fund require parliamentary approval and it has statutory support under Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Act, 2003.
- **So all the three statements are correct.**

8. Which of the given statements with respect to Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) is/are correct?

1. It is an association of Micro Finance Institutions operating as non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).
2. It is recognized by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
3. It is the first association in the business of micro-lending to be given the self-regulatory organization (SRO) status by RBI.

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN) is a self-regulatory organization of NBFC MFIs that aims to work with regulators to promote microfinance to achieve larger financial inclusion goals.
- It is recognized by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- It is the first association in the business of micro-lending to be given the self-regulatory organization (SRO) status by RBI.

9. Aedes aegypti mosquito transmits which of the following viral disease/s?

1. Malaria
2. Dengue
3. Zika
4. Lymphatic filariasis
5. Yellow Fever

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Aedes aegypti is known to transmit the dengue virus, yellow fever virus, chikungunya virus, and Zika virus.
- Malaria is transmitted to humans by female mosquitoes of the genus Anopheles.
- Lymphatic filariasis, considered globally as a neglected tropical disease (NTD), is a parasitic disease caused by microscopic, thread-like worms. The adult worms only live in the human lymph system. Lymphatic filariasis is spread by infected mosquitoes.

- A wide range of mosquitoes can transmit the parasite, depending on the geographic area. In Africa, the most common vector is Anopheles and, in the Americas, it is Culex quinquefasciatus. Aedes and Mansonia can transmit the infection in the Pacific and in Asia.

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

1. India and United Kingdom have a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with a zero-tariff regime.
2. The countries recently signed Mutual Recognition Agreements in selective services like nursing and architecture services.

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Union Government has announced that formal negotiations for a proposed India-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement (FTA) will begin on November 1, 2021.
- India and the U.K. are still exploring signing a few mutual recognition agreements in selective services like nursing and Architecture Services

1. Consider the following statements:

1. In India, clinical trials of new drugs and vaccines, and their approvals, are governed by the Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019.
2. The regulatory authority in India is the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

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:

- Vaccines and medicines, and even diagnostic tests and medical devices, require the approval of a regulatory authority before they can be administered.
- In India, clinical trials of new drugs and vaccines, and their approvals, are governed by the Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019. The regulatory authority is the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).
- For vaccines and medicines, approval is granted after an assessment of their safety and effectiveness, based on data from trials.
- So, both statements are correct.

2. Consider the following statements:

1. A compulsory licence is a licence or authorisation issued by the government to an applicant for making, using and selling a patented product without the consent of the patentee.
2. The application for compulsory license can be made any time after 3 years from date of sealing of a patent.
3. Under the Section 92 of the Act compulsory licenses can also be issued suo motu by the Controller of Patents if there is either a national emergency or extreme urgency or in cases of public non-commercial use.

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:

- All the three statements are correct.
3. What are the possible ways to recover the NPAs in India?
 1. SARFAESI Act, 2002
 2. Debt Recovery Tribunal
 3. Lok Adalat
 4. Compromise Settlement
 5. Credit information Bureau

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

1. SARFAESI ACT, 2002

- The SARFAESI empowers banks to deal with NPAs, without the involvement of court, through three alternatives:

1. Asset Reconstruction
2. Enforcement of Security
3. Securitization

- Any outstanding amount of more than ₹1 lakh can be dealt under SARFAESI. However, an amount that is less than 20% or principal and the interest amount is not considered under the Act. The Act also allows banks to:

1. To release a notice to borrower (and their guarantor) asking them to release the payment within 60 days from the receipt of notice.
2. To release notice to anyone who acquires the borrower's secured assets to produce the same to the bank.
3. To advise any of the borrower's debtors to pay off the loan due with the bank.

- In case of failure from the borrower's end with respect to the issue notice, the bank may:

1. Take possession of the secured assets of the borrower
2. Sell or lease the security
3. Manage the borrower's security or appoint someone to manage the same.

2. Debt Recovery Tribunals

- Brought into being existence in year 1993 by the Indian Parliament, the Act allows financial institutions to speedily recover dues of ₹10 lakhs and above. DRTs are capable of handling larger number of cases as compared to regular courts by cutting down delays in the initial proceedings.

3. Lok Adalats

- Small loans of ₹5 lakhs and less can be recovered through the Lok Adalats as per the guidelines issued by RBI in year 2001. This alternative for dispute redressal mechanism covers both suit and non-suit Filed Cases.

4. Compromise Settlement

- This scheme helps in recovery of NPAs up to ₹10 crores through a simplified non-discretionary mechanism.

5. Credit Information Bureau

- Third party agencies such as CIBIL help banks with data on the financial health of the borrower.
- The Credit Information Bureau maintains records of individual defaulters and shares it with the respective banks to aid them in making effective lending decisions. For this, banks may be charged a fee.

4. With respect to the Bad Banks, consider the following statements:

1. A bad bank is a bank set up to buy the bad loans and other illiquid holdings of another financial institution.
2. The entity holding significant nonperforming assets will sell these holdings to the bad bank at market price.
3. By transferring such assets to the bad bank, the original institution may clear its balance sheet.

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:

- A bad bank is a bank set up to buy the bad loans and other illiquid holdings of another financial institution.
- The entity holding significant nonperforming assets will sell these holdings to the bad bank at Market Price.
- By transferring such assets to the bad bank, the original institution may clear its balance sheet—although it will still be forced to take write-downs.
- **So all the three statements are correct.**

5. Exercise PEACEFUL MISSION is a joint military exercise conducted by

- (a) BIMSTEC
- (b) Commonwealth Countries
- (c) NATO
- (d) SCO

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Peaceful Mission Exercise is being held between the member-states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Russia in the Orenburg region.
- This is the sixth edition of the military exercise.
- The joint counter-terrorism exercise ‘Peaceful Mission’ is a multilateral exercise, which is conducted biennially as part of military diplomacy between Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states.

6. Consider the following statements about Geological Survey of India (GSI):

1. It is headquartered in Mumbai.
2. It is an attached office to the Ministry of Mines.
3. Geological Survey of India has been the sole custodian for all meteorite “falls” or “finds” within Indian Territory.

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: b)

Explanation:

- The Geological Survey of India was founded in 1851 by the East India Company. Currently, it functions as an attached office to the Ministry of Mines.
- It is headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Geological Survey of India has been the sole custodian for all meteorite “falls” or “finds” within Indian Territory.

7. With reference to Gold Monetization Scheme, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. All Scheduled Commercial Banks excluding RRBs will be eligible to implement the Scheme.
2. Earnings under the Gold Monetisation Scheme are exempt from capital gains tax and Income Tax.

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Investors can make term deposits of their idle gold under Gold Monetization Scheme (GMS), which provides them safety and interest earnings. With gold deposited in

GMS, investors save the storage cost for keeping their precious metal safe, while still benefiting from its capital appreciation.

- Gold can be deposited in any form — gold bars, coins or Jewellery, and the depositor also has the option to either take cash or gold on redemption. Another lucrative benefit comes with interest earned on the gold deposited by investors being exempt from capital gains tax and income tax.
- In the case of medium and long-term deposits, investors can earn up to 2.25 per cent per annum. All Scheduled Commercial Banks excluding RRBs will be eligible to implement the Scheme.
- The objective of the Scheme is to mobilize gold held by households and institutions of the country and facilitate its use for productive purposes, and in the long run, to reduce the country’s reliance on the import of Gold.

8. Consider the following statements, with regard to ‘Arsenic’:

1. It is an odourless and tasteless metalloid.
2. Early childhood exposure to Arsenic can lead to negative impacts on cognitive Development.
3. Skin lesions are caused by long-term Exposure to arsenic.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Arsenic is an odourless and tasteless metalloid widely distributed in the earth's crust.
- It is Naturally present at high levels in the earth crust and groundwater of a number of countries. It is highly toxic in its inorganic form.

Impacts of Arsenic:

- It leads to adverse health effects through inhibition of essential enzymes, which ultimately leads to death from multi-system organ failure.
- Long-term exposure to arsenic from drinking-water and food can cause cancer and skin lesions.
- It has also been associated with cardiovascular disease and diabetes.
- In utero and early childhood exposure has been linked to negative impacts on cognitive development and increased deaths in young adults.

9. Consider the following statements, with regard to 'Similipal Tiger Reserve':

1. It has been part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserve.

2. It is a part of the Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve.

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:

- Similipal Tiger Reserve was formally designated a tiger reserve in 1956 and brought under Project Tiger in the year 1973. It was declared a biosphere reserve by the Government of India in June, 1994.
- It has been part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserve since 2009.
- It is part of the Similipal-Kuldiha-Hadgarh Elephant Reserve popularly known as Mayurbhanj Elephant Reserve.
- It includes 3 protected areas i.e. Similipal Tiger Reserve, Hadagarh Wildlife sanctuary and Kuldiha wildlife sanctuary.
- It is situated in the northern part of Odisha's Mayurbhanj district. Geographically, it lies in the eastern end of the Eastern Ghat.

10. In context to the Shoonya Campaign, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to accelerate adoption of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in the urban deliveries segment.

2. It is launched by the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

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, NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) and RMI India's have launched the Shoonya Campaign.
- The campaign aims to accelerate adoption of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in the urban deliveries segment and create consumer awareness about the benefits of zero-Pollution Delivery.
- A corporate branding and certification programme is being launched to recognise and promote industry's efforts towards transitioning to EVs for final-mile Deliveries.
- It will help e-commerce companies to distinguish their offerings from those of their competitors.
- An online tracking platform will share the campaign's impact through data such as vehicle Kilometers electrified, carbon savings, criteria pollutant savings and other benefits from clean delivery vehicles.

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Rising fuel inflation may pinch consumers who have to travel further for work and have access to affordable cereals etc.
2. The Rural population would be more impacted by rising fuel prices than the Urban population.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Experts note that the impact of rising fuel inflation has been counterbalanced by declining food inflation, but that consumers with greater expenditure on travel are feeling the pinch of higher prices.
- Rising fuel inflation may pinch consumers who have to travel further for work and have access to affordable cereals etc.
- The urban population would be more impacted by rising fuel prices than the rural population — however, a weak monsoon may lead to rural India being hit as farmers are forced to rely more on diesel-powered irrigation.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the GST Council:

1. GST Council is a statutory body constituted under the Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.
2. The GST Council is headed by the Finance Minister of India.
3. Decisions are taken after a majority in the council with Centre has 1/3rd voting rights and states have 2/3rd voting rights.

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 and 3 only

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Goods & Services Tax Council is a constitutional body for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Service Tax.
- As per Article 279A (1) of the amended Constitution, the GST Council has to be constituted by the President within 60 days of the commencement of Article 279A.
- Its Chairman is Finance Minister.
- It will approve all decision related to taxation in the country.

- It consists of Centre, 28 states, Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir.
- Centre has 1/3rd voting rights and states have 2/3rd voting rights.
- Decisions are taken after a majority in the council.
- Article 279A (4) specifies that the Council will make recommendations to the Union and the States on the important issues related to GST, such as, the goods and services will be subject or exempted from the Goods and Services Tax.

3. Which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct regarding the appointment of the Chief Justice of India?

1. The Judges Inquiry Act mandates the outgoing Chief Justice of India to select the most senior then-sitting Supreme Court judge as the next CJI.
2. The procedure is initiated by the Law minister seeking the recommendation of the outgoing CJI at the 'appropriate time', which is near to the date of retirement of the incumbent CJI.

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: b)

Explanation:

- The Chief Justice of India is traditionally appointed by the outgoing Chief Justice of India on the day of his (or her) retirement.
- By convention, the outgoing Chief Justice of India selects the most senior then-sitting Supreme Court judge.
- Seniority at the apex court is determined not by age, but by:
 - ✓ The date a judge was appointed to the Supreme Court.
 - ✓ If two judges are elevated to the Supreme Court on the same day.
 - ✓ The one who was sworn in first as a judge would trump another.
 - ✓ If both were sworn in as judges on the same day, the one with more years of high court service would 'win' in the seniority stakes.
 - ✓ An appointment from the bench would 'trump' in seniority an appointee from the bar.
- The Constitution of India does not have any provision for criteria and procedure for appointing the CJI. Article 124(1) of the Indian Constitution says there "shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of a Chief Justice of India".
- The closest mention is in Article 126, which deals with the appointment of an acting CJI.

- In the absence of a constitutional provision, the procedure relies on custom and convention.
- The procedure to appoint the next CJI is laid out in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) between the government and the judiciary:
 - ✓ The procedure is initiated by the Law Minister seeking the recommendation of the outgoing CJI at the ‘appropriate time’, which is near to the date of retirement of the incumbent CJI.
 - ✓ The CJI sends his recommendation to the Law Ministry; and in the case of any qualms, the CJI can consult the collegium regarding the fitness of an SC judge to be elevated to the post.
 - ✓ After receiving recommendation from the CJI, the law minister forwards it to the Prime Minister who then advises the President on the same.
 - ✓ The President administers the oath of office to the new CJI.

4. Who among the following are included in the selection committee for appointment of Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) and Vigilance Commissioners in India?

1. Prime Minister
2. Minister of Home Affairs
3. Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha
4. Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha

5. A cabinet minister nominated by Prime Minister

6. A serving or retired Supreme Court Judge
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only

(b) 1, 2 and 6 only

(c) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

(d) All of the above

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is a multi-member Commission consisting of a Central Vigilance Commissioner (Chairperson) and not more than two Vigilance Commissioners (Member).
- It is the apex vigilance institution, free of control from any executive authority, monitoring all vigilance activity under the Central Government and advising various authorities in Central Government organizations in planning, executing, reviewing and reforming their vigilance work.
- The CVC is not controlled by any Ministry/Department. It is an independent body which is only responsible to the Parliament.
- The Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners are appointed by the President on the recommendations of a Committee

- consisting of the Prime Minister (Chairperson), the Minister of Home Affairs (Member) and the Leader of the Opposition in the House of the People (Member).

5. With reference to Telecom sector reforms, Consider the following statements:

1. 100% FDI in the Telecom sector is allowed under the Automatic Route.
2. The future spectrum auctions will be done for a Period of 30 years.
3. Taxes on Aggregate Gross Revenue (AGR) of the telecom sector excludes non-telecom Revenues.

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:

- Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved a number of structural and process reforms in the Telecom sector. Some of the reforms are as follows:

Spectrum Related Reforms:

- Spectrum auctions will be normally held in the last quarter of every financial year (fixed calendar).
- The future spectrum auctions will be done for a period of 30 years instead of the current 20 years.

Rationalization of AGR:

- AGR was previously interpreted as being based on all revenue, rather than just that associated with a company's core telecom business.
- The Government has accepted that this Interpretation was Problematic.
- Now, Telecom companies have to pay a pre-fixed percentage of AGR (excluding non-telecom revenues) to the government as statutory levies but this will apply prospectively.

FDI Reforms:

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the sector has also been allowed up to 100% under the automatic route, from the existing limit of 49%.

6. Consider the following statements, with regard to Bad Banks:

1. Bad Banks takes over the bad loans of commercial banks, manages them and finally recovers the money over a period of time.
2. The bad bank is not involved in lending and taking deposits.
3. The takeover of bad loans is normally above the book value of the loan.

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: b)

Explanation:

- The bad bank is an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) or an Asset Management Company (AMC) that takes over the bad loans of Commercial Banks, manages them and finally Recovers the money over a period of time.
- The bad bank is not involved in lending and taking deposits, but helps commercial banks clean up their balance sheets and resolve bad loans.
- The takeover of bad loans is normally below the book value of the loan and the bad bank tries to recover as much as possible subsequently.

7. Consider the following statements:

1. The 'Crime in India' is an annual report published by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
2. The NCRB was set up on the recommendations of the National Police Commission in 1985.

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 National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) is headquartered in New Delhi, was set-up in 1986 under the Ministry of Home Affairs to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
- NCRB was set up based on the recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Task Force (1985).
- NCRB brings out the annual comprehensive statistics of crime across the country ('Crime in India' report).
- Having been published since 1953, the report serves as a crucial tool in understanding the law-and-order situation across the country.

8. Which of the following statements about Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) is/are correct?

1. It is a sub component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj
2. Any Rural poor who is willing to be entrepreneurial and self reliant is eligible to be part of this Programme.

Options:

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

- (c) Both
(d) None

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) is implemented by Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana –National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development, as a sub-scheme since 2016.
 - With an objective to support the rural poor come out of poverty, supporting them set up enterprises and provide support till the enterprises stabilize, SVEP focusses on providing self-employment opportunities with financial assistance and training in business management and soft skills while creating local community cadres for promotion of enterprises.
 - SVEP addresses three major pillars of rural start-ups namely – finances, incubation and skill Ecosystems.
 - Any rural poor who is willing to be entrepreneurial and self-reliant is eligible to be part of this programme.
9. Why are nuclear-powered submarines preferred over conventional diesel-electric Submarines?
1. They can operate for long periods Underwater as they need not surface Frequently
 2. They are Harder to detect

3. They do not contribute to emissions
4. They have higher chances of surviving a first-nuclear strike

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Nuclear powered submarines can be deployed for longer periods and need to surface less frequently.
- They have longer ranges and are more capable compared to the conventional diesel-electric submarines. Unlike conventional submarines, which are generally considered helpful for defensive purposes, the ability of a nuclear-powered submarine to go long distances, at a higher speed, without being detected gives a nation the ability to protect its interests far from its shores.
- Also given that they can stay put in deep waters for longer periods, they have higher chances of surviving a first nuclear strike.
- Given that they do not emit combustion products as in conventional diesel-based submarines during the surfacing phase, they have a low heat signature and hence are difficult to detect.

- Notably, the fact that nuclear-powered submarines do not give rise to emissions is not a reason for choosing them over conventional diesel-electric submarines.

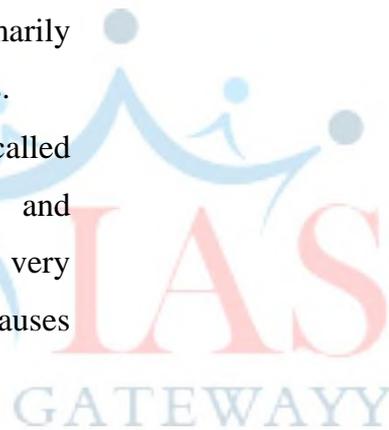
10. The RS Virus primarily affects which function in Humans?

- (a) Reproduction
- (b) RNA synthesis
- (c) Ribosomal activity
- (d) Respiration

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- RS (Respiratory Syncytial) Virus primarily affects respiration function in humans.
- Respiratory syncytial virus, also called human respiratory syncytial virus and human orthopneumovirus, is a very common, contagious virus that causes infections of the respiratory tract.



1. Which of the following country is *not* a founding member of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)?

- (a) Kazakhstan
- (b) China
- (c) Pakistan
- (d) Russia

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Founding members of SCO were-
 - ✓ The Republic of Kazakhstan,
 - ✓ The People's Republic of China,
 - ✓ The Kyrgyz Republic,
 - ✓ The Russian Federation,
 - ✓ The Republic of Tajikistan,
 - ✓ The Republic of Uzbekistan.
- Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan were members of the Shanghai Five, Prior to the creation of SCO in 2001.
- Shanghai Five (1996) emerged from a series of border demarcation and demilitarization talks which the four former Soviet republics held with China to ensure stability along the borders.
- Uzbekistan joined the organisation in 2001, following this the Shanghai Five was renamed the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- India and Pakistan became members in 2017.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the National Population Register (NPR):

1. The NPR database would contain demographic as well as biometric details.
2. It is not mandatory for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR.
3. As per the provisions of the NPR, a resident identity card will be issued to individuals over the age of 18.

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:

- It is a Register of usual residents of the country.
- It is being prepared at the local (Village/sub-Town), sub-District, District, State and National level under provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.
- It is **mandatory** for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- A usual resident is defined for the purposes of NPR as a person who has resided in a local area for the past 6 months or more or

a person who intends to reside in that area for the next 6 months or more.

- To create a comprehensive identity database of every usual resident in the country.
- The NPR database would contain demographic as well as biometric details.

So, statement 1 is correct.

- As per the provisions of the NPR, a resident identity card (RIC) will be issued to individuals over the age of 18. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- This will be a chip-embedded smart card containing the demographic and biometric attributes of each individual.
- The UID number will also be printed on the card.

3. 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)

Explanation:

- 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.**

4. Which of the following is a double land locked country?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- There are two such countries: Liechtenstein in Western Europe, surrounded by Austria and Switzerland.
- Uzbekistan in Central Asia, surrounded by Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.

5. Consider the following statements, with regard to SPIN Scheme:

1. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has launched this scheme to facilitate the potters to avail easy loans from banks.
2. The scheme facilitates potters to get bank loans under the SIDBI Make in India Loan For Enterprises (SMILE) scheme.

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 Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched the SPIN (Strengthening the Potential of India) scheme to make potters self-sustainable.
- Under SPIN, KVIC will facilitate potters to get easy loans from banks that will help the potters to diversify their activities and enhance their income.
- SPIN is aimed at sustainable development by creating local self-employment which is aligned with the Prime Minister's commitment of "Job to Every Hand" (Har Hath Me Kaam).
- It is a no-subsidy program.
- KVIC facilitates potters to get bank loans under Pradhan Mantri Shishu Mudra Yojana.

6. In context to the 'Global Methane Pledge', consider the following statements:

1. It is an US-EU led effort to cut methane emissions by a third by the end of this decade.
2. It will help in abiding by the targets of the Paris Climate Deal.

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 US President has announced the Global Methane Pledge, which is an US-EU led effort to cut methane emissions by a third by the end of this decade.
- The announcement has come ahead of 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Glasgow, UK.
- This will also help in abiding by the targets of the Paris climate deal.
- The pact between the US and the EU sets a target of cutting at least 30% from global methane emissions, based on 2020 levels, by 2030.
- If adopted around the world, this would reduce global heating by 0.2C by the 2040s, compared with likely temperature rises by then.
- The world is now about 1.2C hotter now than in pre-industrial times

7. Consider the following statements:

1. The Shankhalipi Script was discovered by English scholar James Prinsep.
2. The inscriptions with Shankhalipi Script are found only in Northern 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: a)

Explanation:

- Shankhalipi Script, also called “shell-script” , is found in inscriptions across north-central India and dates to between the 4th and 8th centuries.
- Both Shankhalipi and Brahmi are stylised scripts used primarily for names and signatures.
- The inscriptions consist of a small number of characters, suggesting that the shell inscriptions are names or auspicious symbols or a combination of the two.
- It was discovered in 1836 on a brass trident in Uttarakhand’s Barahat by English scholar James Prinsep.
- Prominent sites with shell inscriptions: Mundeshwari Temple (Bihar), the Udayagiri Caves (Madhya Pradesh), Mansar (Maharashtra) and some of the cave sites of Gujarat and Maharashtra.

- These inscriptions are also reported in Indonesia's Java and Borneo.
8. With reference to India's Desert National Park, which of the following statements are correct?
1. It is spread over two districts.
 2. There is no human habitation inside the Park.
 3. It is one of the natural habitats of the Great Indian Bustard.

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:

- Desert National Park is a national park situated in the Indian state of Rajasthan. This is one of the largest national parks. It is spread over the two districts of Jaisalmer and Barmer.
- The endangered great Indian bustard is found in this National Park.
- The given statement that there is no human habitation inside the Desert National Park seems like an extreme statement and hence incorrect.

9. Which of the given statements with respect to POSHAN Abhiyan is/are **Incorrect**?

1. Ministry of Women and Child Development is the implementing agency.
2. Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog is the Chairperson of the National Council on Nutrition set up under the POSHAN Abhiyaan.
3. The goals of the mission are to achieve improvement in nutritional status of Children under the age of 14 years, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers.

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition or POSHAN Abhiyaan or National Nutrition Mission, is Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children (0-6 years), pregnant women and lactating mothers. Ministry of Women and Child Development is the implementing agency of the POSHAN Abhiyan
- Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog is the Chairperson of the National Council on Nutrition set up under the POSHAN Abhiyaan

10. Which of the following is/are the components of National Mission for Sustained Agriculture?

1. Rainfed Area Development (RAD)
2. Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF)
3. National Bamboo Mission (NBM)
4. Soil Health Management (SHM)
5. Green India Mission (GIM)

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) is one of the major missions of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
- Components of National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture:
 - Soil Health Management (SHM)
 - Rainfed Area Development (RAD)
 - Sub-Mission on Agroforestry (SMAF)
 - National Bamboo Mission (NBM)
 - Climate Change and Sustainable Agriculture: Monitoring, Modeling and Networking (CCSAMMN)

Green India Mission:

- The National Mission for a Green India or the commonly called Green India Mission (GIM), is one of the eight Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
- It was launched in February, 2014 with the objective to safeguard the biological resources of our nation and associated livelihoods against the peril of adverse climate change and to recognise the vital impact of forestry on ecological sustainability, biodiversity conservation and food-, water- and livelihood-security.
- It aims at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's diminishing forest cover and responding to climate change through adaptation and mitigation measures. It envisages a holistic view of greening that extends beyond tree planting. GIM focusses on multiple ecosystem services such as biodiversity, water, biomass, preserving mangroves, wetlands, critical habitats etc. along with carbon sequestration.

1. Consider the following statements:

1. APMC is a statutory market committee constituted by a Central Government in respect of trade in certain notified agricultural or horticultural or livestock products, under the Agricultural Produce Market Committee Act.
2. Agriculture is placed in the Concurrent List under the VII Schedule of the constitution.
3. The Gujarat government recently promulgated an Ordinance expanding the purview of the Act to include livestock under agricultural produce and to provide better market access to Farmers.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- APMC is a statutory market committee constituted by a **State Government** in respect of trade in certain notified agricultural or horticultural or livestock products, under the Agricultural Produce Market Committee Act issued by that **state Government**. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Agriculture is placed in the State List under the VII Schedule of the constitution. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

- Following the Centre's directive to States to amend their Agricultural Produce Markets (APMC) Acts, the Gujarat government has promulgated an Ordinance expanding the purview of the Act to include livestock under agricultural produce and to provide better market access to farmers. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

2. Consider the following statements regarding Agriculture Infrastructure Fund:

1. It is a central sector scheme which are 100% funded by the Central government and implemented by the Central Government machinery.
2. Its aim is to provide medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets.
3. The Union Cabinet recently extended the Central Sector Scheme of financing facility under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund to State agencies and Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs).

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

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All the three statements are factual regarding Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.

3. Consider the following statements:

1. A green bond is a type of fixed-income instrument that is specifically earmarked to raise Money for Climate and Environmental Projects.
2. Green bonds are also called as Climate Bonds.
3. Blue bonds are sustainability bonds to finance projects that protect the ocean and related Ecosystems.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- A green bond is a type of fixed-income instrument that is specifically earmarked to raise money for climate and environmental projects. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- These bonds are typically asset-linked and backed by the issuing entity's balance sheet, so they usually carry the same credit rating as their issuers' other debt obligations.
- Green bonds may come with tax incentives to enhance their attractiveness to investors.

- The World Bank is a major issuer of green bonds. It has issued 164 such bonds since 2008, worth a combined \$14.4 billion. In 2020, the total issuance of green bonds was worth almost \$270 billion, according to the Climate Bond Initiative.
- Green bonds work just like any other corporate or government bond.
- Borrowers issue these securities in order to secure financing for projects that will have a positive environmental impact, such as ecosystem restoration or reducing pollution.
- Investors who purchase these bonds can expect to make as the bond matures.
- In addition, there are often tax benefits for investing in green bonds.
- Blue bonds are sustainability bonds to finance projects that protect the ocean and related ecosystems. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- This can include projects to support sustainable fisheries, protection of coral reefs and other fragile ecosystems, or reducing pollution and acidification.
- All blue bonds are green bonds, but not all green bonds are blue bonds.
- "Green bonds" and "climate bonds" are sometimes used interchangeably, but some authorities use the latter term specifically for projects focusing on reducing carbon emissions or alleviating the effects of

climate change. So, statement 2 is not correct.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. The Indian federation was not the result of an agreement by the units.
2. The component units of Indian Federation had no freedom to secede from the Federation.

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:

- While submitting the draft Constitution in 1948, Dr B R Ambedkar, chairman of the drafting committee, had said that the committee had used the word ‘Union’ because:
- The Indian federation was not the result of an agreement by the units, and
- The component units had no freedom to secede from the Federation.
- The members of the Constituent Assembly were very cautious of not using the word ‘Centre’ or ‘Central government’ in the Constitution as they intended to keep away the tendency of centralising of powers in one unit.

5. What best describes the term ‘stablecoin’, seen frequently in news?

- (a) A new coin being minted by the RBI that uses a stable metal to prevent corrosion
- (b) A debt instrument being introduced by the US Federal Reserve to help fund an economic stimulus package
- (c) A type of cryptocurrency that is typically pegged to an existing government-backed currency
- (d) None of the above

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Stablecoins are cryptocurrencies that are meant to be pegged to a reserve asset, such as gold or the U.S. dollar, to keep their value stable.
- A stable coin is a new class of cryptocurrencies that attempts to offer price stability and are backed by a reserve asset. Stable coins have gained traction as they attempt to offer the best of both worlds—the instant processing and security or privacy of payments of cryptocurrencies, and the volatility-free stable valuations of fiat currencies.

6. Which is the only country to have withdrawn from the Non-Proliferation Treaty?

- (a) Iran
- (b) North Korea
- (c) Israel
- (d) Pakistan

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons, commonly known as the Non-Proliferation Treaty or NPT, is an international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the Goal of Achieving nuclear Disarmament and general and complete disarmament.
- Israel and Pakistan are non-signatories to the NPT. While North Korea acceded to the treaty in 1985, it gave notice of withdrawal from the treaty in 2003 following U.S. allegations that it had started an illegal enriched uranium weapons program.
- Iran is a party to the NPT since 1970 but was found in non-compliance with its NPT safeguards agreement, and the status of its Nuclear Program remains in dispute.

7. Makemake, Eris and Haumea seen in News are:

- (a) Supermassive black holes
- (b) Dwarf Planets
- (c) Asteroids
- (d) Lunar Craters

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Makemake, Eris and Haumea are dwarf planets along with Pluto and Ceres.

- Eris, the largest dwarf planet, is only Slightly bigger than Pluto.
- Haumea dwarf planet has an extremely elongated shape. Haumea rotates very rapidly and has the shortest day of all the Dwarf Planets.
- Make, discovered in 2005, has no known moons
- Ceres, first spotted by astronomers in 1801, was first called a planet and later an asteroid. In 2006 it was reclassified as a dwarf planet. Ceres is the closest dwarf planet to Earth.

8. With reference to G20, consider the following statements:

1. It is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union.
2. It is headquartered in Belgium.
3. The members represent about two-thirds of the world's population.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The G20 is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union, with representatives of the International

Monetary Fund and the World Bank.
Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- The G20 operates as a forum and not as an organisation. Therefore, it does not have any permanent secretariat or management and administrative structure. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The membership comprises a mix of the world's largest advanced and emerging economies, representing about two-thirds of the world's population, 85% of global gross domestic product, 80% of global investment and over 75% of global trade. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Members:

- Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the EU.
 - The 2021 G20 Rome summit is the upcoming sixteenth meeting of Group of Twenty, scheduled to take place in Rome, the capital city of Italy, on 30–31 October 2021.
9. Consider the following statements, with regard to Sea cucumber:
1. They are marine invertebrates found Generally in Equatorial Regions.
 2. They are an integral part of the coral Ecosystem.

3. They act like garbage collectors of the ocean world and they recycle nutrients.

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:

- Sea cucumbers are marine invertebrates that live on the seafloor found generally in tropical regions.
- They're named for their unusual oblong shape that resembles a fat cucumber. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- This class falls under the Echinodermata phylum, which also includes many other well-known marine invertebrates, such as sea stars, sea urchins and sand dollars.
- They are an integral part of the coral ecosystem as one of the main by-products of the sea cucumbers digestion of sand is calcium carbonate and this is essential for the survival of the coral reefs. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- They act like garbage collectors of the ocean world, and they recycle nutrients, thus playing an important role in keeping coral reefs in good condition. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

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

1. Electricity is a state subject under the seventh schedule of the Indian constitution.
2. 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is permitted under automatic route in the Power Sector.
3. The District Electricity committees will oversee all power related schemes of the government and its impact at district level.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Ministry of Power has issued an order for the setting up of District Level Committees to improve the quality of electricity supply in the country.
- All States and Union Territories will have to notify and ensure establishment of these District Electricity committees, under intimation to the Ministry of Power.
- It will oversee all power related schemes of the government and also its impact on the provision of services to the people. It will meet at District Headquarters at least once in three months. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

- India's power sector is one of the most diversified in the world. Sources of power generation range from conventional sources such as coal, lignite, natural gas, oil, hydro and nuclear power to viable non-conventional sources such as wind, solar, and agricultural and domestic waste.
- India is the third-largest producer and second-largest consumer of electricity in the world.
- 100% FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) is permitted under automatic route in the power sector. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Electricity is a concurrent subject (Seventh Schedule of the Constitution). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The Ministry of Power is primarily responsible for the development of electrical energy in the country.
- It administers the Electricity Act, 2003 and the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

1. In India a dam is being constructed across a river that lies inside a national park. Who among the following are responsible for issuing Environmental Clearance for the same?

1. Ministry of Environment
2. National Green Tribunal
3. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
4. State Environment Impact Assessment Authority

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Environmental clearance is granted by the **Ministry of Environment**, and the **State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA)**, under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification of 2006.

2. With respect to the Defamation Cases, consider the following statements:

1. Civil defamation has been specifically defined as an offence under section 499 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).
2. Criminal defamation does not rely on statutes to define wrongs but takes from ever-increasing body of case laws to define what would constitute a wrong.

3. Section 500 of IPC reads, “Whoever defames another shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.”

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Defamation is the communication of a false statement that harms the reputation of an individual person, business, product, group, government, religion, or nation.
- In India, defamation can both be a civil wrong and a criminal offence.
- The difference between the two lies in the objects they seek to achieve.
- A civil wrong tends to provide for a redressal of wrongs by awarding compensation and a criminal law seeks to punish a wrongdoer and send a message to others not to commit such acts.
- **Criminal defamation** has been specifically defined as an offence under section 499 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- **Civil defamation** is based on tort law (an area of law which does not rely on statutes to define wrongs but takes from ever-

increasing body of case laws to define what would constitute a wrong). **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

- Section 499 states defamation could be through words, spoken or intended to be read, through signs, and also through visible representations.
- Section 499 also cites exceptions. These include “imputation of truth” which is required for the “public good” and thus has to be published, on the public conduct of government officials, the conduct of any person touching any public question and merits of the public performance.
- Section 500 of IPC, which is on punishment for defamation, reads, “Whoever defames another shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.” **So, statement 3 is correct.**

3. Consider the following statements:

1. It is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris.
2. One of the objectives of the organisation is to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terror financing.
3. India is one of the members of this organisation.

The above statement implies which of the following organisation?

- (a) UNODC
- (b) UN Inter agency group
- (c) FATF
- (d) Transparency International

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an **inter-governmental body** established in 1989 during the **G7 Summit** in Paris.
- The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- Its Secretariat is located at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris.
- Member Countries: As of 2019, it consists of thirty-seven member jurisdictions. India is one of the members.
- FATF has two lists:
 - ✓ **Grey List:** Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list. This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.

✓ **Black List:** Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities. The FATF revises the blacklist regularly, adding or deleting entries.

- The FATF Plenary is the decision making body of the FATF. It meets three times per year.

4. With reference to the UNCLOS and its maritime zones, consider the following statements:

1. UNCLOS is the only international convention which stipulates a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces.
2. Each coastal state has full sovereignty over its territorial sea as like it has on its land territory.
3. In contiguous zone, the coastal state has the right to both prevent and punish infringement of fiscal, immigration, sanitary, and customs laws within its territory and Territorial Sea.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- UNCLOS is the only international convention which stipulates a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Each coastal state has full sovereignty over its internal waters as like it has on its land territory. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- In contiguous zone, the coastal state has the right to both prevent and punish infringement of fiscal, immigration, sanitary, and customs laws within its territory and territorial sea. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

5. With respect to Global Innovation Index, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is published by World Economic Forum.
 2. GII was published for the first time in 2007.
- The Index is published biennially ever since.

3. India has been on a rising trajectory, over the past several years in the Global Innovation Index (GII).

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Global Innovation Index (GII) is an annual ranking of countries by their capacity for, and success in, innovation.
- GII was published for the first time in 2007. It is published annually.
- It is published by INSEAD, Cornell University and World Intellectual Property Organization.
- India has been ranked 46th in the Global Innovation Index 2021 rankings. It has improved by 2 spots from the last ranking. India was ranked 81 in 2015. It has consistently been on a rising trajectory in the GII rankings

6. SAMUDRA SHAKTI is a Naval Bilateral Maritime Exercise between India and

- (a) Thailand
- (b) Indonesia
- (c) South Africa
- (d) Maldives

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Exercise ‘Samudra Shakti’ was conceived in 2018 as a bilateral maritime exercise between India and Indonesia.
- The maritime exercise was conceived in pursuance of India’s Act East Policy.

7. Consider the following pairs:

Species	Recently discovered in
1. Musa	Pradhani Darjeeling
2. Syzygium	Anamalaianum Coimbatore
3. Selaginella	Odishana Kandhamal

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Plant Discoveries 2020 by the Botanical Survey of India has added 267 new taxa/species to India’s flora. Among the new discoveries this year are:
 - ✓ Musa pradhani from Darjeeling, which is a species of wild banana.
 - ✓ Syzygium anamalaianum, a species of wild jamun from Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ Selaginella odishana from Kandhamal in Odisha.

8. Consider the following:

1. The Gram Sabha is the authority to initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of Individual Forest Rights (IFR) or Community Forest Rights (CFR).
2. Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 expands the mandate of the Fifth and the Sixth Schedules of the Indian Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Forest Rights Act (FRA) was enacted in 2006 recognises the rights of forest-dwelling tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers to forest resources on which these communities were dependent for a variety of needs, including livelihood, habitation and other sociocultural needs.
- It recognizes and vest the forest rights and occupation in Forest land in Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) who have been residing in such forests for Generations.
- It strengthens the conservation regime of the forests while ensuring livelihood and food security of the FDST and OTFD.
- The Gram Sabha is the authority to initiate the process for determining the nature and extent of Individual Forest Rights (IFR) or Community Forest Rights (CFR) or both that may be given to FDST and OTFD. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- It expands the mandate of the Fifth and the Sixth Schedules of the Constitution that protect the claims of indigenous communities over tracts of land or forests they inhabit.
- The Fifth Schedule protects tribal interests in the states other than Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram, while the Sixth Schedule protects tribal interests in those four states excluded in the Fifth Schedule. statement 2 is correct.

9. Consider the following:

1. West Bengal is the largest rice-producing state in India.
2. Bao-Dhaan is an iron-rich genetically Modified variety of rice.
3. Blast disease is a fungal disease caused in rice crops.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Rice is a kharif crop which requires high temperature (above 25°C) and high humidity with annual rainfall above 100 cm.

- Rice is grown in the plains of north and north-eastern India, coastal areas and the Deltaic Regions.
- West Bengal tops the list of rice-producing states followed by Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The traditional rice varieties can add essential Fatty Acids in the staple diet helping in the normal brain development in infants.
- Seven rice varieties of North East India — Meghalaya lakang, Chingphourel, Manuikhamei, Kemenyakepeyu, Wainem, Thekrulha, and Koyajang — have the potential to resist leaf and neck blast disease in rice plants.
- Blast disease caused by fungal pathogen *Pyricularia oryzae* is a major threat to rice productivity worldwide. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- Recently, the first export consignment of Bao-dhaan (red rice) from Assam was sent to the US in March 2021. This enhances Incomes of farming families.
- Bao-dhaan is an iron-rich red rice grown naturally in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam, without the use of any chemical fertilizer. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

10. Consider the following statements with regard to India's relations with Saudi Arabia:

1. Saudi Arabia is India's largest supplier of crude oil.
2. Al-Mohed Al-Hindi Exercise is the first-ever Naval joint exercise between India and Saudi Arabia.

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 - Saudi Arabia Ties:

- Saudi Arabia is currently India's second-largest supplier of crude oil (Iraq has been India's top supplier). statement 1 is not correct.
- Saudi Arabia is India's fourth largest trade partner (after China, USA and Japan). The bilateral trade was valued at US \$33.07 billion during FY 2019-20.
- During the same period, India's imports from Saudi Arabia reached US \$26.84 billion and exports to Saudi Arabia were worth US\$ 6.24 billion registering an increase of 12.18% over last year.

- The 2.6 million-strong Indian community in Saudi Arabia is the largest expatriate community in the Kingdom and is the ‘most preferred community’ due to their expertise, sense of discipline, law-abiding and peace-loving nature.
- Recently, India and Saudi Arabia started their first-ever Naval joint exercise called the Al-Mohed Al-Hindi Exercise. statement 2 is correct.



1. With reference to National Clean Air Programme, consider the following statements:

1. It is established under the Environment Protection Act to maintain clean air void of pollutants such as PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀.
2. The plan includes 102 non-attainment cities, across 23 states and Union territories, which were identified by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

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:

- Launched in January 2019, it is the first ever effort in the country to frame a national framework for air quality management with a time-bound reduction target.
- The programme will not be notified under the Environment Protection Act or any other Act to create a firm mandate with a strong legal back up for cities and regions to implement NCAP in a time bound manner for effective reduction. So, statement 1 is not correct.
- The plan includes 102 non-attainment cities, across 23 states and Union

territories, which were identified by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) on the basis of their ambient air quality data between 2011 and 2015. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Blue Flag Tag for Beaches:

1. The Blue Flag Programme for beaches and marinas is run by the German Based international, non-governmental, non-profit organisation Greenwatch.
2. Ten Beaches from India were accorded Blue Flag Tag which includes Kasarkod and Padubidri beach.
3. Spain tops the list with 566 such beaches; Greece and France follow with 515 and 395, respectively.

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: c)

Explanation:

- The Blue Flag Programme for beaches and marinas is run by the international, non-governmental, non-profit organisation FEE (the Foundation for Environmental Education). **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Two more Indian Beaches (Kovalam in Tamil Nadu and Eden in Puducherry) get

coveted International Blue Flag Certification. India now has 10 Blue Flag beaches.

- The beaches where the International Blue Flags were previously hoisted were: Kappad (Kerala), Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), Golden (Odisha) and Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands). **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Spain tops the list with 566 such beaches; Greece and France follow with 515 and 395, respectively. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

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 AQI is an index for reporting daily air quality which is released by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Which of the air pollutants are taken into consideration while measuring the same?

1. Ozone
2. Carbon Monoxide
3. Carbon Dioxide
4. Sulphur Dioxide
5. Nitrogen Dioxide

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The AQI is an index for reporting daily air quality.
- It focuses on health effects one might experience within a few hours or days after breathing polluted air.
- AQI is calculated for eight major air pollutants:
 - ✓ Ground-level ozone
 - ✓ It is also found in the stratosphere and protects from ultraviolet (UV) rays, while in the troposphere (ground level) it acts as a pollutant.
 - ✓ It is not a primary pollutant but a secondary one.
 - ✓ Ground-level ozone is not emitted directly into the air but is created by chemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) in the presence of sunlight.
 - ✓ PM10
 - ✓ PM2.5
 - ✓ Carbon monoxide
 - ✓ Sulphur dioxide
 - ✓ Nitrogen dioxide
 - ✓ Ammonia
 - ✓ Lead

- Ground-level ozone and airborne particles are the two pollutants that pose the greatest threat to Human Health in India.

5. Consider the following statements, with regard to Humboldt penguins:

1. They are endemic to the Pacific coasts of Australia.
2. Warmer climate is among the biggest threats for Humboldt Penguins.
3. They are listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Humboldt penguins (Spheniscus Humboldtii) are a medium-sized species with an average height of just over 2 ft.
- They have large, bare skin patches around their eyes, an adaptation to help keep them cool.
- Humboldt penguins are endemic to the Pacific coasts of Chile and Peru. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- They are so named because their habitat is located near the Humboldt Current, a large oceanic upwelling characterized by cold waters.

- They are one of the most popular zoo penguins due to their ability to withstand warmer climates. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Threats to Humboldt Penguins include entanglement in fishing nets, loss of key breeding sites, harvesting of guano for use as fertiliser, and being hunted by introduced species such as cats and dogs.

Protection Status:

- **IUCN:** Vulnerable. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
- **CITES:** Appendix I.

6. Consider the following statement, with regard to One-Horned Rhinoceros:

1. India is home to the largest number of Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros in the world.
2. The Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros are only found in Kaziranga and Manas National Park in Assam.
3. The Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros are listed as Endangered in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros are also known as Indian rhino.
- It is the largest of the rhino species (the other being white and black rhinos in Africa and Javan and Sumatran rhino species in Asia).
- It is identified by a single black horn and a grey-brown hide with skin folds.
- India is home to the largest number of Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros in the world. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- At present, there are about 2,600 Indian rhinos in India, with more than 90% of the population concentrated in Assam's Kaziranga National Park.
- The Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros species is restricted to small habitats in Indo-Nepal terai and northern West Bengal and Assam. In India, rhinos are mainly found in Kaziranga National Park, Pobitora WLS, Orang National Park, Manas National Park in Assam, Jaldapara National Park and Gorumara National Park in West Bengal and Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- Protection Status of Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros:
 - **IUCN Red List:** Vulnerable. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
 - **CITES:** Appendix-I
 - Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I

7. Consider the following
1. Agricultural fertilisers
 2. Anaesthetic gases
 3. Making of explosives

The above uses are most appropriately related to which of the following chemical compounds?

- (a) Ammonium Nitrate
- (b) Green Vitriol
- (c) Sodium bicarbonate
- (d) Feldspar

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Ammonium Nitrate (NH_4NO_3) is a nitrogen-rich white, crystalline chemical that is soluble in water.

Uses:

- It is a common chemical ingredient of agricultural fertilisers.
- It is used as an ingredient for the production of anaesthetic gases and cold packs.
- It is also the main ingredient in the manufacture of commercial explosives used in mining and construction.
- **As Explosive:** It is the main component of the explosive composition known as ANFO- Ammonium Nitrate Fuel Oil.
- Pure ammonium nitrate is not an explosive on its own. For Ammonium nitrate to be explosive, a primary explosive or detonator like RDX or TNT is required.

8. Which of the following items are included under the Concurrent List?

1. Public health and sanitation
2. Marriage and divorce
3. Criminal procedure
4. Charities and charitable institutions

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: b)

Explanation:

- The Concurrent List is a list of subjects given in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. It includes the power to be considered by both the union and state government.
- The subjects of marriage and divorce, criminal procedure and charities and charitable institutions come under the concurrent list while Public health and sanitation is a state subject.

9. In the context of modern scientific research, consider the following statements about

1. 'IceCube', a particle detector located at South Pole, which was recently in the news:
2. It is the world's largest neutrino detector, encompassing a cubic Kilometre of ice.
3. It is a powerful telescope to search for dark matter.

4. It is buried Deep in the ice.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- IceCube, the South Pole neutrino observatory, is a cubic-kilometer particle detector made of Antarctic ice and located near the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station. It is buried beneath the surface, extending to a depth of about 2,500 meters. A surface array, IceTop, and a denser inner subdetector, DeepCore, significantly enhance the capabilities of the observatory, making it a multipurpose facility.
- It is the world's largest neutrino detector. It is a powerful telescope to search for dark matter.

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines. India is a founding member of the Asian Development Bank.
- Japan holds the largest share in ADB with 15.677%, followed by U.S.A (15.567%), China (6.473%), and India (5.812%).
- From 31 members at its establishment in 1966, ADB has grown to encompass 68 members—of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.

10. With reference to Asian Development Bank (ADB), which of the following statements is/are Incorrect?

1. India is a founding member of the Asian Development Bank.
2. Japan holds the largest share in ADB, followed by China and India.
3. Only countries from Asia can be part of ADB.

1. 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.

2. Consider the following statements:

1. The Census provides a portrait of the Indian population, while the SECC is a tool to identify beneficiaries of state support.
2. Since the Census falls under the Census Act of 1948, all data are considered confidential, whereas all the personal information given in the SECC is open for use by Government departments to grant and/or restrict benefits to Households.

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:

What is a Census?

- The origin of the Census in India goes back to the colonial exercise of 1881.
- Census has evolved and been used by the government, policymakers, academics, and others to capture the Indian population, access resources, map social change, delimitation exercise, etc.
- However, as early as the 1940s, W.W.M. Yeatts, Census Commissioner for India for the 1941 Census, had pointed out that “the census is a large, immensely powerful, but blunt instrument unsuited for specialized inquiry.”

What is SECC 2011?

- The Socio-Economic Caste Census of 2011 was a major exercise to obtain data about the socio-economic status of various communities.
- It had two components: a survey of the rural and urban households and ranking of these households based on pre-set parameters, and a caste census.
- However, only the details of the economic conditions of the people in rural and urban households were released. The caste data has not been released till now.

- SECC 2011 was conducted by three separate authorities but under the overall coordination of Department of Rural Development in the Government of India.
- ✓ Census in Rural Area has been conducted by the Department of Rural Development (DoRD).
- ✓ Census in Urban areas is under the administrative jurisdiction of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUPA).
- ✓ Caste Census is under the administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs: Registrar General of India (RGI) and Census Commissioner of India.

Difference between Census & SECC:

- The Census provides a portrait of the Indian population, while the SECC is a tool to identify beneficiaries of state support.
- Since the Census falls under the Census Act of 1948, all data are considered confidential, whereas all the personal information given in the SECC is open for use by Government departments to grant and/or restrict benefits to Households.

3. Consider the following pairs:

Diseases	-	Origin
1. COVID-19	-	China
2. Ebola	-	Western Africa
3. SARS	-	Malaysia
4. MERS	-	Iraq

Which of the pairs given above are *not* correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation

- SARS was originated from China and MERS from Saudi Arabia.

4. In India a dam is being constructed across a river that lies inside a national park. Who among the following are responsible for issuing environmental clearance for the same?

- 1. Ministry of Environment
- 2. National Green Tribunal
- 3. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
- 4. State Environment Impact Assessment Authority

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Environmental clearance is granted by the **Ministry of Environment**, and the **State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA)**, under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification of 2006.

5. Which of the following is/are the Nerve agents?

- 1. Sarin (GB)
- 2. Soman (GD)
- 3. Tabun (GA)
- 4. VX

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Nerve agents, sometimes also called nerve gases, are a class of organic chemicals that disrupt the mechanisms by which nerves transfer messages to organs.
- The disruption is caused by the blocking of acetylcholinesterase (AChE), an enzyme that catalyzes the breakdown of acetylcholine, a neurotransmitter. Nerve agents are acetylcholinesterase inhibitors used as poison.
- The main nerve agents are the chemicals sarin (GB), soman (GD), tabun (GA) and VX.

6. Which of the following committees are associated with preserving the ecology and conservation of Western Ghats?

- 1. Dr. K. Kasturirangan Committee
- 2. Pitamber Committee
- 3. Madhav Gadgil Committee

4. BP Jeevan Reddy Committee

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- K. Kasturirangan committee and Madhav Gadgil committee are related to preserving the ecology and conservation of Western Ghats.
- In November 2004, the Central government appointed a five-member committee headed by Justice B P Jeevan Reddy to review the provisions of the AFSPA in the northeastern states.
- On the eve of the United Nations Conference on Human Environment in 1972, popularly called the Stockholm Conference, the Pitamber Committee was set up to make a report on the state of the environment in India.

7. Consider the following statements with respect to Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, frequently in news:

1. It defines the punishment for sending offensive messages through a computer or any other communication device.
2. The Supreme Court struck down this section declaring it as violative of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 made it a punishable offence for any person to send ‘grossly offensive’ or ‘menacing’ information using a computer resource or communication device.
- The Supreme Court in the Shreya Singhal case struck down this section declaring it as violative of the freedom of speech guaranteed under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India.

8. Consider the following statements, with regard to Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA):

1. It is a type of free trade pact which covers trade negotiations in services, investment and Intellectual Property Rights.
2. It is more comprehensive than Free Trade Agreements but less than the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).
3. India has signed CEPAs with Afghanistan and Malaysia.

Which of the statements given above are

Incorrect?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- A Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) is a kind of free trade pact which covers negotiation on the trade in services and investment, and other areas of economic partnership.
- It may even consider negotiation on areas such as trade facilitation and customs cooperation, competition, and Intellectual Property Rights. Hence, statement 1 is Correct.
- Partnership agreements or cooperation agreements are more comprehensive than Free Trade Agreements.
- A Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) generally covers negotiation on trade tariff and TRQ (Tariff Rate Quotas) rates only. CECA is not as comprehensive as CEPA. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- CEPA also looks into the regulatory aspect of trade and encompasses an agreement covering the regulatory issues.
- India has signed CEPAs with South Korea and Japan.

- India signed a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Afghanistan and CECA with Malaysia. Hence, statement 3 is not correct

9. Consider the following, with regard to ‘Rabi Crop’?

1. A warm climate is required for seed germination of crops.
2. These crops totally depend on the rainfall.
3. Pulses and millets are among the key Rabi crops.

Which of the statements given above are

Incorrect?

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

Explanation:

- Rabi Crops are sown around the Retreating Monsoon and Northeast monsoon season, which begins by October are called rabi or winter crops.
- A warm climate is required for seed germination and cold climate for the growth of Rabi crops. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The harvest for these crops happens typically during April and May, during the summer season.
- Rabi crops are not much affected by the rainfall. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

- Kharif crops depend on the rainfall patterns.
- Major Rabi crops are wheat, gram, peas, barley etc.
- Rice, maize, pulses such as urad, moong dal and millets are among the key kharif crops. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- It is an internationally recognised eco-label that is accorded based on 33 criterias. These criterias are divided into 4 major heads namely,
- Environmental Education and Information
- Bathing Water Quality
- Environmental Management
- Conservation and safety services in the beaches

10. Consider the Following:

1. Blue Flag Certification is an indication of the sound health of the beach.
2. India has launched its own eco-label BEAMS on the line of Blue Flag certification.

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, Foundation for Environment Education (FEE), Denmark has awarded the Blue Flag Certification to Kovalam (Tamil Nadu) and Eden (Puducherry), taking the total number of such beaches in the country to 10.
- A waving “Blue Flag” is an indication of 100% compliance to the 33 stringent criteria and sound health of the beach. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- It is accorded by the international jury composed of eminent members - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), Denmark-based
- NGO Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- On the lines of Blue Flag certification, India has also launched its own eco-label BEAMS (Beach Environment & Aesthetics Management Services). Hence, statement 2 is correct.

1. 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.**

2. Consider the following statements regarding the Reservation in India:

1. Various provisions in Article 15 and 16 of the Constitution empower the State to make special provisions in education and jobs respectively for the socially and educationally backward section of the society and for the economically weaker section.
2. In spite of the constitutional provisions in the Part III of the constitution, the Right to reservation is not fundamental right and is only a Constitutional Right.
3. The Supreme Court has recently ruled that reservations in promotion can be considered as the Fundamental Right.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Various provisions in Article 15 and 16 of the Constitution empower the State to make

- special provisions in education and jobs respectively for the socially and educationally backward section of the society and for the economically weaker section. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- In spite of the constitutional provisions in the Part III of the constitution, the Right to reservation is not fundamental right and is only a Constitutional Right. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The Supreme Court has recently ruled that reservations in promotion also **cannot** be considered as the fundamental right. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

3. Which of the following are the conditions to be included in the reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)?

1. Annual Household Income below Rs 8 lakh.
2. Agriculture land below 5 acres.
3. Residential house below 1000 sqft.
4. Residential plot below 100 yards in notified Municipality.
5. Residential plot below 200 yards in non-Notified Municipality Area.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All the above are the conditions are the requirements for the reservation in EWS.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. Anti-dumping duty is imposed in order to counter the negative impact of import subsidies to protect domestic producers.
2. According to global trade norms, including the World Trade Organization (WTO) regime, a country is allowed to impose tariffs on such dumped products to provide a level-playing field to domestic manufacturers.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- In international trade practise, dumping happens when a country or a firm exports an item at a price lower than the price of that product in its domestic market.
- Dumping impacts the price of that product in the importing country, hitting margins and profits of local manufacturing firms.
- Anti-dumping duty is imposed to rectify the situation arising out of the dumping of goods and its trade distortive effect.

- According to global trade norms, including the World Trade Organization (WTO) regime, a country is allowed to impose tariffs on such dumped products to provide a level-playing field to domestic manufacturers. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The duty is aimed at ensuring fair trading practices and creating a level-playing field for domestic producers vis-a-vis foreign producers and exporters.
- Anti-dumping duty is different from countervailing duty. The latter is imposed in order to counter the negative impact of import subsidies to protect domestic producers. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- Countervailing Duties (CVDs) are tariffs levied on imported goods to offset subsidies made to producers of these goods in the exporting country.
- CVDs are meant to level the playing field between domestic producers of a product and foreign producers of the same product who can afford to sell it at a lower price because of the subsidy they receive from their government.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Permanent Residence Certificates (PRCs):
1. It is used for obtaining a ration card and casting the vote in the elections.
 2. Meghalaya and Tripura do not have the provisions of issuing PRCs.

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:

- A Permanent Residence Certificate (PRC) is a kind of domicile certificate which helps people in availing domicile linked quotas in government jobs and admission in educational institutions.
- PRC in India is issued by states like Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- It is a legal document that serves as a proof of residence and thus must be submitted wherever a residence proof is required.
- It is also used for obtaining a ration card of the respective state and casting the vote in the elections. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- For availing the benefits of various schemes of the state or to claim scholarships of the State.

6. Which of the following is/are the consequence(s) of melting of Arctic Ice?
1. Change in current and precipitation patterns
 2. Polar vortexes
 3. Surge in storms

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:

Impact of Melting Arctic Ice:

Global Climate Change:

- The Arctic and Antarctic act like the world's refrigerator. They balance out other parts of the world that absorb heat. The loss of ice and the warming waters will affect sea levels, salinity levels, and current and precipitation patterns. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

Danger to Coastal Communities:

- Global average sea level has risen by about 7-8 inches since 1900, and it's getting worse.
- Rising seas endanger coastal cities and small island nations by exacerbating Coastal Flooding and storm surge. Hence, statement 3 is correct.

Food Security:

- Polar vortexes, increased heat waves, and unpredictability of weather caused by ice loss are already causing significant damage to crops on which global food systems depend. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Loss of Methane Store:

- Permafrost in the Arctic region (ground that is permanently frozen) stores large amounts of methane, which is a greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.
- As more quickly the arctic ice is lost, more rapidly permafrost will melt. This will result in a vicious cycle that may result in a climate catastrophe.

Biodiversity Threat:

- Melting of the Arctic ice puts the Arctic region's vibrant biodiversity under serious threat.

7. With reference to the Solar DC cooking technology, consider the following statements:

1. It is a solar energy based cooking system developed by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI).
2. It has better efficiency than conventional solar based Cooking Systems.

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 solar DC cooking technology was developed by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI). Hence, statement 1 is correct.

- The CMERI is an institute under the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- It is a Solar Energy based Cooking System which consists of a solar PV panel, charge controller, battery bank and cooking oven.
- It provides a Clean Cooking Environment, Inverter-Less Direct Operation, Fast and Uniform Heating and a potential to save 1 ton Carbon Dioxide emissions per year/household.
- It has 20-25% better efficiency and is more Economical in comparison with Conventional Solar based Cooking Systems which loses efficiency owing to AC-DC conversion. Hence, statement 2 is correct. The simple Technology Design also ensures Ease-of-Manufacturing and thus provides a substantial Economic Opportunity for the Micro-Industries.
- Along with the widening of the popularity base of Technology, there is a probability of improvement in Job Prospects.

8. With reference to Congress Socialist Party, consider the following statements:

1. It advocated the boycott of British goods and evasion of taxes.
2. It wanted to establish the dictatorship of Proletariat.
3. It advocated separate electorate for minorities and oppressed classes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Congress Socialist Party was a socialist entity within the Indian National Congress.
- It was founded in 1934 by Congress members who rejected what they believed was a pacifist and anti-rational mysticism of Gandhi. They also rejected the sectarian attitude of the Communist Party of India towards the Congress.
- It was formed with Acharya Narendra Deva as President and Jay Prakash Narayan as General Secretary in 1934.
- The ideal of this party was decentralized socialism in which there was substantial share in the economic power of co-operatives, trade unions, independent farmers, and local authorities.

9. Consider the following statements with respect to COVAX:

1. It is a global science initiative established in 2008 that provides open-access to Genomic data of influenza viruses and the Coronavirus responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. It is co-led by Gavi, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and WHO.
3. COVAX is one of three pillars of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.

Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- COVAX is one of three pillars of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, which was launched in response to the COVID pandemic.
- ACT accelerator aims at bringing together governments, global health organisations, manufacturers, scientists, private sector, civil society and philanthropy, with the aim of providing innovative and equitable access to COVID-19 diagnostics, treatments and vaccines.
- COVAX (COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access) aims to accelerate the development and manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines, and guarantee fair and equitable access for every country. COVAX is co-led by the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi and WHO, with UNICEF as a key delivery partner.

- GISAIID is a global science initiative and primary source established in 2008 that provides open-access to genomic data of influenza viruses and the coronavirus responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic.

10. This region is an evergreen low-land forest located between the branches of River Periyar.

1. It was the First Bird Sanctuary in Kerala. The Sanctuary was notified in 1983 based on a

2. Recommendation made by Dr. Salim Ali.

The Bird Sanctuary being talked about is:

- (a) Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary
(b) Thattekad Bird Sanctuary
(c) Pathiramanal Bird Sanctuary
(d) Mangalavanam Bird Sanctuary

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Thattekad Bird Sanctuary was the first bird sanctuary in Kerala.
- Salim Ali, one of the best-known ornithologists, described this sanctuary as the richest bird habitat on peninsular India.
- Thattekad literally means flat forest, and the region is an evergreen low-land forest located between the branches of the Periyar River, the longest river in Kerala.

1. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Janaushadhi Yojana, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. Under the scheme, there are no restrictions on family size, age or gender.
2. Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country.
3. It also provides cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The PMJAY, world's largest health insurance/assurance scheme fully financed by the government, provides a cover of Rs. 5,00,000 per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation across public and private empanelled hospitals in India.
- Pre-hospitalisation and Post-hospitalisation expenses such as diagnostics and medicines are also included in the scheme.
- Coverage: Over 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable entitled families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) are eligible for these benefits.

- Provides cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service.

Eligibility Criteria's:

- No restrictions on family size, age or gender.
- All pre-existing conditions are covered from day one.
- Covers up to 3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days post-hospitalization expenses such as diagnostics and medicines.
- Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country.
- Services include approximately 1,393 procedures covering all the costs related to treatment, including but not limited to drugs, supplies, diagnostic services, physician's fees, room charges, surgeon charges, OT and ICU charges etc.
- Public hospitals are reimbursed for the healthcare services at par with the private hospitals.

2. With respect to the Sundarbans, consider the following statements:

1. The Sundarbans mangrove forest lies across India and Bangladesh on the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers on the Bay of Bengal.
2. It is home to one of the noted tiger reserves in India and also the only mangrove forest in the world inhabited by tigers.

3. The majority part of Sundarbans lies in India, while the rest of the parts lie in Bangladesh.

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 Sundarbans mangrove forest, one of the largest such forests in the world, lies across India and Bangladesh on the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers on the Bay of Bengal. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is adjacent to the border of India's Sundarbans World Heritage site inscribed in 1987. The majority part of Sundarbans lies in Bangladesh, while the rest of the parts lie in India. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**
- The Indian Sundarbans, considered to be an area south of the Dampier Hodges line, is spread over 9,630 sq. km., of which the mangrove forests are spread over 4,263 sq. km. The site is intersected by a complex network of tidal waterways, mudflats and small islands of salt-tolerant mangrove forests, and presents an excellent example of ongoing ecological processes.

- The area is known for its wide range of fauna, including 260 bird species, the Bengal tiger and other threatened species such as the estuarine crocodile and the Indian python.
- It is home to many rare and globally threatened wildlife species such as the estuarine crocodile, Royal Bengal Tiger, Water monitor lizard, Gangetic dolphin, and olive ridley turtles.
- It is home to one of the noted tiger reserves in India and also the only mangrove forest in the world inhabited by tigers. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- A satellite image from the Indian Space Research Organisation pointed to a loss of 3.71% mangrove and non-mangrove forest cover along with massive erosion of the archipelago's landmass.
- The analysis, based on satellite data of February 2003 and February 2014, shows that while a 9,990-hectare landmass has been eroded, there has been an accretion (addition) of 216-hectare landmass in the Sundarbans during the period.

3. Nagaland is **not** bordered by which of the following states?

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Mizoram
- (c) Assam
- (d) Manipur

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Nagaland is located in the northeast of India. The state shares its borders with Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Assam.
- The state shares international borders with Myanmar only.



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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The British annexed Assam in 1826, and in 1881, the Naga Hills too became part of British India. The first sign of Naga resistance was seen in the formation of the Naga Club in 1918, which told the Simon Commission in 1929 “to leave us alone to determine for ourselves as in ancient times”.
- In 1946 came the Naga National Council (NNC), which declared Nagaland an independent state on August 14, 1947.
- The NNC resolved to establish a “sovereign Naga state” and conducted a “referendum” in 1951, in which “99 per cent” supported an “independent” Nagaland.
- On March 22, 1952, the Naga Federal Government (NFG) and the Naga Federal Army (NFA) were formed. The Government of India sent in the Army to crush the insurgency and, in 1958, enacted the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. The first sign of Naga resistance was seen in the formation of the Naga Club in 1918, which told the Simon Commission in 1929 “to leave us alone to determine for ourselves as in ancient times.
2. In 1946 came the Naga National Council (NNC), which declared Nagaland an independent state on August 14, 1947.
3. The NNC resolved to establish a “sovereign Naga state” and conducted a “referendum” in 1951, in which “99 per cent” supported an “independent” Nagaland.

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

- 5. With respect to the Co-operative Societies, which of the following statements is/are correct?**

1. The 97th Constitutional Amendment act made the right to form co-operative societies a fundamental right.
2. The conduct of elections to a co-operative society is vested with the state election commission.

Options:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The 97th Constitutional Amendment Act made the right to form co-operative societies a fundamental right as a part of Article 19.
- State Election Commission is not responsible for conducting elections to a co-operative society.
- The state government appoints a body for the conduct of elections to a co-operative society.
- The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to a co-operative society shall vest in such an authority or body, as may be provided by the Legislature of a State.

6. Consider the following statements:

1. This river rises near Sihawa in the Raipur district of Chhattisgarh.
2. It is one of the most active silt-depositing streams in the Indian subcontinent.
3. Hirakud Dam is built across this river.

The above statements best describe:

- (a) Bedti
- (b) Subarnarekha
- (c) Mahanadi
- (d) Shetrunji

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Mahanadi is a major river in East Central India. It rises near Sihawa in the Raipur district of Chhattisgarh.
- It is one of the most active silt-depositing streams in the Indian subcontinent. Mahanadi is also known for the Hirakud Dam. The river flows through the states of Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

Tag: National Animal Disease Control

Programme for FMD and Brucellosis (NADCP)

7. Which of the following statements about Foot and Mouth Disease is/are correct?

1. Humans are not infected by the foot-and-Mouth Disease Virus.
2. National Animal Disease Control Programme for FMD and Brucellosis (NADCP) is a Central Sector Scheme where 100% of funds shall be provided by the Central Government to the States/UTs.

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) or hoof-and-mouth disease (HMD) is an infectious and sometimes fatal viral disease that affects cloven-hoofed animals, including domestic and wild bovids. It is a contagious disease.
- Humans can also be infected by the foot-and-mouth disease virus, however, the cases are very rare.
- National Animal Disease Control Programme for FMD and Brucellosis (NADCP) is a Central Sector Scheme where 100% of funds shall be provided by the Central Government to the States/UTs.

8. With reference to the Census, consider the following statements:

1. Socio-Economic Caste census and decadal census were both started by Lord Rippon in India.
2. Decadal Census falls under the Census Act of 1948.

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:

- The origin of the Decadal Census in India goes back to the colonial exercise of 1881 by Lord Rippon. However, the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) was conducted for the first time since 1931. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- Census falls under the Census Act of 1948, it provides a portrait of the Indian population.
- Census has evolved and been used by the government, policymakers, academics, and others to capture the Indian population, access resources, map social change, delimitation exercise, etc.
- On the other hand, SECC is meant to canvas every Indian family, both in rural and urban India and ask about their economic status and specific caste name. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

9. Consider the following statements regarding the “Plant Discoveries 2020”:

1. It is published by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI).
2. Out of total, the maximum percentage of plant discoveries are made from the Northeast ranges.

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 Botanical Survey of India (BSI), in its new publication Plant Discoveries 2020 has added 267 new taxa/species to the country's flora. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The new Discovery to the flora of India include 119 species of seed plants, 57 species of fungi, 44 species of lichens, 21 species of algae, 18 species of microbes, five species of bryophytes and three species of fern and fern allies.
- India has about 45,000 species of plants, already identified and classified, which account for about 7% of the total plant species of the world.
- About 28% of the Indian plants are endemic to the country.
- Geographical Distribution of Species:
- 22% of the discoveries were made from the Western Ghats followed by Western Himalayas (15%), Eastern Himalayas (14%) and Northeast Ranges (12%). Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- The West coast contributed 10% while the East Coast contributed (9%) in total discoveries; Eastern Ghats and South Deccan contributed 4% of each while

Central Highland and North Deccan added 3% each.

10. With reference to Electronic Microchip or Microflier, consider the following statements:

1. It is the smallest-ever human-made flying structure that works with the help of a motor or engine.
2. The design of micro fliers is optimised by studying the concept of wind-dispersed seeds.
3. It is ideal for monitoring air pollution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

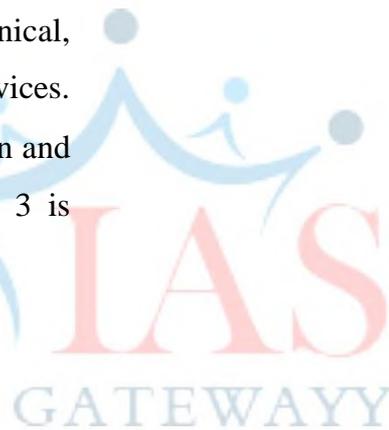
Explanation:

- Recently, Northwestern University (US) has created an Electronic Microchip or Microflier with the capability of flight. It is the smallest-ever human-made flying structure.
- It is about the size of a grain of sand and does not have a motor or engine. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- It catches flight on the wind — much like a maple tree's propeller seed — and spins like a helicopter through the air toward the Ground.

- The engineers optimised their design by studying maple trees and other types of wind-dispersed seeds and fashioned the micro flier such that when dropped from a height it would fall at a slow velocity in a controlled manner. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

Significance:

- It can be packed with ultra-miniaturised technology, including sensors, power sources, antennas for wireless communication and embedded memory to store data. Miniaturization is the trend to manufacture ever smaller mechanical, optical and electronic products and devices.
- It is ideal for monitoring Air Pollution and Airborne Disease. Hence, statement 3 is correct.



1. The XENON1T experiment, sometimes seen in the news is associated with which of the following?

- (a) Reactivity of Noble Gases
- (b) Dark Matter detection
- (c) Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectroscopy
- (d) Red Blood Cell (RBC) Production

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Recently, an international team of researchers made the first direct detection of dark energy. The experiment named XENON1T, is the world's most sensitive dark matter experiment and was operated deep underground at the INFN Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso in Italy.
- Dark energy is the mysterious form of energy that makes up about 68% of the universe, and has intrigued physicists and astronomers for decades.
- The XENON1T is a dark matter research project, operated at the Italian Gran Sasso National Laboratory.
- It is a deep underground research facility featuring increasingly ambitious experiments aiming to detect dark matter particles. The experiments aim to detect particles in the form of Weakly Interacting Massive Particles (WIMPs) by looking for rare interactions via nuclear recoils in a liquid xenon target chamber.

2. Which of the following tunnels are located in Jammu and Kashmir?

- 1. Nilgrar Tunnels
- 2. Chattergala Tunnel
- 3. Z-Morh Tunnel
- 4. Atal Tunnel

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- **Z-Morh Tunnel:** It is an under-construction tunnel, 20 km away from the Zojila Pass, on Srinagar-Kargil-Leh highway.
- The 6.5 km long tunnel will connect Gagangir directly to Sonamarg in Kashmir.
- **Nilgrar Tunnels:**
 - The Nilgrar-I is a twin tube tunnel of 433 m length each.
 - The Nilgrar twin tunnel-II is of 1.95 Km length each.
- Nilgrar-I and Nilgrar-II tunnels are part of the 18 Km long approach road to Zojila west portal.
- Zojila tunnel will provide connectivity to Ladakh region Kargil, Drass and Leh.
- **Chattergala Tunnel:** It is an under-construction road tunnel in Jammu and Kashmir.

- The tunnel will be 6.8 km long and will connect Kathua and Doda districts of Jammu and Kashmir via basohli-bani through Chattergala.
- The Atal Tunnel is located in Himachal Pradesh's Rohtang, which connects Solang Valley near Manali to Sissu in Lahaul and Spiti district.
- The 9.02-km tunnel is the longest highway tunnel in the world above the height of 3,000 metres.
- It cuts through a mountain west of the Rohtang pass and will shorten the distance between Solang Valley and Sissu by around 46 km and will take around 15 minutes to cover. Earlier, it would take nearly 4 hours to travel between the two points.

3. Consider the following, with regard to National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM):

1. It is implemented with support of UNESCO.
2. It aims to build a comprehensive database of artists, art forms and Other Resources.

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

Explanation:

- Recently, the National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM) has been handed over to the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), which will start a trial run in 75 villages in October 2021.
- Volunteers from the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, the National Service Scheme and students of sociology and social work would be deputed to collect such data from villages.
- The Ministry of Culture had approved the NMCM in 2017 to build a comprehensive database of artists, art forms and other resources from organisations under the Ministry.
- It is aimed at addressing the necessities of preserving the threads of rich Indian Art and Cultural Heritage, converting vast and widespread cultural canvas of India into an objective Cultural Mapping while creating a strong "Cultural Vibrancy" throughout the nation.
- It encompasses data mapping, demography building, formalising the processes and bringing all cultural activities under one umbrella for better results.
- The work on creating a database for folk arts and mapping of heritage of villages would be carried out over five years (From 2017).

Answer: b)

4. Consider the following statements:

1. Ration shops can be privately owned or owned by cooperative societies or by the government.
2. Ownership licenses to the Ration shops are issued by the concerned state government.
3. The responsibility of identifying eligible families and issuing ration cards to them rests with the Local Self-Governments.

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:

- A **ration card** is issued to the head of the family, depending on the number of members in a family and the financial status of the applicant.
- It is used by households to get essential food grains at subsidized prices from designated ration shops (also called fair price shops) under the **Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)**.
- Over the years, different types of ration cards were issued depending on the level of deprivation. Later, in 2013, when the **National Food Security Bill** was passed, different ration cards were compressed to

just two — **priority and Antyodaya (for the poorest)**.

- The responsibility of identifying eligible families and issuing ration cards to them rests with the state/UT government. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**
- **Ration shops** can be privately owned or owned by cooperative societies or by the government. Ownership licenses are issued by the concerned state government. **So, statement 1 and 2 are correct.**
- Presently, commodities including wheat, sugar, rice and kerosene are being allocated as part of the (TPDS). State governments have the discretion to provide additional commodities.

5. Consider the following statements with respect to 'One Nation One Ration Card Scheme' (ONORC):

1. With the ONORC scheme being implemented, the beneficiary can buy food grains from ration shops located in any of the states.
2. For national portability, the state governments have been asked to issue the ration card in bi-lingual format, wherein besides Hindi the other language could be English.

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:

- Since Ration Cards are issued by State Governments, this implied that beneficiaries could procure food grains only from the designated ration shops within the concerned state.
- If a beneficiary were to shift to another state, he/she would need to apply for a new ration card in the second state. There were other complications.
- For instance, after marriage, a woman needed to get her name removed from the ration card issued to her parents, and get it added to the ration card issued to her husband's family.
- The **ONORC scheme** attempts to address this gap in TPDS delivery. Essentially, the scheme has been launched keeping in mind
- the internal migration of our country, since people keep moving to different states in search of better job opportunities and higher standards of living.
- As per Census 2011, 4.1 crore people were inter-state migrants and 1.4 crore people migrated (inter and intra-state) for employment.
- With the ONORC scheme being implemented, the beneficiary can buy food grains from ration shops located in any of

the states. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

- For national portability, the state governments have been asked to issue the ration card in bi-lingual format, wherein besides the local language, the other language could be Hindi or English. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- Till date, 32 states and Union Territories have joined the ONORC, covering about 69 crore NFSA beneficiaries. Two states are yet to join the scheme — Assam and Chhattisgarh. Delhi and West Bengal are the latest to join ONORC recently.

6. Consider the following statements regarding Nation Digital Health Mission:

1. Under National Digital Health Mission, every Indian will get a Health ID card that will work as a unique health account.
2. The health ID will be voluntary and it will be Free of cost.
3. The digital health ID is created using the person's basic information, mobile number or 12-digit Aadhaar Number.

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:

- Under National Digital Health Mission, every Indian will get a Health ID card that will work as a unique health account.
- The health ID will be completely technology-based and will include a unique 14-digit health identification number- for every citizen. The digital health ID card will work as a repository of all health-related information of the person such as the person's past medical conditions, treatment and diagnosis.
- The digital Health ID will have details of every disease, every test and all doctor visits along with results of all diagnostic tests and prescribed medicines. Each time, a person will visit the doctor or a pharmacy, the details including prescriptions will be logged in the health ID card.
- The unique digital health IDs will enable Indian citizens to get hassle-free access to healthcare across the country.
- The digital health ID is created using the person's basic information, mobile number or 12-digit Aadhaar number. Over one lakh unique Health IDs were created under the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) on a pilot basis. The health id cards were initially launched across six states and Union territories on 15th August.

Can digital health ID be accessed without the person's consent?

- No, the health ID can will be used to access the health records of the citizens only with their consent. It cannot be accessed without their permission so it would be a reliable Repository.

What are its Benefits?

- The digital health card will create interoperability within the digital health ecosystem. It will also create a seamless online platform that will also be secure and will protect the confidentiality and privacy of health-related personal information.
- The digital health id card will make all the health-related information portable and easily accessible even if the patient shifts to a new place or visits a new doctor. All person health records can be viewed with the help of a mobile app.

Do all citizens have to get a digital health id card?

- The health ID will be voluntary and it will be free of cost.
 - It is a hassle-free initiative as citizens will only be a click away from accessing healthcare facilities using it.
7. With reference to the UNCLOS and its Maritime Zones, consider the following statements:
1. UNCLOS is the only International convention which stipulates a framework for state Jurisdiction in Maritime Spaces.

2. Each Coastal State has full sovereignty over its territorial sea as like it has on its land territory.
3. In contiguous zone, the coastal state has the right to both prevent and punish infringement of fiscal, immigration, sanitary, and customs laws within its Territory and Territorial Sea.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- UNCLOS is the only international convention which stipulates a framework for state jurisdiction in maritime spaces. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Each coastal state has full sovereignty over its internal waters as like it has on its land territory. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- In contiguous zone, the coastal state has the right to both prevent and punish infringement of fiscal, immigration, sanitary, and customs laws within its territory and territorial sea. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

8. Which of the following correctly describes the mandate of the Justice A.K. Rajan committee that was recently constituted?

- (a) To recommend a policy to the MOEFCC for clearing Illegal Encroachments in wetlands
(b) To study the impact of NEET on medical admissions in Tamil Nadu
(c) To suggest changes to the farm laws
(d) To investigate financing routes of Naxals in Dantewada and Bastar

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- A special high-level committee of 9 members headed by the former Justice A. K. Rajan was formed to conduct a detailed review regarding the extent to which the NEET system for admission to medical colleges in Tamil Nadu has affected the students and its impact on them and in case the students have been facing excessive hardships, the new procedure to alleviate these problems to be devised.

9. Which of the following statements best describes the term ‘Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets (S4A)’, recently seen in the news?

- (a) It is a procedure for considering ecological costs of developmental schemes formulated by the Government.

(b) It is a scheme of RBI for reworking the financial structure of big corporate entities facing genuine difficulties.

(c) It is a disinvestment plan of the Government regarding Central Public Sector Undertakings.

(d) It is an important provision in 'The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code' recently implemented by the Government

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets also known as S4A Scheme was launched in 2016 by the Reserve Bank of India as an initiative to address and resolve the debt issues of the corporate sector along with strengthening the ability of the lender to deal with stressed assets.
- As per the S4A scheme, the debt of a company is bifurcated into two parts
- namely sustainable and unsustainable debt based on the cash flows of the company's project. The sustainable debt of a company should not be less than 50% of the existing debt and the unsustainable debt can be converted into optionally convertible debentures.

(c) Sweden

(d) Iceland

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Recently, Iceland became the first country in Europe to elect a female majority Parliament.
- Unlike some other countries, Iceland does not have legal quotas on female representation in parliament, though some parties do require a minimum number of candidates to be women.
- Voters elected 33 women to the country's Althing (National Parliament of Iceland), up from 24 in the Last Election.
- No other country in Europe had previously surpassed the threshold of 50 per cent.
- However, Sweden and Finland have 47 per cent and 46 per cent women in parliament, respectively.

10. Which country recently became the first European country to elect a women--majority Parliament?

(a) France

(b) Norway

1. In context to Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to provide digital health IDs (for the health account) for the Indian citizens below the poverty line only.
2. The health account will contain details of every test, every disease, the doctors visited, the medicines taken and the diagnosis.

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:

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission:

- It aims to provide digital health IDs for all Indian citizens to help hospitals, insurance firms, and citizens access health records electronically when required.
- The pilot project of the Mission had been announced by the Prime Minister from the ramparts of the Red Fort on 15th August 2020.
- The project is being implemented in the pilot phase in six States & Union Territories.
- The health IDs will be issued for every citizen that will also work as their health account.

- This health account will contain details of every test, every disease, the doctors visited, the medicines taken and the diagnosis.
- Health ID is free of cost, voluntary. It will help in doing analysis of health data and lead to better Planning, Budgeting and Implementation for Health Programs

2. In context to Paddy Transplantation, Consider the following Statements:

1. Under this seedling are transplanted and have to be “puddled” or tilled in standing water.
2. It is done because water acts as a natural pesticide.
3. It is both labour- and water-intensive.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

Paddy Transplantation:

- The field where the seedlings are transplanted has to be “puddled” or tilled in standing water.
- For the first three weeks or so after transplanting, the plants are irrigated almost daily to maintain a water depth of 4-5 cm.

- Farmers continue giving water every two-three days even for the next four-five weeks when the crop is in tillering (stem development) stage.
- The advantage of the Paddy Transplantation technique is that water is a natural herbicide that takes care of weeds in the paddy crop's early-growth period.
- Paddy transplantation is both labour- and water-intensive. Due to this farmers are switching to Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR), which has several advantages over paddy Transplantation.

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 30 of the Indian Constitution empowers all the minorities with the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.
2. It is the fundamental right of an institution run by a Minority Community, to get Government Aid.

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:

- **Article 30 (1):** All minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have

the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

- **Article 30(1A)** deals with the fixation of the amount for acquisition of property of any educational institution established by minority groups.
- **Article 30(2)** states that the government should not discriminate against any educational institution on the ground that it is under the management of a minority, whether based on religion or language, while giving aid.
- Recently, the Supreme Court (SC) ruled that government aid to an institution is a matter of policy and it is not a fundamental right.
- The right of an institution, whether run by a majority or minority community, to get government aid is not a fundamental right. Both have to equally follow the rules and conditions of the aid.

Reason:

- Government aid is a policy decision. It depends on various factors including the interests of the institution itself and the ability of the government to understand the exercise.
- Financial constraints and deficiencies are the factors which are considered relevant in taking any decision while giving aid, including both the decision to grant aid and the manner of disbursement of an aid.

4. 1. Consider the following statements regarding the Constitutional Provisions related to the Reservations:

1. Article 16(4) empowers the state to make any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe employees.
2. 77th Amendment Act added a new clause (4A) to **Article 16**, empowering the state to make provisions for reservation in promotion of any backward class of citizens
3. Article 335 recognises that special measures need to be adopted for considering the claims of SCs and STs in order to bring them to a level-playing field.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- **Article 16(4)** empowers the state to make any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts **in favour of any backward class of citizens** which, in the opinion of the state, is not adequately represented in the services under the state.
- By way of the **77th Amendment Act**, a new **clause (4A)** was added to **Article 16**, empowering the state to make provisions

for reservation in matters of promotion to **Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe employees** if the state feels they are not adequately represented in services.

- Both 1st and 2nd statements are interchanged. **So both 1 and 2 are incorrect.**
- Article 335 recognises that special measures need to be adopted for considering the claims of SCs and STs in order to bring them to a level-playing field. **So statement 3 is correct.**

5. Consider the following statements:

1. Not giving the quota benefits cannot be construed as a violation of any Constitutional Right.
2. Reservation of seats to certain communities was not a Fundamental Right.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court has said that reservation of seats to certain communities was not a Fundamental Right.
- The Court said this while refusing to act on a petition filed by all political parties from Tamil Nadu who sought 50% OBC

reservation in the all-India NEET seats surrendered by states.

- All political parties from Tamil Nadu filed a writ petition under Article 32 of the Constitution.
- They accused the Centre of violating the “right of the people of Tamil Nadu to have a fair education” by not implementing the 50% quota for Backward Classes and Most Backward Classes for the All India Quota seats in medical and dental science courses. Reservation is not a fundamental right”. Hence, Article 32 could not be applied.
- Therefore, not giving the quota benefits cannot be construed as a violation of any constitutional right.
- In February 2020, the Supreme Court ruled that there is no fundamental right to claim reservation in public jobs and no court can order a state government to provide for reservation to SC/STs.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme:

1. Minimum investment threshold for MSMEs has been kept at Rs 10 crore and for others at Rs 100 crore.
2. Once qualified, the investor will be incentivised up to 20 times of minimum investment threshold enabling them to utilise their unused capacity.

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 scheme aims to make India a global hub for manufacturing telecom equipment.
- Its eligibility criteria include achievement of a minimum threshold of cumulative incremental investment and incremental sales of manufactured goods.
- The incentive structure ranges between 4% and 7% for different categories and years. Financial year 2019-20 will be treated as the base year for computation of cumulative incremental sales of Manufactured Goods net of taxes.
- Minimum investment threshold for MSMEs has been kept at Rs 10 crore and for others at Rs 100 crore.
- Once qualified, the investor will be incentivised up to 20 times of minimum investment threshold enabling them to utilise their unused capacity.
- **So, both the statements are correct.**

7. Zojila Tunnel is set to be Asia’s longest bi-directional tunnel. It connects which of the Following Places?

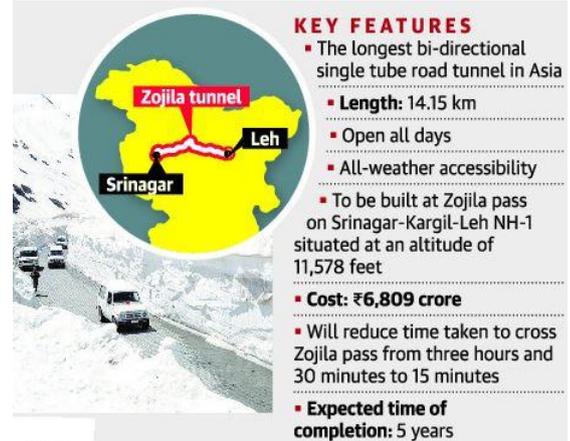
- (a) Srinagar and Kargil

- (b) Srinagar and Leh
(c) Kargil and Leh
(d) Jammu and Leh

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Zojila is set to be Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel.
- It will connect Srinagar, Dras, Kargil and Leh via a tunnel through the famous Zojila Pass.
- Located at more than 11,500 feet above sea level, the all-weather Zojila tunnel will be 14.15 km long and ensure road connectivity even during winters.
- It will make the travel on the 434-km Srinagar-Kargil-Leh Section of NH-1 free from avalanches, enhance safety and reduce the travel time from more than 3 hours to just 15 Minutes.
- The speed limit inside the tunnel is likely to be the same as in the Atal tunnel – 80 kmph.
- The project holds strategic significance as Zojila Pass is situated at an altitude of 11,578 feet on the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh National Highway and remains closed during winters due to heavy snowfall.
- At present, it is one of the most dangerous stretches in the world to drive a vehicle and this project is also geo-strategically sensitive.



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

1. Article 30 of the Constitution of India deals with the right of Minorities to establish and Administer Educational Institutions.
2. It applies to both Religious and linguistic minorities.
3. The right of such Educational Institutions to receive Government aid is a Fundamental Right.

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Article 30 of the Constitution of India deals with the right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions. It applies to both religious and linguistic minorities.

- In a recent ruling, the Supreme Court made it clear that the right of educational institutions whether run by a majority or minority community to receive government aid is not a Fundamental Right.
- It said that if the government made a policy call to withdraw aid, an institution cannot question the decision as a matter of right.

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

1. The Cauvery River dispute is between Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.
2. The sharing of the waters should be as per the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's decision of 2007, which was modified by the Supreme Court in 2018.
3. The Central Government has notified the Cauvery Water Management Scheme which constitutes the 'Cauvery Water Management Authority' and the 'Cauvery Water Regulation Committee' to give effect to the court's decision.

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Cauvery River dispute is a water-sharing dispute between Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.
- The sharing of the waters should be as per the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's decision of 2007, which was modified by the Supreme Court in 2018.
- The Central Government has notified the Cauvery Water Management Scheme which constitutes the 'Cauvery Water Management Authority' and the 'Cauvery Water Regulation Committee' to give effect to the court's decision.

10. Which of the following are the reasons/factors for exposure to benzene pollution?

1. Automobile exhaust
2. Tobacco smoke
3. Wood burning
4. Using varnished wooden furniture
5. Using products made of polyurethane

Select the correct answer using the given code below

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Benzene is an organic chemical compound (C_6H_6). Benzene is formed from both natural processes and human activities.

Natural sources of benzene include volcanoes and forest fires.

- Following are the reasons/factors for exposure to benzene pollution:
- Automobile exhaust
- Tobacco smoke
- Wood burning
- Using varnished Wooden Furniture
- Using products made of Polyurethane



1. Consider the following statements regarding the Green Crackers:

1. Green crackers do not contain harmful chemicals that would cause air pollution.
2. Safe Water Releaser (SWAS), Safe Thermite Cracker (STAR) and Safe Minimal Aluminium (SAFAL) are some of the Green Crackers.
3. They have the unique property of releasing water vapor and/or air as the dust suppressant and diluent for gaseous emissions but do not have matching performance in sound with conventional crackers.

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:

- “Green crackers” are so named because they do not contain harmful chemicals that would cause air pollution. Components in firecrackers are replaced with others that are “less dangerous” and “less harmful” to the atmosphere. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Scientists at Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CECRI), Indian Institute of Chemical Technology, National

- Botanical Research Institute and National Chemical Laboratory have developed few “Green Crackers” such as Safe Water Releaser (SWAS), Safe Thermite Cracker (STAR) and Safe Minimal Aluminium (SAFAL). **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- They have the unique property of releasing water vapor and/or air as the dust suppressant and diluent for gaseous emissions and **have matching performance in sound with conventional crackers. So, statement 3 is not correct.**

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

1. The scheme was recently renamed as the PM POSHAN by the Union Cabinet.
2. The scheme has been extended to the Pre-primary students of government schools studying in balvatikas.
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.

- Students up to Class VIII are guaranteed one nutritional cooked meal at least 200 days in a year.
- 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 Centre has rebranded the 26-year-old national mid-day meal scheme to give a hot cooked meal to 11.8 crore government school students from Class 1 to 8, with the Cabinet approving a proposal to rename it as the PM POSHAN (Poshan Shakti Nirman) scheme recently. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The PM POSHAN scheme has been approved for the next five-year period until 2025-26, with a collective outlay of ₹1.31 lakh crore, including ₹31,733 crore as the share to be borne by the State governments.
- From the next financial year, the scheme will also cover the 24 lakh children studying in balvatikas, the pre-primary section of government schools. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The extension of mid-day meals to pre-primary students, who are to be incorporated into the formal education

- system, was a key recommendation of the National Education Policy 2020 and the population of balvatikas — which offer one year of pre-school classes — is expected to rise from the existing 24 lakh as the policy is implemented.
- The Scheme comes under the Ministry of HRD. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**
- The Scheme is also covered by the National Food Security Act, 2013.

3. An objective of the National Food Security Mission is to increase the production of certain crops through area expansion and productivity enhancement in a sustainable manner in the identified districts of the country. What are those crops?

- (a) Rice and wheat only
- (b) Rice, wheat, and pulses only
- (c) Rice, wheat, pulses, and oilseeds only
- (d) Rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, and Vegetables

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- National Food Security Mission (NFSM) is a Central Scheme of GOI launched in 2007 for 5 years to increase production and productivity of wheat, rice and pulses on a sustainable basis so as to ensure food security of the country.
- In view of the stagnating food grain production and an increasing consumption need of the growing population,

Government of India has launched this Centrally Sponsored Scheme, 'National Food Security Mission' in October 2007. Accordingly, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, 'National Food Security Mission' (NFSM), was launched in October 2007.

- The Mission met with an overwhelming success and achieved the targeted additional production of rice, wheat and pulses.
- The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA 2013) converts into legal entitlements for existing food security programmes of the Government of India.
- It includes the Midday Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services scheme and the Public Distribution System option 'b' is correct answer.

4. The Supreme Court in 2018 ordered the ban of fire crackers and gave various regulations which was one of the instances of Judicial Activism. Which of the following statements are correct about judicial activism?

1. It is the process of lawmaking by judges
2. It is the practice in the judiciary of protecting individual rights
3. Judges depart from strict adherence to judicial precedents

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- In judicial activism, judicial power is exercised by judges in favour of progressive social policies calling for social engineering, by departing from the principle of strict adherence to a judicial precedent.
- It is meant to protect or expand individual rights and therefore, also referred as the process of law-making by judges.
- So, all the three statements are correct.

5. In context to the Build Back Better World (B3W) Initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It is an international infrastructure investment initiative launched by the World Bank for developing and lower-income countries.
2. The B3W to infuse investment by complying with the standards promoted by the Blue Dot Network.

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:

- The Build Back Better World (B3W) Initiative is being seen as the US' initiative to counter China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The B3W is an international infrastructure investment initiative announced by the Group of Seven (G-7) richest democracies in June 2021.
 - The Build Back Better Plan is a Covid-19 relief, future economic, and infrastructure package proposed by G-7 countries for developing and lower-income countries.
 - Components of B3W: Through B3W, the G7 and other like-minded partners will coordinate in mobilizing private-sector capital in four areas of focus:
 - Climate,
 - Health and health security,
 - Digital technology,
 - Gender equity and equality.
 - The B3W to infuse investment by complying with the standards promoted by the Blue Dot Network, relating to the environment and climate, labor and social safeguards, transparency, financing, construction, anti-corruption, and other areas.
6. In context to the Landsat 9, consider the following statements:
1. It is an earth monitoring satellite launched by ISRO.
 2. It will help study climate change.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- NASA has launched an earth monitoring satellite called Landsat 9 from Vandenberg Space Force Base in California. The satellite is a joint mission of NASA and the US Geological Survey (USGS).
- Landsat-9 is the continuation of a series of Earth-observing spacecraft stretching back almost 50 years.
- Landsat images have been used to study the health of forests, coral reefs, monitor water quality and melting glaciers. This satellite is referred to as NASA's 'new eye in the sky' that will help study Climate Change.

7. Consider the following, with regard to Meningitis:

1. It is predominantly caused by viral infection.
2. It can spread from person to person by respiratory droplets.
3. The area of sub-Saharan Africa is known as the 'Meningitis belt'.

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: d)

Explanation:

- Meningitis is an Inflammation (swelling) of the protective membranes covering the brain and spinal cord.
- It is predominantly caused by bacterial and viral infection. However, injuries, cancer, certain drugs, and other types of infections also can cause meningitis.
- **Symptoms:** Severe headache that seems different from normal, sudden high fever, stiff neck, confusion or difficulty concentrating, etc.
- **Transmission:** They spread from person to person by respiratory droplets or throat secretions.
- Group B streptococcus (bacteria) is often spread from mother to child around the time of birth.
- **Spread:** Meningitis epidemics have occurred in the last decade in all regions of the world. But it is most common in the 'Meningitis Belt,' which spans 26 countries across sub-Saharan Africa.

8. Consider the following statements with respect to Right to Information:

1. Only an individual who is above 18 years of age is eligible to seek information.
2. The right to information has been recognized as a Fundamental Right.

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The right to information has been recognised as a fundamental right under Part III of the Constitution by the Supreme Court in several cases.
- The RTI Act, 2005, provided an extended regime for enabling effective Implementation of the Fundamental Right to Information.
- Any citizen can request information by making an application in writing or through electronic means together with the prescribed fees.

9. With respect to anti-defection Law, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. Under the Anti-defection Law, the power to decide the disqualification of an MP or MLA rests with the presiding officer of the legislature in consultation with the Election Commission of India.
2. Supreme Court has observed that anti-defection cases should be decided by Speakers in six months' time in all circumstances.

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Under the anti-defection law, the power to decide the disqualification of an MP or MLA rests with the presiding officer of the legislature. Consultation with the Election Commission of India is not required.
- The law does not specify a time frame in which such a decision has to be made. However, the Supreme Court observed that anti-defection cases should be decided by Speakers in three months' time.

10. Which of the following chemicals are barred from usage in firecrackers?

1. Antimony
2. Lithium
3. Mercury
4. Arsenic
5. Lead

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Antimony, Lithium, Mercury, Arsenic and Lead have been barred from usage in

firecrackers by the Supreme Court in 2017. These chemicals are proven to be hazardous for respiratory systems and can cause serious ailments like asthma, lung cancer, shortness of breath, hormonal imbalances, and many other respiratory disease

