

**UPSC NOVEMBER- 2019**  
**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS CLASS TEST - 01**

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1. '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.

2. Article 124 of the Indian Constitution deals with which of the following?

- (a) Appointment of Supreme Court Judges
- (b) Appointment of ad hoc Judges
- (c) Seat of Supreme Court
- (d) Original jurisdiction of the Supreme Court

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

Article 124 of the Constitution of India provides the matter of appointing judges of the Supreme Court.

Though no specific provision exists in the Constitution for appointing the Chief Justice, who as a result, is appointed like the other judges conventionally, the outgoing CJI recommends the name of the senior-most judge (i.e. by date of appointment to the Supreme Court) for appointment by the President of India, as his successor.

3. 'Gadgil Committee Report' and 'Kasturirangan Committee Report', sometimes seen in the news, are related to

- (a) Constitutional reforms
- (b) Ganga Action Plan
- (c) Linking of rivers
- (d) Protection of Western Ghats

**Answer: d)**

4. Consider the following statements regarding UNFCCC:

- 1. It is an international treaty which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- 2. Kyoto protocol was signed under the framework of UNFCCC.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

The UNFCCC, signed in 1992 at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development also known as the Earth Summit, the Rio Summit or the Rio Conference. It is an international treaty which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. So, statement 1 is true.

In 1997, third meeting of UNFCCC has happened (also known as COP3). In this meeting Kyoto Protocol was created. So, statement 2 is also correct.

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5. Consider the following statements regarding International Solar Alliance (ISA):

1. ISA was launched during COP 21 of UNFCCC in 2015 which took place at Paris, France.
2. It is a de-jure treaty based International Intergovernmental Organization, headquartered at New York.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was launched on 30th November 2015 in Paris as an inter-governmental treaty organisation by India and France. (During COP 21). So, statement 1 is correct.

It is a de-jure treaty based International Intergovernmental Organization, headquartered at Gurugram, India. So, statement 2 is incorrect.

6. In India, markets in agricultural products are regulated under the

- (a) Essential Commodities Act, 1955
- (b) Agricultural Produce Market Committee Act enacted by States
- (c) Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937
- (d) Food Products Order, 1956 and Meat and Food Products Order, 1973

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

Agricultural Produce Market Committee Acts of respective states are responsible for markets in agricultural products.

7. Which one of the following countries of South-West Asia does not open out to the Mediterranean Sea?

- (a) Syria
- (b) Jordan
- (c) Lebanon
- (d) Israel

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

Jordan does not open out to the Mediterranean Sea.

8. 'IBA100' recently seen in news is referred to

- (a) Newly discovered element
- (b) Indian Brain Atlas
- (c) Missile jointly developed by Israel and Brazil
- (d) Vaccine for Dengue

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

IIIT-Hyderabad has created the first Indian brain atlas named IBA100.

The Indian brain atlas reveals that Indian brain is smaller in height, width, and volume compared to the western and eastern populations.

This study will help in the early diagnosis of brain diseases like Alzheimer's.

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9. Which of the following cities are included in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN)?

1. Varanasi
2. Jaipur
3. Madurai
4. Mumbai
5. Hyderabad

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

Recently Hyderabad and Mumbai were included under the categories of Gastronomy and Film.

Other cities included in the UCCN are Varanasi (Music), Jaipur (Crafts and Folk Art) and Chennai (Music).

(d) All of the above

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

The GHI ranks countries on a 100-point scale, with 0 being the best score (no hunger) and 100 being the worst. Values less than 10 reflect low hunger, values from 20 to 34.9 indicate serious hunger; values from 35 to 49.9 are alarming; and values of 50 or more are extremely alarming.

The report is a peer-reviewed publication released annually by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide.

The GHI scores are based on a formula that captures three dimensions of hunger—insufficient caloric intake, child under nutrition, and child mortality—using four component indicators.

India is ranked 102 of 117 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2019, behind its neighbours Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

10. Consider the following statements with regard to Global Hunger Index:

1. High Income countries are not taken for ranking under the index.
2. India was ranked serious category in this index.
3. India was well behind Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh.

Which of the following above statements is/are correct?

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

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1. Tapan Ray Committee recently seen in the news recently was constituted for which of the following purposes?

- (a) To suggest for revamping of PM National Disaster Relief Fund
- (b) To study issues in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act
- (c) To review the framework for Core Investment Companies
- (d) To bring reforms in the banking sector

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up a working group to review the regulatory and supervisory framework for core investment companies (CIC).

The group will be headed by Tapan Ray, non-executive chairman, Central Bank of India and former Secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

2. Consider the following statements regarding Chief Justice of High Court:

- 1. Chief Justice of India (CJI) can appoint a judge of a high court as an acting chief justice of the high court.
- 2. A judge who retired as an Acting Chief Justice of a High Court can claim the pension of a regular Chief Justice (CJ).

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

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

Only The President can appoint a judge of a high court as an acting chief justice of the high court.

The Supreme Court has recently ruled that a judge who retired as an Acting Chief Justice of a High Court cannot claim the pension of a regular Chief Justice (CJ).

SC held that an Acting CJ needs to be given the pension of a CJ only for the period for which he served as a CJ and not more.

Only for the limited purpose of salary, such an Acting Chief Justice is treated on a par with the Chief Justice and not for any other purpose, more particularly pension.

3. Recently which of the following country released the special commemorative stamp on 'Ramayana'?

- (a) Malaysia
- (b) Sri Lanka
- (c) Indonesia
- (d) Thailand

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

Indonesia has released a special commemorative stamp on the theme of Ramayana to mark the 70th anniversary of establishment of its diplomatic ties with India.

A specially signed version of the stamp will be on display at the Philately Museum in Jakarta.

4. 'RCEP' includes which of the following countries?

- 1. Australia
- 2. New Zealand
- 3. India

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- 4. US
- 5. Australia
- 6. China

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

Select the correct answer from the codes given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 only
- (d) All the above

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

RCEP is proposed between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (Brunei, Burma [Myanmar], Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) and the six states with which ASEAN has existing FTAs (Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand).

5. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Electoral Bonds':

1. Electoral bonds will allow donors to pay political parties using banks as an intermediary.
2. Electoral bonds may be purchased by a citizen of India, or entities incorporated or established in India.
3. A person being an individual can buy electoral bonds, either singly or jointly with other individuals.

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

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

All the statements are correct.

6. Consider the following statements regarding electoral bonds in India:

1. Only the political parties that has secured at least one per cent of the votes polled in the most recent election are eligible to receive these bonds.
2. Private companies are not eligible to donate electoral bonds.

Choose the correct statement using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

Every party that is registered under section 29A of the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) and has secured at least one per cent of the votes polled in the most recent Lok Sabha or State election has been allotted a verified account by the Election Commission of India. Electoral bond transactions can be made only via this account. So, statement 1 is correct.

Private companies are also eligible to donate to political parties through electoral bonds. So, statement 2 is incorrect.

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7. Consider the following statements regarding National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB):

1. It is a statutory body created under the provisions of RTI Act, 2005.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

Choose the correct statement using the code given below:

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

It has been created by a government resolution based on the recommendations of the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Task force (1985). So, statement 1 is incorrect.

NCRB, headquartered in New Delhi, was set-up in 1986 under the Ministry of Home Affairs to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators. So, Statement 2 is incorrect.

8. Building 'Kalyaana Mandapas' was a notable feature in the temple construction in the kingdom of

- (a) Chalukya
- (b) Chandela
- (c) Rashtrakuta
- (d) Vijayanagara

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

Vijayanagara School: More than one mandaps were built in each temple. The central mandap came to be known as Kalyan Mandap.

9. Right to Privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty. Which of the following in the Constitution of India correctly and appropriately imply the above statement?

- (a) Article 14 and the provisions under the 42<sup>nd</sup> Amendment to the Constitution.
- (b) Article 17 and the Directive Principles of State Policy in Part IV
- (c) Article 21 and the freedoms guaranteed in Part III
- (d) Article 24 and the provisions under the 44<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution.

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

Article 21 guarantees the Right to life and personal liberty under Part III of the Constitution. The historic fallout of the nine-judge Bench judgment, declaring privacy as intrinsic to life and liberty and an inherent right protected by Part III of the Constitution, is that an ordinary man can now directly approach the Supreme Court and the High Courts for violation of his fundamental right under the Constitution. By making privacy an intrinsic part of life and liberty under Article 21, it is not just a citizen, but anyone, whether an Indian national or not, can move the constitutional courts of the land under Articles 32 and 226, respectively, to get justice.

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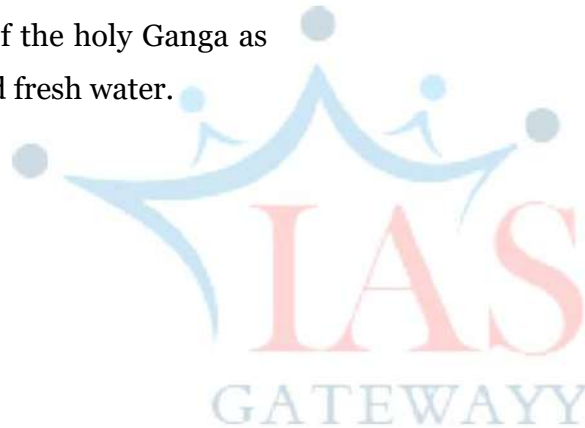
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10. Which one of the following is the national aquatic animal of India?
- (a) River Dolphin
  - (b) Olive ridley turtle
  - (c) Gangetic Dolphin
  - (d) Gharial

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

The Gangetic dolphins have been declared as the National Aquatic Animal of India. River Dolphin is the National Aquatic Animal of India. The Ministry of Environment and Forests notified the Ganges River Dolphin as the National Aquatic Animal on 18th May 2010. This mammal is also said to represent the purity of the holy Ganga as it can only survive in pure and fresh water.



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1. The term "lonewolf attack" recently in news refers to
- (a) A kind of gene editing technology
  - (b) Melting of largest glacier in Arctic region
  - (c) Individuals undertaking violent acts of terrorism outside a command structure.
  - (d) None of the above

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** The term lone wolf is used to distinguish terrorist actions carried out by individuals from those coordinated by large groups

2. Consider the following statements regarding Dhanush, which is recently in news:

- 1. It is the first indigenous artillery gun produced in India.
- 2. It is indigenously upgraded variant of the Swedish-Bofors gun.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

Dhanush is the first indigenous artillery gun with a calibre of 155mm x 45mm. It is the first long range artillery gun to be produced in India, having a range of 38 km. So, statement 1 is correct.

Dhanush is the indigenously upgraded variant of the Swedish-Bofors gun imported in the 1980s. So, statement 2 is also correct.

3. Consider the following Statements about Indian Border

- 1. India has the largest land border with Bangladesh
- 2. Indo-Bangladesh border is guarded by Assam Rifles

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

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** Bangladesh has a 4,096 kilometres border with India. It is guarded by the Border Security Force

4. "SILAM" is a model for explaining

- (a) Ozone hole Size
- (b) Chemical Pollutant Dispersal
- (c) Unemployment to inflation ratio trend
- (d) Industrial Solid Waste treatment

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:** SILAM is a global-to-meso-scale dispersion model developed for atmospheric composition, air quality, and emergency decision support applications, as well as for inverse dispersion problem solution.

5. Consider the following statements regarding IRNSS:

- 1. IRNSS system consists of 4 Geosynchronous satellites and 3 geostationary satellites.
- 2. IRNSS-1I was the last satellite that was launched in the IRNSS series.



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Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

It is a constellation of total 7 satellite launched in space and a ground facility on land to receive signals from space satellites. 3 of its satellite Located in Geostationary orbit and 4 are inclined to geosynchronous orbit. However full NAVIC system has 9 satellite, 2 on ground in standby mode. So, the statement 1 is correct.

IRNSS-1I was launched last year to replace India's first navigation satellite IRNSS-1A, whose three Rubidium atomic clocks had stopped working. It was also the last satellite to be launched in the IRNSS series. So, statement 2 is also correct.

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Elephant Bonds:

1. Elephant Bonds are issued under the recommendation of Surjit S Bhalla Committee.
2. This bond is issued to those people who declare their previously undisclosed income.
3. The fund gathered by the issuance of these bonds is utilized to finance infrastructure projects only.

Which of the statement(s) given below are correct?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

A High-Level Advisory Group on Trade Policy (HLAG) headed by Surjit S Bhalla has recently suggested the government to issue 'Elephant Bonds' which would recover up to \$500 billion of black money that has been stashed overseas.

An Elephant Bond is a 25-year sovereign bond (a bond issued by a national government).

This bond is issued to those people who declare their previously undisclosed income and are then bound to invest 50% of that amount in these securities.

The fund gathered by the issuance of these bonds is utilized to finance infrastructure projects only which was recommended by the HLAG.

One of the key features of the proposed mechanism is that those disclosing their black money will receive immunity from all local laws including those under foreign exchange, black money laws, and taxation laws.

7. 'Bill and Keep' sometimes seen in news refer to

- (a) It is the charge payable between the network providers.
- (b) Agreement between the network providers to terminate calls from one to other network at no charge.

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- (c) It is the agreement between the telecom sector and GOI to manage the customer services.
- (d) None of the above

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

According to the OECD, Bill and Keep is defined as "A pricing scheme for the two-way interconnection of two networks under which the reciprocal call termination charge is zero - that is, each network agrees to terminate calls from the other network at no charge".

Bill and keep represents a modern approach to interconnection charging in which the networks recover their costs only from their own customers rather than from the sending network.

8. Which one of the following statements is/are not correct about Cyclones?

1. The Sea Surface Temperatures (SST) was higher than normal over the Arabian Sea since October, towards the culmination of the southwest monsoon season.
2. Higher SSTs favour the formation of ocean systems like depression that can, over a short period of time, intensify into cyclones or super cyclones while at sea.
3. The occurrence of cyclones is more frequent and common in the Arabian Sea compared to the Bay of Bengal.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

The Sea Surface Temperatures (SST) was higher than normal over the Arabian Sea since October, towards the culmination of the southwest monsoon season.

Generally, such higher SSTs favour the formation of ocean systems like depression that can, over a short period of time, intensify into cyclones or super cyclones while at sea.

The occurrence of cyclones is more frequent and common in the Bay of Bengal compared to the Arabian Sea.

However, in recent years, the latter has also seen its share of cyclones. In 2019, four cyclones have formed over the Arabian Sea.

This growing cyclogenesis and formation of intense cyclones in the Arabian Sea could be linked to global warming and is seen as an effect of climate change.

9. 'Glyphosate', recently seen in news is referred to
- (a) A Compound present in herbicides.
  - (b) Newly found dwarf planet
  - (c) Medicine for arthritis
  - (d) A Gas which is found in mesosphere

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

German pharma company Bayer is facing thousands of lawsuits over its herbicides for their alleged cancer risks.

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The herbicides are based on a compound called glyphosate. First developed in 1970, glyphosate is scientifically N-(phosphonomethyl) glycine under the IUPAC system of nomenclature.

It is applied to the leaves of plants to kill weeds. It is widely used in India, too.

This weed killer in India goes by various brand names, including Roundup, Glycel, and Brake. In 2015, the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) published a study that found glyphosate is "probably carcinogenic to humans"

in the environment health policy and deaths due to air pollution categories.

The 10<sup>th</sup> EPI report ranks 180 countries on 24 performance indicators across 10 categories covering environmental health and ecosystem vitality. The EPI said air quality remains the leading environmental threat to public health

10. 'Environmental Performance Index' was released by

- (a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (b) Greenpeace International
- (c) United Nations Environment Programme
- (d) None of the Above

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

India is among the bottom five countries on the Environmental Performance Index 2018, plummeting 36 points from 141 in 2016, according to a biennial report by Yale and Columbia Universities along with the World Economic Forum.

While India is at the bottom of the list in the environmental health category, it ranks 178 out of 180 as far as air quality is concerned

Its overall low ranking — 177 among 180 countries — was linked to poor performance

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1. The term ICEDASH has been recently in News. It refers to

- (a) Cryogenic technology deployed by ISRO
- (b) Arctic Ice cutting ship by Russia
- (c) Ease of Doing Business monitoring dashboard of the Indian Customs
- (d) Broken piece of iceberg from Antarctic

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** ICEDASH is an Ease of Doing Business monitoring dashboard of the Indian Customs helping the public see the daily Customs clearance times of import cargo at various ports and airports.

2. Which of the following countries are the 'free-trade partners' of ASEAN?

- 1. Australia
- 2. Canada
- 3. China
- 4. India
- 5. Japan
- 6. USA

Choose the correct answer using code given below:

- (a) 1, 2, 4 and 5
- (b) 3, 4, 5 and 6
- (c) 1, 3, 4 and 5
- (d) 2, 3, 4 and 6

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** RCEP about ASEAN plus its free trade partners which includes: China, India, Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

Canada (#2) and USA (#6) is definitely not there.

So, A, B and D are removed. Thus, by elimination, we are left with Answer C.

3. Consider the following about Shanghai Cooperation Organization

- 1. While India has been given membership of SCO, Pakistan remains a Dialogue partner
- 2. The Council of Heads of State is the top decision-making body in the SCO

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

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** Both countries are members of SCO

4. "Adolescents, Diets and Nutrition: Growing Well in a Changing World" report was released by which of the following organisation / Institution?

- (a) Medicos Sans Frontiers
- (b) UNICEF
- (c) UNESCO
- (d) IMF

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:** As per the report "Adolescents, Diets and Nutrition: Growing Well in a Changing World 2019" released by UNICEF more than 80 % of adolescents in India suffer from "hidden hunger" (a form of undernutrition), and less than 10 % of boys and girls eat fruits and eggs daily.

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5. “Global Microscope: The enabling environment for Financial Inclusion” report is published by

- (a) The Economist Intelligence Unit
- (b) Financial Action Task Force
- (c) World Bank
- (d) International Monetary Fund

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** The Economist Intelligence Unit has released the 2019 edition of “Global Microscope: The enabling environment for Financial Inclusion report”.

As per the report, India was placed at the 5th spot in the nations having the most conducive environments for inclusive finance.

6. Consider the following statements with respect to Cyclone Maha:

- 1. Cyclone was developed in Bay of Bengal
- 2. The name was given by Kuwait

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

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** Cyclone was developed in Arabian Sea. The name was given by Oman

7. Some Buddhist rock-cut caves are called Chaityas, while the others are called Viharas. What is the difference between the two?

- (a) Vihara is a place of worship, while Chaitya is the dwelling place of the monks

(b) Chaitya is a place of worship, while Vihara is the dwelling place of the monks

(c) Chaitya is the stupa at the far end of the cave, while Vihara is the hall axial to it

(d) There is no material difference between the two

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:** Chaityas refer to the halls enclosing the stupas. Chaityas were probably constructed to hold large numbers of devotees for prayer. Viharas on the other hand are constructions built in ancient India in order to provide resting places for the wandering Buddhist monks.

8. Consider the following statements with regard to Environment Pollution Control Board

1. It is mainly created to protect and control environment pollution in National Capital Region.

2. It enforces Graded Response Action Plan in all states of India as per the pollution level.

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

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** EPCA was constituted with the objective of ‘protecting and improving’ the quality of the environment and ‘controlling environmental pollution’ in the National Capital Region. To enforce Graded

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Response Action Plan (GRAP) in NCR as per the pollution levels.

water body. All the water entering Danakil evaporates, and no streams flow out from its extreme environment. It is covered with more than 10 lakh tonnes of salt.

9. Which of the following countries involve in joint Exercise 'Dustlik 2019'
- (a) India and United States
  - (b) India and Maldives
  - (c) India and Sri Lanka
  - (d) India and Uzbekistan

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** Dustlik 2019 will be conducted for about ten days in November 2019 at Tashkent. This is a joint exercise of the armies of India and Uzbekistan.

The exercise will enable sharing of best practices and experiences between the Armed Forces of the two countries and would lead to greater operational effectiveness.

The primary focus will be on counterterrorism.

10. The "Danakil Depression" which is considered hostile even for Extremophile microbes is in
- (a) Sudan
  - (b) Kenya
  - (c) Ethiopia
  - (d) Somalia

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** The Danakil Depression in north eastern Ethiopia is one of the world's hottest places, as well as one of its lowest, at 100 metres below sea level. At the northern end of the Great Rift Valley, and separated by live volcanoes from the Red Sea, the plain was formed by the evaporation of an inland

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1. Consider the following statements regarding “Skills Build platform”:

1. It is launched by Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship in collaboration with Wipro.
2. This digital platform was launched to provide personal assessment of the cognitive capabilities and personality of the students.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

“Skills Build platform” was launched by Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship in Collaboration with IBM.

So, Statement 1 is incorrect.

This digital platform will provide a personal assessment of the cognitive capabilities and personality of the students. So, Statement 2 is correct.

2. Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS), recently in news is signed between India and

- (a) Russia
- (b) U.S.A
- (c) Japan
- (d) Vietnam

**Answer: (a)**

**Explanation:**

India and Russia are finalising a defence agreement named “Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS)” that will simplify interoperability and enable military platforms to receive support and supplies across bases in both nations.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the NASA’s Voyager 2:

1. Voyager 2 is the only probe ever to study Neptune and Uranus during planetary flybys.
2. It is the only spacecraft to have visited all four gas giant planets – Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.
3. Voyager spacecraft has confirmed that the plasma inside the heliosphere is denser than the plasma in local interstellar space.

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

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

Voyager spacecraft has confirmed that the plasma inside the heliosphere is significantly less dense and less cold than the plasma in local interstellar space.

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4. Consider the following statements regarding the National Health Profile (NHP)-2019

1. Socio-economic indicators and demographic indicators are part of the profile.
2. Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) accounted for majority of morbidity last year in the non-communicable disease category.

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

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

The NHP highlights substantial health information under major indicators viz. demographic indicators (population and vital statistics), socio-economic indicators (education, employment, housing and amenities, drinking water and sanitation) and health status indicators (incidence and prevalence of common communicable and non-communicable diseases and RCH), etc.

It was released for the first time in 2005. 2019 is the 14th year the NHP is being released. A digital version of the report was also released.

Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI) accounted for 69.47% (majority) of morbidity last year which was the highest in the communicable disease category.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. Dwarf Planets are celestial objects orbiting the Sun that are large enough for their gravity to pull them into a spherical shape.
2. Names of celestial bodies are finally approved by a committee at the International Astronomical Union (IAU).

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:**

Minor planets or dwarf planets are celestial objects orbiting the Sun that are not large enough for their gravity to pull them into a spherical shape.

Names of celestial bodies are finally approved by a committee at the International Astronomical Union (IAU), a global organisation of professional astronomers, which also decides on definitions of fundamental astronomical and physical constants.

In the case of small Solar System bodies, the discoverer has the privilege to suggest the name.

The discoverer holds this privilege for 10 years since the discovery.

But there is a process to be followed, and not all names are acceptable.



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6. The Drukpa Lineage, recently in news is
- (a) Matriarchal Lineage in Arunachal Pradesh
  - (b) A thousand-year-old Buddhist tradition that began in the Himalayas.
  - (c) A lineage in South India which has hereditary disease, whose DNA has been decoded
  - (d) None of the above

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

Union Minister of State for Tourism and Culture met the Kung Fu Nuns of the Drukpa Order.

The Kung Fu Nuns recently received the Asia Society's prestigious Game Changer Award in New York for their path-breaking work to empower women and dismantle gender stereotypes in the Himalayas.

7. Global Tuberculosis Report 2019 was recently published by which of the following?
- (a) Food and Agricultural Organisation
  - (b) World Health Organisation
  - (c) Doctors without borders
  - (d) Codex Alimentarius commission

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

According to the Global Tuberculosis Report 2019 released by the World Health Organization (WHO), the world is not on track to reach the 2020 milestones of the 'End TB Strategy'.

8. According to the recently released Waste Land Atlas,
- 1. The changes in wastelands between 2008-09 and 2015-16 have been presented in the Atlas.
  - 2. A reduction in wasteland area was observed in the category of land with dense scrub
  - 3. The wastelands have undergone negative change in the state of Rajasthan

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

The wastelands have undergone positive change in the states of Rajasthan (0.48 Mha), Bihar (0.11 Mha), Uttar Pradesh (0.10 Mha), Andhra Pradesh (0.08 Mha), Mizoram (0.057 Mha), Madhya Pradesh (0.039 Mha), Jammu & Kashmir (0.038 Mha) and West Bengal (0.032 Mha).

9. Recently unveiled, the PANNAI app is used for
- (a) Pest-disease Advance Notification
  - (b) PAN India LPG connection Mobility
  - (c) Particulate and Non-Particulate matter pollution monitoring
  - (d) Remote Sensing

**Answer: a)**

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**Explanation:**

Pannai, a new mobile app for pest-disease warning, developed by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF). Pannai, a new mobile app for pest-disease warning, developed by the M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF).

**10.** Consider the following statements:

1. The minimum age prescribed for any person to be a member of Panchayat is 25 years.
2. A Panchayat reconstituted after premature dissolution continues only for the remainder period.

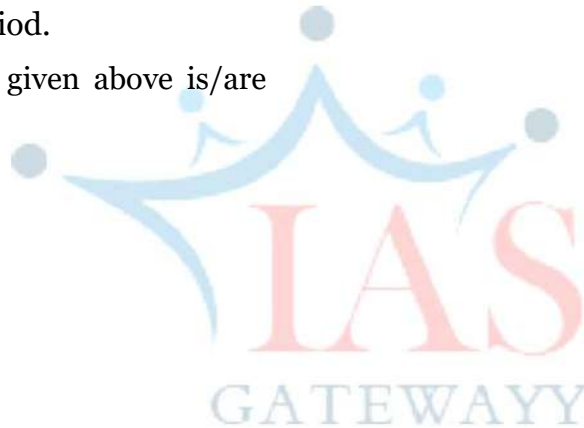
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (b)**

**Explanation:**

The minimum age for contesting elections to panchayats is 21 years. In case of dissolution of Panchayats before expiry of its term, it is mandatory to hold elections within 6 months of its dissolution. Every Panchayat shall continue for full term of 5 years. However, a Panchayat reconstituted after premature dissolution shall continue for only the remainder of the period. If the period is less than 6 months then it is not mandatory to held the elections.



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1. Consider the following about Polluter Pays Principle

1. It states that the producer of pollution should bear the costs of managing it.
2. It is part of the Agenda 21

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

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:** Its part of Rio Declaration of 1992.

Principle 16 states that " National authorities should endeavour to promote the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, taking into account the approach that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, with due regard to the public interest and without distorting international trade and investment.

2. Consider the following about the targets of India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

1. To reduce the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 per cent by 2030 from 2005 level.
2. To achieve about 40 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030
3. To create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent

through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** All the above are factually correct statements about India's NDC commitments

3. Consider the following statements regarding Alzheimer's disease:

1. It is a chronic disease which usually affects the lungs.
2. It is usually spread by Culex mosquitoes.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

It is a progressive brain disorder that typically affects people older than 65. When it affects younger individuals, it is considered early onset. So, Statement 1 is incorrect.

There is no cure for Alzheimer's, because its exact causes are not known. There is a degree of consensus in the scientific community that Alzheimer's involves two proteins, called beta amyloids and tau. When levels of either protein reach abnormal levels in the brain, it

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leads to the formation of plaque, which gets deposited between neurons, damaging and disrupting nerve cells. So, Statement 2 is also incorrect.

4. Consider the following statements regarding National Green Tribunal (NGT):

1. It is created under the provisions of Environmental protection Act, 1986.
2. NGT is supposed to follow the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure 1908.
3. Majority of the cases dealt by NGT falls under the ambit of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

It is a specialized body set up under the National Green Tribunal Act (2010) for effective and expeditious disposal of cases. So, statement 1 is incorrect.

The Tribunal is not bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure 1908, but shall be guided by principles of 'natural justice'. So, Statement 2 is also incorrect.

Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 have been kept out of NGT's jurisdiction. So, statement 3 is also incorrect.

5. Consider the following statements regarding Paris Agreement:

1. This agreement doesn't state any standard procedure for any country leaving the pact.
2. U.S.A cannot join the pact again, once it leaves the Agreement.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

A country can leave the pact through Article 28 of the Paris Agreement which allows countries to leave the Paris Agreement. It also lays down the process for leaving the agreement. So, Statement 1 is incorrect.

It can re-join the agreement whenever it wishes to do so. There is no bar on a country re-joining the Paris Agreement. So, statement 2 is also incorrect.

6. With respect to Kisan Credit Card Scheme, consider the following

1. It was launched to provide formal credit support to the farmers.
2. Commercial Banks are exempted from implementation of the scheme.
3. Animal Husbandry farmers are eligible to get credit under the scheme.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

The Kisan Credit Card Scheme is implemented by Commercial Banks, RRBs, Small Finance Banks and Cooperatives. Hence statement 2 is not correct.

7. Consider the following statements about National Integration Council
1. It is a constitutional body established under article 243.
  2. It is chaired by President of India.
  3. Its Council Members includes representatives of industry, business and trade unions.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** It is an extra-constitutional body, chaired by: Prime Minister of India.

8. Kyasanur Forest disease is endemic to
- (a) North-East India
  - (b) Foot Hills of Himalayas
  - (c) South India
  - (d) Gir Forest surroundings of Gujarat

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** Kyasanur forest disease (KFD) is a tick-borne viral haemorrhagic fever endemic to South India

9. Recently, 'oilzapper' was in the news. What is it?
- (a) It is an eco-friendly technology for the remediation of oil sludge and oil spills.
  - (b) It is the latest technology developed for under- sea oil exploration.
  - (c) It is a genetically engineered high biofuel yielding maize variety.
  - (d) It is the latest technology to control the accidentally caused flames from oil wells.

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** Oilzapper is an eco-friendly technology for the remediation of oil sludge and oil spills.

10. Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is an agreement on the Iranian nuclear program involving Iran and
1. European Union
  2. China
  3. United Kingdom
  4. Germany
  5. France
  6. Russia
- (a) 1,2,4,5 and 6 only
  - (b) 2,3,4,5 and 6 only
  - (c) 3,4,5 and 6 only
  - (d) 1,2,3,4,5 and 6

**Answer: d)**

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**Explanation:** It is an agreement on the Iranian nuclear program reached in Vienna on July 14, 2015, between Iran and the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States—plus Germany) together with the European Union. US has currently withdrawn from it.



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1. Consider the following statements regarding the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF):

1. The CAPF comes under the administrative control of Ministry of defence.
2. It includes the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air force and the Indian Coast Guard.

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

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

The CAPF comes under the administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs.

It includes the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air force and the Indian Coast Guard.

They are the, Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Assam Rifles (AR), National Security Guard (NSG) and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

At present, the Assam Rifles, a Central paramilitary force, is under the administrative control of the MHA and under the operational control of the Army, i.e. the Ministry of Defence.

2. Consider the following statements regarding

1. India's contribution to world's milk production is about 20% as in 2018.
2. India likely to be milk surplus country by next 15 years.
3. If India signed RCEP deal, then it would be a big blow for Dairy farmers.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

All the statements are true regarding as per NITI Aayog Report.

According to NITI Aayog report, India will be milk surplus country in 2033.

3. Choose the incorrect statement regarding East Asia Summit:

- (a) It's a regional forum of 16 countries that meets annually.  
(b) India is the only member among SAARC countries to be a member of EAS.  
(c) It is attended by all the member countries of ASEAN, QUAD and Mekong Ganga Cooperation.  
(d) No Country from Gulf cooperation Council (GCC) and European Union is its member.

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** East Asia Summit consists of 18 countries. ((ASEAN+6) + Russia + USA)

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4. In the context of India Justice Report, 2019, consider the following statements:

1. It was released by the National Crime Records Bureau.
2. The entities are based on the four pillars of justice delivery such as police, judiciary, prisons and legal aid.
3. The report has stated that Maharashtra has topped the report in the large-medium states category.

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

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

The India Justice Report 2019, commissioned by Tata Trusts, was prepared by groups like Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, DAKSH, Tata Institute of Social Sciences - Prayas and Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy.

5. Consider the following statements regarding International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO):

1. ICAO is an Un Specialized agency, established by states in 1944 to manage the administration and governance of the Convention on International Civil Aviation. (Chicago Convention)
2. ICAO has empowered to intervene in the airspace of any country.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

It is not empowered to intervene in the affairs of the country. Recently ICAO said they can't intervene in Pakistan denial of airspace to India.

6. The 'Financial stability Report' is released by

- (a) Reserve Bank of India
- (b) Financial Stability Development Council
- (c) SEBI
- (d) NABARD

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

The Reserve Bank of India recently releases the Financial Stability Report (FSR).

The FSR reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) on risks to financial stability.

It gives a picture of the resilience of the financial system.

The Report also discusses issues relating to the development and regulation of the financial sector.

The report analyses the overall state of the various segments as well as highlights the risk-related issues that could cause potential challenges.



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7. Consider the following statements about Alternative Investment Fund:

1. It is a privately pooled investment vehicle.
2. It is regulated by the SEBI.

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:**

AIF means any fund established in India which is a privately pooled investment vehicle which collects funds from sophisticated investors, whether Indian or foreign, for investing it in accordance with a defined investment policy for the benefit of its investors. It is regulated by the SEBI.

8. The Swiss Formula recently in news refers to

- (a) A mathematical formula designed to cut and harmonize tariff rates in international trade.
- (b) Measuring carbon footprint of industries
- (c) Proposed UNSC Seat sharing methodology
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** The Swiss Formula (by the Swiss Delegation to the WTO) is a suggested method for reducing tariff on non-agricultural goods (NAMA) by both developed and developing countries.

9. The Pradyut Bordoloi vs Swapan Roy case relates to

- (a) Right to privacy
- (b) Office of Profit Guidelines
- (c) Freedom of Speech and Expression
- (d) Decriminalisation of Homosexuality

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:** Supreme Court in Pradyut Bordoloi vs Swapan Roy (2001) outlined the four broad principles for determining whether an office attracts the constitutional disqualification.

10. Consider the following statements:

1. Union Territories are not represented in the Rajya Sabha.
2. It is within the purview of the Chief Election Commissioner to adjudicate the election disputes.
3. According to the Constitution of India, the Parliament consists of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha only.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** None of the above statements are correct

1. Union Territories (Delhi and Pondicherry) are represented in the Rajya Sabha.
2. It is not within the purview of the Chief Election Commissioner to adjudicate

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election disputes. It is the Supreme Court and High Court which look into the disputes.

3. According to the Constitution of India, the Parliament consists of the Lok Sabha the Rajya Sabha and the President of India.



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1. Why ozone hole is formed in Antarctica instead of Arctic Circle?

1. Antarctica is colder than Arctic.
2. More Insolation at Antarctica than Arctic.
3. Ratio of land to water is higher in Antarctica.
4. Ratio of land to water is lower in Antarctica.

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

Stratification occurs at colder temperatures and its facilitated better in land compared to water due to wind dynamics.

2. In which of the following river tribunals is the government of Karnataka a party to?

1. Cauvery
2. Mandovi / Mahadayi
3. Godavari
4. Narmada
5. Krishna
6. Vamsadhara

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1,2,3,4  
(b) 1,2,3,5  
(c) 1,3,5,6  
(d) 1,2,4,6

**Answer: b)**

3. Consider the following statements regarding Moody Ratings to India.

1. Moody Ratings are officially provided by Niti Aayog of India.
2. AS per the recent ratings, India's rating has been upgraded from Negative to Stable.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

Moody's Investors Service, often referred to as Moody's, is the bond credit rating business of Moody's Corporation. They provide international financial research on bonds issued by commercial and government entities. So, Statement 1 is incorrect.

Global ratings agency Moody's Investors Service has recently cut India's ratings outlook to 'negative' from 'stable' but affirmed the Baa2 foreign-currency and local-currency long-term issuer ratings. So, Statement 2 is incorrect.

4. Consider the following statements regarding 'Environmental Modification Convention' which was seen in news recently.

1. It aims to prohibit the use of environmental modification techniques as a means of warfare.

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2. India will ratify the convention in January 2020

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

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

India Ratified this Convention in 1978

5. Recently, volcanic eruption created new island in Tongan archipelago. Its present in

- (a) Pacific Ocean
- (b) Indian Ocean
- (c) Atlantic Ocean
- (d) Arctic Ocean

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** Tongan archipelago

6. With reference to the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI), consider the following statements:

1. OCI is a person who was a citizen of India on or after January 26, 1950; or was eligible to become a citizen of India on that date; or who is a child or grandchild of such a person, among other eligibility criteria.
2. An applicant is not eligible for the OCI card if he, his parents or grandparents have ever been a citizen of Pakistan or Bangladesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** Both statements are facts

7. Fordow Nuclear Plant, recently seen in news is in

- (a) Iran
- (b) Russia
- (c) North Korea
- (d) China

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** Iran resumed uranium enrichment at its underground Fordow nuclear facility.

8. What is cas9 protein that is often mentioned in news?

- (a) A molecular scissors used in targeted gene editing.
- (b) A biosensor used in the accurate detection of pathogens in patients.
- (c) A gene that makes plants pest-resistant
- (d) An herbicidal substance synthesized in generally modified crops

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

CRISPR/Cas9 DNA editing system was invented six years ago, allowing scientists to modify harmful genes or add new ones.

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9. With reference to Manipuri Sankirtana, consider the following statements:

1. It is a song and dance performance.
2. Cymbals are the only musical instruments used in the performance.
3. It is performed to narrate the life and deeds of Lord Krishna.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:** Drums are also used

10. Regarding the International Monetary Fund, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) It can grant loans to any country
- (b) It can grant loans to only developed countries
- (c) It grants loans to only member countries
- (d) It can grant loans to the central bank of a country

**Answer: c)**

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1. 'Dhrupad' recently seen in news is referred to

- (a) Defence exercise
- (b) Devotional Music
- (c) Folk art
- (d) Artillery gun

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

Dhrupad is a form of devotional music that traces its origin to the ancient text of Samveda.

2. Consider the following pairs:

Defence Exercise	Country
1. Mitra Shakthi	- Sri Lanka
2. Gagan Shakthi	- Malaysia
3. Samudra Shakthi	- Indonesia

Which of the pairs 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:**

Gagan Shakthi is an Indian Air Force exercise. The aim of the exercise was real time coordination, deployment and employment of air power in a short and intense battle scenario.

3. 'School Education Quality Index' is jointly developed by

- 1. World Bank
- 2. NITI Aayog
- 3. Ministry of Human Resources and Development

4. Ministry of Women and Child development

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

School Education Quality Index (SEQI) was developed by NITI Aayog to evaluate the performance of States and Union Territories (UTs) in the school education sector.

Developed through a collaborative process, including key stakeholders such as Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD), the World Bank and sector experts, the index consists of 30 critical indicators.

4. In the Context of the Shilpostav- 2019, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is the annual fair of artisans from across the country, belonging to the weaker sections of the society.
- 2. It is organized by the Union Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: c)**

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**Explanation:**

Shilpostav- 2019 is the annual fair of artisans from across the country, belonging to the weaker sections of the society.

It is organized by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

The artisans assisted by the Apex corporations of the Ministry Social Justice and Empowerment i.e. National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC), National Scheduled Caste Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation (NHFDC), National Safai Karamchhari Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC) and National Trust are displaying and selling their products.

The range of products in this fair include dress materials, leather, cane & bamboo products, hand embroidery, bead products, block printing, wooden toys, handloom etc.

Hence only statement 1 is correct.

5. Kalapani, sometimes seen in news, is located in which of the following states of India?

- (a) Uttarakhand
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Himachal Pradesh
- (d) West Bengal

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

Kalapani is a 372-sq km area mapped within Uttarakhand, bordering far-west Nepal and Tibet.

While the Nepal government and political parties have protested, India has said the new map does not revise the existing boundary with Nepal and accurately depicts the sovereign territory of India.

6. Consider the following statements with respect to Steel Scrap Recycling Policy recently released.

1. It aims to provide standard guidelines for collection, dismantling and shredding activities in an organized, safe and environmentally sound manner
2. Its objective is to promote circular economy in the steel sector.
3. Scrap based steel making technologies have been envisaged as one of the important options to reduce GHG emission intensity.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** Factual statements in the policy. The last statement is a point noted in the National Steel Policy 2017.

7. Consider the following about National Disaster Management Framework in India

1. Ministry of Environment Forest and climate change is the Nodal Ministry
2. The National Crisis Management Committee, headed by PMO is a key committee involved in the top-level

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decision-making with respect to Disaster Management.

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

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** Ministry of Home Affairs is the Nodal Ministry

The National Crisis Management Committee is headed by Cabinet secretary.

8. According to Internet and Mobile Association of India's (IAMAI) report, titled 'India Internet 2019', which of the following State has least Internet Penetration in India.

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Jharkhand
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Utter Pradesh

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** According to Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), report, titled 'India Internet 2019', Delhi NCR has the highest internet penetration (69%) followed by Kerala (54%). The lowest penetration rate was in Odisha (25), Jharkhand (26) and Bihar (28). The IAMAI report also notes that Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Delhi have the highest proportion of female Internet users. Further, TRAI data as of June 2019 show that Kerala is well-placed in terms of Internet connections. It stands fourth

among all telecom service areas in terms of Internet subscriptions per 100population, behind Delhi, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.

9. Recently being debated - The Triffin dilemma or Triffin paradox refers to

- (a) Development vs Environment Question
- (b) The conflict of economic interests that arises between short-term domestic and long-term international objectives for countries whose currencies serve as global reserve currencies.
- (c) WTO rounds of negotiations on Rules of Origin
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:** The Triffin dilemma or Triffin paradox is the conflict of economic interests that arises between short-term domestic and long-term international objectives for countries whose currencies serve as global reserve currencies.



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10. Sunni and Shia Waqf boards of UP were in news recently. In that context, which of the following statements are correct about the Central Waqf Council?

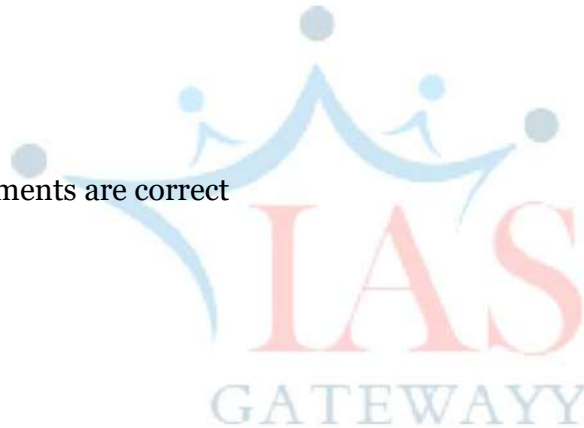
1. It is a statutory body under the administrative control of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.
2. It can render legal advice on protection and retrieval of the Waqf Properties and for removal of encroachment etc.

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

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** Both statements are correct



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1. Consider the following statements.
1. India has Free Trade Agreements with all the RCEP members.
  2. India has free Trade Agreement with all ASEAN members in both goods and services.

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

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:** Currently, RCEP consists of 10 ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) governments and their five FTA partners: Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea.

India has free trade agreements with all the members of RCEP except China, Australia and New Zealand.

India and ASEAN signed the FTA in goods in 2009. India also signed an FTA in services and investments with ASEAN in 2014, which came into force in 2015.

2. Consider the following statements regarding Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

1. He was the youngest President of INC.
2. He was first Education Minister of the Independent India.
3. The weekly Urdu language newspaper 'Al-Hilal' was established by him.

Which of the following are incorrect?

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

- (d) None of the above

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

Born on 11 November 1888 and died on 22 February 1958. He was senior Muslim leader of Indian National Congress during Indian independence movement. In 1923, at age of 35, he became youngest person to serve as President of Indian National Congress. He was first Minister of Education of Independent India. The weekly Urdu language newspaper 'Al-Hilal' was established by him.

3. Choose the correct statement regarding 'Swiss challenge' method

- (a) It is a method of bidding, often used in public projects.
- (b) In this method, a third parties make offers (challenges) for a project within a designated period to avoid exaggerated project costs.
- (c) Governments in India had implemented various projects under Swiss Challenge Method
- (d) All of the above.

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

A Swiss Challenge is a method of bidding, often used in public projects, in which an interested party initiates a proposal for a contract or the bid for a project. The government then puts the details of the project out in the public and invites proposals from others interested in executing it. On the

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receipt of these bids, the original contractor gets an opportunity to match the best bid.

The Swiss Challenge allows a seller to mix-and-match the features of both an open auction and a closed tender to discover the best price for an asset.

4. Internet Freedom Report 2019 is released by
- (a) Economic Intelligence Unit
  - (b) International Telecommunication Union
  - (c) Human Development Internationale
  - (d) Freedom House, a Non-Government Organization

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** Freedom House is a U.S.-based non-governmental organization (NGO) that conducts research and advocacy on democracy, political freedom, and human rights. The Freedom on the Net reports provide analytical reports and numerical ratings regarding the state of Internet freedom for countries worldwide

5. Choose the correct statement regarding 'The First Sikh Guru'
- 1. Guru Nanak started the institution of common kitchen (Guru ka Langar)
  - 2. He was the contemporary of Babur.
  - 3. He rejected the authority of the Vedas.
  - 4. He created the Khalsa, a saint – soldier order.
- (a) Only (1) and (2)
  - (b) Only (1) and (3)
  - (c) Only (1), (2) and (3)
  - (d) All of the above.

**Answer: C)**

**Explanation:**

As per Sikh tradition, Nanak was a blessed or illuminated soul. He is not considered an incarnation or even a prophet. He rejected the authority of Vedas. He initiated the institution of Guru ka Langar. He was the contemporary of Babur.

The Khalsa, the saint-soldier order was created by Guru Gobind Singh.

6. Consider the following about Zero Carbon Law, recently passed by New Zealand.
- 1. This is the first legislation in the world to make a legally binding commitment to living within 1.5 degrees Celsius of global warming.
  - 2. The Act proposes separate targets for biogenic methane
- Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
  - (b) 2 only
  - (c) Both 1 and 2
  - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** New Zealand's Parliament passed The Zero-Carbon Act, which will commit New Zealand to zero carbon emissions by 2050 or sooner, as part of the country's attempts to meet its Paris climate accord commitments. The Act is not a separate legislation but is an amendment to the existing Climate Change Responses Act, 2002. The key aims of the Act include: reduce all greenhouse gases (except methane) to net

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zero by 2050, reduce emissions of biogenic methane (produced from biological sources) up to 24-47 percent below 2017 levels by 2050 and to 10 percent below 2017 levels by 2030, establish an independent Climate Change Commission and establish a system of emissions budget.

7. 'Pliosaur', 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) Predatory reptiles that lived million years ago

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

Pliosaur were a group of large carnivorous marine reptiles characterized by massive heads, short necks, and streamlined tear-shaped bodies.

Pliosaurus have been found as fossils from the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods (about 200 million to 65.5 million years ago). They are classified in the order Plesiosauria, along with their long-necked relatives, the plesiosaurs.

They were the largest aquatic carnivorous reptiles that have ever lived and are often dubbed "sea monsters". They measured over 10 metres in length and could weigh up to several dozen tons.

They had powerful, large skulls and massive jaws with large, sharp teeth. Their limbs were in the form of fins. They used four large fins to swim through Mesozoic seas.

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM):

1. It aims at providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) in rural areas by 2024.
2. Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation is the implementing Department for the mission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) aims at providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) in rural areas by 2024.

It was announced by the Prime Minister; Narendra Modi on 73rd Independence Day, Government of India and State Governments will work in partnership to further this goal. Approx.

14.60 crores rural households of the country will be provided with FHTCs. The provisional cost estimate for this mission is Rs 3.60 lakh Crores.

Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation is the implementing Department for the mission.

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9. Rajiv Gauba Committee which was recently in news is related to?

- (a) To mitigate financial stress in telecom sector
- (b) Train ticket reservations
- (c) Reforms in Banking sector
- (d) Reforms in the GST Council

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

The government has set up a Committee of Secretaries (CoS) under Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba to suggest measures to mitigate financial stress in the telecom sector.

The CoS will comprise representatives from the Ministries of Finance, Law and Telecom.

Sources in the government said it will consider issues such as deferment of spectrum auction for 2 years and reduction in spectrum usage charges, and take a relook at the Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) charges.

10. With reference to Indian history, who among the following is a future Buddha, yet to come to save the world?

- (a) Avalokiteshvara
- (b) Lokeshvara
- (c) Maitreya
- (d) Padmapani

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** Maitreya, in Buddhist tradition, the future Buddha, presently a bodhisattva residing in the Tushita heaven, who will descend to earth to preach a new the dharma ("law") when the teachings of Gautama Buddha have completely decayed.

Maitreya is the earliest bodhisattva around whom a cult developed and is mentioned in scriptures from the 3rd century CE. He was accepted by all schools of Buddhism and is still the only bodhisattva generally honoured by the Theravada tradition.

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1. Choose the incorrect statement regarding 'Model Code of Conduct'

- (a) The MCC is a set of norms for conduct and behaviour on the part of the Parties and candidates
- (b) It is framed without the consensus of the political parties, solely by the Election commission.
- (c) It is not enforceable by law
- (d) The MCC remains in force from the date of announcement of elections till the completion of elections.

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:** MCC are set of guidelines issued by ECI to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections. It ensures free and fair elections. The MCC will be in place from announcement of the election schedule by the Election Commission, till the date of results. MCC is not legally binding, it does not have any separate statutory backing. However, it can be enforced through certain other provisions of like Representation of People Act and IPC. MCC is framed with the consensus of the political parties.

2. Consider the following regarding Air Quality Index

- 1. It focuses on health effects one might experience within a few hours or days after breathing polluted air.
- 2. AQI is calculated for eight major air pollutants - Ground-level ozone, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, CO, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub> and Lead.
- 3. The AQI has six colour codes to indicate level of pollution in cities.

Choose the correct statement:

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

**Answer: c)**

3. Arrange the following from North to South

- 1. Golan Heights
- 2. Gaza Strip
- 3. Sinai Peninsula

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** Map Based question

4. Consider the following statements about Minamata Convention.

- 1. India has signed and will ratify Minamata Convention in January 2020
- 2. There is no monitoring Programme in India to regulate export and import of Mercury.

Which of the above statements are incorrect?

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** India signed the Convention in 2014 and ratified in 2018.

In India, it is regulated by Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989

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amended in 2003, which prohibits the import and export of mercury-bearing waste and stipulate environmentally sound management.

5. Consider the following statements about Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act 1991.

1. It prohibits conversion of any place of worship
2. Provide for the maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 1950.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** Provide for the maintenance of the religious character of any place of worship as it existed on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of August 1947.

6. Recently in news, "Tiger Triumph" is

- (a) India - China Tiger Conservation Effort
- (b) Cryogenic technology deployed by ISRO
- (c) Maiden India US joint Tri services Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise.
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** 'Tiger Triumph' is the maiden India US joint Tri services Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise. The Exercise is aimed to developing

interoperability for conducting HADR operations.

7. Consider the following about Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant.

1. It is the first civilian nuclear power plant built in the Middle East.
2. Its located along the Persian Gulf coast of south-western Iran.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** Both are actual statements

8. 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)**

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**Explanation:**

As per FCRA 2010, the following organisational 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.

9. Consider the following statements regarding the electronic National Agriculture Market (e-NAM):

1. NAM is a parallel marketing structure and an instrument to create a national network of physical mandis which can be accessed online.
2. The launching of e-platform for marketing of agriculture products is being done with the aim to provide more options to farmers to sell their produce.
3. Farmers have actively involved in e-NAM since its introduction in 2016.

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

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

NAM is an online platform with a physical market or mandi at the backend. NAM is not a parallel marketing structure but rather an instrument to create a national network of physical mandis which can be accessed online.

It seeks to leverage the physical infrastructure of mandis through an online trading portal, enabling buyers situated even outside the state to participate in trading at the local level.

The launching of e-platform for marketing of agriculture products is being done with the aim to provide more options to farmers to sell their produce.

This initiative is part of implementation of the roadmap for doubling income of the farmers by 2022.

Since its introduction in 2016, only 1.6 crore farmers have registered on the portal so far, from among the almost 12 crore cultivators in the country. According to data presented in the Lok Sabha in June, only about half of those registered have benefited from the platform.



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10. A community of people called Manganiyars is well known for their
- (a) Martial arts in North-East India
  - (b) Musical tradition in North-West India
  - (c) Classical vocal music in South India
  - (d) Pietra dura tradition in Central India

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:** The Manganiar and related Langha caste are Muslim communities in the desert of Rajasthan, India in the districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer, along the border with Pakistan. Significant numbers are also found in the districts of Tharparkar and Sanghar in the province of Sindh in Pakistan. They are famous for their classical folk music.



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1. 'Dampier Hodges Line' recently seen in news is related to
- Gulf of Kutch
  - Palk Strait
  - Andaman and Nicobar Islands
  - Sunderbans

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

The Indian Sunderbans, considered to be an area south of the Dampier Hodges line, is spread over 9,630 sq. km., of which the mangrove forests are spread over 4,263 sq. km.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the odd-even scheme:
- Under the scheme, private vehicles will be allowed to run across the city alternatively based on their registration numbers.
  - It has been implemented on the light of increasing pollution in the city.
  - Union Government has implemented this scheme across North India including the National capital territory Delhi.

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

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

To control the effects of pollution in the National Capital territory, Delhi government

has initiated the car rationing scheme which is also called as odd-even scheme.

Private vehicles will be allowed to run across the city based on their registration numbers. For example, if a vehicle's registration number ends with an odd digit, it will be allowed on the road on January 1, while that ending with an even number can be driven on the second, and so on.

3. In the context of Collegium system, consider the following statements:
- The Collegium System is a system under which appointments of judges of High Courts and Apex Court are decided by a forum.
  - There is no mention of the Collegium either in the original Constitution of India or in successive amendments.
  - The recommendations of the Collegium are binding on the Central Government.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

All the statements are facts about the Collegium system.

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4. With respect to the Tribunals which of the statement(s) given below is/are incorrect?

1. A tribunal is a quasi-judicial body established an Act of Parliament or State Legislature under Article 323A or 323B of the Indian Constitution.
2. It is a forum where cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled or compromised amicably.
3. Its decisions are legally binding on the parties, subject to appeal.

Select the Correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

2<sup>nd</sup> statement is related to the Lok Adalat.

A tribunal is a quasi-judicial body established in India by an Act of Parliament or State Legislature under Article 323A or 323B to resolve disputes that are brought before it.

They play an important role and part in the sphere of the adjudication of disputes especially when the subject demands technical expertise.

They do not have to follow any uniform procedure as laid down under the Civil Procedure Code and the Indian Evidence Act but they have to follow the principles of Natural Justice.

They enjoy some of the powers of a civil court, viz., issuing summons and allowing witnesses to give evidence. Its decisions are

legally binding on the parties, subject to appeal.

5. Global Competitiveness Index is an annual report compiled by?

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) World Trade Organisation
- (c) UN Conference on Trade and Development
- (d) World Bank

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

Global Competitiveness Index is the annual report compiled by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF).

6. 'Sagar Island' sometimes seen in news is located in which of the following Indian States?

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Maharashtra

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

Cyclone Bulbul recently made its landfall in the Sagar Island of West Bengal.

7. Consider the statements

- (a) The president can appoint a HC judge as acting chief justice in case the vacancy of office of chief justice or when the CJ is temporarily absent or unable to perform his duties.

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(b) The CJI with prior consent of the President and the CJ of the HC can appoint ad-hoc judges.

(c) Both (a) and (b)

(d) None of the above.

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

Appointment of Ad hoc Judges (Article 127):

If at any time there is a lack of quorum of the Judges of the Supreme Court to hold or continue any session in the Court, the Chief Justice of India may with the prior consent of the President and after consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned, request in writing the attendance at the sittings of the Court, as an ad hoc Judge, for such period as may be necessary

Appointment of acting Chief Justice (Article 126): When the Office of the Chief Justice of India is vacant or when the Chief Justice, by reason of absence or otherwise, is unable to perform the duties of his office, the duties of the office shall be performed by such one of the other Judges of the Court as the President may appoint for the purpose.

**8. Choose the correct statement**

(a) The 2019 Brown to Green Report is published by the Climate Transparency partnership.

(b) The report noted that Carbon emissions from the world's 20 biggest economies, including India, are rising.

(c) According to the report, India ranked fifth highest among G20 countries in terms of deaths from extreme weather events

(d) All the above

**Answer: d)**

**9. For the Karachi session of Indian National Congress in 1931, presided over by Sardar Patel, who drafted the Resolution on Fundamental Rights and Economic Programme?**

(a) Mahatma Gandhi

(b) Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

(c) Dr. Rajendra Prasad

(d) Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

Some important aspects of the Karachi session of resolutions were: Basic civil rights of freedom of speech, Freedom of Press, Freedom of assembly, Freedom of association, Equality before law Elections on the basis of Universal Adult Franchise Free and compulsory primary education. Substantial reduction in rent and taxes Better conditions for workers including a living wage, limited hours of work. Protection of women and peasants Government ownership or control of key industries, mines, and transport. Protection of Minorities. Sardar Vallabhai Patel presided over the Karachi session of Indian National Congress in 1931. The resolutions adopted were:

► Fundamental Right and Economic Plan Programme were formulated by Jawaharlal Nehru and adopted in this session.

► It admitted Gandhi-Irwin Pact as Gandhi was allowed to attend the second Round Table Conference in London.

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10. Recently launched forestry project, Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) is an initiative of:
- (a) NABARD
  - (b) Global Environment Facility
  - (c) United Nation Development Programme
  - (d) Global Climate Fund

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:** The Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) supports developing countries to build institutional and technical capacity, both pre- and post-2020, to meet enhanced transparency requirements as defined in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement.



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

1. Type 1 diabetes mellitus is a chronic condition in which the pancreas produces little or no insulin.
2. Type 2 diabetes mellitus is a chronic condition that affects the way the body processes blood sugar (glucose)
3. Type 2 diabetes is also called as non-insulin-dependent diabetes (NIDD).
4. Type 1 diabetes is also called insulin-dependent diabetes.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

Type 1 diabetes is also called insulin-dependent diabetes and it is believed to be an autoimmune condition.

In Type 1, body's immune system mistakenly attacks and destroys the beta cells in the pancreas that produce insulin.

Type 2 diabetes is also called as non-insulin-dependent diabetes (NIDD), leads to a condition where one's body cannot use the insulin efficiently.

This in turn affects the way the body processes blood sugar (glucose).

2. Which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

1. Pamba River is the one of the longest rivers in the Kerala.
2. It originates in Western Ghats and then flows west before emptying into the Vembanad Lake.
3. Sabarimala temple is located on the banks of the river Pamba.
4. The river is also known as 'Dakshina Bhageerathi'

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

Pamba River is the third longest river in the Kerala after Periyar and Bharathappuzha. The river is also known as 'Dakshina Bhageerathi'. It originates at Pulachimalai hill of the Western Ghats in Kerala and then flows west before emptying into the Vembanad Lake. Sabarimala temple dedicated to Lord Ayyappa is located on the banks of the river Pamba.

3. Consider the following statements regarding Diabetes Atlas 2019:

1. It is a biennial report developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) released on the occasion of International Diabetes Day.

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2. It stated that India has the second highest diabetes patients after China.

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 International Diabetes Foundation (IDF) Diabetes Atlas is the authoritative resource on the global burden of diabetes.

First published in 2000, it is produced by International Diabetes Foundation (IDF) biennially in collaboration with experts from around the world and contains data on diabetes cases, prevalence, mortality and expenditure on the global, regional and national level.

A full IDF Diabetes Atlas report is produced every two years.

India continues to be home to the second-largest number of adults with diabetes worldwide, with 77 million adults with diabetes in the 20-79 years age group. This follows China, which has 116 million adults with diabetes in the same age profile.

The worldwide prevalence of diabetes was estimated at 463 million in this age group, or in other words, one in 11 adults.

India was the largest contributor to diabetes mortality with more than 1 million estimated deaths attributable to diabetes and related complications, in the larger South East Asian region.

The number of people with diabetes is predicted to rise to 578 million by 2030 and to 700 million by 2045.

374 million adults have impaired glucose tolerance, placing them at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

4. Sabarimala temple is located in which of the following tiger reserves?

- (a) Periyar Tiger reserve
- (b) Parambikulam Tiger reserve
- (c) Anaimalai Tiger reserve
- (d) Mudhumalai Tiger reserve

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

The Sabarimala temple is a temple complex located at Sabarimala inside the Periyar Tiger Reserve in Pathanamthitta district, Kerala, India.

5. Consider the following statements regarding the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005:

- 1. RTI is applicable to the whole of India including all the Union territories.
- 2. Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) is completely exempted from RTI.
- 3. Recently the office of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) also came under the RTI's ambit.

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

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

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**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

The Official Secrets act, 1923 overrides the RTI acts 2005. If any information the public authority finds it sensitive or it concerns the national security by any means or it falls under the purview of the OSA, 1923 then it is exempted.

Government agencies and bodies like CAPF, CBI, NIA, RAW does not falls under RTI Act.

Any information concerning personal information of any individual, like salary, account statement is also exempted.

These organisations are exempted under RTI Act, but not completely exempted as cases related to corruption and Human Rights Violation done by them is not exempted.

6. 'World Vision Report' which was released recently by which of the following agencies?

- (a) UNICEF
- (b) Doctors without Borders
- (c) World Health Organisation
- (d) World Bank

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

The World Health Organization (WHO) released its first World Vision Report recently, proposing ways to address challenges such as integrating eye care into healthcare systems. The report found that globally, over 2.2 billion people have vision impairment. The report also said that out of these 2.2 billion, 1 billion people are suffering from conditions that are preventable, or unaddressed.

7. Which of the following are wrongly Matched?

1. Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM) - old age protection and social security of Unorganized Workers
2. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) - all small and marginal farmers will get up to ₹6,000 per year as minimum income support
3. PM Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana - old age pension scheme for all land holding Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs) in the country

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** All the statements are correct

8. Arrokoth recently seen in news refers to,

- (a) Newly discovered Banana species in Andaman
- (b) Indigenously built Bofors variant
- (c) An icy body in Kuiper Belt
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** It is Ultima Thule's new name



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9. Recently discovered species, Marengo

Sachin Tendulkar is a:

- (a) Snake
- (b) Frog
- (c) Fish
- (d) Spider

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** Dhruv Prajapati, a junior researcher with the Gujarat Ecological Education and Research (GEER) Foundation, pursuing a PhD in spider taxonomy, discovered two new species of the arthropod and after naming one after Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, who played a key role in creating awareness on education in Kerala, named another after Sachin Tendulkar

10. Gaza Strip' sometimes seen in news is located along the coast of

- (a) Red Sea
- (b) Mediterranean Sea
- (c) Black Sea
- (d) Caspian Sea

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

The Gaza Strip or simply Gaza, is a self-governing Palestinian territory on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, that borders Egypt on the southwest for 11 kilometres (6.8 mi) and Israel on the east and north along a 51 km (32 mi) border.

Gaza and the West Bank are claimed by the State of Palestine.



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

1. Rajya Sabha also can initiate the impeachment charges against President.
2. The only condition for the initiation of impeachment of Indian president is the 'violation of the constitution.'
3. Nominated members cannot vote in the election of the President, however, they can participate in President's impeachment.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:** ARTICLE 61 gives the Procedure for Impeachment of The President  
When a President is to be impeached for violation of the Constitution, the charge shall be preferred by either House of Parliament.

No such charge shall be preferred unless – resolution has to be passed after at least fourteen days' notice in writing signed by not less than one-fourth of the total number of members of the House

such resolution has to be passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the total membership of the House.

The President shall have the right to appear and to be represented at such investigation.

The only condition for the initiation of impeachment of Indian president is the 'violation of the constitution.'

Nominated members cannot vote in the election of the President, however, they can participate in President's impeachment.

2. Consider the following statements regarding Sikhism

1. Guru Gobind Singh, compiled the first official edition of the Sikh scripture called the Adi Granth.
2. Guru Arjan Das, introduced the Five Ks (Kesh, Kangha, Kara, Kirpan and Kacchera), the five articles of Khalsa faith.
3. Guru Ram Das was the founder the city of Amritsar and started the construction of the famous Golden Temple at Amritsar.

Select the incorrect using the codes given Below:

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** Gurus in statement 1 and 2 are Interchanged.

3. River Sisar(Sisiri) is a major tributary of

- (a) Dibang
- (b) Yamuna
- (c) Pamba
- (d) Godavari

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Sisiri River Bridge in

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East Siang District and also said that the North Eastern Region is very crucial for the nation from a strategic point of view. The Sisar(Sisiri), Mathun, Tangon, Dri, Ithun and Emra are the major tributaries of the Dibang.

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

According to The Asia Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2019, non-tariff measures (NTMs) have increased in the past two decades and are affecting trade as well sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Asian countries.

It was published by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

4. Recently in news "NISHTHA" refers to
- Initiative Holistic Advancement for School Heads and Teachers
  - Newly discovered species of Snake in Western Ghats
  - Icy region in outer space
  - None of the above

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** NISHTHA is a capacity building programme for "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training" by Ministry of Human Resource Development. NISHTHA is the largest teachers' training programme of its kind in the world.

5. Asia-Pacific Trade and Investment Report 2019 is jointly published by?

- U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- UN Conference on Trade and Development
- UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

6. Consider the following statements regarding the Tenth Schedule of the Indian constitution:

- A person disqualified under the Tenth Schedule is not eligible to contest in re-election to that constituency.
- As per the existing constitutional mandate, the Speaker is not empowered to disqualify any member for the entire term of the House.

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

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

The Supreme Court has recently upheld the disqualification of 17 dissident by then Karnataka Assembly Speaker under the Tenth

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Schedule (anti-defection law) but held that their ouster was no bar to contesting re-polls. Neither under the Indian Constitution nor under the statutory scheme it is contemplated that disqualification under the Tenth Schedule would operate as a bar for contesting re-elections.

In the light of the existing constitutional mandate, the Speaker is not empowered to disqualify any member till the end of the term.

7. Tiger reserves are absent in which of the following Indian state?

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

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: c)**

Explanation:

Tiger reserves are absent in Indian states of Punjab, Haryana, Goa, Gujarat, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Tripura, Manipur and Nagaland.

Tiger reserves are also absent in all other Union territories such as Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Puducherry, Chandigarh, Delhi, Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu.

8. Bolivia is bordered by which of the following countries?

1. Chile
2. Peru
3. Brazil
4. Paraguay
5. Argentina

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

A landlocked country, Bolivia shares borders with Brazil to the north and east, Paraguay to the southeast, Argentina to the south, Chile to the southwest, and Peru to the northwest.

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

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

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

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

The President, chairperson and Judicial Members of the Appellate Tribunal are appointed after consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 for hearing appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT), with effect from 1st June, 2016.

NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).

NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.

NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

**10.** Recently in news, Acqua alta refers to

- (a) High tides in the Adriatic Sea
- (b) Low tides regions of Pacific Ocean
- (c) High tides in Black Sea
- (d) Low tides regions of Caspian Sea

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** High tides in the Adriatic Sea - (Acqua alta) have caused floods in the historic city of Venice.

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

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

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

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

Insolvency is the situation where the debtor is not in a position to pay back the creditor.

For a corporate firm, the signs of this could be a slow-down in sales, missing of payment deadlines etc.

Bankruptcy is the legal declaration of Insolvency. So the former is a financial condition and latter is a legal position. All insolvencies need not lead to bankruptcy.

The code will apply to all sort of business entities including corporate companies,

partnerships, limited liability partnerships, individuals etc.

2. In the context of Coral Spawning, consider the following statements:

1. Coral Spawning is one of the annual synchronised events to occur on the Great Barrier Reef.
2. It occurs by releasing tiny egg and sperm bundles simultaneously from their gut cavity into the water.
3. The spawning takes place on a large scale as it happens across the entire Reef all at once.

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:**

Coral Spawning is one of the annual synchronised events to occur on the Great Barrier Reef.

It occurs by releasing tiny egg and sperm bundles simultaneously from their gut cavity into the water.

By expelling the eggs and sperm at the same time, the coral increases the likelihood that fertilisation will take place.

The mass spawning occurs after a full moon and only after rising water temperatures have stimulated the maturation of the gametes within the adult coral. The day length, tide height and salinity levels also appear to be

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factors in deciding when the event will happen.

The spawning lasts between a few days and a week. This is because different species release their eggs and sperm on different days to prevent hybrids from being produced.

The phenomenon – which only happens at night – resembles an underwater snowstorm. But rather than being all white, there are also clouds of red, yellow and orange. All the bundles rise slowly to the surface where the process of fertilisation begins.

While spawning takes place on a large scale, it doesn't happen across the entire Reef all at once.

Instead, the time of year that corals spawn depends on their location. Those on inshore reefs usually start spawning one to six nights after the first full moon in October, whereas those in outer reefs spawn during November or December.

When an egg is fertilised by a sperm it develops into coral larva called a planula that floats around in the water for several days or weeks before settling on the ocean floor. After the planula has settled in a particular area it starts to bud and the coral colony develops.

The mass spawning also provides ready food for other marine creatures, particularly nocturnal animals such as plankton and some fish species.

3. What is the correct sequence of occurrence of the following pilgrimage sites as one proceeds from East to West?

1. Kedarnath
2. Badrinath
3. Gangotri
4. Yamunotri

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

**Answer: d)**

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

1. Agni-II missile was developed by DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organization)
2. It is a surface-to-surface medium range nuclear capable missile.
3. It has a range of 2,000–3,500 km

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

**Answer: d)**

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5. Consider the following statements about Ain-i-Akbari

1. It is a detailed document recording the personal life of Emperor Akbar
2. It is written by his court historian, Abu'l Fazl
3. It was written in the Persian language.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

The Ain-i-Akbari or the "Administration of Akbar", is a 16th-century detailed document recording the administration of the Mughal Empire under Emperor Akbar.

6. Recently in news, SCALP and METEOR refers to,

- (a) Special kind of Asteroids
- (b) Advanced Radar systems in S-400
- (c) Missiles
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** Ahead of handing over of the first Rafale jet to India, European missile maker MBDA has said that the aircraft with most advanced weapons package comprising Meteor and Scalp missiles will provide the country unrivalled deep strike capability and air dominance in the region.

7. The Kalasa-Banduri drinking water project is supposed to be constructed in

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Ladakh

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

On October 23, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Prakash Javadekar announced on Twitter that the "Kalasa-Banduri drinking water project in Karnataka has been granted Environment Approval".

It was later deleted.

On Twitter, the Goa CM, who belongs to the BJP, posted: "[River] Mhadei [the water of whose tributaries, Kalasa and Banduri, Karnataka wants to divert to the Malaprabha basin in Karnataka] is more than mother to us .

The Mhadei (or Mahadayi/Mahadeyi) rises in the Western Ghats in Khanapur taluk of Karnataka's Belagavi district, and enters Goa in the Sattari taluk of North Goa. Several streams join it along its course, and the river grows in volume to become the Mandovi, one of Goa's two major rivers, before flowing into the Arabian Sea at Panaji.

8. Recently in news, the Ziz-Zag technology is used in

- (a) Automobiles for transition from BSIV to BSVI
- (b) High power processors in Super Computers
- (c) Long distane communication satellites



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(d) Brick Kiln to reduce ash content

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

In new technology, 5 per cent ash is left after burning coal, while in old technology, 15 per cent ash is generated.

Rajyasabha, it is open to Loksabha to accept or to reject any or all of the commendations. When the Loksabha chooses to accept or decline the money bill with or without the recommendation, the money bill is deemed passed in both houses.

**9.** Consider the following Statements

1. All BRICS members are member of G-20.
2. BRICS was formed earlier than G-20.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are

Incorrect

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

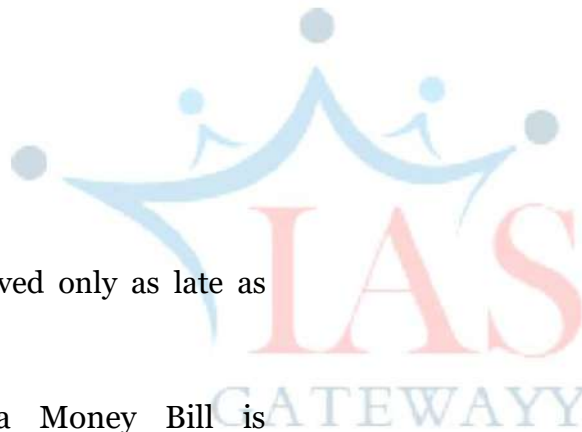
BRICS as a concept evolved only as late as 2001.

**10.** What will follow if a Money Bill is substantially amended by the Rajya Sabha?

- (a) The Lok Sabha may still proceed with the Bill, accepting or not accepting the recommendations the Rajya Sabha
- (b) The Lok Sabha cannot consider the bill further
- (c) The Lok Sabha may send the Bill to the Rajya Sabha for reconsideration
- (d) The President may call a joint sitting for passing the Bill

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** When a money bill returns to the Loksabha with amendments made by the



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1. India is part of which the following Banks
1. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
  2. New Development Bank
  3. European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank that aims to support the building of infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region. The bank currently has 74 members as well as 26 prospective members from around the world. HQ: Beijing, China. India is a member of it, with 2nd highest voting power

The New Development Bank (NDB), formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Headquarters: Shanghai

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is an international financial institution founded in 1991. Headquarters: London

India is a financing member of EBRD

2. "O3b - "Other 3 billion", recently in news stands for

- (a) Population of the world where broadband Internet is not currently available  
(b) Population of the world under poverty

- (c) Population of the world without mobile phones  
(d) None of the above

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** O3b Networks Ltd. is a network communications service provider building and operating a medium Earth orbit (MEO) satellite constellation primarily intended to provide voice and data communications to mobile operators and Internet service providers. The name "O3b" stands for "Other 3 billion", referring to the population of the world where broadband Internet is not currently available.

3. Satpura tiger reserves is present in

- (a) Gujarat  
(b) Maharashtra  
(c) Madhya Pradesh  
(d) Uttar Pradesh

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** Recently, the Satpura Tiger Reserve located in the Madhya Pradesh was in news because of the presence of Mahua tree in its buffer zone.

4. Za'ir-Al-Bahr (Roar of The Sea) is joint exercise between Navies of India

- (a) Saudi Arabia  
(b) Qatar  
(c) Oman  
(d) Iran

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:** Navies of India and Qatar have started a five-day bilateral maritime exercise at Doha that includes surface action,

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air defence, maritime surveillance as well as social and sports events.

5. Consider the following about United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

1. It releases the State of World Population-2019
2. The goal of UNFPA is ensure reproductive rights for all.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** Factual Statements

6. A deadlock between the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha calls for a joint sitting of the Parliament during the passage of

1. Ordinary Legislation
2. Money Bill
3. Constitution Amendment Bill

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** Factual statements about Joint Sitting

7. Consider the following statements:

1. The city of Dhaka was developed along its banks as a prime trade centre.
2. The river was once admired by the Mughals, for its strategic location for defence.
3. At present, it is one of the most polluted rivers in the world.

The above statements refer to which of the following rivers:

- (a) Padma River
- (b) Meghna River
- (c) Buriganga River
- (d) Teesta River

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** The Buriganga flows past the southwest outskirts of Dhaka city, the capital of Bangladesh.

It is one of the most polluted rivers in the world. Some experts refer to it as the largest sewer in the world. Uncontrolled dumping of human and industrial waste and encroachment has made the river biologically dead.

8. Consider the following statements regarding the Maternity Benefit Scheme:

1. Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is a maternity benefit programme being implemented in all districts of the country.
2. All Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM), including employees of the Central Government or

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the State Governments or PSUs are also covered under the scheme.

3. The eligible beneficiaries also receive cash incentive of Rs. 6000 under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY).

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:**

- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) is a maternity benefit programme being implemented in all districts of the country with effect from 1st January, 2017.
  - It is a centrally sponsored scheme being executed by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
  - Cash benefits are provided to pregnant women in their bank account directly to meet enhanced nutritional needs and partially compensate for wage loss.
  - Beneficiaries receive a cash benefit of Rs. 5,000 in three installments on fulfilling the following conditions:
    1. Early registration of pregnancy
    2. Ante-natal check-up
    3. Registration of the birth of the child and completion of first cycle of vaccination for the first living child of the family.
  - The eligible beneficiaries also receive cash incentive under Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY). Thus, on an average, a woman gets Rs. 6,000.
  - Implementation of the scheme is closely monitored by the central and state governments through the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana - Common Application Software (PMMVY-CAS).
  - PMMVY-CAS is a web-based software application that enables tracking the status of each beneficiary under the scheme, resulting in expedited, accountable and better grievance redressal.
  - All Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM), excluding those who are in regular employment with the Central Government or the State Governments or PSUs or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being in force.
  - All eligible Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers who have their pregnancy on or after 1st January 2017 for the first child in the family.
9. In the context of the Deposit Insurance, consider the following statements:
1. If a bank goes bust in India, a depositor has claim to a maximum of Rs 1 lakh per account as insurance cover.
  2. The cover of Rs 1 lakh per depositor is provided by the Insurance Regulatory and development Authority (IRDA).
  3. Cooperative Banks are excluded from the Deposit Insurance Cover.

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

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

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- Currently, in the event of a bank going bust in India, a depositor has claim to a maximum of Rs 1 lakh per account as insurance cover — even if the deposit in their account far exceeds Rs 1 lakh. This amount is termed ‘deposit insurance’.
- Depositors holding more than Rs 1 lakh in their account have no legal remedy in case of the collapse of the bank.
- The cover of Rs 1 lakh per depositor is provided by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), a fully owned subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India.
- The Rs 1 lakh-cover is for deposits in commercial banks, regional rural banks (RRBs), local area banks (LABs), and cooperative banks also.

**10.** Consider the following places which were recently seen in news:

1. Jayakwadi Dam is located on the Periyar River in Ernakulam district, Kerala.
2. Willingdon Island is the largest artificial island in India, which forms part of the Elephanta Island, in the state of Maharashtra.

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- Jayakwadi Dam is located on the Godavari River in Aurangabad district, Maharashtra.
- The dam aims to address the dual problems of flooding along the banks during monsoon months, and that of drought during the rest of the year, particularly in the Marathwada region.
- The seismometer is an instrument used to measure and record seismic waves. Seismic waves study helps geologists to map the interior of the Earth, and measure and locate earthquakes and other ground motions like volcanic eruptions, explosions, etc. precisely.
- A piezometer is an instrument used for measuring the pressure of a liquid or gas or things related to pressure (such as the compressibility of liquid). It measures the strain of a liquid or fuel. They are often placed in boreholes to monitor the pressure or depth of groundwater.
- A slope meter is used to measure the angles of slope, elevation or despair of an object.
- Willingdon Island is a seaport located in the city of Kochi, Kerala.
- It is the largest man-made/artificial island of India and is surrounded by backwaters

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(a part of a river in which there is little or no current).

- It was carved out of Vembanad Lake and is connected via road and rail. The island is connected to the mainland by the Venduruthy Bridge.
- It is a major commercial centre and is home to the Kochi Naval Base of the Indian Navy, the Central Institute of Fisheries Technology and the Port of Kochi.
- It was named after the Viceroy Lord Willingdon and was created artificially in 1936 during his rule to improve the trade relations of British India with the rest of the world.



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1. Consider the following communities/groups and their region
1. Beni Amer - Sudan
  2. Uighurs - China
  3. Sidama - Yemen
  4. Houthi - Ethiopia
- Which of the above are correctly matched?
- (a) 3 and 4 only  
(b) 1 and 2 only  
(c) 2 and 3 only  
(d) 1 and 4 only

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:** 3 and 4 are interchanged

2. Consider the following statements regarding Article 371.

1. It provides special provisions for the states of Maharashtra and Gujarat.
2. Under this, The President has special responsibilities to establish separate development boards for “Vidarbha, Marathwada, and the rest of Maharashtra”, and “Saurashtra and Kutch in Gujarat”.
3. It ensures equitable arrangement providing adequate facilities for technical education and vocational training, and adequate opportunities for employment.

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

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** Article 371, Special Provisions of Maharashtra and Gujarat:

Governor has “special responsibility” to establish “separate development boards” for “Vidarbha, Marathwada, and the rest of Maharashtra”, and Saurashtra and Kutch in Gujarat;

It ensures “equitable allocation of funds for developmental expenditure over the said areas”, and “equitable arrangement providing adequate facilities for technical education and vocational training, and adequate opportunities for employment” under the state government.

3. Kimberly Process recently in news is related to:

- (a) To remove conflict diamonds from the global supply chain  
(b) Method to implement transparency in Electoral Bonds  
(c) Initiative to curb illegal arms trade  
(d) To decrease import of Gold to control Current Account Deficit

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** Factual Statement

4. Consider the following regarding Nodal Agencies for disaster management Disaster Nodal Agency

1. Cyclones      A. Indian Meteorological Directorate
2. Earthquakes      B. Indian Meteorological Directorate

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3. Floods C. Central Water Commission  
4. Chemical Disasters D. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

Choose the correctly matched

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** Nodal Agencies and disasters associated

**Floods:** CWC, Ministry of Water Resources

**Cyclones:** Indian Meteorological Directorate

**Earthquakes:** Indian Meteorological Directorate

**Epidemics:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

**Chemical Disasters:** Ministry of Environment and Forests

**Industrial Disasters:** Ministry of Labour  
Fire: Ministry of Home Affairs

5. The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was established for hearing appeals against the orders of

1. National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT)
2. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
3. Competition Commission of India (CCI).

Which of the above are correct?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 for hearing appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT), with effect from 1st June, 2016. NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC), with effect from 1st December, 2016.

NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI)

6. Consider the following statements regarding Electoral Bonds in India:

1. Electoral bonds will allow donors to pay political parties using banks as an intermediary.
2. As per provisions of the Scheme, electoral bonds may be purchased by a citizen of India, or entities incorporated or established in India.
3. Only the registered Political Parties which have secured not less than six per cent of the votes polled in the last Lok Sabha elections or the State Legislative Assembly are eligible to receive the Electoral Bonds.

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

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



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(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1 and 3 only

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

Electoral bonds will allow donors to pay political parties using banks as an intermediary.

Although called a bond, the banking instrument resembling promissory notes will not carry any interest.

The electoral bond, which will be a bearer instrument, will not carry the name of the payee and can be bought for any value, in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh or Rs 1 crore.

As per provisions of the Scheme, electoral bonds may be purchased by a citizen of India, or entities incorporated or established in India.

A person being an individual can buy electoral bonds, either singly or jointly with other individuals.

Only the registered Political Parties which have secured not less than one per cent of the votes polled in the last Lok Sabha elections or the State Legislative Assembly are eligible to receive the Electoral Bonds.

The electoral bonds are aimed at rooting out the current system of largely anonymous cash donations made to political parties which lead to the generation of black money in the economy.

7. The Suez Canal connects which of the following seas?

(a) Red Sea and Caspian Sea

(b) Caspian Sea and Mediterranean Sea

(c) Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea

(d) Red Sea and Arabian Sea

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

Suez Canal is an artificial sea-level waterway in Egypt. It links the Mediterranean with the Red Sea through Isthmus of Suez. It was first opened in 1869 after a decade of construction.

Strategically and economically it is one of the most important waterways in the world providing the shortest sea link between Asia and Europe.

Its opening had provided alternative route to sea voyage between Europe and India. It had reduced the sea voyage distance between these two regions by about 7,000 kilometres without navigating around Africa.

The canal was nationalized by Egypt in 1956 after brief war against the UK, France and Israel. The canal has been a significant income source for Egypt since then.

8. With regards to Contempt of Court, consider the following statements:

1. Civil contempt is a contempt is the publication whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation.

2. Criminal contempt is a 'willful disobedience to any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ or other processes

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of a Court or willful breach of an undertaking given to the court’.

3. The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, very clearly states that fair criticism of any case which has been heard and decided is not contempt.

Which of the statements given above are incorrect?

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

In India, the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, divides contempt into civil contempt and criminal contempt.

‘Civil contempt’ is a ‘willful disobedience to any judgment, decree, direction, order, writ or other processes of a Court or willful breach of an undertaking given to the court’.

‘Criminal contempt’ is ‘the publication (whether by words, spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise) of any matter or the doing of any other act whatsoever which:

1. Scandalises or tends to scandalise, or lowers or tends to lower the authority of, any court.
2. Prejudices, or interferes or tends to interfere with the due course of any judicial proceeding.
3. Interferes or tends to interfere with, or obstructs or tends to obstruct, the administration of justice in any other manner.’

9. Which one of the following is the best description of the term 'ecosystem'?

- (a) A community of organisms interacting with one another.  
(b) That part of the Earth which is inhabited by living organisms.  
(c) A community of organisms together with the environment in which they live  
(d) The flora and fauna of a geographical area

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

An ecosystem includes all of the living things (plants, animals and organisms) in a given area, interacting with each other, and also with their non-living environments (weather, earth, sun, soil, climate, atmosphere).

10. INS Trikand which was recently seen in news is a

- (a) Submarine  
(b) Light aircraft carrier  
(c) Frigate  
(d) Anti submarine warfare

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

Trikand belongs to the Talwar class of guided missile frigates. These are modified Krivak III-class frigates built by Russia.

These ships use stealth technologies and a special hull design to ensure a reduced radar cross section.

It was recently used in Bilateral Maritime Exercise Zair-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea).

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1. Consider the following statements regarding Olive Ridleys:

1. The Olive ridley turtles are the most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world, inhabiting warm waters of the Atlantic and Indian oceans only.
2. The species is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List and Schedule 1 in Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
3. In India they are constrained to the eastern coasts of Rushikulya River and Gahirmatha coast of Odisha.

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

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- The Olive ridley turtles are the second smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world, inhabiting warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans.
- They are best known for their unique mass nesting called Arribada, where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs.
- The species is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List, Appendix 1 in CITES, and Schedule 1 in Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- They nests twice/thrice in a year. Its nesting season ranges worldwide from

June to December, with the peak period in September and October.

- Gahirmatha beach in Odisha's Kendrapara district is known as world's largest rookery of olive ridley species.
- Nasi II Island is part of Gahirmatha Sanctuary in Odisha, one of the world's largest nesting grounds of olive ridley turtles.
- Olive-ridleys face serious threats across their migratory route, habitat and nesting beaches, due to human activities such as unfriendly turtle fishing practices, development, and exploitation of nesting beaches for ports, and tourist centers.
- They are not constrained to eastern coasts; they are also found in the coast of Maharashtra.

2. In the context of Bharat Stage Norms, consider the following statements:

1. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is responsible for deciding the fuel standard in the country.
2. Government of India has decided to roll on from BS-V norms to BS-VI norms from April 2020.
3. On-board diagnostics (OBD) is mandatory for all BS-VI automobiles which is a sophisticated emission control device for optimum efficiency throughout the life of the vehicle.

Which of the statement given above is correct?

- (a) 1 only  
(b) 2 only

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(c) 3 only

(d) None

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- The Bharat Stage (BS) is emission standard instituted by the Government of India to regulate the output of air pollutants from motor vehicles.
- The Environment Ministry is responsible for deciding the fuel standard in the country. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) implements these standards.
- To curb growing menace of air pollution through the vehicles emission, the Government of India has decided to leapfrog from the exiting BS – IV norms to the BS- VI, thereby skipping the BS – V norms, and to implement the BS – VI norms with effect from 1st April 2020.
- The shift makes on-board diagnostics (OBD) mandatory for all automobiles. The OBD unit will be able to identify likely areas of malfunction by means of fault codes stored on a computer ensuring that sophisticated emission control device which is fitted in a BS-VI vehicle runs at optimum efficiency throughout the life of the vehicle.

3. Which of the following is not a compulsory feature of Panchayati Raj?

(a) Organisation of Gram Sabha

(b) Creation of a three-tier Panchayati Raj Structure at the district, block and Village levels

(c) Providing reservation for backward Classes.

(d) Reservation for Women in Panchayats up to 33% and reservation of Seats for SC/ST, in Panchayats, in proportion to their population.

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

**Compulsory Provisions Include:**

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

**Voluntary Provisions include:**

- Giving Voting rights to members of the Union and State Legislatures in these bodies;
- Providing reservation for backward Classes.

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- Giving the Panchayats financial autonomy and thereunder the power to levy taxes, fees, etc.
- Devolution of Powers to the Panchayat bodies to perform functions as provided in the XI Schedule.

4. With respect to Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (JSK) an autonomous body under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, consider the following schemes:

1. Prerna Scheme
2. Santushti Scheme
3. National Helpline for information on family planning

Which of the above schemes are implemented by it:

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (JSK) is a registered society of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare started with a Rs 100 crore grant from government.

The society was established with the objective of highlighting the need for population stabilization. Its accounts can be audited by the CAG.

Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (JSK) an autonomous body under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, implemented the following schemes:

Prerna Scheme (for delaying marriage, childbirth and spacing),

Santushti Scheme (Public Private Partnership for sterilization services)  
National Helpline (for information on family planning).

5. Consider the following statements

1. The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations
2. The International Criminal Court is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal that sits in The Hague in the Netherlands.
3. India is a member of Permanent Court of Arbitration.

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

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** Factual Statement

6. Recently in news, Europa is moon of

- (a) Jupiter
- (b) Mars
- (c) Uranus
- (d) Neptune

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** NASA's has confirmed the presence water vapour for the first time above the surface of Jupiter's Moon Europa.

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7. Consider the following pairs:

1. Garba : Gujarat
2. Mohiniattam : Odisha
3. Yakshagana : Karnataka

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

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:** Mohiniattam: Kerala

8. Consider the following statements regarding 'Sowa-Rigpa'

1. It is a discipline that is practiced especially for self-defense, exercise, and spiritual growth.
2. It is also called wushu or quanfa.
3. It originated from Mongolia and popularly practiced in India, Nepal, Bhutan, Mongolia and Russia.

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

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- "Sowa-Rigpa" commonly known as Tibetan system of medicine is one of the oldest, living and well documented medical tradition of the world.

- It has been originated from Tibet and popularly practice in India, Nepal, Bhutan, Mongolia and Russia.
- The majority of theory and practice of Sowa-Rigpa is similar to "Ayurveda".
- The impact of Sowa-Rigpa along with Buddhism and other Tibetan art and sciences were spread in neighboring Himalayan regions.
- In India, this system is widely practice in Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Darjeeling (West Bengal), Dharamsala, Lahaul and Spiti (Himachal Pradesh) and Ladakh region of Jammu & Kashmir.

9. Consider the following statements regarding 'Organoids'

1. Organoids are a group of cells grown in laboratories into three-dimensional, miniature structures that mimic the cell arrangement of a fully-grown organ.
2. Organoids are grown in the lab using stem cells that can become any of the specialised cells seen in the human body, or from induced pluripotent stem cells
3. Organoids of the brain, small intestine, kidney, heart, stomach, eyes, liver, pancreas, prostate, salivary glands, and inner ear have been successfully developed in the laboratory.

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

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

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- Organoids are a group of cells grown in laboratories into three-dimensional, miniature structures that mimic the cell arrangement of a fully-grown organ.
- They are tiny organ-like structures that do not achieve all the functional maturity of human organs but often resemble the early stages of a developing tissue.
- Organoids are grown in the lab using stem cells that can become any of the specialised cells seen in the human body, or from induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC).
- Stem cells are provided with nutrients and other specific molecules to grow and become cells resembling a specific organ.
- The growing cells are capable of self-organizing into cellular structures of a specific organ and can partly replicate complex functions of mature organs like physiological processes of regeneration.
- Organoids of the brain, small intestine, kidney, heart, stomach, eyes, liver, pancreas, prostate, salivary glands, and inner ear have already been developed in the laboratory.

10. Which of the following statements is/are incorrect?

- (a) Plague is also known as the "Black Death".  
(b) Plague is caused by the bacteria *Yersinia pestis*, a zoonotic bacterium usually found in small mammals and their fleas.  
(c) There is no anti-biotic treatment to treat plague  
(d) None of the above

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- Plague is caused by the bacteria *Yersinia pestis*, a zoonotic bacterium usually found in small mammals and their fleas.
- People infected with *Y. pestis* often develop symptoms after an incubation period of one to seven days.
- There are two main clinical forms of plague infection: bubonic and pneumonic. Bubonic plague is the most common form and is characterized by painful swollen lymph nodes or 'buboes'.
- Plague is transmitted between animals and humans by the bite of infected fleas, direct contact with infected tissues, and inhalation of infected respiratory droplets.
- Antibiotic treatment is effective against plague bacteria, so early diagnosis and early treatment can save lives.

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1. Consider the following statements regarding Parliamentary proceedings

1. Short Notice Questions can be asked orally in the House after the Question Hour or as the first item in the agenda where there is no Question Hour.
2. Starred Questions must be related to a subject-matter considered by the Chairman to be of urgent public importance.
3. Unstarred Questions are those which answers are desired to be given orally on the floor of the House during the Question Hour

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

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

**Starred Questions:** These are Questions to which answers are desired to be given orally on the floor of the House during the Question Hour. These are distinguished in the printed lists by asterisks. 15 such questions are listed each day.

**Unstarred Questions:** These are Questions to which written answers are given by Ministers which are deemed to have been laid on the Table of the House at the end of the Question Hour. Upto 160 such questions are listed each day in a separate list.

**Short Notice Questions:** Such questions can be asked orally in the House after the Question Hour or as the first item in the agenda where there is no Question Hour at a notice shorter than that prescribed for Starred and Unstarred Questions. These must relate to a subject-matter considered by the Chairman to be of urgent public importance.

2. Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) is a standard criterion for
  - (a) Measuring oxygen levels in blood
  - (b) Computing oxygen levels in forest ecosystems
  - (c) Pollution assay in aquatic ecosystems
  - (d) Assessing oxygen levels in high altitude regions.

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

Water pollution by organic wastes is measured in terms of Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD).

BOD is the amount of dissolved oxygen needed by bacteria in decomposing the organic wastes present in water. It is expressed in milligrams of oxygen per litre of water.

The higher value of BOD indicates low Dissolved Oxygen content of water.

Since BOD is limited to biodegradable materials, it is not a reliable method of measuring water pollution.

Chemical oxygen demand (COD) is a slightly better mode used to measure pollution load in the water.



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COD measures the amount of oxygen in parts per million required to oxidise organic (biodegradable and non-biodegradable) and oxidizable inorganic compounds in the water sample.

**3. Consider the following statements**

1. Diastrophism is an endogenic geomorphic process.
2. Plate tectonics involving horizontal movements of crustal plates are form of diastrophism.
3. Epeirogenic processes are also a form of diastrophism.

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

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

Diastrophism and volcanism are endogenic geomorphic processes.

Weathering, mass wasting, erosion and deposition are exogenic geomorphic processes.

Diastrophism is the general term applied to slow bending, folding, warping and fracturing.

Processes like orogeny, epeirogeny and plate tectonics are forms of diastrophism.

4. The Dumbur Hydro Electric Plant is commissioned in

- (a) Tripura
- (b) Meghalaya
- (c) Manpur
- (d) Nagaland

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** Location based question

5. In relation to ODF+ and ODF++ protocol, consider the following statements:

1. A city /ward is notified as ODF+ city/ward if, at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating in the open.
2. A city /ward is notified as ODF++ city/ward if, at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating and /or urinating in the open, and all community ad public toilets are functional and well maintained"

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

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

To ensure the sustainability and long-term impacts, Open Defecation+ and Open Defecation++ are used.

In general, ODF protocol "A city /ward is notified as ODF city/ward if, at any point of

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the day, not a single person is found defecating in the open"

The ODF+ protocol says that a city, ward or circle could be declared ODF+," at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating and /or urinating in the open, and all community and public toilets are functional and well maintained"

In ODF++ protocol adds the condition that "faecal sludge/septage and sewage is safely managed and treated, with no discharging or dumping of untreated faecal sludge/septage and sewage in drains, water bodies or open area"

6. Recently in news Idris Elba named after an actor is a species of

- (a) Spider
- (b) Wasp
- (c) Frog
- (d) Snake

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:** A new wasp species was named after British actor Idris Elba. It is found living as a parasite in eggs of another insect, known as the Bagrada bug, which is a major pest of cruciferous vegetables.

7. Consider the following statements

1. Sambar Lake is a Ramsar Wetland Site in Rajasthan
2. Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 rules apply to the wetlands falling in areas covered under the Indian Forest Act, 1927

3. Maharashtra and Karnataka currently have no designated wetlands under Ramsar

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

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 rules shall not apply to the wetlands falling in areas covered under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the State Forest Acts, and the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011.

8. Consider the following statements about UNEP

1. The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) was founded in June 1972 as a result of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment.
2. IPCC was created in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
3. The Production Gap Report 2019 which talks about the gap between the targets of the Paris Agreement and countries

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dependent on fossil fuels is a publication of UNEP.

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

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** Factual Statements

9. 'Maha Bodhi Temple Complex', recently seen in news was initially built by

- (a) Ashoka
- (b) Kanishka
- (c) Adi Shankara
- (d) Dharmapala

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

The Maha Bodhi Temple Complex is one of the four holy sites related to the life of the Lord Buddha, and particularly to the attainment of Enlightenment (Bodhi).

The other three are: Lumbini (Birth) in Nepal, Sarnath (Dharma-Chakra-Pravartana - 1<sup>st</sup> Sermon) and Kushinagar (Mahaparinirvana- death) in Uttar Pradesh.

The original structure was built by the Mauryan emperor Ashoka.

However, it was reconstructed entirely in brick in late Gupta period. The present temple dates from the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The site of the Maha Bodhi Temple provides exceptional records of the events associated with the life of Buddha and subsequent worship.

A descendant of the Bodhi tree under which the Buddha is said to have sat until he attained enlightenment stands adjacent to the temple.

Ashoka's stone slab purporting to mark the exact position where the Buddha sat is traditionally called the Buddha's vajrasana (literally "diamond throne" or "thunder seat").

It was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2002.

10. The recently proposed Industrial Relations Code Bill, 2019 amalgamates which of the following acts?

1. The Trade Unions Act, 1926
2. The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946
3. The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

The Industrial Relations Code Bill, 2019 proposes to amalgamate The Trade Unions Act, 1926, The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, and The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. Apart from offering some degree of flexibility on government permissions for retrenchment, the most important aspect of the Bill is that it presents the legal framework for ushering in

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the concept of 'fixed-term employment' through contract workers on a pan-India basis.

Currently, companies hire contract workers through contractors.

With the introduction of fixed-term employment, they will be able to hire workers directly under a fixed-term contract, with the flexibility to tweak the length of the contract based on the seasonality of industry.

These workers will be treated on a par with regular workers during the tenure of the contract.

The move to include it in a central law will help in wider reach, and states are expected to follow similar applicability.

The government had tried a move last year to apply fixed-term employment across "central sphere establishments" (which are establishments under the authority of the central government, Railways, mines, oilfields, major ports, or any other central public sector undertaking) in all sectors, but it failed to elicit the desired results as states did not notify similar provisions for it.

The Bill now ensures a pan-India impact of this move.

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1. 'Ghoramara Island' sometimes seen in news belongs to which country?

- (a) India
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Myanmar
- (d) Maldives

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

Ghoramara Island in the Ganga estuary of West Bengal is slowly being submerged by rising sea levels, forcing people to migrate in large numbers.

Neighbouring islands of Sagar and Mousuni are also under threat of submergence.

The story of Ghoramara shows how climate change is changing the way people live — how it divides families, breaks social taboos and hastens forced migration.

The largely poor people in the island (45 percent live below the poverty line) are under enormous socioeconomic stress that has upturned their lives.

2. Consider the following statements with respect to GDP and GNP:

1. GDP and GNP, both measure the market value of all goods and services produced for final sale in an economy.
2. If it is an open economy then GNP will always be larger than GDP.
3. If it is a closed economy then GDP will always be equal to GNP.
4. GNP is better metric of measure for the overall economic condition of a country than GDP.

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

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

GDP is essentially about where the production takes place whereas GNP is about who produces.

If it is an open economy then GNP may or may not be greater than GDP. If it is a closed economy then GDP will always be equal to GNP.

GDP is a better metric of measure than GNP.

3. 'Hong Kong Convention' recently seen in news is related to

- (a) Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships
- (b) Environmental Health Hazards
- (c) Smart Cities Programme
- (d) Prevention on hunting of Whales

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

The Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009 (the Hong Kong Convention), was adopted at a diplomatic conference held in Hong Kong, China in 2009.

It was adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 2009.

The Convention is aimed at ensuring that ships, when being recycled after reaching the

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end of their operational lives; do not pose any unnecessary risks to human health, safety and to the environment.

It also addresses concerns raised about the working and environmental conditions at many of the world's ship recycling locations.

The Convention is yet to come into force because it has not been ratified by 15 nations, representing 40 per cent of the world merchant shipping by gross tonnage (capacity) and a maximum annual ship recycling volume of not less than 3 per cent of the combined tonnage of the countries.

4. Transfer of RBI Surplus to the Central Government was done recently under the recommendation of
- (a) Rangarajan Committee
  - (b) Bimal Jalan Committee
  - (c) Narashimman Committee
  - (d) Tapan Ray Committee

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to transfer Rs 1.76 lakh crore to the Central government, which may help the government in dealing with the economic slowdown.

The Rs 1.76 lakh crore includes the central bank's 2018-19 surplus of ₹1.23 lakh crore and Rs 52,637 crore of excess provisions identified as per the revised Economic Capital Framework (recommended by Bimal Jalan Committee).

The government already had revised downward the fiscal deficit target to 3.4%

from 3.3% and initiated a slew of measures that are being dubbed as mini-budget.

The RBI had formed a committee chaired by former Governor Bimal Jalan to review its economic capital framework and suggest the quantum of excess provision to be transferred to the government.

The panel recommended a clear distinction between the two components of the economic capital of RBI i.e. Realized equity and Revaluation balances.

Revaluation reserves comprise of periodic marked-to-market unrealized/notional gains/losses in values of foreign currencies and gold, foreign securities and rupee securities, and a contingency fund.

Realized equity, which is a form of a contingency fund for meeting all risks/losses primarily built up from retained earnings. It is also called the Contingent Risk Buffer (CBR).

The Surplus Distribution Policy of RBI that was finalized is in line with the recommendations of the Bimal Jalan committee.

The Jalan committee has given a range of 5.5-6.5% of RBI's balance sheet for Contingent Risk Buffer.

Adhering to the recommendations, the RBI has decided to set the CBR level at 5.5% of the balance sheet, while transferring the remaining excess reserves worth ₹52,637 crore to the government.

If CBR is below the lower bound of requirement, risk provisioning will be made to the extent necessary and only the residual

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net income (if any) transferred to the Government.

However, keeping CBR at a lower range of 5.5% will reduce RBI's space to manoeuvre monetary policy.

5. Recently, India became the last major cricketing nation to enter the pink-ball Test era. The 'Pink Ball' is used because

(a) It represents India's solidarity to the women, in the field of cricketing.

(b) It symbolizes the commitment of India towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

(c) It is better visible in the artificial lights of the stadium once the natural light fades away.

(d) BCCI favoured using of Pink Ball to symbolize the change in its sponsorship.

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

Why Pink? - Pink was the consensus colour after ball makers tried optic yellow and bright orange, which were easy to spot on the grass, and by fielders taking high catches. (making it better visible in the artificial lights)

Are Pink balls different? - all cricket balls are made of cork, rubber and woollen yarn, using similar production techniques. The colour of the dye on the tanned cowhide, and the difference in 'finishing' decide in which format a ball is used.

6. Consider the following statements regarding 'Swachhta Hi Seva Campaign'

1. It is a countrywide awareness and mobilization campaign.

2. The campaign is coordinated by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

3. The 'Swachhta Hi Seva- 2019' Campaign will be focused on Plastic Waste Management.

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

(a) 2 only

(b) 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) None of the above

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) has been celebrated annually since 2017 in the run up to Gandhi Jayanti.

The campaign has mobilized crores of people every year to create awareness for Swachhata. 2019 campaign will be focused on Plastic Waste Management, given the detrimental effect of uncollected plastic waste on human beings, animals and the environment at large.

7. Consider the following statements

1. Ashvaghosh lived in the court of Kanishka, the most famous Kushana ruler.

2. Ashvaghosh composed the Buddhacharita, a biography of the Buddha.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

The fourth Buddhist council was held in 72 A.D at Kundalvana, Kashmir.

It was presided by Vasumitra, while Asvaghosa was his deputy.

The council was held under the patronage of Kushan King Kanishka of Kushan Empire.

Here, the Buddhism was divided into two sects namely Mahayana and Hinayana.

Ashvaghosha composed the Buddhacharita, a biography of the Buddha.

8. Which of the following organisations are subjected to the audit of the CAG?

- 1. All the Union and State Government departments.
- 2. Non-commercial autonomous bodies and authorities owned or controlled by the Union or the States.
- 3. Private entities regulated by the Union and State governments.

Which of the given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

The organisations subject to the audit of the CAG are:

All the Union and State Government departments including the Indian Railways, Defence and Posts and Telecommunications.

About 1500 public commercial enterprises controlled by the Union and State governments, i.e. government companies and corporations.

Around 400 non-commercial autonomous bodies and authorities owned or controlled by the Union or the States.

Bodies and authorities substantially financed from Union some of the local bodies and Panchayati Raj Institutions which are critical grass root agencies for implementation of developmental programmes and delivery of services.

9. Consider the following statements regarding 'Nicotine'

- 1. Use of nicotine as an ingredient in any food item is allowed in India, under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
- 2. Nicotine and Nicotine Sulphate are listed as hazardous chemicals under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- 3. Nicotine is Listed as an insecticide in the Schedule of insecticides under the Insecticide Act 1968, and subsequently its use as a pesticide is banned by Government of India.

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

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



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**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

Nicotine is prohibited for use as an ingredient in any food item under the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulation, 2011 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Nicotine and Nicotine Sulphate are listed as hazardous chemicals in the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 made under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Nicotine is listed as an insecticide in the Schedule of Insecticides under the Insecticide Act 1968, and subsequently its use as a pesticide is also highly restricted by Government of India.

**10.** With reference to River Mandovi, Consider the following statements:

1. It rises in the Western Ghats, from the Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka.
2. It flows through Karnataka and Maharashtra only.
3. Government of India has approved Kalasa Banduri Nala project to improve drinking water supply.

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

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

Mahadayi river rises in the Western Ghats, from the Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary in Khanapur taluk of Karnataka's Belagavi district. Flowing westward, it enters Goa from Sattari taluk of North Goa districts

River Mandovi, also known as Mahadayi or Mhadei river is regarded as the lifeline of Goa. The river originates from a cluster of 30 springs at Bhimgad in the Western Ghats in the Belagavi district of Karnataka and has a total 2,032 km<sup>2</sup> catchment area of which 1,580 km<sup>2</sup>, 375 km<sup>2</sup> and 77 km<sup>2</sup> catchment area are in Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra respectively.

The Kalasa-Banduri Nala is a project undertaken by the Government of Karnataka to improve drinking water supply to the Districts Belagavi, Dharwad and Gadag. It involves building across Kalasa and Banduri, two tributaries of the Mahadayi river to divert 7.56 TMC of water to the Malaprabha river, which supplies the drinking water needs of the said 3 districts, i.e., Dharwad, Belagavi and Gadag.

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1. Dokdo islands sometimes seen in news located in?

- (a) Sea of Japan
- (b) South china Sea
- (c) Yellow Sea
- (d) East Sea

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

It is located in Sea of Japan and dispute between Japan and South Korea.

They are 210 kilometers across the water from Japan and South Korea and are only 19 hectares in area.

These islands are called the Liancourt Rocks in the west, Takeshima in Japan and Dokdo in South Korea.

2. In the context to Ken Betwa interlinking project, consider the following statements:

- 1. The proposed project will be located in Panna tiger reserve.
- 2. Both the rivers are tributaries of Ganga.

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

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

Both the river originates in MP and are the tributaries of Yamuna.

Rajghat, Paricha and Matatila dams are over Betwa river.

Ken river passes through Panna tiger reserve.

3. Which of the following is/are true about 'Sri Nityananda Prabhu'?

- 1. He played a significant role in the foundation and development of the Vaishnava movement in Tamil Nadu.
- 2. He was a disciple of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu.
- 3. He denounced the Caste System and helped in the revival of Hinduism in Eastern India.

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

'Sri Nityananda Prabhu' is a contemporary and chief disciple of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Nityananda Prabhu played a significant role in the foundation and development of the Vaishnava movement in West Bengal.

Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and Sri Nityananda Prabhu are credited with the revival of Hinduism in Eastern India, plagued mainly by the caste system, which they denounced. Major Vaishnava literature of medieval period, came from them or their disciples.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the Observers of ECI

- 1. They are appointed by ECI under the powers conferred on it by the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- 2. They work under the superintendence and control of the concerned State governments.

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3. They help in ensuring the conduct of free and fair polls

Which of the statement(s) 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:**

Observers of the Election Commission of India (ECI) are appointed under the powers conferred on it by Section 20B of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 and the plenary powers available to the Commission under the Constitution of India. They are the appointees of the Commission working under the superintendence and control of the Commission for the period from their appointment until the process of election is completed.

The Section 20B of RPA,1951 provides statutory powers to the Observers to watch the conduct of elections and especially in respect of counting of votes.

The General and Police Observers assist the Commission in the conduct of free and fair polls.

Central Observers thus act as an essential link between the ECI and the booth-level officers (BLO)

5. Which among the following island(s) is/are found in the South China Sea?

- 1. Paracel Islands
- 2. Spratly Islands
- 3. Kuril Islands

Choose the correct option

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

The Kuril Islands is a chain of islands that stretch between the Japanese island of Hokkaido at the southern end and the Russian Kamchatka Peninsula at the northern end.

The islands separate the Sea of Okhotsk from the Pacific Ocean.

The island is an issue of contention between Russia and Japan.

6. Consider the following statements regarding World Anti-Doping Agency

- 1. It is an international organization under United Nations Organization.
- 2. It aims at harmonizing anti-doping regulations in all sports and countries.
- 3. It is collective initiative led by the International Olympic Committee.

Which of the statement(s) 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

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**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

It is an International Non-Governmental Organization.

It aims at harmonizing anti-doping regulations in all sports and countries.

It is collective initiative led by the International Olympic Committee.

It was established in 1999 in Lausanne Switzerland under so called Declaration of Lausanne.

Its headquarters is in Montreal, Canada.

It is mandated to coordinate, promote and monitor the fight against drugs in sports.

7. The famous Living Root Bridges Riwei Root Bridge and Umshiang Double Decker Bridge are found in

- (a) Meghalaya
- (b) Manipur
- (c) Arunachal Pradesh
- (d) Kerala

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

They have been serving as connectors for generations in the Indian state of Meghalaya.

The bridges are primarily a means to cross streams and rivers. They have also become world-famous tourist attractions. The two most popular tourist spots are- Riwei Root Bridge and Umshiang Double Decker Bridge.

8. Consider the following about Osmosis and Reverse Osmosis?

1. A process by which molecules of a solvent tend to pass through a semi permeable membrane from a less concentrated solution into a more concentrated one is known as Osmosis.
2. A process by which a solvent pass through a porous membrane in the direction opposite to that for natural osmosis when subjected to a hydrostatic pressure greater than the osmotic pressure is known as Reverse Osmosis.

Which of the above are incorrect?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** Both are correct

**Why in News:** The Supreme Court has refused to stay the May 2019 order of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that banned the use of reverse osmosis (RO) systems where drinking water supply had total dissolved solids (TDS) less than 500 mg per litre.

9. Consider the following statements

1. The Swacch Bharat Mission declared India open defecation free on October 2, 2019
2. National Statistical Office (NSO) is not entitled to conduct survey on sanitation

Which of the above are correct?

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

wrong. But even if you had known that, you'd be still stuck between B and C. So, entire question hangs on whether you know about CRISPR or not.

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:** The latest National Statistical Office (NSO) survey on sanitation debunked the claims of an open defecation-free or ODF India made by the Centre's flagship Swachh Bharat scheme.

**10.** Consider the following pairs:

- | Terms sometimes seen in news | Context/Topic             |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Belle II experiment       | - Artificial Intelligence |
| 2. Block chain technology    | Digital/Cryptocurrency    |
| 3. CRISPR – Cas9             | - Particle Physics        |

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

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:** CRISPR, a new genome editing tool, could transform the field of biology. It allows scientists to edit genomes with unprecedented precision. So, #3 is wrong, CRISPR is definitely not associated with Particle Physics. This eliminates A, C and D. Thus, we are left with answer "B: only 2" Belle-II experiment was conducted in Tsukuba, Japan to study violations of the Standard Model of particle physics. So, #1 is

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1. 'Assamese Gamosa' which was recently associated with GI Tag is a

- (a) Sweet made of jaggery
- (b) White cotton towel with red border
- (c) Rice variety
- (d) Handmade linen bags

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- Few cultural symbols are as utilitarian as the white handmade cotton Gamosa, with its characteristic red border of woven motifs.
- It is also valued as a gift for visitors, used as a scarf, anti-dust mask, wrapped around the head as a turban.
- Conservationists are now banking on this cultural icon to carry forward the message of turtle conservation, with Gamosa woven with turtle images.

2. Paraquat dichloride, recently seen in news refers to

- (a) Toxic pesticide
- (b) Antibiotic
- (c) Poisonous Gas
- (d) Explosive

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- Paraquat is a toxic chemical that is widely used as an herbicide (plant killer), primarily for weed and grass control.
- It has been banned in 32 countries including Switzerland, where herbicide producing company Syngenta is based.

- Paraquat also figures on the list of 99 pesticides and herbicides the Supreme Court to ban in an ongoing case.
- Paraquat dichloride is being used for 25 crops in India, whereas it is approved to be used on only nine crops by the Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee. This is a violation of the Indian Insecticides Act.
- So far in India, only Kerala has banned the herbicide.
- Another violation: since farmers can't and don't read the label on paraquat containers, retailers sell paraquat in plastic carry bags and refill bottles.
- Paraquat poisoning, specifically suicide attempts by consuming the fatal chemical, has emerged as a social tragedy in Odisha.
- Unlike other pesticides, insecticides or herbicides, there is no antidote to this compound.
- There are reasons the government has not imposed an outright ban on the herbicide.
- It has its benefits, like saving farmers money and time as it is cheap and effectively kills weeds quicker than manual de-weeding.
- Yet, the government could have done more by imposing strict regulations on stock and sale of the herbicide. Unless open availability is curbed, no exercise will be successful in preventing deaths.

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3. Bougainville Island sometimes seen in news is located in which of the following seas?

- (a) Bismarck Sea
- (b) Solomon Sea
- (c) Coral Sea
- (d) Timor Sea

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- It is the eastern most island of Papua New Guinea, in the Solomon Sea southwest Pacific.
- Along with Buka Island and several island groups, it forms the autonomous region of Bougainville.
- Geographically it is the largest of the Solomon Islands.

4. Which of the below are powered by same theoretical foundations, as the quantum computers

- 1. Lasers
- 2. MRI scanners
- 3. GPS

Select the code using the options below:

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** Factual options.

5. Golden Rice sometimes seen in news is rich in which of the following Vitamins?

- (a) Vitamin A
- (b) Vitamin B
- (c) Vitamin C
- (d) Vitamin D

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

It is naturally high in vitamin A or beta-carotene.

6. Consider the following about National Sample Survey Organisation - NSSO

- 1. It conducts household surveys, enterprise surveys, village facilities, Land & Livestock holdings
- 2. Among the 10-year cycle, Social Consumption is taken twice whereas Land & Livestock holdings are taken only once

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

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** Both are correct statements

**Ten Year Cycle**

- Consumer Expenditure and Employment & Unemployment - Twice
- Social Consumption (health, education etc.) - Twice
- Un-organised Manufacturing - Twice
- Un-organised services - Twice
- Land & Livestock holdings - Once
- Open Round - Once
- (Special surveys are also undertaken)
- Annual Consumer Expenditure and Employment & Unemployment Surveys (thin sample)

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7. Consider the following statements about Code on Wages, 2019

1. The central government will fix a floor wage, taking into account living standards of workers.
2. The wage fixing entity may set different floor wages for different geographical areas.
3. The minimum wages decided by the central or state governments must be higher than the floor wage.
4. The wage period will be fixed by the respective state governments

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:** Payment of wages: Wages will be paid in

- (i) Coins
- (ii) Currency Notes
- (iii) By Cheque
- (iv) By Crediting to the Bank Account, or
- (v) Through electronic mode.

The wage period will be fixed by the employer as either:

- (i) Daily
- (ii) Weekly
- (iii) Fortnightly, or
- (iv) Monthly.

8. Consider the following statements regarding 'Rajya Sabha-Marshals'

1. Rajya Sabha Marshals are Officers of gazetted rank.
2. The President after consultation with the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, make rules regulating the recruitment and the conditions of service of Marshals.
3. Parliament may by law regulate the recruitment, and the conditions of service of Marshals.

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

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

Rajya Sabha Marshals are gazetted officers Article 98 in The Constitution of India 1949 Secretariat of Parliament

1. Each House of Parliament shall have a separate secretariat staff: Provided that nothing in this clause shall be construed as preventing the creation of posts common to both Houses of Parliament
2. Parliament may by law regulate the recruitment, and the conditions of service of persons appointed, to the secretarial staff of either House of Parliament
3. Until provision is made by Parliament under clause ( 2 ), the President may, after consultation with the Speaker of the House of the People or the chairman of the council of States, as the case may be,



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make rules regulating the recruitment, and the conditions of service of persons appointed, to the secretarial staff of the House of the People or the council of States, and any rules so made shall have effect subject to the provisions of any law made under the said clause Conduct of Business.

9. Consider the following statements regarding powers of 'Speaker of Lok Sabha'

1. The Speaker is the guardian of the rights and privileges of the House, its Committees and members.
2. The entire Parliamentary Estate is under the authority of the Speaker.
3. The Speaker can direct a member to withdraw from the House for a specific period of time.

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

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- Powers of the Speaker - Regulating the Business of the House
- The Presiding Officers in the two Houses are given vast powers by the rules.
- It is the Presiding Officer who decides
- the admissibility of a Question,
- the forms in which amendments may be moved to the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address.

- With regard to moving amendments to a Bill, the permission of the Chair is required.
- As regards regulating discussions in the House, it is the Speaker who decides as to when a member shall speak and how long she shall speak.
- If she is satisfied, the Speaker can direct a member to withdraw from the House for a specific period of time.
- The Speaker is the guardian of the rights and privileges of the House, its Committees and members.
- The entire Parliamentary Estate is under the authority of the Speaker.
- The Speaker also has certain residuary powers under the Rules of Procedure. In exercise of this power and under her inherent powers, the Speaker issues from time to time directions which are generally treated as sacrosanct as the Rules of Procedure.
- On matters regarding interpretation of constitutional provisions relating to the House or the Rules of Procedure, she often gives rulings which are respected by members and are binding in nature.
- It is the Speaker of the Lok Sabha who presides over joint sittings called in the event of disagreement between the two Houses on a legislative measure.

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10. Consider the following statements about

‘Lymphatic Filariasis’

1. It is commonly called as Leishmaniasis.
2. It is a neglected tropical disease caused by parasitic worms.
3. This is a vector-borne disease that spreads through mosquitoes.

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

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- It is commonly called as elephantiasis
- It is caused by infection with parasitic worms.
- The parasite in its larval stages circulate in the blood and transmitted from person to person by mosquitoes.
- It leads to abnormal enlargement of body parts, leading to severe disability.
- The affected persons face social stigma and social exclusion.
- Kala- Azar is also called as Leishmaniasis

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1. Consider the following pairs:

Traditional Water

Harvesting Systems

States

- |               |                  |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. Zing       | Nagaland         |
| 2. Kuhls      | Himachal Pradesh |
| 3. Jack wells | Kerala           |

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

**Zing** – It is found in Ladakh, are small tanks that collect melting glacier water. A network of guiding channels brings water from the glacier to the tank.

**Kuhls** – They are surface water channels found in the mountainous regions of Himachal Pradesh. The channels carry glacial waters from rivers and streams into the fields.

**Jack wells** - The Shompen tribe of the Great Nicobar Islands uses this system, in which bamboos are placed under trees to collect runoff water from leaves and carries it to jack wells which pits encircled by bunds are made from logs of hard wood.

**Pat system** – It is developed in Madhya Pradesh, in which the water is diverted from hill streams into irrigation channels by diversion bunds. They are made across the stream by piling up stones and teak leaves and mud.

**Eri** – It is tank system, widely used in Tamil Nadu which acts as flood-control systems,

prevent soil erosion and wastage of runoff during periods of heavy rainfall, and also recharge the groundwater.

**Zabo or Ruza System**– It is practiced in Nagaland. Rainwater that falls on forested hilltops is collected by channels that deposit the run-off water in pond-like structures created on the terraced hillsides.

**Phad** – It is a community-managed irrigation system in the tapi river basin in Maharashtra. It starts with check dam built across a river and canals to carry water to agricultural blocks with outlets to ensure excess water is removed from the canals.

**Panam keni** – The Kuruma tribe (a native tribe of Wayanad) uses wooden cylinders as a special type of well, which are made by soaking the stems of toddy palms and immersed in groundwater springs.

**Ahar Pynes** – They are traditional floodwater harvesting systems indigenous to South Bihar. Ahars are reservoirs with embankments on three sides and Pynes are artificial rivulets led off from rivers to collect water in the Ahars for irrigation in the dry months.

**Jhalara** - Jhalaras are typically rectangular-shaped step wells that have tiered steps on three or four sides in the city of Jodhpur.

**Bawari** - Bawaris are unique step wells that were once a part of the ancient networks of water storage in the cities of Rajasthan.

**Taanka** - It is a cylindrical paved underground pit into which rainwater from rooftops, courtyards or artificially prepared

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catchments flows. It is indigenous to the Thar Desert region of Rajasthan.

Khadin – Also called dhora, is a long earthen embankment that is built across the hill slopes of gravelly uplands. It is indigenous to Jaisalmer region and similar to the irrigation methods of Ur region (Present Iraq).

Kund – It is a saucer-shaped catchment area that gently slopes towards the central circular underground well. It is found in the sandier tracts of western Rajasthan and Gujarat.

2. Consider the following statements.

1. Legal Metrology Act, 2009 aims to establish and enforce standards of weights and measures in India.
2. It is administered under Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:** Both are correct Statements

3. Consider the following regarding the Lokpal:

1. Lokpal is a statutory body without any constitutional status.
2. Chairperson of the Lokpal should be either the former Chief Justice of India or the former Judge of Supreme Court

or an eminent person with special knowledge on Anti-corruption policy.

3. The term of office for Lokpal Chairman and Members is 5 years or till the age of 70 years.

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:**

A new motto, “Ma Gridhah Kasyasvidhanam (Do not be greedy for anyone’s wealth)”, was also adopted.

The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013 provides the establishment of Lokpal for the Union and Lokayukta for States.

These institutions are statutory bodies without any constitutional status.

They perform the function of an “ombudsman” and inquire into allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries and for related matters.

Lokpal is a multi-member body that consists of one chairperson and a maximum of 8 members.

Chairperson of the Lokpal should be either the former Chief Justice of India or the former Judge of Supreme Court or an eminent person with impeccable integrity and outstanding ability, having special knowledge and expertise of minimum 25 years in the matters relating to anti-corruption policy, public administration, vigilance, finance

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including insurance and banking, law and management.

Out of the maximum eight members, half will be judicial members and minimum 50% of the Members will be from SC/ ST/ OBC/ Minorities and women.

The judicial member of the Lokpal should be either a former Judge of the Supreme Court or a former Chief Justice of a High Court.

The non-judicial member should be an eminent person with impeccable integrity and outstanding ability, having special knowledge and expertise of minimum 25 years in the matters relating to anti-corruption policy, public administration, vigilance, finance including insurance and banking, law and management.

The term of office for Lokpal Chairman and Members is 5 years or till the age of 70 years.

The members are appointed by the president on the recommendation of a Selection Committee.

The selection committee is composed of the Prime Minister who is the Chairperson; Speaker of Lok Sabha, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha, Chief Justice of India or a Judge nominated by him/her and One eminent jurist.

For selecting the chairperson and the members, the selection committee constitutes a search panel of at least eight persons.

4. Consider the following statements regarding Protem Speaker in Loksabha .

1. He is appointed by the President
2. The main duty of the pro-tem speaker is to administer the oath of office to new members of the house.
3. Once the new speaker is elected, the office of the pro-tem speaker ceases to exist

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:** All the statements are correct regarding Protem Speaker

5. What is the correct sequence of occurrence of the following countries as one proceeds from north to south?

1. Montenegro
2. Albania
3. Greece

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

**Answer: a)**

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6. The Global Economic Prospects report is released by
- World Bank
  - WEF
  - IMF
  - UNCTAD

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

The Global Economic Prospects report is released by World Bank

7. Consider the following Rivers:
- Narmada
  - Mandovi
  - Daman Ganga

Which of the above flows / flow through Diu and Daman?

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

**Answer: b)**

8. Consider the following statements with regard to Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019:
- It defines a transgender person as one whose gender does not match the gender assigned at birth.
  - It includes trans-men and trans-women, persons with intersex variations, gender-queers, and persons with socio-cultural identities.
  - No government or private entity can discriminate against a transgender

person in employment matters, including recruitment, and promotion.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 2 and 3 only
- All the above

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

The Bill defines a transgender person as one whose gender does not match the gender assigned at birth. It includes trans-men and trans-women, persons with intersex variations, gender-queers, and persons with socio-cultural identities, such as kinnar and hijra.

It prohibits the discrimination against a transgender person, including denial of service or unfair treatment in relation to education, employment, healthcare, access to, or enjoyment of goods, facilities, opportunities available to the public.

Every transgender person shall have a right to reside and be included in his household.

The government must provide health facilities to transgender persons including separate HIV surveillance centers, and sex reassignment surgeries.

A transgender person may make an application to the District Magistrate for a certificate of identity, indicating the gender as 'transgender'.

The Bill imposes penalties for the offences against transgender persons like bonded labour, denial of use of public places, removal

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from household & village and physical, sexual, verbal, emotional or economic abuse.

9. Consider the following statements with regard to Contract for the Web:

1. The 'Contract for the Web' is a legal document.
2. The idea is to create a global plan of action for all stakeholders to together commit to building a "better" Web.
3. The World Wide Web Foundation, a non-profit organization founded by Tim Berners-Lee worked on it with Representatives from over 80 organisations.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

The idea is to create a global plan of action for all stakeholders to together commit to building a "better" Web.

The World Wide Web Foundation, a non-profit organization founded by Tim Berners-Lee worked on it with Representatives from over 80 organisations, including governments of France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and Ghana; tech majors Google, Facebook, Twitter, etc, civil society activists, and academics. The Contract consists of following 9 principles, three each

for governments, private companies, and individuals and civil society to endorse

Governments will "Ensure everyone can connect to the Internet", "Keep all of the Internet available, all of the time", and "Respect and protect people's fundamental online privacy and data rights".

Companies will "Make the Internet affordable and accessible to everyone", "Respect and protect people's privacy and personal data to build online trust", and "Develop technologies that support the best in humanity and challenge the worst".

The 'Contract for the Web' is not a legal document, or a United Nations document — though the organisations is in talks with the UN. It cannot currently bend governments or companies — even those that are on board — to its will.

10. Consider the following statements regarding **Agni II**:

1. It is a surface-to-surface medium range nuclear-capable missile.
2. It is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
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

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**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

India recently conducted the first, night trial of Agni-II successfully from the Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast.

It is a surface-to-surface medium range nuclear-capable missile.

Agni-II, an intermediate range ballistic missile (IRBM), has already been inducted into the armed forces.

Agni-II was developed by Advanced Systems Laboratory along with other DRDO laboratories and integrated by the Bharat Dynamics Limited.

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.





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1. "Trachischium apteii" a new snake species was recently discovered in

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Arunachal Pradesh
- (d) Mizoram

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- Trachischium apteii is a non-venomous burrowing snake in Arunachal Pradesh found under fallen logs inside a thickly forested area of the Tally Valley Wildlife Sanctuary near the town of Ziro in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The newly discovered species belongs to a group of fossorial snakes that live mostly underground, and surface mainly during or after a heavy monsoon shower.
- Experts behind the discovery suggested that due to the burrowing habits of species of this genus, snakes belonging to the group are seldom seen and hence remain poorly studied.
- Trachischium apteii was named so to honour the contribution of 'Deepak Apte', well-known marine biologist and Director of the (Bombay Natural History Society) BNHS.
- Trachischium species are commonly called slender snakes, and are currently known by seven species that are distributed across the Himalayas, and the Indo-Burma and Indo-China regions.
- Morphologically, the snake is distinguished by smooth and dorsal scales arranged in 15 rows throughout the body.

- The dorsal colour of the holotype is dark brown to black with faint dorsal longitudinal lines.
- Large-sized members of the genus measure about 293 mm to 299 mm (measuring less than a foot that is 300 mm or 30 cm).

2. Consider the following statements regarding the discretionary powers of the Governor:

1. If there is NO political party with a clear-cut majority in the assembly, Governor on his/ her discretion can appoint anybody as chief minister.
2. On his/ her discretion, the Governor can reserve a bill passed by the state legislature for president's assent.
3. Governor, on his/ her discretion can recommend the president about the failure of the constitutional machinery in the state.
4. It is up to the Governor what he/ she would like to do when the he legislative assembly is dissolved following a vote of no confidence.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- Some discretionary powers of the Governor are as follows:

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- Governor can dissolve the legislative assembly if the chief minister advises him to do following a vote of no confidence. Now, it is up to the Governor what he/ she would like to do.
- Governor, on his/ her discretion can recommend the president about the failure of the constitutional machinery in the state.
- On his/ her discretion, the Governor can reserve a bill passed by the state legislature for president's assent.
- If there is NO political party with a clear-cut majority in the assembly, Governor on his/ her discretion can appoint anybody as chief minister.
- Governor determines the amount payable by the Government of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram to an autonomous Tribal District Council as royalty accruing from licenses for mineral exploration.
- Governor can seek information from the chief minister with regard to the administrative and legislative matters of the state.
- Governor has discretion to refuse to sign to an ordinary bill passed by the state legislature.
- Thus, though the Governor is made the constitutional head of a state like president of India, yet there is a thin line as the Constitution empowers the Governor to act without the advice of the Chief Minister and his council and can use discretion on certain matters.

3. Consider the following statements regarding the Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Bill, 2019:

1. The Bill seeks to amend the Schedule to allocate two Lok Sabha seats to the merged UT.
2. The Bill provides that the jurisdiction of the High Court of Bombay will continue to extend to the merged UT.

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 Bill amends the First Schedule to merge the territories of the two UTs: (a) Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and (b) Daman and Diu.
- The merged territory will form the single UT and named as Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.
- **Article 240(1)** of the Constitution allows the President to make regulations for certain UTs, including the UTs of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu.
- The Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (Merger of Union Territories) Bill, 2019 will help in strengthening administrative efficiency services.
- The First Schedule to the Representation of the People Act, 1950 provides one seat in Lok Sabha to each of the two UTs. The

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Bill seeks to amend the Schedule to allocate two Lok Sabha seats to the merged UT.

- Provisions retained are reservation provided to people in the two union territories will continue, the number of Lok Sabha seats will also remain unaltered and the jurisdiction of the Bombay High Court will continue over the two territories, there will be no change in the status of Group III and IV employees.
- The country currently has nine Union Territories after the creation of the UTs of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. However, with the merger of Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli, the number of UTs will come down to eight.

4. With reference to Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA), Consider the following statements:

1. It is signed between India and European Union in 2016.
2. It covers Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investment, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

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

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement is a Free Trade Agreement

between India and EU, which was initiated in 2007.

- Even after a decade of negotiations, India and EU have failed to resolve certain issues which have led to a deadlock.
- Important Points
- India has not been granted “data secure” status by EU.
- India does not want an FTA without investment being part of it.
- U.K. visa rules discriminate against Indian technical professionals including because they have hiked visa fees and have numerical caps on visas.
- EU imposed a ban on sale of 700 pharmaceutical products even though they were clinically tested by GVK Biosciences.
- India cancelled most bilateral investment agreements with EU member states in 2016 on grounds that they were outdated.
- Presence of non-tariff barriers on Indian agricultural products in the form of sanitary and phytosanitary measures which are too stringent and enable the EU to bar many Indian agricultural products from entering its markets.

5. Consider the following with regard to characteristics of Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO):

1. It is a movement of rain clouds westward over the tropics.
2. It regulates tropical cyclone, monsoons and El Nino cycle.

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3. It has two phases; they are Convective rainfall phase and Suppressed rainfall phase.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- It is a Phenomenon, that have it can have dramatic impacts in the mid-latitudes.
- Several times a year the MJO is a strong contributor to various extreme events in the United States, including Arctic air outbreaks during the winter months across the central and eastern portions of the United States.
- It is characterized by a band of rain clouds moving eastward over the tropics.
- It regulates tropical cyclone, the monsoons and the El Nino cycle and contributes to severe weather events over Asia, Australia, Africa, Europe and America.
- It consists of two parts, or phases: one is the enhanced rainfall or convective phase and the other is the suppressed rainfall phase.
- Strong MJO activity often dissects the planet into halves: one half within the enhanced convective phase and the other half in the suppressed convective phase.
- These two phases produce opposite changes in clouds and rainfall and this

entire dipole that is having two main opposing centers of action propagates eastward.

- The location of the convective phases is often grouped into geographically based stages that climate scientists

6. Which one of the following statements appropriately describes the term 'recession'?

1. It is the drastic deficiency in supply of goods, which results in inflation.
2. It refers to a significant decline in economic activity and is spread across the economy.
3. It refers to the decrease in the foreign investment leading to unemployment.
4. It refers to the depreciation in the monetary value of the country's currency.

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- A recession is a significant decline in economic activity spread across the economy, lasting more than a few months, normally visible in real GDP, real income, employment, industrial production, and wholesale-retail sales.
- A recession begins just after the economy reaches a peak of activity and ends as the economy reaches its trough.
- Depression is nothing but a severe form of recession.

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7. Which among the following island(s) is/are located in the Mediterranean Sea

1. Sicily
  2. Crete
  3. Malta
  4. Canary
- (a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 1, 2, and 3 only  
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only  
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

**Canary Island-** is located in Eastern Atlantic Ocean.

8. Consider the following statements regarding G.V. Mavalankar

1. He served as the Speaker of the Provisional Parliament from 1949 till 1952.
2. He served as the president of INC when Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose resigned in 1939.
3. He served as the Speaker of the First Lok Sabha

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: c)**

**Explanation:**

- Mavalankar became the Speaker of the Provisional Parliament on 26 November

1949, and he continued to occupy the office of the Speaker till the First Lok Sabha was constituted in 1952.

- G V Mavalankar was the first Speaker of Lok Sabha.
- The rules formulated by him to recognize the leader of opposition in the house have widely come to be known as Mavalankar's rule.
- Under Mavalankar's rule, the single largest opposition party must have a strength of at least 10 per cent of the total strength of the House in order to designate its leader as the Leader of Opposition.
- The Supreme Court in its judgement, has stated that Mavalankar's rule was not a statutory provision and further Speaker's statement or procedure evolved to run the House was outside the purview of judicial review.
- In the 17<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha, there were no party which can qualify for the post of leader of opposition based on the numerical strength as provided under the Mavalankar's rule.
- *Statement 2 is wrong* - Rajendra Prasad became the president when Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose resigned in 1939.

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9. Consider the following statement regarding the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV):

1. It is the first Indian launch vehicle to be equipped with liquid stages.
2. It is designed mainly to deliver the “earth-observation” or “remote-sensing” satellites.

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:**

- Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) is the third generation launch vehicle of India. It is the first Indian launch vehicle to be equipped with liquid stages.
- PSLV is used for delivering various satellites to Low Earth Orbits. It is designed mainly to deliver the “earth-observation” or “remote-sensing” satellites. With lift-off mass of up to about 1750 Kg to Sun-Synchronous circular polar orbits of 600-900 Km altitude.

**Explanation:**

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an alliance of more than 122 countries jointly initiated by India and France most of them being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, now extended to all members of UN.

10. International Solar Alliance (ISA) was jointly initiated by which of the following countries?

- (a) India and USA
- (b) India and UK
- (c) India and France
- (d) India and China

**Answer: c)**

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1. Consider the following statements regarding the NATO:

1. NATO is a military alliance established by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
2. Montenegro became the latest member to join NATO in 2017.
3. Recently US have withdrawn from the alliance after the dispute regarding operating budget in NATO.

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

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance established by the North Atlantic Treaty (also called the Washington Treaty) of April 4, 1949, by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union.
- A key provision of the treaty, the so-called Article 5, states that if one member of the alliance is attacked in Europe or North America, it is to be considered an attack on all members. That effectively put Western Europe under the "nuclear umbrella" of the US.

- NATO has only once invoked Article 5, on September 12, 2001 following the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center in the US.
- As of 2019, there are 29 member states, with Montenegro becoming the latest member to join the alliance in 2017.
- France withdrew from the integrated military command of NATO in 1966 but remained a member of the organization. However, it resumed its position in NATO's military command in 2009.
- The U.S. has recently announced that it would cut its contribution to NATO's operating budget.

2. Consider the following statements regarding the FASTags:

1. The FASTag is a reloadable tag that allows automatic deduction of toll without having to stop for carrying out the cash transaction.
2. The tag uses radio frequency identification (RFID) technology and is fixed on the windscreen of the vehicle once active.
3. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) are implementing this program.

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

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

**Answer: c)**

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**Explanation:**

- The FASTag is a reloadable tag that allows automatic deduction of toll without having to stop for carrying out the cash transaction.
- The tag uses radio frequency identification (RFID) technology and is fixed on the windscreen of the vehicle once active.
- Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) is the use of radio waves to read and capture information stored on a tag attached to an object. A tag can be read from up to several feet away and does not need to be within direct line-of-sight of the reader to be tracked.
- The tag is valid for five years and comes in seven different colours – violet, orange, yellow, green, pink, blue, black. Each colour is assigned to a particular category of vehicles.
- To encourage the use of FASTags, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) refunds 5% of the total monthly transactions.
- Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL) (a company incorporated by National Highways Authority of India) and National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) are implementing this program.
- FASTag is presently operational at both, national and state highways.

3. Mission 41K, sometimes seen in news is referred to

- (a) Training 41,000 physically challenged students across India in the sports field to revive their livelihoods.
- (b) Saving of Rs. 41,000 Crore through integrated Rail Energy Management System by 2025.
- (c) To bring back the 41,000-crore debt from various Multi-National Companies.
- (d) Indian Government's target of 41,000 KW Solar power in rural parts of India by 2022.

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- "Mission 41K" document was unveiled by Ministry of Railways in 2017. It targets for saving of Rs. 41,000 Crore through integrated Rail Energy Management System by 2025.
- Railway Energy Management Company Limited (REMCL), a JV of Ministry of Railways and RITES Ltd., has been endeavouring to achieve this target by gradual migration from Consumer to Deemed Licensee.
- Deemed Licensee status enables Indian Railways to buy electricity directly from any generating company by paying wheeling charges to Central and State transmission system under open access as per The Electricity Act, 2003.
- These efforts have resulted in keeping electricity price at most economical rate on sustainable basis since 2015 on Indian Railways.



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4. Consider the following pairs:

Defence system	Country
1. Arrow missile system	- Israel
2. Phalcon	- Russia
3. AAD (Advanced air defence)	- India

Which of the pairs 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:**

- Phalcon is an airborne warning and control systems (AWACS) developed by Israel.

5. Consider the following Tiger Reserves in India:

- 1. Kamlang Tiger Reserve
- 2. Nameri Tiger Reserve
- 3. Orang Tiger Reserve
- 4. Manas Tiger Reserve

Which of the following Tiger Reserves are located in the state of Assam?

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- Kamlang Tiger Reserve is located in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Tiger Reserves in Assam are Manas Tiger Reserve, Orang Tiger Reserve, Nameri Tiger Reserve and Kaziranga Tiger Reserve. (Hint: MONK).

6. LB-1 recently seen in news is referred to

- (a) Planetary Nebula
- (b) Red dwarf
- (c) Black hole
- (d) White dwarf

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

**LB-1**

- The Astronomers discovered a huge Black hole LB-1 in our Milky Way galaxy.
- It is discovered using China's LAMOST telescope.
- It is 15,00 light year away from earth and mass 70 times greater than the sun.
- According to most of the current models of Stellar evolution, Black holes of such mass should not exist in our galaxy.
- Stellar black holes are usually formed in aftermath of supernova explosion, a phenomenon that occurs when extremely large star burn out at the end of their lives.
- LB-1's large mass falls into a range known as 'pair instability gap' where supernova should not have produced it.

**Planetary Nebulas**

- It is abbreviated as PN or plural PNe, is a type of emission nebula consisting of an expanding, glowing shell of ionized gas ejected from red giant stars late in their lives.

**White Dwarf**

- It is also called as degenerate dwarf, is a stellar core remnant composed mostly of electron-degenerate matter. A white dwarf is very dense: its mass is comparable to

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that of the Sun, while its volume is comparable to that of Earth.

**Red Dwarf**

- It is the smallest and coolest kind of star on the main sequence. Red dwarfs are by far the most common type of star in the Milky Way, at least in the neighbourhood of the Sun, but because of their low luminosity, individual red dwarfs cannot be easily observed.

7. Global Migration Report is released by
- (a) Global Forum on Migration and Development
  - (b) International Organisation for Migration
  - (c) United Nation High Commission for Refugees
  - (d) United Nation Development Program

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

It is released by International Organization of Migration

It provides an object and balance account of migration globally.

It can inform our own work, be it in studies, research and analysis, policymaking, communication, or migration practice.

8. Consider the following with regard to Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA),2019:

1. It is applicable across the entire country including the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
2. Any Indian or foreign national charged under UAPA is liable for punishment

under this Act, irrespective of the location of crime / offense committed.

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

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- It is applicable across the entire country
- Any Indian or foreign national charged under UAPA is liable for punishment under this Act, irrespective of the location of crime / offense committed
- UAPA will be applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India
- The provisions of this Act apply also to citizens of India and abroad.
- Persons on ships and aircrafts, registered in India, wherever they may be are also under the ambit of this act.

9. Consider the following statements with regard to Exercise Him Vijay

1. It is a bilateral mountain assault exercise between India and Nepal
2. The exercise is to test mobility, communication and coordination of such huge body of fast-moving troops in different terrains.

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

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- The Indian Army Conducts routine military exercises every year.
- It was one such endeavour. It was conducted to validate operational capabilities of our combat formations.
- The exercise is to test mobility, communication and coordination of such huge body of fast-moving troops in difficult terrain.
- Indian Army is metamorphosing itself to incorporate changes for modern and quick and short war, added the Army officer.

**10.** Consider the following statements with regard to Coalbed methane (CBM):

1. It contains huge amount of carbon dioxide.
2. It is used as Compressed natural gas, fertilizers and industrial purpose.
3. It is also known as sweet gas.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- It is extracted from unconventional gas reservoirs where gas is extracted directly from the rock that is the source of the gas.
- The methane is held underground within the coal and is extracted by drilling into the coal seam and removing the groundwater.
- The resulting drop in pressure causes the methane to be released from the coal. CBM has been looked at as a clean alternative fuel with significant prospects. CBM can be used for power generation, as compressed natural gas (CNG) auto fuel, as feedstock for fertilizers, industrial uses such as in cement production, rolling mills, steel plants, and for methanol production.
- It is called 'sweet gas' because of its lack of Hydrogen Sulphide.
- It often contains few percent of carbon dioxide.

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1. 'Phishing' which was recently seen in news is referred to

- (a) It refers to any kind of software that is designed to cause damage to a single computer, server, or computer network.
- (b) It is the method of trying to gather personal information using deceptive e-mails and websites.
- (c) It is an attack meant to shut down a machine or network, making it inaccessible to its intended users
- (d) It is a programming language used to communicate with databases.

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- **Malware**, short for malicious software refers to any kind of software that is designed to cause damage to a single computer, server, or computer network. Ransomware, Spy ware, Worms, viruses, and Trojans are all varieties of malware.
- **Phishing:** It is the method of trying to gather personal information using deceptive e-mails and websites.
- **Denial of Service attacks:** A Denial-of-Service (DoS) attack is an attack meant to shut down a machine or network, making it inaccessible to its intended users. DoS attacks accomplish this by flooding the target with traffic, or sending it information that triggers a crash.
- **Man-in-the-middle (MitM)** attacks, also known as eavesdropping attacks, occur when attackers insert themselves into a two-party transaction. Once the

attackers interrupt the traffic, they can filter and steal data.

- **SQL Injection:** SQL (pronounced "sequel") stands for Structured Query Language, a programming language used to communicate with databases.
- Many of the servers that store critical data for websites and services use SQL to manage the data in their databases.
- A SQL injection attack specifically targets such kind of servers, using malicious code to get the server to divulge information it normally wouldn't.
- **Cross-Site Scripting (XSS):** Similar to an SQL injection attack, this attack also involves injecting malicious code into a website, but in this case the website itself is not being attacked.
- Instead the malicious code the attacker has injected, only runs in the user's browser when they visit the attacked website, and it goes after the visitor directly, not the website.
- Social engineering is an attack that relies on human interaction to trick users into breaking security procedures in order to gain sensitive information that is typically protected.

2. India is a signatory to which of the following Defence agreements of US?

1. General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)
2. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)

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3. Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)
4. Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

**Answer: b)**

**Explanation:**

- “Four Foundational Agreements” between the US and its Partners

**General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)**

- GSOMIA allows militaries to share the intelligence gathered by them.
- Signed by India in 2002.

**Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)**

- LEMOA allows both countries to have access to each other’s designated military facilities for refuelling and replenishment.
- Signed by India in 2016.

**Communications and Information Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA)**

- COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement) is the India specific version of CISMOA.
- Signed by India in 2018.

**Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)**

- BECA will allow India and US militaries to share geospatial and satellite data with each other.
- India has not signed BECA yet.

3. Choose which of the following missiles are indigenously developed missiles of India:

1. AMOGHA MISSILE
2. NAG
3. HELINA

Choose the correct option using the code given below:

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

All the above missiles are indigenously produced. So, the answer is d.

4. Consider the following statements regarding the codes of Labour laws, which is recently in news:

1. The government is subsuming a total of 44 labour laws into five codes.
2. Only 2 of the labour codes functions under the Labour ministry.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Answer: d)**

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**Explanation:**

The 44 laws are subsumed into 4 laws. So, statement 1 is incorrect.

All the 4 codes function under the labour ministry. So, statement 2 is also incorrect.

5. Consider the following statements:

1. The 6<sup>th</sup> Asian Dendrochronology Conference being held at the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeo sciences in Lucknow.
2. Dendrochronology is the study of tree rings that hold a wealth of information.

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

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

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- The 6<sup>th</sup> Asian Dendrochronology Conference being held at Lucknow. So, statement 1 is correct.
- It is the study of tree rings that hold a wealth of information about not only a tree's past but also that of the ecosystem in which it lives. So, statement 2 is correct

6. YuWaah Initiative, launched by UNICEF which is recently seen in news refers to

- (a) Delivery of vaccines by drone  
(b) Innovation for children  
(c) Multi-stakeholder alliance  
(d) AI Workshop

**Answer: c)**

**Explanation:**

- It is a multi-stakeholder alliance launched by UNICEF
- It aims to facilitate youth to gain relevant skills for productive lives and the future of work.
- The targeted age group of YuWaah includes adolescent girls and boys.
- It intends to create platforms to guide youth in market opportunities like career guidance, mentorship, internships, apprenticeships and facilitate integration of career guidance in school education.

7. Consider the following statements regarding Light-Water Reactor (LWR)

1. It uses normal water as both coolant and neutron moderator.
2. It is also a variety of Thermal-Nuclear Reactor.
3. India's first light water reactor is the Kalpakkam Nuclear Reactor.

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: a)**

**Explanation:**

- It is a type of thermal-neutron reactor that uses NORMAL WATER, as opposed to heavy water, as both its coolant and neutron moderator. So, statement 1 is correct.

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- It the most common type of thermal-neutron reactor. So, statement 2 is correct.
- Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KNPP) is the India's first pressurised water reactor belong to the light water reactor. So, statement 3 in incorrect.

8. Consider the following statements regarding National Investigation Agency (NIA)

1. It is the Central Counter terrorism Law Enforcement Agency.
2. Mulla Committee recommended the establishment of NIA.
3. NIA can also probe in to violations of atomic energy act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: a)**

**Explanation:**

- **The National Investigation Agency (NIA)** is a central agency established by the Indian Government to combat terror in India.
- It acts as the Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency.
- The agency is empowered to deal with terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states.

- The Agency came into existence with the enactment of the National Investigation Agency Act 2008.
- The agency was raised after 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, to create a deterrent force.
- It aims to set the standards of excellence in counter terrorism and other national security related investigations at the national level by developing into a highly trained, partnership-oriented workforce.
- It also aims to develop as a storehouse of all terrorist related information.
- Various Special Courts have been notified by the Central Government of India for trial of the cases registered at various police stations of NIA under Section 11 and 22 of the NIA Act 2008.
- **Statement 2 is wrong-** Mulla Committee on Prison reforms recommended establishment of National Commission on Prisons.

9. What is common to the drugs known as isoniazid, rifampicin and fluoroquinolone?

- (a) These are single dose combination drugs that used in treating Kala-azar.
- (b) These are antibiotics that are used in treating tuberculosis.
- (c) These drugs are used to treat Alzheimer's disease in the elderly.
- (d) These are prescription drugs that are misused as stimulants in sports activities.

**Answer: b)**

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**Explanation:**

- **Isoniazid, rifampicin and fluoroquinolone** are antibiotics that are used in treating tuberculosis.
- Isoniazid and rifampicin – **are the first line anti-biotics**
- People with TB who do not respond to at least isoniazid and rifampicin, are said to have **MDR-TB**.
- People who are resistant to isoniazid and rifampin, plus any fluoroquinolone and at least one of three injectable second-line drugs (amikacin, kanamycin, or capreomycin) are said to have XDR-TB.
- Recently, US-FDA has approved a new drug Pretomanid for treating drug-resistant tuberculosis – multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) and extensively drug-resistant TB (**XDR-TB**).

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

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

**Answer: d)**

**Explanation:**

- The Conference of Parties (COP) is the supreme decision-making body of the UNFCCC.
- All States that are Parties to the Convention are represented at the COP,
- The Parties review the implementation of the Convention and other legal instruments that the COP adopts and take decisions necessary to promote the effective implementation of the Convention.
- Massive protests triggered by social unrest over economic issues have forced Chile to cancel its hosting of COP25.
- So, the COP25 will take place under the Presidency of the Government of Chile, to be held in Madrid, Spain.
- The logistical support will be provided by the Government of Spain.
- Unlike its predecessor, the Kyoto Protocol, which sets commitment targets that have legal force, the Paris Agreement, with its emphasis on consensus-building, allows for voluntary and nationally determined targets. The specific climate goals are thus politically encouraged, rather than legally bound.

10. In the context of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) consider the following statements:

1. Conference of Parties (COP) is the supreme decision-making body of the UNFCCC.
2. COP25 to UNFCCC will take place under the Presidency of the Government of Chile, to be held in Madrid, Spain.
3. Paris Agreement which was adopted in COP 21 is voluntary unlike Kyoto protocol which is legally binding on parties.