

**UPSC DECEMBER- 2019**  
**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASS TEST - 02**

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1. With reference to Irrawaddy Dolphin, consider the following statements

1. It is not an oceanic dolphin, but a river dolphin that lives in brackish water near coasts, river mouths and in estuaries.
2. Its habitat range extends from the Bay of Bengal to New Guinea and the Philippines.
3. IUNC has classified it as Critically Endangered in Red Data list.

Which of the statements given above are incorrect?

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

It is not a river dolphin, but an oceanic dolphin that lives in brackish water near coasts, river mouths and in estuaries in South and Southeast Asia. So, Statement 1 is incorrect.

Its habitat range extends from the Bay of Bengal to New Guinea and the Philippines. They do not appear to venture off shore. So, statement 2 is correct.

IUNC has classified it as Endangered in Red Data list. So, Statement 3 is incorrect.

2. BRUIE is recently displayed by NASA refers to

- (a) Charged Coupled Device
- (b) Land Mine remover
- (c) Under-ice exploration
- (d) ArtioVision

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

Buoyant Rover for Under-ice Exploration (BRUIE), is being developed for underwater exploration by NASA'S Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

It is for exploring distant ocean worlds, such as Jupiter's moon Europa and Saturn's moon Enceladus.

It will be rolling into Antarctica this month to perform a gymnastic feat driving upside down under Sea Ice.

3. Consider the following statements regarding Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB):

1. It is a statutory created under the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act (WLPA), 1972.
2. "Operation Clean Art" is the recent operation of WCCB to prevent smuggling of olive Ridleys.

Choose the correct statement using the code given below:

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

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**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

WCCB is statutory multi-disciplinary body under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to combat organized wildlife crime in the country. It was established in June 2007 by amending the Wildlife (Protection) Act (WLPA), 1972. So, Statement 1 is correct.

Operation Clean Art was the first pan India operation to crackdown on the smuggling of mongoose hair in the country. So, Statement 2 is incorrect.

4. Which of the following is not a specialised agency of the United Nations?

(a) International Maritime Organization (IMO)

(b) United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

(c) Universal Postal Union (UPU)

(d) International Labour Organization (ILO)

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is a special program of the United Nations (UN) devoted to aiding national efforts to improve the health, nutrition, education, and general welfare of children.

It is not a specialised agency of the UN. Hence, option B is correct.

5. In the context of Hornbill festival, consider the following statements:

1. Objective of the festival is to encourage inter-tribal interaction and to promote cultural heritage of Nagaland.
2. It is organized by the Ministry of Tourism and Art & Culture Departments of the Government of India.

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

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

Hornbill festival is annually held from 1 - 10 December. It was first held in 2000.

Objective of the festival is to encourage inter-tribal interaction and to promote cultural heritage of Nagaland.

The festival is named after the bird "Indian hornbill", which is displayed in the folklore of most of the state's tribes. There are 9 hornbill species in India of which Great Hornbill is the most famous.

Great Hornbill is also a state bird of Kerala and Arunachal Pradesh.

It is organized by the State Tourism and Art & Culture Departments of the Government of Nagaland.

Festival highlights include the traditional Naga Morungs exhibition and the sale of arts

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and crafts, food stalls, song and dance shows, indigenous games etc.

One of the major highlights of this festival is the Hornbill International Rock Festival where local and international rock bands perform.

It is also called the 'Festival of Festivals'.

6. 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.

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3. Duty to pay taxes by the citizen was by the citizen was also on the list of fundamental duties.
7. Surya-Kiran is a military exercise between India and
- (a) Nepal
  - (b) Srilanka
  - (c) Bangladesh
  - (d) Myanmar

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** Indo-Nepali joint Military & Army Exercise 'Surya Kiran XIV' to begin in Nepal in December 2019.

8. Consider the following statements regarding 'Suriname'
- 1. Suriname shares land borders with Guyana, Brazil, and French Guiana
  - 2. It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the north.
  - 3. Equator passes through it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: a)**

9. Consider the following statements regarding Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- 1. It was adopted at Earth Summit, 1992.
  - 2. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way.
  - 3. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international agreement which aims to ensure the safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms (LMOs)

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** Factual statements

**Additional Info:** COP-11, 2012 was held in Hyderabad.

10. Consider the following statements regarding Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).
- 1. It is a constitutional body.
  - 2. It functions under Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

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

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

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(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:** It's a statutory body.

Initially, was set up by a resolution adopted by the Government of India on 2 July 2003 within erstwhile

Companies Act, 1956. Later, Section 211 of the Companies Act, 2013, accorded the statutory status to the

Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).



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1. Consider the following statements regarding “Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges”

(INSTEX):

1. It is a payment mechanism being setup by the European Union to secure trade with Iran and skirt US sanctions
2. It was initially set up by Belgium, Denmark, Finland (E3) countries.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

It is a payment mechanism being setup by the European Union to secure trade with Iran and skirt US sanctions after Washington pulled out of the landmark nuclear deal recently. So, statement 1 is correct.

It was initially set up by Germany, France and Britain (E3) to facilitate non-dollar trade with Iran. Six new Countries – Belgium, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden have recently joined INSTEX. So, statement 2 is incorrect.

2. Consider the following judgements given below and find the **Incorrect Match:**

<b>Judgements</b>	<b>Relevant Issues</b>
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- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. I.R Coelho Case (2007)                        | - 9 <sup>th</sup> Schedule           |
| 2. Vishaka and State of Rajasthan case (1997)    | - Sexual harassment at the workplace |
| 3. S. R. Bommai case (1994)                      | - Misuse of Article 356              |
| 4. Indra Sawhney (vs) Union of India case (1992) | - Issue of Reservations              |

Choose the answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

All the judgements and the relevant issues are Correctly Matched.

3. The Union Home Minister, assured the civil society groups that the Citizenship Bill would provide protection to North eastern regions and states where the Inner Line Permit (ILP) is applicable. With reference to Inner Line Permit (ILP) consider the following statements:

1. It is solely an official travel document.

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2. It is currently operational only in Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.

3. It is under the desecration of Central government.

Which of the statements given above are incorrect?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) All the above

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- It is an official travel document issued by the Government of India to grant inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period. So, Statement 1 is correct.
- It is currently operational in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland. So, Statement 2 is incorrect.
- It is issued by the state government concerned. So, Statement 3 is incorrect.

4. Operating Ratio is recently seen in news refers to.

(a) Measure of expenditure against revenue.

(b) Ratio of total variable cost to Average cost.

(c) Product of Price and Quantity.

(d) Change in Total Revenue to Change in Quantity

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- It is measure of expenditure against revenue, that shows how efficiently the Indian Railways (IR) is operating and how healthy its finances are.
- It means that the Railways spent Rs.98.44 to earn Rs.100.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Bill, 2019':

1. Any production, import, export, transport, sale or advertisement of e-cigarettes shall be a cognizable offence.
2. Storage of electronic-cigarettes shall also be punishable with an imprisonment up to 6 months or fine up to Rs 50,000 or both.
3. Online sale and online advertisement of e-cigarettes are still free from prohibition.

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:**

- Any production, import, export, transport, sale (including online sale) or advertisement (including online advertisement) of e-cigarettes shall be a cognizable offence punishable with an imprisonment of up to one year or fine



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up to Rs. 1 lakh or both for the first offence.

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- For a subsequent offence, there will be imprisonment of up to 3 years and fine up to Rs. 5 lakhs.
  - Storage of electronic-cigarettes shall also be punishable with an imprisonment up to 6 months or fine up to Rs 50,000 or both.
  - The Sub-Inspector of Police has been designated as the Authorized Officer to take action under the Ordinance.
  - The Central or State Governments may also designate any other equivalent officer(s) as Authorized Officer for enforcement of the provisions of the Ordinance.
6. Consider the following statements regarding the Anaemia Mukht Bharat (AMB):
1. AMB is a 6x6x6 strategy that is targeting six age groups, with six interventions and six institutional mechanisms.
  2. Institutional mechanisms include a National Anaemia Mukht Bharat Unit, and a Indian Medical Association (IMA).
- 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
- In 2018, the union government launched the Anaemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) Strategy under POSHAN Abhiyan to reduce anaemia prevalence by three percentage points every year till 2022.
  - AMB is a 6x6x6 strategy that is targeting six age groups, with six interventions and six institutional mechanisms.
  - The six age groups include pre-school children (6-59 months), children (5-9 years), adolescent girls (10-19 years), adolescent boys (10-19 years), women of reproductive age group (15-49), and pregnant women and lactating mothers.
  - Among the six interventions is prophylactic iron folic acid supplementation, periodic deworming, and addressing non-nutritional causes of anaemia in endemic pockets, with special focus on malaria, haemoglobinopathies and fluorosis, the Minister said.
  - Institutional mechanisms include a National Anaemia Mukht Bharat Unit, and a National Centre of Excellence and Advanced Research on Anaemia Control.



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7. 'Jeholbaatar kielanae', an extinct species recently seen in news is a

- (a) a dinosaur
- (b) a rodent
- (c) a bird
- (d) a bull

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- Researchers have unearthed well-preserved middle ear bones from a new species of an **extinct rodent** that lived 145-66 million years ago in North-Eastern China.
- This finding may lead to better understanding of the evolution of hearing.
- The study looked at fossils of the extinct rodent-like mammal - Jeholbaatar kielanae - at Jehol Biota of China, and noted that these animals had a middle ear that is distinct from those of its relatives.
- The evolution of the rodent's bones and muscles involved in hearing may have been driven by specialization for hearing.
- The fossil clues provide solid evidence of the morphology and formation of the inner ear bones, which are fully detached from the lower jaw.
- In these extinct mammals, the evolution of the middle ear may have probably been triggered by functional constraints on the bones and muscles involved in feeding.

8. 'Justice Verma Committee', sometimes seen in news is related to

- (a) Reservations for SC's and ST
- (b) Fundamental Duties
- (c) Appointment of Supreme Court Judges
- (d) Women Safety in Public places

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- Justice Verma Committee was constituted in 1998 to plan a strategy and to work out for a methodology for operationalizing a programme initiated countrywide for the purpose of teaching fundamental duties and make it enforceable in every educational institution and to initiate as in-servicing training.
- The committee had knowledge of non-operationalization of Fundamental duties and it was not because of the lack of concern or non-availability of legal provisions, but it was because of the strategy of implementation.
- Over last few days, the Prime Minister, President, Vice President and Law Minister have been stressing Fundamental Duties on various occasions.

9. Consider the following statements about Kafala System

1. In the Kafala system, a migrant worker's immigration status is legally bound to an individual employer or sponsor during the contract period.

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2. It is practised in Pakistan, to recruit Muslim workers from neighbouring countries.
3. The system aims to improve labour mobility between India and Pakistan

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

**What is kafala?**

- Under the system, a migrant worker's immigration status is legally bound to an individual employer or sponsor ('kafeel') during the contract period.
- The migrant worker cannot enter the country, transfer employment nor leave the country for any reason without first obtaining explicit written permission from the kafeel.

**Where is the kafala system practiced?**

- It is being practiced in the Gulf Cooperation Council member countries and its neighbouring countries.
- Why it should be abolished?
- Human rights groups say the migration management system enables exploitation. The media have likened employment conditions under kafala to "modern-day slavery."

- Complaining about their conditions, puts them in conflict with their sponsor, who has the power to cancel their residence visa and have them deported. The kafala directly contradicts the labour law. The employer can dictate the recruitment process and working conditions. It restricts labour mobility.

**10. What is common to the places known as Visakhapatnam, Mangalore and Padur?**

- (a) Recently, Uranium deposits have been discovered in these places.  
(b) These places are known for their water reservoirs.  
(c) Pink revolution which started in these areas, spread to the other parts of India.  
(d) Strategic crude oil storages of India are located here.

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- Global Strategic Petroleum Reserves (GSPR)
- GSPRs are stockpiles of crude oil maintained by countries or private industries as a hedge against potential future energy crises.
- They represent a defence against any event of downfall in future oil production, including physical or economic actions which disrupt any part of the production process from exploration and development through refining.

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- Strategic reserves do not get counted among a nation's or company's proven oil reserves, as proven reserves must be available for production by definition.
- The Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve (ISPR) refers to the emergency fuel storage maintained by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle - wholly owned subsidiary of Oil Industry Development Board under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- Strategic crude oil storages are at Mangalore (Karnataka), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) and Padur (Karnataka).



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1. Consider the following Statements:

1. A person to be elected to the legislative assembly must be an elector for an assembly constituency in the concerned state.
2. The governor can nominate two members from the Anglo-Indian community, if the community is not adequately represented in the state assembly.
3. By-polls to State Assembly Constituencies are conducted by the State Election Commissions of the concerned state.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- Qualifications for a person to be chosen a member of the state legislative assembly
- He must be a citizen of India.
- He must make and subscribe to an oath or affirmation before the person authorised by the Election Commission for this purpose.
- He must be not less than 25 years of age.
- A person to be elected to the legislative assembly must be an elector for an assembly constituency in the concerned state.

**Nominated Member** The governor can nominate **one member** from the Anglo-Indian community, if the community is not adequately represented in the assembly. Originally, this provision was to operate for ten years (ie, up to 1960). But this duration has been extended continuously since then by 10 years each time. Now, under the 95th Amendment Act of 2009, this is to last until 2020.

**By-poll or By-election** to the constituencies in the state assembly are held by the **Election Commission of India.**

2. In the context of Shipbreaking, consider the following statements:

1. Shipbreaking may cause severe contamination of the sea bed.
2. Dismantling of the ships on the beach is less polluting than dismantling on dry docks.
3. The Hong Kong Convention intends to address the issues around ship recycling.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: b)**

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**Explanation:**

- Shipbreaking is a process of breaking down a ship, when it completes its useful life tenure.
- According to the Global Trade Union it is the “**the world’s most dangerous job**”, as it directly affects the health of the workers. Many ship breaking yards has poor working and living conditions.
- Shipbreaking leads to severe **contamination of the sea bed**, eventually seeping into the marine food chain. Alang in Bhavnagar district, Gujarat, is considered as the world’s largest shipbreaking facility.
- **Dismantling of the ships on the beach adds to the toxicity of the soil, water and air.** Dismantling on the dry docks are comparatively less polluting as ocean waters are not affected in the process.
- The International Maritime Organisation’s **Hong Kong Convention 2009**, intends to impose new requirements on ships from ‘**cradle to grave**’, covering issues around ship recycling on a global scale.

3. DIN is person-specific, if a person is a director in two or more companies, he/she has to obtain only one DIN.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

**Director Identification Number (DIN)**

DIN is a unique identification number allotted by **the Central Government** to any person intending to be a director or an existing director of a company.

It is an 8-digit identification number which has **lifetime validity**. Through DIN, details of the directors are maintained in a database.

DIN is specific to a person, which means even if he is a director in two or more companies, he has to obtain only one DIN. And if he leaves a company and joins some other, the same DIN would work in the other company as well.

3. Consider the following statements regarding Director Identification Number (DIN)

1. DIN is a unique identification number allotted by the Central Government to any person intending to be a director or an existing director of a company.
2. DIN number has a lifetime validity.

4. Consider the following statements regarding Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

1. Dhebar Commission Report created Primitive Tribal Groups as a separate category which was later renamed as PVTGs.

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2. The scheme of Development of PVTGs is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in the ratio of 90:10.

Choose the **Incorrect statement** using the code given below:

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

In 1973, the Dhebar Commission created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups. In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as PVTGs. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

100% grants-in-aid are made available to States as per the provisions of the scheme of Development of PVTGs. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

5. 'Power of Siberia', which is in news is related to:

- (a) Seed vault for Eurasia
- (b) A policy launched by Russia to make Siberia hub of the crude oil industry.
- (c) The inter-country gas pipeline between Russia and China.
- (d) Largest electricity generation plant in the world.

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

"Power of Siberia" is the first cross-border gas pipeline between Russia and China. Hence, option C is the correct answer.

6. Which of the following serves as International Corridor for Asian Elephant Migration between India and Bhutan?

- (a) Buxa Tiger Reserve
- (b) Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary
- (c) Kaziranga National Park
- (d) Namdapha National Park

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** Buxa Tiger Reserve (BTR) lies in Alipurduar sub-division of Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal.

It serves as international corridor for elephant migration between India and Bhutan. The reserve encompasses as many as eight forest types.

7. 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?



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- (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.

8. Exercise Hand-in-Hand is a bilateral exercise between India and which of the following country?

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- The Chinese contingent from the Tibet Military command comprising of 130 personal and the Indian Contingent of similar strength will participate in the 14-day long training exercise.
- The exercise is planned at the company level with the respective Battalion Headquarters controlling the training.
- The aim of the exercise is to practice joint planning and conduct of counter-terrorist operations in semi-urban terrain.
- The exercise schedule is focused upon training on various lectures & drills associated with counter-terrorist handling & firing with each other's weapons, special heliborne operations and case studies of various operations carried out in counter-terrorist environment.
- Two tactical exercises are scheduled during the training; one on counter-terrorism scenario and the other on



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Humanitarian and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.

- The exercise was suspended in 2017 amid strained bilateral ties after the Doklam standoff.
- In 2018, the exercise was held in China.

9. Consider the following statements with reference to Gadhimai Festival:

1. It is held every 5 years at the at Gadhimai Temple of Bariyarupur, in Bihar.
2. Goat, Rat, Chicken, Pig and Pigeon are the animals slaughter in this festival.
3. The worshippers from India and Nepal offer prayers to the Goddess Gadhimai.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- It is the world's largest animal sacrifice ceremony in Nepal. It is held every 5 years at the at Gadhimai Temple of Bariyarupur, in Bara District. It is located near the Indo-Nepal Border, adjacent to Bihar. So, Statement 1 is incorrect.
- Goat, Rat, Chicken, Pig and Pigeon are the animals slaughter in this festival. So, Statement 2 is correct.

- The worshippers from Nepal and neighboring India has spent days sleeping out in open and offer prayers. So, Statement 3 in correct.

10. With reference to National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons, consider the following statements:

1. It is for Vyaparis with annual turnover exceeding Rs 1.5 crores.
2. It is mandatory and contributory pension scheme.
3. The Beneficiary should not be a member of Employees Provident Fund Organisation, Employees State Corporation, National Pension System, Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan.
4. He/she should be within 18 to 40 years of age group.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- It is a pension scheme for the Vyaparis that includes shopkeepers, retail traders and self-employed persons with annual turnover not exceeding Rs 1.5 crore. So, Statement 1 is incorrect.

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- It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme. So, Statement 2 is incorrect.
- The beneficiary should not be income tax payer and also not a member of Employees Provident Fund Organisation, Employees State Corporation, National Pension System, Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan. So, Statement 3 is correct.
- He/ She should be within 18 to 40 years of age group. So, Statement 4 is correct.



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1. 'Torrefaction', recently seen in the news, is related to:

- (a) Chemical process to refine petroleum products
- (b) Antibiotic to eliminate Anaemia
- (c) Technology for water purification
- (d) Thermal process to convert biomass into a coal-like material

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

Torrefaction is a thermal process to convert biomass into a coal-like material, which has better fuel characteristics than the original biomass. Hence, option C is the correct answer.

2. Consider the following statements with respect to 'Vanilla Alliance'

- 1. It is an airline alliance formed to improve air connectivity within the Indian Ocean region.
- 2. India is one of the founding members of the Alliance.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

The Vanilla Alliance is an airline alliance formed in September 2015 to improve air

connectivity within the Indian Ocean region by strengthening cooperation between the airlines of Indian Ocean Commission members. So, statement 1 is correct.

Vanilla Islands is an affiliation of the island nations Seychelles, Madagascar, Réunion, Mauritius, Comoros, Mayotte and the Maldives in the Indian Ocean to form a new travel destination brand. India is not a member of this alliance. So, Statement 2 is incorrect.

3. The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), a triennial international survey to evaluate education systems worldwide is conducted by:

- (a) UNICEF
- (b) World Economic Forum
- (c) United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture
- (d) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a worldwide study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in member and non-member nations intended to evaluate educational systems by measuring 15-year-old school pupils' scholastic performance on mathematics, science, and reading.

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It was first performed in 2000 and then repeated every three years (triennial).

India has participated in the PISA test only once before, in 2009. In this round of PISA, India ranked 72nd out of 73 countries.

- He must be not less than 25 years of age.
- A person to be elected to the legislative assembly must be an elector for an assembly constituency in the concerned state.

**Nominated Member** The governor can nominate **one member** from the Anglo-Indian community, if the community is not adequately represented in the assembly. Originally, this provision was to operate for ten years (ie, up to 1960). But this duration has been extended continuously since then by 10 years each time. Now, under the 95th Amendment Act of 2009, this is to last until 2020.

**By-poll or By-election** to the constituencies in the state assembly are held by the **Election Commission of India**.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. A person to be elected to the legislative assembly must be an elector for an assembly constituency in the concerned state.
2. The governor can nominate two members from the Anglo-Indian community, if the community is not adequately represented in the state assembly.
3. By-polls to State Assembly Constituencies are conducted by the State Election Commissions of the concerned state.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

Qualifications for a person to be chosen a member of the state legislative assembly

- He must be a citizen of India.
- He must make and subscribe to an oath or affirmation before the person authorised by the Election Commission for this purpose.

5. In the context of Shipbreaking, consider the following statements:

1. Shipbreaking may cause severe contamination of the sea bed.
2. Dismantling of the ships on the beach is less polluting than dismantling on dry docks.
3. The Hong Kong Convention intends to address the issues around ship recycling.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

Shipbreaking is a process of breaking down a ship, when it completes its useful life tenure.

According to the Global Trade Union it is the “the world’s most dangerous job”, as it directly affects the health of the workers.

Many ship breaking yards has poor working and living conditions.

Shipbreaking leads to severe contamination of the sea bed, eventually seeping into the marine food chain. Alang in Bhavnagar district, Gujarat, is considered as the world’s largest shipbreaking facility.

Dismantling of the ships on the beach adds to the toxicity of the soil, water and air.

Dismantling on the dry docks are comparatively less polluting as ocean waters are not affected in the process.

The International Maritime Organisation’s Hong Kong Convention 2009, intends to impose new requirements on ships from ‘cradle to grave’, covering issues around ship recycling on a global scale.

6. Consider the following statements regarding Director Identification Number (DIN)

1. DIN is a unique identification number allotted by the Central Government to any person intending to be a director or an existing director of a company.
2. DIN number has a lifetime validity.

3. DIN is person-specific, if a person is a director in two or more companies, he/she has to obtain only one DIN.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

Director Identification Number (DIN)

DIN is a unique identification number allotted **by the Central Government** to any person intending to be a director or an existing director of a company.

It is an 8-digit identification number which has **lifetime validity**.

Through DIN, details of the directors are maintained in a database.

DIN is **specific to a person**, which means even if he is a director in two or more companies, he has to obtain only one DIN. And if he leaves a company and joins some other, the same DIN would work in the other company as well.

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7. With reference to Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP), consider the following statements

1. It aims to empower women in agriculture.
2. It is a part of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM).
3. Under the scheme 90% of the funding is provided by central government.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- The main objective of the scheme is to empower women in agriculture by making systematic investments to enhance their participation and productivity. So, Statement 1 is correct.
- It is a sub-component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM). So, Statement 2 is correct.
- It provides 90% funding for North Eastern States and 60% for rest of the part of India So, Statement 3 is incorrect.

8. In context to Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body established under Securities Laws (Amendment) Act, 2014.
2. It consists of Presiding Officer and two members only.

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

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- It is a statutory body established under the provisions of Section 15K of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992. So, Statement 1 is incorrect
- It consists of a Presiding Officer and two other members. The Presiding officer is appointed by the Central Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India or his nominee. So, Statement 2 is correct.

9. Which of the following World Heritage Sites are included in Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ)?

1. Taj Mahal
2. Agra fort
3. Fatehpur Sikri
4. Humayun's Tomb

Select the correct code using the options below:



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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- It comprises monuments including three World Heritage Sites the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri.
- It is so named since it is located around the Taj Mahal and is shaped like a trapezoid.

10. Which of the following schemes come under Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA)?

1. Price Support Scheme (PSS)
2. Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)
3. Pilot of Private Procurement and Stockist Scheme (PPPS)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- The PM-AASHA or Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan was announced with great fanfare in September 2018, as an effort to ensure that farmers growing pulses, oilseeds and

copra actually get the minimum support prices they are promised for their crops each year.

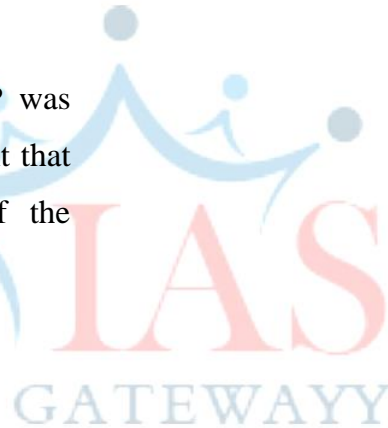
- Apart from initiatives to allow cash payment to farmers or procurement by private traders, PM-AASHA's main feature was a price support scheme whereby Central agencies would procure pulses and oilseeds directly from farmers.
- The three schemes that are part of AASHA are:
  1. The Price Support Scheme (PSS)
  2. The Price Deficiency Payment Scheme (PDPS)
  3. The Pilot of Private Procurement and Stockist Scheme (PPPS)
- **PSS** - Under the PSS, physical procurement of pulses, oilseeds and copra will be done by Central Nodal Agencies.
- Besides, NAFED and Food Cooperation of India will also take up procurement of crops under PSS.
- The expenditure and losses due to procurement will be borne by the Centre.
- **PDPS** - Under the PDPS, the Centre proposes to cover all oilseeds.
- The difference between the MSP and actual selling/modal price will be directly paid into the farmer's bank account.
- Farmers who sell their crops in recognised mandis within the notified period can benefit from it.



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- **PPSS** - In the case of oilseeds, States will have the option to roll out PPSSs in select districts.
- Under this, a private player can procure crops at MSP when market prices drop below MSP.
- The private player will then be compensated through a service charge up to a maximum of 15% of the MSP.
- The Centre had budgeted ₹15,053 crore over two years to implement the scheme apart from an additional government credit guarantee of ₹16,550 crore for agencies undertaking procurement.
- It was launched as increasing MSP was not adequate and it is more important that farmers should get full benefit of the announced MSP.



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1. Consider the following statements regarding Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018:

1. A person can be named as a “Fugitive Economic Offender” if there is an arrest warrant against him for involvement in economic offences involving at least Rs.500 crore.
2. A Special Court designated under the "Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 Act” can declare a person as Fugitive Economic Offender.
3. No person in India has been declared as Fugitive Economic Offender yet.

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

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

A person can be named an offender under this law if there is an arrest warrant against him or her for committing any offence listed in the schedule of the act and for involvement in economic offences involving at least Rs. 100 crore or more and has fled from India to escape legal action. So, statement 1 is incorrect.

A Special Court designated under the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act, 2002 can declare a person as Fugitive Economic Offender. So, statement 2 is incorrect.

Nirav Modi is the second person to be declared a fugitive economic offender, under the new fugitive Economic Offenders Act, after Vijay Mallya. So, statement 3 is also incorrect.

2. Consider the following statements regarding “Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)”:

1. The objective of the scheme is to improve the research ecosystem of India’s higher educational institutions by facilitating collaborations with top institutions of other countries.
2. Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur is the National Coordinating Institute to implement the SPARC programme.

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:** SPARC aims at improving the research ecosystem of India’s higher educational institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian institutions and the best institutions in the world from 28 selected nations to jointly solve problems of national and international relevance in the first phase.

Both the above statements are true.

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3. Operation Chammal' is associated with which of the following countries?

- (a) France
- (b) Turkey
- (c) Russia
- (d) USA

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

Operation Chammal is a French military operation in Iraq and Syria in an attempt to contain the expansion of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and to support the Iraqi Army.

Its name comes from the Shamal (Chammal in French), a northwesterly wind that blows over Iraq and the Persian Gulf states.

4. With reference to Mekong River, consider the following statements:

- 1. It flows through five countries.
- 2. It drains into South China Sea.
- 3. It forms part of international border between Laos and Vietnam.

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

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- It flows through six countries: China, Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Laos,

Cambodia, and Vietnam. So, statement 1 is incorrect.

- It drains in to South China Sea. So, Statement 2 is correct.
- It forms part of the international border between Myanmar and Laos, as well as between Laos and Thailand. So, statement 3 is incorrect.

5. In the context to Meteor missile, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is a beyond visual range air to air missile, Russia.
- 2. It is attached to Sukhoi 30 missiles.
- 3. It has a range of 150 km and no escape zone of 60 km.

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

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- It is beyond-visual-range air-to-air missiles of France. So, statement 1 is incorrect
- These missiles are to be attached to the Rafale jets. So, statement 2 is incorrect
- It has a range of 150 km and no escape zone of 60 km. This no escape zone is the largest in the world according to its manufacturers. So, statement 3 is correct.

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6. Consider the following, with regard to Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA):

1. It is red coloured food grade alcohol.
2. It does not have impurities.
3. It contains over 95 per cent alcohol by volume.
4. It is a by-product of sugar industry.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- It is a by-product of the sugar industry and is formed from molasses that are a residue of sugarcane processing. So, statement 4 is correct.
- It is colourless food-grade alcohol. So, statement 1 is incorrect.
- It does not have any impurities. So, statement 2 is correct.
- It is a neutral smell and taste and typically contains over 95 per cent alcohol by volume. So, statement 3 is correct.
- It is the primary raw material for making alcoholic beverages.

7. Consider the following statements regarding the Monetary Policy Committee:

1. The policy interest rate required to achieve the inflation target is decided by the Monetary Policy Committee.
2. Monetary Policy Committee is a six-member committee headed by the Finance Minister.
3. Each member of the MPC has one vote, and in the event of an equality of votes, the Governor has a second or casting vote.

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

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- The policy interest rate required to achieve the inflation target is decided by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).
- MPC is a six-member committee constituted by the Central Government (Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934) - three officials of the Reserve Bank of India and three external members nominated by the Government of India.
- The MPC is required to meet at least four times in a year. The quorum for the meeting of the MPC is four members.

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- Each member of the MPC has one vote, and in the event of an equality of votes, the Governor has a second or casting vote.
- The resolution adopted by the MPC is published after the conclusion of every meeting of the MPC.
- Once in every six months, the Reserve Bank is required to publish a document called the Monetary Policy Report to explain: (1) the sources of inflation and (2) the forecast of inflation for 6-18 months ahead.

8. 'Zero FIR', recently seen in news is referred to

(a) Filing the case outside the jurisdiction of the police station.

(b) Filing a case without any bribe.

(c) A station which has zero fake cases filed.

(d) Dealing a case without filing a FIR.

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- In general, FIR to the complaint is filed at the police station related to the site of an offence, but at times situations arise, when the victim has to file the case in outside police station, in some adverse conditions.
- But it is often seen that policemen do not take those cases seriously, which have occurred outside the jurisdiction of police station.
- Hence the Government has formulated the provisions of Zero FIR in such adverse

situations, in order to protect the rights of the people.

- According to this, the victim can file his complaint in any police station for any offence for a quick action and the case can be transferred to the concerned police station thereafter.

9. In the context to FEMA Act, 1999, consider the following statements:

1. The Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) is an Act of the Parliament of India to consolidate and amend the law relating to foreign exchange.

2. The objective is to facilitate external trade and payments and for promoting the orderly development and maintenance of foreign exchange market in India.

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: c)**

**Explanation:**

- The Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) is an Act of the Parliament of India to consolidate and amend the law relating to foreign exchange.
- The objective is to facilitate external trade and payments and for promoting the

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orderly development and maintenance of foreign exchange market in India.

- It replaces the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA).
- This act seeks to make offenses related to foreign exchange civil offenses.
- It enables a new foreign exchange management regime consistent with the emerging framework of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).
- It also paved way to Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002, which was effected from 1 July 2005.

10. Which of the following magazines was published by Dr. B. R. Ambedkar?

- (a) Mook Nayak
- (b) New India
- (c) Young India
- (d) Tribune

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- New India was a newspaper founded by Annie Besant.
- Young India was a newspaper founded by Gandhi.
- Tribune was a newspaper founded by Sardar Dyal Singh Majithia.



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1. Which of the following Parties were established by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar:

1. The Peasants and Workers Party of India
2. All India Scheduled Castes Federation
3. The Independent Labour Party.

Choose 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:**

Organizations set up by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar:

- Bahishkrit Hitkarini Sabha
- Independent Labour Party
- All India Scheduled Castes Federation

2. Consider the following statements:

1. Payments bank can perform both deposit taking and lending operations.
2. Small Finance Bank do not have to meet Prudential norms of RBI.

Choose 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: d)**

**Explanation:**

- While Small Finance Banks can undertake both deposit and lending activity, the

Payment banks can only accept deposits and cannot lend loans. So, statement 1 is incorrect.

- The RBI has recently released the Guidelines for “on tap Licensing” of Small Finance Banks in the Private Sector. This shows that even Small Finance Bank have to meet Prudential norms of RBI. So, statement 2 is incorrect.

3. With reference to ‘India’s Foreign Exchange Reserve’, consider the following statements:

1. It includes gold and foreign currency only.
2. Currently, India’s reserves have breached 800 Billion Dollar mark.
3. It has declined continuously in the last five years.

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) None of the above

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

India’s Foreign Exchange Reserve include gold, foreign currency assets, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) and Reserve Position in the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

Currently, India’s Foreign Exchange Reserve is around 450 billion dollars. So, Statement 2 is also incorrect



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India's forex reserves fell to \$274.8 billion in September of 2013, prompting the Centre and RBI to unleash measures to attract inflows.

It has been a steady rise for the reserves since then, with \$175 billion added in the last six years.

Hence, statement 3 is also incorrect.

4. Hera Mission is recently seen in news, related to.

- (a) Spacecraft to carry crew
- (b) Extra-terrestrial orbiter
- (c) Explore Binary asteroid
- (d) Planetary defence programme

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- European Space Agency has recently Planned for humankind's first mission to a binary asteroid system.
- It is the first spacecraft to explore a binary asteroid.
- It will travel to a binary asteroid system that is the Didymos pair of near-Earth asteroids.
- It will be launched to asteroid 65803 Didymos, in 2023.
- It is as nicknamed Didymoon.

5. Consider the following pairs with reference to Notice published by INTERPOL:

1. Red Corner Notice-To seek the arrest or provisional arrest of wanted criminals.
2. Yellow Notice-To locate missing persons.

3. Black Notice-To seek information of unidentified bodies.

4. Green Notice-to set alert about a person.

Which of the pairs given above are correct?

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

Green Notice is issued to provide warnings and intelligence about persons who have committed criminal offences and are likely to repeat these crimes in other countries as well.

6. With reference to National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), consider the following:

1. It is voluntary to seek equity participation from strategic anchor partners.
2. It mandates to invest in areas such as energy, transportation, housing, water, waste management and other infrastructure-related sectors in India.

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

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

**Answer: b)**

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**Explanation:**

- It is mandate to seek equity participation from strategic anchor partners like quasi-sovereign, overseas sovereign, bilateral/multilateral investors, as one of the key sources of funds. So, statement 1 is in correct.
- It mandates to invest in areas such as energy, transportation, housing, water, waste management and other infrastructure-related sectors in India. So, statement 2 is correct.
- It is currently managing three funds each with its distinctive investment mandate.
- Master Fund is an infrastructure fund with the objective of primarily investing in operating assets in the core infrastructure sectors such as roads, ports, airports, power etc. Fund of Funds is managed by fund managers who have good track records in infrastructure and associated sectors in India. Some of the sectors of focus include Green Infrastructure, Mid-Income & Affordable Housing, Infrastructure services and allied sectors.
- Strategic Investment Fund is registered as an Alternative Investment Fund II under SEBI in India. The objective is to invest largely in equity and equity-linked instruments. It will focus on green field and brown field investments in the core infrastructure sectors.

7. Consider the following statements regarding the National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT):

1. NEFT is an electronic funds transfer system maintained by the Payments Corporation of India.
2. Unlike Real-time gross settlement (RTGS), fund transfers through the NEFT system do not occur in real-time basis.

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:**

- NEFT is an electronic funds transfer system maintained by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Started in November 2005, the setup was established and maintained by Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT).
- NEFT enables bank customers in India to transfer funds between any two NEFT-enabled bank accounts on a one-to-one basis. It is done via electronic messages.
- Unlike Real-time gross settlement (RTGS), fund transfers through the NEFT system do not occur in real-time basis.
- RTGS are specialist funds transfer systems where the transfer of money or securities takes place from one bank to any other

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bank on a “real time” and on a “gross” basis.

- Settlement in “real time” means a payment transaction is not subjected to any waiting period, with transactions being settled as soon as they are processed.

8. In the context to Forest Cover, consider the following statements:

1. All lands with tree cover of canopy density between 40% and 70% above are known as Very Dense Forest.
2. All lands with tree cover of canopy density between 10% and 40% are known as Open Forests.
3. All forest lands with poor tree growth mainly of small or stunted trees having canopy density less than 10 percent are known as Non-Forest.

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

**Incorrect?**

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

Answer: c

**Explanation:**

- **Very dense Forest** - All Lands with tree cover (Including mangrove cover) of canopy density of 70% and above
- **Mod Dense forest** - All lands with tree cover (Including mangrove cover) of

canopy density between 40% and 70% above

- **Open forest** - All lands with tree cover (Including mangrove cover) of canopy density between 10% and 40%
- **Scrub** - All forest lands with poor tree growth mainly of small or stunted trees having canopy density less than 10 percent
- **Non-Forest** - Any area not included in the above classes.

9. Recently, Brucellosis disease was in news.

The Brucellosis is caused by:

- (a) Bacteria
- (b) Virus
- (c) Protozoa
- (d) Fungi

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

**Brucellosis**

- Brucellosis is a bacterial disease caused by various Brucella species, which mainly infect cattle, swine, goats, sheep and dogs.
- Humans generally acquire the disease through direct contact with infected animals, by eating or drinking contaminated animal products, or by inhaling airborne agents.
- The majority of cases are caused by ingesting unpasteurized milk or cheese from infected goats or sheep.
- Person-to-person transmission is rare.

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- The disease causes flu-like symptoms, including fever, weakness, malaise and weight loss.

### **Brucellosis in India**

- National Animal Disease Control Programme (NACDP) to control and eradicate the Foot & Mouth Disease (FMD) and Brucellosis amongst the livestock in the country, was launched in 2019.
- It envisages 100% vaccination coverage of female cattle and buffalo calves (4-8 months of age) once in a life time.

10. What is common to the rivers known as Ghaghara, Mahananda and Narayani?

- (a) They are the left-bank tributaries of the River Ganges
- (b) These rivers are trans-boundary rivers, which cross international boundaries.
- (c) These rivers flow through the Indian states of West Bengal and Bihar, and Bangladesh.
- (d) Both (a) and (b).

**Answer: d)**

### **Explanation:**

- The left-bank tributaries on Ganges are Ramganga, Gomti, Ghaghara, Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Kosi and Mahananda.

### **The Gandaki River**

- The Gandaki River (also known as the **Narayani** and the Gandak) is one of the

major rivers of Nepal and a left bank tributary of the Ganges in India.

### **The Mahananda River**

- The Mahananda River is a trans-boundary river that flows through the Indian states of West Bengal and Bihar, and enters Bangladesh.

### **The Ghaghara River**

- Ghaghara, also called **Karnali** is a perennial trans-boundary river originating on the Tibetan Plateau near Lake Manasarovar.
- It cuts through the Himalayas in Nepal and joins the Sharda River at Brahmaghat in India.



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1. Consider the following statements regarding Measles & Rubella Initiative:

1. It is the recent initiative of the union government to prevent the spread of measles disease.
2. Many of the Indian states didn't join this scheme due to inadequate funding from the centre.

Choose 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: d)**

**Explanation:**

- Measles & Rubella Initiative (MRI), launched in 2001, is a global partnership among leaders in public health which supports the goal of reducing measles deaths globally by 90% by 2010 compared to 2000 estimates.

**Partner Organisations:**

- American Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, United Nations Foundation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- From above we can infer that both statement 1 and statement 2 is incorrect.

2. Consider the following statements regarding “Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) Scheme:

1. The scheme is aimed at accelerating agricultural prosperity and reducing poverty among farming communities through financial assistance.
2. This scheme is a successful initiative of Telangana state government.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- The aim of the scheme is to accelerate agricultural prosperity and reducing poverty in the State by encouraging cultivation and associated activities through financial assistance to farmers. So, statement 1 is correct.
- KALIA or “Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation” scheme was launched by the Odisha Government for farmer's welfare. So, statement 2 is incorrect.

3. With reference to the ‘Remission of Duties or Taxes on Export Products’ scheme (RoDTEP), consider the following statements:

1. It seeks to replace Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS).



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2. It is not compliant with the 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: a)**

**Explanation:**

- RoDTEP will replace the existing Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) and create a fully automated route for Input Tax Credit (ITC) in the GST to help increase exports in India. It is expected to adequately incentivize exporters by reducing duties paid on exports and will initiate the refund of various taxes to exporters.
- Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- RoDTEP scheme is in complete WTO-compliance. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.

4. Recently in news "Samjiyon" is a

- (a) DNA slicing technology
- (b) Near Earth Asteroid
- (c) New City
- (d) New rat species

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** North Korea has celebrated the completion of Samjiyon a new city. The city is one of the largest economic initiatives Mr.

Kim has launched as part of his drive for a self-reliant economy.

5. Recently in news, the Nirbhaya Fund is being administered by

- (a) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- (b) NITI Aayog
- (c) Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** The Ministry of Finance, Government of India had set up a dedicated fund called Nirbhaya Fund in 2013, for implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the safety and security for women in the country. It is a non-lapsable corpus fund.

6. With reference to the Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), consider the following statements:

- 1. EPFO is a statutory body of Union Government that comes under the aegis of Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- 2. It administers the compulsory contributory Provident Fund Scheme (1952), Pension Scheme (1995) and Insurance Scheme (1976).

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)**

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**Explanation:**

- EPFO is a statutory body of Union Government that comes under the aegis of Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- It is one of the largest social security organisations in India in terms volume of financial transactions undertaken and the number of covered beneficiaries.
- Its headquarters is located in New Delhi.
- The main functions of the EPFO: Administers a compulsory contributory Provident Fund Scheme (1952), Pension Scheme (1995) and Insurance Scheme (1976).

7. Consider the following statements regarding the Raisina Dialogue:

1. It is an annual geo-political event, organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and Observer Research Foundation.
2. It was designed on the lines of Singapore's Shangri-La Dialogue.
3. It is designed to explore prospects and opportunities for Asian integration as well as Asia's integration with the larger world.

Which of the statements given below are correct?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- It is an annual geo-political event, organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and

Observer Research Foundation (ORF) designed on the lines of Singapore's Shangri-La Dialogue.

- The dialogue is named after Raisina Hill, which is the seat of the Government of India, as well as the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- It is designed to explore prospects and opportunities for Asian integration as well as Asia's integration with the larger world.
- It is predicated on India's vital role in the Indian Ocean Region and how India along with its partners can build a stable regional and world order.
- The conference is a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral meeting involving policy and decision-makers, including but not limited to Foreign, Defence and Finance Ministers of different countries, high-level government officials and policy practitioners, leading personalities from business and industry, and members of the strategic community, media and academia.

8. 'Tyre Pyrolysis' sometimes seen in news is referred to

- a) The process of controlled combustion of tyres to reduce it to incombustible matter such as ash and waste gas.
- b) Tyres are compacted into blocks and sent for recycling.
- c) Tyre pyrolysis refers to a technique of breaking down used tyres in the absence of oxygen.
- d) The tyre that cannot be reused or recycled are separated out and spread as a thin layer in low-lying areas across a city.



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**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- Tyre pyrolysis refers to a technique of breaking down used tyres in the absence of oxygen. Shredded tyres, at temperatures between 250° C and 500° C, produce liquid oil and gases.
- While this is considered a safer technique than burning tyres, pyrolysis leaves fine carbon matter, pyro-gas and oil as residue and the inadequate management of these by-products poses health risks.

9. In context to Asian Elephant Specialist Group's (AsESG), consider the following statements:

1. It is a group of elephant conservationist organizations.
2. It is an integral part of Species Survival Commission (SSC).
3. It is concerned with the conservation of Elephas Maximus.
4. It aims to recover their population to viable levels.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- It is a group of specialists, elephant conservationists, experts and partner organizations. So, statement 1 is correct.

- It is an integral part of the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). So, statement 2 is correct.
- It is concerned with the conservation of the Asian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*). So, statement 3 is correct.
- It also aims to recover their populations to viable levels. So, statement 4 is correct.

10. OSIRIS-REx, recently seen in news refers to.

- (a) Dinosaur fossil of T-Rex family.  
(b) Linked to Chickens and Ostriches.  
(c) Asteroid Explorer  
(d) Drugs used for flu or other breathing illness

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- It will travel to a near Earth asteroid, called Benu and bring a 60-gram sample back to earth for study.
- It will help scientists investigate how planets formed and how life began, as well as improve our understanding of asteroids that could impact earth.
- It is the first asteroid sample return mission.
- Sandpiper, Osprey, Kingfisher and Nightingale are the four sample sites, named after birds.
- It first observed a particle ejection event in images captured by spacecraft's navigation cam.

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**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASS TEST – 10**

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1. Consider the following statements about Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)

1. It is an UN affiliated international institute based in Stockholm, Sweden.
2. According to the latest SIPRI Arms Industry Database, Russian manufacturers alone accounted for 59 % of the market share
3. The combined arms sales of Indian arms companies in 2018 have significantly increased compared to 2017.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are

**Incorrect?**

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** SIPRI is an international institute based in Stockholm, Sweden. But not UN affiliated. According to the latest SIPRI Arms Industry Database, US manufacturers alone accounted for 59 % of the market share. The combined arms sales of the three Indian arms companies listed in the Top 100 were \$5.9 billion in 2018—a decrease of 6.9 % on 2017. The decline is mainly a result of Indian Ordnance Factory’s significant 27 % drop in arms sales.

2. Recently in news, Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is the informal strategic dialogue between India and

- (a) USA, Japan, South Korea
- (b) USA, Japan, Australia
- (c) Japan, Australia, Srilanka
- (d) Australia, South Korea, China

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:** Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is the informal strategic dialogue between India, USA, Japan and Australia with a shared objective to ensure and support a “free, open and prosperous” Indo-Pacific region.

3. Consider the following statements with respect to Governors in India

1. According to Constitution, it is not mandatory to have Governor for each State.
2. Governor takes oath in the presence of Chief Justice of Supreme Court or person appointed by him.

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: d)**

**Explanation:** Article 153 says, there shall be Governor for each state

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Article 159 says, Governor takes oath in the presence of Chief Justice of High Court of the state

4. In context to Pygmy Hog, consider the following statement:

1. It is an indicator species of tall and wet grasslands of Himalayan foothills.
2. It is given Endangered status in IUCN Red List 2019.
3. It is found only found in the regions of India and Nepal.

Which of the statements given above are

**Incorrect?**

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** It is an indicator species of tall and wet grasslands of Himalayan foothills. So, statement 1 is Correct.

IUCN Red List 2019: Critically Endangered mammal. So, statement 2 is Incorrect.

Originally undisturbed tall grasslands of Terai region of India, Nepal and Bhutan and Bengal Duar region. Currently viable population of Wild pygmy hog is known to exist only in the Manas National Park, Oran National Park and Sonai-Rupai wildlife sanctuary in Assam. So, statement 3 is incorrect.

5. Recently, India signed its first ‘cooperation agreement in Polar Science’ with which of the following countries?

- (a) Finland
- (b) Switzerland
- (c) Sweden
- (d) Iceland

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** India, Sweden to sign MoU for polar science cooperation

6. Recently released, The Global Climate Risk Index 2020 is published by

- (a) UNFCCC
- (b) UNEP
- (c) A non-profit, Germanwatch
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** India suffered the maximum number of deaths — 2,081 — from climate-triggered extreme weather events in 2018, according to The Global Climate Risk 2020 report, released by non-profit, Germanwatch on December 4, 2019, in Madrid.

7. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has released a report titled “Ocean deoxygenation: Everyone’s problem”. In this context, the impact of Ocean deoxygenation are

1. Expansion of the volume of anoxic zones

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2. Reduction in the habitat available for pelagic, mesopelagic, and benthic organisms
3. Alteration in the balance of marine life by favouring low-oxygen tolerant species

Which of the above statement(s) is/are

Correct?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has released a report titled “Ocean deoxygenation: Everyone’s problem”. It reports the scale and nature of the changes being driven by ocean deoxygenation. Ocean Deoxygenation is defined as the reduction in oxygen content of the ocean due to anthropogenic effects.

8. Frog Phone, recently seen in news is related to.
  - (a) Remote sensing device
  - (b) Rocker-bogie
  - (c) Telecom Blanket
  - (d) Adaptive phone Controller

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** The world’s first solar-powered remote survey device that can be installed at any frog pond.

It will allow researchers to dial these devices remotely, and analyze the data later.

After a call is made to one of the Frog Phones already on a site, the device will take three seconds to receive it.

Because frogs are most active during night, researchers are usually required to make nightly observations in order to monitor them on site.

9. With respect to The Arms (Amendment) Bill, 2019 recently passed by the Lok Sabha:

1. It reduces the number of permitted firearms from three to one.
2. It also allows members of rifle clubs or associations to use any firearm for target practice instead of only point 22 bore rifles or air rifles.
3. Celebratory gunfire which endangers safety of others is a new category offence and not present in Arms Act, 1959.

Which of the statements given above are incorrect?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** All are provisions of the amendment

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10. Consider the following statements about Anglo-Indians

1. The term Anglo-Indians are defined in the Indian Constitution.
2. Constitution provides for reservation of two seats for Anglo-Indians in both Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly.

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: a)**

**Explanation:** Anglo-Indian is defined in the Indian Constitution. Article 366 says "an Anglo Indian means a person whose father or any of whose other male progenitors in the male line is or was of European descent but who is domiciled within the territory of India and is or was born within such territory of parents habitually resident therein and not established there for temporary purposes only;"

Anglo-Indians are provided two nominated seats in the Lok Sabha and one nominated seat in the State Legislative Assemblies to ensure adequate representation of the community in elected legislative bodies

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**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASS TEST – 11**

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1. Consider the following statements regarding the Nehru-Liaquat Pact, 1950:

1. Nehru-Liaquat Pact was made following the escalation of tension between India and Pakistan in West Pakistan after economic relations severed between both countries.

2. Sardar Vallabhai Patel severely opposed this pact.

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

**Incorrect?**

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

Delhi Pact, also called Nehru-Liaquat Pact, pact made on April 8, 1950, following the escalation of tension between India and Pakistan in East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) after economic relations between the two countries had been severed in December 1949.

An estimated one million people—Hindus from East Pakistan and Muslims from West Bengal—crossed the borders during 1950.

In spite of the opposition of his colleague Vallabhai Patel, Jawaharlal Nehru, prime minister of India, concluded a pact with Liaquat Ali Khan, prime minister of Pakistan, whereby refugees were allowed to return unmolested to dispose of their property,

abducted women and looted property were to be returned, forced conversions were unrecognized, and minority rights were confirmed.

Minority commissions were established to implement these terms, and confidence was in fact restored for a time; however, in the months following the pact, more than a million additional refugees migrated to West Bengal.

The continuing struggle over Kashmir also strained relations between the two countries.

2. In the context to National Food Security Act (NFSA), consider the following statements:

1. It gives legal entitlement to 67% of the population that comprises 75% in rural areas and 50% in urban areas to receive highly subsidized food grains.

2. Under the Act, food grain is allocated at 5 kg per person per month for priority household's category and at 35 kg per family per month for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families.

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)**



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**Explanation:**

Government of India enacted National Food Security Act (NFSA) in July, 2013 which gives legal entitlement to 67% of the population (75% in rural areas and 50% in urban areas) to receive highly subsidized food grains.

Under the Act, food grain is allocated at 5 kg per person per month for priority households category and at 35 kg per family per month for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families at a highly subsidized price of Rs. 1/-, Rs. 2/- and Rs. 3/- per kg for nutri-cereals, wheat and rice respectively.

Coverage under the Act is based on the population figures of Census, 2011.

The Act is now being implemented in all 36 States/UTs and covers about 81.35 crore persons.

The annual allocation of food grain under National Food Security Act and Other Welfare Schemes is about 610 Lakh Metric Tons.

communication link made available or hosted by him.

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

(d) Provision of penalties for breach of privacy

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

It was only on October 27, 2009 that Parliament amended the Information Technology Act of 2000 to protect online intermediaries from liability for criminally defamatory content published in them by third parties.

The amended Section 79 of the 2000 Act provided that “an intermediary shall not be liable for any third-party information, data, or communication link made available or hosted by him.”

The amendment gave almost blanket protection to intermediaries from legal action under Section 499/500 (criminal defamation) of the Indian Penal Code.

The punishment for sending “offensive” messages through a computer or any other communication device like a mobile phone or a tablet – Section 66 A

Trying to hack into the data stored in the computer – Section 66

Provision of penalties for breach of privacy – Section 66 E.

3. Section 79 of IT Act, 2000 deals with which of the following?

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

(b) An intermediary shall not be liable for any third-party information, data, or

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4. Consider the following statements regarding Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS):

1. It is a statutory body established under the BIS Act, 1986 to replace the Indian Standards Institution (ISI)
2. It works under the guidance of Ministry of Science and Technology.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

It is a statutory body established in 1987 under the BIS Act 1986. It replaced the Indian Standards Institution (ISI), a body set up under the Societies Registration Act, 1860. So, statement 1 is correct.

It works under the guidance of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. So, statement 2 is incorrect.

5. Paris summit, recently in news is related to

- (a) Refugee crisis
- (b) Israel-Palestine conflict
- (c) Ukrainian Crisis
- (d) Desertification of lands

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

The leaders of France, Germany, Russia, and Ukraine—the so-called Normandy Four group—met in Paris to renew negotiations to end the five-year conflict in eastern Ukraine.

6. Which of following countries shares border with “Gambia”:

1. Senegal
2. Guinea
3. Guinea-Bissau

Select the correct statements using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

The Gambia, officially the Republic of The Gambia, is a country in West Africa that is almost entirely surrounded by Senegal with the exception of its western coastline along the Atlantic Ocean. It is the smallest country within mainland Africa.

7. With reference to Typbar Vaccine, consider the following statements.

1. It is a type of conjugate vaccine.
2. It is the world’s first proven conjugate Typhoid vaccine.
3. It is Qualified by Global Health Council.

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Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

Both 1 and 2 statements are correct.

It is a type of conjugate vaccine which has already been pre-qualified by the World Health Organisation's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (WHO-SAGE). So, statement 3 is incorrect.

It consists of two typhoid vaccines viz. Polysaccharide Typhoid Vaccine and Live, Weakened Typhoid Vaccine are used in India. However, their efficacy is lower than the conjugate vaccine as they offer 60-70% protection, unlike the conjugate vaccine which confers nearly 82% protection.

In it, an antigen is chemically linked to a carrier protein to create more powerful combined immune response.

8. Whakaari Island of New Zealand is located in which of the following water body?

- (a) Cook Strait
- (b) Bay of Plenty
- (c) Bay of Islands
- (d) Tasman sea

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

It is also known as White Island, is located about 50 km from the eastern coast of North Islands in a region known as the Taupo Volcanic Zone.

It is located in the Bay of Plenty, about 48km from the east coast of New Zealand's North Island.

9. Consider the following statements.

1. Human Development Index is released by United Nation Development Programme.
2. India's position has improved in 2019 ranking as compared to 2018 index.

Which of the above statements is/are

**Incorrect?**

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct

10. Which of the following language made its debut in Rajya Sabha recently?

- (a) Santhali
- (b) Bodo
- (c) Maithili
- (d) Dogri

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** Santhali language recently made its debut in Rajya Sabha when a lawmaker from Odisha used it to raise a matter of urgent public importance during the Zero Hour.

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**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASS TEST – 12**

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1. Consider the following statements regarding WTO's appellate body:

1. This body reviews the judgement of any Federal court (belonging to WTO Member countries) in trade related aspects.
2. This body consists of a seven members and requires atleast three members to review a judgement.

Choose 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 Appellate Body, set up in 1995, is a **standing committee of seven members** that presides over appeals against judgments of WTO panel passed in trade-related disputes brought by WTO members. A member country can approach the Appellate Body if they feel the report of the panel set up to examine the issue needs to be reviewed on points of law. So, statement 1 is incorrect.

The dispute settlement mechanism requires at least three members to function out of the total seven-member strength. Currently there are only three members and term of two members out of those three also came to an end recently. So, statement 2 is correct.

2. World Habitat Award is awarded by:

1. World Habitat and UN-Habitat
2. UNEP
3. UNFCCC
4. Greenpeace International

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a)**

3. Consider the following statements regarding "Skills Build platform"

1. It is a digital platform that enables holistic learning of various skills and aligning it with Skills India initiative of Indian Government.
2. It is launched by IBM in collaboration with Ministry of Human Resource development.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

It is a digital platform developed by IBM, enabling holistic learning and aligning it with Skills India initiative by Government of India. So, statement 1 is correct.

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Launched by Directorate General of Training (DGT), under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) in Collaboration with IBM. So, statement 2 is incorrect.

4. Green Good Deeds campaign, sometimes seen in news related to

- (a) conserve and rejuvenate the river
- (b) preserve and restore environment
- (c) clean the roads across India
- (d) sensitize people about climate change and Global warming

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- It aims to sensitise the people and students, in particular, about climate change and global warming.
- Its objective is to restore and return the clean and green environment to the next generation.
- It also aims to broad its base with involvement of teachers, students and other voluntary organisations.

5. In the context to Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI), consider the following statements:

1. It ranks under four categories such as GHG Emissions, Renewable Energy, Energy Use and Climate Policy.
2. The first three places are occupied by Sweden, Denmark and Finland.
3. India ranked 9th which is for the first time entered the top 10 in CCPI.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- It is jointly released by New Climate Institute, Climate Action Network and Germanwatch. So, statement 1 is correct.
- In it the first three places of the ranking remain unoccupied. Sweden ranked 4th and Denmark ranked 5th achieved overall high or very high ratings. So, statement 2 is incorrect.
- India ranked 9th which is for the first time entered the top 10 in CCPI. So, statement 3 is correct.
- It ranked China in 30th place, the largest global emitter slightly improves its ranking.
- Only two G20 countries, the UK ranked 7th and India ranked 9th, are in the high category.

6. Consider the following, with reference to International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) Authority Bill, 2019:

1. Both the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) are its regulating bodies.
2. Its first centre in India is set up at Gujarat International Finance Tec-city (GIFT) in Gandhinagar.

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3. Its jurisdiction to carry out international financial services domestically.

**Answer: c)**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- All the above statements are correct.
- It includes banking, capital markets and insurance sectors.
- It is regulated by multiple regulators, such as the RBI, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- It seeks to amend 14 acts, including the SEBI Act, the IRDA Act and the PFRDA Act.

**Explanation:**

- The **Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)** is an instrument covering 58 countries and supposed to enhance transparency in international climate politics.
- Its aim is to encourage political and social pressure on those countries which have, up to now, failed to take ambitious actions on climate protection as well as to highlight countries with best-practice climate policies.
- The ranking results are defined by a country's aggregated performance on 14 indicators within the four categories "**GHG Emissions**", "**Renewable Energy**" and "**Energy Use**", as well as on "**Climate Policy**."
- The 2020 Climate Change Performance Index, prepared by a group of think tanks comprising the **New Climate Institute, the Climate Action Network and Germanwatch**.
- On the basis of standardized criteria, the index evaluates and compares the climate protection performance of 58 countries that are, together, responsible for more than 90% of global energy-related CO2 emissions.
- 80% of the evaluation is based on objective indicators of emissions trend and emissions level.
- 20% of the index results are built upon national and international climate policy assessments by more than 200 experts from the respective countries.

7. The 'Climate Change Performance Index' is /are released by which of the following?

- 1. Germanwatch
- 2. New Climate Institute
- 3. Climate Action Network
- 4. UNFCCC

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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



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8. Consider the following statements regarding the contamination of water:

1. The presence of metals in drinking water is to some extent unavoidable and is always bad for health.
2. Chronic exposure to arsenic is related to vitamin A deficiency, which is related to heart disease and night blindness.
3. Compared to naturally occurring arsenic from water and the diet, soil arsenic constitutes only a small fraction of intake.

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: c)**

**Explanation:**

- The presence of metals in drinking water is to some extent unavoidable and certain metals, in trace amounts, required for good health. It is not always bad for health.
- However, when present above safe limits, they are associated with a range of disorders.
- Long-term exposure to the above-mentioned heavy metals may result in slowly progressing physical, muscular, and neurological degenerative processes that mimic Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis.
- Chronic exposure to arsenic is related to vitamin A deficiency, which is related to heart disease and night blindness.

- Compared to naturally occurring arsenic from water and the diet, soil arsenic constitutes only a small fraction of intake.

9. With reference to Polar Synchronous Launch Vehicle (PSLV), consider the following statements:

1. It launches Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellites into sun-synchronous orbits and small size satellites into Geostationary Transfer Orbits (GTO).
2. The PSLV has a history of successful launches of payloads that include Chandrayaan-1, Mars Orbiter Mission and the Space Recovery Mission.

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:**

- PSLV is an expendable medium-lift launch vehicle designed and operated by ISRO.
- The PSLV, which has a history of successful launches of payloads that include Chandrayaan-1, Mars Orbiter Mission and the space recovery mission.
- The PSLV had helped take payloads into almost all the orbits in space including Geo-Stationary Transfer Orbit (GTO), the Moon, Mars and would soon be launching a mission to the Sun

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- Initially, the PSLV had a carrying capacity of 850 kg, and over the years it has been enhanced to 1.9 tonnes.
- The PSLV has failed only twice in its history - the maiden flight of the PSLV D1 in September 1993 and the PSLV C-39 in August 2017.

overall achievement in its social and economic dimensions.

**Context:** UNDP has released the annual HDI 2019 report. India's rank is 129.

**10. Consider the Following Indices:**

- Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI)
- Gender Development Index (GDI)
- Gender Inequality Index (GII)
- Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

Which of the above is/are part of the Human Development Report, published by the United Nations Development Program?

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

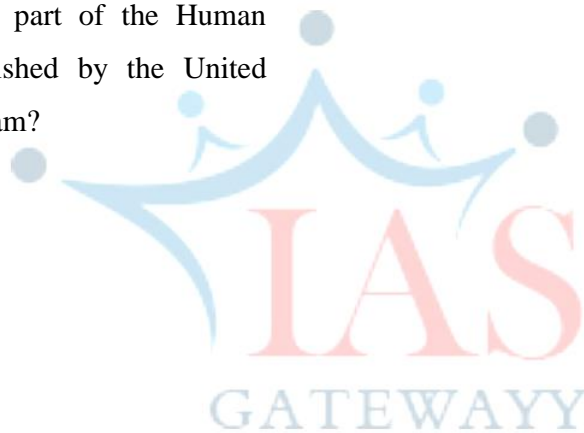
**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

**Indices published under the Human Development Report -**

- Human Development Index (HDI)
- Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI)
- Gender Development Index (GDI)
- Gender Inequality Index (GII)
- Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

This report is published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It is a statistical tool used to measure a country's



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1. Consider the following statements regarding “Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme for NBFC”:

1. It involves purchase of assets from Public sector banks (PSBs) by financially-sound non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).
2. This Scheme did not cover the assets of NBFCs that had slipped into Special Mention account (SMA) category.

Choose 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: d)**

**Explanation:** Under the Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme, the Public Sector Banks would purchase highly rated assets of the NBFCs and HFCs (Housing Finance Companies) in order to address the temporary liquidity crunch. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

The Union Cabinet has recently decided to even include those assets that have slipped into SMA-0 Category. So, statement 2 is not correct.

2. Which of the following statements correctly describes ‘Carbon Offsetting’?

- (a) It is a tradable unused quota of GHG emissions permitted to the countries.

(b) It is the reduction of emission of GHGs to compensate for the emission of GHGs made elsewhere.

(c) It refers to the total amount of Greenhouse emissions per year by a particular country.

(d) It is a tax imposed for releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:** A carbon offset is a reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases made in order to compensate for emissions made elsewhere. Carbon offsets are measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalent.

3. Consider the following statements regarding Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2019:

1. The Bill seeks to grant Indian Citizenship only to Muslim immigrants from Pakistan and Bangladesh.

2. It adds an additional ground for cancelling Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) registration.

Choose 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 Citizenship Amendment Bill, 2019 seeks to grant Indian Citizenship to persons belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist,

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Jain, Parsi and Christian communities who have migrated to India after facing persecution on grounds of religion in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. Hence, statement 1 is not correct. The Bill provides for an additional ground for cancelling Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) registration i.e. violation of any law notified by the central government. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

4. 'SEA ranching', recently in news refers to:

- (a) Artificial recruitment of aquatic organisms into their natural habitat for stock improvement.
- (b) Technique to handle oil Spilling
- (c) Deep see mineral exploration
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** In effort to replenish natural fish stock in the sea off the coast of Tamil Nadu, the Fisheries Department has planned to ranch seeds of black tiger shrimps, Indian prawn and cobia at a cost of ₹10.5 crore.

Sea ranching or ocean ranching is an internationally accepted concept, where fish that are commercially important and need replenishment are reared in a controlled laboratory environment and let into the sea when they are of a certain size. The expectation is that they would develop so that local fishers can catch them.

5. Consider the following statements about "Operation IceBridge"

- 1. It aims to understand connections between polar regions and the global climate system.
- 2. It is a mission by countries in Arctic Council.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** IceBridge, a NASA mission, is the largest airborne survey of Earth's polar ice ever flown. It will yield an unprecedented three-dimensional view of Arctic and Antarctic ice sheets, ice shelves and sea ice. These flights will provide a yearly, multi-instrument look at the behavior of the rapidly changing features of the Greenland and Antarctic ice

6. Consider the following statements:

- 1. Reflation is a reduction in the rate of inflation over time, even though inflation itself may be positive.
- 2. Disinflation is an attempt to bring back inflation in an economy, which is in deflation so as to induce growth.
- 3. Stagflation is when the economy does not grow and prices continue to rise.

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

**Incorrect?**

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation: Inflation:** It refers to the rise in general price level in the country over a period of time. Inflation could be monetary or price inflation.

**Deflation:** A general decline in prices, often caused by a reduction in the supply of money or credit. Deflation can be also caused by a decrease in government, personal or investment spending. The opposite of inflation, deflation has the side effect of increased unemployment since there is a lower level of demand in the economy, which can lead to an economic depression.

**Stagflation:** When you have a slow economy with high inflation rates and unemployment, stagflation is usually the result. When the economy does not grow and prices continue to rise you have a stagflation cycle in the economy.

**Disinflation:** This is a reduction in the rate of inflation over time, even though inflation itself may be positive.

**Reflation:** It is an attempt to bring back inflation in an economy, which is in deflation so as to induce growth.

7. The 'Composite Water Management Index' is released by,

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- (c) UNEP
- (d) Narmada Bachao Andolan

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** It is released by NITI Aayog.

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY):

1. It aims to provide LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) connections to poor households.
2. Under this scheme, 5 crore connections were targeted to be provided for BPL families.
3. The Scheme is implemented by the local governing bodies such as municipalities and the corporations.

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 only

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** It aims to provide LPG (liquefied petroleum gas) connections to poor households. Under the scheme, an adult woman member of a Below Poverty Line (BPL) family identified through the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) is given a

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deposit-free LPG connection with financial assistance of Rs 1,600 per connection by the Centre.

Eligible households will be identified in consultation with state governments and Union territories.

The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Under this scheme, initially 5 crore connections were to be provided to the people needing them. But now it has been extended to 8 crores.

The scheme also provides interest-free loans to buy stove and refill by oil marketing companies.

An initial outlay of Rs.8000 crore was sanctioned for the implementation of the scheme.

The scheme is also expected to create employment to the tune of about a lakh. It will also boost the 'Make in India' programme for manufacturers of gas cylinders, stoves, gas hose and regulators. Only domestic manufacturers are engaged in this.

It is also a business opportunity to the tune of a minimum of Rs.10000 crore.

9. With reference to CAR-T a treatment for cancer, consider the following statements

1. It is a form of chemotherapy.
2. It uses gene therapy technique.
3. It involves turbocharge of T cells in Immune System.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** It is not a pill or a form of chemotherapy. So, statement 1 is incorrect.

It uses gene therapy technique. So, statement 2 is correct.

It involves turbocharge of T cells in immune system. So, statement 3 is correct.

It is reprogrammed to harbor chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) that specifically targets cancer cells.

10. In context to Bharat Petroleum Cooperation Ltd (BPCL), Consider the following:

1. It is a Public Sector Unit which holds Navratna status.
2. It is under the administrative control of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

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:** It is a Public Sector Unit which holds Maharatna status. So, statement 1 is incorrect. It is under the administrative control of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. So, statement 2 is correct.



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1. With reference to Mullaperiyar Dam, consider the following statements:

1. Periyar river is an east-flowing river.
2. Mullaperiyar dam is located on the confluence of the Mullayar and Periyar river.
3. It is disputed between the states of Karnataka and Kerala.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- The Periyar River is the west-flowing river. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The Mullaperiyar Dam is located on the confluence of the Mullayar and Periyar rivers in Kerala's Idukki district. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Mullaperiyar Dam is disputed between Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

2. The “India Skills Report”, recently in news, was published by

- (a) PeopleStrong and CII
- (b) Quality Council of India
- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) Ministry of Statistics and program Implementation

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

India Skills Report 2019-20 has been recently released PeopleStrong, a Global Talent Assessment Company. This report is jointly prepared by PeopleStrong in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) along with partners like UNDP, AICTE, and AIU.

3. Which of the following steps taken by the government will resolve the crisis of Non-performing assets in banking sector of India?

1. Bank Recapitalization
2. Prompt corrective Action
3. Insolvency and Bankruptcy code

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: c)**

4. Consider the following statements regarding the Special Status given to Indian States:

1. The special status is granted by the National Development Council, which is an administrative body of the government.
2. Article 371 of the Constitution includes special provisions for 11 states, including six states of the Northeast.

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

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- Articles 369 through 392 appear in Part XXI of the Constitution, titled 'Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions'.
- Article 371 of the Constitution includes "special provisions" for 11 states, including six states of the Northeast.
- Articles 370 and 371 were part of the Constitution at the time of its commencement on January 26, 1950; Articles 371A through 371J were incorporated subsequently.
- While Article 370, which limited purchase and inheritance of property to permanent residents, was scrapped for J&K, similar provisions provided under Article 371 in many states are still in force.
- The constitution provides special status through an Act that has to be passed by 2/3rds majority in both the houses of Parliament whereas the special category status is granted by the National Development Council, which is an administrative body of the government.
- For example, Jammu and Kashmir enjoyed a special status as per Article 370 and also special category status.

- But now that Article 35A has been scrapped and it has become a union territory with legislature, special category status doesn't apply to J&K anymore.
- The decision to grant special category status lies with the National Development Council, composed of the prime minister, union ministers, chief ministers and members of the planning commission, who guide and review the work of the commission.
- Special category status for plan assistance has been granted in the past by the National Development Council (NDC) to some states that are characterized by a number of features necessitating special consideration.

5. In the context to DISHA Bill, 2019, consider the following statements:

- In response to increasing sexual violence in India, Parliament has recently passed DISHA Bill, 2019 that prescribes death penalty for Rape convicts.
- It also prescribes life imprisonment for other sexual offences against children and includes Section 354 F and 354 G in IPC.

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

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Answer: b)

**Explanation:**

- The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly Friday passed the Andhra Pradesh DISHA Bill, 2019 (Andhra Pradesh Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2019).
- It has prescribed the death penalty for rape crimes where there is adequate conclusive evidence. Provision is given by amending Section 376 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860.
- It also prescribes life imprisonment for other sexual offences against children and includes Section 354 F and 354 G in IPC.
- In cases of harassment of women through social or digital media, it states two years imprisonment for the first conviction and four years for second and subsequent convictions.
- For this, a new Section 354 E will be added in IPC, 1860.
- It envisages the completion of investigation in seven days and trial in 14 working days, where there is adequate conclusive evidence, and reducing the total judgment time to 21 days from the existing four months.
- The period for disposal of appeal cases has been reduced to three months. Amendments are being made in Section 374 and 377 of Code of Criminal Procedure Act, 1973.

- The government will constitute special police teams at the district level to be called District Special Police Team to be headed by DSP for investigation of offences related to women and children.

6. Consider the following Pairs:

Tribes	State
1. Pardhan	Assam
2. Kolam	Maharashtra
3. Gond	Madhya Pradesh

Which of the pair given above is **Incorrect**?

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

Answer: a)

**Explanation:**

**About Kolam Tribe:**

- The Kolam tribe (or in their own language, Kolavar) is a scheduled tribe of Maharashtra. They also live in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh.
- They have a language of their own (Kolami) which belongs, like Gondi, to the intermediate group of Dravidian languages.
- They are monogamous and follow Hinduism.
- Recently in 2018, the Government has identified Katkaria (Kathodia), Kolam and Maria Gond as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is administering the scheme “Development of PVTGs” for the overall development of

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PVTGs. This scheme is flexible and enables the States to focus on areas that they consider is relevant to PVTGs and their socio-cultural environment.

**About Gond Tribe:**

- The Gonds tribe is spread over Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar, and West Bengal.
- Their main concentration is in forest and hilly areas between the Vidhyans and Satpura.

**About Pardhan Tribe:**

- The Pardhan is a subgroup of the tribal Gond people who live in central India.
- The large majority of the Pardhan live in the Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.
- The primary language of the Pardhan people is their own Pardhan language. Some Pardhan also speak Hindi, Marathi and Gondi.

7. Consider the following with reference to International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN):

1. It is a union of civil society organisations.
2. It holds an observer status in United Nation.
3. It defines the extinction risk of species assessed.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- It is a membership Union composed of both government and civil society organisations. So, statement 1 is correct.
- It has observer and consultative status at the United Nations and plays a role in the implementation of several international conventions on nature conservation and biodiversity. So, statement 2 is correct.
- It defines the extinction risk of species assessed. So, statement 3 is correct.

8. In the context to Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body under Ministry of power.
2. It implements policy and program on energy efficiency and conservation.
3. It is established under Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

1. It is a statutory body under Ministry of power. So, statement 1 is correct
2. It implements policy and program on energy efficiency and conservation. So, statement 2 is correct
- It is established under Energy Conservation Act, 2001. So, statement 3 is correct.

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9. Consider the following, with reference to "Magnitude of substance use in India"- Report:

1. It is published by Ministry Health and Family Welfare.
2. It also showed that Kerala is second to Punjab in the number of arrests in drug cases.

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:**

- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has published a report named "Magnitude of substance use in India". So, statement 1 is incorrect.
- It also showed that Kerala is second to Punjab in the number of arrests in drug cases.
- So, statement 2 is correct.

10. Consider the following statements

1. 'Rig-Veda' has references with respect to population count, which has been maintained during 800-600 BC in India.
2. 'Arthashastra' has detailed description of methods of conducting population, economic and agricultural censuses.

3. 'Ain-e-Akbari' had comprehensive data pertaining to population, industry and wealth of the Mughal empire.

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

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- The **census** provides information on size, distribution and socio-economic, demographic and other characteristics of the country's population.
- '**Rig-Veda**' reveals that a kind of population count was maintained, during 800-600 BC in India.
- **Arthashastra** had prescribed the collection of population statistics as a measure of state policy for taxation.
- During the regime of the Mughal king Akbar, the administrative report '**Ain-e-Akbari**' included comprehensive data pertaining to population, industry, wealth and many other characteristics.
- A systematic and modern population census, in its present form was conducted non synchronously between 1865 and 1872 in different parts of the country.
- However, **the first synchronous census** in India was **held in 1881**. Since then, censuses have been undertaken uninterruptedly once every Ten Years.

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1. Consider the following statements regarding “National Ganga Council”

1. The minister corresponding to Union Environment and forests ministry was the ex-officio chairman.
2. National mission on Clean Ganga (NMCG) was the implementation arm of this council.

Choose 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:**

- Chairman of National Ganga Council: Prime Minister. So, statement 1 is incorrect.
- National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga is an authority created under the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016, dissolving the National Ganga River Basin Authority.
- In this backdrop, National Ganga Council has been established as an authority and National Mission for Clean Ganga has been also converted into an authority.
- Now NMCG acts as Implementation arm of National Ganga Council.

**So, statement 2 is correct.**

2. Which of the following animals in India are considered to be extinct in wild:

1. Asiatic Cheetah
2. Pink-headed Duck
3. Sumatran Rhinoceros

Choose 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:**

All the above species are “Extinct in wild”.  
So, answer is D.

3. ‘Climate Neutrality Plan’, recently in news is associated with

- (a) Climate Vulnerable Forum
- (b) MERCOSUR
- (c) BIMSTEC
- (d) European Union

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen has recently outlined the European Green Deal, vowing to “leave no-one behind” in the race to achieve a climate neutral economy by 2050.
- ‘Climate Neutrality Plan’: This is the overarching objective of the European Green Deal. The EU will aim to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, a goal that will be enshrined in a ‘climate law’ to be presented in March 2020.



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4. With reference to National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), Consider the following statements:

1. It is under the aegis of Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
2. It is empowered to check the increase in the prices of the Non-scheduled drugs.
3. It fixes price of drugs on which are not listed in National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM).

Which of the statements given above are

**Incorrect?**

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- It is an office attached to Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers. So, statement 1 is correct.
- It is empowered to check the increase in the prices of the Scheduled drugs. So, statement 2 is incorrect.
- It currently fixes price of drugs on National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) under Schedule-I of Drug Price Control Orders (DPCO). So, statement 3 is incorrect.

5. StrandHogg, sometimes seen in news is related to

- (a) Virtual Dispersive Networking
- (b) Smart Grid Technology

(c) Malware bug in android

(d) Early warning system

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- It allows real-time malware applications to pose as genuine applications.
- It can listen to their conversations, access photo album, read/send messages, make calls, record conversations and get login credentials to various accounts.
- It will ask for permission to send notifications, messages etc., which acts as the main entry points for 'StrandHogg' to launch the attack.

6. In context to Unified Payments Interface (UPI), consider the following statements:

1. It is a digital payment system developed by Reserve Bank of India.
2. It is built over the Real- Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) infrastructure and allow transfer of money between any two Parties Bank Accounts.

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

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- It is a digital payment system developed by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). So, statement 1 is incorrect.

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- It is built over the Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) and allow transfer of money between any two parties bank accounts. So, statement 2 is incorrect.
7. With reference to Paris Agreement, 2015 consider the following statements:
1. It aims to keep the global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial level.
  2. It is the first international agreement to combat climate change due to global warming.
  3. Unlike Kyoto Protocol it is not binding on parties.

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: a)**

**Explanation:**

- It aims to keep the global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial level.
- Pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- Strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change.
- It is not the first international agreement to combat climate change due to global warming
- In fact, Paris Agreement comes under the broad umbrella of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

- UNFCCC is a convention held in 1992 to combat climate change. Kyoto Protocol (1997) was another major international commitment under UNFCCC.
- Unlike its predecessor, the Kyoto Protocol, which sets commitment targets that have legal force, the Paris Agreement, with its emphasis on consensus-building, allows for voluntary and nationally determined targets.

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Integral Coach Factory (ICF):

1. Integral Coach Factory (ICF) is a manufacturer of rail coaches located in the Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
2. It is owned and operated by the Southern Railways.

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:**

- Integral Coach Factory (ICF) is a manufacturer of rail coaches located in the neighbourhood of Perambur, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- It was established in 1952 and was inaugurated by Jawaharlal Nehru in 1955.
- It is owned and operated by the Indian Railways.

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- The ICF is one of the three rake production units of the Indian Railways, the other two being the Modern Coach Factory at Raebareli and the Rail Coach Factory at Kapurthala.

(c) 2 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

**Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)**

- NCB is nodal drug law enforcement and intelligence agency of India.
- It is responsible for fighting drug trafficking and the abuse of illegal substances. It functions under Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and is headquartered in New Delhi.
- It was established in March 1986 to enable full implementation of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 and fight its violation through Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988.
- **Mandate of NCB-**
  - Fight drug trafficking on all-India level.
  - Provide resources and training to personnel of India's law enforcement agencies in fighting drug trafficking Monitor India's frontiers to track down points where smuggling activities take place with foreign traffickers. Work in close cooperation with Customs and Central Excise, State Police Department, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) and other Indian intelligence and law enforcement agencies both at the national and states level.

9. Which of the following are the three main components of Accessible India Campaign?

1. Built Environment Accessibility
2. Transportation System Accessibility
3. Information and Communication Eco-System Accessibility

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:**

- All 3 are the components of Accessible India Campaign.

10. Consider the following statements regarding Narcotics Control Bureau

1. It functions under the aegis of the Ministry of Defence
2. It is the chief law enforcement and intelligence agency of India responsible for fighting drug trafficking and the abuse of illegal substances.
3. It is entrusted with the implementation of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (1985)

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

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1. Consider the following statements regarding “Mallakhamba”

- (a) It is an ancient style bronze and brasswork still found in southern part of Coramandel area.
- (b) It is an ancient form of dance-drama and a living tradition in the northern part of Malabar.
- (c) It is an ancient martial art and a living tradition in some parts of south India.
- (d) A traditional sport of western India which involves gymnast performing on a hanging wooden pole.

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- Mallakhamba is a traditional sport, in which a gymnast performs aerial yoga postures and wrestling grips on a hanging wooden pole, cane, or rope.
- This traditional sport is more prevalent in Maharashtra and adjacent regions.
- In 2013, Madhya Pradesh declared Mallakhamba the state sport.

2. Consider the following statement regarding Competition commission of India:

- 1. It is a statutory body responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002.
- 2. It is created under the recommendations of Raghavan Committee.

Choose the correct statement using the code given below:

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

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a statutory body of the Government of India responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002, it was duly constituted in March 2009.
- So, statement 1 is correct.
- The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 (MRTP Act) was repealed and replaced by the Competition Act, 2002. Both the act and the commission came to force on the recommendations of Raghavan committee. So, statement 2 is also correct.

3. Which of the following missions are a part of “New Frontiers program” of NASA?

- 1. JUNO
- 2. New Horizon
- 3. Dragonfly
- 4. OSIRIS-REX

Choose the correct statement using the code given below:

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

The New Frontiers program is a series of space exploration missions being conducted

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by NASA with the purpose of researching several of the Solar System bodies, including the dwarf planet Pluto.

There are currently three New Frontiers missions in progress and one in development.

1. New Horizons, which was launched in 2006 and reached Pluto in 2015
2. Juno, which was launched in 2011 and entered Jupiter orbit in 2016,
3. OSIRIS-REx, launched in September 2016 towards asteroid Bennu for detailed studies from 2018 to 2021 and a sample return to Earth in 2023.
4. Dragonfly was selected to become the fourth mission in the New Frontiers program

4. Crystal Award, sometime seen is awarded by which of the following?

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) World Bank
- (c) International Atomic Energy Agency
- (d) International Labour Organization

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- It is awarded by the World Economic Forum (WEF)
- It recognises the achievements of leading artists and cultural figures whose leadership inspires inclusive
- and sustainable change.

5. With reference to Chief of the Army Staff, consider the following:

1. Its appointment is made by Cabinet Committee on Security.
2. Tenure of the office is four years or at the age of 65, whichever is earlier.
3. It is created through the Commanders in chief Act of the Indian parliament in 1955.

Which of the statements given above are

**Incorrect?**

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- Its appointment is made by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC). So, statement 1 is incorrect.
- The tenure of office is three years or at the age of 62, whichever is earlier. So, statement 2 is incorrect.
- It is created through the Commanders in Chief Act of the Indian parliament in 1955. So, statement 3 is correct.

6. Consider the following statements with regard to Article 6 of Paris agreement:

1. It provides provisions relating to setting up a new carbon market.
2. It is transparency framework for action and support" that establishes harmonized monitoring, reporting, and verification requirements.

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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:**

- It describes provisions relating to setting up a new carbon market.
- It allows for two different approaches of carbon trading.
- It enables bilateral arrangements for transfer of emissions reductions, while ensuring that they do not double-count the reductions.

7. Which of the following Right is *not* entitled under Article 19 of Indian Constitution?

- (a) to freedom of speech and expression
- (b) to assemble peaceably and without arms
- (c) to acquire, hold and dispose of property
- (d) to move freely throughout the territory of India

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- Article 19 (1) of Indian Constitution states that every citizen of India has
  - a) Right to freedom of speech and expression;
  - b) Right to assemble peaceably and without arms;
  - c) Right to form associations or unions;
  - d) Right to move freely throughout the territory of India;

- e) Right to reside and settle in any part of the territory of India; and
- f) Omitted
- g) Right to practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business

The Forty Fourth Constitutional Amendment, 1978, deleted Articles 19(1)(f) and 31 from Part III, the chapter on Fundamental Rights in the Constitution.

Instead, it inserted Article 300A in a new chapter IV of Part XII of the Constitution, thereby depriving the 'right to property' of its 'fundamental right' status.

8. 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.



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- 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's 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".

9. Consider the following statements:

1. Border Security Force is popularly known as "Sentinels of the Northeast".
2. Border Security Force guards the border areas along India and Bangladesh.
3. The motto of Assam Rifles is "Friends of the Hill People".

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

**Assam Rifles-**

- It is India's oldest paramilitary force, raised originally in 1835 as Cachar Levy.

- They perform many roles including the provision of internal security under the control of the army through the conduct of counter insurgency and border security operations.
- Assam Rifles is known as "**Sentinels of the Northeast**". Its headquarters are located at Laitkor (Shillong).
- The motto of Assam Rifles is "**Friends of the Hill People**".
- While Assam Rifles functions under the Ministry of Defence, its administrative control is under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

**Border Security Force (BSF)-**

- It is one of 7 Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) of India.
- It was raised in wake of 1965 War on 1 December 1965.
- It is country's largest border guarding force with a present strength of about 2.5 lakh personnel.
- Being a primary border defence organisation of India, it is tasked to secure two of India's most important and sensitive fronts with **Pakistan and Bangladesh**.
- Two other border guarding forces in country are-
  - Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) for China
  - Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) for Nepal and Bhutan

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10. Arrange the following Tiger Reserves of

Assam from east to west:

1. Manas Tiger Reserve
2. Orang Tiger Reserve
3. Namas Tiger Reserve
4. Kaziranga Tiger Reserve

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- The correct sequence from east to west is 4-3-2-1.



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1. Hump-backed Mahseer, a critically endangered fish recently in news, is found in the basin of:

- (a) Tapti River
- (b) Indus River
- (c) Ganges River
- (d) Cauvery River

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

The Hump-backed Mahseer is only found in the Cauvery basin.

2. Consider the following statements regarding allocation of seats to Lok sabha:

- 1. The allocation Lok Sabha seats to the states was based on the population data of 1971 census.
- 2. The next reallocation of seats to states will be altered only after 2036.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- The 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Act of 1976 froze the allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha to the states and the division of each state into territorial constituencies till the year 2000 at the 1971 level. So, statement 1 is correct.
- The 84<sup>th</sup> amendment Act of 2001 froze the allocation of Lok Sabha seats to states for the next

25 years (i.e. up to year **2026**). So, statement 2 is incorrect.

3. Consider the following, with regard to CHaracterising ExOPlanets Satellite (CHEOPS):

- 1. It is an Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) space telescope.
- 2. It is designed to study the composition and formation of extrasolar planets.

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:**

- It is a European Space Agency's space telescope. So, statement 1 is incorrect.
- It is designed to study the composition and formation of extrasolar planets. So, statement 2 is correct.
- It aims to measure size of known transiting exoplanets and search for transits of exoplanets previously discovered via radial velocity.
- It will observe bright stars that are already known to host planets.

4. In the context to Global Refugee Forum (GRF), Consider the following:

- 1. It is hosted by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

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2. It will be held every four years. (c) 2 and 3 only
3. It is participated by Ministerial level delegates. (d) All the above

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- All the above given statements are correct.
- It is jointly hosted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Refugee Agency, and the government of Switzerland.
- It will be held every four years at the Ministerial level.
- It aims to debate and discuss the response of the world countries to the Global refugee situation.

5. With reference to Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), consider the following:

1. It is under the Department of Economic Affairs.
2. The Funds received are deposited into Contingency fund of India.
3. It is a non-lapsable fund.

Which of the statements given above are

**Incorrect?**

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- It is headed by the USOF Administrator who reports to the Secretary, Department of Telecommunications (DoT). So, statement 1 is incorrect.
- Its funds come from the Universal Service Levy (USL) of 5% charged from all the telecom operators on their Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) which are then deposited into the Consolidated Fund of India. So, statement 2 is incorrect.
- It is a non-lapsable fund that is the unspent amount under target financial year does not lapse, accrues for next years' spending. So, statement 3 is correct.

6. 'Red Octagon', sometimes seen in news is referred to

- (a) Name of a debris in space  
(b) warning symbol employed in packaged foods  
(c) A series of active volcanoes in the Pacific Ring of Fire  
(d) A software sold out using dark web

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- 'Red Octagon', a warning symbol employed in packaged foods in Chile and Peru.
- The Red Octagon, which should be printed on the front of the pack, has a number and the name of the food component within that

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indicates how widely off the RDA a particular ingredient is.

7. The concept of the Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) recently seen in news indicates which of the following?

- (a) a daily ceiling on the amount of salt, fat, carbohydrates and trans-fats.
- (b) a daily ceiling on the amount of salt, fat, carbohydrates and protein.
- (c) a daily ceiling on the amount of protein, fat, carbohydrates and trans-fats.
- (d) a daily ceiling on the amount of protein, fat, carbohydrates and vitamins.

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- To calculate how unsafe the foods tested were, the organisation relied on the concept of the **Recommended Dietary Allowance (RDA) — a daily ceiling on the amount of salt, fat, carbohydrates and trans-fats.**
- The RDA is based on scientific consensus and has been agreed upon by expert bodies such as the World Health Organisation, and the National Institute of Nutrition in India. It says that, ideally, no more than 5 gm of salt, 60 gm of fat, 300 gm carbohydrate and 2.2 gm of trans-fat should be consumed by an adult every day.
- Further, the RDA from each breakfast, lunch and dinner should be no more than 25%, and that from snacks no more than 10%.

8. Consider the following statements:

1. The Article 42 of the Constitution of India states that the state shall endeavour to secure all workers a living wage, conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life.
2. Under the Constitution of India, Labour is a subject in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule.

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 **Article 43 of the Constitution of India** states that the state shall endeavour to secure by suitable legislation or economic organization or in any other way to all workers a living wage, conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of pleasure and social and cultural opportunities.
- Under the Constitution of India, Labour is a subject in the **Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule** where both the Central & State Governments are competent to enact legislation.

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9. Consider the following statements regarding Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE):

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Power.
2. Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) has been developed by BEE.
3. Perform Achieve and Trade (PAT) scheme is a flagship programme of BEE.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

**Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**

- Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) was set up in 2002, under the provision of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- It was established to assist in developing policies and strategies, with the primary objective of reducing energy intensity of the Indian.

10. Consider the following statements regarding Fort William

1. Warren Hastings was the first Governor of the Presidency of Fort William
2. The regulating act of 1773 established a supreme court at Fort William.
3. Fort Williams College for training Civil Servants locally, was founded by Warren Hastings.

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: a)**

**Explanation:**

**Fort William**

- Fort William was built during the early years of the Bengal Presidency of British India.
- It sits on the eastern banks of the River Hooghly.
- In 1756, the Nawab of Bengal, Siraj Ud Daulah, attacked the Fort, temporarily conquered the city, and changed its name to Alinagar.
- The **Regulating act of 1773** established a supreme court at Fort William, Calcutta. This Supreme Court consisted one Chief Justice and three other regular judges or Puisne Judges. Sir Elijah Impey was the first Chief Justice of this Supreme Court.
- The initial attempt to train the Civil Servants locally was done by **Lord Wellesley**. Within the campus of the Fort William, he **founded Fort Williams College** on 10 July 1800.



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1. The 'Hong Kong Convention', recently in news, is associated with
- (a) Laws of war and war crimes
  - (b) Cross border Trade
  - (c) Rights of people in democracy
  - (d) Ship Recycling

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- The Hong Kong Convention is aimed at ensuring that ships, when being recycled after reaching the end of their operational lives, do not pose any unnecessary risk to human health and safety or to the environment.

2. Consider the following statements regarding 'Global Refugee Forum'

1. This forum is guided by the "Global Compact on Refugees" and is held in Geneva, Switzerland.
2. The inaugural 'GRF' was held in 2016 at the backdrop of the Syrian Refugee Crisis.

Select the correct statements using the code given below:

- (a) 1 Only
- (b) 2 Only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

Guided by the Global Compact on Refugees, the Global Refugee Forum is an opportunity

to translate the principle of international responsibility-sharing into concrete action.

The **First** Global Refugee Forum, took place in December 2019 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, and focused on the following areas: arrangements for responsibility sharing, education, jobs and livelihoods, energy and infrastructure, solutions and protection capacity.

So, statement 1 is correct and Statement 2 is incorrect.

It is jointly hosted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Refugee Agency, and the government of Switzerland, aims to debate and discuss the response of the world's countries to the global refugee situation.

3. Consider the following statements about Special Protection Group (Amendment) Act, 2019,

1. SPG will provide security to the Prime minister only and not to his/her immediate family members.
2. It will provide security to any former P.M and his/her immediate family members, for a period of 3 years from the date on which he ceases to hold the PMO.

Select the correct statements using the code given below:

- (a) 1 Only
- (b) 2 Only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of the above

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**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

SPG will provide security not only to the Prime minister but also to his/her immediate family members. So, statement 1 is incorrect.

It will provide security to any former P.M and his/her immediate family members, for a period of **5 years** from the date on which he ceases to hold the PMO. So, statement 2 is incorrect.

4. In the context to Right to Information (RTI) Act, consider the following:

1. The information which cannot be denied to the Parliament shall not be denied to any person.
2. It is a Suo motu disclosure of information by each public authority.

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:**

**Section 4:** It requires Suo motu disclosure of information by each public authority. However, such disclosures have remained less than satisfactory.

**Section 6(2):** “An applicant making request for information shall not be required to give any reason for requesting the information or

any other personal details except those that may be necessary for contacting him.”

**Section 8(1)(j):** “The information which cannot be denied to the Parliament or a State Legislature shall not be denied to any person” under the RTI Act.

5. Which of the following information related to RTI Act are exempted?

1. Personal information that is breaches of Privacy
2. Risk the life or physical safety of any person
3. Forbidden by any court of law in India
4. Affecting relation of State of India with foreign State

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

**RTI Act Information Exclusions:**

Under section 8 of the RTI Act, 2005 Govt/public authorities are exempted from sharing following information:

- Affecting the Sovereignty, Integrity, Security, Strategic interest, Scientific interest or Economic interest of the State of India
- Affecting relation of State of India with foreign State

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- Forbidden by any court of law in India
- Breach of privilege of State assembly or Parliament of India
- Intellectual Property Rights, Copyright, Commercial Confidence or Trade Secrets
- Available to a person in his fiduciary relationship, unless disclosure is required in larger public interest
- Received from foreign Government
- Risk the life or physical safety of any person
- Impact or obstruct legal investigation
- Minutes of Union Cabinet meeting including discussion between Ministers, Secretaries or Govt officers
- Personal information that is breaches of Privacy

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- The National Ganga Council, also known as the National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection, and Management of River Ganga was set up in 2016. It replaced the National River Ganga Basin Authority (NRGBA).
- The National Ganga Council is formed under the Environment (Protection) Act (EPA), 1986.
- The council consists of chief ministers from five states along the Ganga — Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Bihar and Jharkhand along with nine Union ministers and NITI Aayog vice-chairman.
- The central objective of the council is to work on the “protection, prevention, control and abatement of environmental pollution in River Ganga and its rejuvenation to its natural and pristine condition and to ensure continuous adequate flow of water”.
- The council is supposed to meet every year, but since its inception in 2016, no meeting has taken place.
- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) acts as an implementation arm of the National Ganga Council.
- NMCG which was established in the year 2011 as a registered society has a two-tier management structure and comprises of Governing Council and Executive Committee.

6. In the context to National Ganga Council, consider the following statements:

1. The National Ganga Council is formed under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
2. The council consists of chief ministers from five states along the Ganga — Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Bihar and Jharkhand along with nine Union ministers and NITI Aayog vice-chairman.
3. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) acts as an implementation arm of the National Ganga Council.

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

**Incorrect?**

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7. With reference to the Gangetic Dolphin, consider the following statements:

1. The Ganges river dolphin is a fresh water dolphin found in India, Bangladesh, and Nepal only.
2. They are placed under “Critically Endangered” category by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
3. They are distributed across seven states in India which includes Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

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:**

- According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the Gangetic river dolphins were officially discovered in 1801 and are one of the oldest creatures in the world along with some species of turtles, crocodiles and sharks.
- The Ganges river dolphin is found in parts of the Ganges-Meghna-Brahmaputra and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh.
- The Gangetic river dolphin is India's National Aquatic Animal and is popularly known as ‘Susu’.

- The Gangetic river dolphins can only live in freshwater, are blind and catch their prey in a unique manner, using ultrasonic sound waves.
- These dolphins prefer deep waters and, as per WWF, they are distributed across seven states in India: Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- It is among the four freshwater dolphins in the world- the other three are:
  1. The ‘Baiji’ now likely extinct from the Yangtze River in China,
  2. The ‘Bhulan’ of the Indus in Pakistan, and
  3. The ‘Boto’ of the Amazon River in Latin America.
- These four species live only in rivers and lakes.
- Its presence indicates the health of the riverine ecosystem.
- Some of the efforts made to preserve and increase the numbers of these dolphins include the setting up of the **Conservation Action Plan for the Gangetic Dolphin (2010-2020)**.
- Conservation Action Plan for the Gangetic Dolphin (2010-2020) has identified threats to Gangetic dolphins and impact of river traffic, irrigation canals and depletion of prey-base on dolphin populations.
- They are placed under “**endangered**” category by the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**.
- It is listed on **CITES Appendix-I** and are classified under **Schedule 1**, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 providing absolute

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protection and offences under these are prescribed the highest penalties.

- **Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS)** in Bihar's Bhagalpur district is India's only sanctuary for its national aquatic animal.
- They are also one among the 21 species identified under the centrally sponsored scheme, "Development of Wildlife Habitat".

8. Which of the following comes under the concept of Cooperative Federalism?

1. GST Council
2. NITI Aayog
3. Interstate Council
4. An industrial summit organised by a state
5. Panchayati Raj

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- Cooperative federalism, also known as marble-cake federalism, is a concept of federalism in which federal, state, and local governments interact cooperatively and collectively to solve common problems, rather than making policies separately but more or less equally (such as the dual federalism of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century United States) or clashing over a policy in a system dominated by the national government.

- In **Cooperative federalism** the Centre and states share a horizontal relationship, where they "cooperate" in the larger public interest.
- So, all the five except **an industrial summit organised by a state** comes under Cooperative Federalism.
- An industrial summit organised by a state comes under the concept of Competitive Federalism.
- In **Competitive federalism** the relationship between the Central and state governments is vertical and between state governments is horizontal.

9. With reference to the Indian Coast Guard, consider the following statements:

1. It was formally established in 1978 by the Coast Guard Act as an independent armed force of India.
2. It operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- The Indian Coast Guard is a multi-mission organisation, conducting round-the-year real life operations at sea.
- It is headed by the Director General Indian Coast Guard (DGICG) exercising his overall

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command and superintendence from the Coast Guard Headquarters (CGHQ) located at New Delhi.

- It has jurisdiction over the territorial waters of India, including its contiguous zone and exclusive economic zone.
- It was formally established in 1978 by the Coast Guard Act as an independent armed force of India.
- It operates under the Ministry of Defence.
- For effective command and control, the Maritime Zones of India are divided into five Coast Guard Regions, namely, North-West (HQ Gandhinagar), West (HQ Mumbai), East (HQ Chennai), North-East (HQ Kolkata) and Andaman & Nicobar (Port Blair).

- They are important to treat Cancers and other non-communicable Diseases.
- They are less expensive and give same effectiveness as generic Medicines.
- Unlike the Generics, which are identical copy of the medicine, bio-similar are only highly similar to the reference Product.
- Recently, WHO Approved for the first-time, a Bio-similar Medicine to treat Breast – Cancer.
- The Bio-similar version of ‘Trastuzumab’ is used to treat Breast – Cancer.
- The Trastuzumab drug has shown “high efficacy” in curing early stage breast cancer and in some cases more advanced forms of the disease.

**10. Consider the Following Statements**

1. Bio-similar medicines are those, which are produced from Biological sources like cells, and not from synthesized chemicals.
2. They cannot be used for treating cancers, as they might react adversely with Tumor Cells.

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:**

- Bio-similar medicines are those, which are produced from Biological sources like cells, and not from synthesized chemicals.



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1. Consider the following, with regard to Asian Houbara bustard:

1. It lives in arid climate.
2. It is listed as Endangered under IUCN Red list.
3. Its population extends in the regions of Iran, Pakistan and India.

Which of the statements given above are

**Incorrect?**

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- It lives in arid climate. So, statement 1 is correct.
- It is listed as Vulnerable under IUCN Red list. So, statement 2 is incorrect.
- Its population extends in the regions of Iran, Pakistan and Turkmenistan. So, statement 3 is incorrect.

2. Sharjah, sometimes seen in news related to

- (a) Roman-era hot spring
- (b) Expanding bullet
- (c) Newly discovered star
- (d) Short range infrared air to air missile

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- The star HIP 79431 is named as "Sharjah".
- The planet affiliated with this star is named as "Barjeel".

3. In the context to Synthetic Biology, consider the following:

1. It stitches together long stretches of DNA.
2. It redesigns existing biological parts.
3. It uses tools to delete or add small stretches of DNA in the genome.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- It involves organism's genetic code
- It stitches together long stretches of DNA and insert them into an organism.
- DNA could be genes that are found in other organisms or they could be entirely new.
- It redesigns existing biological parts and expand the set of natural protein functions for New Processes.

4. 'Industrial Security Annex', a defence agreement sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following countries?

- (a) India and U.S
- (b) India and Australia
- (c) India and France
- (d) India and Japan

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- The Industrial Security Annex (ISA) to the India-U.S. General Security of Military Information Agreement (**GSOMIA**) will provide a framework for exchange and

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protection of classified military information between the U.S. and Indian defence industries.

- It was recently signed between India and U.S at second 2+2 Dialogue in Washington.

5. India is a signatory to which of the following agreements?

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

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:**

- There are four foundational agreements that help the U.S. to intensify its defence cooperation with a partner nation such as India.
- India has already signed three pacts such as Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) and Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA).
- **LEMOA** gives both nations access to each other's military facilities. But it does not make it automatic or obligatory.
- **GSOMIA** paved the way for greater technology cooperation in the military sector.

- **COMCASA** facilitates transfer of encrypted communications systems.
- It helps in sharing high-tech military hardware, especially armed drones which the U.S. is willing to supply to India.
- The other pact which India yet to sign is **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation (BECA)**.
- **BECA** facilitates exchange of geospatial information.

6. 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 subsidised prices from designated ration shops (also called fair price shops)

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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.
- **Ration shops** can be privately owned or owned by cooperative societies or by the government. Ownership licenses are issued by the concerned state government.
- 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.

7. 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. Currently, the central government’s ambitious initiative is being implemented on a pilot basis in a cluster of six States.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/re 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.
- Currently, the central government’s ambitious initiative is being implemented on a pilot basis

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in a cluster of six States. The government hopes to implement the scheme across India by June 1, 2020.

8. With reference to National Statistical Commission (NSC), consider the following:

1. It is set up on the recommendations of Rangarajan Commission.
2. Its composition consists of Chairperson and four members.
3. It is under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

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:**

- It is set up on the recommendations of Rangarajan Commission. So, statement 1 is correct.
- Its composition consists of Chairperson and four members. So, statement 2 is correct.
- It is under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. So, statement 3 is correct.

9. Consider the following:

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

Which of the following action(s) can be taken by the Government to reduce the budget deficit?

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

**Budget Deficit**

- A budget deficit occurs when expenses exceed revenue and indicate the financial health of a country.
- Revenue expenditure - Unnecessary revenue expenditure bloats the fiscal deficit, and since it forms the majority of government spending, its reduction has a very large effect on the fiscal deficit.
- Introducing new welfare schemes - It will further increase the fiscal deficit.
- Rationalizing subsidies - Subsidies are a major component of government spending, and its reduction will cut down fiscal deficit.
- Reducing import duty - It reduces tax revenue and thus increases fiscal deficit.

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10. Old-age pension given to the Senior Citizens, will be considered in terms of national income as:

1. Investment expenditure
2. Domestic consumption
3. Compensation to employees
4. None of the Above

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- Old-age pension given to the Senior Citizens - it will not be included in the national income as it is a transfer payment made by the government and a transfer income for the receiver.
- Old age pension must not be confused with retirement pension. Old age pension is not included in national income as it is a transfer payment. On the other hand, retirement pension is included in national income as it is a part of Compensation of Employees.

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1. Consider the following statements regarding Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL):

1. It is a oil and gas company with “Maharatna” Status.
2. Majority of the shareholding in the company is held by private shareholders.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) is a Government of India controlled Maharatna oil and gas company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra. So, statement 1 is correct.

54% of shares in BPCL is held by government of India. So, statement 2 is incorrect.

2. Consider the following statements regarding “Section 144”, recently in news:

1. This Section 144 derives its power from Indian Penal Code, 1860.
2. The Power to impose section 144 in a region lies with the Governor of the Corresponding state.

Choose 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: d)**

**Explanation:**

Section 144 finds place in the Criminal procedure Code. So, statement 1 is incorrect.

The Power to impose section 144 in a region lies with the District Magistrate of the district. So, statement 2 is also incorrect.

3. Consider the following statements regarding “Budapest Convention on Cybercrime”:

1. It is the only Binding International Instrument that addresses internet and Cyber Related Crime.

2. India has recently signed this agreement.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

India doesn't sign this agreement yet. But India has recently has voted in favor of Russian led UN resolution to set up a separate convention on cybercrime.



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4. With reference Digital Communications Commission (DCC), consider the following:

1. It is responsible for formulating the policy of Department of Electronics and Information Technology.
2. It prepares budget for Department of Telecommunications for each financial year.
3. Telecom secretary is ex-officio chairperson of DCC.

Which of the statements given above are Correct?

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- It is responsible for formulating the policy of Department of Telecommunication. So, statement 1 is incorrect.
- It prepares budget for Department of Telecommunications for each financial year. So, statement 2 is correct.
- Telecom secretary is ex-officio chairperson of DCC. So, statement 3 is correct.

**Composition:**

- Telecom secretary is ex-officio chairperson of DCC.
- The full-time members of panel include DoT's Additional Secretary, Member

(finance), Member (services) and Member (Technology).

- The part-time members of body are NITI Aayog's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) secretary and Ministry of Electronics and IT secretary.

5. In context to National Population Register (NPR), consider the following:

1. It is under the provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955.
2. It is voluntary for every usual resident to register in NPR.
3. It is prepared only in national and state level.

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

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- It is under the provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003. So, statement 1 is correct.
- It is mandatory for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR. So, statement 2 is incorrect.
- It is been prepared at village/sub-town, sub-District, District, State and National level. So, statement 3 is incorrect.

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6. Which of the following is/are long-term government securities?

1. Dated Securities
2. Treasury Bills
3. Government Bonds

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- Short term bonds are also known as Treasury Bill. Its maturity period is less than 1 year.
- Long Term Bonds are also known as Government Bonds and Dated Securities.

7. In context to Open Market Operation, consider the following:

1. It aims to regulate money supply in the economy.
2. It is used to adjust the excess liquidity conditions in the market.
3. It is the sale and purchase of government securities by RBI.

Which of the statements given above are Correct?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

**Open Market Operations:**

- Open Market is also called as unrestricted, free access market.
- It aims to regulate the money supply in the economy.
- It is used to adjust the liquidity conditions in the market.
- It is the sale and purchase of government securities and T-bills by RBI.
- During increase in liquidity condition then RBI sells G-secs to Open Market.
- During decrease in liquidity condition then RBI buys G-secs from Open Market.

8. Consider the following, with regard to EChO Network:

1. It is a National Program to provide a specific focus of increasing research, knowledge, and Awareness of Indian Ecology.
2. It can synthesize Interdisciplinary concepts and tackle real-world problems in Medicine, Agriculture, Ecology, and Technology.

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)**

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**Explanation:**

- EChO Network is a national program to provide a template for cross-disciplinary leadership in India with the specific focus of increasing research, knowledge, and awareness of Indian ecology and the environment.
- EChO Network would develop a national network to catalyse a new generation of Indians who can synthesize interdisciplinary concepts and tackle real-world problems in medicine, agriculture, ecology, and technology.
- The program will then train postdoctoral leaders in research and outreach on these topics, while also incorporating current public and private efforts into a national network. Hence both statements are Correct.

9. In context to Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP), consider the following:

1. It is a recognized book as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
2. It specifies the standards of drugs manufactured and marketed in India.
3. It is formally recognized in Iran and Afghanistan.

Which of the statements given above are Correct?

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- Afghanistan has become the first country to formally recognize Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP).
- The Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) is an officially recognized book of standards as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules 1945 thereunder.
- The IP specifies the standards of drugs manufactured and marketed in India in terms of their identity, purity and strength.
- In order to ensure the quality of medicinal products, the legal and scientific standards are provided by Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) in the form of Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP).

10. Consider the following, with regard to Pinaka missile system:

1. It is a multi- barrel rocket launch system.
2. It is been developed by Boeing production.
3. Its navigation system is aided by Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).

Which of the statements given above are Correct?

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

**Answer: b)**

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**Explanation:**

- The Pinaka, a multi-barrel rocket launch system has a maximum range of 40 km for Mark-I and 75 km for Mark-II variant, and can fire a salvo of 12 rockets in 44 seconds.
- It has been developed by various Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The weapon system, mounted on a Tatra truck, is equipped with state-of-the-art guidance kit comprising an advanced navigation and control system.
- The Navigation system of the missile is also aided by the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).



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1. Consider the following Statements:

1. National Register of Indian Citizens (NCIR) comes under the aegis of Ministry of statistics and Programme Implementation.
2. NPR will comprise of only Indian citizens and will not include foreigners.

Choose 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: d)**

**Explanation:**

Since NCIR comes under the ministry of home affairs, statement 1 is incorrect.

Unlike the NRC, the National Population Register will not only include citizens but also foreigners as it would record even a foreigner staying in a locality for more than six months.

The NPR database would contain demographic as well as biometric details. So, statement 2 is incorrect.

2. Consider the following statements regarding Citizenship:

1. India follows the system of Dual Citizenship.
2. While Citizenship falls under Union list, Naturalisation falls under State list.
3. A person residing in the state of Assam, is a citizen of both India and his/her state as well.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

All the above given statements are wrong.

3. Consider the following statements regarding “Garia Festival”.

1. It is celebrated in the state of Nagaland.
2. This festival is a dedication to birds, especially to Hornbills.

Choose 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: d)**

**Explanation:**

It is celebrated in the state of Tripura. So, statement 1 is incorrect.

This festival is a Harvest festival dedicated to Lord Ganesha. So, statement 2 is incorrect.

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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 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) 2 and 3 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: d)**

**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.
- 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.
- As per the provisions of the NPR, a resident identity card (RIC) will be issued to individuals over the age of 18.
- 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. With reference to the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP), consider the following statements:

1. In order to ensure the quality of medicinal products, the legal and scientific standards are provided by Indian Pharmacopoeia.
2. IP is an officially recognized book of standards as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules 1945.
3. Standards prescribed in the IP are voluntary in nature and are not mandatory.

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 quality, efficacy and safety of the medicines are important from healthcare perspective.

In order to ensure the quality of medicinal products, the legal and scientific standards are provided by Indian Pharmacopoeia



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Commission (IPC) in the form of Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP).

IP is an officially recognized book of standards as per the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules 1945 there under.

As per, the Second Schedule of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, IP is designated as the official book of standards for drugs imported and/or manufactured for sale, stock or exhibition for sale or distribution in India.

Standards prescribed in the IP are authoritative in nature and are enforced by the regulatory authorities for quality control of medicines in India.

6. 'Nagpur Resolution', sometimes seen in news is related to

- (a) To make India Open Defecation free by 2020
- (b) Improving Public Service Delivery in Nagpur
- (c) To build skills of skilled labours in Maharashtra
- (d) To make India Corruption free by 2022.

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

The 'Nagpur Resolution – A holistic approach for empowering citizens' was adopted during the valedictory session of the two-day Regional Conference on 'Improving Public Service Delivery – Role of Governments', in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

7. With reference to Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), consider the following:

1. It is the second largest inter-government organisation after European Union.
2. Its non-Arab members are Turkey, Iran and Pakistan.
3. Its official languages are Arabic, English and French.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- It is the second largest inter-governmental organisation after the United Nations. So, statement 1 is incorrect.
- While the 22 members of the Arab League are also part of the OIC, the organisation has several significant non-Arab member states, including Turkey, Iran and Pakistan. So, statement 2 is correct.
- The organisation has permanent delegations to the UN and the European Union and its official languages are Arabic, English and French. So, statement 3 is correct.
- It has five observer member States
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina (1994)
  - Central African Republic (1996)
  - Kingdom of Thailand (1998)

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- The Russian Federation (2005)
- Turkish Cypriot State (1979)

8. Consider the following, with regard to Peregrine Falcon:

1. It can be found in extreme polar regions and very high mountains.
2. Its IUCN Red List status is Least Concern.
3. It has the fastest vision in the animal kingdom.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- Its Scientific name is Falco peregrinus.
- Its IUCN Red List status is Least Concern.
- It is a widespread bird of prey (raptor) in the family Falconidae.
- It can be found nearly everywhere on Earth, except extreme polar regions, very high mountains,
- and most tropical rainforests. This makes it one of the most widely found bird species.
- The peregrine falcon has the fastest vision in the animal kingdom, registering 129 Hz (blinks per second).

9. In context to International Criminal Court (ICC), consider the following:

1. India is not a party to ICC along with US and China.
2. The members to the Rome Statute are placed within the jurisdiction of the ICC.

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 1 and 2 are correct.
- The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal that sits in The Hague in the Netherlands.
- The ICC has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.
- States which become party to the Rome Statute, for example by ratifying it, become member states of the ICC.
- India is not a party to ICC along with US and China.

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10. Consider the following, with regard to Core Catcher or Core melt localisation device (CMLD):

1. It is designed to localise and cool the molten core material in case of meltdown accident.
2. It is a cone shaped metal structure that weighs about 800 tones.
3. It is filled with a ceramic mixture also including ferric oxide and aluminium oxide, called 'Sacrificial material'.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- The Moscow-based Rosatom State Corporation Engineering Division announced that it had installed a core melt localisation device (CMLD) or “core catcher” at Unit 3 of Tamil Nadu’s Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP).
- Molten core material, or corium, is lava-like material that gets formed in the core of a nuclear reactor in the event of a meltdown accident.
- The corium so formed can remain radioactive for several decades, even centuries.

- Such an accident occurs when the nuclear fission reaction taking place inside a reactor is not sufficiently cooled, and the buildup of heat causes fuel rods to melt down.
- In the past, meltdown accidents have occurred at Chernobyl in Russia in 1986 and at Fukushima in Japan in 2011.
- Core melt localisation device (CMLD) or a core catcher device is designed to localise and cool the molten core material in case of a meltdown accident.
- According to the Rosatom website, the core catcher is a cone shaped metal structure that weighs about 800 tones.
- The structure is double walled, with the gap between the two walls filled with FAOG (ferric and aluminium oxide granules).
- The core catcher is filled with a ceramic mixture also including ferric oxide and aluminium oxide, called ‘sacrificial material’.
- The sacrificial material prevents the corium from trickling through and also acts as a cooling mechanism. The core catcher device is installed at the bottom of the nuclear station’s protective shell, and is designed to save the latter as well as exude radioactive emission in the environment in case of a serious accident, according to the press release.

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1. Consider the following, with regard to Bar-headed geese:

1. It is found in central China and Mongolia.
2. Its IUCN status is Critically endangered.
3. It is a high-altitude flying bird.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

**About Bar-headed goose**

- Bar-headed geese breed in central China and Mongolia and they start migration to the Indian sub-continent during the winter.
- They are one of the birds which can fly even at very high altitude. They come to India and return to their homes by crossing the Himalayan ranges.
- Bar-headed goose is known to fly high.
- They cross the Himalayas on one of the most high-altitude migrations in the world.
- Their ability to sustain the high oxygen demands of flight in air that is exceedingly oxygen-thin is exceptional.

- The goose's high-altitude flights have been a biological mystery for decades. A mountain climber spotted a bar-headed goose overhead while summiting Mount Everest back in 1953. They boast an enhanced ability to bind oxygen to their hemoglobin.
- According to a study by the Graham R. Scott and others found that heart rates and metabolic costs of flight increase with elevation and can be near maximal during steep climbs. (Source: The Hindu and others)

2. Consider the following, with reference to Microdot Technology:

1. It involves spraying the body and parts of the vehicle, which give a unique identification.
2. It is used to check theft of vehicles and also use of fake spare parts.

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:**

- Microdot technology involves spraying the body and parts of the vehicle or any other machine with microscopic dots, which give a unique identification.

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- The microdots and adhesive will become permanent fixtures / affixation which cannot be removed without damaging the asset, that is the vehicle itself. These nearly invisible microdots can only be read physically with a microscope and identified with ultra violet light source.
  - Use of this technology will help check theft of vehicles and also use of fake spare parts.
3. Consider the following statements, with reference to the 'Nagpur Resolution':
1. It is adopted during the Regional Conference on 'Improving Public Service Delivery – Role of Governments', Maharashtra.
  2. It is organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
- 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 'Nagpur Resolution- A holistic approach for empowering citizens' was adopted during the Regional Conference on 'Improving Public Service Delivery – Role of Governments', in Nagpur, Maharashtra. The conference was organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra. The Conference resolved that Government of India and the State Governments shall collaborate to:
- Empower the citizens through timely updation of citizens charters, implementation of enactments and benchmarking standards for continuous improvement;
  - Empower citizens by reduction in timelines of grievance redressal;
  - Adopt a holistic approach for improved service delivery through digital platforms;
  - Achieve a sense of common identity by exchange of expertise in the areas of Improved Service Delivery between the paired States under the Ek Bharat – Shresht Bharat Program;
  - Ensure timely publication of Good Governance Index to identify the quality of governance in 10 sectors especially those pertaining to welfare and infrastructure at the Union, State and District levels.

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4. With reference to Nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, consider the following:

1. It is a technique for structural characterization of pharmaceutical and other chemical molecules.
2. It is used in quality control and research for determining the content and purity of a sample.

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 NMR spectroscopy is an important technique for structural characterization of pharmaceutical and other chemical molecules.
- The technique is used in quality control and research for determining the content and purity of a sample as well as its molecular structure.
- The sample is placed in a magnetic field and the NMR signal is produced by excitation of the nuclei sample with radio waves into nuclear magnetic resonance, which is detected with sensitive radio receivers.
- The intramolecular magnetic field around an atom in a molecule

changes the resonance frequency, thus giving access to details of the electronic structure of a molecule and its individual functional groups.

- As the fields are unique or highly characteristic to individual compounds, in modern organic chemistry practice, NMR spectroscopy is the definitive method to identify monomolecular organic compounds.

5. Consider the following statements

1. Inflation targeting is a monetary policy strategy used by Central Banks for maintaining price level at a certain level or within a range.
2. The government of India sets an inflation target for every four years.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

**Inflation targeting:**

- Inflation targeting is a monetary policy strategy used by Central Banks for maintaining price level at a certain level or within a range.
- Inflation targeting brings in more predictability and transparency in deciding monetary policy.



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- If the central banks could ensure price stability, households and companies can plan ahead, negotiating wages on the basis of expecting low and stable inflation.
- Various advanced economies including United States, Canada and Australia have been using inflation targeting as a strategy in their monetary policy framework.
- In May 2016, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934 was amended to provide a statutory basis for the implementation of the flexible inflation targeting framework.
- The amended RBI Act also provides for the inflation target to be set by the Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank, **once in every five years.**

6. Consider the following statements:

1. The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner is under the aegis of Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
2. Department of Official Language (Raj Basha Vibag) is under the Union Home Ministry.

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

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

1. **The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner**
2. It is under the aegis of Union Home Ministry
3. The Director of Census Operations, appointed for each Census in the states, conduct the Census operations in their respective state under the guidelines and supervision of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner.
4. It is responsible for implementing the National Population Register (NPR).
5. **National Population Register (NPR)** -Section 14A was inserted in the Citizenship Act, 1955, in 2004, providing for the compulsory registration of every citizen of India and the issue of a “national identity card” to him or her. The Registrar General India will act as the “National Registration Authority” (and will function as the Registrar General of Citizen Registration). The NPR is the first step towards establishing the NRIC.
6. **Department of Official Language**
7. It is as an independent Department of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
8. The Department has been making efforts for accelerating the

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progressive use of Hindi for the official purposes of the Union.

9. Article 346 of the Indian Constitution recognizes Hindi in Devanagari script as the official language of central government India.

10. The Constitution also allows for the continuation of use of the English language for official purposes.

7. Recently, the term ‘Microdots Identifiers’ was seen in news. It is related to

(a) A device to detect a disease widely prevalent in the South America.

(b) A scientific technology to test intestinal cancer in humans.

(c) A novel stealth technology for the battle tanks.

(d) A scientific technology to ensure originality in spare parts of machines and components.

**Answer: (d)**

**Explanation:**

**Microdot Identification**

- Microdots are a globally proven technology to ensure originality in spare parts of machines and components, including in the automobile sector.
- The microdot technology involves spraying thousands of microscopic dots onto vehicles or other assets to form a unique identification.

- Each microdot carries this identification which is registered to the owner, but is not visible to the naked eye.

- South Africa has made it a legal requirement to have microdots fitted to all new vehicles sold since September 2012.

8. Consider the following statements regarding Section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC):

1. An order passed under this section cannot be extended by more than two months.

2. An order under this section cannot be directed to a particular individual.

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:**

No order passed under Section 144 can remain in force for more than two months from the date of the order. However, the state government can extend this, but not more than six months. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.

An order under Section 144 of CrPC may be directed to a particular individual, or to persons residing in a particular place

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or area, or to the public generally when frequenting or visiting a particular place or area. Hence, statement 2 is also not correct.

- (a) Alaska
- (b) Andes
- (c) Rocky mountains
- (d) Ural

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

Factual Statement

9. Consider the following statements regarding “Operation Prahar”:

1. It has launched by the state of Punjab.
2. It has been launched with the objective of fighting drug menace and abuse.

Choose 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:**

Launched by Haryana. So, statement 1 is incorrect.

Objective: fighting drug menace and abuse. So, statement 2 is correct.

10. Which mountain range is discussed in the following statements:

1. This range is part of the Pacific Ring of Fire.
2. The Denali fault which is responsible for major number of earthquakes, runs along the southern edge of this mountain.



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1. Identify the species mentioned by considering the following statements:
1. It is considered as a major invasive alien species.
  2. This plant is native to South America.
  3. It is also referred to as the terror of Bengal.
  4. It can be used for detecting herbicide.
- (a) Garlic mustard  
(b) Prosopis juliflora  
(c) Parthenium hysterophorus  
(d) Water Hyacinth

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

Water hyacinth is a free-floating aquatic plant native to South America. It is considered as an invasive alien species.

It is also referred to as the terror of Bengal given its effect on the local ecology and lives of the people.

It can be used for detecting herbicide.

2. Consider the following statements regarding Outer Space treaty, 1967:
1. It bans all kind of military activities in space.
  2. India is not a signatory to this treaty.
- Choose 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: D**

**Explanation:**

The Outer Space Treaty does not ban military activities within space, military space forces, or the weaponization of space, with the exception of the placement of weapons of mass destruction in space. So, statement 1 is incorrect.

India is a party to this treaty. So, statement 2 is also incorrect.

3. Which of the following countries are members of Eurasian Economic union:

1. Uzbekistan
2. Kyrgyzstan
3. Russia
4. Belarus
5. Armenia

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

Uzbekistan is not a member of Eurasian Economic union.

4. In context to Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), consider the following:
1. He will head the Department of Military Affairs (DMA).

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2. He is the permanent Chairman to the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC).
3. He will deal with Procurement related to services and capital acquisition, as per rules and procedures.
4. He will function as the Military Adviser to the Nuclear Command Authority.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- He will head the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), which is created in the Ministry of Defence.
- He will act as a principal military adviser to the Defence minister on all service matters.
- He will be a Permanent Chairman to the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC).
- He will function as the Military Adviser to the Nuclear Command Authority.
- He will also deal with the procurement exclusive to the Services, **except** capital acquisition, as per prevalent rules and procedures.

5. Consider the following, with regard to Rohtang Pass:

1. It is a high mountain pass on the eastern Pir Panjal Range of the Himalayas.
2. It connects the Kullu Valley with the Lahaul and Spiti Valleys of Himachal Pradesh.
3. The three rivers in the region of the pass are Chenab, Beas and Chandra rivers.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

- It is a high mountain pass on the eastern Pir Panjal Range of the Himalayas.
- It connects the Kullu Valley with the Lahaul and Spiti Valleys of Himachal Pradesh.
- The three rivers in the region of the pass are Chenab, Beas and Chandra rivers.
- The Beas river emerges from underground and flows southwards, Chandra river flows in the eastern Himalayas and Chenab river flows westward.

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6. With reference to Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air missiles (QRSAM), consider the following:

1. It is an all-weather and all-terrain missile.
2. It is developed to replace 'Astra' missile defence system.
3. It has a strike range of 25-30 km with capability of hitting multiple targets.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- It is a sophisticated all-weather and all-terrain missile.
- It is developed to replace the 'Akash' missile defence system.
- It has 360-degree coverage. It uses solid fuel propellant.
- It has a strike range of 25-30 km with capability of hitting multiple targets.
- It is capable of hitting the low flying objects.
- It can be mounted on a truck and stored in a canister.

7. In the context to Atal Bhujal Yojan (ABY), consider the following:

1. It is a Centre sector scheme.
2. It is implemented by Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.
3. It covers 7 states- Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

- The scheme will also help in supplying water to every house hold by 2024. It is a central sector scheme.
- Nodal Agency is Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The scheme will be implemented in identified areas covering 8,350 villages in 78 districts of 7 states- Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.
- The implementation period for plan is over a period of five years from 2020 to 2025.



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8. Consider the following:
1. Russia is the only country in world that has Hypersonic weapons.
  2. The Mach number of Hypersonic is greater than 25.
  3. The missile flies 10 times faster than the speed of sound.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

Russia is the only country in the world that has hypersonic weapons. Putin said that the first unit equipped with the Avangard hypersonic glide vehicle is set to go on duty this month, while that the air-launched Kinzhal hypersonic missiles already have entered service. The missile flies 10 times faster than the speed of sound, has a range of more than 2,000 kilometers (1,250 miles) and can carry a nuclear or a conventional warhead.

Mach Number:

- Mach number (designated as M or Ma) is the ratio of the speed of the body to the speed of sound in the undisturbed medium through which the body is traveling. E.g. If the body is flying at Mach 2, then its speed is twice the speed of sound in air (which is 332 m/s or 1195 km/hr).

- It is named in honor of Ernst Mach (1838-1916), a physicist from Austria.
- Types of Aircrafts/missiles based on Mach Number:
  - ✓ Subsonic ( $M < 1$ )
  - ✓ Transonic ( $M = 1$ )
  - ✓ Supersonic ( $1 < M < 3$ )
  - ✓ High Supersonic ( $3 < M < 5$ )
  - ✓ Hypersonic ( $M > 5$ )
  - ✓ High Hypersonic ( $M \sim 25$ )

9. Which of the following report released by Financial Action Task Force (FATF)?

- (a) World Wealth Report  
(b) Global Money Laundering Report  
(c) Global Financial System Report  
(d) World Investment Report

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- The Global Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Threat Assessment (GTA) report provides an assessment of the global systemic ML/TF threats.
- The document is aimed at raising the level of understanding of these threats and their negative impact, and help governments to take decisive action to minimize the harms they can cause.
- The report is based on the in-depth typology's studies and the **FATF's** Strategic Surveillance Initiative. This

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initiative was established in 2008,  
with the following objectives:

- ✓ detect and share information on the types of criminal or terrorist activities that pose an emerging threat to the financial system.
- ✓ develop a more strategic and longer-term view of these threats.

10. Consider the following statements, with regard to Black and white Ruffed lemur.

1. It is an Endangered species in IUCN Red List.
2. Its resident is found in Madagascar.
3. It is the only vehicle for distributing seeds in Madagascar.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- It is a Critically Endangered species in IUCN Red List. So, statement 1 is incorrect.
- Its habitat is found in Madagascar. So, statement 2 is correct.
- It is the only vehicle for distributing seeds in Madagascar. So, statement 3 is correct.

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1. Consider the following statements regarding Hong Kong Convention:

1. This convention was adopted by International Maritime Organization (IMO).
2. This convention came to force in the year 2018.
3. India passed the Recycling of Ships Act, 2019 in accordance with the convention.

Choose 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 only

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- The Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009 (the Hong Kong Convention), was adopted at a diplomatic conference held in Hong Kong, China in 2009. It was adopted by the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** in 2009. So, statement 1 is correct.
- The Convention is yet to come into force because it has not been ratified by 15 nations, representing 40 per cent of the world merchant shipping by gross tonnage (capacity). So, statement 2 is incorrect.
- **The Recycling of Ships Act, 2019** ratifies the Hong Kong convention that would facilitate an environment-friendly process

of recycling ships and adequate safety for yard workers. So, statement 3 is correct.

2. Consider the following Statements:

1. Polluter Pays Principle states that the producer of pollution should bear the costs of managing it.
2. This principle is part of the 1992 Rio Declaration.

Choose 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:**

- Polluter Pays Principle states that the producer of pollution should bear the costs of managing it to prevent damage to human health or the environment. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It is part of the 1992 Rio Declaration which gives broader principles to guide sustainable development worldwide. Hence, statement 2 is also correct.

3. Consider the following statements regarding “Absentee voters”

1. Article 326 of the Constitution of India deals with “Absentee voters” for the members of the armed forces among others.

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2. The term “Absentee voters” can also include Persons with Disabilities and Senior citizens.

Choose 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 Election Commission of India has recently made efforts to ensure that the electors who are unable to come to polling booth/ absentee voters are facilitated in every way to ensure their wider participation in the electoral process.
- So, in order to ensure this, the Government amended the Representation of the People’s Act, 1951 (RP Act), and the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 to provide for absentee voting. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
- **A concept of ‘absentee voter’ has been Introduced and defined for the elections:**
- ‘Absentee voter’ means a person belonging to such class of persons as may be notified, under clause (c) of section 60 of the RP Act, 1951 and who is employed in essential services as mentioned in the said notification, and includes an elector

belonging to the class of senior citizens or persons with disabilities;

- These two categories of voters – ‘senior citizen’ and ‘PwD electors’ can vote either as an absentee voter or as a regular voter on the poll day.
- **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**

4. With reference to Oxygen Parlour, consider the following:

1. Its aim to expand this initiative to every home.
2. It is based on recommendation of NASA.
3. It contains unique plants that absorb most harmful pollutants from the air.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- It aims to provide an experience of breathing clean air to the commuters.
- Its objective is to expand this initiative to every railway station as well as every home.
- Its initiative comes with the efforts of the Airo Guard in collaboration with the Indian Railways.
- It contains some unique plants that better absorb the five most harmful pollutants from the air.

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- There are nearly 1500 plants in Oxygen Parlour, so, these plants can directly and effectively bring down the pollution in the air at the railway station and allow the people to breathe cleaner air.
- It is totally based on the recommendation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

5. Consider the following, with regard to Universal Postal Union (UPU):

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
2. It consists of the Congress, the Council of Administration (CA), the Postal Operations Council (POC) and the International Bureau (IB).

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:**

- It is established by the **Treaty of Bern of 1874**.
- Its headquarters is located in Bern, Switzerland.
- It is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN).
- It contains four bodies consisting of the Congress, the Council of Administration

(CA), the Postal Operations Council (POC) and the International Bureau (IB).

- It coordinates postal policies among member of nations, in addition to the worldwide postal system.
- It oversees the Telematics and Express Mail Service (EMS) cooperatives.
- The approval enables the Postal Administration of India to have the Instrument of Ratification signed with the Director-General of the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union through diplomatic channels along with the approval of other Acts of the Union.
- It will also enable the Department of Posts to bring out any administrative orders to implement the provisions of the UPU Convention in India.

6. With reference to Locust Hopper, consider the following:

1. It is tropical Beetle.
2. It is seen in the months of June and July.
3. It can travel up to 150 km per day.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- It is mainly tropical grasshopper with strong powers of flight. They differ from ordinary grasshoppers in their ability to change

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behaviour (gregarize) and form swarms that can migrate over large distances.

- It is generally seen during the months of June and July as the insects are active from summer to the rainy season, which spread in approximately over 10 square kilometer area.
- It has a high capacity to multiply, form groups, migrate over relatively long distance up to 150 km per day.
- There are Four species viz. Desert locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*), Migratory locust (*Locusta migratoria*), Bombay Locust (*Nomadacris succincta*) and Tree locust (*Anacridium sp.*) are found in India.
- Locust adults can eat their own weight every day, which is about two grams of fresh vegetation per day.
- Likewise, a very small swarm eats as much in one day as about 35,000 people, posing a devastating threat to crops and food security.

**Control measures for Locust:**

- Destroying egg masses laid by invading swarms,
- Digging trenches to trap nymphs,
- Using hopper dozers (wheeled screens that cause locusts to fall into troughs containing water and kerosene),
- Using insecticidal baits, and applying insecticides to both swarms and breeding grounds from aircraft.

7. Consider the following statements with respect to Intersex Children:

1. India became only the third country after Malta and Taiwan, to have a legal regime which protects the rights of intersex children.
2. Intersex refers to people born with biological or physical characteristics that are more diverse than stereotypical male or female bodies.
3. Individuals who identify as transgender or transsexual have a gender that is as same as of the one traditionally associated with the sex they were assigned at birth.

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: a)**

**Explanation:**

- The demand for a nation-wide ban on unnecessary medical surgeries conducted on children with intersex traits comes months after the Tamil Nadu government banned normative surgeries on infants and children except in life-threatening situations after a historic judgment of the Madras High Court on April 22, 2019.
- If adopted nationally, India could become only the third country after Malta and Taiwan, to have a legal regime which protects the



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rights of intersex children. India still not yet adopted.

- The World Health Organisation and the United Nations Human Rights Council have called upon Member States to end invasive and irreversible medical surgeries and other medical treatment on intersex children.
- While the term intersex is confused with transgender, the two in-fact have very different meanings.
- Individuals who identify as transgender or transsexual have a gender that is different from the one traditionally associated with the sex they were assigned at birth.
- Intersex refers to people born with biological or physical characteristics that are more diverse than stereotypical male or female bodies.

8. With reference to Cancer Cells, consider the following statements:

1. Cancer cells show a property called contact inhibition by virtue of which contact with other cells inhibits their uncontrolled growth.
2. Cancer-like diseases were documented since antiquity but recording of cancer in India began only in the 19th century.

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 study named ‘History of Growing burden of Cancer in India: From Antiquity to 21st century’ has stated that while cancer-like diseases were documented since antiquity, recording of cancer in India began only in the 19th century when the Western medical practices of biopsy and pathological examination came to India during the colonial British regime.
- Cancer is one of the most dreaded diseases of human beings and is a major cause of death all over the globe.
- More than a million Indians suffer from cancer and a large number of them die from it annually.
- The mechanisms that underlie development of cancer or oncogenic transformation of cells, its treatment and control have been some of the most intense areas of research in biology and medicine.
- In our body, cell growth and differentiation is highly controlled and regulated. In cancer cells, there is breakdown of these regulatory mechanisms.
- **Normal cells show a property called contact inhibition by virtue of which contact with other cells inhibits their uncontrolled growth.**
- **Cancer cells appear to have lost this property of contact inhibition.** As a result of this, cancerous cells just continue to divide giving rise to masses of cells called tumors.

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- Cancer is primarily a disease of older people, hence, as life expectancy went up, cancer incidences too went up.
- Maximum increases will occur in the most populous and least developed States, where the facilities for cancer diagnostics and treatment are grossly inadequate.

- **Sarnath** - Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon or **Dhammachakraparivartan** Sutra.
- According to an inscription at Chaukhandi stupa, **Humayun** sought refuge in Sarnath when he was escaping from **the battle of Chausa**. **The battle of Chausa**- was fought between **Humayun** and the Afghan, **Sher Shah Suri** in 1539 at Chausa.

9. Consider the following statements:

1. Chaukandi Stupa in Sarnath is a 'protected area of national importance'.
2. Sarnath is the site of Buddha's Mahaparinirvana.
3. According to an inscription at Chaukhandi stupa, Humayun sought refuge in Sarnath when he was escaping from the battle of Chausa.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

**Chaukandi Stupa-**

- Sir Alexander Cunningham (First Director-General of Archaeological Survey of India), excavated the Dhamekh, Dharmarajika, and Chaukhandi stupas along with a monastery and temple between 1834 and 1836.
- **Chaukhandi Stupa**, in Sarnath, was declared as '**protected area of national importance**' by **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)**.

10. Recently, the term 'Drug Repurposing', was seen in news. What does it mean?

- (a) It refers to the act of using of medicinal drugs for recreational purposes.
- (b) It refers to the use of biological equivalent of an available drug.
- (c) It refers to the process of making drugs from ancient formulations.
- (d) It refers to the process of identifying new uses of approved or investigational drugs.

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

**Drug Repurposing-**

- Drug repurposing (also called **Drug Repositioning, Reprofilng or re-tasking**) is a strategy for **identifying new uses for approved or investigational drugs** that are outside the scope of the original medical indication.
- It takes existing drugs already approved for human use, and identifies new illnesses that they could treat. The main advantage of using repurposing drugs is its reduced development cost, shortened development timings and increased use of de-risked compounds.

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1. Consider the following statements regarding “Green Bonds”:

1. These were first issued after the Paris Climate deal.
2. In India, there are no prescribed guidelines notified yet for issuance of such bonds.

Choose 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: d)**

**Explanation:**

The first Green Bond was **issued in 2007** when European Investment Bank raised €600 million under the label “Climate Awareness Bond” dedicated for renewable energy projects and energy-efficient projects. Paris climate deal was in the year 2016. So, statement 1 is incorrect.

In 2016, SEBI published its official green bonds requirements for Indian issuers making the second country (after China) to provide national level guidelines. So, statement 2 is incorrect.

2. Consider the following statements regarding “Asian Waterbird Census (AWC)”:

1. It is part of the global waterbird monitoring programme named “International Waterbird Census (IWC)”.
2. This census covers only central asian region.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- The AWC is an integral part of the global waterbird monitoring programme, the International Waterbird Census (IWC), coordinated by Wetlands International. So, statement 1 is correct.
- The Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) was initiated in 1987 in the Indian subcontinent. The census covers the entire East Asian – Australasian Flyway and a large part of the Central Asian Flyway. So, statement 2 is Incorrect.

3. Consider the following statements regarding ‘Climate Ambition Alliance’:

1. It will focus on the submission of enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions; reaching new commitments to achieve Net Zero by 2050.
2. It was launched at the Climate Action Summit in New York and is led by Chile.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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Answer: c)

**Explanation:**

- ‘Climate Ambition Alliance’ aims to accelerate the transformation needed to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change and stabilize the global average temperature rise at 1.5°C above preindustrial levels.
  - **For mitigation, the Climate Ambition Alliance will focus on the submission of enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions; reaching new commitments to achieve Net Zero by 2050; and the implementation of measures to strengthen the protection of forests and oceans.**
  - For adaptation, the Climate Ambition Alliance, will focus on strong actions to improve the management of water, resilience in infrastructure and the sustainability of cities.
  - **So, statement 1 is correct.**
  - Led by Chile, the Climate Ambition Alliance was launched at the Climate Action Summit in New York. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
4. Consider the following, with regard to Black rhinos:
1. It also Known as Hook-lipped rhinoceros.
  2. It is given Endangered status by IUCN Red list.
  3. It is mostly found in Cameroon and Chad.

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: a)

**Explanation:**

- Its scientific name is *Diceros bicornis*, alternatively called as Hook-lipped rhinoceros.
- It is given Critically Endangered status by IUCN Red list.
- It had a wide range in the in northern part of Africa than today. They are found in southern and eastern Africa.
- Although it is referred to as black, its colours vary from brown to grey.
- Its resident is found in Angola, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.
- It is extinct in Cameroon and Chad.

5. Which of the following comes under Frontier Technologies or Industrial revolution 4.0?

1. Big Data Analysis
2. Sustainable polymers
3. Internet of Things
4. 3D printing
5. Drones

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- Frontier technologies is defined as potentially disruptive technologies that can address large-scale challenges or opportunities.
- It is the next phase in the evolution of modern technology. It is the intersection where radical forward-thinking and real-world implementation meet.
- It has unlocked new routes to prosperity through agriculture, manufacturing, trade in services, the linking of informal and formal sectors, and domestic interconnectivity.
- The rapid technological transformations that started from the Industrial Revolution to the digital revolution, have boosted economic performance, improved efficiency, accelerated the pace of globalization, and transformed human society in the process.
- The Frontier technologies include robotics, automation, renewable energy technologies, Artificial Intelligence and bio technologies. Some of the top frontier technologies are Big Data Analysis, Sustainable polymers, Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, 3D printing, Nanotechnology, renewable energy technologies, drones and customized satellites.
- They are technologies that offer potential for cheaper, faster, scalable and easy to use solutions for everyday problems. It includes waste management as well.

6. In the context to National Payments corporation of India (NPCI), consider the following:

1. It is established by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks Association (IBA).
2. It is an umbrella organisation for all retail payments system in India.

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

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) said that customers can recharge FASTags through any BHIM UPI enabled mobile app.
- NPCI is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India. The corporation's current and future service portfolio includes: National Financial Switch (NFS), Immediate Payment Service (IMPS), RuPay, National Common Mobility Card, Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AePS), Unified Payments Interface (UPI), BHIM, Bharat Bill Payment System etc. Established in 2008, by Reserve Bank of India & Indian Banks' Association (IBA). A not-for-profit organisation registered under section 8 of the Companies Act 2013. Headquarters is at Mumbai.



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7. The Supreme Court sometimes issues Stay Order in few cases to temporarily stop a judicial proceeding through an order. What are the essential conditions considered to issue the same?

1. The balance of convenience does not favour the alleged violator
2. The stay order does not cause irreparable harm or injury
3. There should be a prima facie case for granting the stay order

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- Stay Order is the act of temporarily stopping a judicial proceeding through the order of a court.
- A stay is a suspension of a case or a suspension of a particular proceeding within a case.
- A judge may grant a stay on the motion of a party to the case or issue a stay sua sponte, without the request of a party.
- **The Three Conditions Include: The Balance of convenience does not favour the alleged violator; the stay order does not cause irreparable harm or injury; and there should be a prima facie case for granting the stay order.**

8. Consider the following statements regarding the solar eclipse:

1. Solar eclipses occur when the Sun, Moon and earth all fall in the same line and Earth passes between the Sun and the Moon, casting a shadow on the Moon.
2. Annual Solar Eclipse occurs annually while the total solar eclipse occurs once in a decade.

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

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- The **Solar eclipse** happens when the moon while orbiting the Earth comes in between the sun and the Earth, due to which the moon blocks the sun's light from reaching the Earth, causing an eclipse of the sun or a solar eclipse.
- There are Three Types of Eclipses.
- **Total solar eclipse** happens when the sun, moon and Earth are in a direct line. The dark silhouette of the Moon completely covers the intense bright light of the Sun. Only the much fainter solar corona is visible during a total eclipse which is known as a Totality.
- **Partial solar eclipse** happens when the shadow of the moon appears on a small part of the sun.



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- **Annular solar eclipse**, which happens when the moon is farthest from the Earth, which is why it seems smaller. In this type of an eclipse, the moon does not block the sun completely, but looks like a “dark disk on top of a larger sun-colored disk” forming a “ring of fire”.
- **Lunar eclipses** occur when the Sun, Moon and earth all fall in the same line and Earth passes between the Sun and the Moon, casting a shadow on the Moon.
- Total solar eclipses are rare events. Although they occur somewhere on Earth every 18 months on average, it is estimated that they recur at any given place **only once every 360 to 410 years, on average.**

9. Consider the following statements regarding the ‘Run through files mechanism’:

1. Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has introduced a new provision of “Run Through Files” in the Centralised File Movement and Tracking Information System (CFMS).
2. It was launched to ensure that important government matters don’t get delayed owing to conflicting hierarchical and departmental priorities.

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:**

- Haryana government has introduced a new provision of “Run Through Files” in the Centralised File Movement and Tracking Information System (CFMS).
- It would be personally monitored by Chief Minister of Haryana.
- A file shall be marked as Run Through Files only by the CM in the CFMS.
- Every file marked as RTF has to be cleared on priority greater than that is currently being accorded to the files marked top priority.
- At whichever level any contribution other than mere signing on the file is made, the same will also be uploaded on CFMS portal.
- A system generated SMS and email will automatically be sent on each downward or upward movement of the file.

10. Global Gender Gap Report 2020 was released recently by which of the following?

- (a) UNESCO
- (b) World Economic Forum
- (c) UN Development Programme
- (d) Organization for economic cooperation and development

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report, 2020 was released recently.
- According to the Report, India moved down the ladder from its 108th position last year to rank below countries like China (106<sup>th</sup>), Sri Lanka (102<sup>nd</sup>), Nepal

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(101<sup>st</sup>), Brazil (92<sup>nd</sup>), Indonesia (85<sup>th</sup>) and Bangladesh (50<sup>th</sup>).

- India is 112<sup>th</sup> among nations ranked in terms of the gap between genders, and it was among the bottom five for women's health and survival and economic participation.
- Iceland remained the world's most gender-neutral country.
- Yemen is ranked the worst (153<sup>rd</sup>), while Iraq is 152<sup>nd</sup> and Pakistan 151<sup>st</sup>.
- Gender Inequality Index – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Global Gender Gap Index – World Economic Forum
- Gender Parity Index – UNESCO
- Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) Report – Organization for economic cooperation and development (OECD).



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1. Carrier Killer, recently seen in the news, it is related to

- (a) Guided-missile destroyer developed by China
- (b) Organic Pesticide to prevent locust attacks developed by India
- (c) Scientific method to kill disease spreading mosquitoes
- (d) Antibiotic developed to fight cancer by England

(c) 2,3,6,7

(d) 1,4,5,6

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies is one of the four Multilateral Export Control Regime (MECR).
- Wassenaar Arrangement has totally 42 participating states.
- A MECR is an international body used to organise a state's export control systems (trade barrier). Other 3 MECR are:
  8. The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) for the control of nuclear related technology,
  9. Australia Group (AG) for control of chemical and biological technology that could be weaponized and,
  10. The Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) for the control of rockets and other aerial vehicles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction.

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- The Carrier Killer is the guided-missile destroyer, developed by China for its array of anti-ship and land-attack cruise missiles.
- It would be deployed during China, Russia and Iran joint Naval Exercise. So, option A is the correct answer.

2. Which of the following are member countries of "Wassenaar Arrangement"?

1. India
2. China
3. Pakistan
4. Japan
5. Republic of Korea
6. Democratic people's Republic of Korea
7. Turkey

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1,4,5,7
- (b) 1,2,4,6

3. Which of the following state government wants to upgrade "Nandhaur Wildlife sanctuary" to "Tiger Reserve" due to steady increase of number of tigers in the sanctuary?

- (a) Uttarakhand
- (b) Sikkim
- (c) Assam
- (d) Kerala

**Answer: a)**

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**Explanation:**

- Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary in Uttarakhand, India that was created in 2012. The sanctuary is part of the Terai Arc Landscape (TAL), a forest zone that stretches from Uttarakhand in India and extends into Nepal.
- It has around 24 big cats and healthy prey-base, according to NTCA, an autonomous body under the Union Environment Ministry, responsible for conservation of the striped cats in the country.
- However, the State officials claim that the Nandhaur sanctuary, notified in 2012, is brimming with over 40 tigers.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the 'National Anthem':

1. The National Anthem was first sung at the Calcutta session of the Congress on December 27, 1911.
2. According to the constitution of India, reverence to the National Anthem is a Fundamental duty in India.

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

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- 'Jana Gana Mana' is the first stanza of the Bengali hymns 'Bharoto Bhagyo Bidhata', written by Nobel Laureate **Rabindranath Tagore**.
- A slightly varied version of the song was adopted by Subhash Chandra Bose's Indian National Army in 1941 as the national anthem, called 'Shubh Sukh Chain', which also became popular in India.
- 'Jana Gana Mana' was adopted as the country's National Anthem by the Constituent Assembly of India on **January 24, 1950**, the last day of its last session.
- Reverence to the National Anthem is a **Fundamental duty** in India. According to **Article 51A (a)** of the Constitution: "It shall be the duty of every citizen of India to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem".

5. 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

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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 advice 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.

**6. Consider the following pairs:**

Missiles	Characteristics
1. Brahmos	Supersonic Cruise Missile
2. Akash	Anti-Tank Missile.
3. Nag	Surface-to-air missile

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- |            |                           |
|------------|---------------------------|
| 1) Brahmos | Supersonic cruise missile |
| 2) Akash   | Surface-to-air missile.   |
| 3) Nag     | Anti-tank missile         |

7. Consider the following, with regard to Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC):

1. It is established under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
2. It will result in immediate relief for both freight and passenger movements.
3. It is built by Dedicated Freight Corridor corporation of India Ltd (DFCCIL).

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- It is established under Ministry of Railways. Its objectives are Planning, development, Mobilisation of resources, construction etc of DFCs.
- It is being built by DFCCIL in 2006. Freight traffic of Railways shares about 83% in 1950-51 and 35% in 2011-12.
- It will result in immediate relief for both freight and passenger movements via Indian Railways.

**Significance of DFC:**

- It will maintain maximum speed of 100Kmph.

- It is designed to carry more weight.
- Its capacity to run long haul train of 1.5 km length.

8. In the context to Nari Shakti Awards, consider the following statements:

1. Its aims to acknowledge achievement of women by bestowing awards on eminent women in recognition of their service towards the cause of women empowerment.
2. It is given to recipients includes institutions and individuals.

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 award aims to acknowledge achievement of women by bestowing awards on eminent women and institutions in recognition of their service towards the cause of women empowerment.
- It is earlier known as Stree Shakti Awards was constituted by the government of India.
- It provides an opportunity to understand the contribution of women in the building of society and the nation.
- It carries cash award of Rs. 1 lakh and certificate for individuals and institutions.



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- The recipients include both institutions and individuals.

**Nari Shakti Puraskar:**

- It is established in 1991 and since then it is conferred annually by President on occasion of International Women's Day on March 8 every year.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development announces this national level award for eminent women, organisations and institutions.

9. With Reference to Flamingo, consider the following:

1. It is an indicator of healthy coastal environment.
2. Greater Flamingo and Lesser Flamingo are the two species of flamingo found in India.
3. They both are given IUCN status as Least concern.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- It is an indicator of healthy coastal environment.
- There are two species of flamingos found in India, that is Greater Flamingo and Lesser Flamingo.

- Greater Flamingo's scientific name is *Phoenicopterus rosues*.
- They are widespread in India, and they migrate to South India during winter and spend their time in large reservoirs and mud flats. Its IUCN status is Least concern.
- Lesser Flamingo's scientific name is *Phoeniconaias minor*. They mainly breed at the Rann of Kutch or in North-western India. Its IUCN status is Near threatened.

10. Consider the following, with regard to Overseas Citizens of India (OCI):

1. The cardholders are given benefits on a par with non-Resident Indians in financial, economic, educational fields and also in the acquisition of plantation properties.
2. It provides free multiple entry and multi-purpose life-long visa to visit India and are also exempted from reporting to police authorities for any length of stay in India.

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

**Incorrect?**

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

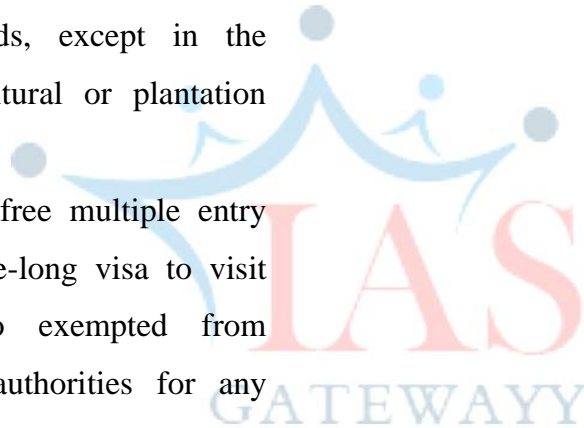
- They are required to re-register each time a new passport is issued till 20 years of age and once after 50 years of age but re-issuance of OCI registration is not

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mandatory each time a new passport is issued between the ages of 21 and 50.

- Because of this requirement, the OCI card holders were not able to travel to India and many were stopped by airlines and immigration authorities at various airports due to the mismatch.
- This requirement has been relaxed till 30th June 2020 as per MHA instructions. They should carry existing OCI card along with Old and New passport.
- They are given benefits on a par with **non-Resident Indians** in financial, economic and educational fields, except in the acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties.
- They are also given free multiple entry and multi-purpose life-long visa to visit India and are also exempted from reporting to police authorities for any length of stay in India.



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

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- MDR is charge or fee imposed on merchant by bank for accepting payment from their customers in credit and debit cards every time card is used for payments (like swiping) in their stores.
- MDR charges are usually shared in pre-agreed proportion between them and are expressed in percentage of transaction amount.
- MDR compensates bank issuing card, bank which puts up swiping machine (Point-of-Sale or PoS terminal) and network providers such as MasterCard or Visa for their services.
- In India, the RBI specifies maximum MDR charges that can be levied on every card transaction.

- But now, Finance Ministry has notified that Digital transactions made using RuPay credit cards, or UPI QR codes will not face additional charges for merchants or customers from the beginning of next year.
- All shops, business establishments and companies with an annual turnover of ₹50 crore or more have been mandated to offer these modes of payment to customers.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the POSHAN Abhiyan:

1. The Abhiyaan targets to reduce stunting, under nutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.
2. The target of the mission is to bring down stunting among children in the age group 0-6 years from 38.4% to 25% by 2022.
3. It is being implemented by 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) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) was launched by the government on March 8, 2018.

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- It is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
  - The Abhiyaan targets to reduce stunting, under nutrition, anemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.
  - The target of the mission is to bring down stunting among children in the age group 0-6 years from 38.4% to 25% by 2022.
  - POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to ensure service delivery and interventions by use of technology, behavioural change through convergence and lays-down specific targets to be achieved across different monitoring parameters.
  - It is meant to benefit more than 10 crore people and was launched after a Cabinet decision on December 1, 2017, with a total budget of ₹9,046.17 crore for three years, 50% of which is through budgetary support, which is further divided into 60:40 between the Centre and the States, 90:10 for the north-eastern region and the Himalayan States and 100% for the Union Territories without legislature.
  - The remaining 50% is from the World Bank or other multilateral development banks. As a result, the Centre's total share will be ₹2,849.54 crore.
  - Under the Abhiyaan, Swasth Bharat Preraks will be deployed one in each district for coordinating with district officials and enabling fast and efficient execution of the Abhiyaan across the country.
  - Swasth Bharat Preraks would function as catalyst for fast tracking the implementation of the Abhiyaan.
3. 'SnowEx' sometimes seen in news is a
- (a) An initiative to protect the endangered animals in Himalayan Region
  - (b) An express started in Himalayan states for about 1500 Kms.
  - (c) Seasonal campaign launched by the NASA to lay the groundwork for a future snow satellite mission.
  - (d) An initiative done by the UNFCCC to prevent the melting of glaciers that leads to rise in sea level.

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- For a better understanding of how much water is contained in each winter's snowfall and how much will be available when it melts in the spring, NASA has launched a seasonal campaign — part of a five-year programme called SnowEx.
- Around 1.2 billion people, or nearly one-sixth of the world, depend on seasonal snow and glaciers for their water supply.
- SnowEx was initiated in 2016-17. The overall target is optimal strategies for mapping global snow water equivalent (SWE) with remote sensing and models leading to a Decadal Survey "Earth System Explorer mission.
- Within its geographic range, SnowEx assesses where snow has fallen, how much there is and how its characteristics change as it melts.

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- It uses airborne measurements, ground measurements and computer modelling.
- The airborne campaign will fly radar and lidar to measure snow depth, microwave radar and radiometers to measure SWE, optical cameras to photograph the surface, infrared radiometers to measure surface temperature, and hyper spectral imagers for snow cover and composition.
- Ground teams will measure snow depth, density, accumulation layers, temperature, wetness and snow grain size — the size of a typical particle.

4. Which of the following are the non-member observer states of UN?

1. Palestine
2. The Holy See
3. European Union
4. Kosovo
5. Taiwan

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- Kosovo and Taiwan are neither members nor observers.
- The Holy See is the central governing body of the entire Roman Catholic Church located within the Vatican City; an

independent state located on the Vatican hill. It has permanent Observer status at UN.

5. Recently Many Automobile Companies in India cut their production due to downturns in the business cycle when demand for goods and services declined and laid off many workers. It leads to some type of unemployment among workers. This type of unemployment falls under:

- (a) Frictional unemployment
- (b) Seasonal Unemployment
- (c) Cyclical Unemployment
- (d) Disguised Unemployment

**Answer: c)**

6. SnowEx, recently in news is related to:

1. Expedition on the North Pole by ESA
2. Forecast by World Weather Information Service
3. Cold wave of 2018 named by India Meteorological Department
4. NASA's programme to map global snow water equivalent

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- It is a five-year programme of NASA to fulfil the overall target of optimal strategies for mapping global snow water equivalent (SWE) with remote sensing and models leading to “Earth System Explorer” mission.

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7. Biomarkers, sometimes seen in news related to.

- (a) Medical sign of a particular individuals
- (b) Gene editing method of living organisms
- (c) an enzyme to cut large DNA sequences
- (d) A specific DNA-binding protein

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- It is basically medical signs of a particular biological state of individuals that can be observed.
- In other words, biomarkers are any substance, structure, or process that can be measured in the body to predict the incidence of a disease. For instance, cholesterol levels in blood, pulse, sugar level in urine, blood etc.
- Its presence indicates whether there is a disease or health state and gives a detailed picture of how healthy a person is.
- It is not only important to determine the presence of a disease, but also the effects of treatments, interventions, and unintended environmental exposure to chemicals, nutrients etc.

8. Consider the following, with regard to MyGov:

1. It is a citizen engagement platform founded by the Government of India.
2. It aims to create crowdsource governance ideas from citizens.

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:**

- Central government's citizen engagement platform - MyGov has reached one crore registered users. MyGov is a citizen engagement platform founded by the Government of India to promote the active participation of Indian citizens in their country's governance and development.
- It is aimed at creating a common platform for Indian citizens to "crowdsource governance ideas from citizens". Its users discuss and contribute to various government projects and plans. The website is hosted and managed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC). It was launched in 2014.

9. Consider the following, with regard to Dadasaheb Phalke Award:

1. It is introduced by the government in 1969 and it was awarded for the first time to Devika Rani
2. It is the country's highest honour in the field of dance forms.

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

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



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(d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- It is awarded by President of India at Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- It is introduced by the government in 1969 and it was awarded for the first time to Devika Rani, “the first lady of Indian cinema”.
- It is the country’s highest film honour conferred for “Outstanding contribution for the growth and development of Indian cinema”.

**Dadasaheb Phalke**

- He is known as “Father of Indian Cinema”.
- He directed India's first feature film Raja Haris chandra (1913).
- He is an Indian producer, director, and screenwriter.

10. eBkay, sometimes seen in News is related to

- (a) A e-auction Platform for Auctioning Mortgaged Properties
- (b) An e-cigarette brand, which ventures in to India
- (c) A Green Technology to carryout Paperless Transaction in Government Platform
- (d) NOTA

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- It is a common e-auction platform launched today by the Finance Minister.
- It has been launched to enable online auction of attached assets transparently and cleanly for improved realisation of value.

- The platform is equipped with property search features and navigational links to all PSB e-auction sites.
- It provides single-window access to information on properties up for e-auction as well as facility for comparison of similar properties.
- It contains photographs and videos of uploaded properties.

**Indian Banks Auctions Mortgaged Properties Information (IBAPI) portal**

- It is an initiative of Indian Banks Association (IBA) under policy of Department of Financial Services (DFS), Union Ministry of Finance, to provide details of mortgaged properties to be auctioned online by banks, starting with PSBs. Buyers can use the IBAPI portal to search and get properties details and participate in auction process. Currently, 21 banks are onboard on this portal.

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1. Which of the following tiger reserves are located in Madhya Pradesh:

1. Pench
2. Melghat
3. Bandhavgarh
4. Satpura
5. Panna

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

Majority of the tiger reserves in Madhya Pradesh are in News recently. Melghat Tiger reserve is in Maharashtra.

2. Avangard missile, recently in news was developed by:

- (a) China
- (b) Japan
- (c) U.S.A
- (d) Russia

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

Russia's military deployed a new intercontinental weapon, the Avangard hypersonic missile system that can fly 27 times the speed of sound.

This will be the Russian military's first Avangard hypersonic intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

3. Consider the following statements regarding "Bioplastics":

1. Bioplastics can be made from agricultural by-products and also from used plastic bottles and other containers using microorganisms.
2. Unlike conventional plastics, these items can be broken down by microbes in industrial composting facilities.
3. The reliance on food crops presents a key challenge for bioplastics, because these crops are simply not a cost-competitive alternative to fossil fuels.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below

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

**Answer: d)**

4. 'Sustainable Development India Index' is released by

- (a) Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation
- (b) NITI Aayog
- (c) Ministry of Human Resource Development
- (d) Ministry of Finance

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- The SDG India Index was developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Statistics &

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Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Global Green Growth Institute and United Nations in India and released by NITI Aayog.

- The index comprises a composite score for each State and Union Territory based on their aggregate performance across 13 of the 17 SDGs (leaving out Goals 12, 13, 14 and 17).
- The score, ranging between 0 and 100, denotes the average performance of the State/UT towards achieving the 13 SDGs and their respective targets.
- The states were classified under 4 categories based on their scores. The states with scores between 0 and 49 were categorized ‘Aspirant’, between 50 and 64 were ‘Performers’, between 65 and 99 were ‘Front Runner’ and with a score of 100 were categorized ‘Achiever’.
- The aim of the index is to instill competition among States to improve their performance across social indices as the States’ progress will determine India’s progress towards achieving the set goals by 2030. Using the index, States will be monitored on a real-time basis.

5. Consider the following with respect to the Sustainable Development Goals:

1. The ‘2069 Agenda’ was adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 for Sustainable Development.
2. They are universal call by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for action towards ending poverty, improving health and education, protecting planet, and ensuring that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2069.

3. Providing Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy is one of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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

**Incorrect?**

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- ‘Agenda 2069’ is related to the African Union that develops the African Nations. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are officially known as Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- There are 17 Sustainable Development Goals, associated 169 targets and 304 indicators.
- They are universal call by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for action towards ending poverty, improving health and education, protecting planet, and ensuring that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.
- India has been closely monitoring its progress on SDGs through its National Indicator Framework and India SDG Index released in 2018.
- The Sustainable Development Goals are:
  1. No Poverty
  2. Zero Hunger
  3. Good Health and Well-being
  4. Quality Education
  5. Gender Equality

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6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
10. Reducing Inequality
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships for the Goals

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2019 is a **biennial publication** of Forest Survey of India (FSI), an organisation under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India engaged in the assessment of country's forest resources.

**So, statement 1 is not correct.**

- The first report was brought out in 1987. Since then FSI has published 15 reports while 2019 report is the 16<sup>th</sup> report in the series.
- The report provides state/district wise forest cover of the country and changes thereon with respect to the previous assessment.

**So, statement 2 is correct.**

- It also provides the estimates of growing stock within and outside the forest areas, forest cover in the hill, tribal and north eastern states, carbon and other important aspects such as tree, bamboo and mangrove cover.

**So, statement 3 is correct.**

7. As per the 'India State of Forest Report (ISFR), 2019' arrange the states in the order of increasing Forest Cover performance in India:

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Karnataka
3. Kerala
4. Himachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 2-1-3-4

(b) 1-2-3-4

6. With reference to the 'India State of Forest Report (ISFR)', consider the following statements:

1. India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2019 is a biannual publication of Forest Survey of India (FSI), under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
2. The report provides state as well as district wise forest cover of the country and changes thereon with respect to the previous assessment.
3. It also provides the estimates of growing stock within and outside the forest areas, forest cover in the hill, tribal and north eastern states.

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

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(c) 4-3-1-2

(d) 4-3-2-1

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- The total forest cover of the country is 7, 12,249 sq km which is 21.67% of the geographical area of the country. The tree cover of the country is estimated as 95,027 sq km which is 2.89% of the geographical area.
- The total Forest and Tree cover of the country is 8, 07,276 sq km which is 24.56% of the geographical area of the country.
- The current assessment shows an increase of 3,976 sq km (0.56%) of forest cover, 1,212 sq km (1.29%) of tree cover and 5,188 sq km (0.65%) of forest and tree cover put together, at the national level as compared to the previous assessment i.e. ISFR 2017.
- Forest cover within the Recorded Forest Area/Green Wash (RFA/GW) has shown a slight decrease of 330 sq km (0.05%) whereas there is an increase of 4,306 sq km of forest cover outside the RFA/GW as compared to previous assessment of 2017.
- The **Top Five States** in terms of increase in forest cover are Karnataka (1,025 sq km), Andhra Pradesh (990 sq km), Kerala (823 sq km), Jammu & Kashmir (371 sq km) and Himachal Pradesh (334 sq km).

8. Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) represents the largest pool of carbon stock in forests. Consider the following statements regarding Soil Organic Carbon (SOC):

1. Soil organic carbon is a measurable component of soil organic matter.
2. Sequestering carbon in SOC is seen as a way to mitigate climate change by reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide.

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

- (a) 1 only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) Both 1 and 2  
(d) Nether 1 or 2

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- Soil organic carbon is a measurable component of soil organic matter.
- Organic matter makes up just 2–10% of most soil's mass and has an important role in the physical, chemical and biological function of agricultural soils.
- Organic matter contributes to nutrient retention and turnover, soil structure, moisture retention and availability, degradation of pollutants, carbon sequestration and soil resilience. Sequestering carbon in SOC is seen as one way to mitigate climate change by reducing atmospheric carbon dioxide. The argument is that small increases of SOC over very large areas in agricultural and pastoral lands will significantly reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide.

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9. World Economic League Table, sometime seen in news is released by

1. Global Construction Perspectives.
2. International Monetary Fund
3. World Economic Forum
4. Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- It is an annual calculation by CEBR jointly published by CEBR and Global Construction Perspectives. The base data for 2019 is taken from the IMF World Economic Outlook.
- India will overtake Germany to become fourth-largest economy in the world by the year 2026.
- According to a report India is all set to overtake Japan to become the third-largest economy by 2034 and to become a 5 trillion-dollar economy by 2026, 2 years later than the government's target of 2024.

10. Which of the following report are released by World Economic Forum?

1. Global Information Technology Report
2. Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report
3. Global Competitiveness Report
4. Global Gender Gap Report

Select the correct answer using the given codes below:

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

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- Engaging Tomorrow Consumer Report by World Economic Forum (WEF)
- Inclusive growth & Development Report by WEF
- Environmental Performance Index by WEF
- Global Competitive Index by WEF
- Global Energy Architecture Performance Index Report by WEF
- Global Gender Gap Report by WEF
- Global Information Technology Report by WEF
- Human Capital Report by WEF
- Inclusive growth & Development report by WEF
- Outlook on Global Agenda by WEF
- The Global Risk Report by WEF
- Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report by WEF