

1. Consider the following, with regard to the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF):
 1. It was constituted based on the recommendations of the 5th Finance Commission.
 2. It is audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) every year.
 3. The Centre contributes 75% of the SDRF allocation for all the States and Union Territories.

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

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) has been constituted under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- It was constituted based on the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission.
- SDRF is the Primary fund available with the State Governments for responses to notified disasters to meet expenditure for providing immediate relief.
- It is audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) Every Year.

- The Centre contributes 75% of the SDRF allocation for general category States/UTs and 90% for special category States/UTs (north-eastern States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir).
- The annual Central contribution is released in Two Equal Instalments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF):

1. It was constituted based on the recommendations of the 5th Finance Commission.
2. It is audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) every year.
3. The Centre contributes 75% of the SDRF allocation for all the States and Union Territories.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) has been constituted under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

- It was constituted based on the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission.
- SDRF is the primary fund available with the State governments for responses to notified disasters to meet expenditure for providing immediate relief.
- It is audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) every year.
- The Centre contributes 75% of the SDRF allocation for general category States/UTs and 90% for special category States/UTs (north-eastern States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir).
- The annual Central contribution is released in two equal instalments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission.

3. Consider the following statements, with regard to Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC)

1. It is wholly owned by the Ministry of Finance
2. The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) form the majority of the client base of ECGC.
3. The NIRVIK scheme is introduced by ECGC to enhance loan availability and ease the lending process.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved capital infusion in the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) and its listing through an initial public offering.
- The government will inject Rs 4,400 crore in the ECGC over a period of five years beginning 2021-22.
- The ECGC Ltd is wholly owned by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.
- The Government of India had initially set up the Export Risks Insurance Corporation in 1957. After the introduction of insurance covers to banks during the period 1962-64, the name was changed to Export Credit & Guarantee Corporation Ltd in 1964.
- It was changed to ECGC Ltd in August 2014.
- Objectives: ECGC was established to promote exports by providing credit insurance services to exporters against non-payment risks by the overseas buyers due to commercial and Political Reasons.
- The Capital infusion will enable it to expand its coverage to export-oriented industries, particularly labour-intensive sectors.

- ECGC is a market leader with around 85% market share in the export credit insurance market in India and provided support to exports worth Rs 6.02 lakh, or 28% of merchandise exports, in FY21.
 - Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) form 97% of the client base of ECGC. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - The process of listing ECGC on the stock market is also being initiated so that it can raise more funds.
 - The ECGC has introduced the Export Credit Insurance Scheme (ECIS) called NIRVIK (Niryat Rin Vikas Yojana) to Enhance Loan Availability and ease the lending process. Hence, statement 3 is correct.
4. In the context of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) 2010, consider the Following Statements:
1. Under this act, candidate contesting the election is debarred from receiving contribution.
 2. FCRA comes under the purview of the Department of Economic Affairs of Ministry of Finance.
- Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- As per FCRA 2010, the following organizational individuals are debarred from receiving foreign contribution. They are
 1. Candidate for election
 2. cartoonist, editor, publishers of registered newspaper
 3. Judge, government servants or employee of any corporation
 4. Member of any legislature
 5. Political parties.
 - Despite being a law related to financial regulation, this law does not fall within the purview of the RBI but **under the Home Ministry** as it is internal security legislation.
5. With reference to the Open Market Operations (OMO), which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?
1. OMOs are conducted by the RBI by way of sale or purchase of government securities (g-secs) to adjust money supply conditions.
 2. The central bank buys g-secs to remove liquidity from the system and sells back g-secs to Infuse Liquidity into the system.
 3. RBI carries out the OMO through commercial banks and does not directly deal with the Public.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Open Market Operations (OMO) is one of the quantitative (to regulate or control the total volume of money) monetary policy tools which is employed by the central bank of a country to control the money supply in the economy.
- OMOs are conducted by the RBI by way of sale or purchase of government securities (g-secs) to adjust money supply conditions.

So, statement 1 is correct.

- The central bank sells g-secs to remove liquidity from the system and buys back g-secs to infuse liquidity into the system. So, statement 2 is not correct.
- These operations are often conducted on a day-to-day basis in a manner that balances inflation while helping banks continue to lend. RBI carries out the OMO through commercial banks and does not directly deal with the public. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- The RBI uses OMO along with other monetary policy tools such as repo rate, cash reserve ratio and statutory liquidity ratio to adjust the Quantum and price of money in the System.

6. In the Context to the Monsoon in India, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. IMD's official definition on Normal Monsoon in India is designated as 89 cm of rainfall.
2. It also recently changed the official onset of monsoon dates in various cities but the onset of monsoon in mainland India remains the same.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- IMD has also officially redefined the definition of what constitutes 'normal' rainfall and reduced it by 1 cm to 88 cm. So, statement 1 is not correct.

✓ "Quantitatively, the monsoon seasonal rainfall is likely to be 100% of the Long Period Average (LPA) with a model error of $\pm 5\%$. The LPA of the season rainfall over the country as a whole for the period 1961-2010 is 88 cm.

- It also gave new dates for the monsoon's onset in several cities as part of an update, which it said was essential for a variety of economic activities ranging from agricultural planning to power distribution.

- The **onset over Kerala**, which marks the arrival of the monsoon into mainland India, will **continue to be June 1**. There is no change in the final withdrawal date over south India, i.e., 15th October". So, **statement 2 is correct.**

 - 7. Which of the statements given below are correct regarding the qualifications to become Judge of the High Court?
 1. He should be a citizen of India.
 2. He should have held a judicial office in the territory of India for ten years.
 3. He should have been an advocate of high court(s) for ten years.
 4. He should be a distinguished jurist in the opinion of the President.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
 - (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
 - (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
 - (d) All the above

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- A person to be appointed as a judge of a high court, he should be a citizen of India. Further,
- He should have held a judicial office in the territory of India for ten years.
- He should have been an advocate of high court(s) for ten years.

- There is no minimum age fixed for high Court judges, and unlike in Supreme Court, there is no provision for appointment of a distinguished jurist as a judge of a high court. **So, statement 4 is not correct.**

- 8. Recently the term ‘Prompt Corrective Action (PCA)’ was seen in the news. What does it refer to?
 - (a) PCA is a framework under which banks with weak financial metrics are put under watch by the RBI.
 - (b) A weather monitoring system deployed by India Meteorological Department
 - (c) A new strategy against Maoists
 - (d) An initiative in the National Education Policy to revamp the elementary education

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) is a framework under which banks with weak financial metrics are put under watch by the RBI.
- It is a framework designed and invoked by RBI when banks breach certain key risk thresholds including asset quality, Profitability and capital.

9. With reference to National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. NPPA is an independent body of experts under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. NPPA is required to monitor the prices of drugs and take corrective measures where warranted and has the power to fix and regulate such prices.

Options:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority is a government regulatory agency that controls the prices of pharmaceutical drugs in India.
- It was constituted by a Resolution in 1997 as an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers as an independent Regulator for pricing of drugs and to ensure availability and accessibility of medicines at affordable prices.
- NPPA is required to monitor the prices of drugs and take corrective measures where necessary and has the power to fix and regulate such prices.

10. With reference to 'dugong', a mammal found in India, which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a herbivorous marine animal.
2. It is found along the entire coast of India.
3. It is given legal protection under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The dugong is a Marine Mammal.
- Dugongs are generally found in warm waters around the coast with large numbers concentrated in wide and shallow protected bays.
- Dugongs are protected in India and occur in the Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, Gulf of Kutch and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- It is given legal protection under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

1. The Law Commission has recommended the Government to frame a standalone anti-torture law directly making the State responsible for any injury inflicted by its agents on citizens. In its efforts towards anti torture which of the following statements are correct?
 1. India has signed the U.N. Convention against Torture.
 2. The Prevention of Torture Bill is pending in parliament.
2. Letting a man-eater (Tiger) continue in the wild results in more attacks, turning locals against the Forest Department and making every tiger in the vicinity a potential target of reprisal. Which of the following can issue orders on killing the Man eater Tiger?
 - (a) Chief Wildlife Warden
 - (b) State Environment Minister
 - (c) National Tiger Conservation Authority
 - (d) Union Environment Minister

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- India has signed the convention in 1997 but not ratified it yet.
- In 2010, the Bill was sent to a Parliamentary Committee whose recommendations were never accepted, and the Bill lapsed in 2014.
- At Geneva, 30 countries, including Germany, Australia, Japan, Israel and Russia, called on India to ratify the convention.
- In 2017, the law commission has proposed the bill to cabinet for its Consideration.

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- An order to hunt the tiger, T23, was issued by the Tamil Nadu Chief Wildlife Warden recently after the animal killed one more person at Masinagudi in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR).
- The Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) is the statutory authority, under the Wildlife Protection Act, who heads the Wildlife Wing of the department and exercises complete administrative control over Protected Areas (PAs) within a state.

3. Consider the following reserves regarding the Tiger Reserves:

1. Tiger Reserves are declared by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) via Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006.
2. To declare an area as Tiger Reserve, the state governments forward their proposals in this regard to NTCA.

3. No alteration of boundary can be done without the recommendation of State Governments and without the advice of the National Tiger Conservation Authority.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Tiger Reserves are declared by **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** via Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006 under centrally sponsored scheme called Project Tiger. So, statement 1 is correct.
- To declare an area as Tiger Reserve, the state governments can forward their proposals in this regard to NTCA. So, statement 2 is correct.
- Central Government via NTCA may also advise the state governments to forward a proposal for creation of Tiger Reserves.
- Tiger Reserves are managed by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- No alteration of boundary can be done without the recommendation of National Board for Wild Life and without the advice of the Tiger Conservation Authority. So, statement 3 is not correct.

4. Consider the following pairs:

Tiger Reserves	State
1. Satkosia	- Odisha
2. Mudumalai	- Kerala
3. Periyar	- Kerala
4. Orang	- Assam

Which of the following pairs given above are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve is the fifth Tiger Reserve of Tamil Nadu and 51st tiger reserve of the country which was accorded shortly before Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary received all clearances to become the Rajasthan's fourth and country's 52nd tiger reserve.
- Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve was established in February 2021. It was jointly declared by the Centre and Tamil Nadu governments.
- For this, the Megamalai WLS and the adjoining Srivilliputhur WLS were clubbed together.
- **Ecological Diversity:** Animals seen here are Bengal tiger, elephants, gaur, Indian giant squirrel, leopard, Nilgiri Tahrs, etc.

- It has a mix of tropical evergreen forests and semi-evergreen forests, dry deciduous forests and moist mixed deciduous forests, grassland.
 - Other four Tiger reserves of Tamil Nadu:
 - ✓ Anamalai tiger reserve
 - ✓ Kalakkad - Mundanthurai tiger reserve
 - ✓ Mudumalai tiger reserve
 - ✓ Sathyamangalam tiger reserve
5. Consider the following, with reference to the 'DigiSaksham Programme':
1. It is jointly launched by the Union Labour Ministry and Microsoft India.
 2. It will provide digital skills training to the job-seekers of semi urban areas belonging to Disadvantaged Communities.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 (b) 2 only
 (c) Both 1 and 2
 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
- Answer: c)**
- Explanation:**
- Recently, the Union Labour Ministry and Microsoft India have jointly launched a digital skilled platform — DigiSaksham — to enhance youth employability.
 - This joint initiative is an extension of the ongoing programs to support the youth from rural and semi-urban areas.
 - Free of cost training in digital skills including basic skills as well as advanced computing, will be provided to more than 3 lakh youths in the first year.
 - Priority will be given to the job-seekers of semi urban areas belonging to disadvantaged communities, including those who have lost their jobs due to Covid-19 pandemic.
 - Training would be conducted at the Model Career Centres (MCCs) and National Career Service Centres (NCSC) for Scheduled Castes (SCs)/Scheduled Tribes (STs) across the country.
 - It will be implemented by Aga Khan Rural Support Programme India (AKRSP-I).
 - AKRSP-I is a non-denominational, non-government development organization. It works as a catalyst for the betterment of rural communities by providing direct support to local communities.
6. Consider the following, with regard to the 'Best Practices in the Performance of District Hospitals' report:
1. It is a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the World Health Organization (WHO).
 2. The average number of beds per lakh population (in district hospitals) is higher than the guidelines set by the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Recently, NITI Aayog has released a performance assessment report of district hospitals in India, titled ‘Best Practices in the Performance of District Hospitals’.
- The report is an outcome of collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and WHO India.
- Beds per Population as per the Report: On an average, a district hospital had 24 beds for 1,00,000 people.
- For the assessment, it was set that a hospital should have 22 beds for that many people (IPHS 2012 guidelines).
- The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends five hospital beds for every 1,000 people.

7. Consider the following, with reference to the ‘one sun, one world, one grid’:

1. The idea behind the concept is a trans-national electricity grid supplying solar power across the globe.
2. It has been taken up under the technical assistance program of the World Bank.

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:

- India and the UK are likely to announce a joint declaration on “one sun, one world, one grid” — or OSOWOG at the upcoming Conference of Parties (COP26).
- The UN Climate Change Conference, or COP26, is scheduled to be held between 31st October and 12th November in Scotland.
- The concept of OSOWOG is what the British have called a green grid.
- The idea behind the concept is a trans-national Electricity Grid supplying solar power across the Globe.
- The vision behind the OSOWOG is ‘The Sun Never Sets’ and is a constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time.
- This is by far one of the most ambitious schemes undertaken by any country (India) and is of global significance in terms of sharing economic benefits.
- It has been taken up under the technical assistance program of the World Bank.

- The OSOWOG plan may also leverage the International Solar Alliance (ISA), co-founded by India that has 80 countries as members.
 - With India in the middle, the solar spectrum can easily be divided into two broad zones, which are:
 - Far East including countries like Myanmar, Vietnam, Thailand, Lao, Cambodia etc.
 - Far West covering the Middle East and the Africa Region.
8. It is the largest Nuclear Power station in India and is operated by Nuclear Power
1. Corporation of India Limited. It is the result of an inter-governmental agreement between
 2. India and Russia.
 3. The Nuclear Power generation facility being talked about is:
 - (a) Kalpakkam Nuclear Power Plant
 - (b) Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant
 - (c) Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant
 - (d) Kakrapar Atomic Power Station

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant is the largest nuclear power station in India, situated in Kudankulam in the Tirunelveli district of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

- The plant is scheduled to have VVER-1000 reactors built in collaboration with Atoms troy export, the Russian state company and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL).

9. Consider the following statements with respect to Account Aggregator (AA) framework:

1. It is a consent-based financial data sharing that would allow individuals and small businesses to access, control, and share personal data with third-party institutions.
2. AAs were created through an inter-regulatory decision by RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, PFRDA and FSDC.
3. RBI licenses and governs rules for AAs.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The account aggregator framework will allow financial data to be exchanged between the holders of data and its users.
- Account aggregators will act as intermediaries who will collect data from one financial entity and exchange it with another.
- Under the framework, a number of fin-tech entities have been granted the licence to operate as account aggregators.

- AAs were created through an inter-regulatory decision by RBI, SEBI, IRDAI, PFRDA and FSDC.
- RBI licenses and governs rules for AAs.
- Digi Saksham is a joint initiative of Microsoft India and the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

10. The recently launched DigiSaksham is:

1. A digital skills programme to enhance the employability of youth by imparting digital skills.
2. A Scheme aimed at providing encouragement and support to specially-abled children to pursue Technical Education.
3. A scheme aimed at making people in rural areas, across States/UTs, digitally literate.
4. A digital wallet that enables storage and access to educational documents, health records, certificates electronically.

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Under the DigiSaksham initiative, free of cost training will be provided to more than 3 lakh youth, in digital skills including basic skills & advance computing, in the first year. This training programme can be accessed through the National Career Service (NCS) Portal.
- This digital skills programme was launched with the objective of enhancing the employability of youth by improving their digital Skills which have become an Essential thing in an increasingly Technology-driven era.

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 164 of the Constitution allows a non-legislator to occupy a post in the council of ministers, including the office of the chief minister for six months.
2. Article 171 of the Constitution says the governor can nominate eminent persons from the field for literature, science, art, cooperative movement and social service.

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

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The census provides information on size, distribution and socio-economic, demographic and other characteristics of the country's population.
- The Census was first started under British Viceroy Lord Mayo in 1872. It helped in framing new policies, government programs to uplift areas of improvement in the community. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The first synchronous census in India was held in 1881. Since then, censuses have been undertaken uninterruptedly once every ten years. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- The responsibility of conducting the decennial Census rests with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India under **Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India**. So, **statement 3 is not correct.**
- The Census is one of the most credible sources of information on the following:
 - ✓ Demography.
 - ✓ Economic Activity.
 - ✓ Literacy and Education.

- ✓ Housing & Household Amenities.
- ✓ Urbanization, Fertility, and Mortality.
- ✓ Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- ✓ Language.

- However, as early as the 1940s, W.W.M. Yeatts, Census Commissioner for India for the 1941 Census, had pointed out that “the census is a large, immensely powerful, but blunt instrument unsuited for specialized Inquiry.”

3. Consider the following statements:

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

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

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

What is SECC 2011?

- The Socio-Economic Caste Census of 2011 was a major exercise to obtain data about the socio-economic status of various communities.
- It had two components: a survey of the rural and urban households and ranking of these households based on pre-set parameters, and a caste census.
- However, only the details of the economic conditions of the people in rural and urban households were released. The caste data has not been released till now.
- SECC 2011 was conducted by three separate authorities but under the overall coordination of Department of Rural Development in the Government of India.
- ✓ Census in Rural Area has been conducted by the Department of Rural Development (DoRD).
- ✓ Census in Urban areas is under the administrative jurisdiction of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUPA).

Answer: c)

Explanation:

What is a Census?

- The origin of the Census in India goes back to the Colonial Exercise of 1881.
- Census has evolved and been used by the government, policymakers, academics, and others to capture the Indian population, access resources, map social change, delimitation exercise, etc.

✓ Caste Census is under the administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs: Registrar General of India (RGI) and Census Commissioner of India.

- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Neglected tropical diseases persist under **conditions of poverty** and are concentrated almost exclusively in **impoverished populations** in the developing world. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- The people who are most affected by these diseases are often the poorest populations, living in remote, rural areas, urban slums or conflict zones. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Many neglected tropical diseases can be prevented, eliminated or even eradicated with improved access to existing safe and cost-effective tools. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- Control relies on simple interventions that can be carried out by non-specialists — for example schoolteachers, village heads and local volunteers — in community-based Preventive Action.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. Neglected tropical disease is a disease which persist under the countries lying in the tropical as well as sub-tropical parts of the world.
2. The people who are most affected by these diseases are often the poorest populations, living in remote, rural areas, urban slums or conflict zones.
3. Many neglected tropical diseases can be prevented, eliminated or even eradicated with improved access to existing safe and cost-effective tools.

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

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

5. Consider the following statements with respect to “Langa & Manganiar”:

1. They are folk artists, famous for their folk dance called “Kalbeliya”.
2. They are Muslim communities predominantly residing in Ladakh.
3. They play a traditional percussion instrument called “Khartal”.

Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?

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

(c) 4 and 5 only

(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: d)

Explanation:

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Langas and Manganiyars are communities of Muslim folk musicians residing mostly in western Rajasthan's Jaisalmer and Barmer districts.
- The folk art practiced by these two communities includes ballads, folklore and songs.
- The major theme includes heroic ballads, romantic epic tales and the Sufi spiritual stories.
- The performances are in multiple languages and dialects including Marwari, Sindhi, Saraiki, Dhatti and Thareli.
- They play a traditional percussion instrument called "Khartal".

6. In which of the following states can Gangetic River dolphins be found?

1. Assam
2. Uttar Pradesh
3. Rajasthan
4. Jharkhand
5. West Bengal

Options:

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

- Ganges river dolphins once lived in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of Nepal, India, and Bangladesh. But the species has been declining from most of its early distribution ranges.

- Ganges river dolphins prefer deep waters, in and around the confluence of rivers.
- The distribution range of the Ganges river dolphins in India covers seven states namely, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

7. Uronema africanum Borge, recently seen in news, is:

- (a) An alga that can digest low density plastic sheets.
- (b) An oil Eating Bacteria.
- (c) A soil fungus, which uses enzymes to rapidly break down plastic materials.
- (d) A bacterium that can aid the production of Bioplastics.

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Researchers from University of Madras and Presidency College, Chennai, have isolated an alga that breaks down low density polyethylene. The alga identified is

microalga Uronema africanum Borge. This is a species of microalgae that is commonly found in Africa, Asia and Europe.

- The alga used for the study has been harvested from a lake in Chennai.
 - The microalga was found to produce enzymes, hormones, toxins such as cyanotoxins and some polysaccharides which were able to slowly degrade polyethylene into monomers which will not have Harmful Effect in the Atmosphere.
 - Low-density polyethylene is highly Resistant to Degradation.
8. The gross revenue receipts (GRR) as per the modelling done by the 15th Finance Commission for the five-year period comes to ₹154 trillion. In this context, the gross revenue receipts (GRR) for the Centre includes

1. Dividend payment of the Reserve Bank of India
2. Revenue from spectrum auction
3. Cess and surcharge

Select the correct answer code:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Gross Revenue receipts (GRR) in our modelling for the five-year period comes to ₹154 trillion. Take out from that the

dividend payment of the Reserve Bank of India and spectrum prices, and you get gross tax revenue (GTR) of ₹134 trillion, which is what the Finance Commission looks at and which is the only sharable portion. If you take out cess and surcharge and other non-sharable part of GTR, the divisible pool comes to ₹101-102 Trillion and 41% of it gives you about ₹42 Trillion.

9. Consider the following statements, with regard to Five Eyes alliance.

1. The Five Eyes alliance is an intelligence-sharing arrangement between US, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.
2. It evolved during the Cold War as a mechanism for monitoring the Soviet Union.

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:

- The Five Eyes alliance is an intelligence-sharing arrangement between US, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. It evolved during the Cold War as a mechanism for monitoring the Soviet Union and sharing classified intelligence.

- It is often described as the world's most successful intelligence alliance. But recently it has suffered an Embarrassing Setback.
- The policy is formulated by the DGFT (Directorate General of Foreign Trade), which is the governing body to promote & facilitate the exports & imports of the goods under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

10. Consider the following statements, with regard to India's Foreign trade policy.

1. Foreign trade policy is formulated by the Ministry of Finance once in Five Years.
2. It provides guidelines for enhancing exports to push Economic Growth and Create Jobs

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Government has notified the extension of foreign trade policy (FTP) till March 31, 2022.
- The existing FTP 2015-2020, which was valid up to September 30, 2021 is extended up to March 31, 2022.
- The policy provides guidelines for enhancing exports to push economic growth and create jobs and incentives under different schemes such as Duty-Free Import Authorization (DFIA) and Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG).



1. Consider the following statements:

1. Diversion of forest land in India is governed by the provisions under Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.
2. Any diversion of land for non-forest purposes has to be pre-approved by the Advisory Committee instituted under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
3. Proposals seeking diversion of forest land up to 40 hectares are processed by regional offices of MoEFCC under the instituted Regional Empowered Committees (REC).

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Diversion of forest land in India is governed by the provisions under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (FCA). **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- As per the FCA, any diversion of land for non-forest purposes has to be pre-approved by the Advisory Committee instituted under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). **So, statement 2 is correct.**

- Proposals seeking diversion of forest land up to 40 hectares are processed by regional offices of MoEFCC under the instituted Regional Empowered Committees (REC).

So, statement 3 is correct.

- Proposals that pertain to diversion of land greater than 40 hectares are sent directly to the central ministry.

2. Who among the following are the members of the Selection committee to appoint the CBI chief?

- 1. PM
- 2. Leader of opposition in Lok Sabha
- 3. Union Home Minister
- 4. Speaker of Lok Sabha
- 5. Chief Justice of India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The chairman and members of Lokpal shall be appointed by a selection committee of the Prime Minister, the Speaker of Lok Sabha, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, the Chief Justice of India or a sitting supreme court judge as nominated by the
- CJI and an eminent jurist to be nominated by the President based on the

recommendations of the other members of the selection committee.

- The Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners are by the President on the recommendation of a selection committee comprising of Prime Minister as Chairperson, the leader of single largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister.
- The Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners shall be appointed by the President on recommendation of a Committee consisting of the Prime Minister (Chairperson), the Minister of Home Affairs (Member) and the Leader of the Opposition in the House of the People (Member).
- The CBI chief has to be appointed by the Central government on the basis of recommendation of the selection committee headed by the Prime Minister, comprising the Leader of Opposition (LoP) and the Chief Justice of India or a Supreme Court judge nominated by him as members.

3. Consider the following statements:

1. When a state gives a general consent to the CBI for probing a case, the agency is not required to seek fresh permission every time it enters that state in connection with investigation or for every case.

2. When a general consent is withdrawn, CBI needs to seek case-wise consent for investigation from the concerned state government.
3. If specific consent is not granted, the CBI officials will not have the power of police personnel when they enter that state.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- When a state gives a general consent (Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act) to the CBI for probing a case, the agency is not required to seek fresh permission every time it enters that state in connection with investigation or for every case. When a general consent is withdrawn, CBI needs to seek case-wise consent for investigation from the concerned State Government.
- If specific consent is not granted, the CBI officials will not have the power of police personnel when they enter that state.
- **So, all the three statements are correct.**

4. With respect to Forest Rights Act, consider the following statements:
1. The Act grants legal recognition to the rights of traditional forest dwelling communities, partially correcting the injustice caused by the forest laws.
 2. Farmers have to minor forest produce including ownership, to grazing areas, to pastoralist routes, etc.
 3. Eligibility to get rights under the Act is claimant must be a member of the Scheduled Tribes scheduled in that area or must have been residing in the forest for 100 years.

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

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The act was passed in December 2006. It deals with the rights of forest-dwelling communities over land and other resources. The Act grants legal recognition to the
- rights of traditional forest dwelling communities, partially correcting the injustice caused by the forest laws. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Title rights – Ownership to land that is being farmed by tribals or forest dwellers subject to a maximum of 4 hectares;

ownership is only for land that is actually being cultivated by the concerned family, meaning that no new lands are granted.

- Use rights – to minor forest produce (also including ownership), to grazing areas, to pastoralist routes, etc. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Relief and development rights – to rehabilitation in case of illegal eviction or forced displacement; and to basic amenities, subject to restrictions for forest protection.
- Forest management rights – to protect forests and wildlife.
- Eligibility to get rights under the Act is confined to those who “primarily reside in forests” and who depend on forests and forest land for a livelihood. Further, either the claimant must be a member of the Scheduled Tribes scheduled in that area or must have been residing in the forest for 75 years. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

5. In the context to the Minimum Support Price or the Minor Forest Produce, consider the following Statements:

1. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs will be the nodal Ministry for implementation and monitoring of the scheme.
2. The scheme supports primary value addition as well as provides for supply chain infrastructure like cold storage, warehouses etc.

3. It ensures that the tribal population gets a remunerative price for the produce they collect from the forest and provide alternative employment avenues to them.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All the three statements are factual statements of the scheme.

6. In context to Public Interest Litigation, consider the following statements:

- 1. It can be filed only in the Supreme Court.
- 2. It has been borrowed from the American Jurisprudence.
- 3. It is used to advance human rights and Equality.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Public Interest Litigation (PIL) is the use of the law to advance human rights and equality or raise issues of broad public concern.

- The concept of “Public Interest Litigation” has been borrowed from the American Jurisprudence.
- In Indian law, PIL means litigation for the protection of Public Interest. It is Litigation introduced in a court of Law, not by the aggrieved party but by the court itself or by any other private party.
- It is the power given to the public by courts through Judicial activism.
- It can be filed only in the Supreme Court or the High Court.

7. Consider the following, with regard to Chloroquine (CQ):

- 1. It is the most commonly prescribed drug for P Vivax, a malaria causing parasite.
- 2. There are no cases of P Vivax resistance to Chloroquine in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Malaria is a life-threatening mosquito borne blood disease caused by plasmodium parasites, predominantly found in the tropical and subtropical areas of Africa, South America as well as Asia.

- The parasites spread through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.
- Four types of Parasites can infect humans: Plasmodium Vivax, P. ovale, P. malariae and P. falciparum.
- Chloroquine (CQ) is the most commonly prescribed drug for P Vivax parasite. A World Health Organisation (WHO) report said P vivax resistance to chloroquine had been reported from all WHO regions.
- Twenty-eight countries, including India, showed the CQ resistance.

8. Consider the following:

1. Adopted at Congress session at Nagpur (December, 1920)
2. Called-off following the Chauri Chaura Incident
3. Signing of Gandhi-Irwin Pact

Which of the incidents given above is/are not Associated with the Civil Disobedience Movement?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- In 1930, Gandhiji declared that he would lead a march to break the salt law.
- He marched from Gandhi's ashram in Sabarmati to the Gujarati coastal town of Dandi, where they broke the government

law by gathering natural salt found on the seashore, and boiling sea water to produce salt. This marked the beginning of the Civil Disobedience Movement.

- In 1931, Gandhi accepted a truce (the Gandhi-Irwin Pact), called off civil disobedience, and agreed to attend the Second Round Table Conference in London as the sole representative of the Indian National Congress.
- After returning from London, Mahatma Gandhi relaunched the Civil Disobedience Movement. For over a year, the movement continued, but by 1934 it lost its momentum.
- The Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22) was adopted at the Congress session at Nagpur in December 1920.
- In February 1922, Mahatma Gandhi decided to withdraw the Non-Cooperation Movement after the Chauri-Chaura Incident.

9. Consider the following, with regard to ‘Trans-Himalayas Mountain’:

1. It consists of Karakoram, Ladakh, Zaskar and Kailash Mountain ranges.
2. It is mainly composed of granites and volcanic rocks of the Neogene and Paleogene age.

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 Trans-Himalayas Mountain Region or Tibet Himalayan Region is located to the north of the Great Himalayas which consists of Karakoram, Ladakh, Zaskar and Kailash mountain ranges.
- It is also called the Tibet Himalayan Region because most of the part of these ranges lies in Tibet. They are the eastward continuation of the most northerly ranges of the Himalayas. It consists of an ill-defined mountain area about 600 miles long and 140 miles wide in the centre, narrowing to a 20-mile width at the eastern and western ends. It is mainly composed of granites and volcanic rocks of the Neogene and Paleogene age.

10. Consider the following statements:

1. The allotment of election symbols to political parties is regulated by an Act of Parliament.
2. The Election Commission is the only authority to decide disputes among rival groups or sections of a recognised political party staking claim to its name and symbol.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 empowers the Election Commission to recognise political parties and allot symbols.
- An electoral or election symbol is a standardized symbol allocated to a political party. In the 1960s, it was proposed that the regulation, reservation and allotment of electoral symbols should be done through a law of Parliament, i.e. Symbol Order.
- In a response to this proposal, the ECI stated that the recognition of political parties is supervised by the provisions of Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 and so will the allotment of symbols.
- Under Paragraph 15 of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, EC can decide disputes among rival groups or sections of a recognised political party staking claim to its name and symbol.
- The EC is the only authority to decide issues on a dispute or a merger under the order. The Supreme Court (SC) upheld its validity in Sadiq Ali and another vs. ECI in 1971.

1. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Janaushadhi Yojana, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. Under the scheme, there are no restrictions on family size, age or gender.
2. Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country.
3. It also provides Cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The PMJAY, world's largest health insurance/assurance scheme fully financed by the government, provides a cover of Rs. 5,00,000 per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation across public and private empanelled hospitals in India.
- Pre-hospitalisation and Post-hospitalisation expenses such as diagnostics and medicines are also included in the scheme.
- Coverage: Over 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable entitled families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) are eligible for these benefits.

- Provides cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service.

Eligibility Criteria's:

- No restrictions on family size, age or gender.
- All pre-existing conditions are covered from day one.
- Covers up to 3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days post-hospitalization expenses such as diagnostics and medicines.
- Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country.
- Services include approximately 1,393 procedures covering all the costs related to treatment, including but not limited to drugs, supplies, diagnostic services, physician's fees, room charges, surgeon charges, OT and ICU charges etc.
- Public hospitals are reimbursed for the Healthcare Services at par with the private Hospitals.

2. Consider the following statements:

1. Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's") has recently downgraded the Government of India's foreign-currency and local-currency long-term issuer ratings to "Baa3" from "Baa2".
2. A rating downgrade means that bonds issued by the Indian governments are now riskier than before, due to weaker economic growth and worsening fiscal health.

3. When India's sovereign rating is downgraded, it becomes cheaper for the Indian government as well as all Indian companies to raise funds as the world now sees such debt as a riskier proposition.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Moody's Investors Service ("Moody's") has recently upgraded India's sovereign rating outlook to 'stable' from 'negative' citing an ebbing of the risks from COVID-19 and the negative feedback between the real economy and financial system. However its rating is still at Baa3. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

- A rating downgrade means that bonds issued by the Indian governments are now riskier than before, due to weaker economic growth and worsening fiscal health. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

- When India's sovereign rating is downgraded, it becomes **costlier** for the Indian government as well as all Indian companies to raise funds as the world now sees such debt as a riskier proposition. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The Chief Justice of India is traditionally appointed by the outgoing Chief Justice of India on the day of his (or her) retirement.
- By convention, the outgoing Chief Justice of India selects the most senior then-sitting Supreme Court judge.
- Seniority at the apex court is determined not by age, but by:
 - ✓ The date a judge was appointed to the Supreme Court.
 - ✓ If two judges are elevated to the Supreme Court on the same day.

- ✓ The one who was sworn in first as a judge would trump another.
 - ✓ If both were sworn in as judges on the same day, the one with more years of high court service would ‘win’ in the seniority stakes.
 - ✓ An appointment from the bench would ‘trump’ in seniority an appointee from the bar.
 - The Constitution of India does not have any provision for criteria and procedure for appointing the CJI. Article 124(1) of the Indian Constitution says there “shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of a Chief Justice of India”.
 - The closest mention is in Article 126, which deals with the appointment of an acting CJI.
 - In the absence of a constitutional provision, the procedure relies on custom and convention.
 - The procedure to appoint the next CJI is laid out in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) between the government and the judiciary:
 - ✓ The procedure is initiated by the Law Minister seeking the recommendation of the outgoing CJI at the ‘appropriate time’, which is near to the date of retirement of the incumbent CJI.
 - ✓ The CJI sends his recommendation to the Law Ministry; and in the case of any qualms, the CJI can consult the collegium regarding the fitness of an SC judge to be elevated to the post.
 - ✓ After receiving recommendation from the CJI, the law minister forwards it to the Prime Minister who then advises the President on the same.
 - ✓ The President administers the oath of office to the new CJI.
- 4. Letting a man-eater (Tiger) continue in the wild results in more attacks, turning locals against the Forest Department and making every tiger in the vicinity a potential target of reprisal. Which of the following can issue orders on killing the Man eater Tiger?**
- (a) Chief Wildlife Warden
 (b) State Environment Minister
 (c) National Tiger Conservation Authority
 (d) Union Environment Minister
- Answer: a)**
- Explanation:**
- An order to hunt the tiger, T23, was issued by the Tamil Nadu Chief Wildlife Warden recently after the animal killed one more person at Masinagudi in the Mudumalai Tiger Reserve (MTR).
 - The Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) is the statutory authority, under the Wildlife Protection Act, who heads the Wildlife Wing of the department and exercises complete administrative control over Protected Areas (PAs) within a state.

5. With reference to National Health Authority, which of the statements given below are correct?
1. National Health Authority (NHA) is the apex body responsible for implementing India's flagship public health insurance scheme called Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
 2. National Health Authority is the successor of the National Health Agency.
 3. NHA is governed by a Governing Board chaired by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare headed by a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), an officer of the rank of Secretary to the Government of India.

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:

- National Health Authority (NHA) is the apex body responsible for implementing India's flagship public health insurance/assurance scheme called "Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana".
- It has been entrusted with the role of designing strategy, building technological infrastructure and implementation of

"National Digital Health Mission" to create a National Digital Health Eco-system.

- National Health Authority is the successor of the National Health Agency, which was functioning as a registered society since 23rd May, 2018.
- Pursuant to Cabinet decision for full functional autonomy, National Health Agency was reconstituted as the National Health Authority on 2nd January 2019, under Gazette Notification.
- NHA is governed by a Governing Board chaired by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare headed by a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), an officer of the rank of Secretary to the Government of India, who manages its affairs. The CEO is the Ex-Office Member Secretary of the Governing Board.
- To implement the scheme at the State level, State Health Agencies (SHAs) in the form of a society/trust have been set up by respective States. SHAs have full operational autonomy over the implementation of the scheme in the State including extending the coverage to non SECC beneficiaries.
- NHA is leading the implementation for national Digital Health Mission NDHM in coordination with different ministries/departments of the Government of India, State Governments, and private sector/civil society organizations.

- So, all the three statements are correct.
6. Shyamji Krishna Varma is associated with which of the following organisations?
1. Indian Home Rule Society
 2. India House
 3. The Indian Sociologist
 4. Arya Samaj
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 4 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 3 and 4 only
 - (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Shyamji Krishna Varma was born on 4th October, 1857 in Mandvi town of Kachchh district of Gujarat.
- He founded the Indian Home Rule Society, India House and The Indian Sociologist in London.
- Indian Home Rule Society and the India House worked towards inspiring youngsters in Britain to take up revolutionary activities against their own representatives in India.
- The monthly Indian Sociologist became an outlet for nationalist ideas and through the Indian Home Rule Society, he criticised the British rule in India.

- Varma became the first President of Bombay Arya Samaj. He inspired Veer Savarkar who was a member of India House in London. Verma also served as the Divan of a number of states in India.

7. Consider the following:

1. The Indian Societies Registration Act of 1860 Gives Legal basis to the concept of trusts.
2. The Trustee holds assets on behalf of individuals or organisations that are to Benefit from trust.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- A trust can be described as a fiduciary arrangement where a third party, referred to as the trustee, holds assets on behalf of individuals or organisations that are to benefit from it.
- A trust is not a separate legal entity, but its legal nature comes from the ‘trustee’. At times, the ‘settlor’ appoints a ‘protector’, who has the powers to supervise the trustee, and even remove the trustee and appoint a new one.

- The Indian Trusts Act, 1882, gives legal basis to the concept of trusts. Indian laws recognise the trust as an obligation of the trustee to manage and use the assets settled in the trust for the benefit of ‘Beneficiaries’.
- 8.** Which of the statements describes the Astro Robot?
- (a) It is designed to search water on the Lunar surface.
 - (b) It is designed to help customers with a range of tasks like home monitoring.
 - (c) It is designed to study the surface of asteroid Bennu.
 - (d) It is designed to explore earth-like planets outside the Solar System.

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Recently, Amazon has unveiled its ‘Astro’ home robot, which is designed to help customers with a range of tasks like home monitoring and keeping in touch with family.
- Astro is primed to be a home security device. It is designed to move around the home and keep a check on pets, and detect something unusual in the absence of the owner.
- It comes with a “periscope” camera that pops up from its head and can be used to keep an eye on the home.

- The device captures live videos, recognises faces, plays music or videos, and delivers a beer across the home.
- It can recognise the faces of people and analyse them until it figures out if it’s a family member or an outsider.

9. Consider the following statements, with regard to Indian Peafowl:

1. They are known to grow and thrive in dry conditions.
2. They are listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Indian peafowl is a native of India and some parts of Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- The species are currently habituated more in central Kerala, followed by southeast and northwest parts of the state.
- Concerns:
 - They are a threat to paddy farmers in Kerala. They destroy its seeds and cause man-animal conflict.
 - Agriculture expansion and deforestation have caused other species to ‘invade human territory’.

- The growing population of peafowls signals climate change. They are known to grow and thrive in dry conditions.

Protection Status:

- **IUCN:** Least Concern.
- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I

10. Consider the following:

1. Somato-Sensation is a collective term for the sensations of touch, temperature, body position, and pain recognized through Neural Receptors in the skin and certain Internal organs.
2. Mechanosensitive channels are fascinating proteins, being able to serve both as sensors and Effectors.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

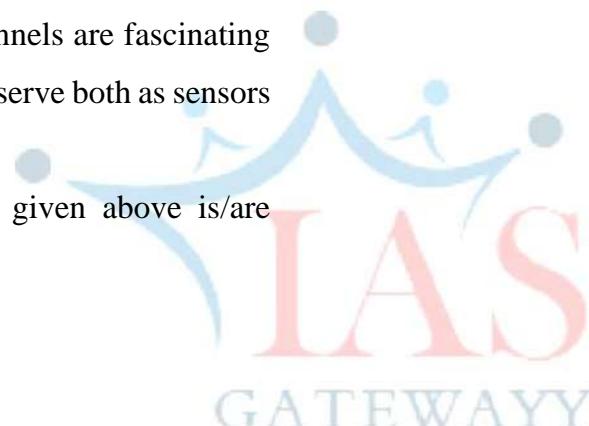
- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Somatosensation is a collective term for the sensations of touch, temperature, body position, and pain recognized through neural receptors in the skin and certain internal organs.
- It includes processes such as mechanoreception, thermoreception, proprioception.

- Mechanosensitive channels are fascinating proteins, being able to serve both as sensors and effectors.
- Embedded in membranes, they convert mechanical stimuli such as in-plane membrane tension and curvature into electrical or biochemical signals, leading to regulation of a wide repertoire of cellular processes allowing Adaptive Response.



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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

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

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

- (a) Krishna
- (b) Godavary
- (c) Cauvery
- (d) Tungabhadra

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The water war between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana appears to be hotting up with the authorities of both the States stepping up security on their respective sides at the Nagarjuna Sagar and Srisailam dams.
- Several floods in the region have created a need for repair and maintenance of the Srisailam dam.
- The Srisailam dam is constructed across the Krishna River in Andhra Pradesh.
- It is located in the Nallamala hills.
- The Krishna River is the second biggest river in peninsular India after the Godavari River.
- It originates near Mahabaleshwar (Satara) in Maharashtra.
- It runs from four states Maharashtra (303 km), North Karnataka (480 km) and the rest of its 1300 km journey in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh before it empties into the Bay of Bengal.
- Tributaries: Tungabhadra, Mallaprabha, Koyna, Bhima, Ghataprabha, Yerla, Warna, Dindi, Musi and Dudhganga.
- Pattiseema Lift Irrigation project is the first river-linking project in India, connecting Godavari with Krishna through the Polavaram right canal. It will divert surplus Godavari water to Krishna river.

UPSC OCTOBER - 2021

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASS TEST – 07



3. Consider the following pairs:

River	Disputed states
1. Narmada	- Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan
2. Krishna	- Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana
3. Vamsadhara	- Chhattisgarh, Odisha
4. Cauvery	- Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

Which of the pairs given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

Major Inter-State River Disputes	
River (s)	States
Ravi and Beas	Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan
Narmada	Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan

Krishna	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana
Vamsadhara	Andhra Pradesh & Odisha
Cauvery	Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry
Godavari	Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha
Mahanadi	Chhattisgarh, Odisha
Mahadayi	Goa, Maharashtra, Karnataka
Periyar	Tamil Nadu, Kerala

4. With respect to the disease Malaria, which of the statements given below are correct?

- 1. Malaria is caused by Plasmodium, in which the parasites are spread to people through the bites of infected male Anopheles mosquitoes.
- 2. There are 5 parasite species that cause malaria in humans.
- 3. The WHO recently recommended the widespread use of the RTS,S/AS01 (RTS,S) malaria vaccine among children in sub-Saharan Africa and in other regions.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The WHO recently said that it was recommending the widespread use of the RTS,S/AS01 (RTS,S) malaria vaccine among children in sub-Saharan Africa and in other regions with moderate to high P. falciparum malaria transmission, based on results from an ongoing pilot programme in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- The development comes at a time when the WHO and its partners have reported a stagnation in the progress against the disease that kills more than 2, 60,000 African children under the age of five annually.
- Malaria has been one of the world's deadliest diseases. It kills more than 400,000 people a year worldwide and causes illness in millions of others.
- Africa is home to 70% of the world's malaria cases and 90% of deaths.
- In the past two decades, existing interventions have reduced the malaria burden. And India, too, has made good progress in malaria control. The disease burden has declined by 59 per cent.
- The success has led to the government in making a commitment to eliminate malaria by 2030.

- Malaria is caused by Plasmodium; the parasites are spread to people through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes, called "malaria vectors." **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- There are 5 parasite species that cause malaria in humans, and 2 of these species – falciparum and P. vivax – pose the greatest threat. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- In 2018, falciparum accounted for 99.7% of estimated malaria cases in the WHO African Region 50% of cases in the WHO South-East Asia Region, 71% of cases in the Eastern Mediterranean and 65% in the Western Pacific. Vivax is the predominant parasite in the WHO Region of the Americas, representing 75% of malaria cases.

5. 'Fridays for Future' recently seen in news is related to

- (a) A scheme introduced by GOI to involve students in sports.
- (b) A movement to protest against the lack of action on the climate crisis.
- (c) A cancer awareness programme done by school students.
- (d) A movement against the global terrorism.

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Fridays for Future is a movement that began in August 2018, after 15 years old Greta Thunberg sat in front of the Swedish

parliament every school day for three weeks, **to protest against the lack of action on the climate crisis.**

6. Consider the following, with regard to Schedule:

1. The Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution sets the provisions for disqualification of elected members on the grounds of defection.
2. The members disqualified under the anti defection law are debarred from contesting elections for the next five years.
3. The defection by at least one-third of the elected members of a political party is considered a merger.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The anti-defection law punishes individual Members of Parliament (MPs)/MLAs for leaving one party for another.
- The Tenth Schedule (popularly known as the Anti-Defection Act) was included in the Constitution via the 52nd Amendment Act, 1985.

- It sets the provisions for disqualification of elected members on the grounds of defection to another political party.
- However, it allows a group of MP/MLAs to join (i.e. merge with) another political party without inviting the penalty for defection. And it does not penalise political parties for encouraging or accepting defecting legislators.
- As per the 1985 Act, a 'defection' by one-third of the elected members of a political party was considered a 'merger'.
- But the 91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003, changed this and now at least two-thirds of the members of a party have to be in favour of a "merger" for it to have validity in the eyes of the law.
- The members disqualified under the law can stand for elections from any political party for a seat in the same House.
- The decision on questions as to disqualification on ground of defection are referred to the Chairman or the Speaker of such House, which is subject to 'Judicial review'.

7. Consider the following, with regard to 'Citizenship in India':

1. The ways of acquiring citizenship are prescribed in Article 6 of the Indian Constitution.
2. The citizenship of any Indian can be renounced by the Government if he/she has

been living outside India for 7 years Continuously.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Citizenship is listed in the Union List under the Constitution and thus is under the exclusive jurisdiction of Parliament.
- The Constitution does not define the term ‘citizen’ but details of various categories of persons who are entitled to citizenship are given in Part 2 (Articles 5 to 11).
- The Citizenship Act of 1955 prescribes five ways of acquiring citizenship, viz, birth, descent, registration, naturalisation and incorporation of territory. Article 6 of the Indian Constitution provides the rights of citizenship of certain persons who have migrated to India from Pakistan.
- The Government of India may terminate the citizenship of an Indian citizen if;
- The citizen has disrespected the Constitution.
- Has obtained citizenship by fraud.
- The citizen has unlawfully traded or communicated with the enemy during a war.

- Within 5 years of registration or naturalisation, a citizen has been sentenced to 2 years of imprisonment in any country.
- The citizen has been living outside India for 7 Years Continuously.

8. Consider the following, with reference to Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS):

1. It allows online interoperable financial transactions at Point of Sale (PoS).
2. It is developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

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:

- Aadhaar-enabled Payment System (AePS) is a bank led model which allows online interoperable financial transactions at PoS (Point of Sale/Micro ATM) through the Business Correspondent (BC)/Bank Mitra of any bank using the Aadhaar authentication.
- This system adds another layer of security to financial transactions as bank details would no longer be required to be furnished while carrying out these transactions.
- It was taken up by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) - a joint

initiative of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

9. With reference to the ‘Vedic Governance’, consider the following:

1. Vidhata was an assembly meant for debating military matters during vedic period.
2. Both women and men took part in the vidhaata assembly.

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:

- There is evidence of the existence of proto forms of democracy and republicanism in ancient India. The Vedas describe at least two forms of Republican Governance:
- **Monarchy:** The first would consist of elected kings. This has always been seen as an early form of Democracy.
- **Republics:** The second form is that of rule without a monarch, with power vested in a council or sabha.
- The membership of such sabhas was not always determined by birth, but they often comprised people who had distinguished themselves by their actions.

- There is even a hint of the modern bicameral system of legislatures, with the sabha often sharing power with the samiti, which was made up of common people.
- The vidhaata, or the assembly of people for debating policy, military matters and important issues impacting all, has been mentioned more than a hundred times in the Rig Veda. Both women and men took part in these Deliberations.

10. Which of the following ancient texts has mentioned about the republics in India?

1. Arthashastra
2. Ashtadhyayi
3. Avadaana Shatak
4. Mahanibbana Sutta

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- In Chapter 107/108 of Mahabharata's Shanti Parva, there is a detailed narration about the features of republics (called ganas) in India.
- The Buddhist Canon, both in Sanskrit (in which much of Mahayana Buddhist literature was written) and in Pali (in which much of Hinayana literature was written)

has extensive reference to republics in India, e.g. the Lichchavi city of Vaishali.

- It also describes in detail Vaishali's rivalry with neighbouring Magadha, which was a monarchy. Had the Lichchavis won, the trajectory of governance may well have been non-monarchical in the Subcontinent.
- The Mahanibbana Sutta (Pali Buddhist work) and the Avadaana Shatak (a Sanskrit Buddhist text of the second century A.D) also mention that certain areas were under a republican form of government.
- Other sources appear in the Ashtadhyayi of Panini, the Arthashastra of Kautilya, etc.
- Elements of State by Kautilya: Any state is thought of as composed of seven elements. The first three are swami or the king, amatya or the ministers (administration) and janapada or the people.
 - The king must function on the advice of the amatyas for the good of the people.
 - The ministers are appointed from amongst the people (the Arthashastra also mentions entrance tests).
 - As per the Arthashastra, in the happiness and benefit of his people lies the happiness and benefit of the King.

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Godavari Cauvery Interlinking Project:
 1. Water will be diverted from Godavari River to Nagarjuna Sagar dam and further south to meet the demands of Krishna, Pennar and Cauvery basins.
 2. The Godavari basin extends over states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha in addition to smaller parts in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Puducherry.
 3. All the four rivers Cauvery, Godavari, Krishna and Pennar drains into Bay of 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 only

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The project envisages the diversion of 247 thousand million cubic feet (tmcft) of unutilised water in the Indravati sub-basin of the Godavari basin to meet the requirements between the Godavari and the Cauvery rivers. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Water will be diverted from Godavari River to Nagarjuna Sagar dam (through lifting) and further south to meet the demands of Krishna, Pennar and Cauvery basins.

- The Godavari - Cauvery link comprises three components namely,
 - ✓ the Godavari (Inchampalli/Janampet) - Krishna (Nagarjunasagar),
 - ✓ the Krishna (Nagarjunasagar) – Pennar (Somasila) and
 - ✓ the Pennar (Somasila)–Cauvery.
- The project will provide irrigation facilities to 3.45 to 5.04 lakh hectares in Prakasam, Nellore, Krishna, Guntur, and Chittoor districts of Andhra Pradesh.
- The Godavari basin extends over states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha in addition to smaller parts in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Yanam (Union territory of Puducherry in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh). **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- All the four rivers Cauvery, Godavari, Krishna and Pennar drains into Bay of Bengal. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

2. With reference to the Indra Sawhney case, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?
 1. The Court rejected the additional reservation of 10% for poorer sections of higher castes, but it upheld the constitutional validity of 27% reservation for the OBCs with certain conditions.

2. No reservation in promotions; reservation should be confined to initial appointments only.
3. The carry forward rule in case of unfilled vacancies should not violate 50% rule.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- In the famous **Mandal case (Indra Sawhney v. Union of India 1992)**, the scope and extent of **Article 16(4)**, which provides for reservation of jobs in favour of backward classes, has been examined thoroughly by the Supreme Court.
 - Though the Court has rejected the additional reservation of 10% for poorer sections of higher castes, it upheld the constitutional validity of 27% reservation for the OBCs with certain conditions, viz,
 - ✓ The advanced sections among the OBCs (the creamy layer) should be excluded from the list of beneficiaries of reservation.
 - ✓ No reservation in promotions; reservation should be confined to initial appointments only.
 - ✓ Any existing reservation in promotions can continue for five years only (i.e., upto 1997).
 - ✓ The total reserved quota should not exceed 50% except in some extraordinary situations. This rule should be applied every year.
 - ✓ The ‘carry forward rule’ in case of unfilled (backlog) vacancies is valid. But it should not violate 50% rule.
 - ✓ A permanent statutory body should be established to examine complaints of over-inclusion and under-inclusion in the list of OBCs.
 - However, it is also to be noted that the Parliament has passed the 124th Constitution Amendment Bill (10% Quota Bill) to provide for 10% reservation for economically weaker sections (EWS) among the general category candidates in higher education and government employment in the year 2019.
 - **So, all the three statements are correct.**
3. Cauvery River was recently seen in news. Which of the following are the tributaries of the Cauvery River?
1. Amravati
 2. Bhavani
 3. Hemavati
 4. Kabini

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Cauvery is a sacred river of southern India. It rises in the Brahmagiri range of the Western Ghats and falls in the Bay of Bengal south of Cuddalore, in Tamil Nadu.
- It forms the sacred islands of Srirangapatna and Shivanasamudra and Shivanasamudra falls and also a wide delta.
- Total Length of the river is about 760 km.
- Its main tributaries are Amravati, Bhavani, Hemavati, Kabini, Shimsha, and Lakshmana Tirtha.
- Its basin drains parts of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.

4. Consider the following regarding the 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act:

1. It amended the Constitution to extend 10% reservation economically weaker sections among all castes and communities, including all Christians and Muslims.
2. The 10% reservation will be in addition to the existing cap of 50% reservation for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes, taking total reservation to 60%.

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:

- One Hundred and Twenty- Fourth Amendment Bill was introduced to extend 10% quota to “the economically weaker sections in the general category that are not covered by any of the existing schemes of reservation”.
- The bill was designed to amend the Constitution to extend 10% reservation in direct recruitment in government jobs and for admission in higher educational institutions to “economically weaker” sections among all castes and communities, Christians and Muslims included, who are not eligible under the already existing quotas.
- It was amended because the issue was related to the Fundamental rights Articles 15 (prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth) and 16 (equality of opportunity in matters of public employment) of the Constitution
- The amendment was ratified in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, by two thirds of members present and voting, and by the legislatures of not less than half the states.

- The 10% reservation will be in addition to the existing cap of 50% reservation for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes, taking total reservation to 60%.
 - The quota targets the poor among the upper castes. This will be over and above 50% mandated by Constitution and hence the need for Constitution amendment Bill.
5. Which of the following are the conditions to be included in the reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)?
1. Annual household income below Rs 8 lakh.
 2. Agriculture land below 5 acres.
 3. Residential house below 1000 sqft.
 4. Residential plot below 100 yards in notified municipality.
 5. Residential plot below 200 yards in non-notified Municipality Area.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All the above are the conditions are the requirements for the reservation in EWS.

- 6. Consider the following statements, with regard to 2021 State of the Education Report (SOER) for India:
 1. It is released by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
 2. The proportion of teachers employed in the private sector declined from 35% in 2013-14 to 21% in 2018-19.
 3. Tripura has the least number of women Teachers in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- On the Occasion of the World Teachers' Day (5th October), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) launched its 2021 State of the Education Report (SOER) for India: "No Teacher, No Class".

Findings of the Report:

- **Lack of Teachers:** There are nearly 1.2 lakh single-teacher schools in the country of which an overwhelming 89% are in rural areas. The report projects that India needs 11.16 lakh additional teachers to meet the current shortfall.

- Performance of States (Women Teachers):
Tripura has the least number of women teachers, followed by Assam, Jharkhand and Rajasthan.
- Chandigarh leads the chart followed by Goa, Delhi, Kerala.
- **Increase in Number of Teachers in Private Sector:** The proportion of teachers employed in the private sector grew from 21% in 2013-14 to 35% in 2018-19.
- The Right to Education Act stipulates that the Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) should be 30:1 in classes 1-5 and 35:1 in higher grades.

7. Consider the following, with regard to Henley Passport Index 2021:

1. It ranks all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.
2. Japan has ranked first in the index for three consecutive years.
3. There is a trend of continuous decline in India's Position in the index since 2019.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Henley Passport Index (HPI) is the original ranking of all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.
- Originally created by Dr. Christian H. Kaelin (chairman of Henley & Partners), the ranking is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which maintains the world's largest and most accurate database of travel information.
- It was launched in 2006 and includes 199 different passports.
- Global Rankings for HPI 2021: Japan and Singapore stood at the top of this year's list, with their passport holders allowed to travel visa-free to 192 countries, while South Korea and Germany share the second position.
- For the third consecutive year, Japan has secured the top position.
- Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, and Yemen are among the least powerful.
- India's Performance in HPI 2021: India fell down to the 90th position, with its passport holders allowed to travel visa-free to 58 countries.
- India shares the rank with Tajikistan and Burkina Faso.

- India was ranked 85th in the January 2021's index', (84th) in 2020 and (82nd) in 2019.

8. Which of the following statements is/are correct with regard to 'RTS, S/AS01 vaccine':

1. It is an injectable vaccine targeting the most prevalent malaria strain in Africa.
2. It helps in protecting against the liver infection with the Hepatitis B virus.
3. It is highly effective in preventing severe cases of malaria in children.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- RTS,S/AS01, trade name Mosquirix, is an injectable vaccine targeting P. falciparum, the most prevalent malaria strain in Africa. It is the first and only vaccine to show partial protection in Young Children.
- It was developed by British drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline in 1987.
- The active substance in Mosquirix is made up of proteins found on the surface of the Plasmodium falciparum parasites (Pf).
- RTS,S aims to trigger the immune system to defend against the first stages of malaria when the Pf enters the human host's

bloodstream through a mosquito bite and infects liver cells.

- It also helps protect against infection of the liver with the Hepatitis B virus.
- The vaccine's effectiveness at preventing severe cases of malaria in children is only around 30%, but it is the only approved vaccine.
- The European Union's drugs regulator approved it in 2015, saying its benefits outweighed the risks.
- Its side effects are rare, but sometimes include a fever that may result in temporary convulsions.

9. Consider the following statements:

1. The 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry is awarded for the development of asymmetric organocatalysis.
2. Asymmetric organocatalysis uses small organic molecules as catalysts instead of traditional catalysts such as enzymes or Metals.

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 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to Benjamin List and David

- MacMillan for the development of asymmetric organocatalysis.
- They have developed a new and ingenious tool for molecule building: Organocatalysis.
 - According to researchers, there were just two types of catalysts available: metals and enzymes.
 - Catalysts are any substance that increases the rate of a reaction without itself being consumed.
 - In 2000, they, independent of each other, developed a third type of catalysis. It is called asymmetric Organocatalysis and builds upon small organic molecules.
 - Asymmetric Organocatalysis is a widely used technique and especially important to the drug discovery process.
 - It uses small organic molecules as catalysts instead of traditional catalysts such as enzymes or metals.
 - Biologically active molecules are often chiral, and organocatalysts provide a way to make candidate drug compounds quickly and Efficiently.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- According to India State of Forest Report, 2019, the Total Forest and Tree cover is 24.56% of the geographical area of the country.
- Forest Cover (Area-wise): Madhya Pradesh > Arunachal Pradesh > Chhattisgarh > Odisha > Maharashtra.
- National Forest Policy of India, 1988 Envisages a goal of achieving 33% of the Geographical area of the country under Forest and Tree Cover.
- Through the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976 Forests and Protection of Wild Animals and Birds were transferred from State to Concurrent List along with Education, Weights & Measures and Administration of Justice.
- Article 51 A (g) of the Constitution states that it shall be the Fundamental Duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forests and Wildlife.

10. Consider the following statements:

1. The 42nd Amendment Act, 1976 transferred forests and protection of wild animals and birds to the Union List under the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
2. Protection of forests and wildlife is the Fundamental Duty of citizens of India.

- Article 48 A in the Directive Principles of State policy, mandates that the State shall Endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.



1. Consider the following statements, with regard to 2021 State of the Education Report (SOER) for India:
 1. It is released by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
 2. The proportion of teachers employed in the private sector declined from 35% in 2013-14 to 21% in 2018-19.
 3. Tripura has the least number of women teachers in India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- On the Occasion of the World Teachers' Day (5th October), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) launched its 2021 State of the Education Report (SOER) for India: "No Teacher, No Class".

Findings of the Report:

- Lack of Teachers: There are nearly 1.2 lakh single-teacher schools in the country of which an overwhelming 89% are in rural areas. The report projects that India needs 11.16 lakh additional teachers to meet the current shortfall.

- Performance of States (Women Teachers): Tripura has the least number of women teachers, followed by Assam, Jharkhand and Rajasthan.
- Chandigarh leads the chart followed by Goa, Delhi, Kerala.
- Increase in Number of Teachers in Private Sector: The proportion of teachers employed in the private sector grew from 21% in 2013-14 to 35% in 2018-19.
- The Right to Education Act stipulates that the Pupil-Teacher Ratio (PTR) should be 30:1 in classes 1-5 and 35:1 in higher Grades.

2. Consider the following, with regard to Henley Passport Index 2021:

1. It ranks all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.
2. Japan has ranked first in the index for three consecutive years.
3. There is a trend of continuous decline in India's position in the index since 2019.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Henley Passport Index (HPI) is the original ranking of all the world's passports according to the number of destinations their holders can access without a prior visa.
- Originally created by Dr. Christian H. Kaelin (chairman of Henley & Partners), the ranking is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which maintains the world's largest and most accurate database of travel information.
- It was launched in 2006 and includes 199 different passports.
- Global Rankings for HPI 2021: Japan and Singapore stood at the top of this year's list, with their passport holders allowed to travel visa-free to 192 countries, while South Korea and Germany share the second position.
- For the third consecutive year, Japan has secured the top position.
- Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, and Yemen are among the least powerful.
- India's Performance in HPI 2021: India fell down to the 90th position, with its passport holders allowed to travel visa-free to 58 countries.
- India shares the rank with Tajikistan and Burkina Faso.

- India was ranked 85th in the January 2021's index', (84th) in 2020 and (82nd) in 2019.

3. Which of the following statements is/are correct with regard to 'RTS,S/AS01 vaccine':

1. It is an injectable vaccine targeting the most prevalent malaria strain in Africa.
2. It helps in protecting against the liver infection with the Hepatitis B virus.
3. It is highly effective in preventing severe cases of Malaria in children.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- RTS,S/AS01, trade name Mosquirix, is an injectable vaccine targeting *P. falciparum*, the most prevalent malaria strain in Africa. It is the first and only vaccine to show partial protection in young children.
- It was developed by British drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline in 1987.
- The active substance in Mosquirix is made up of proteins found on the surface of the *Plasmodium falciparum* parasites (PFP).
- RTS,S aims to trigger the immune system to defend against the first stages of malaria when the PFP enters the human host's

bloodstream through a mosquito bite and infects liver cells.

- It also helps protect against infection of the liver with the Hepatitis B virus.
- The vaccine's effectiveness at preventing severe cases of malaria in children is only around 30%, but it is the only approved vaccine.
- The European Union's drugs regulator approved it in 2015, saying its benefits outweighed the risks.
- Its side effects are rare, but sometimes include a fever that may result in temporary Convulsions.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. The 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry is awarded for the development of asymmetric organocatalysis.
2. Asymmetric organocatalysis uses small organic molecules as catalysts instead of traditional catalysts such as enzymes or Metals.

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 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to Benjamin List and David

MacMillan for the development of asymmetric organocatalysis.

- They have developed a new and ingenious tool for molecule building: organocatalysis.
- According to researchers, there were just two types of catalysts available: metals and enzymes.
- Catalysts are any substance that increases the rate of a reaction without itself being consumed.
- In 2000, they, independent of each other, developed a third type of catalysis. It is called asymmetric organocatalysis and builds upon small organic molecules.
- Asymmetric organocatalysis is a widely used technique and especially important to the drug discovery process.
- It uses small organic molecules as catalysts instead of traditional catalysts such as enzymes or metals.
- Biologically active molecules are often chiral, and organocatalysts provide a way to make candidate drug compounds quickly and Efficiently.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. The 42nd Amendment Act, 1976 transferred forests and protection of wild animals and birds to the Union List under the Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
2. Protection of forests and wildlife is the Fundamental Duty of citizens of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- According to India State of Forest Report, 2019, the Total Forest and Tree cover is 24.56% of the geographical area of the country. Forest Cover (Area-wise): Madhya Pradesh > Arunachal Pradesh > Chhattisgarh > Odisha > Maharashtra.
- National Forest Policy of India, 1988 envisages a goal of achieving 33% of the geographical area of the country under forest and tree cover.
- Through the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976 Forests and Protection of Wild Animals and Birds were transferred from State to Concurrent List along with Education, Weights & Measures and Administration of Justice.
- Article 51 A (g) of the Constitution states that it shall be the Fundamental Duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forests and Wildlife.
- Article 48 A in the Directive Principles of State policy, mandates that the State shall Endeavor to protect and improve the

environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country.

6. Which among the following greatly depend on wind conditions during migration?
- 1. Globe skimmer dragonflies
 - 2. Jacobin Cuckoo
 - 3. Amur Falcon

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Recent study by Lund University, Sweden has found that it was possible for the dragonflies to migrate from India to East Africa and return to India. The globe skimmer dragonfly does not rely on fat stored in its body to fly such long distances. Instead, it takes advantage of favorable winds present during certain periods of the year.
- Jacobin Cuckoo (*Clamator jacobinus*) is one of the most iconic migrants in the Indian Subcontinent, and their arrival in north India is considered to herald the first monsoon rains. Although resident in South India, central and northern populations of this brood parasite migrate to Africa for the winter.

- Amur Falcons migrate from breeding grounds in eastern Asia to wintering grounds in southern Africa. Along the way, they fly 2,400 miles across the Indian Ocean.

7. Kalapani, Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh sometimes seen in news are related to

- (a) Disputed territories between India and Nepal
- (b) More arsenic contamination in drinking water
- (c) Places which became plastic free completely
- (d) None of these

Answer: a)

Explanations:

- Nepal's new official map is "artificial" and unacceptable says India after Nepal unveiled a new political map that claimed Kalapani, Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh of Uttarakhand as part of its sovereign territory.

8. Which of the following states share their Border with Nepal?

1. Uttarakhand
2. Uttar Pradesh
3. Sikkim
4. Bihar

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Nepal shares its border with the states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, Bihar and West Bengal.



9. Consider the following statements:

1. Nuclear Enrichment increases the proportion of U-235 through the process of isotope separation.
2. For nuclear reactors, Enrichment is required up to 90% or more which is known as Highly Enriched Uranium/reactor-grade uranium.

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Natural uranium consists of two different isotopes - nearly 99% U-238 and only around 0.7% of U-235.

- U-235 is a fissile material that can sustain a chain reaction in a nuclear reactor.
 - Enrichment process increases the proportion of U-235 through the process of isotope separation (U-238 is separated from U-235). **So, statement 1 is correct.**
 - For nuclear weapons, enrichment is required up to 90% or more which is known as Highly Enriched Uranium/weapons-grade uranium.
 - For nuclear reactors, enrichment is required up to 3-4% which is known as Low Enriched Uranium/reactor-grade uranium.
- So, statement 2 is not correct.**

Explanation:

- Iran agreed to rein in its nuclear programme in a 2015 deal struck with the US, UK, Russia, China, France and Germany (P5+1 countries). The United States announced its withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), also known as the "Iran nuclear deal" or the "Iran deal", on May 8, 2018.
- Under the **Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)** Tehran agreed to significantly cut its stores of centrifuges, enriched uranium and heavy-water, all key components for nuclear weapons.
- The JCPOA established the Joint Commission, with the negotiating parties all represented, to monitor implementation of the agreement.
- Iran has said that it will "automatically" return to its nuclear commitments if U.S. President-elect Joe Biden lifts sanctions imposed over the past Two Years.

10. Under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which of the following countries are included to make a deal with Iran?

1. US
2. UK
3. Russia
4. France
5. Germany

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

1. Consider the following statements:

1. The Central Information Commission is a statutory body established under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005).
2. The Commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners.
3. The Chief Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner (of Centre as well as States) shall hold office for term fixed of 5 years or 65 years of age whichever is earlier.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Central Information Commission is a statutory body established under the provisions of the Right to Information Act (2005). **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- The Commission consists of a Chief Information Commissioner and not more than ten Information Commissioners. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019 provided that the Chief Information

- Commissioner and an Information Commissioner (of Centre as well as States) shall hold office for such term as prescribed by the Central Government. Before this amendment, their term was fixed for 5 years. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**
- It provided that the salary, allowances and other service conditions of the Chief Information Commissioner and an Information Commissioner (of Centre as well as States) shall be such as prescribed by the Central Government.
- Before this amendment, the salary, allowances and other service conditions of the Chief Information Commissioner were similar to those of the Chief Election Commissioner and that of an Information Commissioner were similar to those of an Election Commissioner (State Election Commissioners in case of States).

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

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

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Environmental clearance is granted by the Ministry of Environment, and the **State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA)**, under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification of 2006.
3. With reference to the differences between the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), consider the following statements:
1. The NGT has been established by an Act whereas the CPCB has been created by an executive order of the Government.

2. The NGT provides Environmental Justice and helps reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts whereas the CPCB promotes cleanliness of streams and wells, and aims to improve the quality of air in the Country.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

• The NGT was established by the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 whereas the CPCB has been created by the Water act, 1974. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

4. With reference to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) Act, consider the following statements:

1. The act allows NGT composition for up to 40 members with 20 expert members and 20 judicial members.
2. The Chairman is required to be a serving or retired Chief Justice of a High Court or a judge of the Supreme Court of India.
3. Expert members are chosen from applicants who are either serving or retired bureaucrats not below the rank of an Additional Secretary to the Government of India with a minimum administrative

experience of five years in dealing with environmental matters.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Madras High Court recently stayed the operation of an order on appointing former Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary Girija Vaidyanathan as an Expert Member of the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

Composition of NGT:

- **Sanctioned strength:** The act allows for up to 40 members (20 expert members and 20 judicial members).
- **Chairman:** Is the administrative head of the tribunal, also serves as a judicial member and is required to be a serving or retired Chief Justice of a High Court or a judge of the Supreme Court of India.

How these members are selected?

- Members are chosen by a selection committee (headed by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court of India) that reviews their applications and Conducts Interviews.
- The Judicial members are chosen from applicants who are serving or retired judges of High Courts.

- Expert members are chosen from applicants who are either serving or retired bureaucrats not below the rank of an Additional Secretary to the Government of India (not below the rank of Principal Secretary if serving under a state government) with a minimum administrative experience of five years in dealing with environmental matters. Or, the expert members must have a doctorate in a Related Field.

5. With reference to the Tata Sons winning the bid to acquire Air India, consider the following statements and choose the correct one(s).

1. Talace Pvt. Ltd. has been officially declared as the winning bidder in the process.
2. As per the agreement, the Tatas will now own 100% stake in Air India and 76% stake in its international low-cost arm Air India Express.
3. With this acquisition, the Tatas will also own the pending debt of Air India.

Options:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Talace Pvt. Ltd. has been officially declared as the winning bidder in the process.
- The Tatas will own a 100% stake in Air India, as also 100% in its international low-cost arm Air India Express and 50% in the ground handling joint venture, Air India SATS.
- Of the total AI debt of Rs 61,562 crore, the Tatas will take care of Rs 15,300 crore and will pay an additional Rs 2,700 crore in cash to the government. That leaves Rs 43,562 crore of debt with the government.
- The Tatas will not own the pending debt of Air India. The assets left with the government, such as buildings, etc., will likely generate Rs 14,718 crore. That will leave the government with a debt of Rs 28,844 crore to pay back.

6. Nations across the world have been contemplating imposing a minimum permissible level of corporate tax in order to counter tax havens. Which of the following rates of minimum corporate tax has been decided by these nations?

- (a) 23%
- (b) 15%
- (c) 20%
- (d) 18%

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- According to Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a global deal to ensure big companies pay a minimum tax rate of 15% and make it harder for them to avoid taxation has been agreed upon by 136 countries.
- The Global Minimum tax is being discussed as the Governments want to discourage multinationals from shifting profits – and tax revenues – to low-tax countries regardless of where their sales are made.
- The Global Minimum tax rate would apply to overseas profits of multinational firms with 750 million euros in sales globally.
- Governments could still set whatever local corporate tax rate they want, but if companies pay lower rates in a particular country, their home governments could top up their taxes to the 15% minimum, eliminating the advantage of shifting Profits.

7. Which of the following statements regarding RBI's G-SAP operations is not correct?

- (a) It involved the RBI buying government securities from the market.
- (b) It was launched to restrict the availability of liquidity in the market and thus control inflation.
- (c) This was launched during the Covid-19 outbreak.

(d) None of the above.

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The RBI periodically purchase Government bonds from the market through Open Market Operations (OMOs).
- The G-SAP is in a way an OMO but there is an upfront commitment by the central bank to the markets that it will purchase bonds worth a specific amount.
- This was launched during the Covid-19 outbreak. It was launched to ensure adequate liquidity and for stabilising Financial Markets.

8. Consider the following, with regard to ‘Lukha river’:

1. It is located in the southern part of east Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya.
2. The river receives water from the Lunar River (Wah Lunar).

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 Lukha is located in the southern part of east Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya where most of Meghalaya’s rat-hole coal mines are located.

- It has become a victim of the unsustainable large-scale mining of coal and limestone, allegedly responsible for the pollution that turns the river its surreal winter hue.
- It receives water from the Lunar River (Wah Lunar) and small streams draining from the Narpuh Reserve Forest and the undulating hills of the area while flowing down.
- The river is mainly fed by monsoon rain and flows in the south-west direction and later takes a southern path after joining the Lunar River near the Gaddum village.
- The river passes via the Sonapur village and then into southern Assam’s Barak Valley and ends up in the floodplains of Bangladesh.

9. In context to the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES), consider the following statements:

1. It is released by the Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment.
2. It covers establishments employing 10 or more workers in the organized sectors.
3. The survey is conducted only for manufacturing and construction sectors.

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:

- The Labour Bureau, Ministry of Labour and Employment released the results of the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) for the First Quarter (FQ) of 2021 (April to June). Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) is part of the All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey (AQEES).
- It covers establishments employing 10 or more workers in the organized segment in 9 sectors. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- The 9 sectors are Manufacturing, Construction, Trade, Transport, Education, Health, Accommodation and Restaurants, IT/BPO, Financial Service Activities. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: c)

Explanation:

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

10. Consider the following statements, with regard to Khasi Community:

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

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Anticipatory Bail:

1. Anticipatory bail is a direction to release a person on bail, issued even before the person is arrested.
2. It is only issued by the High Court and Supreme Court.
3. Anticipatory bail is not granted for the persons who are arrested under the SCs and STs (prevention of Atrocities) Act.

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:

- Anticipatory bail is a direction to release a person on bail, issued even before the person is arrested. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- It is only issued by the Sessions court and High Court. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
- In February 2020 judgement in **Prathvi Raj Chouhan Case**, the SC has upheld **Section 18A of the SCs and the STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2018** and said that the High Courts will have an “**inherent power**” to **grant anticipatory bail** in cases in which prima facie an offence under the 1989 law is not made out.

- So, statement 3 is not correct.

2. With reference to India, consider the following statements:

1. When a prisoner makes out a sufficient case, parole cannot be denied to such prisoner because it becomes a matter of his/her right.
2. State Governments have their own Prisoners Release on Parole 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: b)

Explanation:

- Refer the case **Prahlad Dnyanoba Gajbhiye vs State Of Maharashtra And Another**:
- “Even parole may be denied to a prisoner even when he makes out sufficient cause for release on parole if the competent authority is satisfied on valid grounds that the release of a prisoner on parole would be against the interest of the society or the prison administration.”

3. Consider the following statements:

1. In India, clinical trials of new drugs and vaccines, and their approvals, are governed by the Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019.

2. The regulatory authority in India is the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

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

4. Consider the following statements:

1. A compulsory licence is a licence or authorisation issued by the government to an applicant for making, using and selling a patented product without the consent of the patentee.

2. The application for compulsory license can be made any time after 3 years from date of sealing of a patent.
3. Under the Section 92 of the Act compulsory licenses can also be issued suo motu by the Controller of Patents if there is either a national emergency or extreme urgency or in cases of public non-commercial use.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All the three statements are correct.

5. In context to Ecological Threat Report, 2021, consider the following statements:

1. The report is published by the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP).
2. It uses the relative severity of five indicators to build up the overall level of threat faced by a country.
3. The report recommends moving to circular Economic Systems.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Report, “Ecological Threat Report (ETR) 2021: Understanding ecological threats, resilience and peace”, was released by the Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP), an international think tank. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- The ETR Report ranks countries on the basis of ETR Score which is an average of the five threats. It uses the relative severity of five indicators to build up the overall level of threat faced by a country. Hence, statement 2 is correct. The 5 indicators are food risk, water risk, rapid population growth, temperature anomalies and natural disasters. In sub-Saharan Africa, the score is influenced by high levels of population growth, which will place increased pressure on existing food and lead to water scarcity.
- The Report recommended a policy to combine health, food, water, refugee relief, finance, agricultural and business development into one integrated agency in high-risk areas and empowering local communities. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
- Circular Economic Systems are the systems that reuse resources, reduce emissions and weed out the chemicals and

toxins that are causing millions of premature deaths – all while creating jobs.

6. Consider the following, with regard to meteorite from Katol:

1. It tells about the evolution of earth
2. It helps in understanding the formation of layers of the earth
3. It explains the significance of phosphorus in sustaining life on earth

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Recently, some researchers studied a meteorite from Katol, Maharashtra which was from the meteor shower of 2012.
- A meteorite is a solid piece of debris from an object, such as a comet, asteroid, or meteoroid, that originates in outer space and survives its passage through the atmosphere to reach the surface of a planet or moon.

Findings of the Study:

- Depth of Olivine: Initial studies revealed that the host rock was mainly composed of olivine, an olive-green mineral.
- Olivine is the most abundant phase in our Earth's upper mantle.

- Formation of Bridgmanite: Various computational and experimental studies have shown that about 80% of the Earth's lower mantle is made up of bridgmanite.
 - Bridgmanite is a magnesium-silicate mineral, $MgSiO_3$, the most abundant mineral on earth.
 - The bridgmanite of the Katol meteorite sample closely matches with the bridgmanite on Earth.
 - Significance of the Study:
Studying the meteorite could also tell us more about how our Earth evolved from being a magma ocean to a rocky planet and researchers can unearth more details about the formation of Earth. Hence, statement 1 is correct. It is important to study these individual minerals to get a thorough idea of how and when the Earth's layers formed. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - Scientists can also decode how bridgmanite crystallized during the final stages of our Earth's formation. Hence, statement 3 is not correct.
 - Hence, option A is correct.
7. In context to heatwaves in India, consider the following statements:
- 1. The eastern and western coasts of India are most severely affected regions by heat waves so far.
 - 2. Heatwaves are traditionally found in Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
 - 3. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) classifies heat waves according to regions and their temperature ranges.
- Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2
 - (b) 3 only
 - (c) 2 and 3
 - (d) 1 and 3
- Answer: b)**
- Explanation:**
- A heatwave is a period of abnormally high temperatures, more than the normal maximum temperature that occurs during the summer season in the North-Western and South-Central parts of India.
 - The India Meteorological Department (IMD) classifies heat waves according to regions and their temperature ranges. Hence, option C is correct.
 - Recently, a study has found a spatial shift of heatwaves in India, now occurring in new regions in the country.
 - It also added that the eastern and western coasts, which are currently unaffected by heatwaves, will be severely impacted in the future. Hence, option A is not correct.
 - Also, heatwaves were found in southern Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, where they

- would traditionally not take place. Hence, option B is not correct.
- The heatwave is considered when the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C for Plains and at least 30°C for Hilly regions. Hence, option D is not correct.
 - An increase of 5°C to 6°C from the normal temperature is considered to be heat wave Condition.
- 8.** Consider the following statements with regards to the ‘Lateral entry’ program run by the Government of India:
1. Reservations or caste-based quotas do not apply to these Recruitments.
 2. The recruitment under this program does not involve any written test.
 3. The basic qualification for a Joint Secretary lateral entrant is 15 years of work experience.
- Which of these statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 & 2 only
 (b) 2 & 3 only
 (c) 1 & 3 only
 (d) All of the above
- Answer: d)**
- Explanation:**
- The term lateral entry means the appointment of specialists and experts, mainly those from the private sector, in Government Organizations and Ministries.
 - Reservations or caste-based quotas do not apply to these Recruitments.
 - The Recruitment under this program does not involve any written test.
 - The basic qualification for a Joint Secretary lateral entrant is 15 years of work experience.
- 9.** Which of the given statement/s is/are correct:
1. China’s Chang’e-5 brought back lunar samples from Oceanus Procellarum region of the moon.
 2. One of the objectives of Chang’e-5 was to study the volcanic activity on the surface of the moon.
 3. The United States of America, the Soviet Union, China and India are the only countries to have successfully brought back lunar samples to Earth.
- Options:**
- (a) 1 and 3 only
 (b) 2 and 3 only
 (c) 1 and 2 only
 (d) None of the above
- Answer: c)**
- Explanation:**
- The Chang’e- 5 is China’s lunar mission probe that touched down on a previously unvisited part of a massive lava plain, the Oceanus Procellarum or “Oceans of Storms,” bringing back lunar samples.

- One of the main objectives of Chang'e-5, was to find out how long the moon remained volcanically active.
- The Oceanus Procellarum region of the Moon is characterised by high concentrations of potassium, thorium, and uranium, elements that generate heat through long-lived radioactive decay.
- Only erstwhile Soviet Union and United States of America had previously brought back the lunar remains. Samples brought back by U.S. and Soviet missions were more than 2.9 billion years old. This is the third instance.
- India has not brought back any lunar remain sample yet.

10. Which among the following greatly depend on wind Conditions During Migration?

1. Globe skimmer dragonflies
2. Jacobin Cuckoo
3. Amur Falcon

Options:

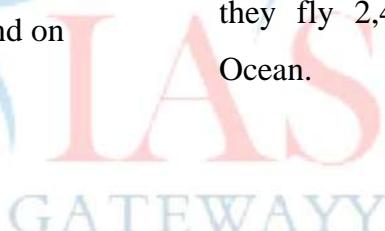
- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Recent study by Lund University, Sweden has found that it was possible for the dragonflies to migrate from India to East Africa and return to India.

- The globe skimmer dragonfly does not rely on fat stored in its body to fly such long distances. Instead, it takes advantage of favorable winds present during certain periods of the year.
- Jacobin Cuckoo (*Clamator jacobinus*) is one of the most iconic migrants in the Indian Subcontinent, and their arrival in north India is considered to herald the first monsoon rains. Although resident in South India, central and northern populations of this brood parasite migrate to Africa for the winter.
- Amur Falcons migrate from breeding grounds in eastern Asia to wintering grounds in southern Africa. Along the way, they fly 2,400 miles across the Indian Ocean.



1. Consider the following statements:

1. Kunming Declaration was recently adopted by over 100 countries at the 15th CoP to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.
2. It is not a binding international agreement.
3. The Protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from Modern Biotechnology.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Kunming Declaration was adopted by over 100 countries at the ongoing 15th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in China. So, statement 1 is correct.
- The adoption of the declaration will create momentum for a new global biodiversity pact. In a previous agreement, Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, signed in Aichi, Japan, in 2010, governments agreed on 20 targets to try to slow biodiversity loss and protect habitats by 2020.
- It calls for urgent and integrated action to reflect biodiversity considerations in all sectors of the global economy but crucial issues - like funding conservation in poorer countries and committing to biodiversity-friendly supply chains have been left to discuss later. It is not a binding international agreement. So, statement 2 is correct.
- It calls upon the parties to mainstream biodiversity protection in decision-making and recognise the importance of conservation in protecting human health.
- The theme of the declaration is Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth.
- By adopting this, the nations have committed themselves to support the development, adoption and implementation of an effective post-2020 implementation plan, a capacity building action plan for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.
- The Protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. So, statement 3 is correct. As per the declaration, signatory nations will ensure that the post-pandemic recovery policies, programmes and plans contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, promoting sustainable and inclusive development.

UPSC OCTOBER - 2021
DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASS TEST – 15

2. Consider the following statements:

1. Gati Shakti scheme was recently launched with the aim of coordinated planning and execution of infrastructure projects to bring down logistics costs.
2. The Gati Shakti scheme will replace the National Infrastructure Pipeline that was launched in 2019
3. It also aims to have 11 industrial corridors and two new defence corridors - one in Tamil Nadu and other in Uttar Pradesh.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Aim of the scheme is to ensure integrated planning and implementation of infrastructure projects in the next four years, with focus on expediting works on the ground, saving costs and creating jobs. So, statement 1 is correct.
- The Gati Shakti scheme will not replace, rather it will subsume the Rs 110 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline that was launched in 2019. So, statement 2 is not correct. Besides cutting logistics costs, the scheme is also aimed at increasing cargo handling capacity and reducing the turnaround time at ports to boost trade.

- It also aims to have 11 industrial corridors and two new defence corridors - one in Tamil Nadu and other in Uttar Pradesh. Extending 4G connectivity to all villages is another aim. Adding 17,000 kms to the gas pipeline network is being planned. So, statement 3 is correct.
- It will help in fulfilling the ambitious targets set by the government for 2024-25, including expanding the length of the national highway network to 2 lakh kms, creation of more than 200 new airports, heliports and water aerodromes.
- It intends to bring together 16 infrastructure related Ministries.
- This will help in removing long-standing issues such as disjointed planning, lack of standardisation, problems with clearances, and timely creation and utilisation of infrastructure capacities.

Gati Shakti Digital Platform: It involves the creation of a common umbrella platform through which infrastructure projects can be planned and implemented in an efficacious manner by way of coordination between various ministries/departments on a real-time basis.

3. Consider the following statement regarding the NHRC:
1. NHRC is a statutory body established under the National Human Rights Commission Act, 2006.
 2. The commission is a multi-member body consisting of a chairman and five members with the chairperson being a retired chief justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court
 3. The chairman and members are appointed by the President on the recommendations of a six-member committee consisting of the Prime Minister as its head.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- **Statutory Body:** NHRC was established on 12th October, 1993. The statute under which it is established is the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993 as amended by the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006. So, statement 1 is not correct.
- ✓ The PHRA Act also provides for the creation of a State Human Rights Commission at the state level.
- **In Line with Paris Principles:** Paris Principles were adopted for the promotion and

protection of human rights in October 1991, and were endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1993.

- **Watchdog of Human Rights in the country:** The NHRC is an embodiment of India's concern for the promotion and protection of human rights.

➤ Section 2(1)(d) of the PHRA defines Human Rights as the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by the Constitution or embodied in the International Covenants and enforceable by courts in India.

- **Composition:** The commission is a multi-member body consisting of a chairman and five members. The chairperson should be a retired chief justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

- **Appointment:** The chairman and members are appointed by the President on the recommendations of a six-member committee consisting of the Prime Minister as its head, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, leaders of the Opposition in both the Houses of Parliament and the Union Home Minister. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

- **Tenure:** The chairman and members hold office for a term of three years or until they attain the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier. The President can remove the

chairman or any member from the office under some circumstances.

4. Israel is bordered by which of the following sea(s)?

1. Mediterranean Sea
2. Red Sea
3. Sea of Galilee
4. Dead Sea

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Israel is bordered by Mediterranean Sea only. Sea of Galilee is a fresh water lake in Israel and Dead Sea is a salt lake in Israel
- Mediterranean Sea is in the West of Israel.
- Red Sea bordering countries are Djibouti, Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Egypt and Yemen.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Justice of India may, after consultation with the collegium, transfer a Judge from one High Court to any other High Court.
2. Only the transferred judge and no one else is entitled to file a case challenging such Transfer.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Article 222 of the Indian Constitution talks about the transfer of a Judge from one High Court to any other High Court.
- They may, after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, transfer a Judge from one High Court to any other High Court.
- Only the transferred judge and no one else is entitled to file a case challenging such transfer.

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

1. The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) does not have the authority to declare any Community as a Minority.
2. In case of admission of the student, minority educational institutions can have a reservation of up to 50 per cent for the student of their own community.

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) does not have the authority to declare any community as a minority. However, it can make Recommendations to the central Government.
 - Only the central Government has the authority to declare any Community as a minority.
 - In case of admission of the student, minority educational institutions can have a reservation of up to 50 per cent for the student of their Own Community.
7. With respect to International Energy Agency (IEA), which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. India is a founding member of the IEA.
 2. Membership in the IEA is restricted to advanced economy members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
 3. The World Energy Outlook is published by IEA.

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The IEA was founded in 1974 by industrialized countries – within the

framework of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) – in response to the oil embargo.

- It is a Paris based body that advises industrialized nations on energy policies.
- IEA is made up of 30 member countries and eight associate nations.
- India is not a member of the IEA. In March 2017, India became an associate member.
- Membership in the IEA is restricted to advanced economy members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
- The World Energy Outlook is published by IEA.

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

1. It mainly occurs in people engaged in quarrying, manufacturing, and building construction industries.
2. It is an occupational disease or hazard.
3. It is a notified disease under the Mines Act, 1952.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Silicosis occurs most commonly in people working in the quarrying, manufacturing, and building construction industries.

- It is a progressive lung disease caused by the inhalation of silica over a long period of time, characterized by shortness of breath, cough, fever and bluish skin.
- It is one of the most prevalent occupational health illnesses in the world.
- It is also reported from the population with non-occupational exposure to silica dust from industrial as well as non-industrial sources.
- Silicosis is a notified disease under the Mines Act (1952) and the Factories Act (1948).
- Factory Act of India (1948) mandates a well-ventilated working environment, provisions for protection from dust, reduction of overcrowding and provision of basic occupational Health Care.

9. Consider the following statements regarding the Global Climate Risk Index 2021:

1. It is released by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).
2. It ranks countries on the basis of their preparedness against weather-related hazards.
3. India has ranked among the 5 worst affected countries for consecutively two years.
4. The index calculates the impact of weather-related events in terms of both fatalities and economic losses.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The International Environmental think tank ‘Germanwatch’ released the Global Climate Risk Index 2021.
- This is the 16th Edition of the Index. It is Published Annually.
- The most recent data available for 2019 and from 2000 to 2019 were taken into account.
- The Index analyses the extent to which countries and regions have been affected by the impacts of weather-related loss events (storms, floods, heat waves etc.).
- The impact is calculated in terms of fatalities and economic losses, both.
- Impacts from extreme-weather events hit the poorest countries hardest as these are particularly vulnerable to the damaging effects of a hazard, have a lower coping capacity and may need more time to rebuild and recover.
- High-income countries are also getting severely impacted by climate change.
- India has improved its rankings from last year. It is ranked 7th in the 2021 Index as compared to 5th in 2020 Index.
- The Indian monsoon lasted a month longer than usual in the year 2019, with surplus rains causing major hardship.

- The rain was 110% of normal, which is the most since 1994. India was hit by a total of 8 tropical cyclones, of which, Cyclone Fani (May, 2019) caused the Maximum Damage.
- 10.** Consider the following statements regarding the ‘National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)’:

1. The chairman and members of commission are appointed by the six-member committee headed by the Prime Minister of India.
2. The chairman and members hold office for a term of three years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
3. The commission can look into a matter within one year of its occurrence.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is a multi-member body consisting of a chairman and four members. A person who has been the Chief Justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court is a chairman.
- The chairman and members are appointed by the President on the recommendations of a six-member committee consisting of the Prime Minister as its head, the Speaker of the

Lok Sabha, the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, leaders of the Opposition in both the Houses of Parliament and the Union Home Minister. The chairman and members hold office for a term of three years or until they attain the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. The President can remove the chairman or any member from the office under some circumstances.

Role and Function:

- It has all the powers of a civil court and its proceedings have a judicial character.
- It is empowered to utilise the services of any officer or investigation agency of the Central government or any state government for the purpose of Investigating complaints of Human Rights Violation.
- It can look into a matter within one year of its occurrence, i.e the Commission is not empowered to inquire into any matter after the expiry of one year from the date on which the act constituting violation of human rights is alleged to have been committed.
- The functions of the commission are mainly recommendatory in nature.
- It has no power to punish the violators of human rights, nor to award any relief including monetary relief to the victim.
- It has limited role, powers and jurisdiction with respect to the violation of human rights by the members of the armed forces.
- It is not empowered to act when human rights violations through private parties take place.

1. Which of the following statements is/are correct?
 1. The Border Security Force (BSF) is the designated border guarding force for all the International Borders of India.
 2. It falls under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence.
 3. Recently, its jurisdiction has been set up to 10kms from the international border.

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Border Security Force (BSF) is one of the five Central Armed Police Forces of the Union of India.
- It is India's border guarding organisation on its border with Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- It falls under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- In 2021, amendments have been made on the jurisdiction of the Border Security Force (BSF) to exercise its powers in states where it guards the international border. It outlines the new jurisdiction as “whole of the area comprised in the States of Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya and Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir

- and Ladakh and so much of the area comprised within a belt of 50 kilometers in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, West Bengal and Assam, running along the borders of India”.
2. The Nutrient Based Subsidy Rates for non-urea fertilizers are approved by -
 - (a) Ministry of Finance
 - (b) NITI Aayog
 - (c) Ministry of Agriculture
 - (d) Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- For urea, the Centre sets a fixed maximum retail price. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approves the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates of non-urea fertilizers.
3. With reference to the recent developments in science, which one of the following statements is not correct?
 - (a) Functional chromosomes can be created by joining segments of DNA taken from cells of different species.
 - (b) Pieces of artificial functional DNA can be created in laboratories.
 - (c) A piece of DNA taken out from an animal cell can be made to replicate outside a living cell in a laboratory.
 - (d) Cells taken out from plants and animals can be made to undergo cell division in laboratory petri dishes.

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Functional chromosomes cannot be created by joining segments of DNA taken from cells of different species.
- Pieces of artificial functional DNA can be created in laboratories. It is Artificial Gene Synthesis or DNA Printing.
- A piece of DNA taken out from an animal cell can be made to replicate outside a living cell in a laboratory. It is cloning.
- Cells taken out from plants and animals can be made to undergo cell division in laboratory petri dishes. It is called tissue culture.

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Exercise Malabar is a naval exercise involving the United States, Japan and India as permanent partners.
- Yudh Abhyas is a joint military exercise, bilaterally occurring between India and the US.
- Vajra Prahar is the joint military exercise between the special forces of India and the United States (US).

4. The strategic Bandar Abbas port is located in which country?

- (a) Pakistan
- (b) Iran
- (c) Afghanistan
- (d) Oman

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Bandar Abbas is a port city and capital of Hormozgān Province on the southern coast of Iran, on the Persian Gulf.

5. Which of the following Military Exercises involve India and USA?

1. Malabar
2. Yudh Abhyas
3. Vajra Prahar

Options:

6. Consider the following, with regard to National Green Tribunal (NGT):

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It also contains non-judicial members.
3. It is mandated to dispose of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing the same.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The National Green Tribunal Act (NGT) is a statutory body set up under the National Green Tribunal Act (2010) for effective and

expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.

- The NGT Act, 2010, prescribes that the tribunal shall consist of a full-time chairperson and not less than 10 judicial and 10 expert members but subject to a maximum of twenty full-time judicial and expert members.
 - NGT is mandated to dispose of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing the same.
- 7. Consider the following:**

1. An intermediate black hole is formed by the merger of two black holes.
2. Gravitational Waves are created when two black holes orbit each other and merge.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- A black hole merger is the phenomenon of the merging of two or more black holes.
- Merging of two or more black holes results in different types of black holes. For eg, Intermediate-Mass Black Holes and Binary Black Holes.
- Intermediate-Mass black hole (IMBH) is a class of black hole with mass in the range

102–105 solar masses: significantly more than stellar black holes but less than supermassive black holes.

- Gravitational Waves are created when two black holes orbit each other and merge.
- It travels at the speed of light and squeezes and stretches anything in their path.
- As a gravitational wave travels through space-time, it causes it to stretch in one direction and compress in the other, any object that occupies that region of space-time also stretches and compresses as the wave passes over them, though very slightly, which can only be detected by specialized devices like LIGO.

- 8. Consider the following, with regard to Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP):**

1. It is implemented by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM).
2. It is a set of emergency measures to be taken to reduce Air Pollution.
3. CAQM is a statutory mechanism to coordinate and oversee diverse efforts to improve air quality in the National Capital Region of Delhi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) was notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change in 2017.
- It is a set of emergency measures to be taken to reduce air pollution.
- In pursuant to the Supreme Court's order in the matter of M. C. Mehta vs. Union of India (2016) regarding air quality in the National Capital Region of Delhi, a Graded Response Action Plan has been prepared for implementation under different Air Quality Index (AQI) categories namely, Moderate & Poor, Very Poor, and Severe.
- A new category of “Severe+ or Emergency” has been added.
- Till 2020, the Supreme Court-appointed Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority (EPCA) used to order States to implement GRAP measures.
- The EPCA was dissolved and replaced by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in 2020.
- CAQM is a statutory mechanism to coordinate and oversee diverse efforts to improve air quality in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and UP, with the underlying remedial approach.

9. Consider the following, with regard to Indian Space Association (ISPA):

1. It will act as a single-window and independent agency on matters related to space technology.

2. It has been created to protect Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from private competitors in the future.
3. It will also act as the marketing arm of ISRO.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Indian Space Association (ISPA) will act as a single-window and independent agency on matters related to space technology.
- ISPA aspires to be the collective voice of the Indian Space industry. It will be represented by leading domestic and global corporations that have advanced capabilities in space and satellite technologies.
- In the 2019 Budget, the government had announced the setting up of a New Space India Limited (NSIL), a public sector company that would serve as a marketing arm of ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation).

10. Consider the following statements with respect to Quantum Key Distribution (QKD):

1. It provides a way of distributing and sharing secret keys that are necessary for cryptographic protocols.

2. Its encryption keys are sent as quantum bits in an optical fibre.
3. The encryption in QKD will be unbreakable because the data is carried by electrons and it cannot be perfectly copied.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Quantum Key Distribution (QKD), also called Quantum Cryptography, is a mechanism to develop secure communication.
- It provides a way of distributing and sharing secret keys that are necessary for cryptographic protocols.
- In the QKD, encryption keys are sent as ‘qubits’ (or quantum bits) in an optical fibre. Optical fibers are capable of transmitting more data over longer distances and faster than other mediums. It works on the principle of total internal Reflections.
- In the QKD, the encryption is unbreakable and that’s mainly because of the way data is carried via the photon. A photon cannot be perfectly copied and any attempt to measure it will disturb it. This means that a person trying to intercept the data will leave a trace.

1. Consider the following, with regard to Endosulfan:

1. It is an organochlorine insecticide used as a spray on crops like cotton and cashew.
2. Its ingestion results in birth disorders and damage to the brain and nervous system.
3. The use of endosulfan is banned by the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Endosulfan is an organochlorine insecticide which was first introduced in the 1950s and is commonly known by its trade name Thiodan.
- Usage: Sprayed on crops like cotton, cashew, fruits, tea, paddy, tobacco etc. for control of pests such as whiteflies, aphids, beetles, worms etc.
- Endosulfan in the Environment gets accumulated in food chains leading to higher doses causing problems.
- If Endosulfan is released to water, it is expected to absorb to the sediment and may bioconcentrate in aquatic organisms.

Humans and Animals:

- The endosulfan ingestion results in diseases ranging from physical deformities, cancer, birth disorders and damage to the brain and nervous system.
- The Supreme Court in India has banned the manufacture, sale, use, and export of endosulfan throughout the country, citing its harmful health effects in 2011.
- Endosulfan is listed under both the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

2. In context to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021, consider the following statements:

1. The gestational limit for termination of a pregnancy has been increased from 20 to 24 weeks in all cases.
2. A state-level medical board is to either accept or reject the proposal for medical termination of pregnancy within three days of receiving the request.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Government has notified new rules under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021.
- The 2021 Act was passed to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971.
- The gestational limit for termination of a pregnancy has been increased from 20 to 24 weeks for certain categories of women. The seven specific categories are:
- Survivors of sexual assault or rape or incest; Minors;
- Change of marital status during the ongoing pregnancy (widowhood and divorce);
- Women with physical disabilities;
- Mentally ill women;
- Foetal malformation that has a substantial risk of being incompatible with life or if the child is born, he/ she may suffer from serious physical or mental abnormalities;
- Women with pregnancy in humanitarian settings or disaster or emergency situations.
- A state-level medical board will be set up to decide if a pregnancy may be terminated after 24 weeks in cases of foetal malformation.
- The medical boards are to either accept or reject the proposal for medical termination of pregnancy within three days of receiving the request.
- The abortion procedure has to be done with five days of the board receiving the request for the same.

3. In context to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3 Targets, consider the following statements:

1. Reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030.
2. Halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents by 2020.
3. Reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable Diseases by 2030.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The new rules under Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2021 will contribute towards ending preventable maternal mortality to help meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3.1, 3.7 and 5.6.
- SDG 3.1 pertains to reducing maternal mortality ratio whereas SDGs 3.7 and 5.6 pertain to universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3 aims to achieve universal health coverage that seeks equitable access of healthcare services to all men and women.

- It proposes to end the preventable death of new-borns, infants and children under five (child mortality) and end epidemics.

SDG 3 Targets are:

- By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.
- By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.
- By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.
- By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.
- Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.
- By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.
- By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.
- Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality

essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

- By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.

- 4. Consider the following statements regarding National Disaster Response Force:**

1. NDRF is a specialised force constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
2. The Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority is the Prime minister.
3. The responsibility of managing disasters in India is that of the central Government.

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

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is a specialised force constituted "for the purpose of specialist response to a threatening disaster situation or disaster" under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
So, statement 1 is correct.

- The responsibility of managing disasters in India is that of the State Government. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

- The ‘Nodal Ministry’ in the central government for management of natural disasters is the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
 - National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is under the National Disaster Management Authority.
 - National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is a force of 12 battalions, organised on Para-military lines, and manned by persons on deputation from the Para-military forces of India: three each from the BSF and CRPF and two each from CISF, ITBP and SSB.
 - NDRF in addition to being able to respond to natural disasters has four battalions capable of responding to radiological, nuclear, biological and chemical disasters.
 - The Apex Body for Disaster Management in India is the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). The Chairman of the NDMA is the Prime Minister. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
5. With respect to the differences between Cruise Missiles and Ballistic missiles, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?
1. A cruise missile either locates its target or has a preset target and navigates using a guidance system, while ballistic missile falls towards a predetermined target.
 2. Since cruise missiles stay relatively close to the surface of the earth, they cannot be detected easily by anti-missile systems, and are designed to carry large payloads with

high precision, whereas Ballistic missiles, are launched directly into the upper layers of the Earth’s Atmosphere.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- A cruise missile either locates its target or has a preset target. It navigates using a guidance system — such as inertial or beyond visual range satellite GPS guidance — and comprises a payload and aircraft propulsion system.
- ✓ Cruise missiles can be launched from land, sea or air for land attacks and anti-shipping purposes, and can travel at subsonic, supersonic and hypersonic speeds.
- ✓ Since they stay relatively close to the surface of the earth, they cannot be detected easily by anti-missile systems, and are designed to carry large payloads with High Precision.
- Ballistic missiles, meanwhile, are launched directly into the upper layers of the earth’s atmosphere.
- ✓ They travel outside the atmosphere, where the warhead detaches from the missile and falls towards a predetermined target.

- ✓ They are rocket-propelled self-guided weapons systems which can carry conventional or nuclear munitions. They can be launched from aircraft, ships and submarines, and land.
6. Consider the following statements:
1. Single-use plastics refer to disposable items like grocery bags, food packaging, bottles and straws that are used only once before they are thrown away and can never be recycled.
 2. India will ban most single-use plastics by July 2022 as part of its efforts to reduce pollution.
- 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:**
- India will ban most single-use plastics by next year as part of its efforts to reduce pollution — but experts say the move is only a first step to mitigate the environmental impact.
 - In 2019, the Union government in a bid to free India of single-use plastics by 2022, had laid out a multi-ministerial plan to discourage the use of single-use plastics across the country.
- So, the government announced the ban in August 2021, following its 2019 resolution to address plastic pollution in the country.
 - The ban on most single-use plastics will take effect from July 1, 2022. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
 - Single-use plastics refer to disposable items like grocery bags, food packaging, bottles and straws that are used only once before they are thrown away, or sometimes recycled. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
7. The Global Hunger Index is released by
- (a) Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe
 - (b) UNDP
 - (c) WHO
 - (d) Amnesty International
- Answer: c)**
- Explanation:**
- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool that measures and tracks hunger globally as well as by region and by country, prepared by European NGOs of Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.
 - The GHI is calculated annually, and its results appear in a report issued in October each Year.
8. With reference to Sea grasses, which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. Antarctica is the only continent without sea Grasses
 2. Sea grasses reproduce through both sexual and asexual methods

3. Sushi is made from Sea grasses

Options:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Seagrasses are the only flowering plants which grow in marine environments. There are about 60 species of fully marine seagrasses. Seagrasses evolved from terrestrial plants which recolonised the ocean 70 to 100 million years ago.
- Like all autotrophic plants, seagrasses photosynthesize, in the submerged photic zone, and most occur in shallow and sheltered coastal waters anchored in sand or mud bottoms. Most species undergo submarine pollination and complete their life cycle underwater. Some species also reproduce through asexual methods as well.
- Seagrasses form dense underwater seagrass meadows which are among the most productive ecosystems in the world. They function as important carbon sinks and provide habitats and food for a diversity of marine life comparable to that of coral reefs.
- Various coastal regions are dominated by one or few seagrass species. The regions in the tropical waters of the Indian and western Pacific oceans have the highest seagrass diversity. It is said that in the world

Antarctica is the only continent without seagrasses.

- Sushi is made from Seaweeds.

9. Article 311 of the Indian Constitution deals with

(a) Tenure of office of persons serving the Union or a State

(b) Dismissal, removal or reduction in rank of persons employed in civil capacities under the Union or a State

(c) Recruitment and conditions of service of persons serving the Union or a State

(d) Power of Parliament to vary or revoke conditions of service of officers of certain services

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Article 311 in the Constitution of India deals with dismissal, removal or reduction in rank of persons employed in civil capacities under the Union or a State
- No person who is a member of a civil service of the Union or an all India service or a civil service of a State or holds a civil post under the Union or a State shall be dismissed or removed by a authority subordinate to that by which he was appointed
- No such person as aforesaid shall be dismissed or removed or reduced in rank except after an inquiry in which he has been informed of the charges against him and given a reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of those charges

10. Consider the following statements with respect to Khair (Acacia catechu):

1. It is a deciduous tree widely distributed throughout the greater part of India except the most humid, cold and the driest regions
2. The tree is known for its medicinal properties and helps in curing skin Problems

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Khair (Acacia catechu) is a deciduous tree widely distributed throughout the greater part of India except the most humid, cold and the driest regions.
- It is common in the sub-Himalayan tract and outer Himalayas ascending from 900 to 1,200 m from Jammu to Assam.
- Khair tree is known for its medicinal properties and helps in curing skin problems. Ayurveda uses wood and bark of the tree for various formulations. It finds its major application in the treatment of skin and respiratory problems more in particular, of allergic origin. Also, it is used as an important constituent for maintenance of oral hygiene and also as local treatment for bleeding injuries as styptic agent by virtue of its Astringent Properties.

1. In context to the ‘Male Declaration’, consider the following statements:
1. It was signed by the members of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) in 1998.
 2. The initiative was funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).
 3. India became a signatory to the Male Declaration in 2017.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The ‘Malé Declaration on Control and Prevention of Air Pollution and its likely Transboundary Effects for South Asia’ is an intergovernmental network involving Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran, the Republic of Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It is the only inter-governmental agreement of its kind covering the eight countries.
- It was signed in 1998 by the members of the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) in Male, capital of the Maldives.

- Together with UNEP, this initiative was funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) as part of the Regional Air Pollution in Developing Countries (RAPIDC) programme.
- In the context of Green and Climate Resilient Healthcare Facilities, India became signatory to the Malé Declaration in 2017 and agreed to promote climate-resilient healthcare facilities to be able to withstand any Climatic Event.

2. Consider the following statements:

1. It is the largest running joint military training and defence cooperation endeavor between India and the US.
2. It was started under the US Army Pacific Partnership Program and is hosted alternately between both countries.
3. The 16th edition of the exercise was held in February 2021 in Bikaner's Mahajan Field Firing Ranges (Rajasthan).

Which of the following exercise is most appropriately described?

- (a) Yudh Abhyas
- (b) Cope India
- (c) Tiger Triumph
- (d) Vajra Praha

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Recently, the 17th Indo-US Joint Military Exercise "Ex Yudh Abhyas 2021" was held

at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Alaska (US).

- In February 2021, the previous version of the exercise was held in Bikaner's Mahajan Field Firing Ranges (Rajasthan).
- It is the largest running joint military training and defence cooperation endeavor between India and the US.
- The exercise was started in 2004 under the US Army Pacific Partnership Program. The exercise is hosted alternately between both countries.
- The exercise aims at enhancing understanding, cooperation and interoperability between two Armies.
- Other Exercises between India and the US:
- Exercise Tiger Triumph (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercise)
- Exercise Vajra Prahar (Special Forces' Exercise) Cope India (Air Force).

3. The World Energy Outlook Report, sometimes seen in news is being launched by which of the following institutions?

- (a) International Atomic Energy Agency
- (b) International Energy Agency
- (c) United Nations Environment Programme
- (d) United Nations Development Programme

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The World Energy Outlook (WEO) Report is released by the International Energy Agency (IEA).

- The WEO provides critical analysis and insights on trends in energy demand and supply.
- It is published every year.
- The 2021 report signalled pressure on governments to push for greater climate action at the Conference of Parties (COP26) summit (in Glasgow, UK).

4. Israel is bordered by which of the following sea(s)?

1. Mediterranean Sea
2. Red Sea
3. Sea of Galilee
4. Dead Sea

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Israel is bordered by Mediterranean Sea only. Sea of Galilee is a fresh water lake in Israel and Dead Sea is a Salt Lake in Israel
- Mediterranean Sea is in the West of Israel.
- Red Sea bordering countries are Djibouti, Eritrea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Egypt and Yemen.

5. Consider the following pairs:

Buddhist Place Known for

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| 1. Lumbini | Birth |
| 2. Kushinagara | Dhammachakrapravartana |

- | | |
|------------|-----------------|
| 3. Sarnath | Mahaparinirvana |
|------------|-----------------|

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 4. Bodhgaya | Enlightenment |
|-------------|---------------|

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

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Pairs 2 and 3 are interchanged.

6. Consider the following statements:

1. Fuel is injected in the combustion chamber where it mixes with the hot compressed air and ignites.
2. It cannot produce thrust at zero airspeed; they cannot move an aircraft from a standstill.
3. It requires an assisted take-off, like a rocket assist, to accelerate it to a speed where it begins to produce thrust.
4. It works best at supersonic speeds and as the speed enters the hypersonic range, its efficiency starts to drop.

Which of the following are **not** related to the Scramjet Technology?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only

- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only

- (d) All the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The following above statements are related to the **Ramjet Technology**.
- **Scramjet:** A scramjet engine is an improvement over the ramjet engine as it operates at hypersonic speeds and allows supersonic combustion, which gives it its name — supersonic combustion ramjet, or scramjet.

- ✓ The scramjet is composed of three basic components:
- ✓ A converging inlet where incoming air is compressed,
- ✓ A combustor where gaseous fuel is burned with atmospheric oxygen to produce heat,
- ✓ A diverging nozzle where the heated air is accelerated to produce thrust. The exhaust gases are accelerated to hypersonic speeds using a divergent nozzle.
- ✓ The speed at which the vehicle moves through the atmosphere causes the air to compress within the inlet. As such, no moving parts are needed in a scramjet, which reduces the weight and the number of failure points in the engine.

7. A person being under trial is being denied his speedy trial for years. Which of the following Fundamental Right is being affected?
- (a) Article 21
 - (b) Article 19
 - (c) Article 14
 - (d) Article 21 A

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- In the Bhima Koregaon caste violence case, highlighting the issue of undertrials, the Supreme Court has said that “speedy trial is a fundamental right”.
- The main aim of the Right to Speedy trial is to inculcate Justice in the society.
- It was first mentioned in that landmark document of English law, the Magna Carta.
- In India, it is covered under Article 21 which declares that “no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to the procedure laid by law.”

8. Kuakhai River is a distributary of which amongst the following Rivers?
- (a) Vamsadhara
 - (b) Subernarekha
 - (c) Brahmani
 - (d) Mahanadi

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Kuakhai River is a distributary of Mahanadi River which flows by Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Mahanadi River branches off at Naraj, Cuttack as Kathajodi River, then

immediately it is bifurcated, with its southern branch flowing as Kuakhai River.

- Tributaries are small streams of water that join together to form a river. Distributaries are formed when the river breaks down into small streamlets or channels.

9. With regards to elections in India, consider the following statements and choose the **Incorrect ones**:

- 1. The State Election Commissions are responsible for conducting elections to the respective state legislatures.
- 2. The NRIs are allowed to vote in the parliamentary elections at the respective Indian embassies.
- 3. E-voting is allowed only for service voters in India.

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Election Commission of India is responsible for conducting elections to the respective state legislatures.
- The state election commissions are responsible for conducting elections to the municipalities and panchayats within the state. The NRIs are allowed to vote in the parliamentary elections only when they are

- physically present in their voting constituency. Service voters in India are allowed to vote through proxy or postal ballots.

10. Consider the following statements with regards to the Forest Conservation Act, 1980:

1. The Supreme Court, in TN Godavarman Thirumulpad versus Union of India and Others (1996), have defined forest as, all areas which are recorded as ‘forest’ in any Government record, irrespective of Ownership, Recognition and Classification.
2. The Act restricts the state government and other authorities to take decisions first without permission from the central Government.
3. The Forest Conservation Act gives complete authority to the Central government to carry out the objectives of the act.

Which of these statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court, in TN Godavarman Thirumulpad versus Union of India and Others (1996), have defined forest as, all areas which are recorded as ‘forest’ in any

government record, irrespective of Ownership, Recognition and Classification.

- The Act restricts the state government and other Authorities to take decisions first without Permission from the central Government.
- The Forest Conservation Act gives complete Authority to the Central Government to carry out the objectives of the Act.

1. With respect to the MGNREGA, which of the statement(s) is/are correct?
 1. The primary objective of the scheme is to guarantee 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related both skilled and unskilled manual work.
 2. Wages must be paid according to the statutory minimum wages specified for agricultural labourers in the state under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.
 3. The act mandates Gram Sabhas to recommend the works that are to be undertaken and at least 50% of the works must be executed by them.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

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

Answer: d

Explanation:

- MGNREGA is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world.
- The primary objective of the scheme is to guarantee 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do **public work-related unskilled manual work only**.
- **So statement 1 is not correct.**

- Unlike earlier employment guarantee schemes, the act aims at addressing the causes of chronic poverty through a rights-based framework.
- At least one-third of beneficiaries have to be women.
- Wages must be paid according to the statutory minimum wages specified for agricultural labourers in the state under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. **So statement 2 is correct.**
- The most important part of MGNREGA's design is its legally-backed guarantee for any rural adult to get work within 15 days of demanding it, failing which an 'unemployment allowance' must be given.
- This demand-driven scheme enables the self-selection of workers.
- There is an emphasis on strengthening the process of decentralisation by giving a significant role in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in planning and implementing these works.
- The act mandates Gram Sabhas to recommend the works that are to be undertaken and at least 50% of the works must be executed by them. **So statement 3 is correct.**

UPSC OCTOBER - 2021

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASS TEST – 20

2. Consider the following statements:

1. The Payment of Gratuity Act 1972 makes it mandatory for the employers to pay their employees gratuity at the time of quitting, provided certain conditions were met.
2. An organisation comes under the purview of the Payment of Gratuity Act 1972 if it has 10 or more employees on any single day in the preceding 12 months.
3. A minimum of one year of service with an organisation is mandatory for availing the benefit of gratuity.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Payment of Gratuity Act 1972 makes it mandatory for the employers to pay their employees gratuity at the time of quitting, provided certain conditions were met. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- An organisation comes under the purview of the Payment of Gratuity Act 1972 if it has 10 or more employees on any single day in the preceding 12 months. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

- A minimum of five year of service with an organisation is mandatory for availing the benefit of gratuity. Parliamentary Committee on Labour has, in its latest report, **recommended** that the eligibility period for gratuity payable to an employee on termination of his employment **should be reduced to one year from the present provision of five years. So, statement 3 is not correct.**

3. Consider the following pairs:

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

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

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- SARS was originated from China and MERS from Saudi Arabia.

4. Consider the following statements:

1. Ebola virus disease (EVD), formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, is a severe, often fatal illness in humans and is transmitted to people from wild animals
2. There is no scientific evidence on spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission.
3. If an individual survives with the Ebola Virus Disease, the person remains contagious for approximately 21 to 42 days after the Symptoms Abate.

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

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Ebola virus disease (EVD), formerly known as Ebola haemorrhagic fever, is a severe, often fatal illness in humans.
- The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission. **So, statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is not correct.**
- The average EVD case fatality rate is around 50%. Case fatality rates have varied from 25% to 90% in past outbreaks.

- Community engagement is key to successfully controlling outbreaks. Good outbreak control relies on case management, surveillance and contact tracing, a good laboratory service and social mobilisation.
- Early supportive care with rehydration, symptomatic treatment improves survival. There is yet no licensed treatment proven to neutralise the virus but a range of blood, immunological and drug therapies are under development.
- Ebola Virus Disease can be highly contagious. The person becomes contagious when the first symptoms begin to appear like fever until he or she dies.
- After the death of a person, his or her body is extremely contagious until its cremation or burial.
- If an individual survives with the Ebola Virus Disease, the person remains contagious for approximately 21 to 42 days after the symptoms abate. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
- It is also said that the Ebola viruses have been detected in the semen of men's for many months and in the eyes of males and females for months but it is not clear yet how much contagious is the virus in these locations.

5. With reference to the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:
1. No High Court shall have the jurisdiction to declare any central law to be Constitutionally Invalid.
 2. An amendment to the Constitution of India cannot be called into question by the Supreme Court of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Both the Supreme Court and the High Courts declare any central law to be constitutionally invalid if it violates the Indian Constitution.
- An amendment to the Constitution of India can be called into question, challenged or even struck down by the Supreme Court of India.

6. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 17 is an Absolute Right.
2. Primary responsibility for the prevention of atrocities against SC/ST under Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, rests with the Central Government.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Absolute right is a right that has no exceptions in its applicability.
- Article 17 of the Indian Constitution abolishes the practice of untouchability. This is an absolute right and it has no exceptions or relaxations against it.
- Primary responsibility for the prevention of atrocities against SC/ST under Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, rests with the State Government.

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

1. Unorganised workers are essentially those who do not have the benefit of pension, provident fund, gratuity, maternity leave etc. and work mostly on daily/hourly wages.
2. The unorganized workers do not receive sufficient attention from the trade unions.

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Unorganised workers are those who do not have the benefit of pension, provident fund, Gratuity, Maternity leave, etc. and work mostly on daily/hourly wages.
 - The unorganized workers do not receive sufficient attention from the trade unions.
8. In context to the Earthshot Prize, consider the following statements:
1. It is given for finding innovative solutions to Climate change.
 2. It is bestowed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
 3. India's Vidyut Mohan has won the inaugural edition of this Prize.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

Earthshot Prize:

- The award will honor five finalists between 2021 and 2030 for developing solutions to fight the climate crisis.
- Each year five winners will be selected, one for each of the Five United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):
- Restoration and protection of nature
- Air cleanliness
- Ocean revival

- Waste-free living
- Climate action.
- It is an award set up by Prince William and the Royal Foundation, the charity founded by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and historian David Attenborough.
- Vidyut Mohan, a Delhi-based entrepreneur, won the inaugural edition of The Earthshot Prize. He won it for his innovative technology that recycles agricultural waste to create fuel.

9. 'Allium negianum', sometimes seen in the news is refers to?

- (a) A newly discovered crater on the lunar surface.
- (b) A medicine developed for the treatment of Covid infection.
- (c) A rare animal species sighted in western ghats endemic to himalayan ecosystem.
- (d) A newly discovered onion species from Uttarakhand having various medicinal utilities

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Recently, a newly discovered plant Allium negianum, in Uttarakhand has been confirmed to belong to the genus that includes many staple foods such as Onion and Garlic.
- Allium is one of the largest genera in Amaryllidaceae.
- Amaryllidaceae is a family of herbaceous (connected with plants that have soft stems),

- mainly perennial and bulbous flowering plants.
- The genus Allium contains about 1,100 species worldwide, including many staple foods like onion, garlic, scallion, shallot and chives.
 - The genus naturally occurs in dry seasons in the northern hemisphere and South Africa but the newly-identified species is restricted to the region of the western Himalaya.
 - The scientific name Allium negianum honours the late Dr. Kuldeep Singh Negi, an eminent explorer and Allium collector from India.
 - They are useful for various medicinal purposes.

Explanation:

- E-Waste is short for Electronic-Waste and the term is used to describe old, end-of-life or discarded electronic appliances. It includes their components, consumables, parts and spares. It is categorised into 21 types under two broad categories:
- Information technology and communication equipment.
- Consumer electrical and electronics.
- Laws to manage e-waste have been in place in India since 2011, mandating that only authorised dismantlers and recyclers collect e-waste. E-waste (Management) Rules, 2016 was enacted in 2017.
- India's first e-waste clinic for segregating, processing and disposal of waste from household and commercial units has been set-up in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- Originally, the Basel Convention (1992) did not mention e-waste but later it addressed the issues of e-waste in 2006 (COP8).
- The Nairobi Declaration was adopted at COP9 of the Basel Convention on the Control of the Trans-boundary Movement of Hazardous Waste. It aimed at creating Innovative solutions for the environmentally Sound Management of Electronic Wastes.

10. Consider the following, with reference to the Electronic-Waste

1. The Nairobi Declaration of the Basel Convention mentions the management of electronic wastes.
2. India's first e-waste clinic for segregating, processing and disposal of waste from household and commercial units has been set-up in Bhopal.

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)

1. With reference to the difference between the Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks, consider the following statements:
1. While Payment banks can undertake both deposit and lending activity, the Small Finance Banks cannot lend loans.
 2. The Payment Banks cannot accept deposits more than Rs 1 lakh, while the Small Finance Banks has no restrictions like Payment Banks.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Both Payment Banks and Small Finance Banks are the differentiated banks which have been set up to promote financial inclusion. While Small Finance Banks can undertake both deposit and lending activity, the Payment banks cannot lend loans.
- Further, the Payment Banks cannot accept deposits more than Rs 1 lakh. The Payment Banks need to invest 75 per cent of their deposits in government securities with maturity up to one year, and the balance 25 per cent with the Commercial Banks.

2. With reference to the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), consider the following statements:
1. GEAC is the country's biotech regulator, functioning in the Ministry of Environment.
 2. GEAC is the apex body for approval of activities involving large scale use of hazardous microorganisms and recombinants in research and industrial production from the environmental angle.
 3. It is constituted under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

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

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is the apex body constituted in the Ministry of Environment and Forests under 'Rules for Manufacture, Use, Import, Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms/Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells 1989', under the Environment Protection Act, 1986. These rules commonly referred as 'Rules 1989'.
- The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) functions in the

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

- GEAC is chaired by the Special Secretary/Additional Secretary of MoEF&CC and co-chaired by a representative from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- Functions of GEAC:
 - ✓ To appraise activities involving large scale use of hazardous microorganisms and recombinants in research and industrial production from the environmental angle.
 - ✓ To appraise proposals relating to release of genetically engineered organisms and products into the environment including experimental field trials.
- The committee or any persons authorized by it has powers to take punitive action under the Environment Protection Act.

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) under Environment Ministry oversees the approval of GM Crops in India.
- The task of regulating GMO levels in imported consumables was initially with the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC). Its role in this was diluted with the enactment of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and FSSAI was asked to take over approvals of imported goods.
- Use of the unapproved GM variant can attract a jail term of 5 years and fine of Rs. 1 lakh under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- **Bt cotton:** It is the only GM crop that has been approved for commercial cultivation in 2002.
- **Bt Brinjal:** Resistant to brinjal shoot fly, it was approved by GEAC in 2009. However due to 10 years moratorium imposed on GM crops by the Technical Expert Committee (TEC) appointed by the Supreme Court of India, its commercialization has stalled.
- **GM Dhara Mustard Hybrid 11:** DMH 11 developed by Delhi University is pending for commercial release as GEAC has advised to generate complete safety assessment.
- However, unauthorized HtBt Cotton and Bt Brinjal are being grown commercially, with hundreds of growers blatantly defying the governmental ban.

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Bt cotton is the only GM crop that has been approved for commercial cultivation in 2002.
2. GM rice is not grown commercially in India.
3. The task of regulating GMO levels in imported consumables is with the FSSAI.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

- GM rice is not grown commercially in India. However, multiple GM rice varieties have been approved for confined field trials.
 - There seems a possibility of cross-contamination from such field trials directly or through seed leakages.
4. India is member to which of the following organisations?
1. ASEAN
 2. RCEP
 3. BIMSTEC
 4. SAARC
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1 and 2 only
 (b) 2 and 3 only
 (c) 3 and 4 only
 (d) 2 and 4 only

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. India was never been a member of ASEAN.
- India dropped out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in November 2019 at ASEAN+3 summit, because of increasing trade deficits with partner nations and increasing China-India tensions.

- India is a member of both BIMSTEC and SAARC.
5. With reference to the Global Food Security (GFS) Index, consider the following statements:
1. It measures the underlying drivers of food security.
 2. It is released by FAO.
 3. India is ranked at 71st position in this GFS index 2021.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Global Food Security (GFS) Index measures the underlying drivers of food security based on the following factors:
 - Affordability
 - Availability
 - Quality and Safety
 - Natural Resources and Resilience
- The GFS Index was designed and constructed by London-based Economist Impact and is sponsored by Corteva Agriscience.
- India held the 71st position with an overall score of 57.2 points on the GFS Index 2021 of 113 countries.

6. Consider the following, with regard the State of Climate Services Report 2021:
1. It is released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
 2. India's average Terrestrial Water Storage (TWS) loss in the last two decades is higher than the global average.
 3. The northeastern part of India has experienced the maximum TWS loss within the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Recently, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) released the State of Climate Services report 2021. It focuses on Terrestrial Water Storage (TWS).
- TWS is the sum of all water on the land surface and in the subsurface, i.e. surface water, soil moisture, snow and ice and groundwater.
- Global Scenario: TWS dropped at a rate of 1 cm per year in 20 years (2002-2021).
- The biggest losses have occurred in Antarctica and Greenland. But many highly populated, lower latitude locations have also experienced TWS losses.

- Indian Scenario: The TWS has been lost at a rate of at least 3 cm per year. In some regions, the loss has been over 4 cm per year too.
- India has recorded the highest loss in terrestrial water storage if the loss of water storage in Antarctica and Greenland is excluded.
- India is the ‘topmost hotspot of TWS loss’. The northern part of India has experienced the maximum loss within the country.

7. Consider the following, with regard to High Ambition Coalition (HAC):

1. India is the founder-member of the High Ambition Coalition (HAC) for Nature and People.
2. HAC membership is limited to Asian countries only.
3. The HAC aim is to prevent nuclear proliferation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- India recently joined the group. It was founded by Costa Rica, France and Britain in 2019.
- It has more than 70 countries which are a mix of countries in the global north and south,

UPSC OCTOBER - 2021
DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASS TEST – 21

- European, Latin American, Africa and Asia countries are among the members.
- Its aim is to promote an international agreement to protect at least 30% of the world's land and ocean by 2030 (Global 30×30 target). HAC has no relation to Nuclear Proliferation.
8. Consider the following statements:
- The retreating southwest monsoon season is marked by clear skies and a rise in temperature.
 - The weather in the retreating monsoon is dry in north India but it is associated with rain in the eastern part of the Peninsula.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both
(d) None
- Answer: c)**
- Explanation:**
- Retreating monsoon season commences with the beginning of the withdrawal of the southwest monsoon.
 - The retreating southwest monsoon season is marked by clear skies and a rise in temperature.
 - The weather in the retreating monsoon is dry in north India but it is associated with rain in the eastern part of the Peninsula.
9. With respect to the Governor of a State, which of the following statements is/are correct?
- The appointment of State Governors by the Centre is a feature borrowed from the Government of India Act of 1935.
 - The appointment of the same person as Governor for two or more States was introduced under the 7th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1956.
- Options:
- (a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both
(d) None
- Answer: b)**
- Explanation:**
- The appointment of State Governors by the Centre is a feature borrowed from the Canadian Constitution.
 - The 7th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1956 promoted the appointment of the same person as a governor for two or more states.
10. What was the main reason for the split in the Indian National Congress at Surat in 1907?
- (a) Introduction of communalism into Indian politics by Lord Minto
(b) Extremists' lack of faith in the capacity of the moderates to negotiate with the British Government
(c) Foundation of Muslim League

(d) Aurobindo Ghosh's inability to be elected

as the President of the Indian National
Congress

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Extremists questioned the ability of moderates to negotiate with the British Government through their ways and means.
- They lacked faith in the capacity of the moderates to negotiate with the British Government. Hence there was a disagreement between the moderates and extremists leading to the Surat split of 1907.



1. INSACOG, recently seen in the news, is
 - (a) ISRO's latest satellite to join the IRNSS Navigation System
 - (b) CDAC's latest supercomputer focusing on cognitive learning
 - (c) Consortium of labs focusing on finding genome sequencing of SARS-CoV2
 - (d) Instantly rechargeable battery for electric cars

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) is a multi-lab agency set up by the Government of India for sequencing and analysing the genome data with respect to the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

2. Consider the following statements with regards to di-ammonium phosphate:

1. DAP is the most commonly used fertilizer in India.
2. DAP (46% P, 18% N) is the preferred source of Phosphorus for farmers while urea is the preferred nitrogenous fertilizer.
3. Farmers normally apply this fertilizer just before or at the beginning of sowing, as it is high in phosphorus (P) that stimulates root development.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- DAP – di-ammonium phosphate is the second most commonly used fertiliser in India after urea.
- DAP (46% P, 18% N) is the preferred source of Phosphorus for farmers while urea is the preferred nitrogenous fertilizer.
- Farmers normally apply DAP fertilizer just before or at the beginning of sowing, as it is high in phosphorus (P) that stimulates root development.

3. Consider the following GM crops and choose the ones which are not legally allowed to be cultivated in India.

1. Rice
2. Brinjal
3. Cotton
4. Mustard

Options:

- (a) 1 & 2 only
- (b) 1 & 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 & 4 only
- (d) All of the above

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- GM Cotton is the only genetically modified crop legally allowed to be cultivated in India.
- GM Rice, GM Brinjal and GM Mustard do not have the legal approval to be cultivated in the country.

4. With reference to the Indra Sawhney case, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?
1. The Court rejected the additional reservation of 10% for poorer sections of higher castes, but it upheld the constitutional validity of 27% reservation for the OBCs with certain conditions.
 2. No reservation in promotions; reservation should be confined to initial appointments only.
 3. The carry forward rule in case of unfilled vacancies should not violate 50% rule.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

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

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

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

5. Consider the following regarding the 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act:

1. It amended the Constitution to extend 10% reservation economically weaker sections among all castes and communities, including all Christians and Muslims.
2. The 10% reservation will be in addition to the existing cap of 50% reservation for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes, taking total reservation to 60%.

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:

- One Hundred and Twenty- Fourth Amendment Bill was introduced to extend 10% quota to “the economically weaker sections in the general category that are not covered by any of the existing schemes of reservation”.
- The bill was designed to amend the Constitution to extend 10% reservation in direct recruitment in government jobs and for admission in higher educational institutions to “economically weaker” sections among all castes and communities, Christians and
- Muslims included, who are not eligible under the already existing quotas.

- It was amended because the issue was related to the Fundamental rights Articles 15 (prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth) and 16 (equality of opportunity in matters of public employment) of the Constitution
- The amendment was ratified in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, by two thirds of members present and voting, and by the legislatures of not less than half the states.
- The 10% reservation will be in addition to the existing cap of 50% reservation for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes, taking total reservation to 60%.
- The quota targets the poor among the upper castes. This will be over and above 50% mandated by Constitution and hence the need for Constitution amendment Bill.

6. Which of the following are the conditions to be included in the reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)?

1. Annual household income below Rs 8 lakh.
2. Agriculture land below 5 acres.
3. Residential house below 1000 sqft.
4. Residential plot below 100 yards in notified municipality.
5. Residential plot below 200 yards in non-Notified Municipality Area.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- All the above are the conditions are the requirements for the reservation in EWS.

7. Recently Farmers have raised their concerns or grievance against farm laws made by the Government. They are protected under which Article of the Indian constitution?

- (a) Article 14
- (b) Article 15
- (c) Article 18
- (d) Article 19

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The right to protest, to publicly question and force the government to answer, is a fundamental political right of the people that flows directly from a democratic reading of Article 19.

- The courts have continuously reiterated that the right to protest is a fundamental right.
- One may examine and find that the word ‘protest’ is missing in the Indian Constitution. But Article 19 has mentioned it implicitly.
- For example, the right to free speech and expression may be taken to mean that everyone has a right to express their personal opinion on, say, a film, or on the condition of the city they inhabit.

- The right to associate to mean the right to form self-regulating clubs, professional Associations or Societies.
- The right of peaceful assembly to mean the right to have a picnic in a park or to participate in Religious Festivals.

8. Consider the following, with regard to Ballistic missile

- 1. It is a rocket-propelled self-guided strategic-weapons system.
- 2. It is capable of carrying conventional high explosives and chemical, biological, or nuclear munitions.
- 3. India is signatory to the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) which aims to limit the spread of ballistic missiles.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Ballistic Missile is a rocket-propelled self-guided strategic-weapons system that follows a ballistic trajectory to deliver a payload from its launch site to a predetermined target.
- Ballistic trajectory is the path of an unpowered object, as a missile, moving only under the influence of gravity and possibly atmospheric friction and with its surface

providing no significant lift to alter the course of flight.

- It can carry conventional high explosives as well as chemical, biological, or nuclear munitions.
- The International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (ICOC), now known as the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation (HCOC), is a political initiative aimed at globally curbing ballistic missile proliferation.
- India is a signatory to this convention.
- Established in April 1987, the voluntary Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) aims to limit the spread of ballistic missiles and other unmanned delivery systems that could be used for chemical, biological, and nuclear attacks.
- India has joined the MTCR.
- Some of India's Ballistic Missiles:

 - Agni P missile
 - Shaurya missile
 - Prithvi missile
 - Dhanush
 - Sagarika etc.

9. With reference to the Production Gap Report, consider the following statements:

1. It is released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. It measures the gap between Aggregate Demand and Supply for Employment.

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:

About Production Gap Report:

- The Production Gap Report 2021 was released by the leading research institutes and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- The Production Gap Report, first launched in 2019, tracks the discrepancy between Governments planned fossil fuel production and global production levels consistent with limiting warming to 1.5°C or 2°C.

10. Consider the following, with regard to impacts of La Nina:

1. No change in Walker Circulation
2. Push of Pacific Jet Stream towards north
3. Better monsoon rains in India

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- La Nina is one part of the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle.

- In a La Niña event, ocean water from off the coast of South America to the central tropical Pacific cools to below average temperatures.
- This cooling occurs because of stronger than normal easterly trade winds, which churns cooler, deeper sea water up to the ocean's surface.
- Sea temperatures can warm above average in the far western Pacific when this happens.

Impacts of La Niña:

- **On Walker Circulation:** The unusually cool water in the eastern Pacific influences the Walker Circulation and suppresses cloud, rain, and thunderstorms. This change impacts weather patterns around the world, but in a different way than El Niño does.
- **On the Pacific Jet Stream:** These cold waters in the Pacific push the jet stream northward. This tends to lead to drought in the southern US and heavy rains and flooding in the Pacific Northwest and Canada. It can also lead to a more severe hurricane season.
- **On the Indian Ocean:** There are increased temperatures in Western Pacific, Indian Ocean and off the Somalian coast. It also leads to heavy floods in Australia and a comparatively better monsoon rains in India.

1. Consider the following, with regard to Namdapha National Park:
 1. It lies at the international border between India and Myanmar.
 2. Surrounded by Patkai hills to the south and south-east and by the Himalaya in the north.
 3. The Noa-Dehing river, a tributary of the Brahmaputra, flows from the middle of the National Park.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Namdapha National Park was declared a National Park in 1983. In the same year, it was also declared as a Tiger Reserve.
- It lies at the international border between India and Myanmar in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Namdapha is surrounded by the Patkai hills to the south and south-east and by the Himalaya in the north.
- Namdapha is in fact the name of a river originating in the park and it meets Noa-Dehing river. The Noa-Dehing river, is a tributary of the Brahmaputra and flows in a North-South direction in the middle of the National Park.

- The National Park enjoys a subtropical climate. The mountainous part has a mountain type of climate while the low-lying plains and valleys experience tropical climate.
- The vegetation is characteristic of tropical evergreen forests (Tropical Rain Forests).
- It is the only park in the World to have the four species of big cat namely the Tiger, Leopard, Snow Leopard and Clouded Leopard.
- Hoolock Gibbons, the only ‘ape’ species found in India is found in this National Park.

2. Consider the following, with regard to 'Net-Zero Emissions'?

1. It is a state in which the greenhouse gases going into the atmosphere are balanced by removal out of the atmosphere.
2. India is the third-largest emitter of CO₂, behind China and the USA.

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:

- Net-Zero Emissions refers to achieving an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions taken out of the atmosphere.

UPSC OCTOBER - 2021
DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASS TEST – 23

- First, human-caused emissions (like those from fossil-fueled vehicles and factories) should be reduced as close to zero as possible.
- Second, any remaining GHGs should be balanced with an equivalent amount of carbon removal, for example by restoring forests.
- As of June 2020, twenty countries and regions have adopted net-zero targets.
- The Kingdom of Bhutan is already carbon-negative, i.e. absorbs more CO₂ than it emits.
- India's per capita CO₂ emissions – at 1.8 tonnes per person in 2015 – are around a ninth of those in the USA and around a third of the global average of 4.8 tonnes per person.
- However, overall, India is now the planet's third-largest emitter of CO₂, behind China and the USA.
- Recently, Indian Railways (IR) has announced that it is likely to become world's first 'net-zero' carbon emitter by 2030.
- IR is taking a multi-pronged approach to go green and decarbonise - from increasing its sourcing of Renewable Energy (RE) to electrifying its traction network and reducing its Energy Consumption.

3. In context to the 'Site Directed Nuclease (SDN) 1 and 2' technology, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to bring precision and efficiency into the breeding process using gene editing tools such as CRISPR.
 2. It would allow the development of genetically modified crops without the need for conventional transgenic technology.
 3. The developer of gene editing tool CRISPR won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 2020.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has now moved to newer technologies such as Site Directed Nuclease (SDN) 1 and 2.
- New technique aims to bring precision and efficiency into the breeding process using gene editing tools such as CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats).
- Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer Doudna won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 2020 for the development of the CRISPR tool.

UPSC OCTOBER - 2021
DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASS TEST – 23

- SDN genome editing involves the use of different DNA-cutting enzymes (nucleases) that are directed to cut the DNA at a predetermined location by a range of different DNA binding systems.
- After the cut is made, the cell's own DNA repair mechanism recognizes the break and repairs the damage, using one of two pathways that are naturally present in cells.
- It involves the use of gene editing tools to directly tweak (improve\change) the plant's own genes instead.
- It would allow plants to be genetically modified without the need for conventional transgenic technology.
- A research coalition under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), which includes the IARI, is using these techniques to develop rice varieties which are drought-tolerant, salinity-tolerant and high-yielding. They could potentially be ready for commercial cultivation within three years.
- The IARI has previously worked on golden rice, a traditional GM variety which inserted genes from other organisms into the rice plant, but ended trials over five years ago due to Agronomic Issues.

4. Consider the following statements:
 1. When a state gives a general consent to the CBI for probing a case, the agency is not required to seek fresh permission every time it enters that state in connection with investigation or for every case.
 2. When a general consent is withdrawn, CBI needs to seek case-wise consent for investigation from the concerned state government.
 3. If specific consent is not granted, the CBI officials will not have the power of police personnel when they enter that state.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- When a state gives a general consent (Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act) to the CBI for probing a case, the agency is not required to seek fresh permission every time it enters that state in connection with investigation or for every case. When a general consent is withdrawn, CBI needs to seek case-wise consent for investigation from the concerned state Government. If specific consent is not granted, the CBI officials will not have the power of police personnel when they enter that state.

- So, all the three statements are correct.
5. Consider the following statements regarding the Public Safety Act of Jammu & Kashmir (PSA):
1. Usually when a person is arrested PSA, they have the right to legal representation and can challenge the arrest.
 2. According to Section 13(2), the detaining authority need not even inform the detained individual as to the reason for the action, if it decides that it goes against public interest.

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:

- Usually when a person is arrested, they have the right to legal representation and can challenge the arrest. But, **when a person is arrested under the PSA, they do not have these rights** before the Advisory Board unless sufficient grounds can be established that the detention is illegal. There have been cases where the High Court has interfered and quashed the detention. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**
- According to Section 13(2), the detaining authority need not even inform the detained individual as to the reason for the action, if it

decides that it goes against public interest.
So, statement 2 is correct.

6. With respect to the Detention Laws, which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?
1. In general the person arrested has to be informed for the cause he has been arrested, but in the case of the National Security Act, the person can be held up to ten days without being informed of the reason.
 2. Article 22(1) of the Constitution allows the detainee to seek legal advice from a legal practitioner, but under the NSA, he is not allowed for a lawyer during the period.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

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

this, Article 22(1) of the Constitution allows the detainee to seek legal advice from a legal practitioner. However, under the NSA, none of these above-mentioned basic rights is permitted to the suspect.

- **So both the statements are correct.**
7. With reference to “Blockchain Technology” consider the following statements:
1. It is a public ledger that everyone can inspect, but which no single user controls.
 2. The structure and design of blockchain is such that all the data in it are about cryptocurrency only.
 3. Applications that depend on basic features of blockchain can be developed without anybody’s permission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Blockchain technology is a decentralized Data Management Technology. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Blockchain Technology can be used for storing any type of data from Land records to vehicle ownership two transactions of cryptocurrency, **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

- Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies & their wallets have been created by computer experts, without taking permission from any government or Central Bank. **So, the third statement is correct.**

8. Consider the following statements with regards to parole and furlough:

1. Unlike parole, furlough is granted periodically irrespective of any reason, and merely to enable the prisoner to retain family and social ties, and to counter the ill-effects of prolonged time spent in prison.
2. Parole is not a right, and is given to a prisoner for a specific reason, such as a death in the family or a wedding of a blood relative.
3. Prison is a state subject and all states have their own rules for parole, furlough, remission and premature release based on the good conduct of the prisoners.

Which of these statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Furlough and parole envisage a short-term temporary release from custody.
- While parole is granted for the prisoner to meet a specific exigency, furlough may be

granted after a stipulated number of years have been served without any reason.

- 4. The UNDP is governed by an administrator, who is the third-highest ranking UN official after the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General.

Which of these statements is/are correct?

- The grant of furlough is to break the monotony of imprisonment and to enable the convict to maintain continuity with family life and integration with society.
- Parole is given to a prisoner for a specific reason, such as a death in the family or a wedding of a blood relative.
- Parole is not a right and it is just a privilege for the prisoner who is deemed to be fit to re-interact with society. Although furlough can be claimed without a reason, the prisoner does not have an absolute legal right to claim furlough. The grant of furlough must be balanced against the public interest and can be refused to certain categories of prisoners.
- Prison is a state subject and all states have their own rules for parole, furlough, remission and premature release based on the Good Conduct of the Prisoners.

9. Consider the following statements with regards to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):

1. The UNDP Executive Board is made up of representatives from 36 countries around the world who serve on a rotating basis.
2. It is funded entirely by voluntary contributions from member nations.
3. The nodal agency for all matters related to UNDP in India is the Department of Economic Affairs, Finance Ministry, GOI.

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is a United Nations organization tasked with helping countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth and human development. It is headquartered in New York City.
 - UNDP helps to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities and exclusion, and build resilience so countries can sustain progress.
- As the UN's development agency, UNDP plays a critical role in helping countries achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The UNDP Executive Board is made up of representatives from 36 countries around the world who serve on a rotating basis.
 - The UNDP is funded entirely by voluntary contributions from UN member states.
 - The UNDP is governed by an administrator, who is the third-highest ranking UN official after the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General.

- The Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance is the designated nodal department that approves and signs the Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) with UNDP.
 - The right to peaceful assembly without weapons is to hold public meetings or to close a procession.
- 10.** ‘Right to Protest’ is considered as an implicit part of which of the following fundamental rights?
- (a) Article 14
(b) Article 19
(c) Article 21
(d) Article 32

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Article 19 offers the right to protest. Although the word protest is not explicitly mentioned in the fundamental rights of the Indian Constitution, it is implicitly derived from the in-depth reading of Article 19.
- The right to protest is protected under Article 19(1)(a), Article 19(1)(b) which gives citizens the right to freedom of expression and the right to meet peacefully without weapons. These two articles constitute the right of protest on the basis that a protester can exercise his right to hold a protest against any issue of national or social interest.
- The right to freedom of expression means that each person has the right to freely express his or her opinions through a means such as gesture or mouth, etc.

1. Consider the following statements:

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

The above statement implies which of the following organisation?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an **inter-governmental body** established in 1989 during the **G7 Summit** in Paris.
- The objectives of the FATF are to **set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.**
- Its Secretariat is located at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris.

- Member Countries: As of 2019, it consists of thirty-seven member jurisdictions. India is one of the members.

- FATF has two lists:

- ✓ **Grey List:** Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list. This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.

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

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

2. Which of the Indian states/UTs share international border with China?

1. Sikkim
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Assam
4. Jammu & Kashmir
5. Ladakh

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

(d) 1, 2, 3, and 4 only

Answer: d)

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- India shares 3488 km of border with China that runs along the states of Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh and the Union Territories of Ladakh too.
- After the bifurcation of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, China now shares its border only with Ladakh and not with J&K.



3. Consider the following statements:

1. The Periyar River is the longest river in the state of Kerala with a length of 244 km.
2. Periyar River originates from Sivagiri hills of Western Ghats and flows through the Periyar National Park.
3. The main tributaries of Periyar are Muthirapuzha, Mullayar, Cheruthoni, and Perinjankutti.

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

Explanation:

- The Periyar River is the longest river in the state of Kerala with a length of 244 km. So, **statement 1 is correct**.
- It is also known as ‘Lifeline of Kerala’ as it is one of the few perennial rivers in the state.
- A perennial river is a channel that has continuous flow in parts of its stream bed all year round. So, **statement 2 is correct**.
- Periyar River originates from Sivagiri hills of Western Ghats and flows through the Periyar National Park.
- The main tributaries of Periyar are Muthirapuzha, Mullayar, Cheruthoni, and Perinjankutti. So, **statement 3 is correct**.

4. Mullaperiyar Dam, sometimes seen in news is located in which of the following state?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Karnataka

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Mullaperiyar Dam is a masonry gravity dam on the Periyar River in the Indian state of Kerala.
- The dam situated at the confluence of the Mullayar and Periyar rivers
- It is located 881 m (2,890 ft) above mean sea level, on the Cardamom Hills of the

Western Ghats in Thekkady, Idukki District of Kerala, South India.

- It was constructed between 1887 and 1895 by John Pennycuick and also reached in an agreement to donate water eastwards to the Madras Presidency area (present-day Tamil Nadu).
- The Periyar National Park in Thekkady is located around the dam's reservoir.
- The dam is located in Kerala on the river Periyar, but is operated and maintained by Tamil Nadu state.
- Dam was given to British-ruled Madras Presidency on a 999-year lease in 1886.
- The agreement was renewed in 1970.
- Tamil Nadu was given rights to the land and the water from the dam as well as the authority to develop hydro-power projects at the site, and Kerala would receive rent in return.

5. Which of the following come in the category of ‘beach sand minerals’?

1. Monazite
2. Zircon
3. Radium
4. Garnet

Options:-

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Mining of beach sand minerals by private parties is terminated as part of the efforts to curb unlawful mining.
- Two sectors are currently restricted – Beach sand minerals (only Department of Atomic Energy can do mining) and Offshore mining (currently only through PSUs).
- Monazite, Zircon and Garnet are classified as beach sand minerals. Radium does not fall under this category.
- Monazite is the mineral from which thorium is extracted. Thorium is a key ingredient of India’s three-stage nuclear programme that can be turned into nuclear fuel after being combined with a fissile material such as plutonium.

6. Consider the following statements with regards to allocation of cadre to an IAS officer:

1. While assigning a cadre, the candidate’s home state and state of the allocated cadre are consulted by UPSC.
2. The candidate doesn’t have the right to be allocated the cadre of his/her choice.
3. If candidates from Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), or Other Backward Class (OBC) get selected in the general category without recourse to the benefit of reservation, they can use it for getting cadre or place of appointment of choice.

Which of these statements is/are incorrect?

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

- (b) Providing health facility for Haj visitors from India
- (c) Applying for Haj pilgrimage
- (d) Receiving grievance from Hajis and feedback to improve the service

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The procedure for allocation of cadre is a mechanical process and admits no exception except in terms of the rules. It said that consultation in respect of allocation of cadre is not required to be done with the state from which the candidate belongs or with the state to which the candidate is being allocated.
- The Supreme Court has held that successful civil services aspirants have no right to be allocated a cadre of their choice or their home state.
- If a candidate hailing from reserved Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), or Other Backward Class (OBC) category does not take benefit of quota and gets selected in the general category then later he or she cannot take recourse to reservation for getting cadre or place of appointment of choice.

7. ‘e-MASIHA’ app, often seen in the news, is used for

- (a) Budget management of the Ministry of Minority Affairs

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- E-Medical Assistance System for Indian Pilgrims Abroad or E-Masiha is an online system to create and maintain the complete health database of pilgrims along with doctors' prescriptions as well as medicine disbursals to deal with any emergency in Makkah-Madinah.

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

- 1. It is the home of one-horned rhinos.
- 2. Diphlu River runs through it.
- 3. It is declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

About Kaziranga National Park

Location:

- It is located in the State of Assam and covers 42,996 Hectare (ha). It is the single

largest undisturbed and representative area in the Brahmaputra Valley Floodplain.

Legal Status:

- It was declared as a National Park in 1974.
- It has been declared a tiger reserve since 2007.

International Status:

- It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985.
- It is recognized as an Important Bird Area by Birdlife International.

Biodiversity: It is the home of the world's most one-horned rhinos.

- Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary has the highest density of one-horned rhinos in the world and the second-highest number of Rhinos in Assam after Kaziranga National Park.
- Much of the focus of conservation efforts in Kaziranga is focused on the 'big four' species - Rhino, Elephant, Royal Bengal tiger and Asiatic water buffalo.
- The 2018 census had yielded 2,413 rhinos and approximately 1,100 elephants.
- As per the figures of tiger census conducted in 2014, Kaziranga had the third-highest population in India after Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand and Bandipur National Park in Karnataka.
- Kaziranga is also home to 9 of the 14 species of primates found in the Indian subcontinent.
- Rivers and Highways:

- National Highway 37 passes through the parking area.
- The park also has more than 250 seasonal water bodies, besides the Diphlu River running through it.

9. Consider the following, with regard to Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB) scheme:

1. It was launched with an objective to reduce the demand for physical gold and shift a part of the domestic savings.
2. The bonds issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RB) on behalf of the Government of India.
3. The bonds are sold through National Stock Exchange of India Limited and Bombay Stock Exchange.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Central government announced the calendar for Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB) that will be issued in four tranches, from October 2021 to March 2022.
- The SGB scheme was launched in November 2015 with an objective to reduce the demand for physical gold and shift a

- part of the domestic savings - used for the purchase of gold - into financial savings.
- The Gold Bonds are issued as Government of India Stock under the Government Securities (GS) Act, 2006.
 - These are issued by the RBI (Reserve Bank of India) on behalf of the Government of India.
 - Bonds are sold through Commercial banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices and recognised stock exchanges viz, National Stock Exchange of India Limited and Bombay Stock Exchange, either directly or through agents.
- India, South Africa, and Indonesia have boycotted The "Osaka Track" on the "digital economy" at the G20 leaders' summit in Osaka, as it overtly undermined "multilateral" principles of consensus-based decisions in global trade negotiations, and denied "policy space" for digital-industrialisation in developing countries.

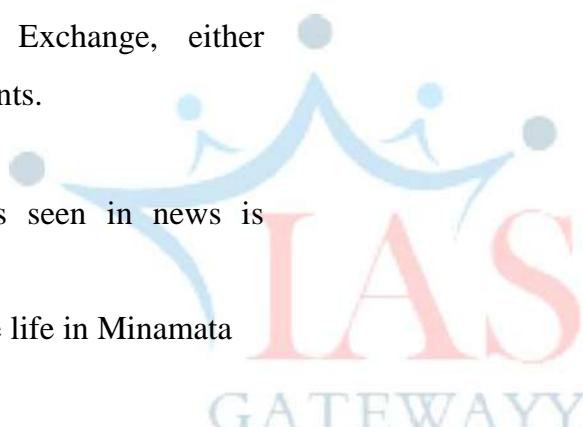
10. 'Osaka Track', sometimes seen in news is related to?

- (a) Management of marine life in Minamata Bay
- (b) Data flow and electronic commerce.
- (c) Reducting the impact of disasters.
- (d) Mechanism developed for managing the Olympic 2020 during Covid pandemic.

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The "Osaka Track" is a process that demonstrates the commitment to promote efforts on international rule-making on digital economy, especially on data flow and electronic commerce.



UPSC OCTOBER - 2021
DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASS TEST – 26

1. Consider the following statements:

1. In December, 1911, King George V made an announcement in Delhi Durbar to shift the capital of India from Calcutta to Delhi.
2. The foundation stone of the Parliament House was laid in 1921 by the Duke of Connaught.
3. The shape of the Parliament building is circular, which is based on the Hoysaleshwara Temple, Halebeedu, Karnataka.

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:

- In December, 1911, King George V made an announcement in Delhi Durbar to shift the capital of India from Calcutta to Delhi.

So, statement 1 is correct.

- The foundation stone of the Parliament House was laid in 1921 by the Duke of Connaught. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

- The shape of the Parliament building is circular, which is based on the Chausath Yogini temple of **Morena, Madhya Pradesh**. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

2. In the Context to the Southwest Monsoon in India, which of the statement(s) given below is/are **not** correct?

1. During the month of June, the sun shines vertically over the Tropic of Cancer and the ITCZ shifts northwards.
2. The withdrawal process of southwest monsoon typically begins in Arunachal Pradesh from September 17 and fully exits the country by October 15.
3. The IMD stated that from 1975-2021, only seven times had the monsoon withdrawn after the October 25th or beyond in which six of them have been since 2000.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- The location of ITCZ shifts north and south of the equator with the apparent movement of the Sun. During the month of June, the sun shines vertically over the Tropic of Cancer and the ITCZ shifts northwards. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

- The southeast trade winds of the southern hemisphere cross the equator and start blowing in southwest to northeast direction under the influence of Coriolis force.

- These winds collect moisture as they travel over the warm Indian Ocean.
 - In the month of July, the ITCZ shifts to 20°- 25° N latitude and is located in the Indo-Gangetic Plain and the south-west monsoons blow from the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal. The ITCZ in this position is often called the Monsoon Trough. The shift in the position of the ITCZ is also related to the phenomenon of the withdrawal of the westerly jet stream from its position over the north Indian plain, south of the Himalayas.
 - Regarding the withdrawal it is a long-drawn-out process that typically begins in Rajasthan from September 17 and fully exits the country by October 15. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**
 - This year, however, the monsoon withdrawal began only on October 6.
 - The IMD stated that from 1975-2021, only seven times had the monsoon withdrawn after the 25th or beyond. Interestingly, six of them have been since 2000. **So, statement 3 is correct.**
 - Last year, which saw record-breaking rainfall in India that was 9% more than the long period average, also saw the southwest monsoon fully withdraw only on October 28. While September is usually the month that marks the beginning of the end, for the monsoon's four-month sojourn over India,
 - 2021 has seen significant rainfall, with India posting 135% more rain than what's normal for the season.
- 3. Which of the following factors influence the southwest monsoon in India?**
1. The differential heating and cooling of land and water creates a low pressure on the landmass of India while the seas around experience comparatively high pressure.
 2. The shift of the position of Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) in summer, over the Ganga plain.
 3. The presence of the high-pressure area, east of Madagascar, approximately at 20°S over the Indian Ocean.
 4. Tropical Easterly Jet (African Easterly Jet).
 5. El Nino/Southern Oscillation (SO)
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:
- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
 (b) 2, 3 and 5 only
 (c) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
 (d) All the above
- Answer: d)**
- Explanation:**
- The differential heating and cooling of land and water creates a low pressure on the landmass of India while the seas around experience comparatively high pressure.
 - The shift of the position of Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) in summer, over the Ganga plain (this is the equatorial

- trough normally positioned about 5°N of the equator. It is also known as the monsoon-trough during the monsoon season).
- The presence of the high-pressure area, east of Madagascar, approximately at 20°S over the Indian Ocean. The intensity and position of this high-pressure area affect the Indian Monsoon.
 - The Tibetan plateau gets intensely heated during summer, which results in strong vertical air currents and the formation of low pressure over the plateau at about 9 km above sea level.
 - The movement of the westerly jet stream to the north of the Himalayas and the presence of the tropical easterly jet stream over the Indian peninsula during summer.
 - Tropical Easterly Jet (African Easterly Jet).
 - El Nino/Southern Oscillation (SO): Normally when the tropical eastern south Pacific Ocean experiences high pressure, the tropical eastern Indian Ocean experiences low pressure. But in certain years, there is a reversal in the pressure conditions and the eastern Pacific has lower pressure in comparison to the eastern Indian Ocean. This periodic change in pressure conditions is known as the SO.
 - So, all the five influence the South west monsoon.

4. A rare butterfly species, called the Silver Forget-Me-Not (FMN), has been spotted twice inside which of the following places?
 - (a) Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary
 - (b) Periyar Tiger Reserve
 - (c) Mount Abu Wildlife sanctuary
 - (d) Pobitora Wildlife Sanctaury

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- A rare butterfly species, called the Silver Forget-Me-Not (FMN), has been spotted twice inside the Srivilliputhur-Meghamalai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu.
- It is validated as the 318th species of butterflies found in Tamil Nadu.
- It is pale silvery with slightly curved bands and the spot is near the upper band.
- This Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary (GSWS) was established in 1988 to protect the Near threatened grizzled giant squirrel (*Ratufa macroura*).
- Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary otherwise called as Srivilliputhur-Meghamalai Tiger Reserve is also a tiger reserve. (Declared in Feb 2021).
- It is bordered on the southwest by the Periyar Tiger Reserve and is one of the best-preserved forests south of the Palghat Gap.
- Animals seen here are Bengal tiger, elephants, gaur, Indian giant squirrel, leopard, Nilgiri Tahrs, etc.

- It has a mix of tropical evergreen forests and semi-evergreen forests, dry deciduous forests and moist mixed deciduous forests, grassland.



5. GAVI, often seen in the news, refers to which of the following?

- (a) Global vaccine alliance formed specifically to expedite the rollout of Covid vaccine around the world
- (b) Global vaccine alliance formed under OECD guidelines
- (c) Global vaccine alliance with a goal of increasing access to immunization in poor nations
- (d) Global vaccine alliance working on rolling out world's first anti-malarial vaccine

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- GAVI is a public-private global health partnership with the goal of increasing access to immunization in poor countries.
- As part of its mission, GAVI has helped vaccinate more than 888 million children in the world's poorest countries.

- By improving access to new and under-used vaccines for millions of the most vulnerable children, the Vaccine Alliance is transforming the lives of individuals, helping to boost the economies of lower-income countries and making the world safer for everyone.

6. With reference to the British colonial rule in India, consider the following statements:

1. Mahatma Gandhi was instrumental in the abolition of the system of 'indentured labour'.
2. In Lord Chelmsford's 'War Conference', Mahatma Gandhi did not support the resolution on recruiting Indians for World War.
3. Consequent upon the breaking of salt law by Indian people, the Indian National Congress was declared illegal by the colonial rulers.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Mahatma Gandhi was instrumental in the abolition of the system of 'indentured labour'.

- In Lord Chelmsford's War Conference in April 1918, Mahatma Gandhi in his one-sentence speech said that he supported the resolution on recruiting Indians for World War.
 - Consequent upon the breaking of Salt Law by Indian people in January 1932, the Indian National Congress was declared illegal by the colonial rulers.
7. Consider the following statements with regards to Amur Falcons:
1. These species of birds come under the category of Least Concern under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
 2. While migrating, the Amur Falcon covers a distance of 22,000 km, making it one of the longest distances covered by migratory birds.
 3. Manipur is known as the Falcon Capital of the world.

Which of these statements are correct?

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Amur Falcons are known to be one of the world's longest-distance migratory birds as they travel more than a staggering 22,000 km a year.

- These species of birds come under the category of Least Concern under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List.
- Nagaland is called the falcon capital of the world.

8. Consider the following, with reference to International Solar Alliance (ISA):

1. It is the nodal agency for implementing One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG).
 2. The new Hydrogen initiative was launched at the fourth general assembly of the ISA.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Recently, the fourth general assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was held.
- A total of 108 countries participated in the assembly, including 74 member countries, 34 observer and prospective countries, 23 partner organisations and 33 special invitee organisations.
- The ISA is an intergovernmental treaty-based organisation with a global mandate to catalyse solar growth by helping to

reduce the cost of financing and technology.

- ISA, co-founded by India and France during the 2015 climate change conference in Paris has assumed centre-stage for India's attempts at a global climate leadership role.
 - ISA is the nodal agency for implementing One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG), which seeks to transfer solar power generated in one region to feed the electricity demands of others.
 - NISE is an autonomous institution of the Ministry of New and Renewable (MNRE) and is the apex National R&D institution in the field of Solar Energy.
 - New ISA programmes launched on management of solar PV panels & battery usage waste and solar hydrogen programme.
 - The new Hydrogen initiative is aimed at enabling the use of solar electricity to produce hydrogen at a more affordable rate than what is available currently (USD 5 per KG), by bringing it down to USD 2 per KG.
9. Consider the following, with reference to tea cultivation:
1. It is a tropical and sub-tropical plant and grows well in hot and humid climates.
 2. The ideal temperature for its growth is 20°-30°C.
 3. The most suitable soil for tea cultivation is slightly acidic soil.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Tea is a beverage made from the *Camellia sinensis* plant. It is the world's most consumed drink, after water.
- It is believed that tea originated in northeast India, north Myanmar and southwest China, but the exact place where the plant first grew is not known. There is evidence that tea was consumed in China 5,000 years ago.
- Climate: Tea is a tropical and sub-tropical plant and grows well in hot and humid climates.
- Temperature: The ideal temperature for its growth is 20°-30°C and temperatures above 35°C and below 10°C are harmful for the bush. Hence, statement 2 is correct.
- Rainfall: It requires 150-300 cm annual rainfall which should be well distributed throughout the year.
- Soil: The most suitable soil for tea cultivation is slightly acidic soil (without calcium) with porous sub-soil which permits a free percolation of water.

10. Consider the following, with reference to Uighur Muslims:

1. The largest population of the Uighur ethnic community lives in Kyrgyzstan.
2. India has strongly condemned the brutalities against the Uighurs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

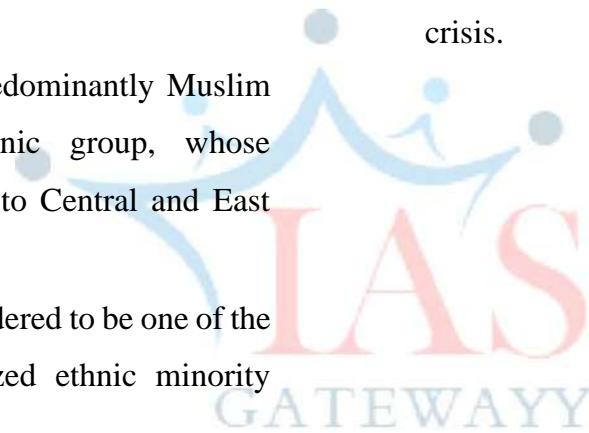
- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Uighurs are a predominantly Muslim minority Turkic ethnic group, whose origins can be traced to Central and East Asia.
- The Uighurs are considered to be one of the 55 officially recognized ethnic minority communities in China.
- However, China recognises the community only as a regional minority and rejects that they are an indigenous group.
- Currently, the largest population of the Uighur ethnic community lives in the Xinjiang region of China.
- A significant population of Uighurs also lives in the neighbouring Central Asian countries such as Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.

- China's Stand on Uighur Crisis: China has long denied accusations of ethnic cleansing. It also denounced the declaration and termed it as a plot to hurt China's image.
- China claims its camps to be 'educational centres' where the Uighurs are being cured of "extremist thoughts" and radicalisation, and learning vocational skills. However, in actuality, they are brutal incarceration camps.
- India's Stand: The Indian government has maintained near silence on the Uighur crisis.



1. Consider the following statements:

Statement 1: Reservation in the matter of promotions in public posts is not a Fundamental Right

Statement 2: No court has the powers to issue the writ of mandamus directing state Governments to provide Reservations.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- (a) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct and Statement 2 is the correct explanation of Statement 1
- (b) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct and Statement 2 is not the correct explanation of Statement 1
- (c) Statement 1 is correct but Statement 2 is not correct
- (d) Statement 1 is not correct but Statement 2 is correct

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court has ruled that reservation in the matter of promotions in public posts is not a fundamental right, and a state cannot be compelled to offer the quota if it chooses not to.
- There is no fundamental right which inheres in an individual to claim reservation in promotions. No mandamus can be issued by the court directing state governments to provide reservations.

2. Consider the following statements regarding Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967:

- 1. Under UAPA, both Indian and foreign nationals and can be charged even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India.
- 2. Under the UAPA, the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in maximum 180 days after the arrests and the duration can be extended further after Intimating the court.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- UAPA passed in 1967 aims at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.
- Unlawful activity refers to any action taken by an individual or association intended to disrupt the territorial integrity and sovereignty of India. The Act assigns absolute power to the central government, by way of which if the Centre deems an activity as unlawful then it may, by way of an Official Gazette, declare it so.

- It has death penalty and life imprisonment as highest punishments.
 - Under UAPA, both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged. It will be applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
 - Under the UAPA, the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in maximum 180 days after the arrests and the duration can be extended further after intimating the court. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
 - The 2004 amendment, added “terrorist act” to the list of offences to ban organisations for terrorist activities, under which 34 outfits were banned.
 - Till 2004, “unlawful” activities referred to actions related to secession and cession of territory.
 - In August 2019, Parliament cleared the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 to designate individuals as terrorists if the individual commits or participates in acts of terrorism, prepares for terrorism, promotes terrorism or is otherwise involved in terrorism.
 - The Act empowers the Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA) to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property when the case is investigated by the said agency.
 - The Act also empowers the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases of terrorism in addition to those conducted by the DSP or ACP or above rank officer in the state.
- 3. Consider the following statements regarding the National Population Register (NPR):**
1. The census involves a detailed questionnaire to be filled up while NPR collects basic demographic data and biometric particulars.
 2. It is mandatory for every usual resident of India to register in the Census, while it is not mandatory for NPR.
- 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 census involves a detailed questionnaire and there were 29 items to be filled up in the 2011 census.
 - They aimed at eliciting the particulars of every person, including age, sex, marital status, occupation, birthplace, mother tongue, religion, whether they belonged to any SC or ST etc.

- On the other hand, NPR collects basic demographic data and biometric particulars.
 - Once the basic details of the head of the family are taken by the enumerator, an acknowledgement slip will be issued. This slip may be required for enrolment in NPR, whenever that process begins.
 - The details will be recorded in every local (village or ward), sub-district (tehsil or taluk), district and state level.
 - Once the details are recorded, there will be a population register at each of these levels. Together, they constitute the National Population Register.
 - It is mandatory for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR.
4. The Registrar of Office General falls under which of the following body?
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs
 - Ministry of Home Affairs
 - Ministry of Defence
 - Niti Aayog
- Answer: b)**
- Explanation:**
- The Census Organisation was set up on an ad-hoc basis for each Census till the 1951 Census.
 - The Government of India, in 1949 established an organisation in the **Ministry of Home Affairs** under Registrar General and ex-Officio Census Commissioner, India to develop systematic collection of statistics on the size of population, its growth, etc.
 - Later, this office was also entrusted with the responsibility of implementation of Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 in the country.
 - It arranges, conducts and analyses the results of the demographic surveys of India including Census of India and Linguistic Survey of India.
5. Consider the following statements with regards to the National Fund to Control Drug Abuse and choose the correct ones:
- The fund is overseen by Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry.
 - The fund was created in accordance with a provision of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, with a Nominal Corpus of ₹23 crore.
 - The Act states that the fund would be used to combat illicit Trafficking of narcotics, rehabilitating addicts, and preventing drug abuse.
- Options:**
- 1 & 2 only
 - 1 & 3 only
 - 2 & 3 only
 - All of the above
- Answer: d)**

Explanation:

- National Fund to Control Drug Abuse was created in accordance with a provision of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.
- The Act states that the fund would be used to combat illicit trafficking of narcotics, rehabilitating addicts, and preventing drug abuse.
- It had a nominal corpus of Rs.23 crore.
- The fund is overseen by Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry
- Under the NDPS Act, the sale proceeds of any property forfeited, grants made by any person and institution, and income from the Investments of the fund, go towards the Fund.

6. Consider the following statements with regards to production of Rubber:

1. Kerala is the top producer of rubber amongst all the Indian states.
2. Recently, the world's first Genetically Modified (GM) rubber plant developed by Rubber Research Institute was planted in Assam.
3. Rubber Board, headquartered at Kottayam, Kerala, under the administration of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is responsible for the development of the rubber industry in the country by assisting and encouraging research, development,

extension and training activities related to rubber.

Which of these is Incorrect?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Kerala is the largest rubber producing state of India (accounting for almost 90% of total rubber production in India).
- Recently, the world's first Genetically Modified (GM) rubber plant developed by Rubber Research Institute was planted in Assam.
- Rubber Board, under the administration of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is responsible for the development of the rubber industry in the country by assisting and encouraging research, development, extension and training activities related to rubber. It is headquartered in Kottayam, Kerala.

7. Consider the following statements with regards to additional judges in the High Court and choose the incorrect ones:

1. The Parliament determines the maximum number of Additional Judges permitted in any High Court in India.
2. The maximum tenure of an Additional Judge is 2 years.

3. The additional judges in the High Court are appointed by the Governor of that state.

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Additional Judges can be appointed by the President under clause (1) of Article 224 of the Constitution. When the need for this arises, the State Government should first obtain the sanction of the Central Government for the creation of such additional posts.
- The President decides if and when there is a need to have more additional judges and hence it is the president who determines the maximum number of additional judges permitted in any High Court in India.
- Under the Constitutional provisions, an additional judge can be appointed for a maximum period of two years unlike permanent judges, who are appointed till the age of 62.

8. Consider the following, with regard to Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission?
1. IT-enabled disease surveillance system
 2. Four new national institutes for virology

3. Regional research platform for WHO - South East Asia Region

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Prime Minister launched the Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission.
- It is one of the largest pan-India schemes for strengthening healthcare infrastructure across the country. It is in addition to the National Health Mission.
- The mission will provide support to 17,788 rural Health and Wellness Centres in 10 ‘high focus’ states and establish 11,024 urban Health and Wellness Centres across the country.
- Through this, critical care services will be available in all the districts of the country with more than five lakh population through exclusive critical care hospital blocks, while the remaining districts will be covered through referral services.
- Under the scheme, a national institution for one health, four new national institutes for virology, nine biosafety level-III laboratories, a regional research platform

- for WHO (World Health Organization) South East Asia Region and five new regional national centres for disease control will be set up.
- It is headquartered at GIFT City, Gandhinagar in Gujarat. The Authority is mandated to regulate all such financial services, financial products and Financial Institutions in an IFSC. It may also recommend to the Central Government other financial products, financial services and financial institutions which may be permitted in the IFSCs.

Objectives:

- To ensure a robust public health infrastructure in both urban and rural areas, capable of responding to public health emergencies or disease outbreaks.
 - To establish an IT-enabled disease surveillance system through a network of surveillance laboratories at block, district, regional and national levels.
9. In context to the International Financial Services Centres Authority, consider the following statements:

1. It is a statutory body of India.
2. It is headquartered at GIFT City, Gandhinagar in Gujarat.

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:

About International Financial Services Centres Authority:

- It was established in April 2020 under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019.

10. 'Tightening the Net' report, sometimes seen in news is related to?

- (a) Net zero carbon targets.
- (b) Marine fauna preservation.
- (c) Preventing electricity losses.
- (d) Curbing the use of the internet

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- Recently, a report ('Tightening the Net') published by Oxfam International has said that announcing Net Zero Carbon Targets may be a dangerous distraction from the priority of cutting Carbon Emissions. Over 100 countries have set or are considering net-zero emissions or Neutrality Targets.

1. Consider the following statements:

1. Phishing is the method of trying to gather personal information using deceptive e-mails and websites.
2. Malware is a type of malicious software designed to block access to a computer system until a sum of money is paid.
3. A spyware can access the data usage pattern of the device, gains access to photos and videos as well as other personal information of the user, and then passes it off to a central server.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Phishing is the method of trying to gather personal information using deceptive e-mails and websites. **So, statement 1 is correct.**
- Malicious software or malware can be described as unwanted software that is installed in your system without your consent. Ransomware is a type of malicious software designed to block access to a computer system until a sum of money is paid.

• So, statement 2 is not correct.

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

2. ‘Pegasus, recently seen in news refers to

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

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

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Registration of Birth and Death rules 1969:
1. Presently, the registration of births and deaths is done by the local registrar appointed by States.
 2. The Centre has recently proposed amendments to a 1969 law that will enable it to maintain the database of registered birth and deaths at the national level.
 3. If the amendments are implemented the centre will replace the local registrar appointed by States.
- level and integrate it with the data at the “national level,” maintained by the Registrar General of India (RGI). **The amendments will imply that the Centre will be a parallel repository of data. So, statement 3 is not correct.**
 - The database may be used to update the Population Register and the electoral register, and Aadhaar, ration card, passport and driving licence databases, says the proposed amendment to the Registration of Births and Deaths Act (RBD), 1969.

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

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Centre has proposed amendments to a 1969 law that will enable it to “maintain the database of registered birth and deaths at the national level”. **So, statement 2 is correct.**
- Presently, the registration of births and deaths is done by the local registrar appointed by States. **So, statement 1 is correct.** It is proposed that the Chief Registrar (appointed by the States) would maintain a unified database at the State

4. Consider the following statements:

1. The Mullaperiyar Dam is a masonry gravity dam on the Periyar River in the Indian state of Kerala.
2. The Dam was given to British-ruled Madras Presidency on a 999-year lease in 1886 and the agreement was renewed in 1970.
3. The dam is operated and maintained by Tamil Nadu state.

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

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Mullaperiyar Dam is a masonry gravity dam on the Periyar River in the Indian state of Kerala.
- The dam situated at the confluence of the Mullayar and Periyar rivers
- It is located 881 m (2,890 ft) above mean sea level, on the Cardamom Hills of the Western Ghats in Thekkady, Idukki District of Kerala, South India.
- It was constructed between 1887 and 1895 by John Pennycuick and also reached in an agreement to donate water eastwards to the Madras Presidency area (present-day Tamil Nadu).
- The Periyar National Park in Thekkady is located around the dam's reservoir.
- The dam is located in Kerala on the river Periyar, but is operated and maintained by Tamil Nadu state.
- Dam was given to British-ruled Madras Presidency on a 999-year lease in 1886.
- The agreement was renewed in 1970.
- Tamil Nadu was given rights to the land and the water from the dam as well as the authority to develop hydro-power projects at the site, and Kerala would receive rent in return.
- **So, all the three statements are correct.**

5. Which of the following is/are the Nerve agents?

1. Sarin (GB)
2. Soman (GD)
3. Tabun (GA)
4. VX

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- Nerve agents, sometimes also called nerve gases, are a class of organic chemicals that disrupt the mechanisms by which nerves transfer messages to organs.
- The disruption is caused by the blocking of acetylcholinesterase (AChE), an enzyme that catalyzes the breakdown of acetylcholine, a neurotransmitter. Nerve agents are acetylcholinesterase inhibitors used as poison.
- The main nerve agents are the chemicals sarin (GB), soman (GD), tabun (GA) and VX.

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

1. 'IceCube', a particle detector located at South Pole, which was recently in the news:

2. It is the world's largest neutrino detector, encompassing a cubic kilometre of ice.
3. It is a powerful telescope to search for dark matter.
4. It is buried deep in the ice.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

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

7. Consider the following statements with regards to Dadasaheb Phalke awards and choose the correct ones.

1. The award is named after Dhundiraj Govind Phalke, regarded as the 'father of Indian cinema'.

2. Dadasaheb Phalke Award was introduced by the government in 1969 and it was awarded for the first time to Devika Rani, "the first lady of Indian cinema".
3. Dadasaheb Phalke directed India's first feature film Raja Harischandra (1913).

Options:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest award in the field of cinema. It is presented annually at the National Film Awards ceremony by the Directorate of Film Festivals, an organisation set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- The recipient is honoured for their "outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema".
- Presented first in 1969, the award was introduced by the Government of India to commemorate Dadasaheb Phalke's contribution to Indian cinema. Phalke (1870–1944), who is popularly known as and often regarded as "the father of Indian cinema", was an Indian filmmaker who directed India's first full-length feature film, Raja Harishchandra (1913).

- The first recipient of the award was actress Devika Rani.
- 8. Consider the following:**
1. India and South Korea signed an agreement to develop Varanasi and Busan as sister cities.
 2. The India-Korea Friendship Park is located in Delhi.
 3. The Ram Katha Park will be renamed as Queen Heo Hwang-ok memorial Park

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Recently, on the banks of the Sarayu in Ayodhya, the Ram Katha Park has been renovated which will be renamed as Queen Heo Hwang-ok memorial park. The Korean queen is believed to have had Indian roots.
- She was a Korean queen who is believed to have been born Princess Suriratna of Ayodhya, daughter of King Padmasen and Indumati.
- Her story is described in Samguk Yusa (Memorabilia of Three Kingdoms).
- It is a 13th-century collection of legends, folktales and history of Korea's three

kingdoms — Goguryeo, Baekje and Silla — and some other regions.

- In 2000, India and South Korea signed an agreement to develop Ayodhya and Gimhae as sister cities.
- Earlier, in March 2021 Indian Defence Minister and his South Korean counterpart inaugurated the India-Korea Friendship Park in a ceremony at the Delhi Cantonment. Hence, statement 2 is correct.

9. Consider the following, with regard to Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship:

1. The fellowship is given under the SANKALP (Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion) programme.
2. It is a two-year long fellowship programme for young individuals to contribute to enhancing skill development at the grassroots.
3. To be eligible for the fellowship, fellows must have a Phd degree from any university.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Recently, the government has launched the phase-II of Mahatma Gandhi National Fellowship under SANKALP (Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion) programme. Hence Statement 1 is correct.
- It is a two-year long fellowship programme conceived to create opportunities for young, dynamic individuals to contribute to enhancing skill development at the grassroots. Hence Statement 2 is correct.
- It seeks to combine classroom sessions by academic partner IIMs with an intensive field immersion at the district level to create credible plans and identify barriers in raising employment, economic output, and promote livelihoods in rural areas.
- The sharp focus on developing skills for local needs gives impetus to the "vocal for local", and also building an industry-relevant skill base will help the cause of "Atmanirbhar Bharat".
- Fellows have to be in the 21-30 years age-group, have a graduation degree from a recognized university and be citizens of India. Hence Statement 3 is not correct.
- Proficiency in official language of the state of fieldwork will be mandatory

10. Consider the following statement, with regard to Bovine Mastitis:

1. It is an inflammation of the mammary gland and is the most common disease of dairy cattle.
2. It can affect farm productivity due to fall in milk quality, thus impacting income-generating activities.
3. Several types of parasites cause distinctly different Mastitis Infections.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

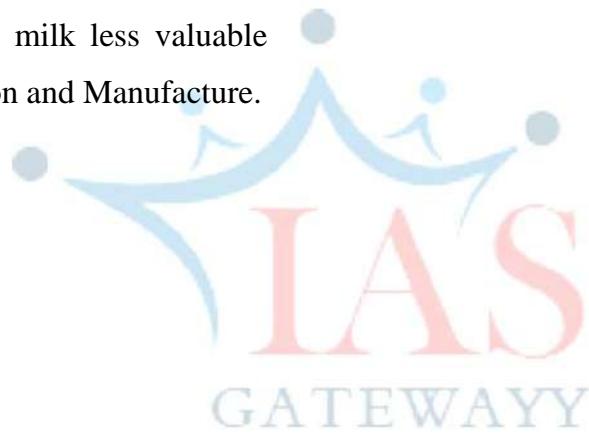
- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: b)

Explanation:

- Recently, the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) has developed a poly-herbal medicine called Mastirak Gel to treat Mastitis in Dairy Cattle.
- **About Mastitis:** Mastitis, or inflammation of the mammary gland, is the most common and the most expensive disease of dairy cattle throughout most of the world.
- Several types of bacteria cause distinctly different mastitis infections.
- Antibiotic infusions into the udder nearly always cure the clinical disease but may not eliminate the bacterial infection.

- Cause: Although stress and physical injuries may cause inflammation of the gland, infection by invading bacteria or other microorganisms (fungi, yeasts and possibly viruses) is the primary cause of mastitis.
- Infections begin when microorganisms penetrate the teat canal and multiply in the Mammary Gland.
- Impact: It can affect farm productivity due to fall in milk quality, thus impacting income-generating activities.
- It reduces milk yields, increases the cost of production and makes milk less valuable for Liquid Consumption and Manufacture.



1. Consider the following statements with respect to Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA):

1. It is a statutory body of Ministry of Women & Child Development.
2. It is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993.

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:

- Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) is a statutory body of Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India.
- It functions as the nodal body for adoption of Indian children and is mandated to monitor and regulate in-country and inter-country adoptions.
- CARA is designated as the Central Authority to deal with inter-country adoptions in accordance with the provisions of the Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption, 1993, ratified by Government of India in 2003.

- CARA primarily deals with adoption of orphan, abandoned and surrendered children through its associated /recognised adoption agencies.

2. Consider the following statements with respect to Child Welfare Committees (CWCs):

1. It is a quasi-judicial autonomous agency and is the final authority on children in need of care and protection.
2. The Child Welfare Committee functions as a bench guided by the powers that are conferred in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.
3. It is mandatory to form one or more Child Welfare Committees in every district for exercising power and to discharge the duties conferred in relation to children in need of care and protection.

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

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- It is a quasi-judicial autonomous agency and is the final authority on children in need of care and protection.
- The Child Welfare Committee functions as a bench guided by the powers that are conferred in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. Anyone connected to the

- child is allowed to file a petition to the Magistrate of that District, who considers and passes appropriate orders.
- It is mandatory to form one or more Child Welfare Committees in every district for exercising power and to discharge the duties conferred in relation to children in need of care and protection.
 - This committee consists of a chairperson and other four members who according to the State Government are fit to be appointed, at least one of whom should be a woman and the other should preferably be an expert on matters that are concerning the children.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The modalities of the compensation cess were specified by the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017.
- This Act assumed that the GST revenue of each State would grow at 14% every year, from the amount collected in 2015-16, through all taxes subsumed by the GST.
- A State that had collected tax less than this amount in any year would be compensated for the shortfall. The amount would be paid every two months based on provisional accounts, and adjusted every year after the State's accounts were audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General.
- This scheme is valid for five years, i.e., till June 2022.

4. Consider the following statements regarding Agni V:

- 1. It is a surface-to-surface long range nuclear-capable missile.
- 2. It is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) only.

3. Consider the following statements:

- 1. The modalities of the compensation cess were specified by the GST (Compensation to States) Act, 2017.
- 2. This Act assumed that the GST revenue of each State would grow at 14% every year, from the amount collected in 2015-16, through all taxes subsumed by the GST.
- 3. A State that had collected tax less than this amount in any year would be compensated for the shortfall.
- 4. The amount would be paid every two months based on provisional accounts, and adjusted every year after the State's accounts were audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General.

3. It comes under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).

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:

- The Agni-V Intercontinental-range Ballistic Missile (ICBM) has been developed by the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and Bharat Dynamics Limited.
- It weighs close to 50,000 kilograms. The missile is 1.75 meters tall with a diameter of two metres.
- The 1,500-kilogram warhead will be placed on top of the three-stage rocket boosters powered by solid fuel.
- The missile can range the whole of Asia, Europe and parts of Africa. Once inducted, Agni-V will be maintained by the Strategic Forces command.
- India has already conducted seven trials of the missile, which has a range of over 5,000 kilometres.
- Under Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) there are five Missiles. They are:

1. Short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile Prithvi.
2. Intermediate-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile Agni.
3. Short-range low-level surface-to-air missile Trishul.
4. Medium-range surface-to-air missile Akash.
5. Third generation anti-tank missile Nag.

5. Consider the following statements with regards to the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration:

1. The Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (often abbreviated as GTA) is an Autonomous District Council for the Darjeeling and Kalimpong areas of West Bengal.
2. The GTA was formed in 2012 to replace the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council.
3. The formation of GTA resulted from a tripartite agreement between the Union Government, the State government and Gorkha Janamukti Morcha.

Which of these statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Gorkhaland Territorial Administration is an Autonomous District Council for the Darjeeling and Kalimpong areas of the

West Bengal state in India. It currently consists of three hill subdivisions Darjeeling, Kurseong, Mirik, some areas of Siliguri subdivision of Darjeeling district and the whole of Kalimpong district under its authority.

- The GTA was formed in 2012 to replace the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council, which was formed in 1988 and administered the Darjeeling hills for 23 years.
 - The GTA was formed as a result of the tripartite agreement between the State, Centre and the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM).
6. Consider the following statements with regards to languages in India and choose the Incorrect one:
- (a) “Rajbhasha Bharati” is a quarterly magazine published by the Department of Official Language and is dedicated to encouraging Hindi writing in the fields of technology, information, literature, etc.
 - (b) There are no fixed criteria for any language to be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
 - (c) Since 2018, members of parliament can speak in any of the 22 languages in the 8th schedule after giving a 24-hour prior notice.
 - (d) None of the above

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Department of Official Language brings out ‘Rajbhasha Bharati’, a quarterly magazine, dedicated to encouraging writings in the field of Official Language, literature, technology, information technology, etc., in Hindi and also to give wide publicity to the efforts being made in different Central Government Offices for the use and propagation of Official Language Hindi.
 - As the evolution of dialects and languages is dynamic, influenced by socio- economic developments, it is difficult to fix any criterion for languages to be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
 - Since 2018, members of parliament can speak in any of the 22 languages in the 8th schedule after giving a 24-hour prior Notice.
7. Consider the following statements with regards to National Population Register:
1. NPR has been termed as the register of usual residents of the country by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner.
 2. A “usual resident”, for the NPR, is a person who has lived in an area for at least one year or more, or a person who intends to live in an area for the next one year or more.

3. The Registrar General of Citizen Registration would be responsible for providing the notification regarding the duration of the enumeration in the Official Gazette.

Options:

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The National Population Register (NPR) 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 levels 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 six months or more or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next six months or more.
- The objective of the NPR is to create a comprehensive identity database of every usual resident in the country. The database would contain demographic as well as biometric particulars.

- The Registrar General of Citizen Registration shall notify the period and duration of the enumeration in the Official Gazette.

8. Consider the following statements, with regard to Green Day Ahead Market (GDAM):

- 1. Any renewable energy generating company can set up and sell renewable energy on the exchange with GDAM.
- 2. India is the only large electricity market in the world to implement a GDAM exclusively for Renewable Energy.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Recently, the Union Minister of Power & New and Renewable Energy has launched the new market segment, Green Day Ahead Market (GDAM) at the Indian Energy Exchange.
- India is the only large electricity market in the world to implement a Green Day Ahead Market (GDAM) exclusively for renewable energy.
- GDAM is a marketplace for trading renewable power on a day-ahead basis.

- National Load Despatch Center (NLDC), Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) as the nodal agency has set up the requisite technologies and infrastructure for the launch of the GDAM.
- With GDAM, any renewable energy generating company can set up and sell renewable energy on the exchange.
- It will operate in an integrated way with the conventional day-ahead market.
- However, there will be separate price discoveries for the conventional and renewables.

9. Consider the following, with regard to chemical properties of Methane:

1. It is called marsh gas because it is found at the surface of marshy places.
2. Its incomplete combustion yields carbon black, which is widely used as a reinforcing agent in rubber used for automobile tires.
3. It is responsible for creating ground-level ozone, a dangerous air pollutant.

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:

- Methane is the simplest hydrocarbon, consisting of one carbon atom and four

Hydrogen Atoms (CH_4). It is a powerful Greenhouse Gas.

- It is flammable, and is used as a fuel worldwide.
- Methane is called marsh gas because it is found at the surface of marshy places.

Major Uses:

- It is an important source of hydrogen and some organic chemicals.
- It reacts with steam at high temperatures to yield carbon monoxide and hydrogen; the latter is used in the manufacture of ammonia for fertilizers and explosives.
- The incomplete combustion of methane yields carbon black, which is widely used as a reinforcing agent in rubber used for automobile tires.

Environmental Impact of Methane:

- It is 84 times more potent than carbon dioxide and doesn't last as long in the atmosphere before it breaks down. This makes it a critical target for reducing global warming more quickly while simultaneously working to reduce other greenhouse gases.
- It is responsible for creating ground-level ozone, a dangerous air pollutant.

10. Consider the following, with regard to Gray langurs:

1. It is listed as endangered under IUCN Red List.
2. They inhabit areas between 2,200-4,000 metres above mean sea level in tropical moist temperate forests only.

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)

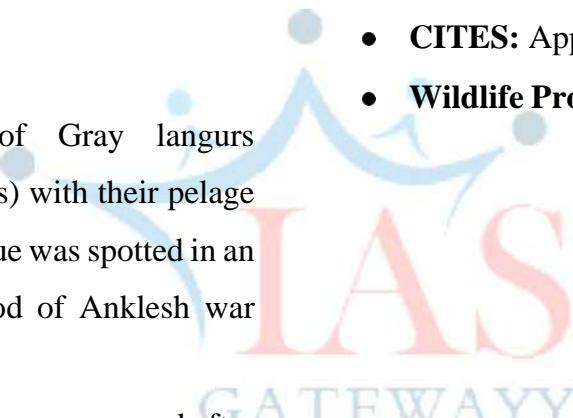
Explanation:

- Recently, A troop of Gray langurs (*Semnopithecus entellus*) with their pelage (fur or hair) coloured blue was spotted in an industrial neighbourhood of Ankleshwar in Gujarat.
- Also called Hanuman, Langur, named after the Hindu god, Hanuman.
- Its 16 subspecies' range extends from the Himalayas in the north to peninsular India in the south.
- It is grey washed with buff or silvery shades. Their hands and feet are black and they have long tails for balancing on tree limbs.
- It is found both in forests and near human habitations.

- They inhabit areas between 2,200-4,000 metres above mean sea level in the subtropical, tropical moist temperate, alpine, coniferous and broadleaved forests and scrublands. Hence, statement 2 is not correct.
- It is distributed in a varied habitat including dry savannah and tropical rainforests.
- In the Indian Subcontinent, their distribution is reported in Bhutan, northern India and Nepal.

Protection Status:

- **IUCN Red List:** Least Concern
- **CITES:** Appendix-I
- **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972:** Schedule-I



1. Justice B.N. Srikrishna Committee, sometimes seen in news is related to
 - (a) Judicial Reforms
 - (b) Citizenship Amendment Act
 - (c) Data Privacy
 - (d) Non-Performing Assets

Answer: c)

Explanation:

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

second were social media services such as Facebook and Instagram.

- The committee'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”.

2. With respect to the MGNREGA, which of the statement(s) is/are correct?
 1. The primary objective of the scheme is to guarantee 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related both skilled and unskilled manual work.
 2. Wages must be paid according to the statutory minimum wages specified for agricultural labourers in the state under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.
 3. The act mandates Gram Sabhas to recommend the works that are to be undertaken and at least 50% of the works must be executed by them.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- MGNREGA is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world.

- The primary objective of the scheme is to guarantee 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do **public work-related unskilled manual work only**. So **statement 1 is not correct**.
- Unlike earlier employment guarantee schemes, the act aims at addressing the causes of chronic poverty through a rights-based framework.
- At least one-third of beneficiaries have to be women.
- Wages must be paid according to the statutory minimum wages specified for agricultural labourers in the state under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948.**So statement 2 is correct.**
- The most important part of MGNREGA's design is its legally-backed guarantee for any rural adult to get work within 15 days of demanding it, failing which an 'unemployment allowance' must be given.
- This demand-driven scheme enables the self-selection of workers.
- There is an emphasis on strengthening the process of decentralisation by giving a significant role in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in planning and implementing these works.
- The act mandates Gram Sabhas to recommend the works that are to be undertaken and at least 50% of the works

must be executed by them. **So statement 3 is correct.**

3. Consider the following statements:

Statement 1: Supplementary Grant is granted when a need has arisen during the current financial year for additional expenditure upon some new service not contemplated in the budget for that year.

Statement 2: It is specified by the Article 115 of the constitution of India, along with Additional and Excess Grants.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct and Statement 2 is the correct explanation of Statement 1
- Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are correct and Statement 2 is not the correct explanation of Statement 1
- Statement 1 is correct but Statement 2 is not correct
- Statement 1 is not correct but Statement 2 is correct

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- **Supplementary Grant:** It is granted when the amount authorised by the Parliament through the appropriation act for a
- **Particular service for the current financial year is found to be insufficient for that year.** It is specified by the Article

115 of the constitution of India, along with Additional and Excess Grants.

- **Other Grants:** In addition to the budget that contains the ordinary estimates of income and expenditure for one financial year, various other grants are made by the Parliament under extraordinary or special circumstances. Apart from Supplementary Grants, these include:

✓ **Additional Grant:** It is granted when a need has arisen during the current financial year for **additional expenditure upon some new service** not contemplated in the budget for that year.

✓ **Excess Grant:** It is granted when money has been spent on any service during a financial year in excess of the amount granted for that service in the budget for that year.

✓ It is voted by the Lok Sabha after the financial year. Before the demands for excess grants are submitted to the Lok Sabha for voting, they must be approved by the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament.

✓ **Vote of Credit:** It is granted for meeting an unexpected demand upon the resources of India, when on account ✓ of the magnitude or the indefinite character of the service, the demand cannot be stated with the details ordinarily given in a budget. Hence, it

is like a blank cheque given to the Executive by the Lok Sabha.

✓ **Exceptional Grant:** It is granted for a special purpose and forms no part of the current service of any financial year.

✓ **Token Grant:** It is granted when funds to meet the proposed expenditure on a new service can be made available by reappropriation. A demand for the grant of a token sum (of Re 1) is submitted to the vote of the Lok Sabha and if assented, funds are made available. Reappropriation involves transfer of funds from one head to another. It does not involve any additional expenditure.

- Votes on account, votes of credit and exceptional grants are specified in Article 116 of the constitution.
- Supplementary, additional, excess and exceptional grants and vote of credit are regulated by the same procedure which is applicable in the case of a regular budget.

4. With respect to the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019, it divides personal data into three parts. Which of the statement(s) given below is/are correct?

1. The umbrella group is all personal data, the data from which an individual can be identified.
2. Sensitive personal data (SPD) are which the government at any time can comprehend something crucial and has

- given examples as military or national security data.
3. Another subset of personal data is critical personal data which the Bill defines as financial, health, sexual orientation, biometric, genetic, transgender status, caste, religious belief and more.

Select the correct answer from the code given below:

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

Answer: a)

Explanation:

- To legislate on the topic, the Bill trifurcates personal data.
- The umbrella group is **all personal data** — data from which an individual can be identified.
- Some types of personal data are considered **sensitive personal data (SPD)**, which the Bill defines as financial, health, sexual orientation, biometric, genetic, transgender status, caste, religious belief and more.
- Another subset of personal data is **critical personal data**. The government at any time can comprehend something critical and has given examples as military or national security data.

5. In context to G20 Climate Risk Atlas, consider the following statements:
1. Heatwaves could last at least ten times longer in all the G20 countries.
 2. Annual rainfall in India is likely to record a drastic decline by 2050 with an 8% to 19.3% decrease in all emission scenarios.
 3. Even in the medium-emission scenario, the maximum temperature of the warmest month in India could rise by at least 1.2°C between 2036-65.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- Recently, a report named G20 Climate Risk Atlas from the Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change (CMCC) has said that G20 (Group of 20) countries including the wealthiest like the US, European countries, and Australia will bear extreme impacts of climate change over the coming years.

Impact on G20 Countries:

- Heatwaves: Heatwaves could last at least ten times longer in all G20 countries, with heatwaves in Argentina, Brazil and Indonesia lasting over 60 times longer by 2050.

- GDP Loss: GDP losses due to climate damage in G20 countries increase each year, rising to at least 4% annually by 2050. This can reach over 8% by 2100, equivalent to twice the bloc's economic losses from Covid-19.

Impact on India:

Emission Scenarios:

- Low Emission (emissions lower than in present): Projected temperature variations will remain contained under 1.5 degree celsius, both by 2050 and 2100.
- Medium Emission (same as present): Between 2036 and 2065, the maximum temperature of the warmest month in India could rise by at least 1.2°C in a medium emission pathway. High Emission (higher than present): By 2050 under a high emission scenario average temperature could rise to 2 degree celsius.
- **Rainfall:** Annual rainfall is likely to record a steep increase by 2050 with an 8% to 19.3% increase in all emission scenarios.

6. Consider the following statements:

1. According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), since 2010, the USA has been the source of more than half of all Indian arms imports.
2. The US provides only non-lethal defence technology weapons to India and Russia provides high-end technology weapons.

- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- 1 only
 - 2 only
 - Both 1 and 2
 - Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: b)

Explanation:

India-Russia's Military Relations:

- **Indian Dependence:** According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), since 2010, Russia has been the source of nearly two-thirds (62%) of all Indian arms imports.
- Further, India has been the largest Russian arms importer, accounting for nearly one-third (32%) of all Russian arms exports.
- **Favourable Russian Military Exports to India:** Much of Russia's influence in India comes through its willingness to provide weapons systems and technologies that no other country will export to India.
- The US only provides non-lethal defence technology like C-130j Super Hercules, C-13 Globemaster, P-8i Poseidon etc, while Russia provides high-end technology like Brahmos supersonic missile, S-400 anti-missile system. Russia also continues to offer advanced weapons platforms at relatively attractive rates.

7. Consider the following, with regard river Periyar:

1. It originates from the Sivagiri hills of Western Ghats.
2. Muthirapuzha, Cheruthoni, Perinjankutti are its tributaries.
3. Mullaperiyar Dam is located on it.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: d)

Explanation:

- The Periyar River is the longest river in the state of Kerala with a length of 244 km.
- It is also known as the ‘Lifeline of Kerala’ as it is one of the few perennial rivers in the state. Periyar River originates from the Sivagiri hills of Western Ghats, in Tamil Nadu and flows through the Periyar National Park.
- The main tributaries of Periyar are Muthirapuzha, Mullayar, Cheruthoni, Perinjankutti.
- It is located in the State of Assam and covers 42,996 Hectare (ha). It is the single largest undisturbed and representative area in the Brahmaputra Valley floodplain.
- Mullaperiyar Dam is located on the confluence of the Mullayar and Periyar rivers in Kerala’s Idukki district.

8. Consider the following statements:

1. The Solicitor General of India is allowed to Represent Private Clients.
 2. The remuneration of the Solicitor General of India is not fixed by the Constitution.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both
 - (d) None

Answer: c)

Explanation:

- The Solicitor General of India is subordinate to the Attorney General of India. He/she is the second law officer of the country, assists the Attorney General, and is assisted by Additional Solicitors General for India.
- The Solicitor General is not a Government servant and is not debarred from private legal practice i.e, he/she is allowed to represent private clients.
- The remuneration of the Solicitor General of India is not fixed by the Constitution. He/she receives such remuneration as the President may so determine.

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

1. China is the world’s largest aluminium producer.
2. Bauxite is the main source of alumina production.

3. Bauxite has been found in all continents except Antarctica.

Options:

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

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:

- China is the world's largest aluminium producer by far, accounting for around 50% of the world's aluminium production.
- Bauxite ore is the world's primary source of aluminium. The ore must first be chemically processed to produce alumina (aluminium oxide). Alumina is then smelted using an electrolysis process to produce pure aluminium metal. Bauxite is typically found in topsoil located in various tropical and subtropical regions.
- Aluminium is the third most abundant element on Earth's surface. Bauxite has been found in all the world's continents except Antarctica.

10. With reference to 'Agenda 21', sometimes seen in the news, consider the following statements:

- It is a global action plan for sustainable development.
- It originated in the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2002.