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Q.1) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Challenger Deep'.

1. It is located in the Western Atlantic Ocean.
2. It is approximately three times deeper than the average depth of the ocean.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.1) Solution (b)

According to NOAA, the average depth of the ocean is about 12,100 feet and the deepest part is called the Challenger Deep, which is located below the surface of the western Pacific Ocean. It is approximately 36,200 feet deep.

Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Permafrost'.

1. While permafrost itself is always frozen, the surface layer that covers it need not be frozen.
2. Thawing of permafrost could release greenhouse gases.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.2) Solution (c)

Permafrost is ground that remains completely frozen at 0 degrees Celsius or below for at least two years. It is defined solely based on temperature and duration. The permanently frozen ground, consisting of soil, sand, and rock held together by ice, is believed to have formed during glacial periods dating several millennia.

While permafrost itself is always frozen, the surface layer that covers it (called the "active layer") need not be. In Canada and Russia, for example, colourful tundra vegetation carpet over permafrost for thousands of kilometres. Its thickness reduces progressively towards the south, and is affected by a number of other factors, including the Earth's interior heat, snow and vegetation cover, presence of water bodies, and topography.

When permafrost thaws, microbes start decomposing this carbon matter, releasing greenhouse gases like methane and carbon dioxide. Researchers have estimated that for every 1 degree Celsius rise in average temperature, permafrost grounds could release greenhouse gases to the tune of 4-6 years' of emissions from coal, oil, and natural gas — becoming a major factor of climate change in themselves.

Along with greenhouse houses, these grounds could also release ancient bacteria and viruses into the atmosphere as they unfreeze.

Q.3) 'Serotonin' is found in

1. Gastrointestinal tract (GI tract)
2. Central nervous system (CNS)
3. Blood platelets

Select the correct code:

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

Q.3) Solution (d)

It is a monoamine neurotransmitter. It has a popular image as a contributor to feelings of well-being and happiness, though its actual biological function is complex and multifaceted, modulating cognition, reward, learning, memory, and numerous physiological processes such as vomiting and vasoconstriction.

Serotonin is primarily found in the enteric nervous system located in the gastrointestinal tract (GI tract). However, it is also produced in the central nervous system (CNS), specifically in the Raphe nuclei located in the brainstem. Additionally, serotonin is stored in blood platelets and is released during agitation and vasoconstriction, where it then acts as an agonist to other platelets.

Q.4) Which of the following statements with respect to 'Crypto-jacking'.

1. It is the unauthorized use of your computer and devices by cybercriminals in order to mine for cryptocurrency.
2. Crypto-jacking scripts do not use the victim's data but drain the victim CPU's resources, which slows down the system.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.4) Solution (c)

Cryptojacking is the malicious use of a person or persons' computing power to mine cryptocurrencies without consent.

Unlike most other types of malware, crypto-jacking scripts do not use the victim's data. But they drain the CPU's resources, which slows down the system, increases electricity usage, and causes irreparable damage to the hardware.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/all-about-crypto-jacking/article31740837.ece>

Q.5) 'Tocilizumab', a drug is seeing increased use in treating severe COVID-19 patients. It is originally used to treat

- a) Malaria
- b) Hepatitis B and C
- c) Rheumatoid arthritis
- d) Zika and Ebola Virus

Q.5) Solution (c)

Tocilizumab, a drug originally used for rheumatoid arthritis is seeing increased use in treating severe COVID-19 patients.

Q.6) 'Natuna Regency' is often seen in news. Where is it located?

- a) Yellow Sea
- b) Bering Sea
- c) South China Sea
- d) Persian Gulf

Q.6) Solution (c)

The Natuna Regency is an archipelago of 272 islands located in the south part of the South China Sea in the Natuna Sea. It is part of Indonesia. China as always, is trying to poke its nose in neighboring countries (Indonesia here) territories & affairs.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/india-china-ladakh-lac-border-dispute-c-raja-mohan-6449294/>

Q.7) Consider the following statements

1. The Zeliangrong people are one of the major indigenous communities living in the tri-junction of Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur.
2. 'Zeliangrong Movement' gained momentum during the British India because it coincided with the Non-Cooperation movement of India.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.7) Solution (b)

The Zeliangrong people are one of the major indigenous communities living in the tri-junction of the present states of Assam, Manipur and Nagaland in North East India.

Some scholars referred to the Zeliangrong Movement as 'Naga Raj'. The movement gained momentum during the British India because it coincided with the Non Co-operation movement of India. However, with the death of Jadonang, the movement became a socio-religious reform movement. The reformed religion came to be known as Heraka. The followers of Heraka are found mostly in N.C. Hills of Assam, Nagaland and Manipur.

Read More - http://www.e-pao.net/epSubPageExtractor.asp?src=manipur.History_of_Manipur.Zeliangrong_Movement_Contribution_of_Rani_Gaidinliu_By_Soihiamlung_Dangmei

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/express-sunday-eye/the-fire-last-time-6119649/>

Q.8) 'Gaan-Ngai' is a festival celebrated by

- a) Mishmi
- b) Meitei
- c) Reang
- d) Zeliangrong

Q.8) Solution (d)

Gaan-Ngai also known as "Chakaan Gaan-Ngai" is a festival of the Zeliangrong people of Assam, Manipur and Nagaland.

Zeliangrong people are one of the major indigenous Naga communities living in the tri-junction of Assam, Manipur and Nagaland in India.

Source: <https://www.aninews.in/news/lifestyle/culture/manipurs-zeliangrong-tribe-celebrates-gaan-ngai-festival20200118224516/>

Q.9) What is the purpose/purposes of Government's 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'?

1. Limiting Foreign Direct Investment
2. Boycotting all Chinese goods
3. To do away with import of each and every product in the next five years.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.9) Solution (d)

All the options are wrong. Too extreme to be true.

A self-Reliant India is a nation which shall produce, manufacture and consumer its own products and services without relying on 'global or international brands'.

It does not necessarily mean, Limiting Foreign Direct Investment, or Boycotting all Chinese goods, or to do away with import of each and every product in the next five years.

When it talks about self-reliance, it doesn't mean protectionism and moving to a pre-1991 economy.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1624661>

Q.10) Consider the following statements

1. India is the largest producer of milk, jute, and pulses in the world.
2. India is second largest producer of sugarcane, cotton, and groundnut in the world.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.10) Solution (c)

India is the largest milk producer, largest jute and pulses producer, 2nd largest in sugar cane, cotton, groundnut, fruits, vegetables and fisheries, 3rd in cereals.

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/third-tranche-of-govts-rs-20-lakh-crore-stimulus-highlights-of-nirmala-sitharamans-speech/articleshow/75757050.cms>

Q.11) Why is India's forex reserves rising despite the slowdown in the economy?

1. Rise in investment in foreign portfolio investors (FPIs)
2. Fall in crude oil prices
3. Decline in gold imports

Select the correct code:

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

Q.11) Solution (d)

The major reason for the rise in forex reserves is the rise in investment in foreign portfolio investors in Indian stocks and foreign direct investments (FDIs). Foreign investors had acquired stakes in several Indian companies in the last two months.

On the other hand, the fall in crude oil prices has brought down the oil import bill, saving the precious foreign exchange.

Gold imports have been recording negative growth since December last year > Reduced import bill.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-india-forex-reserves-covid-19-economic-crisis-6448701/>

Q.12) Which of the following functions as the custodian and manager of forex reserves?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Department of Revenue
- c) Reserve Bank of India
- d) Export Import Bank of India

Q.12) Solution (c)

The Reserve Bank functions as the custodian and manager of forex reserves, and operates within the overall policy framework agreed upon with the government. The RBI allocates the dollars for specific purposes.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-india-forex-reserves-covid-19-economic-crisis-6448701/>

Q.13) 'Vamsadhar River' flows through

- 1. Odisha
- 2. Andhra Pradesh
- 3. Telangana

Select the correct code:

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

Q.13) Solution (c)

River Vamsadhara or River Banshadhara is an important east flowing river between Rushikulya and Godavari, in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

Andhra Pradesh wants to build the Neradi bridge across the river which will be possible only after Odisha's consent.

AP wants to complete the inter-linking of its Nagavali river with the Vamsadhara and expand the Madduvalasa Reservoir project.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/jagan-will-take-up-vamsadhara-waterrow-with-naveen-soon-minister/article31769351.ece>

Q.14) The term 'Poonam Avlokan' is associated with

- a) Gir Wildlife Sanctuary
- b) Moidams
- c) Ancient water harvesting concept
- d) Saffron Farming

Q.14) Solution (a)

Gujarat Forest Department announced the population of Asiatic lions in the state — 674, up from 523 in a Lion Census five years ago. Unlike in previous years, this count was estimated not from a Census, but from a population “observation” exercise called Poonam Avlokan. Through Poonam Avlokan, which is a monthly in-house exercise carried out every full moon. Field staff and officers spend 24 hours assessing the number of lions and their locations in their respective jurisdictions. It was a mechanism developed by the Forest Department in 2014 as part of preparations for the 2015 Lion Census.

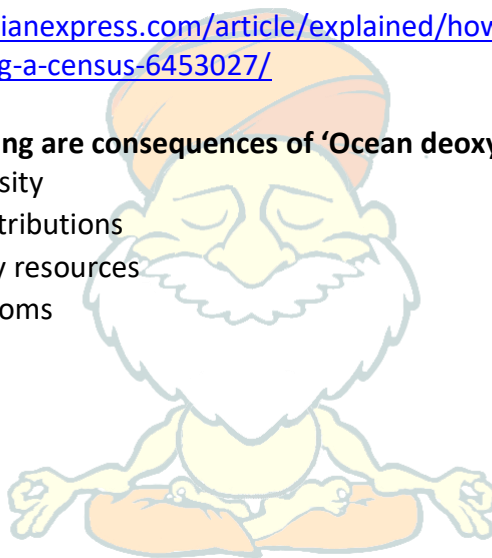
Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/how-gujarat-estimated-its-lion-population-without-holding-a-census-6453027/>

Q.15) Which of the following are consequences of 'Ocean deoxygenation'?

1. Decreased biodiversity
2. Shifts in species distributions
3. Reduction in fishery resources
4. Expanding algal blooms

Select the correct code:

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



Q.15) Solution (d)

Ocean deoxygenation is one of the most pernicious, yet under-reported side-effects of human-induced climate change. The primary causes of deoxygenation are eutrophication (increased nutrient run-off from land and sewage pollution) and nitrogen deposition from the burning of fossil fuels, coupled with the widespread impacts from ocean warming. Oxygen loss from warming has alarming consequences for global oceanic oxygen reserves, which have already been reduced by 2% over a period of just 50-years (from 1960 to 2010). Consequences of ocean oxygen decline include decreased biodiversity, shifts in species distributions, displacement or reduction in fishery resources and expanding algal blooms.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-seas-less-oxygen-pollution-marine-life-6156781/>

Q.16) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Krishnapuram Venkatachalapathy temple'.

1. The sculptures here are classic examples of Nayak art.

2. The temple was built by Krishnadevaraya.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.16) Solution (a)

Krishnapuram Venkatachalapathy temple (also called Krishnapuram Temple) in Krishnapuram, a village in Tirunelveli district in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu, is dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu. Constructed in the Dravidian style of architecture, the temple is a storehouse of Nayak architecture.

It is understood from the inscriptions that the temple was built by Krishnappa Nayak (1563–72), the son of Viswanatha Nayak, the founder of Madurai Nayak dynasty.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/annamayya-connect-in-faraway-tirunelveli/article31801765.ece>

Q.17) Consider the following statements

1. Annamacharya composed songs called sankirtanas in praise of the Lord Venkateswara.
2. Saluva Narasimharaya was given the title Maha Mandaleshwara of Chandragiri during the reign of Ramachandra Raya.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.17) Solution (a)

Annamacharya was a 15th-century Hindu saint and the earliest known Indian musician to compose songs called sankirtanas in praise of the Lord Venkateswara, a form of Vishnu.

Saluva Narasimha Deva Raya was given the title Maha Mandaleshwara of Chandragiri during the reign of Mallikarjuna Raya. His father Saluva Gunda was the governor of Chandragiri.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/society/history-and-culture/annamayya-connect-in-faraway-tirunelveli/article31801765.ece>

Q.18) 'Locust Environmental Booklet' is brought out by the

- a) Food and Agricultural Organization
- b) Lancet Journal
- c) UN Environment
- d) World Economic Forum

Q.18) Solution (a)

The Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO, this is a part of the United Nations, and based in Rome, Italy) co-ordinates and helps these nations with advice and funds in combating this

plague. The informative document from FAO, called the Locust Environmental Booklet, gives an update on the situation and methods of handling locust swarms.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/serotonin-triggers-desert-locust-swarms/article31768088.ece>

Q.19) Which of the following neurochemical/hormone is responsible for locusts swarm formation?

- a) Oxytocin
- b) Serotonin
- c) Prolactin
- d) Progesterone

Q.19) Solution (b)

Serotonin is indeed responsible for swarm formation.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/serotonin-triggers-desert-locust-swarms/article31768088.ece>

Q.20) 'Apis Cerana' and 'Apis Florea' are species of

- a) Honey Bees
- b) Mormon Butterflies
- c) Vespid Wasps
- d) Locusts

Q.20) Solution (a)

They are species of honeybees.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/reviving-the-bees-of-bundelkhand/article31811139.ece>

Q.21) 'Great Himalayan National Park' is spread across which of the following valley

- 1. Shiva Valley
- 2. Sainj Valley
- 3. Jiwa Nal Valley
- 4. Tirthan Valley
- 5. Parvati Valley

Select the correct code:

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

Q.21) Solution (b)

Great Himalayan National Park (Kullu, HP) is spread across four valleys-Sainj valley, Jiwa Nal valley, Tirthan Valley and Parvati valley.

Please go through the article and make note of new words you come across (Gunehar Art Village, Gaddis Community etc.) – <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1631176>

Q.22) Kotumsar caves, which are largest series of caves after Meghalaya are located in

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Uttarakhand

Q.22) Solution (a)

Kotumsar caves, which are largest series of caves after Meghalaya are in Chhattisgarh.

Source (Please go through the article and make note of new words you come across):

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1630698>

Q.23) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Satpura National Park'.

1. It is spread over Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
2. It is the only national park in India where walking safari is permitted.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.23) Solution (b)

Satpura National Park is located in the Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh. Satpura National Park which is the only national park in India where walking safari is permitted.

Source (Please go through the article and make note of new words you come across):

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1630243>

Q.24) The 'Deswali Belt' and the 'Bagari Belt' is discussed in the context of which of the following states?

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Haryana
- d) Gujarat

Q.24) Solution (c)

Haryana is divided into two parts namely, the Deswali Belt and the Bagari Belt.

Folk Dances of Haryana are Ghangor, Jhoomar, Chhati.

Source (Please go through the article and make note of new words you come across):

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1629134>

Q.25) Consider the following statements

1. The Rann of Kutch alone produces three-fourth of total salt supply of India.
2. The mangroves in Kutch are known for being world's only Inland Mangrove.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.25) Solution (c)

Kutch is a land of salt desert, grasslands and mangroves. Interestingly, the mangroves here are known for an amazing phenomenon of being world's only Inland Mangrove. The Rann of Kutch alone produces three-fourth of total salt supply of India. The place is also the home to the Kharai breed of camel which has the special ability to survive on both dry land as well as in the saline water. They can even swim in sea water and feed on saline water and plants. They are well-adapted to the extreme climate of the desert and high salinity of water.

Source (Please go through the article and make note of new words you come across):

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1628269>

Q.26) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

Places in News States/UTs

1. Fotoksar – Ladakh
2. Roopkhund – Himachal Pradesh
3. Brahma Taal – Uttarakhand

Select the correct code:

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

Q.26) Solution (c)

- Fotoksar – Ladakh
- Roopkhund – Uttarakhand
- Brahma Taal – Uttarakhand



Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1631641>

Q.27) Consider the following statements and identify the protected area.

1. It is located in the Aravalli Hills.
2. One can find the ruins of the Kankwari Fort and the 10th century Neelkanth temples.

Select the correct code:

- a) Sariska Tiger reserve
- b) Ranthambore National Park
- c) Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve
- d) Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary

Q.27) Solution (a)

Sariska Tiger Reserve is located in the Aravalli Hills. The sanctuary is strewn with ruins of ancient temples dating back to the 10th and 11th centuries. Some of the highlights are the ruins of the Kankwari Fort and the 10th century Neelkanth temples. The way to the temples is rough but the architecture and the Khajuraho-like carvings will simply leave the visitor in awe of the place. Chand Baoli(step well) at Abhaneri is enormous with 3500 steep steps built by the Nikumbha dynasty is one of the largest stepwells in the world.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1620356>

Q.28) Consider the following statements and identify the river

1. It is the longest river of Kerala.
2. It is also referred to as “Peraar” in ancient scripts and documents.
3. It is a westward flowing river.

Select the correct code:

- a) Periyar River
- b) Nila River
- c) Pampa River
- d) Kabini River

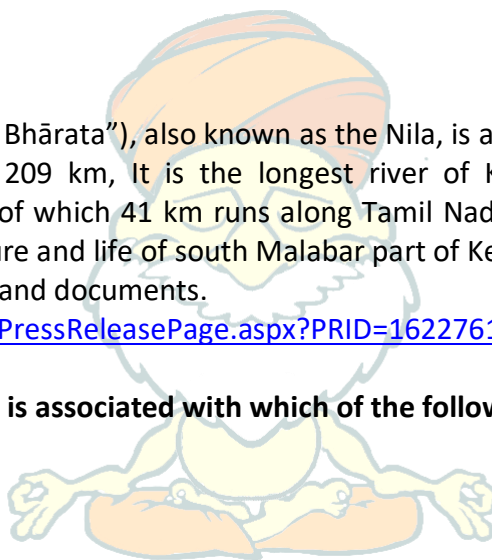
Q.28) Solution (b)

Bharathappuzha (“River of Bhārata”), also known as the Nila, is a river in India in the state of Kerala. With a length of 209 km, It is the longest river of Kerala. The total length of Bharathapuzha is 250 km of which 41 km runs along Tamil Nadu from where it originates. Nila has groomed the culture and life of south Malabar part of Kerala. It is also referred to as “Peraar” in ancient scripts and documents.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1622761>

Q.29) ‘Silent Valley Gorge’ is associated with which of the following states?

- a) Odisha
- b) Karnataka
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Uttarakhand



Q.29) Solution (a)

Mandasaru, 300 km south of Bhubaneswar, is a unique gorge ecosystem in the eastern part of Kandhamal district of Odisha. It is referred to as Silent Valley.

Also, remember – Silent Valley National Park

Source (Please go through the places mentioned in the article):

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1623486>

Q.30) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

Art	City/State
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1. Wooden toys and lacquerware – Channapatna, Karnataka
2. Rosewood inlay craft – Mysore, Karnataka
3. Nakshi Kantha – Aurangabad, Maharashtra

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 and 2

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

Q.30) Solution (a)

- Wooden toys and lacquerware – Channapatna, Karnataka
- Rosewood inlay craft – Mysore, Karnataka
- Nakshi Kantha – West Bengal

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1624026>

Q.31) 'Huli Vesha' or 'Pili Yesais' is a folk dance associated with which of the following states?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Odisha
- d) Chhattisgarh

Q.31) Solution (a)

Huli Vesha or Pili Yesais is a folk dance famous in coastal Karnataka performed during Navratri to honour the Goddess Durga whose favoured animal is the tiger.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1626176>

Q.32) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Dzukou valley'.

1. It is situated between Manipur and Mizoram.
2. It is the crater base of an extinct volcano.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.32) Solution (b)

Dzukou valley situated between Manipur and Nagaland which is the crater base of an extinct volcano and most famous Dzukoulily is found only in this region.

THINK!

- Sangti Valley, Tawang
- Losar Festival
- Hornbill festival

Q.33) Consider the following statements with respect to 'RTGS' & 'NEFT' payment system.

1. RTGS is the largest mode for online high-value transactions.
2. Transactions under RTGS are processed continuously on real time basis, whereas NEFT transactions are processed in batches of half-hourly intervals.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.33) Solution (c)

The RBI-operated Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system, the largest mode for online high-value transactions. RTGS and NEFT combined account for a little over 90 per cent of total payments in the country. Transactions under RTGS are processed continuously on real time basis, whereas NEFT transactions are processed in batches of half-hourly intervals.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/india-digital-payments-covid-19-lockdown-6461360/>

Q.34) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Gateway Lunar Orbit outpost'.

1. It is a mission by the European Space Agency.
2. It is being launched to replace the International Space Station (ISS).

Select the correct statements

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

Q.34) Solution (d)

NASA's Gateway Lunar Orbit outpost

Essentially, the Gateway is a small spaceship that will orbit the Moon, meant for astronaut missions to the Moon and later, for expeditions to Mars. It will act as a temporary office and living quarters for astronauts, distanced at about 250,000 miles from Earth.

Further, astronauts will use the Gateway at least once per year and not stay around the year like they do on the International Space Station (ISS).

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-what-is-nasas-gateway-lunar-orbiting-outpost-6460219/>

Q.35) Which of the following tests are used to check COVID-19?

1. RT-PCR
2. ELISA
3. TrueNat
4. Rapid Antibody

Select the correct code:

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

Q.35) Solution (d)

THE TESTS, THEIR RUNTIME AND THEIR COST



	RT-PCR	Rapid Antibody	ELISA	TrueNat
Use	To diagnose	For surveillance, to detect exposed population	For surveillance, to detect exposed population	To diagnose
Time taken to test	3 hours	30 minutes	60 min	60 min
Cost	Earlier capped at ₹4,500, now no price cap	₹600	Not fixed	₹1,000-1,500

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/how-india-tests-for-covid-19-6459048/>

Q.36) 'Penna' river flows through

1. Karnataka
2. Andhra Pradesh
3. Tamil Nadu

Select the correct code:

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

Q.36) Solution (a)

The Penna rises in the Nandi Hills in Chikballapur District of Karnataka state, and runs north and east through the states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh to empty into the Bay of Bengal.

The Sri Nageswara Swamy temple dating back to 300 years, which was buried in the sand for almost eight decades now, has been unearthed by villagers of Perumallapadu of Chejarala mandal in Nellore district. The temple got buried over a long period of time as river Penna changed its course. The brick structure may have got submerged in sand dunes probably after the 1850 floods.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/historic-temple-unearthed-in-nellore/article31846032.ece>

Q.37) Consider the following statements with respect to 'The Solar Orbiter (Solo)'.

1. It is intended to perform detailed measurements of the inner heliosphere and nascent solar wind, and perform close observations of the polar regions of the Sun.
2. It is developed by NASA as a replacement to Parker Solar Probe.

Select the correct code:

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

Q.37) Solution (a)

Solo is a European Space Agency (Esa) craft that was assembled in the UK by the aerospace company Airbus.

Solo is intended to perform detailed measurements of the inner heliosphere and nascent solar wind, and perform close observations of the polar regions of the Sun, which is difficult to do from Earth, both serving to answer the question "How does the Sun create and control the heliosphere?"

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-what-is-solar-orbiter-how-it-differs-from-previous-missions-to-the-sun-6261241/>

Q.38) 'Parshvanatha' is associated with which of the following religions?

- a) Sikhism
- b) Hinduism
- c) Jainism
- d) Buddhism

Q.38) Solution (c)

Parshvanatha (Pārśvanātha), also known as Parshva (Pārśva) and Paras, was the 23rd of 24 tirthankaras (ford-makers or propagators of dharma) of Jainism.

Source (There are more facts in the article – Do go through): <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/unearthing-of-jain-idol-calls-for-more-excavations/article31835608.ece>

Q.39) 'The World Investment Report 2020' was brought out by

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

Q.39) Solution (b)

The World Investment Report 2020 by the UNCTAD said that India was the 9th largest recipient of FDI in 2019, with 51 billion dollars of inflows during the year, an increase from the 42 billion dollars of FDI received in 2018, when India ranked 12 among the top 20 host economies in the world.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/india-9th-largest-recipient-of-fdi-in-2019-will-continue-to-attract-investments-un/articleshow/76400055.cms#:~:text=India%20was%20the%209th%20largest,of%20inflow%20during%20the%20year.&text=FDI%20to%20India%2C%20the%20largest,FDI%20trend%2C%20the%20report%20said.>

Q.40) Which of the following was not part of the 'The Six-Nation Five-Continent Peace Initiative'?

- a) India
- b) France
- c) Tanzania
- d) Sweden

Q.40) Solution (b)

The Six Nation Peace Initiative was a joint initiative in 1984 by six heads of government to help end the Cold War and the nuclear arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union.

It continued until 1989, and was also sometimes referred to as the Five Continent Peace Initiative. The original six leaders were: President Raúl Alfonsín of Argentina, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India, President Miguel de la Madrid of Mexico, President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Prime Minister Olof Palme of Sweden and Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu of Greece.

During the following five years, Indira Gandhi was replaced upon her death by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India, and Olof Palme by Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson of Sweden.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/why-olof-palme-matters-to-sweden-the-world-and-india-6458854/>

Q.41) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to 'Jet Zero' Plan?

1. It aims to bring down greenhouse gas emissions from aviation sector.
2. It was recently launched by the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

Select the correct statements

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

Q.41) Solution (a)

UK announces 'Jet Zero' plan to drive down aviation emissions

Aviation emissions currently account for more than 2% of global greenhouse gases, and have risen by 70% since 2005. The International Civil Aviation Organization forecasts that they will rise another 300% by 2050 in the absence of measures to bring them down.

The U.K. aims to drive down greenhouse gas emissions from aviation to make carbon-free transatlantic flights possible within a generation.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/business/aviation/uk-announces-jet-zero-plan-to-drive-down-aviation-emissions-6457061/>

Q.42) Consider the following statements with respect to 'iCommit Initiative'.

1. The initiative is centered around the idea of building an energy resilient future.
2. The initiative is driven by NITI Aayog.

Select the correct code:

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

Q.42) Solution (a)

The initiative is a clarion call to all stakeholders and individuals to continue moving towards energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainability to create a robust and resilient energy system in the future.

The '#iCommit' initiative, driven by Energy Efficiency Services Limited is uniting a diverse set of players such as Governments, Corporates, Multilateral and Bilateral Organisations, Think Tanks and Individuals.

Source: <http://ddnews.gov.in/national/power-minister-launches-%E2%80%98icommit%E2%80%99-initiative-world-environment-day>

Q.43) The term 'action at a distance' can be most appropriately referred to as

- a) Quantum Entanglement
- b) Machine Learning
- c) Internet of Things
- d) Artificial Intelligence

Q.43) Solution (a)

Entanglement, a quantum phenomena Albert Einstein famously described as "spooky action at a distance," is a process in which two or more particles become linked and any action performed on one instantaneously affects the others regardless of how far apart they are. Entanglement lies at the heart of many emerging technologies, such as quantum computing and cryptography.

Source: <https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/war-of-future-drdo-gets-ready-with-new-labs-to-work-on-new-emerging-technologies/1813014/>

Q.44) Consider the following statements and identify the correct answer

1. It is known as Bangalore Blue.
2. It received a geographical indication tag in 2013.

The above statements refer to

- a) A variety of grape
- b) A special type of pottery
- c) Mural Paintings
- d) A special dye/ink used during elections

Q.44) Solution (a)

Bangalore blue grape, also simply called Bangalore Blue, is a variety of fox grape (*Vitis labrusca*) grown in districts around Bangalore. It is one of the three major varieties of grape in the state of Karnataka (the other two being Thomson seedless and Anab-E-Shahi Dilkush). It received a geographical indication tag from the Government of India in 2013.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/bangalore-blue-grapes-turn-sour-for-their-growers/article31376513.ece>

Q.45) 'Anosmia and Ageusia' are possible symptoms of

- a) COVID-19
- b) Tuberculosis
- c) Cholera
- d) HIV-AIDS

Q.45) Solution (a)

Loss of smell (anosmia) and loss of taste (ageusia) have been added to the list of coronavirus symptoms by the Union Health Ministry.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/loss-of-smell-taste-are-now-key-symptoms-to-identify-covid-19-patients-health-ministry/story-8Mo5vphGzqKbx5XeSkNHAP.html>

Q.46) Consider the following statements

1. The non-permanent members of the UN Security Council are elected for five-year terms.
2. India has never been a non-permanent member of the Security Council until now.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.46) Solution (d)

India has been elected to the non-permanent seat of the Security Council for the term 2021-22.

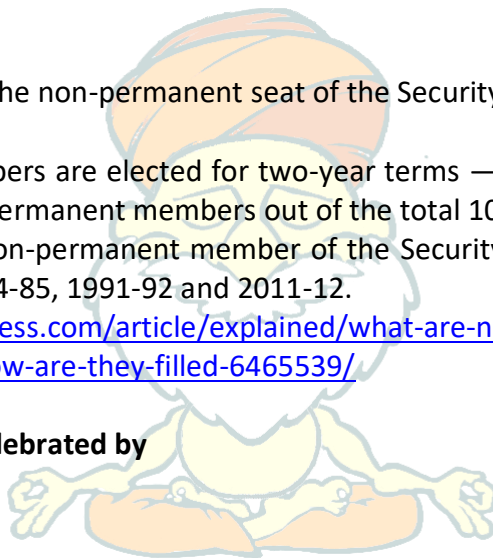
The non-permanent members are elected for two-year terms — so every year, the General Assembly elects five non-permanent members out of the total 10.

India has earlier been a non-permanent member of the Security Council in 1950-51, 1967-68, 1972-73, 1977-78, 1984-85, 1991-92 and 2011-12.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/what-are-non-permanent-seats-in-the-un-security-council-and-how-are-they-filled-6465539/>

Q.47) 'Tulini' Festival is celebrated by

- a) Apatani tribe
- b) Sumi tribe
- c) Dongria-Kondh tribe
- d) Chenchu tribe

**Q.47) Solution (b)**

The Tuluni festival symbolizes fraternity, solidarity, sharing and oneness not only among the Sumi community but Nagas as a whole.

Sumi Tribe – Nagaland

Q.48) Consider the following statements with respect to 'PM Svanidhi'.

1. It is a special micro-credit facility plan to provide affordable loan of up to ₹10,000 to street vendors.
2. It is launched by the Ministry of Finance.

Select the correct statements

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.48) Solution (a)

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on Monday launched PM Svanidhi, or Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi scheme, which is a special micro-credit facility plan to provide affordable loan of up to ₹10,000 to more than 50 lakh street vendors, who had their businesses operational on or before 24 March. The the scheme is valid until March 2022.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/centre-launches-scheme-for-street-vendors-to-get-loans-of-up-to-rs-10-000-11591015442185.html>

Q.49) 'Civil Services Board' is headed by

- a) Governor of the state
- b) Chief Secretary of State
- c) Chief Minister
- d) Cabinet Secretary

Q.49) Solution (b)

As per rules, all states should have a civil services board to decide on transfers and postings of the bureaucrats. The board is mandated to decide on the transfer of a civil servant before completion of his or her fixed tenure. The rules mandate the civil services board to submit an annual report on January 1 to the central government about the date of the meetings held by them and also to upload the same on the website of the concerned state government or union territory in public domain.

The civil services board is headed by chief secretary of a state and has senior most additional chief secretary or chairman, Board of Revenue, Financial Commissioner or an officer of equivalent rank and status as member. In addition, it will have Principal Secretary or Secretary, Department of Personnel in the state government as member secretary.

To insulate the bureaucracy from political interference and to put an end to frequent transfers of civil servants by political bosses, the Supreme Court had in 2013 directed the Centre and the states to set up a civil services board to consider transfers and postings of bureaucrats among others.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-why-are-punjab-congress-leaders-up-against-cbs-notification-6464873/>

Q.50) 'Rule of Law Index' is brought out by

- a) World Justice Project
- b) International Court of Justice
- c) International Criminal Court
- d) Economist Intelligence Unit

Q.50) Solution (a)

The World Justice Project Rule of Law Index is a quantitative assessment tool designed to offer a detailed and comprehensive picture of the extent to which countries adhere to the rule of law in practice. The Index provides data on eight dimensions of the rule of law: limited government powers; absence of corruption; order and security; fundamental rights; open government; regulatory enforcement; civil justice; and criminal justice.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/decide-on-plea-on-rule-of-law-index-in-6-months-supreme-court-tells-government/article31863917.ece>

Q.51) Consider the following statements

1. Chaolung Sukapha founded the Ahom Kingdom.
2. The Mughals never tried to conquer the land of the Ahoms.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.51) Solution (a)

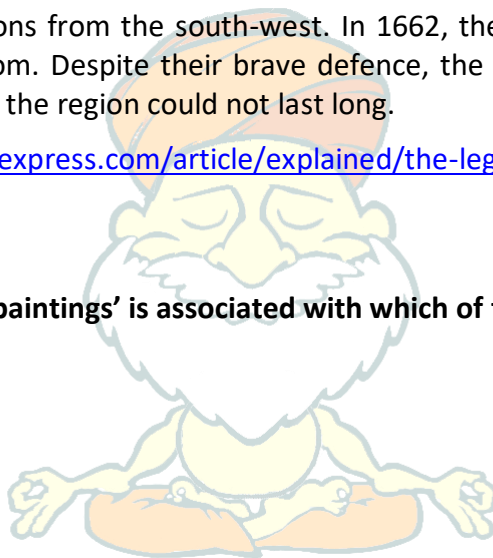
Sukapha was a 13th-century ruler who founded the Ahom kingdom that ruled Assam for six centuries. Contemporary scholars trace his roots to Burma.

Ahoms faced many invasions from the south-west. In 1662, the Mughals under Mir Jumla attacked the Ahom kingdom. Despite their brave defence, the Ahoms were defeated. But direct Mughal control over the region could not last long.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/the-legacy-of-sukapha-founder-of-ahom-kingdom-6468320/>

Q.52) 'Sohrai and Khovar paintings' is associated with which of the following states?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Haryana
- d) Assam



Q.52) Solution (a)

Khovar refers to the decoration of the marriage chambers and Sohrai is the harvest painting on the mud houses, repairing it after the rains and offering a thanksgiving to the forces of Nature.



Q.53) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?




Places in News – State

1. Chopta – Uttarakhand
2. Valley of Flowers -Himachal Pradesh
3. Madikeri – Karnataka

Select the correct code:

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


Q.53) Solution (b)



Uttarakhand
Valley of Flowers

This world heritage site is set in the backdrop of the majestic Himalayan Ranges. A popular trek to this paradisiacal place takes travellers through gorgeous landscapes, where they get the chance to sight rare and exotic Himalayan flora.

Karnataka
Hampi



The UNESCO recognized World Heritage Site is known for its archaeological significance. This famous huge Stone Chariot that stands magnificent in front of the Vittala Temple is one of the must-visit places in and around Hampi.

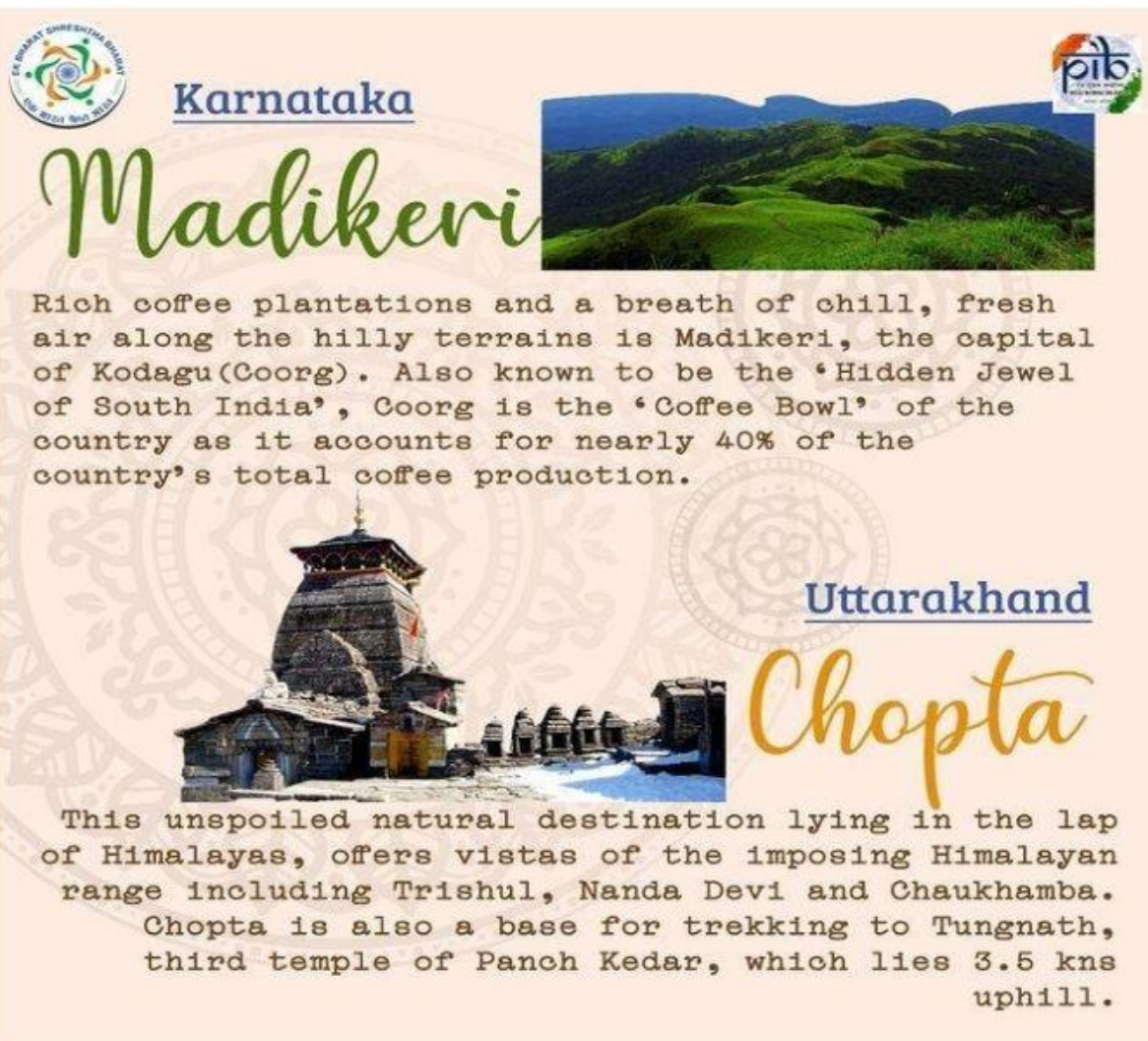


Barren Island

India's only confirmed active volcano is located in Barren Island. It is about three kilometres in diameter and has a big crater of the volcano. This place is uninhabited by humans, earning it, it's name.

Kavaratti Island

The Kavaratti is the capital of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. It has been selected as one of the hundred Indian cities to be developed as a smart city under PM Narendra Modi's flagship Smart Cities Mission.



Karnataka

Madikeri

Rich coffee plantations and a breath of chill, fresh air along the hilly terrains is Madikeri, the capital of Kodagu(Coorg). Also known to be the 'Hidden Jewel of South India', Coorg is the 'Coffee Bowl' of the country as it accounts for nearly 40% of the country's total coffee production.

Uttarakhand

Chopta

This unspoiled natural destination lying in the lap of Himalayas, offers vistas of the imposing Himalayan range including Trishul, Nanda Devi and Chaukhamba. Chopta is also a base for trekking to Tungnath, third temple of Panch Kedar, which lies 3.5 kms uphill.

Q.54) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Favipiravir'.

1. It was developed in Japan and subsequently approved for use among influenza patients.
2. It has been approved by the Drug Controller General of India for the treatment of COVID-19.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.54) Solution (c)

Favipiravir is an anti-viral drug and it is approved in Japan for treating influenza.

Based on Phase-3 data, Glenmark obtained approval for manufacture and marketing of antiviral drug Favipiravir, which has been branded as FabiFlu, an oral medication. The approval is for emergency restricted use only for treatment of mild to moderate Covid-19 patients. The approval's restricted use entails responsible medication use where every patient must have signed informed consent before treatment initiation.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/glenmark-unveils-oral-antiviral-for-covid-19/article31878134.ece>

Q.55) Recently, a fossil of Stegodon was discovered from the Siwalik sediments exposed in the vicinity of Badshahi Bagh area in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur. What is a Stegodon?

- a) It is a variety of the elephant which used to be found at an early age.
- b) It was a four-legged herbivorous dinosaur.
- c) It was the largest aquatic mammal ever existed.
- d) It is an insect of the order Blattodea.

Q.55) Solution (a)

The fossil of an elephant was discovered from the Siwalik sediments exposed in the vicinity of Badshahi Bagh area in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur.

The fossil is said to be between five to eight million years old and is from the Dhok Pathan formation of Siwalik range.

We have found a fossil of a Stegodon (Proboscideans) was found. It is a variety of the elephant which used to be found at an early age. The fossil is from Dhok Pathan formation of Siwalik.

The presence of stegodons shows the existence of dense forests and lots of river channels in the area during that time. Other fossils which existed with stegodons' were of those of giraffe, horses and hippopotamus.

The sandstone embedded on the fossil is medium grained, salt and pepper in nature. This type of lithology is the characteristic of Middle Shivalik.

Fossils are found in Asian and African strata dating from the late Miocene. During the Pleistocene, they lived across large parts of Asia and Central Africa.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/fossils-of-stegodon-elephant-found-in-saharanpur-s-shivalik-range/story-a3YDohUmJqvcm5myrOZrwN.html>

Q.56) Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Geo-Heritage Sites – States

1. Erra Matti Dibbalu – Andhra Pradesh
2. Varkala Cliff – Goa
3. National Fossil Wood Park – Rajasthan

Select the correct code:

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

Q.56) Solution (a)

- Erra Matti Dibbalu – Andhra Pradesh
- Varkala Cliff – Kerala
- National Fossil Wood Park – Tamil Nadu

Q.57) Which of the following Wildlife Sanctuaries is well known for 'Golden Langurs'?

- a) Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary
- b) Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary
- c) Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary
- d) Bor Wildlife Sanctuary

Q.57) Solution (a)

Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Assam and is known for Golden Langur.

Q.58) Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to 'Abdul Hamid Lahori'?

1. He wrote the book Badshahnama, about the reign of Shahjahan.
2. He was a traveller and historian during the period of Akbar.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.58) Solution (a)

He was a traveller and historian during the period of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan who later became a court historian of Shah Jahan (Shah Jahan's official chronicler). He wrote the book Badshahnama, about the reign of Shah Jahan.

Q.59) 'Takin' is an ungulate found in which of the following biosphere reserves?

- a) Seshachalam Hills
- b) Great Rann of Kutch
- c) Dihang-Dibang
- d) Gulf of Mannar

Q.59) Solution (c)

It is a large species of ungulate of the subfamily Caprinae found in the eastern Himalayas.

The four subspecies are the Mishmi takin (*B. t. taxicolor*), the golden takin (*B. t. bedfordi*), the Tibetan (or Sichuan) takin (*B. t. tibetana*), and the Bhutan takin (*B. t. whitei*).

The Mishmi takin occurs in eastern Arunachal Pradesh, while the Bhutan takin is in western Arunachal Pradesh and Bhutan. Dihang-Dibang Biosphere Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh, India is a stronghold of both Mishmi, Upper Siang (Kopu) and Bhutan takins.

Q.60) Which of the following countries is the largest foreign holder of US Treasury Securities?

- a) Japan
- b) India
- c) China
- d) Switzerland

Q.60) Solution (a)

Japan is the largest holder. India is 12th.

Source: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/bonds/india-becomes-12th-largest-holder-of-us-govt-securities/articleshow/76494079.cms>

Q.61) 'Senkakau Islands' was in news recently. Where is it located?

- a) South China Sea
- b) East China Sea
- c) Yellow Sea
- d) Sea of Japan

Q.61) Solution (b)

Senkaku Islands are a group of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea. They are located east of Mainland China, northeast of Taiwan, west of Okinawa Island, and north of the southwestern end of the Ryukyu Islands.

Both China and Japan claim authority over the uninhabited islands, known as the Diaoyus in China and the Senkakus in Japan, but Japan has administered the area since 1972.

Senkaku Islands are known to have abundance of natural resources, rich fishing grounds and are thought to contain oil deposits. It is also strategically important as it is close to international trade routes.



Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/after-face-off-with-india-china-embroiled-in-maritime-dispute-with-japan/story-aPSWNmYndKkcpcuf4tYDGL.html>

Q.62) Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. An elected member of the house can be disqualified from being a member if he/she wins the election as a candidate of one party and then join another.
2. The anti-defection law was added to the Constitution through the Forty-Second (Amendment) Act, 1976.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.62) Solution (a)

According to paragraph 2(1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution, an elected member of the house shall be disqualified from being a member if they win the election as a candidate of one party and then join another. The power for this disqualification is vested in the Speaker, who is usually a nominee of the ruling party. The anti-defection law, referred to as the Tenth Schedule, was added to the Constitution through the Fifty-Second (Amendment) Act, 1985.

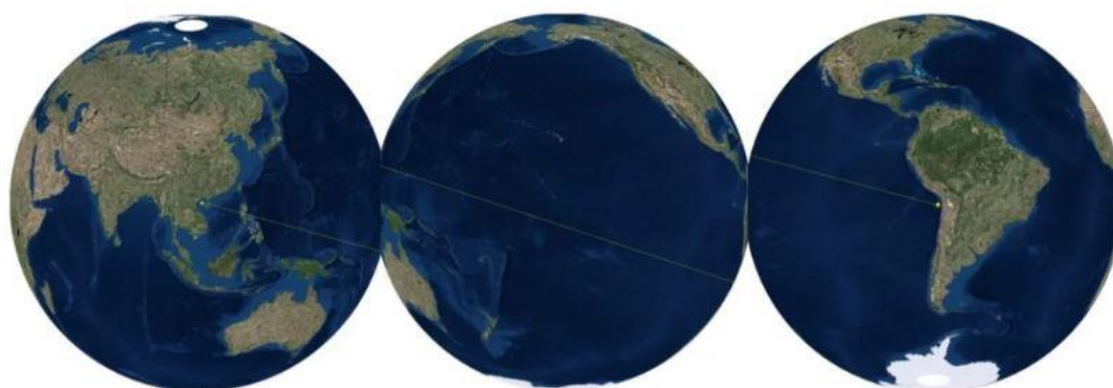
Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-how-manipur-defections-put-focus-on-powers-to-speakers-to-disqualify-6472904/>

Q.63) Antipodes are points on the Earth's surface which are diametrically opposite each other. They would be the extreme ends of a straight line through the Earth's centre. There is one entity that is so large that at one point it is its own antipode. If you were to tunnel directly under the point you would still come out in the same entity. What huge entity is this?

- a) Antarctica
- b) India Ocean
- c) Russia
- d) Pacific Ocean

Q.63) Solution (d)

This straight line through the Pacific Ocean



Covers half the Earth

Q.64) Consider the following statements and identify the correct answer.

1. It lies between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and means 'Sea of Islands',
2. By 2014, the lake had almost completely dried up leaving behind a giant ship graveyard where camels walk around rotting remains of fishing vessels.

Select the correct code:

- a) Caspian Sea
- b) Aral Sea
- c) Dead Sea
- d) Sea of Marmara

Q.64) Solution (b)

Aral Sea lies between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan and means 'Sea of Islands', which used to refer to over a thousand islands that used to be in the sea.

It used to be the fourth largest lake in the world but has been shrinking since the 1960s after the rivers that used to feed it were diverted by Russian irrigation projects.

By 2014, the lake had almost completely dried up leaving behind a giant ship graveyard where camels walk around rotting remains of fishing vessels.



Q.65) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)'

1. It regulates the international trade in conventional arms – from small arms to battle tanks, combat aircraft and warships.
2. It is signed and ratified by India in 2014.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.65) Solution (a)

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is a multilateral treaty that regulates the international trade in conventional weapons.

It entered into force on 4th December 2014. 105 states have ratified the treaty, and a further 32 states have signed but not ratified it. India has not signed nor ratified the ATT. China has decided to join a global pact on regulations of arms sales showing its willingness to address the poorly regulated international arms trade after the United States pulled out last year.

Q.66) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Seabed 2030' Project

1. The project is aimed at reversing coral bleaching.
2. It is a collaborative project between World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Global Coral Reef Alliance.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.66) Solution (d)

Seabed 2030 is a collaborative project between GEBCO and the Nippon Foundation with the aim to facilitate the complete mapping of the global ocean floor by the year 2030.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/mapping-the-ocean-floor-6473482/>

Q.67) Gautama Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana at

- a) Bodh Gaya
- b) Sarnath
- c) Kushinagar
- d) Lumbini

Q.67) Solution (c)

Kushinagar is an important Buddhist pilgrimage site, where Buddhists believe Gautama Buddha attained Parinirvana after his death.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1633893>

Q.68) 'Government e-Marketplace (GeM)' is under the aegis of the

- a) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- b) Ministry of Finance
- c) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- d) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare

Q.68) Solution (c)

The Commerce Ministry launched Government e-Marketplace (GeM), an online platform for public procurement, in August 2016 with the objective of creating an open and transparent procurement platform for government.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/business/economy/government-e-marketplace-make-in-india-6472162/>

Q.69) Which of the following union territories have representation in the Rajya Sabha?

- a) Delhi

- b) Puducherry
- c) Ladakh
- d) Jammu & Kashmir

Select the correct code:

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

Q.69) Solution (c)

Out of the nine union territories, only three (Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir) have representation in Rajya Sabha.

Q.70) The lost wax process is a specific technique used for making objects of

- a) Metal
- b) Wood
- c) Wool
- d) Cotton

Q.70) Solution (a)

Lost-wax process, also called cire-perdue, method of metal casting in which a molten metal is poured into a mold that has been created by means of a wax model. Once the mold is made, the wax model is melted and drained away.

Q.71) Which of the following states border Myanmar?

- 1. Tripura
- 2. Nagaland
- 3. Mizoram
- 4. Manipur

Select the correct code:

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

Q.71) Solution (b)

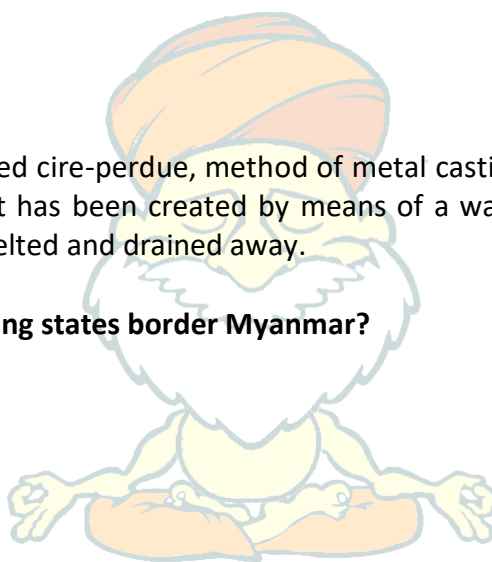
Indian States Bordering Myanmar – Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Myanmar, Nagaland

Q.72) Which of the following are benefits of 'Vertical Farming'?

- 1. Maximum Crop Yield
- 2. Less Carbon Print
- 3. Minimal Water Use

Select the correct code:

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



- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

Q.72) Solution (d)

Vertical farming has many advantages such as that it allows maximum crop yield. This means that vertical farming can allow crops to be grown at all times throughout the year, as it is not weather dependent.

Another advantage is that it reduces transportation costs as it will be cheaper for transportation since you can build vertical farms in cities, so you don't need to import the crops from other regions. It is eco-friendly as decreased need for transportation means less pollution.

Another advantage is that it uses very minimal water. Since the water is used in a controlled manner, water losses are very minimal. Vertical farming only uses 10% of the amount of water that traditional farming methods use.

Q.73) Recently 'Octocrylene (OC)' was in news in the context of

- a) Coral Reefs
- b) Locusts
- c) Poultry
- d) Fish Preservation

Q.73) Solution (a)

Octocrylene (OC), which is used in some cosmetics and hair products, accumulates in coral as fatty acid esters that could be toxic to the marine organism.

Q.74) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Climate Ambition Alliance'.

1. It brings together countries, businesses, investors, cities and regions who are working towards achieving net-zero CO₂ emissions by 2050.
2. India is not a part of the alliance.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.74) Solution (c)

The Climate Ambition Alliance brings together countries, businesses, investors, cities and regions who are working towards achieving net-zero CO₂ emissions by 2050. Country engagement in this Alliance is led by the governments of Chile and the United Kingdom, with support from UN Climate Change and UNDP.

Except European Union (EU) as a collective entity under UNFCCC, and few of its member nations such as France, Germany, Belgium and Spain, most others in the list of 73 are small developing and island nations whose emissions are negligible as compared to big emitters like the USA, China and India.

The Race to Zero campaign is a partnership of leading networks and initiatives from across the climate action community—driven by science.

Q.75) The 'Emissions Gap Report' is released by

- a) UN Environment
- b) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- c) International Union for Conservation of Nature
- d) World Wide Fund for Nature

Q.75) Solution (a)

It is released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Q.76) Consider the following statements with respect to "Skills Build Reignite"

1. It is aimed at providing job seekers and entrepreneurs, with access to free online coursework and mentoring support designed to help them reinvent their careers and businesses.
2. Directorate General of Training (DGT) will be overlooking the initiative.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.76) Solution (c)

Directorate General of Training (DGT), under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), is responsible for implementing long term institutional training to the nation's youth through its network of training institutes and infrastructure. It plays a key role in the execution of vocational training schemes and in making 'Digital India' dream become a reality.

The SkillsBuild Reignite tends to provide job seekers and entrepreneurs, with access to free online coursework and mentoring support designed to help them reinvent their careers and businesses. Job seekers, individual business owners, entrepreneurs and any individual with learning aspirations can now tap into host of industry relevant content on topics including Artificial intelligence, Cloud, Data analytics and security to reskill and upskill themselves, at no cost.

Source:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1633965#:~:text=Its%20special%20feature%20is%20the,of%20the%20COVID%2019%20pandemic.>

Q.77) 'ACT-Accelerator Hub' is associated with which of the following organization?

- a) World Health Organisation
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) European Union
- d) United Nations Environment Programme

Q.77) Solution (a)

The WHO is working with a large coalition of drug-development, funding and distribution organisations under what it is calling the ACT-Accelerator Hub.

In an update on the ACT-Accelerator initiative, launched in April to speed up research and development for the new disease, the WHO and global health groups said the coronavirus pandemic is still threatening millions of lives and scores of economies.

Source: <https://www.livemint.com/news/world/who-led-coalition-needs-31-3-billion-to-fight-covid-19-11593178617027.html>

Q.78) The terms “Call for action” and “Other monitored jurisdictions” are associated

- a) Financial Action Task Force (FATF)
- b) International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- c) International Court of Justice (ICC)
- d) International Criminal Court (ICC)

Q.78) Solution (a)

Since 2000, FATF has maintained the FATF blacklist (formally called the “Call for action”) and the FATF greylist (formally called the “Other monitored jurisdictions”).

Q.79) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘TULIP’ programme.

1. It is a program for providing internship opportunities to fresh graduates in all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Smart Cities across the country.
2. It is being implemented through a partnership between Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD) and AICTE.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.79) Solution (a)

The Urban Learning Internship Program (TULIP) – A program for providing internship opportunities to fresh graduates in all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Smart Cities across the country.

The TULIP program is being implemented through a partnership between Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and AICTE. At the State level, TULIP will be supported by the Urban Development departments in providing a clear roadmap for the ULBs/smart cities to adopt TULIP in their respective organisations.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1634268>

Q.80) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Angikaar Campaign’.

1. It aims to bring the beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) under the fold of other Central Government Schemes like Ayushman Bharat, and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana.
2. It is launched by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.

Select the correct statements

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.80) Solution (c)

This campaign aims to bring the beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) under the fold of other Central Government Schemes like Ayushman Bharat (Health Insurance Scheme), and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (LPG Gas Connection Scheme). It was launched by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry.

Q.81) 'Declaration of Windhoek' was in news recently. It is associate with which of the following issues?

- a) Freedom of Press
- b) Human Rights
- c) Protection of Coral Reefs
- d) Systematic Racism

Q.81) Solution (a)

The Declaration of Windhoek is a statement of free press principles as put together by newspaper journalists in Africa during a UNESCO seminar on "Promoting an Independent and Pluralistic African Press" in Windhoek, Namibia, from 29 April to 3 May 1991. The Declaration of Windhoek was endorsed by UNESCO's General Conference at its twenty-sixth session (1991).

May 3, the anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek, is since then observed worldwide as the World Press Freedom Day.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/on-world-press-freedom-day-bjp-s-jp-nadda-praises-journalists-for-covid-19-job/story-UNJNB8uv3Omdyd5pDSRakK.html>

Q.82) The term 'poison pill' refers to

- a) A defense strategy used by a target firm to prevent or discourage a potential hostile takeover by an acquiring company.
- b) The acquisition of another company using a significant amount of borrowed money to meet the cost of acquisition.
- c) An offer made by one company to buy the shares of another for a much higher per-share price than what that company is worth in the market.
- d) A legal provision to reduce or eliminate legal or regulatory liability in certain situations as long as certain conditions are met.

Q.82) Solution (a)

A poison pill is a defensive tactic used by companies, which makes it difficult for a hostile acquirer to buy out a majority stake in the company, given the acquirer control over its management and shareholding.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/columns/slate/all-you-wanted-to-know-about-poison-pills/article31616403.ece#>

Q.83) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Prime Minister's Office (PMO)'.

1. It is administratively headed by the Principal Secretary.
2. The National Defence Fund (NDF) are operated directly from the PMO.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.83) Solution (c)

During the tenure of Jawaharlal Nehru as Prime Minister, the then Prime Minister's Secretariat was headed by a Joint Secretary until his death. The post of Principal Secretary to Prime Minister was created during the tenure of Indira Gandhi as Prime Minister. The Principal Secretary to PM is the head of the Prime Minister's Office.

The Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) and the National Defence Fund (NDF) are operated directly from the PMO.

Q.84) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Brown Dwarfs'.

1. They are by far the most common type of star in the neighborhood of the Sun.
2. They have a mass between those of the heaviest gas giant planets and the least massive stars.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.4) Solution (b)

A brown dwarf is a type of substellar object that has a mass between those of the heaviest gas giant planets and the least massive stars.

A red dwarf 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 neighborhood of the Sun, but because of their low luminosity, individual red dwarfs cannot be easily observed.

Q.85) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Renewable Energy Certificate (REC)'

1. There are five types of Renewable Energy Certificate
2. They can be traded on the National Stock Exchange.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.85) Solution (d)

There are two categories of RECs, viz., solar RECs and non-solar RECs. Solar RECs are issued to eligible entities for generation of electricity based on solar as renewable energy source, and non-solar RECs are issued to eligible entities for generation of electricity based on renewable energy sources other than solar.

REC would be exchanged only in the CERC approved power exchanges.

Read More – <https://www.recregistryindia.nic.in/index.php/publics/faqs>

Q.86) 'Kharchi Puja' is associated with which of the following states?

- a) Odisha
- b) Uttarakhand
- c) Bihar
- d) Tripura

Q.86) Solution (d)

Kharchi Puja is one of Tripura's most important festivals involving the worship of 'the 14 Gods'. The festival also highlights the equal participation of people from both tribal and non-tribal communities.

Q.87) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis'.

1. He was also the architect of India's First Five Year Plan.
2. He is credited with the achievement of publishing journal 'Sankhya'.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.87) Solution (b)

PC Mahalanobis was instrumental in formulating India's second five-year-plan (1956-1961), which laid the blueprint for industrialisation and development in India.

He founded and nurtured Sankhyā – the Indian Journal of Statistics.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/analysis/national-statistics-day-remembering-pc-mahalanobis/story-YuxqJuoJu5tubCrZ2FEWI.html>

Q.88) Which of the following statements with respect to 'Gynandromorphism' is correct?

- a) It is the condition where the two sexes of the same species exhibit different characteristics beyond the differences in their sexual organs.
- b) It is a condition where the organism contains both male and female characteristics.
- c) It is a condition where a single organism composed of cells with more than one distinct genotype.
- d) It is a condition where the organism has no gender.

Solution (b)

A gynandromorph is an organism that contains both male and female characteristics.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/rare-biological-phenomenon-in-dragonflies-sighted-at-kole-wetlands/article31939658.ece>

Q.89) Which of the following statements with respect to 'Chandrasekhar Limit' is/are correct?

1. The Chandrasekhar Limit is now accepted to be approximately 1.4 times the mass of the Sun.
2. Any white dwarf with less than this mass will stay a white dwarf forever.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.89) Solution (c)

The Chandrasekhar Limit is now accepted to be approximately 1.4 times the mass of the sun; any white dwarf with less than this mass will stay a white dwarf forever, while a star that exceeds this mass is destined to end its life in that most violent of explosions: a supernova.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/black-hole-merges-with-unusual-compact-object/article31934686.ece#:~:text=The%20LIGO%20Scientific%20and%20VIRGO,light%20are%20compatible%20with%20both.>

Q.90) The term 'Younger Dryas' is associated with

- a) Coronal Mass Ejections
- b) Glacial Conditions
- c) Solar Minimums
- d) Zealandia

Q.90) Solution (b)

The Younger Dryas (around 12,900 to 11,700 years BP) was a return to glacial conditions after the Late Glacial Interstadial, which temporarily reversed the gradual climatic warming after the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM) started receding around 20,000 BP.

THINK!

- Last Glacial Maximum (LGM)
- Microscopic zooplankton called foraminifera

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/when-the-indian-oceans-ancient-climate-patterns-return/article31934556.ece>

Q.91) Narcondam Hornbill is found in which of the following?

1. Western Ghats
2. Andamans
3. Lakshadweep

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 and 2
- b) Only 2
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.91) Solution (b)

Narcondam hornbill is a species of hornbill in the family Bucerotidae. It is endemic to the Indian island of Narcondam in the Andamans.

The Narcondam hornbill has the smallest home range out of all the species of Asian hornbills.

IUCN status: Endangered

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/thriving-in-seclusion/article31938143.ece>

Q.92) Consider the following statements with respect to 'Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana':

1. This scheme was launched to distribute free foodgrains to the poor and needy during the coronavirus crisis.
2. Under this scheme, only the beneficiaries under the targeted public distribution system (TPDS) would receive the free foodgrains.

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

Q.92) Solution (c)

'Pradhan Mantri Gareeb Kalyan Anna Yojana'

Considered as world's largest food security scheme, the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana aims at ensuring sufficient food to the poor and needy during the coronavirus crisis. The scheme provides additional allocation of foodgrain to States/UTs for distribution to all the beneficiaries covered under public distribution system (TPDS) for Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and priority household (PHH) ration cardholders.

As per updates, the eligible beneficiaries will receive 5kg of foodgrains and 1 kg Gram per month for a period of three months between April and June, 2020. This time period has now been extended to five more months.

The scheme is said to cover 80 crore ration card holders.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/will-free-grains-scheme-stay/article31949645.ece>

Q.93) Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors' AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme was launched by –

- a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- b) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- c) Ministry of Rural Development
- d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Q.93) Solution (b)

PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)

It is a Central Sector Scheme to facilitate street vendors to access affordable working capital loan for resuming their livelihoods activities, after easing of lockdown.

Rationale behind the scheme – The COVID-19 pandemic and consequent lockdowns have adversely impacted the livelihoods of street vendors. They usually work with a small capital base, which they might have consumed during the lockdown. Therefore, credit for working capital to street vendors will be helpful to resume their livelihoods.

Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs launched this scheme on June 1st, 2020.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/portal-for-street-vendors-loan-scheme-launched/article31949637.ece>

Q.94) Ministry of Tourism (MoT) launched which of the following scheme for integrated development of theme based tourist circuits in the country in 2014-15?

- a) Swadesh Darshan Scheme
- b) Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY)
- c) Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASAD)
- d) Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)

Q.94) Solution (a)

Ministry of Tourism (MoT) launched the Swadesh Darshan Scheme (Central Sector Scheme)– for integrated development of theme based tourist circuits in the country in 2014-15.

This scheme is envisioned to synergise with other Government of India schemes like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Skill India, Make in India etc. with the idea of positioning the tourism sector as a major engine for job creation, driving force for economic growth, building synergy with various sectors to enable tourism to realise its potential.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/centre-to-revive-narayana-guru-spiritual-circuit-plan/article31949585.ece>

Q.95) India and Bhutan recently signed pact for their first hydropower joint venture project –

- a) Sankhuwasabha hydel project
- b) Sunkoshi hydropower project
- c) Mangdechhu hydroelectric project
- d) Kholongchhu hydel project

Q.95) Solution (d)

India and Bhutan signed pact for first joint hydel project – Kholongchhu project

It is the first time an India-Bhutan hydropower project will be constructed as a 50:50 joint venture, not as a government-to-government agreement.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-bhutan-sign-pact-for-first-joint-venture-hydropower-project/article31945878.ece>

Q.96) Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) is aimed at –

- a) enabling startups to obtain collateral-free loans for starting business.
- b) mitigating the economic distress being faced by MSMEs.
- c) providing working capital funds to farmers through NABARD.
- d) providing financial assistance to neighbouring countries for infrastructure projects.

Q.96) Solution (b)

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)

The ECLGS scheme has been formulated as a specific response to the unprecedented situation caused by COVID-19 and the consequent lockdown which has severely impacted manufacturing and other activities in the MSME sector.

The Scheme aims at mitigating the economic distress being faced by MSMEs by providing them additional funding of up to Rs. 3 lakh crore in the form of a fully guaranteed emergency credit line.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/banks-sanction-1-lakh-cr-loans-to-30-lakh-msmes/article31957972.ece>

Q.97) Global Education Monitoring Report (GEM Report), aimed to sustain commitment towards Education for All is released by –

- a) UNESCO
- b) UNICEF
- c) OECD
- d) PISA

Q.97) Solution (a)

Global Education Monitoring Report (GEM Report)

Established in 2002, the GEM Report is an editorially independent report, hosted and published by UNESCO. At the 2015 World Education Forum, it received a mandate from 160 governments to monitor and report on.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/education/coronavirus-lockdown-covid-19-widened-educational-divide-unesco-report/article31907857.ece>

Q.98) Which of the following countries is not a member of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)?

- a) Myanmar
- b) Maldives
- c) Afghanistan
- d) Bhutan

Q.98) Solution (a)

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

It is comprised of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

SAARC is regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union in South Asia. It promotes development of economical and regional integration.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/reviving-saarc-to-deal-with-china/article31956334.ece>

Q.99) Which of the statements given below is/are correct about Kaziranga National Park?

1. It is a National Park, a Tiger Reserve and also a World Heritage Site.
2. It is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International for conservation of avifaunal species.
3. It hosts two-thirds of the world's great two-horned rhinoceroses.

Choose correct answer:

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

Q.99) Solution (c)

Kaziranga National Park

- It is a national park in the Golaghat, Karbi Anglong and Nagaon districts of Assam
- It hosts two-thirds of the world's great one-horned rhinoceroses. It is a World Heritage Site.
- It is also a Tiger Reserve.
- It is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International for conservation of avifaunal species.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/videos/india-news/assam-floods-kaziranga-national-park-pobitora-wildlife-sanctuary-severely-affectedvideo/video-kuwBFWuHny3NCeAW609SkO.html>

Q.100) Consider the following statements:

1. The plant is commonly known as 'dancing ladies' or 'swan flowers'.
2. The earliest records of the collection of this plant were dated between the period 1862-70 and was recently "rediscovered".
3. This plant is characterised by white flowers, non-appendaged anthers and a "yellowish lip".

The above statements are associated with –

- a) Globba andersonii
- b) Neelakurinji
- c) Strobilanthes kunthiana
- d) Senna spectabilis

Q.100) Solution (a)

Globba andersonii

- A team of researchers recently "rediscovered" a rare and critically endangered plant species called Globba andersonii from the Sikkim Himalayas near the Teesta river valley region.
- It is known as 'dancing ladies' or 'swan flowers'.
- Globba andersonii are characterised by white flowers, non-appendaged anthers (the part of a stamen that contains the pollen) and a "yellowish lip".
- The species is restricted mainly to Teesta River Valley region which includes the Sikkim Himalays and Darjeeling hill ranges.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/plant-thought-to-be-extinct-for-more-than-135-years-found/article31954998.ece>

Q.101) Consider the following statements about Central Zoo authority of India (CZA)

1. It has been constituted under the Wild Life (Protection) Act.
2. It is chaired by the Environment Minister.
3. It lays down guidelines and prescribes rules under which animals may be transferred among zoos nationally and internationally.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.101) Solution (d)

Central Zoo authority of India (CZA)

- The CZA is a statutory body chaired by the Environment Minister and tasked with regulating zoos across the country.
- CZA is a statutory body created under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The authority lays down guidelines and prescribes rules under which animals may be transferred among zoos nationally and internationally.
- It regulates the exchange of animals of endangered category Listed under Schedule-I and II of the Wildlife Protection Act among zoos.

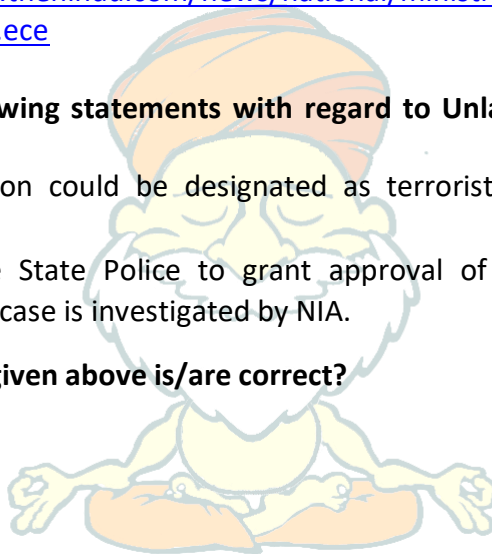
Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ministry-reconstitutes-central-zoo-authority/article31964930.ece>

Q.102) Consider the following statements with regard to Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA)

1. Only an organisation could be designated as terrorist under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.
2. It empowered the State Police to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property when the case is investigated by NIA.

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

**Q.102) Solution (d)**

Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA)

- It was enacted in 1967.
- It aims at effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.
- Under the act, the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in maximum 180 days after the arrests and the duration can be extended further after intimating the court.
- 2019 Amendment of UAPA
- The act was amended to designate individuals as terrorists on certain grounds provided in the Act. Earlier only organisations could be declared as such.
- It empowered the Director General of NIA to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property when the case is investigated by NIA.
- Earlier it required the consent of State Police which delayed the process.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-designates-nine-individuals-linked-to-khalistani-groups-as-terrorists/article31964834.ece>

Q.103) Consider the following statements with reference to the Goods and Services Tax

1. It is an umbrella tax which will subsume all the direct taxes.
2. GST will eliminate the cascading of taxes and will make taxation simpler.

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

Q.103) Solution (b)

The GST is a Value added Tax (VAT) is a comprehensive indirect tax levy on manufacture, sale and consumption of goods as well as services at the national level. It will replace all indirect taxes levied on goods and services by the Indian Central and state governments. It is aimed at being comprehensive for most goods and services.

Policymakers have consistently resonated the benefit of a unified taxation system in a federal country like India.

There is a long list of benefits, which are being claimed as a result of GST law and one such benefit is removal of the cascading tax effect. In simple words "cascading tax effect" means tax on tax. It is a situation wherein a consumer has to bear the load of tax on tax and inflationary prices as a result of it.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/gst-revenue-collections-in-june-at-90917-crore/article31960842.ece>

Q.104) Consider the following statements:

1. The President summons each House of Parliament to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit.
2. Speaker advises the President with regard to summoning and proroguing of the sessions of the Parliament.

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

Q.104) Solution (a)

Article 85(1) in the Constitution states:

"The President shall from time to time summon each House of Parliament to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit, but six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one Session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next Session."

The Prime Minister is the leader of the Lower House. In this capacity, he advises the President with regard to summoning and proroguing of the sessions of the Parliament.

In other words, though the power to summon Parliament is vested in the President, the latter acts on the advice on the council of ministers, headed by the prime minister".

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-ways-in-which-parliament-can-resume-functioning-6487267/>

Q.105) Consider the following statements about “AtmaNirbhar Bharat Scheme” (ANBS):

1. It was launched to help mitigate the food-security plight of the migrants and other needy persons who were not covered under NFSA or under any other State PDS scheme.
2. The scheme targeted free-of-cost ration distribution to 80 crores beneficiaries.

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

Q.105) Solution (a)

AtmaNirbhar Bharat Scheme

Under AtmaNirbhar Bharat Scheme, intended target of 8 crore migrant persons (10% of total 80 crore NFSA beneficiaries) was estimated.

The scheme was launched to help mitigate the food-security plight of the migrant/stranded migrant workers/labourers and other needy persons across the country who were not covered under NFSA or under any other State PDS scheme, or not able to access their NFSA foodgrains, during the unprecedented COVID-19 situation.

Under the scheme, migrants/stranded migrants were to get free-of-cost ration at a scale of 5 kg per person per month for a period of two months i.e. May and June 2020.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1635952>

Q.106) Which of the following bodies are established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea?

1. International Seabed Authority (ISA)
2. International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)
3. Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS)
4. Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)

Choose correct code

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

Q.106) Solution (b)

Bodies established under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea include –

- International Seabed Authority (ISA)
- International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)
- Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS)

Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) is an intergovernmental organization located in The Hague, Netherlands. It is not a court in the traditional sense, but provides services of arbitral tribunal to resolve disputes that arise out of international agreements between member states, international organizations or private parties.

The organization is not a United Nations agency, but the PCA is an official United Nations Observer.

Source:

<https://www.un.org/Depts/los/Links/Links-LOS.htm>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/italian-marines-case-india-loses-jurisdiction/article31973247.ece>

Q.107) According to “United Nations Convention on The Law of Seas (UNCLOS)”

1. Territorial waters are up to 12 nautical miles.
2. Contiguous Zone is up to 200 nautical miles from the shore.
3. Coastal nations can exercise their right in four areas in Exclusive Economic Zone: customs, taxation, immigration and pollution.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Q.107) Solution (b)

The contiguous zone extends up to 24 nautical miles from the shore. In a contiguous zone coastal nations can exercise their rights in four areas: customs, taxation, immigration and pollution.

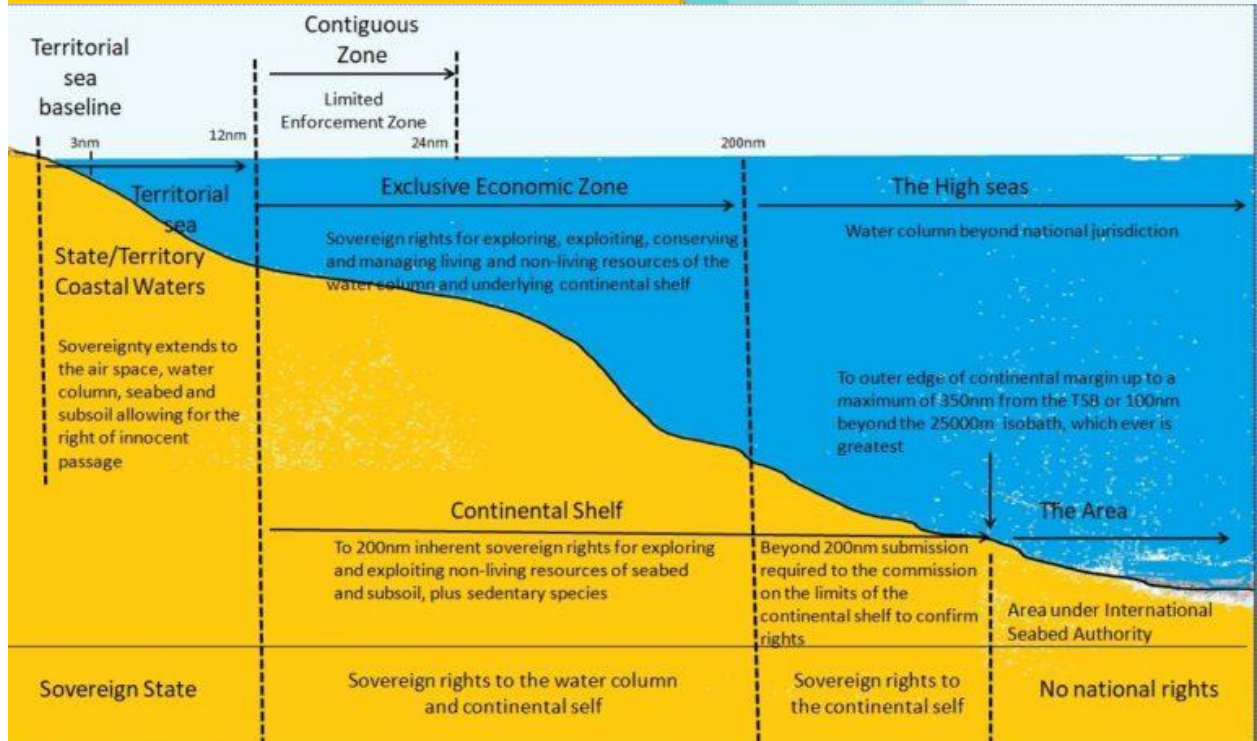
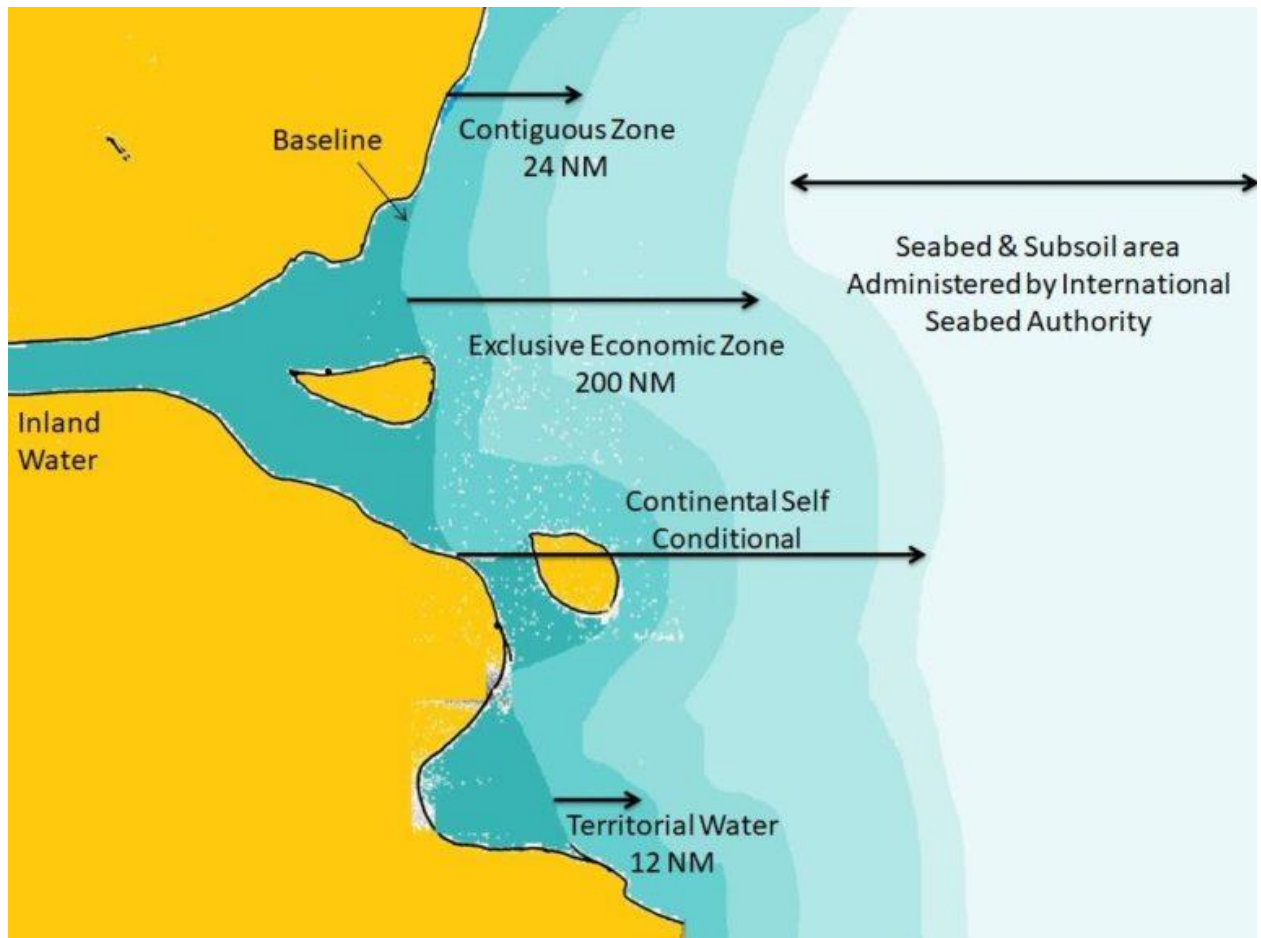
In Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), which extends up to 200 nautical miles, the coastal nations have exclusive right to exploit the resources. International vessels are free to cross these waters without any restriction

Exclusive economic zone

A coastal nation has control of all economic resources within its exclusive economic zone, including fishing, mining, oil exploration, and any pollution of those resources. However, it cannot prohibit passage or loitering above, on, or under the surface of the sea that is in compliance with the laws and regulations adopted by the coastal State in accordance with the provisions of the UN Convention, within that portion of its exclusive economic zone beyond its territorial sea.

Continental shelf

Coastal states have the right of exploration and exploitation of its natural resources, however other states could lay cables and pipelines if they are authorised by the coastal state. The outer limit of a country's continental shelf shall not stretch beyond 350 nautical miles of the baseline.



Q.108) Consider the following statements about National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA):

1. Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006 provides for creating the National Tiger Conservation Authority
2. Project Tiger is administered by the National Tiger Conservation Authority
3. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.108) Solution (d)

National Tiger Conservation Authority

NTCA is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it under the said Act.

Project Tiger is administered by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

Tiger Reserves are declared by National Tiger Conservation Authority via Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2006 under centrally sponsored scheme called Project Tiger.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/uttar-pradesh-mulling-over-proposal-to-turn-shivalik-forest-into-tiger-reserve/article31968322.ece>

Q.109) Consider the following statements:

1. When the fiscal deficit of the country goes up; its trade deficit also goes up.
2. Current Account is the sum of the balance of trade, net factor income and net transfer payments.

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

Q.109) Solution (c)

The twin deficits hypothesis, also called the double deficit hypothesis or twin deficits anomaly, is a macroeconomic proposition that there is a strong link between a national economy's current account balance and its government budget balance.

This hypothesis says that as the fiscal deficit of the country goes up; its trade deficit (i.e. the difference between exports and imports) also goes up.

Hence, when a government of a country spends more than what it earns, the country also ends up importing more than exporting.

Current Account is the sum of the balance of trade (exports minus imports of goods and services), net factor income (such as interest and dividends) and net transfer payments (such as foreign aid).

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/indias-trade-deficit-with-china-dips-to-4866-billion-in-fy20/article31973598.ece>

Q.110) Who among the following were considered as the Trinity of Carnatic music, also known as The Three Jewels of Carnatic music?

1. Shyama Shastri
2. Tyagaraja
3. Muthuswami Dikshitar
4. Tolkappiyar
5. Thiruvalluvar

Choose correct answer:

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

Q.110) Solution (a)

The Trinity of Carnatic music, also known as The Three Jewels of Carnatic music, refer to the outstanding trio of composer-musicians of Carnatic music in the 18th century, being Tyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar and Syama Sastri.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/music/kritis-with-a-healing-touch/article31971313.ece>

Q.111) Two species – Striped Hairstreak and Elusive Prince – were discovered recently in Arunachal Pradesh. These species are –

- a) Snakes
- b) Migratory Birds
- c) Butterflies
- d) Frogs

Q.111) Solution (c)

Lepidopterists have discovered two species of butterflies – the Striped Hairstreak and Elusive Prince – in Arunachal Pradesh.

The Striped Hairstreak was first recorded by Japanese entomologists in Hainan province of China.

Elusive Prince has a Vietnamese connection and was thought to be the more familiar Black Prince found in the Eastern Himalayas.

The Striped Hairstreak was located in Vijaynagar bordering Myanmar while the Elusive Prince was found in Miao on the periphery of the Namdapha National Park.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/japanese-found-chinese-butterfly-is-now-indian/article31963607.ece>

Q.112) Dispute over claims to Sakteng wildlife sanctuary is associated with which of the following countries?

- a) China and Bhutan
- b) India and Nepal
- c) Nepal and Bhutan
- d) China and Nepal

Q.112) Solution (a)

Bhutan had sent a demarche protesting Chinese claims to the Sakteng wildlife sanctuary in Eastern Bhutan.

China recently attempted to stop funding for the Sakteng sanctuary from the U.N. Development Programme's Global Environment Facility (GEF), on the grounds that it was "disputed" territory.

Sakteng sanctuary has in the past too received such grants, including in 2018-2019, for a project on preventing soil erosion, without any objection from China.

Dividing line

A brief overview of the boundary dispute between China and Bhutan

- Bhutan and China have no formal diplomatic relations but have held 24 rounds of boundary talks between 1984 and 2016
- Talks concentrated on north and west Bhutan regions
- Eastern Bhutan not part of the talks
- so far, say officials
- Sakteng sanctuary is situated close to the border with Arunachal Pradesh
- In June 2020, China attempted to stop UNDP-GEF funding for Sakteng by claiming it was disputed, but was overruled



Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/days-after-demarche-china-doubles-down-on-claims-on-eastern-bhutan-boundary/article31993470.ece>

Q.113) Consider the following statements about United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA):

1. It is the United Nations sexual and reproductive health agency.
2. It is a member of the United Nations Development Group and part of its executive committee.
3. UNFPA is supported by the UN budget and UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) establishes its mandate.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.113) Solution (c)

About United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

It is a subsidiary organ of the UN General Assembly and works as a sexual and reproductive health agency.

The UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) establishes its mandate.

It was established as a trust fund in 1967 and began operations in 1969. In 1987, it was officially renamed the United Nations Population Fund but the original abbreviation, 'UNFPA' for the United Nations Fund for Population Activities was retained.

UNFPA is not supported by the UN budget, instead, it is entirely supported by voluntary contributions of donor governments, intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, foundations and individuals.

UNFPA works directly to tackle Sustainable Development Goal on health(SDG3), Education (SDG4) and gender equality (SDG5)

It is a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group and part of its executive committee.

Source: <https://www.unfpa.org/about-us>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-accounts-for-458-million-of-the-worlds-missing-females-says-un-report/article31951401.ece>

Q.114) Promoting international peace and security and maintaining just and honourable relations between nations is part of –

- a) Directive Principles of State Policy
- b) Fundamental Duties
- c) Fundamental Rights
- d) Preamble

Q.114) Solution (a)

Article 51 of Indian Constitution (Directive Principles of State Policy)

Promotion of international peace and security. The State shall endeavour to –

1. promote international peace and security;
2. maintain just and honourable relations between nations;
3. foster respect for international law and treaty obligations in the dealings of organised peoples with one another; and
4. encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/will-accept-marines-case-ruling-centre/article31985141.ece>

Q.115) Consider the below statements with reference to Defence Acquisition Council –

1. It is the government's highest decision-making body on defence procurement.
2. It is chaired by Union Defence Minister.
3. It was set up in 2009 as part of the post-Mumbai attack reforms.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.115) Solution (b)

Defence Acquisition Council

The DAC is Defence Ministry's highest decision making body for capital acquisition proposals forwarded by the Indian armed forces.

It was set up in 2001 as part of the post-Kargil reforms in defence sector.

DAC is chaired by Union Defence Minister.

The objective of the Defence Acquisition Council is to ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the Armed Forces in terms of capabilities sought, and time frame prescribed, by optimally utilizing the allocated budgetary resources.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/mod approves-33-new-fighter-jets-for-iaf-in-deals-worth-38900-crore/article31971510.ece>

Q.116) Which among the following are the two goals, set by the World Bank Group, for the world to achieve by 2030?

- a) Ending extreme poverty and Promoting shared prosperity
- b) Eliminating poverty and Ensuring stability of the international monetary and financial system
- c) Ending absolute poverty and Food security with zero hunger
- d) Ending extreme poverty and Quality Education

Q.116) Solution (a)

The World Bank Group has set two goals for the world to achieve by 2030:

End extreme poverty by decreasing the percentage of people living on less than \$1.90 a day to no more than 3%

Promote shared prosperity by fostering the income growth of the bottom 40% for every country

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1636790>
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/about/what-we-do>

Q.117) Which of the following constitute the World Bank Group?

1. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
2. International Finance Corporation
3. International Development Association
4. International Monetary Fund

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.117) Solution (a)

World Bank Group

The World Bank Group is one of the world's largest sources of funding and knowledge for developing countries.

Its five institutions share a commitment to reducing poverty, increasing shared prosperity, and promoting sustainable development. It consists of

- IBRD- The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
- IDA- The International Development Association
- IFC- The International Finance Corporation
- MIGA- The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
- ICSID- The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes

Q.118) Consider the following statements about Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations
2. India is one of the founding members of FAO
3. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.118) Solution (c)

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security.

India is one of the founding members of FAO. FAO has been a staunch partner since 1948, when FAO operations in India first began.

The FAO is headquartered in Rome, Italy.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/the-difference-between-a-locust-plague-uptake-and-outbreak-6492132/>

Q.119) Consider the following statements as per 2019 amendment to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967:

1. It empowered the Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to attach properties acquired from proceeds of terrorism.
2. It empowered the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases of terrorism.

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

Q.119) Solution (c)

As per recent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2019 –

- Individuals can be declared as terrorists and their properties seized.
- It also provides for putting travel ban on such individuals once they are declared as terrorists.
- The amendments gave powers to the Director General of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to attach properties acquired from proceeds of terrorism.
- Earlier, the law required that the NIA take prior permission from the respective state police chief to attach the proceeds of terrorism.
- Earlier, officers in the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police and above were empowered to investigate cases under the UAPA as per Section 43. Now, officers in the rank of Inspector are empowered to do so.

- The inspector-rank officers have over time acquired sufficient proficiency to investigate UAPA-related cases and this move would quicken the delivery of justice in such cases, which are reviewed by senior officers at various levels.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/govt-blocks-40-websites-of-sikhs-for-justice/article31997918.ece>

Q.120) Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) is an initiative of –

- a) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- b) World Health Organization (WHO)
- c) World Bank Group
- d) World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Q.120) Solution (b)

Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) is a network composed of numerous technical and public health institutions, laboratories, NGOs, and other organizations that work to observe and respond to threatening epidemics.

GOARN works closely with and under the World Health Organization (WHO), which is one of its most notable partners. Its goals are to: examine and study diseases, evaluate the risks that certain diseases pose, and improve international capability to deal with diseases.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/the-hindu-explains-what-are-scientists-saying-about-a-new-virus-strain-in-china/article31991105.ece>

Q.121) Consider the following statements with regard to MGNREGA:

1. Only one adult member from a household willing to do unskilled manual work is entitled to register to obtain a job card under MGNREGA.
2. It is demand driven wage employment programme and resource transfer from Centre to States is based on the demand for employment in each State.
3. Employment under MGNREGA is a legal entitlement.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.121) Solution (c)

The mandate of the MGNREGA is to provide at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

“Household” means the members of a family related to each other by blood, marriage or adoption and normally residing together and sharing meals or holding a common ration card.

In simple words, a household having adult members desirous of seeking unskilled employment in MGNREGA may apply for registration.

MGNREGA is demand driven wage employment programme and resource transfer from Centre to States is based on the demand for employment in each State.

The failure of provision for employment within 15 days of the receipt of job application from a prospective household will result in the payment of unemployment allowance to the job seekers. Employment is to be provided within 5 km of an applicant's residence, and minimum wages are to be paid. Thus, employment under MGNREGA is a legal entitlement.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/14-lakh-families-reach-mgnregas-annual-work-limit/article32008031.ece>

Q.122) Which of the following statements is/are true?

1. India is among top five in terms of opium cultivation in 2018.
2. Asia accounts to more than 90% of global illicit opium production.
3. Afghanistan is the largest producer of opium in the world.

Choose the correct answer from the codes given below:

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

Q.122) Solution (b)

Opium is illicitly produced in about 50 countries. However, close to 97% of the total global production of opium in the past five years came from only 3 countries. (84% in Afghanistan, 7% in Myanmar and Mexico accounts for 6%)

India is in top five (fourth position) in terms of seizure of opium in 2018 and not opium production. Hence, statement 1 is wrong.

Asia is host to more than 90% of global illicit opium production and the world's largest consumption market for opiates. 84% of the total opium was produced in Afghanistan.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/fourth-highest-opium-seizure-in-2018-reported-from-india-world-drug-report/article32005672.ece>

Q.123) Which among the following is correct about Bubonic plague, which was recently in news?

- a) It is a zoonotic disease and a serious bacterial infection transmitted by fleas from rodents.
- b) It is a swine flu strain that has genes similar to those in the virus that caused the 2009 flu (H1N1) pandemic.
- c) It is a family of viruses spread mainly by rodents.
- d) It is referred to most serious category of uncontrolled breeding locust populations.

Q.123) Solution (a)

What is Bubonic plague?

- It is a rare but serious bacterial infection transmitted by fleas from rodents.
- It is a zoonotic disease and it can be transmitted to other animals or humans.
- It mainly results from the bite of an infected flea.
- It may also result from exposure to the body fluids from a dead plague-infected animal.
- It is one of the three plagues caused by bacterium *Yersinia pestis*. The other two being Septicaemic plague and Pneumonic plague.

- It is spread by *Yersinia pestis* bacteria and requires urgent hospitalisation. According to the WHO it can kill an adult in less than 24 hours, if not treated in time.

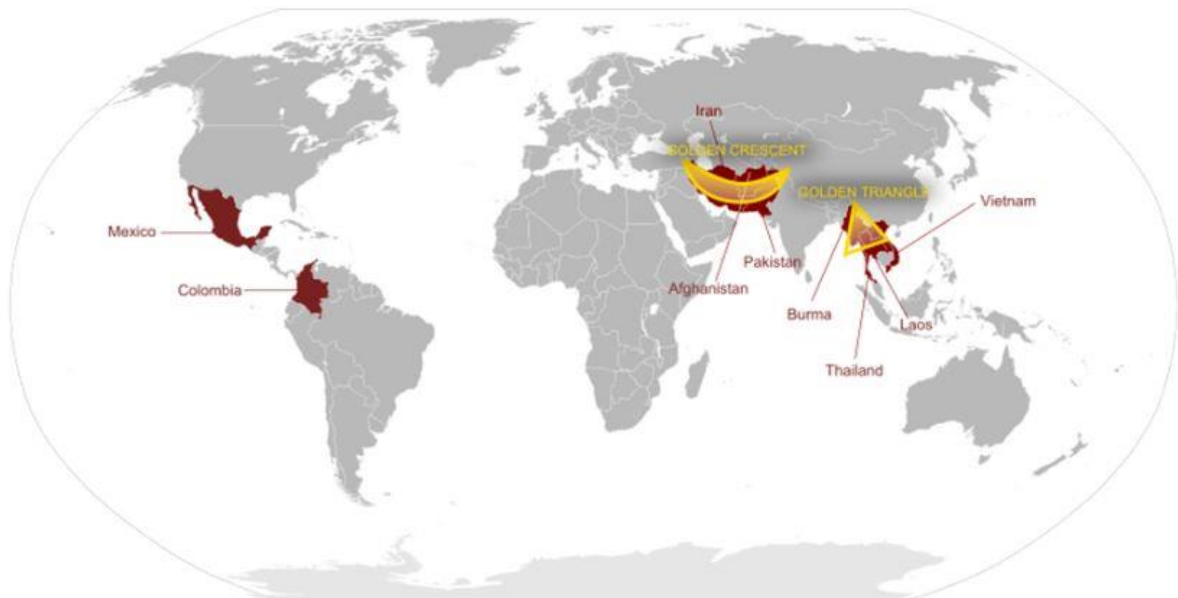
Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/suspected-case-of-bubonic-plague-found-in-chinas-inner-mongolia/article31998748.ece>

Q.124) Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent often seen in news is related to which field of interest?

- An area infested with insurgency, terrorism and trafficking
- Gravitational anomalies on earth's surface
- USA's counter-strategy to China's string of Pearls strategy
- Illicit drug producing areas in the world

Q.124) Solution (d)

India's strategic location places it amid two largest sources of illicit drugs in South Asia- Golden Crescent (Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran) on the northwest and the infamous Golden Triangle (Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos) on the northeast.



Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/fourth-highest-opium-seizure-in-2018-reported-from-india-world-drug-report/article32005672.ece>

Q.125) West Bank is bordered by –

- Israel
- Syria
- Dead Sea
- Jordan
- Lebanon

Select the correct answer:

- 1, 2 and 3
- 1, 3 and 4
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

d) 1, 3, 4 and 5

Q.125) Solution (b)

West Bank is a landlocked territory near the Mediterranean coast of Western Asia, bordered by Jordan to the east and by Israel on the south, west and north. The West Bank also contains a significant section of the western Dead Sea shore.

Q.126) Which among the following is considered to be the state butterfly of Karnataka?

- a) Southern Birdwing
- b) Golden Birdwing
- c) Striped Hairstreak
- d) Golden Butterfly

Q.126) Solution (a)

The Southern Birdwing, whose scientific name is *Troides minos*, has a wingspan of 140-190 mm, was considered to be the largest butterfly in India.

Karnataka became the second state after Maharashtra to choose a State butterfly.

Southern Birdwing was chosen as its colours match those of the Karnataka flag.

Do you know?

A Himalayan butterfly named Golden Birdwing is now India's largest after 88 years. Golden Birdwing is larger than the Southern Birdwing, which was earlier considered to be the largest.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/himalayan-butterfly-is-indias-largest-after-88-years/article32012652.ece>

Q.127) Consider the following statement about Pangong Tso

1. It is identified as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention
2. It lies on the actual Line of Actual Control
3. It is a brackish water lake

Select the correct statements

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

Q.127) Solution (b)

Pangong Lake a.k.a Pangong Tso

- It is an endorheic lake in the Himalayas.
- Approximately 60% of the length of Pangong Lake lies in Tibet.
- Though it's a saline water lake, it freezes completely during winters.
- The brackish water of Pangong Lake has very low micro-vegetation. Reportedly, there is no fish or any aquatic life in the lake, except crustaceans.
- The lake is in the process of being identified as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. It will be a first trans-boundary wetland in South Asia under convention!

- Pangong Lake is a disputed territory. The Line of Actual Control passes through the lake. A section of the lake 20 km from the Line of Actual Control is controlled by China but claimed by India! The Eastern end is in Tibet and India doesn't claim it. The Western end is disputed between India and Pakistan.

Q.128) Consider the following statements about Agriculture Infrastructure Fund:

1. It is a pan India Central sector scheme.
2. The duration of the Scheme shall be from FY2020 to FY2022 (2 years).
3. It provides loans to small and marginalised farmers for investment in viable projects for pre-harvest and post-harvest management infrastructure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.128) Solution (a)

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to a new pan India Central Sector Scheme-Agri Infrastructure Fund.

The scheme shall provide a medium – long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support.

The duration of the Scheme shall be from FY2020 to FY2029 (10 years).

Agri-infra fund with a corpus of Rs 1 lakh crore to provide financial support to agri-entrepreneurs, start-ups, agri-tech players and farmer groups for infrastructure and logistics facilities.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1637221>

Q.129) Consider the following pairs:

(Operation name) : : (Associated with)

1. Operation Sadbhavna : : De-escalation process of China along the LAC
2. Operation Samudra Setu : : Part of the national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas during the COVID-19 pandemic
3. Operation Sukoon : : Counter Terrorist strategy in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

Q.129) Solution (a)

Operation Samudra Setu, which was launched on 05 May 2020 as part of the national effort to repatriate Indian citizens from overseas during the COVID-19 pandemic has culminated after successfully bringing 3,992 Indian citizens back to their homeland by sea.

Operation Sadbhavna – Army undertakes a unique human initiative in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh to address the aspirations of people affected by terrorism. Operation is a part of the Counter Terrorist strategy to wrest the initiative and re-integrate the 'Awaam' with the national mainstream.

Operation Sukoon and Operation Rahat were previously undertaken similar evacuation operations in 2006 and 2015 respectively.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1637314>

Operation Sadbhavna – Picked from India Year Book, 2020

Q.130) Consider the following statements about 'International Court of Justice (ICJ)'

1. Statute of the International Court of Justice, which is an integral part of the United Nations Charter established the ICJ
2. It is composed of fifteen judges elected to nine-year terms by Permanent members of the UNSC

Select the correct statements

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

Q.130) Solution (a)

The Statute of the International Court of Justice is an integral part of the United Nations Charter, as specified by Chapter XIV of the United Nations Charter, which established the International Court of Justice.

The ICJ is composed of fifteen judges elected to nine-year terms by the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council from a list of people nominated by the national groups in the Permanent Court of Arbitration. The election process is set out in Articles 4–19 of the ICJ statute. Elections are staggered, with five judges elected every three years to ensure continuity within the court. Should a judge die in office, the practice has generally been to elect a judge in a special election to complete the term.

No two judges may be nationals of the same country.

Q.131) Which of the statements given below is/are true with regard to Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)?

1. It is a law related to financial legislation, implemented by Reserve Bank of India.
2. Under the Act, NGOs which receive funds from abroad require to register themselves every five years.

Choose correct answer:

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

Q.131) Solution (b)

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)

- It is a law enacted by Parliament to regulate foreign contribution (especially monetary donation)
- As per the FCRA Act 2010, all NGOs are required to be registered under the Act to receive foreign funding.
- Under the Act, organisations require to register themselves every five years.
- Since the Act is internal security legislation, despite being a law related to financial legislation, it falls into the purview of Home Ministry and not the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/three-ngos-linked-to-congress-under-home-ministry-scanner/article32026705.ece>

Q.132) Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Mission:

1. The scheme intends to provide housing for all in urban areas by year 2022.
2. It aims to provide every family a pucca house with water connection, toilet facilities, 24*7 electricity supply and access.
3. PMAY (U) has made a mandatory provision for the female head of the family to be the owner or co-owner of the house under this Mission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.132) Solution (c)

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) for ensuring housing for all in urban areas was launched on 25th June 2015 for implementation during 2015-2022.

The scheme intends to provide housing for all in urban areas by year 2022.

The Mission provides Central Assistance to the implementing agencies through States/Union Territories (UTs) and Central Nodal Agencies (CNAs) for providing houses to all eligible families/ beneficiaries against the validated demand for houses for about 1.12 cr.

As per PMAY(U) guidelines, the size of a house for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) could be upto 30 sq. mt. carpet area, however States/UTs have the flexibility to enhance the size of houses in consultation and approval of the Ministry.

In continuation to this Government's efforts towards empowerment of women from EWS and LIG unlike earlier schemes, PMAY (U) has made a mandatory provision for the female head of the family to be the owner or co-owner of the house under this Mission.

This scheme is converged with other schemes to ensure houses have a toilet, Saubhagya Yojana electricity connection, Ujjwala Yojana LPG gas connection, access to drinking water and Jan Dhan banking facilities, etc.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/cabinet-nod-for-development-of-affordable-rental-housing-complexes-for-urban-migrants-poor/article32022523.ece>
<https://pmay-urban.gov.in/about>

Q.133) Which of the following are part of six main organs of the United Nations?

1. International Court of Justice
2. International Criminal Court
3. Economic and Social Council
4. Trusteeship Council

Choose correct answer:

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

Q.133) Solution (c)

The six main organs of the United Nations are:

- General Assembly: The main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN
- Security Council: Primarily responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security
- Economic and Social Council: The principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue and recommendations on economic, social and environmental issues, as well as implementation of internationally agreed development goals
- Trusteeship Council: Provides international supervision for 11 Trust Territories that had been placed under the administration of seven Member States. It however, suspended its operation on 1 November 1994.
- International Court of Justice: The principal judicial organ of the United Nations
- Secretariat: Carries out the day-to-day work of the UN as mandated by the General Assembly and the Organization's other principal organs

Q.134) Consider the following statements about United Nations

1. International Court of Justice and International Criminal court are the two dispute resolution mechanisms of UN.
2. All member states of UN are also members of UNESCO.

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

Q.134) Solution (d)

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), located in The Hague, in the Netherlands, is the primary judicial organ of the UN. The ICJ's primary purpose is to adjudicate disputes among states.

Three UNESCO member states are not UN member states: Cook Islands, Niue, and Palestine (Palestine is a non-member observer State of the United Nations General Assembly since 29 November 2012), while one UN member state (Liechtenstein) is not a UNESCO member.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an independent judicial body with jurisdiction over persons charged with genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. It sits in The Hague in the Netherlands.

The Court was established by the Rome Statute. This treaty was negotiated within the UN; however, it created an independent judicial body distinct from the UN.

Q.135) Which among the following is incorrect statement about Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) which was launched recently?

- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has initiated ARHCs.
- ARHCs is a sub-scheme under Pradhan Mantri AWAS Yojana- Urban (PMAY-U).
- Beneficiaries for ARHCs are urban migrants/ poor from EWS/ LIG categories.
- None of the above

Q.135) Solution (d)

Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs) for Migrants Workers/ Urban Poor Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has initiated Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHCs), a sub-scheme under Pradhan Mantri AWAS Yojana- Urban (PMAY-U).

This will provide ease of living to urban migrants/ poor in Industrial Sector as well as in non-formal urban economy to get access to dignified affordable rental housing close to their workplace.

The ARHC scheme will be implemented through two models:

Utilizing existing Government funded vacant houses to convert into ARHCs through Public Private Partnership or by Public Agencies

Construction, Operation and Maintenance of ARHCs by Public/ Private Entities on their own vacant land

Beneficiaries for ARHCs are urban migrants/ poor from EWS/ LIG categories. ARHCs will be a mix of single bedroom Dwelling Units and Dormitory of 4/6 beds including all common facilities which will be exclusively used for rental housing for a minimum period of 25 years.

Source: <https://pmay-urban.gov.in/arhc-about>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/cabinet-nod-for-development-of-affordable-rental-housing-complexes-for-urban-migrants-poor/article32022523.ece>

Q.136) Consider the following statements about Antyodaya Anna Yojana:

- It is a part of National Food Security Act.
- Households under AAY are entitled to 35 Kg of foodgrains per household per month.
- Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is the nodal ministry.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.136) Solution (d)

Antyodaya Anna Yojana

- It is a Government of India sponsored scheme to provide highly subsidised food to millions of the poorest families.

- This scheme was developed by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- Objective – To target poorest of poor population and provide them relief from hunger.
- It is a part of NFSA (National Food Security Act) and the households under AAY are entitled to 35 Kg of foodgrains per household per month.
- Coverage – It covers the poorest of the poor families from amongst the BPL families covered under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) within the States and provides them food grains at a highly subsidized rate of Rs.1/ per kg coarse grains, Rs.2/ per kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/ per kg for rice.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/free-grains-will-be-given-till-aug-31/article32037395.ece>
<https://dfpd.gov.in/pds-aay.htm>

Q.137) Which of the following states share boundaries with Nepal?

1. Sikkim
2. West Bengal
3. Bihar
4. Uttarakhand
5. Himachal Pradesh

Choose correct answer:

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

Q.137) Solution (b)

Nepal shares a border of over 1,850km with five Indian states – Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarkhand.



Q.138) Which of the following countries are permanent partners with “Malabar Exercise” as of June 2019?

1. India
2. USA
3. Japan
4. Australia
5. UK

Choose correct answer:

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

Q.138) Solution (b)

Exercise Malabar is a trilateral naval exercise involving the United States, Japan and India as permanent partners.

Originally begun in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the United States, Japan became a permanent partner in 2015.

India to decide whether to include Australia in the Malabar exercises with Japan and the U.S.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/india-to-take-call-on-australias-inclusion-in-malabar-exercises/article32037392.ece>

Q.139) Consider the following statements about Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Power project:

1. It is Asia's largest power project.
2. It is an operational solar park located in Rajasthan.
3. The Government of India has set a target of installing 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by the year 2022, which includes 100 GW from solar.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.139) Solution (a)

Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Power project

- Prime Minister on 10th July unveiled to the nation Asia's largest solar power plant.
- The Ultra Mega Solar Power project is situated in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa district.
- It should be noted that PM Modi has set the national goal to achieve the establishment of 100 GW of solar power generation capacity by 2022 when India will complete 75 years of its Independence from British rule.
- The inauguration of the ultra mega solar plant in Rewa will add to the progress made in that direction as India continues to tread on a path aiming at greater reliance on environment-friendly and renewable energy sources.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1637549>

Q.140) Which of the statement given below is/are correct with respect to Taiwan?

1. It is the most populous country and largest economy that is not a member of the United Nations (UN).
2. It is located around South China Sea, East China Sea and Philippine Sea.

Choose correct answer:

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

Q.140) Solution (c)

Taiwan, officially the Republic of China, is a country in East Asia. Neighbouring countries include the People's Republic of China (PRC) to the northwest, Japan to the northeast, and the Philippines to the south.

With 23.7 million inhabitants, Taiwan is among the most densely populated countries, and is the most populous country and largest economy that is not a member of the United Nations (UN).

It is located around South China Sea, East China Sea and Philippine Sea. (observe figure below)





Q.141) The Government of India has set a target of 175 GW renewable power installed capacity by the end of 2022. In this context, arrange the following renewable energy sources in the decreasing order of their specific targets:

1. Small hydro power
2. Solar power
3. Biomass power
4. Wind power

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.141) Solution (a)

The government has up-scaled the target of renewable energy capacity to 175GW by the year 2022. This includes:

- 100 GW from solar power
- 60 GW from wind power
- 10 GW from biomass power and
- 5 GW from small hydro power

Q.142) Which among the below countries recently allowed for the conversion of the nearly 1,500 year-old UNESCO World Heritage site – Hagia Sophia – from a museum into a mosque?

- a) Syria
- b) Turkey
- c) Lebanon
- d) Egypt

Q.142) Solution (b)

Recently, Turkey's highest court allowed for the conversion of the nearly 1,500 year-old Hagia Sophia from a museum into a mosque.

The centuries-old structure, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site, was originally a cathedral in the Byzantine empire before it was turned into a mosque in 1453, when Constantinople fell to Sultan Mehmet II's Ottoman forces. In the 1930s, however, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the Republic of Turkey, shut down the mosque and turned it into a museum in an attempt to make the country more secular.

The change in status of the Hagia Sophia comes after repeated warnings from the international community, including UNESCO, to ensure that Turkey did not proceed with these plans.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-why-hagia-sophias-return-as-mosque-puts-turkeys-secular-credentials-on-a-prayer-6500819/>

Q.143) Bosnia and Herzegovina, often known informally as Bosnia, is a country located in –

- a) Balkan Peninsula
- b) Labrador Peninsula
- c) Scandinavian Peninsula
- d) Iberian Peninsula

Q.143) Solution (a)

On July 11, 25 years on, commemoration services were held at the Srebrenica-Potocari Memorial and Cemetery in remembrance of the victims of the massacre.

In July 1995, approximately 8,000 Muslims, mostly men and boys were killed in Srebrenica, a town in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, often known informally as Bosnia, is a country in South and Southeast Europe, located within the Balkans Peninsula.



Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-srebrenica-massacre-the-ethnic-cleansing-of-bosnian-muslims-6502200/>

Q.144) The tail of a comet is directed away from the sun because

- a) as the comet rotates around the sun, the lighter mass of the comet is pushed away due to the centrifugal force alone
- b) as the comet rotates, the lighter mass of the comet is attracted by some star situated in the direction of its tail
- c) the radiation emitted by the sun exerts a radial pressure on the comet throwing its tail away from the sun
- d) the tail of the comet always exists in the same orientation

Q.144) Solution (c)

A comet tail—and coma—are features visible in comets when they are illuminated by the Sun and may become visible from Earth when a comet passes through the inner Solar System.

As a comet approaches the inner Solar System, solar radiation causes the volatile materials within the comet to vaporize and stream out of the nucleus, carrying dust away with them.

Separate tails are formed of dust and gases, becoming visible through different phenomena; the dust reflects sunlight directly and the gases glow from ionisation. Most comets are too faint to be visible without the aid of a telescope, but a few each decade become bright enough to be visible to the naked eye.

In the outer Solar System, comets remain frozen and are extremely difficult or impossible to detect from Earth due to their small size. Statistical detections of inactive comet nuclei in the Kuiper belt have been reported from the Hubble Space Telescope observations, but these detections have been questioned, and have not yet been independently confirmed.

As a comet approaches the inner Solar System, solar radiation causes the volatile materials within the comet to vaporize and stream out of the nucleus, carrying dust away with them. The streams of dust and gas thus released form a huge, extremely tenuous atmosphere around the comet called the coma, and the force exerted on the coma by the Sun's radiation pressure and solar wind cause an enormous tail to form, which points away from the Sun.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/comet-c-2020-f3-neowise-nasa-earth-6500688/>

Q.145) Consider the following pairs:

(Portals launched by GoI) : : (Associated Ministries)

1. ASEEM portal : : Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
2. Udyam portal : : Ministry of MSME
3. SATYABHAMA portal : : Ministry of Women and Child Development

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.145) Solution (b)

Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee-Employer Mapping (ASEEM) portal to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) launched a new portal for MSME registration – Udyam portal.

The Ministry of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs launched SATYABHAMA (Science and Technology Yojana for Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement) Portal for Science and Technology Programme Scheme of Ministry of Mines on 15th June 2020. The portal has

been designed, developed and implemented by National Informatics Centre (NIC), Mines Informatics Division.

Source:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/education/msde-launches-aseem-portal-to-help-skilled-people-find-livelihood-opportunities/article32042600.ece>

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/ministry-launches-online-portal-for-msme-registration/article31955499.ece>

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1632668>

Q.146) Consider the following statements about Red sanders

1. It is restricted to the southern parts of the Western Ghats
2. Its export without state permission is illegal
3. It is protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

Select the correct statements

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

Q.146) Solution (b)

About Red Sanders:

- Pterocarpus santalinus or Red Sanders is an endemic tree of South India.
- They are found in Tropical Dry Deciduous forest of the Palakonda and Seshachalam hill ranges of Andhra Pradesh and also found in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. They are restricted to the southern parts of the Eastern Ghats.
- It is protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). While its export without state permission is illegal, farmers can grow it.
- It is listed as an Endangered species by the IUCN, because of overexploitation for its timber in South India.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-andhrapradesh/red-sanders-worth-rs-1-crore-seized/article32055231.ece>

Q.147) Which of the statements given below is/are true with reference to International Comparison Program (ICP)?

1. It is a worldwide statistical initiative led by the World Bank under the auspices of the United Nations Statistical Commission.
2. India has participated in all ICP rounds since its inception in 1970.

Choose correct answer:

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

Q.147) Solution (c)

International Comparison Program (ICP) is a partnership of various statistical administrations of up to 199 countries guided by the World Bank.

World Bank has released new PPPs for the reference year 2017, under the International Comparison Program (ICP).

India has participated in almost all ICP rounds since its inception in 1970.

India is participating in the current phase of International Comparison Programme (ICP) with reference to 2017.

India is third-largest economy in terms of its PPP-based share in global actual individual consumption and global gross capital formation.

The next ICP comparison will be conducted for the reference year 2021.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/the-sum-and-substance-of-the-eus-china-dilemma/article32060289.ece>

Q.148) Consider the following statements about CCTNS – Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems:

1. It is nationwide network that connects over 14,000 police stations across the country
2. It is implemented by NITI Aayog in collaboration with Ministry of Home Affairs

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

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

Q.148) Solution (a)

The CCTNS is a project for creating a comprehensive and integrated system for effective policing through e-Governance.

The concept was first conceived in the year 2008 by the then Home Minister in the aftermath of the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

The system includes a nationwide online tracking system by integrating more than 14,000 police stations across the country.

The project is implemented by NCRB (not NITI Aayog).

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/natgrid-to-have-access-to-database-that-links-around-14000-police-stations/article32058643.ece>

Q.149) Churachandpur Mao Fault zone is associated with –

- a) North East India Region
- b) South China Sea Region
- c) Pacific Ring of Fire
- d) Eurasian Convergence Plate

Q.149) Solution (a)

The Churachandpur Mao Fault is named after two places in Manipur and runs north-south into Myanmar along the border of Champhai.

Faults are discontinuities or cracks that are the result of differential motion within the earth's crust. Vertical or lateral slippage of the crust along the faults causes an earthquake.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/mizoram-quake-zone-caught-between-two-geological-faults/article32060785.ece>

Q.150) Consider the below statements about International Criminal Court:

1. It is the primary judicial branch of the United Nations.
2. It is set up under the Rome statute.
3. It has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.150) Solution (b)

International Criminal Court (ICC)

- It is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal that sits in The Hague in the Netherlands. (ICC is not part of the United Nations)
- The ICC has the jurisdiction to prosecute individuals for the international crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.
- The ICC is intended to complement existing national judicial systems and it may therefore only exercise its jurisdiction when certain conditions are met, such as when national courts are unwilling or unable to prosecute criminals or when the United Nations Security Council or individual states refer situations to the Court.
- The ICC began functioning on 1 July 2002, the date that the Rome Statute entered into force.
- The Rome Statute is a multilateral treaty which serves as the ICC's foundational and governing document. States which become party to the Rome Statute, for example by ratifying it, become member states of the ICC.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-srebrenica-massacre-the-ethnic-cleansing-of-bosnian-muslims-6502200/>

Q.151) Consider the following pairs:

(Places in news) : : (Associated Region)

1. Mont Blanc : : Eastern Europe
2. Zahedan : : West Asia
3. Delaram : : South Asia

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

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

Q.151) Solution (b)

Correct pairs:

- Mont Blanc : : Western Europe
- Zahedan : : West Asia
- Delaram : : South Asia
- Mont Blanc is the second-highest mountain in Europe after Mount Elbrus. It is the highest mountain in the Alps and Western Europe.
- Zahedan is in Iran, a country in Western Asia.
- Delaram is in Afghanistan, a country in South Asia.



Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/a-the-hindu-edition-from-1966-and-more-emerge-as-french-glacier-melts/article32071141.ece>
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/iran-drops-india-from-chabahar-rail-project-cites-funding-delay/article32072428.ece>

Q.152) Consider the following statements about Bharatmala Pariyojana

1. It is a centrally-sponsored and funded Road and Highways project of the Government of India.
2. It is component of Sagarmala Project, umbrella program to enhance the performance of the country's logistics sector.

Select the correct statements

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

Q.152) Solution (a)

About Bharatmala Pariyojana

- It is a new umbrella program for the highways sector that focuses on optimizing efficiency of freight and passenger movement across the country.
- It bridges critical infrastructure gaps through effective interventions like development of Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors and Feeder Routes, National Corridor Efficiency Improvement, Border and International connectivity roads, Coastal and Port connectivity roads and Green-field expressways.
- It is a centrally-sponsored and funded Road and Highways project of the Government of India.
- It is both enabler and beneficiary of other key Government of India schemes, such as Sagarmala, Dedicated Freight Corridors, Industrial corridors, UDAN-RCS, BharatNet, Digital India and Make in India.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/satellite-town-ring-road-between-tn-karnataka-gets-expert-committee-nod/article32064523.ece>

Q.153) Which among the following constitutes the provisions under Right to freedom of religion?

1. Right of minorities to establish and administer cultural and educational institutions.
2. Freedom to manage religious affairs
3. Freedom from payment of taxes for promotion of any religion
4. Protection of language, script and culture of religious minorities

Choose correct answer:

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

Q.153) Solution (a)

The below are the provisions that comes under the category of Right to freedom of religion (Article 25–28)

1. Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion (Article 25).
2. Freedom to manage religious affairs (Article 26).
3. Freedom from payment of taxes for promotion of any religion (Article 27).
4. Freedom from attending religious instruction or worship in certain educational institutions (Article 28).

Cultural and educational rights (Articles 29–30) consists of –

1. Protection of language, script and culture of minorities (Article 29).
2. Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions (Article 30).

Q.154) The term “Shebait” was in news often. It is associated with –

- a) Name of the royal family of Travancore who oversee the administration of Shree Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Kerala.
- b) Pujaris who perform worship in Hindu temples.
- c) Solo performance depicting themes of love and relationships, mentioned in the Sanskrit text Natyasastra.
- d) Any person who has rights to manage properties like the temple or any other land or property which is vested with the deity.

Q.154) Solution (d)

About Shebait

- A Shebait is any person who serves and supports the deity and works as a manager of the debuttar property.
- The properties like the temple or any other land or property which is vested with the deity are managed by the Shebait.
- Shebait is the only person who has the power to talk on behalf of the deity that is the god or goddess. He has the power to deal with all the affairs of the deity.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/sc-upholds-right-of-erstwhile-travancore-royal-family-in-administration-of-keralas-sree-padmanabhaswamy-temple/article32063310.ece>

Q.155) Recently NEOWISE/C/2020 F3 was in news, which of the following accurately describes it –

- a) It is an asteroid that will fly past earth in July 2020
- b) It is a newly discovered planet that has very high temperature that iron boils on it
- c) It is a new Unmanned Aerial Vehicle developed by DRDO
- d) It is a retrograde comet with a near-parabolic orbit discovered on March 27, 2020

Q.155) Solution (d)

C/2020 F3 comet aka NEOWISE was discovered on March 27.

Stargazers in India will be able to get a glimpse of the celestial event from July 14 onwards. The comet will be visible to the naked eye for 20 minutes every day for 20 days.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/neowise-comet-live-updates-streaming-6504971/>

Q.156) ‘Agenda for Action 2020’ is concerned with India and

- a) African Union
- b) BIMSTEC
- c) G-20
- d) European Union

Q.156) Solution (d)

India-EU Agenda for Action 2020 – the roadmap for bilateral cooperation endorsed during the 13th India-EU Summit.

Source: [http://www.mea.gov.in/Images/attach/EU India Agenda for Action post VC.pdf](http://www.mea.gov.in/Images/attach/EU_India_Agenda_for_Action_post_VC.pdf)
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-and-eu-push-trade-talks-discuss-china-pakistan-and-the-coronavirus-pandemic/article32092238.ece>

Q.157) Consider the following with regard to National Green Tribunal (NGT):

1. NGT is bound by procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908
2. The tribunal has Original as well as Appellate jurisdiction
3. Tribunal is competent to hear cases for several acts such as Forest Right Act, Biological Diversity Act, Environment (Protection) Act, Water & Air (Prevention & control of Pollution) Acts

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.157) Solution (a)

National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 provides for establishment of NGT for the effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environment protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.

The Tribunal is not bounded by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.

The Tribunal has Original Jurisdiction on matters of “substantial question relating to environment” (i.e. a community at large is affected, damage to public health at broader level) & “damage to environment due to specific activity” (such as pollution).

NGT deals with all environmental laws relating to air and water pollution, the Environment Protection Act, the Forest Conservation Act and the Biodiversity Act as have been set out in Schedule I of the NGT Act.

NOTE: Wildlife Protection comes under the ambit of Green bench of Supreme Court and not under NGT.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/brahmapuram-fiasco-pcb-told-to-recover-compensation-or-face-action/article32084798.ece>

Q.158) Which of the following treaties provided for the creation of European Union (EU)?

- a) Maastricht Treaty
- b) Marrakesh treaty
- c) Brussels treaty
- d) Basel convention

Q.158) Solution (a)

European Union (EU), is an international organization comprising 28 European countries and governing common economic, social, and security policies.

The EU was created by the Maastricht Treaty, which entered into force on November 1, 1993.

The treaty was designed to enhance European political and economic integration by creating a single currency (the euro), a unified foreign and security policy, and common citizenship rights and by advancing cooperation in the areas of immigration, asylum, and judicial affairs.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/eu-india-summit-to-launch-talks-on-resuming-fta-negotiations/article32082576.ece>

Q.159) Which of the statements given below is/are correct about Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 (SWM Rules, 2016)?

1. Waste generators would have to segregate waste into six streams before handing it over to the collector.
2. It has given powers to the local bodies across India to decide the user fees for collection, disposal and processing from bulk generators.

Choose correct answers:

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

Q.159) Solution (b)

Solid Waste Management Rules (SWM), 2016 replaced the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000, which have been in place for the past 16 years.

SWM Rules, 2016 mandated the source segregation of waste in order to channelise the waste to wealth by recovery, reuse and recycle. Waste generators would now have to now segregate waste into three streams- Biodegradables, Dry (Plastic, Paper, metal, Wood, etc.) and Domestic Hazardous waste (diapers, napkins, mosquito repellants, cleaning agents etc.) before handing it over to the collector.

The SWM Rules have given power to the local bodies across India to decide the user fees. Municipal authorities will levy user fees for collection, disposal and processing from bulk generators.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/brahmapuram-fiasco-pcb-told-to-recover-compensation-or-face-action/article32084798.ece>

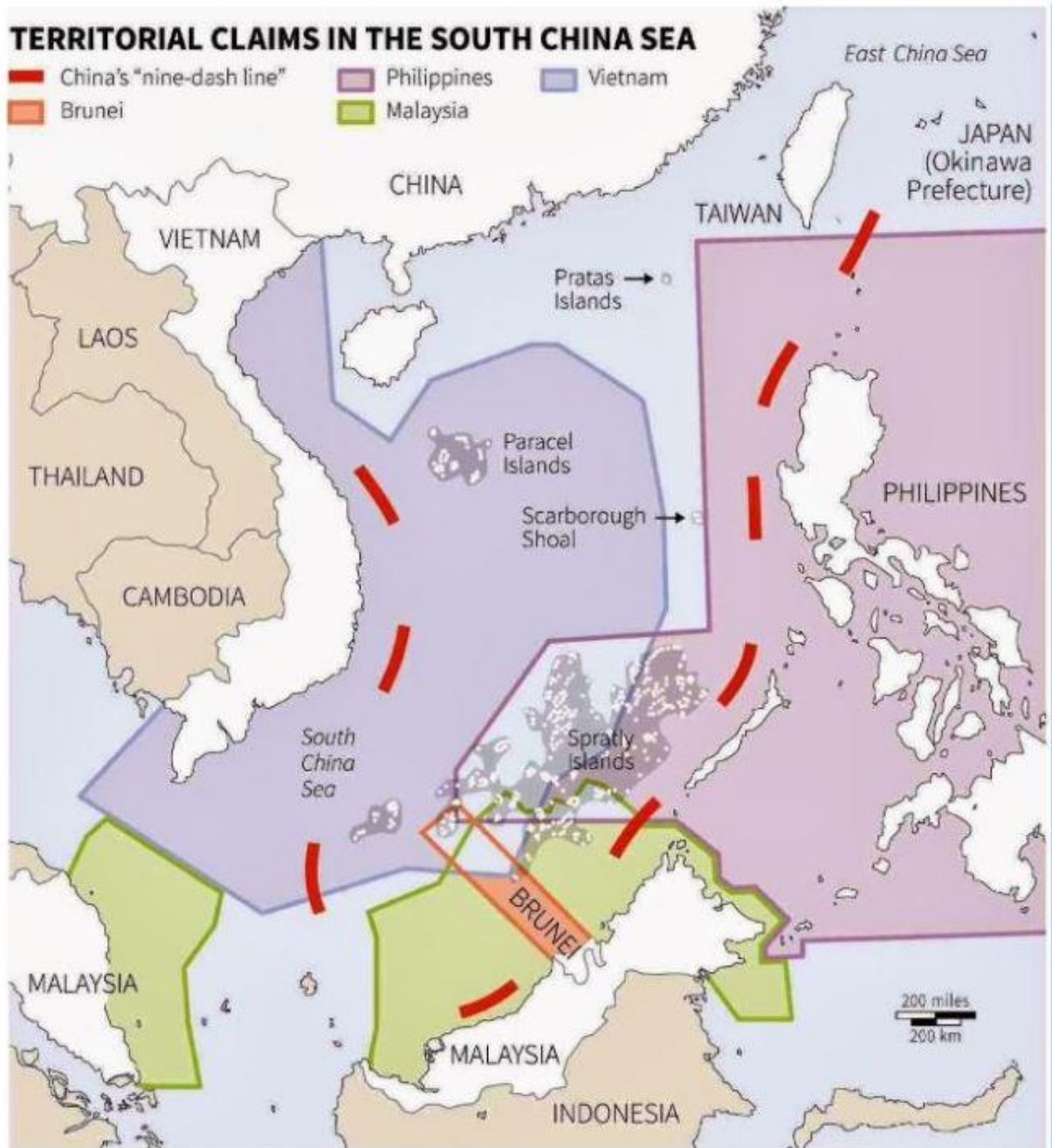
Q.160) Nine-dash line often seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Border of North Korea & South Korea
- b) Israel-Palestine Conflict
- c) South China Sea
- d) India-China LAC stand-off

Q.160) Solution (c)

China is claiming its sovereignty over much of South China Sea by invoking its so-called nine-dash line, a vague delineation based on maps from the 1940s.

Its claim is overlapping parts of SCS are claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and Philippines.



Q.161) Consider the following statements with reference to China Study Group (CSG), often seen in news?

1. It is a government body, headed by National Security Advisor.
2. It was set up recently in the wake of heightened border tensions with China.

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

Q.161) Solution (a)

China Study Group (CSG) is a government body, headed by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, which has the cabinet secretary, secretaries of home, external affairs, defence, and representatives of the Army as the members.

The CSG was set up in 1976 by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) to advise on policy issues relating to China.

In the wake of heightened road and track construction work undertaken by China along India's Northern and Eastern frontiers in 1997, CSG was constituted to study the requirement of road communication along the China border for fast and smooth movement of troops in case of any aggression.

At the end of the study, the CSG identified 73 strategically important roads along the China border for Indo-China Border Roads (ICBRs) to be built.

Source: <https://iasbaba.com/2020/07/role-of-china-study-group-csg/>
<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/govt-reviews-progress-of-disengagement-talks-at-lac/article32096747.ece>

Q.162) Consider the below statements about Border Roads Organisation (BRO):

1. It is under the Ministry of Defence.
2. It maintains operations in many states of India as well as some of its neighboring countries.
3. It is the sole entity responsible for constructing India-China Border Roads (ICBR) project.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.162) Solution (a)

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) develops and maintains road networks in India's border areas and friendly neighboring countries. BRO maintains operations in twenty-one states, one UT (Andaman and Nicobar Islands), and neighboring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka.

In a bid to boost border connectivity, the Border Roads Organisation has been entirely brought under the Ministry of Defence. Earlier it received funds from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

India-China Border Roads (ICBR) project is a Government of India project which aims to develop the infrastructure along the Sino-Indian border by constructing "strategic roads". Several entities are responsible for constructing ICBR, including Border Roads Organisation (BRO) which handles the bulk of the ICBR road construction work, NHAI, MoDNER, Central Public Works Department (CPWD), National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC), PWDs of respective states and others.

Q.163) With reference to Asian Development Bank (ADB), consider the following statements:

1. ADB has more than 60 member nations.
2. India is the second largest shareholder in ADB.

3. ADB is an official United Nations Observer.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.163) Solution (b)

About Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- ADB is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966, which is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.
- From 31 members at its establishment, ADB now has 68 members.
- ADB is an official United Nations Observer.
- India was a founding member of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in 1966 and is now the bank's fourth largest shareholder and top borrower.
- As of 31 December 2019, ADB's five largest shareholders are Japan and the United States (each with 15.6% of total shares), the People's Republic of China (6.4%), India (6.3%), and Australia (5.8%).

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/adb-appoints-election-commissioner-ashok-lavasa-as-new-vice-president/article32089006.ece>

Q.164) Which among the following cities marked the 160th anniversary of its founding on July 2020 and is literally known as 'Ruler of the East'?

- a) Kaliningrad
- b) Bosnia and Herzegovina
- c) Vladivostok
- d) Istanbul

Q.164) Solution (c)

Vladivostok, the main city of the Russian Far East, marked the 160th anniversary of its founding on July 2, 2020.

Vladivostok is literally known as 'Ruler of the East', 'Rule the East', 'Lord of the East', or 'Expansion to the East'.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-why-160-year-old-vladivostok-has-a-chinese-connection-6493278/>

Q.165) With reference to Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), consider the following statements:

1. PMKVY is a flagship scheme under Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.
2. It was implemented by National Skill Development Corporation.
3. Skill training would be done based on the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) and industry led standards.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Q.165) Solution (d)

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship scheme of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) implemented by National Skill Development Corporation.

The objective of this Skill Certification Scheme is to enable a large number of Indian youth to take up industry-relevant skill training that will help them in securing a better livelihood. Individuals with prior learning experience or skills will also be assessed and certified under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

The scheme will cover 10 million youth during the period 2016 -2020.

Under this Scheme, Training and Assessment fees are completely paid by the Government. Skill training would be done based on the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) and industry led standards.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1638794>

Q.166) Consider the following statements

1. The presiding officer of a House is empowered to make rules to give effect to the provisions of the Tenth Schedule.
2. Any question regarding disqualification arising out of defection is to be decided by the presiding officer of the House.

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

Q.166) Solution (c)

Tenth Schedule lays down the process by which legislators may be disqualified on grounds of defection by the Presiding Officer of a legislature based on a petition by any other member of the House.

Deciding Authority – Any question regarding disqualification arising out of defection is to be decided by the presiding officer of the House.

Rule-Making Power – The presiding officer of a House is empowered to make rules to give effect to the provisions of the Tenth Schedule. All such rules must be placed before the House for 30 days. The House may approve or modify or disapprove them. Further, he may direct that any willful contravention by any member of such rules may be dealt with in the same manner as a breach of privilege of the House.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/rebel-rajasthan-mlas-move-hc-against-speakers-notices/article32108097.ece>

Q.167) Consider the following statements:

1. A legislator is deemed to have defected if he either voluntarily gives up the membership of his party or disobeys the directives of the party whip on a vote.

2. The office of 'whip' is mentioned in the Rules of the House nor in a Parliamentary Statute.

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

Q.167) Solution (a)

A member of a House belonging to any political party becomes disqualified for being a member of the House –

- if he voluntarily gives up his membership of such political party; or
- if he votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his party whip without obtaining prior permission of such party and such act has not been condoned by the party within 15 days.

The office of 'whip' is mentioned neither in the Constitution of India nor in the Rules of the House nor in a Parliamentary Statute. It is based on the conventions of the parliamentary government.

Every political party, whether ruling or Opposition has its own whip in the Parliament. He is appointed by the political party to serve as an assistant floor leader.

Q.168) Which one of the following is an international treaty that defines a framework for consular relations between sovereign states?

- a) Marrakesh Treaty
- b) Vienna Convention
- c) Law of the Sea Convention
- d) Stockholm Convention

Q.168) Solution (b)

The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations is an international treaty that defines a framework for consular relations between sovereign states. It codifies many consular practices that originated from state custom and various bilateral agreements between states.

Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 1963, provides for information to consulate, consular protection and consultation upon arrest, detention and during trial in a foreign country including entitlement to travel documents.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/pakistan-did-not-allow-free-consular-access-to-kulbhushan-jadhav-india/article32108099.ece>

Q.169) Consider the following statements:

1. Animal Welfare Board of India is established under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.
2. Prevention of cruelty to animals and Protection of wild animals and birds are part of items under Central Subject List (Seventh Schedule).

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

Q.169) Solution (a)

The Animal Welfare Board of India is a statutory advisory body on Animal Welfare Laws and promotes animal welfare in the country.

Established in 1962 under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, the Animal Welfare Board of India was started under the stewardship of Late Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale, well known humanitarian.

The Concurrent List or List-III (Seventh Schedule) is a list of 52 items and includes the following items –

- 17. Prevention of cruelty to animals.
- 17-A. Forests.
- 17-B. Protection of wild animals and birds.

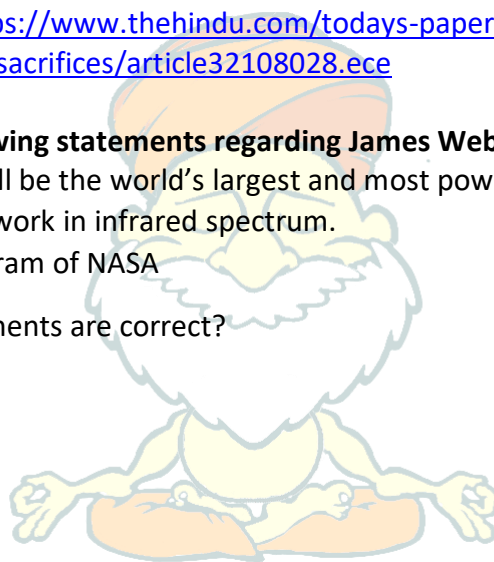
Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/sc-to-examine-kerala-act-on-animal-bird-sacrifices/article32108028.ece>

Q.170) Consider the following statements regarding James Webb Megatelescope:

1. Once installed it will be the world's largest and most powerful terrestrial telescope.
2. The telescope will work in infrared spectrum.
3. It is a flagship program of NASA

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Q.170) Solution (b)**

The James Webb Space Telescope (sometimes called JWST or Webb) will be a large infrared telescope with a 6.5-meter primary mirror. The telescope will be launched on an Ariane 5 rocket from French Guiana – scheduled to launch on Oct. 31, 2021.

JWST will be the premier observatory of the next decade, serving thousands of astronomers worldwide. It will study every phase in the history of our Universe, ranging from the first luminous glows after the Big Bang, to the formation of solar systems capable of supporting life on planets like Earth, to the evolution of our own Solar System.

JWST was formerly known as the “Next Generation Space Telescope” (NGST); it was renamed in Sept. 2002 after a former NASA administrator, James Webb.

It will be the world's biggest and most powerful telescope, capable of peering back 200 million years after the Big Bang.

Note: It is not a terrestrial telescope. Hence statement 1 is incorrect.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/nasas-hubble-successor-delayed-again-by-virus-other-issues/article32114159.ece>

Q.171) Consider the following statements

1. The Representation of the People Act, 1951 provides for any person to be given the postal facility by the ECI in consultation with the government.
2. Delimitation commission is constituted under the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

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

Q.171) Solution (a)

The Representation of the People Act, 1951 provides for any person to be given the postal facility by the ECI in consultation with the government.

The ECI had recommended that three categories of electors be given the postal ballot facility:

- Those 80 years and above
- Persons with disabilities
- Essential services workers

Under Article 82 of the Constitution, the Parliament by law enacts a Delimitation Act after every census. After coming into force commencement of the Act, the Central Government constitutes a Delimitation Commission. This Delimitation Commission demarcates the boundaries of the Parliamentary Constituencies as per provisions of the Delimitation Act.

Article reference: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/ec-pauses-postal-ballot-for-65-voters-in-bihar-elections-cites-constraints/story-iN7KB3PdgNrd8z8ZdugVzl.html>

Q.172) Consider the following statements:

1. Plasma composes largest part of blood.
2. Plasma carries water, salts, and enzymes.
3. Plasma donation does not cause any weakness in an individual.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.172) Solution (d)

Plasma is a critical part of the treatment for many serious health problems. This is why there are blood drives asking people to donate blood plasma.

Blood plasma is a 'yellowish liquid' component of blood that holds the blood cells of whole blood in suspension. It is the liquid part of the blood that carries cells and proteins throughout the body.

Plasma is the largest part of blood. It makes up more than half (about 55%) of its overall content. When separated from the rest of the blood, plasma is a light-yellow liquid. Plasma carries water, salts, and enzymes. Along with water, salt, and enzymes, plasma also contains important components. These include antibodies, clotting factors, and the proteins albumin and fibrinogen.

Article reference: https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/covid-19-crisis-harsh-varadhan-urges-recovered-patients-to-donate-plasma-120071900898_1.html

Q.173) India had successfully bid for mining rights at Hajigak mines that contain large reserves of iron ore. Hajigak mines are found in –

- a) Iran
- b) Nepal
- c) Bhutan
- d) Afghanistan

Q.173) Solution (d)

A consortium of six Indian companies, led by the Steel Authority of India, had won the concession for three iron ore mines in the Hajigak region in 2011.

Hajigak Mine is the best known and largest iron oxide deposit in Afghanistan, located near the Hajigak Pass, with its area divided between Maidan Wardak and Bamyan provinces. It has the biggest untapped iron ore deposits of Asia.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/iran-ties-need-quiet-diplomacy/article32118419.ece>

Q.174) Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action refers to which of the following

- a) The Chilcot Report
- b) India-Iran Nuclear Deal
- c) The Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process
- d) US sanctions on India

Q.174) Solution (b)

The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) known commonly as the Iran deal or Iran nuclear deal, is an international agreement on the nuclear program of Iran reached in Vienna on 14 July 2015 between Iran, the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States—plus Germany), and the European Union.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/iran-ties-need-quiet-diplomacy/article32118419.ece>

Q.175) With reference to PM SVANidhi scheme, consider the following:

1. It was launched by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
2. It provides microcredit facility for street vendors.
3. Under the Scheme, the vendors can avail a working capital loan of up to Rs. 50,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of five years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.175) Solution (c)

PM SVANidhi was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, on June 01, 2020, for providing affordable Working Capital loan to street vendors to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to Covid-19 lockdown.

This scheme targets to benefit over 50 lakh Street Vendors who had been vending on or before 24 March, 2020, in urban areas including those from surrounding peri-urban/ rural areas.

Under the Scheme, the vendors can avail a working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of one year.

Article reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1639363>

Q.176) Consider the following statements with reference to Consumer Protection Act, 2019:

1. It provides for establishment of the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA).
2. Under this act every e-commerce entity is required to provide information relating to country of origin at the pre-purchase stage on its platform.

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

Q.176) Solution (c)

The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 comes in to force from 20th July 2020.

Act includes establishment of the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers. The CCPA will be empowered to conduct investigations into violations of consumer rights and institute complaints / prosecution, order recall of unsafe goods and services, order discontinuance of unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements, impose penalties on manufacturers/endorsers/publishers of misleading advertisements. (Includes e-commerce platforms)

Under this act every e-commerce entity is required to provide information relating to return, refund, exchange, warranty and guarantee, delivery and shipment, modes of payment, grievance redressal mechanism, payment methods, security of payment methods, charge-back options, etc. including country of origin which are necessary for enabling the consumer to make an informed decision at the pre-purchase stage on its platform.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1639925>

Q.177) Recently launched, “Manodarpan initiative” is associated with –

- a) psychosocial support to students for their Mental Health and Well-being

- b) capacity building programme for "Improving Quality of School Education through Integrated Teacher Training".
- c) bringing together senior officials from the Government of India and the US administration who are setting the post-pandemic recovery agenda.
- d) online registration process of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)

Q.177) Solution (a)

Ministry of Human Resource Development launched Manodarpan, an initiative under Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, to provide psychosocial support to students for their Mental Health and Well-being.

The 'Manodarpan' initiative has been included in the ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ABHIYAN, as a part of strengthening human capital and increasing productivity and efficient reform and initiatives for the Education sector.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1640013>

Q.178) Consider the following statements:

1. Sacred groves are part of ex-situ method of conservation of flora.
2. Sacred groves are included as protected area category community reserves under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

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

Q.178) Solution (d)

Sacred groves comprise of patches of forests or natural vegetation – from a few trees to forests of several acres – that are usually dedicated to local folk deities.

These spaces are protected by local communities because of their religious beliefs and traditional rituals that run through several generations.

Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002 introduced legislation for providing government protection to community held lands, which could include sacred groves.

Sacred groves are part of in-situ method of conservation of flora, i.e. on-site conservation or the conservation of genetic resources in natural populations of plant or animal species, such as forest genetic resources in natural populations of tree species.

Do you know?

Coimbatore-based Kannan Warriar recently got Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education's National Award of Excellence for outstanding research in forestry, including conservation of endangered sacred groves in the Alappuzha district of Kerala.

Q.179) BlackRock, which was recently in news, is associated with –

- a) Ransomware
- b) Radiocarbon dating
- c) Malware
- d) Network protection App

Q.179) Solution (c)

Security firm ThreatFabric has alerted about a new malware, called BlackRock, which can steal information like passwords and credit card information from about 377 smartphone applications, including Amazon, Facebook, Gmail and Tinder. Since these are very popular apps, the threat posed by the BlackRock Android malware is quite high.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/blackrock-android-malware-337-apps-data-privacy-6513223/>

Q.180) Consider the following pairs:

(Space Mission) : : (Associated organization)

1. OSIRIS-REx : : NASA
2. Double Asteroid Redirection Test : : ESA
3. Hera : : Roscosmos

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

Q.180) Solution (a)

The OSIRIS-REx is a NASA asteroid study and sample-return mission. The mission's primary goal is to obtain a sample of at least 60 grams from 101955 Bennu, a carbonaceous near-Earth asteroid, and return the sample to Earth for a detailed analysis.

European Space Agency's Hera – named after the Greek goddess of marriage, along with NASA's (Double Asteroid Redirection Test) DART spacecraft would travel to a binary asteroid system – the Didymos pair of near-Earth asteroids.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-nasa-asteroid-2020-potentially-dangerous-to-earth-6515170/>

Q.181) A concept of 'absentee voter' has been introduced by the Election Commission and given the facility of voting through postal ballot paper. 'Absentee voter' include –

1. Class of persons who are employed in essential services notified by the Election Commission
2. Senior citizens of 80 plus age
3. Persons with disability

Choose correct answer:

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

Q.181) Solution (d)

By the Conduct of Elections (Amendment) Rules, 2019, 'Absentee Voters' have been given the facility of voting through postal ballot paper.

'Absentee voter' has been defined as a person belonging to the class of persons notified by the Election Commission comprising persons employed in essential services who, on

account of the compulsion of their duties, are not able to be present in their polling station on the day of poll.

This category would also include senior citizens of 80 plus age and those belonging to the category of physically disabled (PWD).

These two categories of voters – senior citizen of more than 80 years of age and PwD electors marked in the electoral roll – will have now choice of voting either as absentee voter or as a regular voter on the poll day.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/postal-ballots-political-controversy-explained-6495861/>

Q.182) 'Global Rights Index' is released by –

- a) Amnesty International
- b) International Human Rights Law (IHRL)
- c) International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- d) International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)

Q.182) Solution (d)

On 18 June 2020, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) released its Global Rights index, mapping international worker rights' violations and naming the worst offending countries.

The findings of the report cover a wide range of abuses, including: violations of collective bargaining and the right to strike, excluding workers from joining unions, government surveillance on unions & their members, violence and killings and the limiting of freedom of speech.

India is among the 10 worst countries for working people, according to the seventh edition of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) Global Rights Index that ranks 144 countries on the degree of respect for workers' rights.

The ten worst countries for workers in 2020 are: Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Honduras, India, Kazakhstan, the Philippines, Turkey and Zimbabwe.

Source: <http://www.businessworld.in/article/India-ranks-among-10-worst-countries-for-working-people-ITUC/20-07-2020-299249/>

Q.183) Consider the following statements with reference to Consumer Protection Act, 2019:

1. Under this act, e-commerce platforms have to acknowledge the receipt of any consumer complaint within 48 hours and redress the complaint within one month from the date of receipt.
2. It prohibits the e-commerce companies from manipulating the price of the goods or services to gain unreasonable profit through unjustified prices.

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

Q.183) Solution (c)

The Consumer Protection Act, 2019 came in to force from 20th July 2020.

- The e-commerce portals will have to set up a robust consumer redressal mechanism as part of the rules under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
- The e-commerce platforms also have to acknowledge the receipt of any consumer complaint within forty-eight hours and redress the complaint within one month from the date of receipt under this Act. And will also have to appoint a grievance officer for consumer grievance redressal.
- It also prohibits the e-commerce companies from manipulating the price of the goods or services to gain unreasonable profit through unjustified prices.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tough-new-e-commerce-rules-kick-in-next-week/article32140542.ece>

Q.184) Consider the below pairs:

(Ports in news) : : (Associated country)

1. Kyaukpyu port : : Iran
2. Gwadar port : : Pakistan
3. Hambantota port : : Sri Lanka

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Q.184) Solution (b)

Kyaukpyu port is in Myanmar, which sits in the Bay of Bengal, where China has 70 percent stake.

Gwadar port in Pakistan sits on the mouth of Gulf of Oman.

China has stakes in Hambantota port in South Sri Lanka, which dominates the Indian Ocean.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/four-sub-killer-p-8i-crafts-coming-to-india-next-year-then-talks-for-six-more/story-Y7jNhu6lZHU4dF2SXraU8M.html>

Q.185) Which of the following countries are a part of the Horn of Africa?

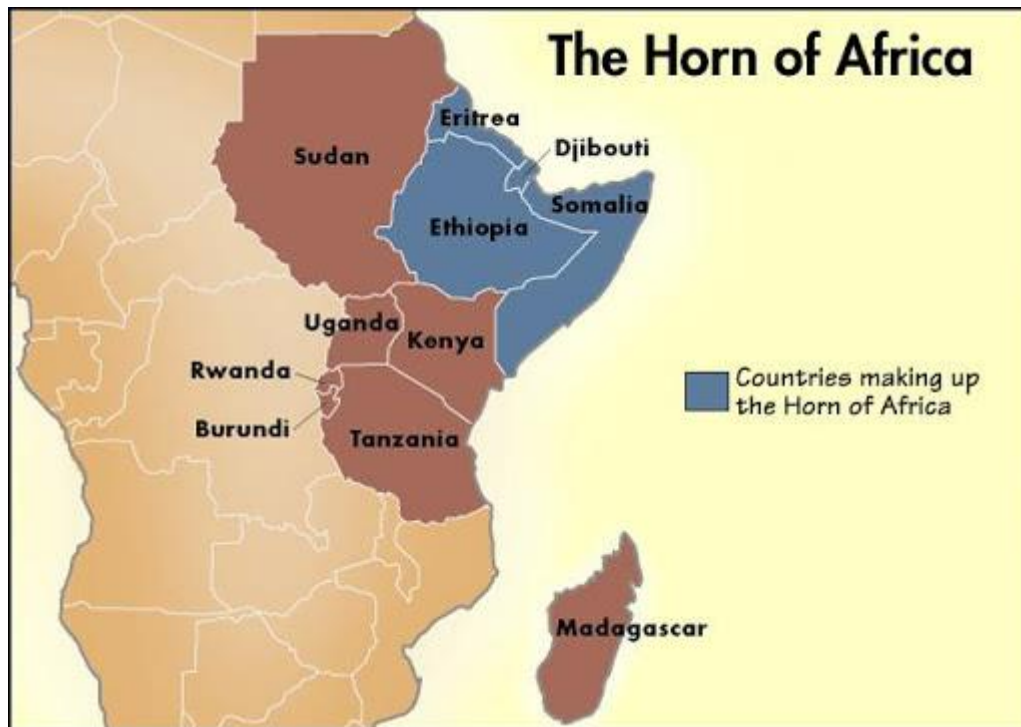
- a) Djibouti
- b) Ethiopia
- c) Somalia
- d) Eritrea

Select the correct answer using code below

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

Q.185) Solution (d)

Observe the map given below



Q.186) Consider the following statements:

1. Courts can interfere to decide questions of disqualification under the anti-defection law.
2. No member of the Legislature of a State in whom powers are vested by the Constitution for regulating procedure or the conduct of business, or for maintaining order, in the Legislature shall be subject to the jurisdiction of any court in respect of the exercise by him of those powers.

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

Q.186) Solution (b)

Article 212 of the Constitution provides for Courts not to inquire into proceedings of the Legislature –

The validity of any proceedings in the Legislature of a State shall not be called in question on the ground of any alleged irregularity of procedure

No officer or member of the Legislature of a State in whom powers are vested by or under this Constitution for regulating procedure or the conduct of business, or for maintaining order, in the Legislature shall be subject to the jurisdiction of any court in respect of the exercise by him of those powers

Therefore, the Courts cannot interfere at interim stage of proceedings or interfere to decide questions of disqualification under the anti-defection law. (same was observed in Kihoto Hollohan case)

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rajasthan-speaker-challenges-in-supreme-court-hc-order-to-defer-anti-defection-proceedings-against-pilot/article32158540.ece>

Q.187) Consider the below pairs:

(Protected Areas in news) : : (Associated state)

1. Dibru-Saikhowa : : Assam
2. Keoladeo National Park : : Arunachal Pradesh
3. Bhagirathi eco-sensitive zone : : Uttarakhand

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Q.187) Solution (c)

Correct pairs:

- Dibru-Saikhowa : : Assam
- Keoladeo National Park : : Rajasthan
- Bhagirathi eco-sensitive zone : : Uttarakhand

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/ngt-seeks-explanation-on-drilling-for-oil-in-assam-national-park/article32159368.ece>
<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1639387>

Q.188) Consider the below statements:

1. It is the only known meteorite crater in basaltic rock and is world famous.
2. It was created by a meteor impact during the Pleistocene Epoch.
3. It was notified as a National Geo-heritage Monument in 1979.

The above statements are associated with which lake?

- a) Lonar lake
- b) Dhala lake
- c) Ramgarh lake
- d) Pangong Tso lake

Q.188) Solution (a)

Lonar Lake

- The 56,000-year-old Lonar crater sanctuary lake in Buldhana district, Maharashtra has turned red/pink, most probably due to salinity and presence of algae in the water body.
- Lonar Lake was created by a meteor impact during the Pleistocene Epoch.
- It is the only known hyper velocity meteorite crater in basaltic rock anywhere on Earth.
- It was notified as a National Geo-heritage Monument in 1979 by Geological Survey of India (GSI).

- Two other similar ones are in Dhala and Ramgarh in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan respectively but both are relatively unknown.

Reference source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/lonar-lake-turned-pink-due-to-haloarchaea-microbes-probe/article32161619.ece>

Q.189) Global Environment Facility (GEF) provides grants for projects related to –

1. Biodiversity
2. International waters
3. Land degradation
4. Climate change and Ozone layer
5. Persistent organic pollutants

Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Q.189) Solution (d)

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems. Since then, the GEF has provided close to \$20.5 billion in grants and mobilized an additional \$112 billion in co-financing for more than 4,800 projects in 170 countries.

The United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Program, and the World Bank are the three initial partners implementing GEF projects.

The GEF work focuses on the following main areas:

- Biodiversity
- Climate Change (Mitigation and Adaptation)
- Chemicals
- International Waters
- Land Degradation
- Sustainable Forest Management / REDD +
- Ozone Layer Depletion

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/another-front/article32165636.ece>

Q.190) Consider the following statements regarding Generalized System of Preferences (GSP)

1. It is a preferential tariff system extended by developed countries to developing countries.
2. It involves reduced/zero tariffs of all the products exported by beneficiary countries to the markets of GSP providing countries.
3. Withdrawal of the GSP benefit adversely affects exports from India by making it less competitive.

Choose the correct code

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

Q.190) Solution (a)

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a preferential tariff system extended by developed countries to developing countries (also known as preference receiving countries or beneficiary countries). It is a preferential arrangement in the sense that it allows concessional low/zero tariff imports from developing countries.

Developed countries including the US, EU, UK, Japan etc., gives GSPs to imports from developing countries. GSP involves reduced/zero tariffs of eligible products exported by beneficiary countries to the markets of GSP providing countries.

“GSP provide opportunities for many of the world’s poorest countries to use trade to grow their economies and climb out of poverty” –USTR.

India exports nearly 50 products of the 94 products on which GSP benefits are stopped. The GSP removal will leave a reasonable impact on India as the country enjoyed preferential tariff on exports worth of nearly \$ 5.6 billion under the GSP route out of the total exports of \$48 bn in 2017-18. Withdrawal of the GSP benefit is expected to adversely affect exports from India.

Q.191) Consider the following statements with regard to state election commissioner:

1. Governor appoints the state election commissioner and determines his conditions of service and tenure of office.
2. State election commissioner can be removed only in like manner and on the like grounds as a judge of a high court.

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

Q.191) Solution (c)

State Election Commission

- The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of all elections to the panchayats shall be vested in the state election commission.
- It consists of a state election commissioner to be appointed by the governor. His conditions of service and tenure of office shall also be determined by the governor.
- He shall not be removed from the office except in the manner and on the grounds prescribed for the removal of a judge of the state high court. His conditions of service shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/governor-orders-the-reinstatement-of-n-ramesh-kumar-as-sec/article32160072.ece>

Q.192) Assertion: A minister at the state level continues in office till he enjoys the confidence of the Chief Minister.

Reason: The Chief Minister can ask him to resign or advise the Governor to dismiss him in case of difference of opinion.

Select the correct code:

- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true but R is not a correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false.
- d) A is false but R is true.

Q.192) Solution (a)

Article 164 contains the principle of individual responsibility. It states that the ministers hold office during the pleasure of the governor. This means that the governor can remove a minister at a time when the council of ministers enjoys the confidence of the legislative assembly. But, the governor can remove a minister only on the advice of the chief minister. In case of difference of opinion or dissatisfaction with the performance of a minister, the chief minister can ask him to resign or advise the governor to dismiss him. By exercising this power, the chief minister can ensure the realisation of the rule of collective responsibility.

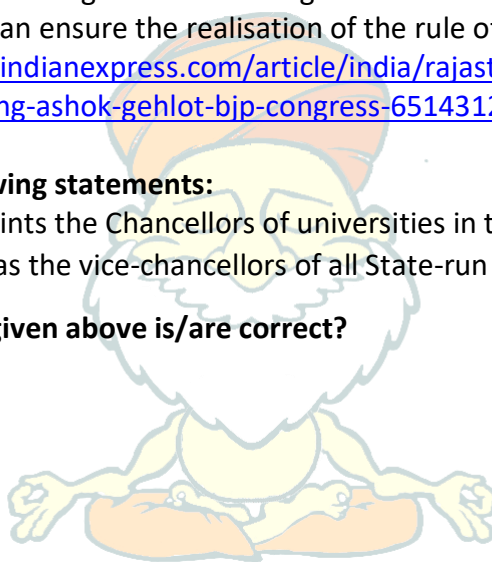
Article reference: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/rajasthan-government-crisis-live-updates-sachin-pilot-hearing-ashok-gehlot-bjp-congress-6514312/>

Q.193) Consider the following statements:

1. The Governor appoints the Chancellors of universities in the state.
2. The Governor acts as the vice-chancellors of all State-run universities.

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



Q.193) Solution (d)

Governor acts as the chancellor of universities in the state. He appoints the vice-chancellors of universities in the state.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/bengal-cm-governor-ties-take-a-turn-for-the-worse/article32107090.ece>

Q.194) Who among the following personalities was often referred as the 'father of the Indian unrest' by the colonial forces?

- a) Lala Lajpat Rai
- b) Chandrashekhar Azad
- c) Bhagat Singh
- d) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

Q.194) Solution (d)

The colonial forces often referred to Bal Gangadhar Tilak as the 'father of the Indian unrest'. Tilak was among the first and strongest advocates of 'Swaraj'.

His famous declaration “Swaraj is my birth right, and I shall have it” served as a powerful clarion call to the future revolutionaries of India’s struggle for independence.

Article reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1640655>

Q.195) ‘Vriksharopan Abhiyan’, a massive plantation drive was organised by –

- a) Ministry of Home Affairs
- b) Ministry of Coal
- c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- d) Ministry of Rural Development

Q.195) Solution (b)

Union Home Minister launched the Tree Plantation Campaign “Vriksharopan Abhiyan” of the Ministry of Coal.

The Abhiyan is being organized by the Ministry of Coal which involves all coal and Ignite PSUs. Under this large scale plantation will be carried out in colonies, offices, and mines and in other suitable areas of coal and Ignite PSUs.

Seedlings will also be distributed under the campaign in the nearby areas for promoting plantation by society.

Article reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1640707>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/puducherry/amit-shah-inaugurates-vriksharopan-abhiyan/article32176331.ece>

Q.196) Consider the following statements with regard to Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015?

1. It mandates setting up Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees in every district.
2. It allows for juveniles in conflict with Law in the age group of 16–18, involved in Heinous Offences, to be tried as adults.

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

Q.196) Solution (c)

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 replaced the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 to comprehensively address children in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection.

The Act changed the nomenclature from ‘juvenile’ to ‘child’ or ‘child in conflict with law’. Also, it removed the negative connotation associated with the word “juvenile”.

It also included several new and clear definitions such as orphaned, abandoned and surrendered children; and petty, serious and heinous offences committed by children

It mandates setting up Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees in every district. Both must have at least one woman member each.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/issue-sops-to-probe-child-pornography-and-missing-children-cases/article32166108.ece>

Q.197) Consider the following statements about Bru Tribes

1. They also referred to as the Reangs, are spread across the north-eastern states of Tripura, Assam, Manipur, and Mizoram.
2. Hojagiri folk dance, well known all over the world, is performed by Bru people.

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

Q.197) Solution (c)

Brus, also known as Reangs, are ethnically different from the Mizos, with their own distinct language and dialect and form one of the 21 scheduled tribes of Tripura.

The Brus—spread across Tripura, Mizoram and parts of southern Assam—are the most populous tribe in Tripura.

Hojagiri folk dance is performed by Bru people which entails women and young girls, about 4 to 6 members in a team, singing, balancing on an earthen pitcher and managing other props such as a bottle on the head, while only the lower half of the body is moved.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/non-brus-set-limit-for-refugee-resettlement-in-tripura/article32174695.ece>

Q.198) With reference to Open Credit Enablement Network (OCEN), consider the following statements:

1. It was developed by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
2. They act as a common language for lenders and marketplaces to utilise and create innovative, financial credit products at scale.

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

Q.198) Solution (b)

OCEN is a credit protocol infrastructure, which will mediate the interactions between loan service providers, usually fintech and mainstream lenders, including all large banks and NBFCs.

- It is developed by a think tank, Indian Software Products Industry Round Table (iSPIRT).
- Open Credit Enablement Network will democratise credit, help small businesses
- OCEN will act as a common language for lenders and marketplaces to utilise and create innovative, financial credit products at scale.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/credit-platform-for-msmes-takes-shape/article32175949.ece#>

Q.199) New START treaty, often found in news, is associated with –

- a) India and China de-escalation plan
- b) US and Russia
- c) Pakistan and Bangladesh
- d) North Korea and South Korea

Q.199) Solution (b)

New START is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation with the formal name of Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms. It was signed on 8 April 2010 in Prague, and, after ratification, entered into force on 5 February 2011.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/us-accuses-russia-of-testing-anti-satellite-weapon-in-space/article32178217.ece>

Q.200) Which of the following Newspapers/ journals were owned and edited by Lokmanya Tilak?

1. Kesari
2. Young India
3. Mahratta
4. New India

Select the code from following:

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

Q.200) Solution (a)

- Kesari and Mahratta – these two weekly newspapers were owned and edited by Lokmanya Tilak, which played crucial role in awakening the political consciousness of the people.
- Young India was a Journal by Mahatma Gandhi.
- Annie Besant started a newspaper, “New India”, criticized British rule and was jailed for sedition.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1640655>

Q.201) Choose the following pairs:

(Missiles/Defence deals) : : (Associated country)

1. Spike Anti-Tank Guided Missiles : : Israel
2. Tsirkon hypersonic cruise Missiles : : Iran
3. Harpoon Missiles : : US
4. S-400 Triumph Missiles : : Russia

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

Q.201) Solution (c)

Correct pairs:

- Spike Anti-Tank Guided Missiles : : Israel
- Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile : : Russia
- Seahawk Multi-Role Helicopters : : US
- S-400 Triumf Missiles : : Russia

Reference article: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/border-row-with-china-figures-in-rajnaths-telephonic-talks-with-israeli-defence-minister/article32183371.ece>

Q.202) Consider the following statements:

1. Governor can summon, prorogue and dissolve the House only on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers.
2. Chief Minister is appointed by the governor and other ministers are appointed by the governor on the advise of the Chief Minister.

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

Q.202) Solution (c)

Article 164:

The Chief Minister shall be appointed by the governor and other ministers shall be appointed by the governor on the advise of the Chief Minister;

The ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the governor; and

The council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the legislative assembly of the state.

The five- judge Constitution Bench judgment of the Supreme Court in Nabam Rebia versus Deputy Speaker on July 13, 2016, held that a Governor cannot employ his “discretion”, and should strictly abide by the “aid and advice” of the Cabinet to summon the House.

“The Governor can summon, prorogue and dissolve the House only on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister as the head. And not at his own,” the Bench had held.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/news-analysis-governor-cannot-employ-his-discretion-and-should-strictly-abide-by-the-aid-and-advice-of-the-cabinet-to-summon-house-supreme-court/article32191699.ece>

Q.203) Which of the following is are correctly matched?

GI Tag

State

1. Tirur Betel leaf – Tamil Nadu
2. Palani Panchamirtham – Kerala
3. Tawlhlohpuan – Nagaland

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 and 3
- b) 1 Only

- c) 2 and 3
- d) None

Q.203) Solution (d)

Government has allotted GI tags to 4 new products during 2019

- Palani Panchamirtham in Palani Town, Tamil Nadu
- Tawlhlohpuan from Mizoram
- Mizo Puanchei from Mizoram
- Tirur Betel leaf from Kerala

Q.204) Which of the following statements are correct about Karewas?

1. They are lacustrine deposits in the Valley of Kashmir and Jammu.
2. They are composed of sand, silt, clay, shale, mud, lignite, gravel and loessic sediments.
3. They help in the cultivation of saffron, almond, walnut, apple and orchards.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.204) Solution (d)

Karewas

- Karewas are lacustrine deposits (deposits in lake) in the Valley of Kashmir and Jammu.
- They lie between Great Himalayas & Pir Panjal Range.
- They are characterized with fossils of mammals and at places by peat.
- Karewas were formed during the Pleistocene Period (1 million years ago), when the entire Valley of Kashmir was under water.
- Due to the rise of Pirpanjal, the drainage was impounded and a lake of about 5000 sq. km area was developed and thus a basin was formed.
- The deposits left in the process are known as karewas. The thickness of karewas is about 1400 m.
- The Karewa deposits are composed of sand, silt, clay, shale, mud, lignite, gravel and loessic sediments.
- Therefore, it is extremely important for agricultural and horticultural practices in the valley.
- Apart from saffron, it also helps in the cultivation of almond, walnut, apple and orchards.

Q.205) Which of the following statements is/are correct about the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)?

1. It is a national regulatory body for Indian Pharmaceuticals and medical devices.
2. It works under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

3. Regulation of sales and distribution of drugs is its primary concern.

Choose correct answer:

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

Q.205) Solution (b)

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) is the national regulatory body for Indian pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

It is the Central Drug Authority for discharging functions assigned to the Central Government under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Under the Drug and Cosmetics Act, the regulation of manufacture, sale and distribution of Drugs is primarily the concern of the State authorities while the Central Authorities are responsible for approval of New Drugs, Clinical Trials in the country, laying down the standards for Drugs, control over the quality of imported Drugs and coordination of the activities of State Drug Control Organisations.

It works under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Do you know?

- Within the CDSCO, the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) regulates pharmaceutical and medical devices.
- National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority controls prices of drugs as per the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Q.206) Consider the following statements:

1. The writ of habeas corpus can be issued against both public authorities as well as private individuals
2. The writ is not issued where the proceeding is for contempt of a legislature or a court.

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

Q.206) Solution (c)

The writ of habeas corpus can be issued against both public authorities as well as private individuals. The writ, on the other hand, is not issued where the (a) detention is lawful, (b) the proceeding is for contempt of a legislature or a court, (c) detention is by a competent court, and (d) detention is outside the jurisdiction of the court.

Q.207) Consider the following statements with reference to No-Confidence Motion:

1. It can be moved against an individual minister or a group of ministers or the entire council of ministers.
2. It should state the reasons for its adoption in the Lok Sabha.

3. The motion needs the support of 50 members to be admitted.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.207) Solution (b)

Article 75 of the Constitution says that the council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. It means that the ministry stays in office so long as it enjoys confidence of the majority of the members of the Lok Sabha. In other words, the Lok Sabha can remove the ministry from office by passing a no-confidence motion. The motion needs the support of 50 members to be admitted.

	<i>Censure Motion</i>	<i>No-Confidence Motion</i>
1.	It should state the reasons for its adoption in the Lok Sabha.	It need not state the reasons for its adoption in the Lok Sabha.
2.	It can be moved against an individual minister or a group of ministers or the entire council of ministers.	It can be moved against the entire council of ministers only.
3.	It is moved for censuring the council of ministers for specific policies and actions.	It is moved for ascertaining the confidence of Lok Sabha in the council of ministers.
4.	If it is passed in the Lok Sabha, the council of ministers need not resign from the office.	If it is passed in the Lok Sabha, the council of ministers must resign from office.

Q.208) Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR) is located in –

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

Q.208) Solution (b)

Nagarjunsagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve is the largest tiger reserve in India. The reserve spreads over five districts across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/conservationists-related-as-andhra-pradesh-sees-remarkable-increase-in-tiger-numbers/article32207246.ece>

Q.209) Consider the following statements:

1. Strait of Hormuz is a strait between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.
2. Oman, Iran, United Arab Emirates are the basin countries across Strait of Hormuz.

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

Q.209) Solution (c)

The Strait of Hormuz is a strait between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. It provides the only sea passage from the Persian Gulf to the open ocean and is one of the world's most strategically important choke points.

On the north coast lies Iran, and on the south coast the United Arab Emirates and Musandam, an exclave of Oman.

Senkaku-Diaoyu Islands Dispute – The Big Picture – RSTV IAS UPSC



Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/iran-moves-mock-aircraft-carrier-to-sea-amid-us-tensions/article32201036.ece>

Q.210) Consider the following statements regarding Botswana:

1. It is a landlocked country.
2. Tropic of cancer passes through it.
3. Botswana has the world's largest elephant population.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 and 3

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

Q.210) Solution (c)

Botswana

- It is a landlocked country in Southern Africa. Its 70% territory is covered by Kalahari Desert.
- Botswana has the world's largest elephant population, estimated to be around 130,000.
- It is Africa's oldest continuous democracy.

Q.211) Nabam Rebia and Bamang Felix v. Deputy Speaker (2016) case dealt with –

- a) Unconstitutional practice of instantaneous Triple Talaq
- b) Discretionary power of the Governor
- c) Tussle between Lt. Governor v. Chief Minister
- d) Resignation, Disqualification and Anti-Defection

Q.211) Solution (b)

A 2016 verdict of the Supreme Court in the Nabam Rebia and Bamang Felix v. Deputy Speaker case, which had resulted from a constitutional crisis in Arunachal Pradesh, had expressly stated that a "governor can summon, prorogue and dissolve the House, only on the aid and advice of the council of ministers".

In the Nabam Rebia case, the Supreme Court, speaking through a five-judge Bench, viewed that the discretionary power of the Governor is extremely limited and entirely amenable to judicial review.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/news-analysis-governor-cannot-employ-his-discretion-and-should-strictly-abide-by-the-aid-and-advice-of-the-cabinet-to-summon-house-supreme-court/article32191699.ece>

Q.212) Consider the following pairs:

(Place/Region in news) : : (Associated country)

1. Okavango Delta : : Ethiopia
2. Darfur : : Sudan
3. Bandar Abbas : : Iran

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.212) Solution (c)

Correct pairs:

1. Okavango Delta : : Botswana
2. Darfur : : Sudan
3. Bandar Abbas : : Iran

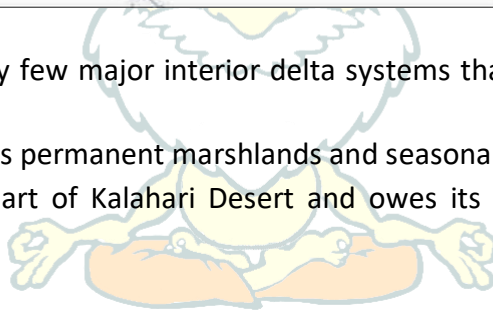
Do you know?

- Darfur was in news as about 500 armed men targeted the Masalit community in west Darfur's Masteri town and massacred 60 people.
- Okavango Delta was in news because in the past two months, hundreds of elephants have died mysteriously. The cause of the deaths is yet to be established.



Okavango Delta

- It is one of the very few major interior delta systems that do not flow into a sea or ocean.
- This delta comprises permanent marshlands and seasonally flooded plains.
- The delta covers part of Kalahari Desert and owes its existence to the Okavango (Kavango) River.





Q.213) With reference to United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), consider the following –

1. It was established in 1991 to strengthen the international response to complex emergencies and natural disasters.
2. It is the successor to the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO)

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Q.213) Solution (d)

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

- OCHA is a United Nations (U.N.) body
- It was established in 1991 to strengthen the international response to complex emergencies and natural disasters
- It is the successor to the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO)
- OCHA's mandate was subsequently broadened to include coordinating humanitarian response, policy development and humanitarian advocacy
- OCHA organized the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey.
- It is a sitting observer in the United Nations Development Group.

- The headquarters is based in two locations (New York and Geneva)

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/fresn-violence-sudans-darfur-region-several-killed-more-injured/article32199502.ece>

Q.214) “Operation Breathing Space” is associated with –

- India and Israel
- Pakistan and China
- India and China
- US and Russia

Q.214) Solution (a)

“Operation Breathing Space”

Israeli team, led by a “high ranking” research and development (R&D) defence official and DRDO to develop rapid testing for COVID-19.

The tests that the Israeli teams will be conducting trials for include an audio test, a breath test, thermal testing, and a polyamino test which seeks to isolate proteins related to COVID-19.

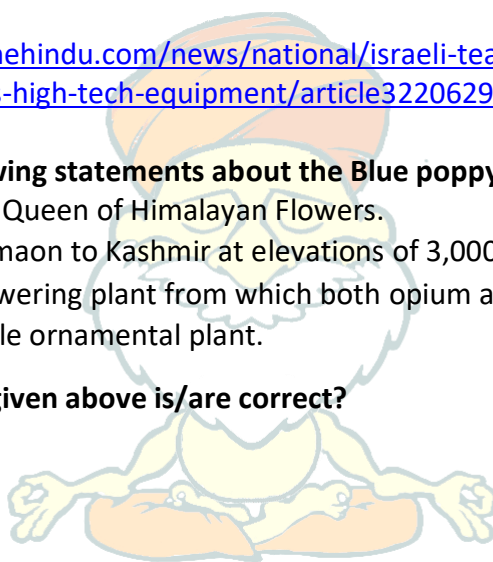
Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/israeli-team-arrives-for-trials-of-four-rapid-covid-19-tests-brings-high-tech-equipment/article32206292.ece>

Q.215) Consider the following statements about the Blue poppy:

- It is considered the Queen of Himalayan Flowers.
- It is found from Kumaon to Kashmir at elevations of 3,000 to 5,000 meters.
- It is a species of flowering plant from which both opium and poppy seeds are derived and is also a valuable ornamental plant.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



Q.215) Solution (b)

Found from Kumaon to Kashmir at elevations of 3,000 to 5,000 meters, the Blue poppy, Meconopsis aculeata, is considered the Queen of Himalayan Flowers.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/climb-or-die-himalayan-plants-on-steep-trek-to-survive-climate-change/article32206679.ece>

Q.216) India had launched Green Growth Equity Fund (GGEF) to invest in green Infrastructure Projects. Which of the following statements regarding GGEF are correct?

- It is a joint fund between India and European Union.
- It aims to leverage private sector funding in Green Infrastructure projects in India.
- The joint fund will be established under NIIF.

Select the code from below:

- 1 and 2
- 2 and 3

- c) 1 and 3
- d) All of the above

Q.216) Solution (b)

Green Growth Equity Fund

- India and the UK announced the launch of an Early Market Engagement for the joint UK-India Fund, namely a Green Growth Equity Fund
- It aims to leverage private sector investment from the City of London to invest in green infrastructure projects in India
- Both governments will invest up to £120 million each (i.e. totally £ 240 million)
- The joint fund which will be established under the NIIF framework.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/working-with-india-to-make-clean-power-accessible-says-uk-minister/article32213863.ece>

Q.217) Which of the following statements about Administrative tribunals is/are correct?

1. These were added in the constitution by the 42nd Amendment act.
2. These tribunals can only be constituted for the matters related to public services of the Centre and the states.
3. These tribunals follow the principal of natural justice.

Select the correct answer using code below

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

Q.217) Solution (a)

The original Constitution did not contain provisions with respect to tribunals.

The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added a new Part XIV-A to the Constitution. This part is entitled as 'Tribunals' and consists of only two Articles—Article 323 A dealing with administrative tribunals and Article 323 B dealing with tribunals for other matters.

Article 323 A empowers the Parliament to provide for the establishment of administrative tribunals for the adjudication of disputes relating to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services of the Centre, the states, local bodies, public corporations and other public authorities.

These tribunals are not bound by the procedure laid down in the Civil Procedure Code of 1908; rather these are guided by the principles of natural justice.

Do you know?

The jurisdiction of Central Administrative Tribunal extends to the all-India services, the Central civil services, civil posts under the Centre and civilian employees of defence services, but, the members of the defence forces, officers and servants of the Supreme Court and the secretarial staff of the Parliament are not covered by it.

Article reference: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/analysis/safeguarding-the-autonomy-of-tribunals/story-sTaztHIM2iZBhyaUTowxVM.html>

Q.218) Which among the following goods attract GST Compensation Cess?

1. Coal

2. Aerated drinks
3. Cigarettes containing tobacco

Choose correct answer:

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

Q.218) Solution (d)

GST Compensation Cess is a levy which will be applicable in addition to the regular GST taxes (CGST + SGST/UTGST on intrastate supplies and IGST on interstate supplies). GST Cess will be levied on supply of certain notified goods – mostly belonging to the luxury and demerit category.

The GST Cess is levied to compensate states who may suffer any loss of revenue due to the implementation of GST, as per the provisions of the GST Compensation Cess Act.

Which goods will attract GST Cess?

Items :: GST Cess Ceiling

- Coal :: INR 400 / tonne
- Pan Masala :: 60%
- Aerated Drinks :: 15%
- Motor vehicles :: Vary according to Engine cc and lengths
- Diesel driven motor vehicles :: 3%
- Cigarettes with tobacco :: 36% + Rs. 4170 per thousand

Q.219) Consider the following statement about Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards (CA|TS)

1. It is a set of criteria which allows tiger sites to check if their management will lead to successful tiger conservation
2. Lansdowne Forest Division is the only site in India that is CA|TS approved

Select the correct statements

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

Q.219) Solution (c)

The CA|TS was developed in response to the need for stringent conservation procedures for protection of the big cat through a partnership between governments and conservation organisations to assess the levels of effective management, among others.

To date, three sites – Lansdowne Forest Division in Uttarakhand, India, Chitwan National Park in Nepal and Sikhote-Alin Nature Reserve in Russia – have been awarded CA|TS Approved status.

CA|TS is a set of criteria which allows tiger sites to check if their management will lead to successful tiger conservation. CA|TS is organised under seven pillars and 17 elements of critical management activity.

CA|TS was developed by tiger and protected area experts. Officially launched in 2013, CA|TS is an important part of Tx2, the global goal to double wild tiger numbers by the year 2022.

Q.220) The Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) reports on the status and trends of the world's forest resources is released by –

- a) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- b) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- c) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- d) United Nations Environment Programme

Q.220) Solution (a)

The Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) reports on the status and trends of the world's forest resources. It is led by the Forestry Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Q.221) With reference to Budapest Convention, consider the following:

1. The convention is the sole legally binding international multilateral treaty on cybercrime.
2. The Budapest Convention is supplemented by a Protocol on Xenophobia and Racism committed through computer systems.
3. India is yet to join this treaty.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.221) Solution (d)

Convention on Cybercrime, also known as the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime or the Budapest Convention is the first international treaty seeking to address Internet and computer crime (cybercrime) by harmonizing national laws, improving investigative techniques, and increasing cooperation among nations.

The convention is the sole legally binding international multilateral treaty on cybercrime. It coordinates cybercrime investigations between nation-states and criminalizes certain cybercrime conduct.

It serves as a guideline for any country developing comprehensive national legislation against Cybercrime and as a framework for international cooperation between State Parties to this treaty.

The Budapest Convention is supplemented by a Protocol on Xenophobia and Racism committed through computer systems.

This Convention has eagerly called for Indian participation since its formation in 2001, but India has decided not to be a party to it.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/a-quest-for-order-amid-cyber-insecurity/article32225383.ece>

Q.222) Consider the following statements with reference to Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES):

1. It is not a United Nations body.
2. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services to IPBES.
3. Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services is a report by the IPBES.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.222) Solution (b)

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is an independent intergovernmental body established by States to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development.

It was established in Panama City, on 21 April 2012 by 94 Governments. It is not a United Nations body. However, at the request of the IPBES Plenary and with the authorization of the UNEP Governing Council in 2013, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services to IPBES.

Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services is a report by the IPBES on the global state of biodiversity.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/fewer-species-more-disease/article32224701.ece>

Source: <https://ipbes.net/about>

Q.223) With reference to Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), consider the following statements

1. AIIB has more than 100 member nations.
2. India is the only country to enjoy a permanent seat on the Bank's board of directors.
3. AIIB does not have any members from outside Asia.

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

Q.223) Solution (a)

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

- It is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia.
- Headquartered in Beijing, it began operations in January 2016 and have now grown to 103 approved members worldwide.

- India has been the bank's biggest beneficiary, with a quarter of the AIIB's approved projects geared towards its development. India has received the most funding of any country from the bank (received \$4.35 billion)
- India is also the only country apart from China to enjoy a permanent seat on the Bank's board of directors.
- India is one among the 57 founding members in 2016
- India is its second--largest shareholder (with 7.62% voting shares) after China (26.06%)
- Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/aiib-to-look-at-indias-project-proposals-from-economic-view/article32225257.ece>

Source: <https://www.aiib.org/en/about-aiib/index.html>

Q.224) Consider the following:

1. It is popularly known as Dhaman, is widely distributed across South and Southeast Asia.
2. It can adapt quickly to a variety of habits: arid land, open fields, farmland, coastal regions, freshwater or brackish water wetlands.
3. It is also called the farmer's friend.

The above features/characteristics are associated with –

- a) Common Crane
- b) Mongoose
- c) Rat snake
- d) Red rice

Q.224) Solution (c)

Indian Rat Snake

- Rat Snakes are also called the farmer's friend as it helps rid fields of rodents and does the same in urban settlements
- They are non-poisonous and will not attack unless cornered
- Indian Rat Snake (*Ptyas mucosa*), popularly known as Dhaman, is widely distributed across South and Southeast Asia
- It can adapt quickly to a variety of habits: arid land, open fields, farmland, coastal regions, freshwater or brackish water wetlands

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/indian-rat-snake-in-the-monsoon/article32227685.ece>

Q.225) Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) is a global public health threat and India has some of the highest antibiotic resistance rates. Which of the following are proven to affect AMR in India?

1. Mass bathing in Ganga
2. Irrational use of antibiotics in livestock industries
3. Unchecked discharge of effluents by the pharmaceutical industry

Select the correct code:

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

Q.225) Solution (d)

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) has emerged as a global public health concern as antibiotics are becoming inefficient against a wide range of pathogenic bacteria. Rampant usage of antibiotics for human and veterinary purposes has resulted in the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria (ARB) in the guts of humans and animals, which are subsequently released in to the environment.

In India, factors such as high consumption of a broad spectrum of antibiotics, antibiotic fixed-dose combinations and antibiotic consumption in animal food contribute to AMR.

Mass-bathing in the Ganga during pilgrimages may be contributing to anti-microbial resistance (AMR), says a government-commissioned report on the threat from AMR. Such resistance —previously acknowledged to be widespread in India — is said to be the reason for certain key antibiotics becoming ineffective against diseases, including tuberculosis. Other than 'cultural factors' such as bathing in the Ganga, the drivers of AMR included excessive use of antibiotics in the livestock industry and unchecked discharge of effluents by the pharmaceutical industry.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/antibiotics-extensively-misused-in-dairy-sector-survey/article32223803.ece>

Q.226) Which among the following amendment act inserted Article 239AA which confers a special status to Delhi among UTs where it was provided with a legislative assembly to make laws on state subjects?

- a) Sixty-ninth amendment act
- b) Forty-second amendment act
- c) Forty-eight amendment act
- d) Ninety-one amendment act

Q.226) Solution (a)

Sixty-ninth amendment act inserted Article 239AA which confers a special status to Delhi among UTs where it was provided with a legislative assembly to make laws on state subjects.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/l-g-rejects-cabinet-decision-on-lawyers-for-riots-anti-kaa-cases/article32234694.ece>

Q.227) Consider the following:

1. The Council of Ministers aid and advise the Lieutenant--Governor in the exercise of his functions in relation to matters with respect to which the Delhi legislative assembly has power to make law.
2. In the case of difference of opinion between the Lieutenant Governor and Council of Ministers, the Lieutenant Governor shall refer it to the President for decision and act according to the decision given thereon by the President.

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

Q.227) Solution (c)

Lt. Governor and Council of Ministers

- The Council of Ministers (i.e. CM and his Ministers) are elected to aid and advise the LG in the exercise of his functions in relation to matters with respect to which the Legislative assembly has power to make law.
- Therefore, in respect of Public Order, Police & Land – LG would not need aid and advise from the Council of Ministers. For other matters enumerated in the State List, this arrangement would work.
- In the case of difference of opinion between the Lieutenant Governor and Council of Ministers, the Lieutenant Governor shall refer it to the President for decision and act according to the decision given thereon by the President. — 239AA (4)

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/l-g-rejects-cabinet-decision-on-lawyers-for-riots-anti-cao-cases/article32234694.ece>

Q.228) Jezero Crater, which was in news recently, is associated with –

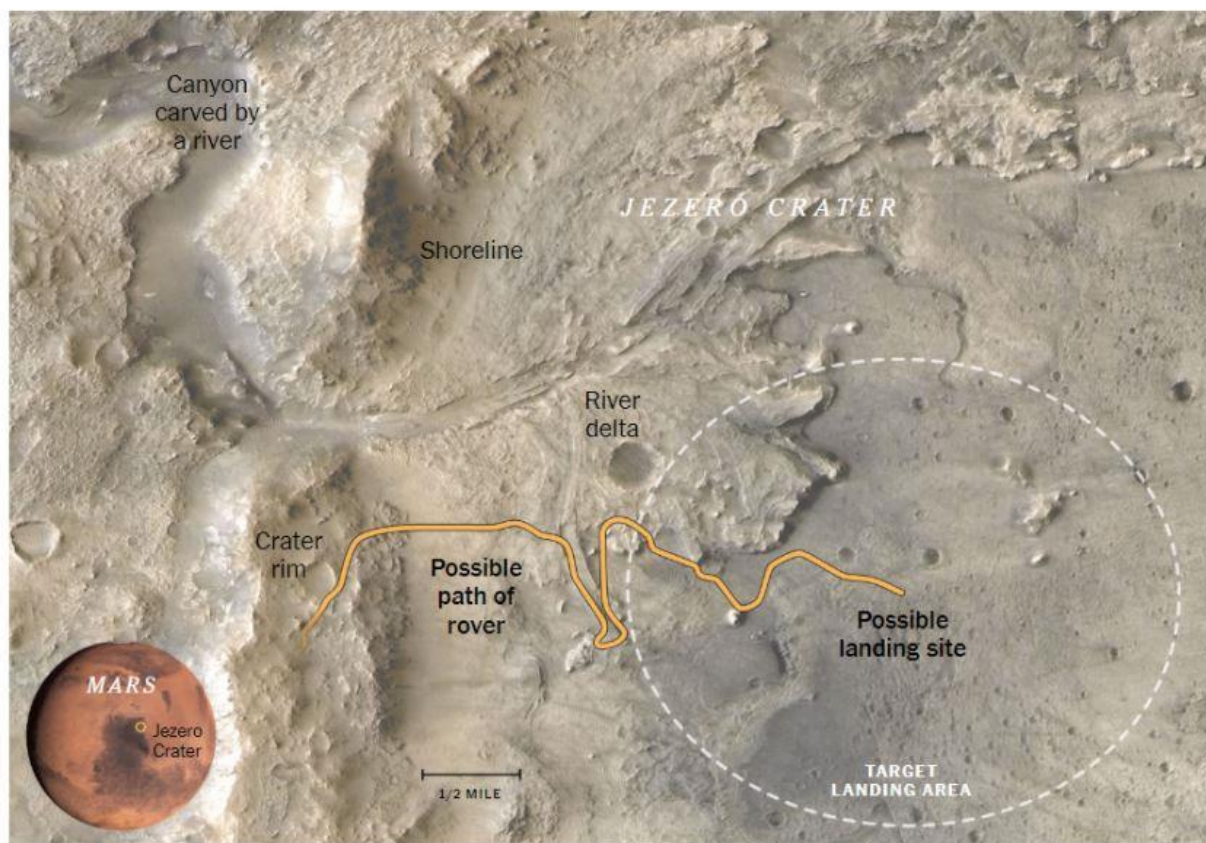
- a) Mars 2020 landing site
- b) China's Tianwen-1 landing site
- c) Lonar lake site
- d) None

Q.228) Solution (a)

Jezero Crater is the landing site for the NASA's Mars Perseverance Rover also known as Mars 2020.

NASA chose Jezero crater as the landing site for the Perseverance rover because scientists believe the area was once flooded with water and was home to an ancient river delta.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/nasa-launches-mars-rover-perseverance-to-look-for-signs-of-ancient-life/article32231782.ece>



By Jonathan Corum | Image by NASA, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, European Space Agency, German Aerospace Center, Freie Universität Berlin and Justin Cowart. Inset image by NASA and J.P.L.

Q.229) With reference to vision SAGAR, which of the following statements is true/correct?

- a) It aims to establish India as a global leader in solar energy, by creating the policy conditions for its diffusion across the country as quickly as possible.
- b) It is an ambitious national initiative aimed at bringing about a step change in India's logistics sector performance, by unlocking the full potential of India's coastline and waterways.
- c) It aims to improve the efficiency of existing corridors through development of Multimodal Logistics Parks and elimination of choke point.
- d) It provides a mechanism for India to expand strategic partnerships with other IOR littorals in Asia and Africa.

Q.229) Solution (d)

In 2015, India unveiled its strategic vision for the Indian Ocean i.e. Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).

It is an increasing recognition of the increasing importance of maritime security, maritime commons and cooperation.

Through SAGAR, India seeks to deepen economic and security cooperation with its maritime neighbours and assist in building their maritime security capabilities. For this, India would cooperate on the exchange of information, coastal surveillance, building of infrastructure and strengthening their capabilities.

Further, India seeks to safeguard its national interests and ensure Indian Ocean region to become inclusive, collaborative and respect international law.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1642278>

Q.230) Consider the following statements about 'AIM-iCREST':

1. It was launched by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).
2. It has been designed to enable the incubation ecosystem and provide requisite support to foster the incubation enterprise economy.

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

Q.230) Solution (c)

Atal Innovation Mission launched 'AIM-iCREST', in partnership with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Wadhvani Foundation.

AIM iCREST – an Incubator Capabilities enhancement program for a Robust Ecosystem focuses on creating high performing Startups

About the initiative

- AIM iCREST has been designed to enable the incubation ecosystem and act as a growth hack for AIM's Atal and Established incubators across the country.
- Under the initiative, the AIM's incubators are set to be upscaled and provided requisite support to foster the incubation enterprise economy, that will help them to significantly enhance their performance.
- This will be complemented by providing training to entrepreneurs, through technology driven processes and platforms.

Source: <https://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1642441>

Q.231) With reference to Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, which of the statements given below is incorrect?

- a) It provides loans to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) only.
- b) It was rolled out as part of the Centre's Aatmanirbhar package in response to the COVID-19 crisis.
- c) It has a corpus of ₹41,600 crore and provides fully guaranteed additional funding of up to ₹3 lakh crore.
- d) None

Q.231) Solution (a)

The Centre has expanded its credit guarantee scheme for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to cover loans given to larger firms, as well as to self-employed people and professionals who have taken loans for business purposes.

The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme was rolled out in May as part of the Centre's Aatmanirbhar package in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

It has a corpus of ₹41,600 crore and provides fully guaranteed additional funding of up to ₹3 lakh crore.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/credit-guarantee-extended-to-larger-firms-self-employed/article32249835.ece>

Q.232) Which of the following statements about Bal Gangadhar Tilak is/are correct?

1. He founded the Fergusson College in Pune.
2. He was part of the extremist faction of Indian National Congress.
3. He was associated with the Hindu Mahasabha.

Select the correct answer using code below

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

Q.232) Solution (a)

Bal Gangadhar Tilak

- He was commonly known as Lokamanya Tilak.
- He was one of the founders of the Fergusson College in Pune.
- He was part of the extremist faction of the INC and was a proponent of boycott and Swadeshi movements. Along with Bipin Chandra Pal and Lala Lajpat Rai, he was called the 'Lal-Bal-Pal' trio of extremist leaders.
- He was also called the 'Father of Indian Unrest'.
- Lala Lajpat Rai was involved with the Hindu Mahasabha.

Note: August 1, 2020 marks 100 years of Bal Gangadhar Tilak's death anniversary.

Q.233) Which among the following is/are correct with regard to Khurja pottery?

1. It is traditional Indian pottery work manufactured in Uttar Pradesh state.
2. It has been protected under the Geographical indication (GI) of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement.

Choose correct answer:

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

Q.233) Solution (c)

Khurja pottery is traditional Indian pottery work manufactured in Khurja of the Bulandshahr district in Uttar Pradesh state, India.

Khurja pottery has been protected under the Geographical indication (GI) of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pandemic-breaks-ceramics-citys-traditional-business-model/article32248942.ece>

Q.234) Recently which among the following Arab countries announced the launch of its first nuclear plant, called Barakah nuclear power plant –

- a) Qatar

- b) UAE
- c) Yemen
- d) Iraq

Q.234) Solution (b)

The oil-rich United Arab Emirates announced the start-up of its Barakah nuclear power plant, scoring another first for the Arab world.

Barakah, which means “blessing” in Arabic, is a regional first. Barakah was built by a consortium led by the Korea Electric Power Corporation at a cost of some \$24.4 billion.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/arab-worlds-first-nuclear-plant-achieves-criticality/article32249753.ece>

Q.235) Which of the following statements is/are correct with regard to Dhole?

1. They are endemic to India.
2. Besides the tiger, it is the only large carnivore in India that is under the IUCN’s ‘endangered’ category.
3. Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh rank high in the conservation of the endangered dhole in India.

Choose correct answer:

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

Q.235) Solution (c)

Three States rank high in dhole conservation – Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh

On the other hand, Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Telangana and Goa will need to increase financial investments in the forest and wildlife sectors, and reduce the ease of granting forest clearances for infrastructure projects.

Dholes play an important role as apex predators in forest ecosystems. Besides the tiger, the dhole is the only large carnivore in India that is under the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s ‘endangered’ category.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/three-states-rank-high-in-the-conservation-of-the-endangered-dhole/article32250471.ece>

Q.236) ‘The Arctic Home in the Vedas’ is a history book on the origin of Aryan People, written by

- a) Lal Bahadur Shastri
- b) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- c) Motilal Nehru
- d) Subhash Chandra Bose

Q.236) Solution (b)

The Arctic Home in the Vedas is a history book on the origin of Aryan People by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, a mathematician turned astronomer, historian, journalist, philosopher and political leader of India.

It propounded the theory that the North Pole was the original home of Aryans during the pre-glacial period which they had to leave due to the ice deluge around 8000 B.C. and had to migrate to the Northern parts of Europe and Asia in search of lands for new settlements. In support to his theory, Tilak presented certain Vedic hymns, Avestic passages, Vedic chronology and Vedic calendars with interpretations of the contents in detail.

The book was written at the end of 1898, but was first published in March 1903 in Pune.

Q.237) Boko Haram, an extremist group often in news is based in?

- a) Iraq
- b) Nigeria
- c) Lebanon
- d) Syria

Q.237) Solution (b)

Boko Haram is an Islamic extremist group based in northeaster Nigeria, also active in Chad, Niger and northern Cameroon.

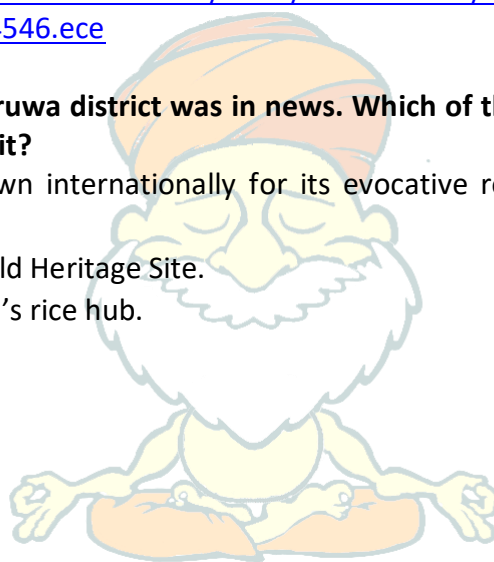
Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/15-killed-in-cameroon-boko-haram-attack/article32254546.ece>

Q.238) Recently, Polonnaruwa district was in news. Which of the statements given below is/are true with regard to it?

1. The district is known internationally for its evocative rock-cut Buddha sculptures and ancient city.
2. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
3. It is called Sri Lanka's rice hub.

Choose correct answer:

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



Q.238) Solution (c)

Polonnaruwa district is known internationally for its evocative rock-cut Buddha sculptures and ancient city — now a UNESCO World Heritage Site — that one strand of popular history traces to the Cholas. It is also the country's rice bowl, with the district's farmers producing the highest amount — 3 lakh metric tonnes last year — of paddy in the country.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/in-sri-lankas-rice-hub-a-tale-of-rural-neglect-and-mounting-debt/article32254703.ece>

Q.239) Consider the following statements about Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN):

1. It is an innovative technological solution aimed at strengthening immunization supply chain systems across the country.
2. This is being implemented under National Health Mission by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are incorrect?

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

Q.239) Solution (d)

eVIN is an innovative technological solution aimed at strengthening immunization supply chain systems across the country.

This is being implemented under National Health Mission by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

It aims to provide real-time information on vaccine stocks and flows, and storage temperatures across all cold chain points in the country.

This system has been used with the requisite customization during the COVID pandemic for ensuring continuation of the essential immunization services and protecting the children and pregnant mothers against vaccine preventable diseases.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1643172>

Q.240) The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters is also known as

- a) Aarhus Convention
- b) Marpol Convention
- c) London Convention
- d) OSPAR Convention

Q.240) Solution (a)

Formal name of the Aarhus Convention is UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters. It was signed in 1998 in the Danish city of Aarhus and entered into force in 2001. It is ratified by 41 countries which include the EU members and Central Asian Countries.

The most notable feature enshrined in EU legislations based upon this treaty is Water Framework Directive.

Aarhus Convention grants the public rights regarding access to information, public participation and access to justice, in governmental decision-making processes on matters concerning the local, national and Transboundary environment.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/the-hindu-explains-what-are-the-key-changes-in-the-environment-impact-assessment-notification-2020/article32249807.ece>

Q.241) Consider the following:

1. It is a pearl shaped 'mountain lake' that lies on the Ladakhi part of the Changthang plateau.
2. It is considered to be 'a sacred gift to a living planet.'
3. It is encircled by mountains and said to be the 'Jewel of the Rupshu Valley' is at an altitude of 14,836 ft.

The above characteristics are associated with which of the following lake?

- a) Tso Morari

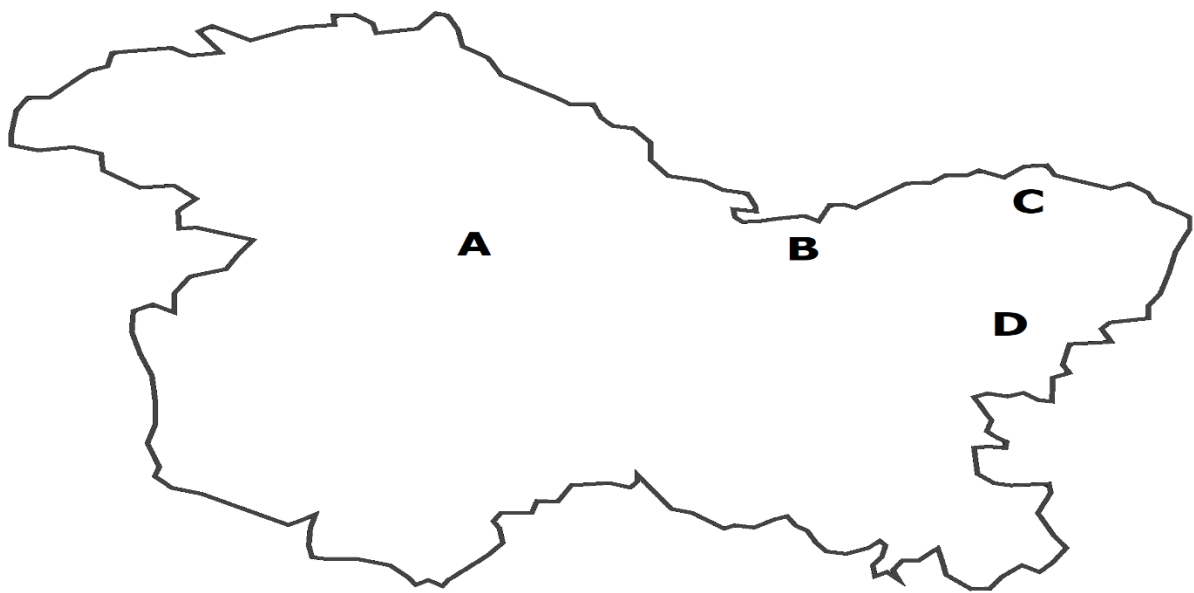
- b) Pangong Tso
- c) Wular
- d) Depsang

Q.241) Solution (a)

The Tso Morari, a pearl shaped 'mountain lake' that lies on the Ladakhi part of the Changthang plateau is considered to be 'a sacred gift to a living planet.'

Encircled by mountains rising over 20,000ft., this 'Jewel of the Rupshu Valley' is at an altitude of 14,836 ft. Changpas, the nomadic community of shepherds inhabit this part of the valley raising Yak, Sheep, goats and horses of Tibetan origin.

Q.242) Consider the below map and identify the correct locations from the options given below:



Choose correct answer:

A – B – C – D

- a) Deosai plains – Depsang plains – Lingi Tang plains – Soda plains
- b) Deosai plains – Depsang plains – Soda plains – Lingi Tang plains
- c) Soda plains – Depsang plains – Lingi Tang plains – Deosai plains
- d) Deosai plains – Lingi Tang plains – Soda plains – Depsang plains

Q.12) Solution (b)

Observe the figure below

**Q.243) Consider the following:**

1. This State occupies a unique position in the tribal map of India.
2. It is home to 62 different tribal communities including 13 particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs)
3. Tribes in this State speaks around 21 languages and 74 dialects.

The above unique characteristics corresponds to which of the below State?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Odisha
- d) Telangana

Q.243) Solution (c)

Odisha's unique position

- Odisha occupies a unique position in the tribal map of India.
- Odisha has most diverse tribal communities. It is home to 62 different tribal communities including 13 particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs).
- Tribes in Odisha speak around 21 languages and 74 dialects.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/imparting-education-to-tribals-in-their-languages-wont-be-hard/article32263356.ece>

Q.244) Consider the following pairs:

(Militant group) : : (Country of origin)

1. Boko Haram : : Nigeria
2. Hezbollah : : Syria
3. Hamas : : Lebanon

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

Q.244) Solution (a)

Correct pairs:

- Boko Haram : : Nigeria
- Hezbollah : : Lebanon
- Hamas : : Palestine

Q.245) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the 'Khelo India' program?

1. It aims at providing an annual scholarship of ₹ 500,000 each for eight years to 1,000 selected athletes.
2. This scheme is applicable only to the sports persons who have qualified for Olympics.
3. It will promote 20 universities as the hub of sports excellence.

Select the code from below:

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

Q.245) Solution (c)

Khelo India Scheme aims at providing an annual scholarship of ₹ 500,000 each for eight years to 1,000 selected athletes.

The government also promised to promote 20 universities across India as hubs for sporting excellence.

The revamped Khelo India programme would impact the entire sports ecosystem, including infrastructure, community sports, talent identification, coaching for excellence, competition structure and sports economy.

Until now, sports schemes were focused on building infrastructure such as stadiums. However, the new scheme will focus on nurturing talent and connecting rural India to global games.

Companies could also fund the Khelo India scheme under corporate social responsibility.

Recently, 8 states were identified where Khelo India State Centre of Excellence (KISCE) will be set up.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1643379>

Q. 246) The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is conducted by –

- a) Etudes Sans Frontières International (ESFI)
- b) United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO)
- c) World Economic Forum (WEF)
- d) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Q.246) Solution (d)

Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)

- It is a worldwide study by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in member and non-member nations intended to evaluate educational systems by measuring 15-year-old school pupils' scholastic performance on mathematics, science, and reading.
- It was first performed in 2000 and then repeated every three years.
- Its aim is to provide comparable data with a view to enabling countries to improve their education policies and outcomes. It measures problem solving and cognition in daily life.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/covid-19-pandemic-created-largest-disruption-of-education-in-history-un/article32265660.ece>

Q. 247) PART XVII of the Constitution deals with –

- a) Articles related to Public Services
- b) Articles related to Special Provisions for certain classes
- c) Articles related to Elections
- d) Articles related to Official Language

Q.247) Solution (d)

Part XVII of the Constitution deals with the official language in Articles 343 to 351. Its provisions are divided into four heads—Language of the Union, Regional languages, Language of the judiciary and texts of laws and Special directives.

Q.248) Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)?

1. It is a new department under Ministry of Agriculture for cooperation and Farmer's welfare
2. It is registered as Non – Banking Financial Institution by Reserve Bank of India.

Select the correct code from below:

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

Q.248) Solution (b)

Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)

- SFAC was established in 1994 under Societies Registration Act, 1860 as an autonomous body promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare.
- The Society is also registered as Non-Banking Financial Institution by Reserve Bank of India.
- The Society is governed by Board of Management which is chaired, ex-officio, by Hon'ble Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare as the President and the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Government of India, is the ex-officio Vice-President.
- SFAC is implementing the central schemes of Government of India namely VCA, ECGS for economic inclusion of small and marginal farmers in agribusiness activities.

Q.249) Consider the following statements:

1. Cess is a form of tax charged/levied over and above the base tax liability of a taxpayer.
2. Every taxpayer, who has to pay the income tax, is liable to pay a cess at the rate of 4%.

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

Q.249) Solution (c)

Cess is a variant of tax charged over the basic tax liability of a taxpayer. A cess is imposed when the government looks to raise funds for specific purposes. Cess is not the same as any other tax collected by the government such as income tax, goods and services tax, and excise duty.

Every taxpayer, who has to pay the income tax, is liable to pay a cess at the rate of 4%.

'Health and Education Cess' at 4% on tax (including surcharge) was introduced in Budget 2018.

Q.250) With reference to National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), consider the following statements:

1. NCDC is a statutory Corporation set up under National Cooperative Development Corporation Act, 2020.
2. NCDC is a major financial institution for cooperatives, and has recently started Mission Sahakar 22, which aims to double farmers' income by 2022.

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

Q.250) Solution (b)

National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)

- NCDC is a statutory corporation set up under National Cooperative Development Corporation Act, 1962.
- The objectives of NCDC are planning and promoting programmes for production, processing, marketing, storage, export and import of agricultural produce, foodstuffs, industrial goods, livestock and certain other notified commodities and services on cooperative principles.
- NCDC functions through its Head Office at New Delhi and multiple Regional Offices.
- The NCDC has the unique distinction of being the sole statutory organization functioning as an apex financial and developmental institution exclusively devoted to cooperative sector.
- NCDC is a major financial institution for cooperatives, and has recently started Mission Sahakar 22, which aims to double farmers' income by 2022.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1643349>

Q.251) Pokkali variety of rice was recently in news. Which of the statements given below is/are correct with regard to it?

1. It is grown extensively in large tracts of Sunderbans.
2. It has received a GI tag for its unique saline tolerant ability.

Choose correct answer:

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

Q.251) Solution (b)

Pokkali Rice

- The pokkali variety is known for its saltwater resistance and ability to flourish in the paddy fields of coastal districts of Kerala.
- The uniqueness of the rice has brought it the Geographical Indication (GI) tag and is the subject of continuing research.
- Now, Sundarbans farmers are planning to use pokkali seeds as about 80% of the rice paddies in the Sundarbans faced the problem of saltwater incursion.
- If Pokkali rice seedlings succeed, it would be a good step to turn around the fortunes of the farmers.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/pokkali-rice-seedlings-travel-from-kerala-to-the-sunderbans/article32278833.ece>

Q.252) Which among the following officer was regarded by Dr B R Ambedkar as the most important Officer under the Constitution of India during Constituent Assembly Debates?

- a) Comptroller and Auditor General

- b) Attorney General
- c) Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities
- d) Finance Commissioner

Q.252) Solution (a)

Comptroller and Auditor General of India is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department. He is the guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system of the country at both the levels—the Centre and the state. His duty is to uphold the Constitution of India and laws of Parliament in the field of financial administration.

This is the reason why Dr B R Ambedkar said that the CAG shall be the most important Officer under the Constitution of India.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/gc-murmu-appointed-comptroller-and-auditor-general-of-india/article32289014.ece>

Q.253) Consider the following pairs:

(Reports/Indices) : : (Prepared by)

1. Global Gender Gap Report : : WB
2. Global Social Mobility Index : : UNESCO
3. Inclusive Development Index : : UNDP
4. Global Competitiveness Report : : WEF

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

Q.253) Solution (b)

All the given indices are prepared by World Economic Forum (WEF)

Reports or Indices prepared by World Economic Forum –

- Global Gender Gap Report
- Global Social Mobility Index
- Inclusive Development Index
- Global Competitiveness Report
- Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report
- Global Energy Transition Report
- Global Risks Report
- Future of Jobs Report

Q.254) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is responsible for Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) relating to

1. Geographical Indication of goods
2. Copyrights
3. Semiconductor integrated circuits' layout design

Select the correct code:

- a) 1 and 2

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

Q.254) Solution (d)

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) is responsible for Intellectual Property Rights relating to Patents, Designs, Trade Marks, Geographical Indication of Goods, Copyrights and Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout Design and oversees the initiative relating to their promotion and protection.

These include the outlining of policy and its implementation through the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks.

It promotes awareness regarding protection of the Intellectual Property Rights inherent in industrial property in conjunction with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and apex industry organisations apart from similar initiatives involving regional industry associations.

It also provides inputs on various issues relating to the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Properties (TRIPS) related to World Trade Organisation (WTO) in these fields.

Q.255) Indra Sawhney case, 1992 is related to

- a) Reservation
- b) Right to Privacy
- c) Hate Speech
- d) Contempt of Court

Q.255) Solution (a)

Indra Sawhney Case 1992

- The 27% reservation quota for backward classes and the government notification reserving 10% government jobs for economically backward classes among the higher castes was challenged in the Supreme Court in the Indra Sawhney Case of 1992.
- On 16 November 1992 the Supreme Court upheld the Mandal Commission's 27 percent quota for backward classes, as well as the principle that the combined scheduled-caste, scheduled-tribe, and backward-class beneficiaries should not exceed 50 percent of India's population.

Q.256) Consider the following statements with reference to Pangolins:

1. It is the only scaly mammal on the planet.
2. It is the most illegally traded vertebrate within its class (Mammalia).
3. They have no teeth; they chew with gravel and keratinous spines inside the stomach.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.256) Solution (d)

About Pangolins

- Pangolin is only scaly mammal on the planet.
- According to CITES, it is also the most illegally traded vertebrate within its class (Mammalia).
- According to the latest report released by TRAFFIC in March 2018, Pangolin is the most trafficked mammal in the world.
- Pangolins has large, overlapping scales on its body which act as armour.
- It can also curl itself into ball as self-defence against predators.
- The colour of its scales varies depending on colour of earth in its surroundings.
- Pangolins is an insectivore, feeding on ants and termites, digging them out of mounds and logs using its long claws.
- They have no teeth; they chew with gravel and keratinous spines inside the stomach.
- It is nocturnal and rests in deep burrows during the day.

Do you know?

Of the eight species of pangolin worldwide, two are found in India. They are Chinese pangolin (*manis pentadactyla*), mostly found in northeast India and Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*).

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/pangolin-poaching-racket-busted-in-telangana/articleshow/77333759.cms>

Q.257) Cyclones, hurricanes and typhoons, may have different names, but cyclones, hurricanes and typhoons are all violent tropical storms that can generate 10 times as much energy as the Hiroshima atomic bomb. Which one of the following most appropriately differentiates the three?

- a) Names of storms according to their rising strength
- b) Names of storms in the South Pacific-Indian Ocean, the Atlantic-northeast Pacific and Asia respectively
- c) Names of storms according to their shape
- d) Name of storms according to frequency of occurrence

Q.257) Solution (b)

Cyclone is the term used for a low-pressure system that strikes the South Pacific and Indian Ocean. The same type of disturbance in the Atlantic and northeast Pacific is called a hurricane while typhoon is the term used in Asia.

Meteorologists use the term “tropical cyclone” when talking generally about these immensely powerful natural phenomena, which are divided into five categories according to the maximum sustained wind force and the scale of the potential damage they can inflict.

Q.258) Consider the following pairs:

(Body/Department) : : (Associated Ministry)

1. FSSAI : : Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
2. CSIR : : Ministry of Science & Technology
3. TRIFED : : Ministry of Rural Development
4. Department of Atomic Energy : : Ministry of Science & Technology

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2

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

Q.28) Solution (a)

Correct pairs:

- FSSAI : : Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- CSIR : : Ministry of Science & Technology
- TRIFED : : Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- Department of Atomic Energy : : Direct Prime Minister's Office

Q.259) Consider the following statements with reference to Mullaperiyar Dam

1. It is situated at the confluence of Mullayar and Periyar rivers.
2. It is located entirely in Kerala.
3. The dam is operated by Tamil Nadu state only for irrigation purpose.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Q.259) Solution (a)

Mullaperiyar Dam is situated at the confluence of the Mullayar and Periyar rivers. It is located entirely in Kerala.

The dam is operated by the Tamil Nadu government for irrigation and power generation.

In 1886, a lease was made between the Maharaja of Travancore {a Princely state} and Secretary of State for India {Lord Kimberley} for Periyar Irrigation works. This lease was for 999 years and it granted full right to make and carry out any construction on the leased land to Secretary of State for India.

As per the lease, Mullaperiyar Dam was constructed during 1887-1895 across Periyar River in the then Travancore state (now Kerala) territory. The Dam provides for diversion of water from the reservoir through a tunnel to Vaigai basin in Tamil Nadu for irrigation benefits.

By another agreement in 1970, Tamil Nadu was permitted to generate power also.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/bring-down-mullaperiyar-level-kerala-urges-tn/article32306271.ece>

Q.260) Consider the following statements about The Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP)

1. It is world's first joint initiative that aims to conserve the snow leopard.
2. All 12 snow leopard range countries are a part of this initiative.
3. The initiative aims to secure at least 20 snow leopard landscapes by 2020.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.260) Solution (d)

The Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP) is the world's first joint initiative that aims to conserve the endangered snow leopard within the broader context of also conserving valuable high mountain ecosystems.

GSLEP unites all 12 range country governments, nongovernmental and inter-governmental organisations, local communities, and the private sector around this aim.

The snow leopard range countries agree, with support from interested organizations, to work together to identify and secure at least 20 snow leopard landscapes across the cat's range by 2020 or, in shorthand – "Secure 20 by 2020."

Q.261) Sonneratia alba, which was recently in news, is –

- a) Maharashtra's state tree
- b) An invasive alien species
- c) An evergreen mangrove species
- d) Vytilla variety of apple

Q.261) Solution (c)

About Sonneratia alba

- Sonneratia alba or mangrove apple is an evergreen mangrove species found along the Maharashtra's coastline
- Sonneratia alba grow up to five feet and bear white flowers with a pink base as well as green fruits, that resemble apple and are used to make pickles.
- The flowers, which bloom at night, are pollinated by nocturnal creatures like bats.
- The species was introduced in Maharashtra and is native to Andaman Islands.

Maharashtra State Board for Wildlife (SBWL) cleared a proposal to declare Sonneratia alba as the State mangrove tree. (Maharashtra state tree is mango)

Q.262) What is the objective of FAME India?

- a) To increase India's soft power through penetration of Indian Cinema
- b) To quickly adopt and manufacture hybrid and Electric vehicles
- c) To promote Tourism in South East Asian Countries
- d) To provide scholarships to top 500 school students for higher education in reputed foreign colleges.

Q.262) Solution (b)

FAME India

- Government notified the scheme for Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME), as a part of its National Electric Mobility Mission Plan 2020.
- The scheme has four focus areas: technology development, pilot project, charging infrastructure and demand creation.

Q.263) Consider the following pairs with reference to Maharashtra state:

1. State animal : : Flying squirrel

2. State bird : : Domestic pigeon
3. State butterfly : : Blue Mormon

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

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

Q.263) Solution (b)

Maharashtra already has the state tree (mango), state animal (giant squirrel), state bird (green pigeon), state butterfly (Blue Mormon), and state flower (jarul).

Q.264) Consider the following statements about 'Humpback Whale'

1. They are sexually dimorphic in nature
2. They have been listed as endangered in IUCN red list

Select the correct statements

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

Q.264) Solution (a)

Basic info:

IUCN status – Least Concern

Found – Around the world

The humpback whale is one of the four species of baleen whales occurring in Indian waters and it is one of the least studied species in India.

Q.265) Kavkaz 2020, strategic command--post exercise, is held with which of the following members states:

- a) Kazakhstan and India
- b) Afghanistan and India
- c) India and South East Asia
- d) Russia and SCO members

Q.265) Solution (d)

About:

- India to take part in Russian Kavkaz 2020 strategic command--post exercise.
- The invitees include China and Pakistan, apart from other member -states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
- Kavkaz 2020 to be held in Astrakhan (Russia)

Q.266) Eravikulam National Park, which was recently in news, is located in –

- a) Kerala
- b) Tamil Nadu

- c) Karnataka
- d) Puducherry

Q.266) Solution (a)

Recently 6 staff members of Kerala Forest Department were killed in Idukki landslide. The staff were engaged in the conservation of the endangered Nilgiri tahr in Eravikulam National Park for three decades.

Q.267) With regard to National infrastructure Pipeline, consider the following statements:

1. It is an investment plan in identified sectors for a period of 10 years, 2020-2030.
2. The funding will be jointly made by the centre and state in the proportion of 50:50 ratio.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.267) Solution (d)

National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)

- It is the investment plan unveiled by the Central Government for enhancing infrastructure in identified sectors for a period of five years from 2020-25.
- \$1.4 trillion have been allotted to NIP.
- It will help India to become the \$5 trillion economy by 2025.
- The funding will be jointly made by the Centre, states and the private sector in the proportion of 39:39:22 ratio.

Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1644812>

Q.268) Which of the following is/are part of Concurrent List under Schedule VII of the Constitution?

1. Education
2. Public health and sanitation
3. Bankruptcy and insolvency
4. Drugs and poisons

Choose correct answer:

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

Q.268) Solution (d)

Public health and sanitation are under STATE LIST (LIST-II)

Education; Bankruptcy and insolvency; Drugs and poisons – are under CONCURRENT LIST (LIST-III)

Q.269) Consider the following statements

1. 'Aditya-L1 Mission' is meant to observe only the solar corona
2. Corona is hotter than the photosphere

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

Q.269) Solution (b)

Aditya-1 was meant to observe only the solar corona. The outer layers of the Sun, extending to thousands of km above the disc (photosphere) is termed as the corona. It has a temperature of more than a million degree Kelvin which is much higher than the solar disc temperature of around 6000K. How the corona gets heated to such high temperatures is still an unanswered question in solar physics.

Aditya-L1 with additional experiments can now provide observations of Sun's Photosphere (soft and hard X-ray), Chromosphere (UV) and corona (Visible and NIR).

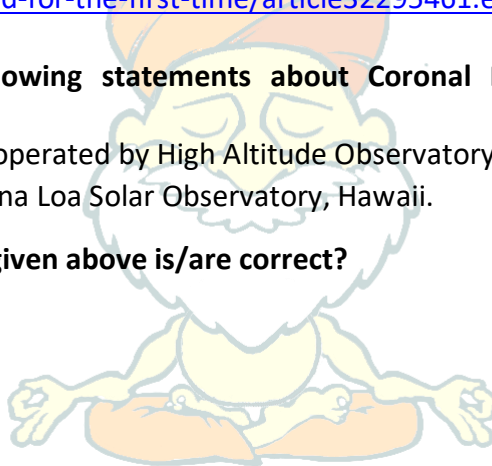
Article reference : <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/global-magnetic-field-of-suns-atmosphere-measured-for-the-first-time/article32295461.ece>

Q.270) Consider the following statements about Coronal Multi-channel Polarimeter (CoMP)

1. It is an instrument operated by High Altitude Observatory, of the U.S.
2. It is located at Mauna Loa Solar Observatory, Hawaii.

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

**Q.270) Solution (c)**

International team of solar physicists led by those from Peking University, China, and National Center for Atmospheric Research of the United States measured the global magnetic field of the Sun's corona, or outer atmosphere, for the very first time.

The team used the improved measurements of the Coronal Multi-channel Polarimeter (CoMP) and advanced data analysis to measure the coronal magnetic field. CoMP is an instrument operated by High Altitude Observatory, of the U.S. It is located at Mauna Loa Solar Observatory, near the summit of that volcano on the big island of Hawaii.

Article reference : <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/global-magnetic-field-of-suns-atmosphere-measured-for-the-first-time/article32295461.ece>

Q.271) Consider the following statements about River Godavari and identify the incorrect statement:

- a) This river is known as Dakshin Ganga.
- b) Shimsha, Hemavati, Arkavati, Bhavani are tributaries of this river.
- c) National Waterway 4 is developed on this river.

d) The drainage basin extends to Odisha.

Q.271) Solution (b)

The Godavari is India's second longest river after the Ganga. Its source is in Triambakeshwar, Maharashtra.

River Godavari is also known as Dakshin Ganga.

Tributaries

- Left – Banganga, Kadva, Shivana, Purna, Kadam, Pranahita, Indravati, Taliperu, Sabari
- Right – Nasardi, Darna, Pravara, Sindphana, Manjira, Manair, Kinnerasani

National Waterway 4 (NW-4) connects the Indian states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and the union territory of Puducherry. Second phase of NW-4 will be developed from Vijayawada to Kakinada and Rajahmundry to Polavaram on Godavari river.

The river flows east for 1,465 kilometres (910 mi) draining the states of Maharashtra (48.6%), Telangana (18.8%), Andhra Pradesh (4.5%), Chhattisgarh (10.9%), Madhya Pradesh (10.0%), Odisha (5.7%), Karnataka (1.4%) and Puducherry (Yanam) and emptying into Bay of Bengal through its extensive network of tributaries.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/centre-urged-to-allocate-1000-tmcft-more-from-godavari/article32321947.ece>

Q.272) With reference to Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, consider the following statements:

1. The Act fulfills the obligations to the United National Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).
2. The Act increased the quota for disability reservation in higher educational institutions from 3% to 5% and in government jobs from 3% to 4%.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.272) Solution (c)

Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016

The Act replaces the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

It fulfills the obligations to the United National Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), to which India is a signatory.

The Act recognises 21 kinds of disabilities compared to the previous seven, including dwarfism, speech and language disability, and three blood disorders.

The Act also increased the quota for disability reservation in higher educational institutions from 3% to 5% and in government jobs from 3% to 4%, for a more inclusive society.

The Act provides for grant of guardianship by District Court under which there will be joint decision – making between the guardian and the persons with disabilities.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-miscellaneous/tp-others/hc-issues-notice-to-upsc-after-plea-says-quota-for-disabled-neglected/article32321809.ece>

Q.273) Which among the following Commission was appointed, in terms of Article 340 of the Constitution, to investigate the conditions of the socially and educationally backward classes and suggest measures for their advancement?

- a) Lee Commission
- b) Mandal Commission
- c) S K Dar Commission
- d) Fazl Ali Commission

Q.273) Solution (b)

Thirty years ago, on 7 August 1990, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the prime minister at the time, announced that Other Backward Classes (OBCs) would get 27 per cent reservation in jobs in central government services and public sector units. The announcement was made before both Houses of Parliament.

The decision was based on a report submitted on 31 December 1980 that recommended reservations for OBCs not just in government jobs but also central education institutions. The recommendation was made by the Mandal Commission, which was set up in 1979 under the Morarji Desai government and chaired by B.P. Mandal.

Article reference: <https://theprint.in/theprint-essential/30-years-since-mandal-commission-recommendations-how-it-began-and-its-impact-today/477260/>

Q.274) Oslo Peace Accord deals with –

- a) International copyright treaties administered by WIPO.
- b) series of agreements between Israel and the Palestinians signed in the 1990s.
- c) principles governing the activities of States in the exploration and peaceful use of Outer Space.
- d) recognising the sovereignty of Norway over the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard.

Q.274) Solution (b)

Oslo Peace Accord

- The Oslo peace accords of the 1990s gave the Palestinians self--rule in parts of the West Bank.
- Oslo Accords are a series of agreements between Israel and the Palestinians signed in the 1990s.
- Oslo I (1993) formally known as the Declaration of Principles (DOP) established a timetable for the Middle East peace process. It planned for an interim Palestinian government in Gaza and Jericho in the West Bank.
- Oslo II officially called the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza (1995), expanded on Oslo I.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/palestinian-family-in-cave-home-faces-eviction/article32321271.ece>

Q.275) Swaraj Island, Long Island and Shaheed Dweep are islands located in –

- a) Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- b) Runn of Kutch
- c) Lakshadweep Islands

d) Laccadive Sea

Q.275) Solution (a)

PM Modi recently launched submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) which connects Andaman & Nicobar Islands to the mainland.

Apart from providing for better internet & mobile connectivity, efforts are being made to improve physical connectivity through road, air and water and above listed islands (Swaraj Island, Long Island and Shaheed Dweep) are important sites for development.

Source: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/pm-narendra-modi-asks-party-workers-to-tell-andaman-development-story/story-cirgBxSD9LChQ7o1EumuQM.html>

Q.276) Consider the following statements about State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF):

1. It is constituted under Disaster Management Act, 2005
2. The Central Government contributes 75% of SDRF allocation for general category States/UTs and 90% for special category States/UTs
3. SDRF shall be used only for meeting the expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.276) Solution (d)

The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), constituted under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, is the primary fund available with State Governments for responses to notified disasters.

The Central Government contributes 75% of SDRF allocation for general category States/UTs and 90% for special category States/UTs (NE States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir).

The annual Central contribution is released in two equal installments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission.

SDRF shall be used only for meeting the expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims.

Source: <https://www.ndmindia.nic.in/response-fund#>

Q.277) Which among the following is true about Mushaira?

- a) It is an unique dance form with many hand gestures and rhythmic syllables.
- b) It is a poetic symposium.
- c) Ethnic group scattered in Balochistan.
- d) It is a black-feathered chicken known for its flavourful meat and found mainly in the tribal district of Jhabua.

Q.277) Solution (b)

Mushaira is a poetic symposium. It is an event where poets gather to perform their works. A mushaira is a beloved part of the Culture of North India, Pakistan and the Deccan,

particularly among the Hyderabad Muslims, and it is greatly admired by participants as a forum for free self-expression.

Eminent Urdu poet Rahat Indori, well known as a “rockstar of the Indian literary world”, a “people’s poet” and prince of the “mushaira” tradition, succumbed to COVID-related complications recently.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/renowned-urdu-poet-rah-at-indori-dies-aged-70/article32326839.ece>

Q.278) Sputnik V, which was recently in news, is associated with –

- Recent satellite launched by Russia.
- World’s first satellite launched by the Soviet Union.
- It is a newly approved Covid-19 vaccine by Russia.
- Recently unveiled rocket-boosted hypersonic glide vehicle which can reach Mach 10 by Russia.

Q.278) Solution (c)

Sputnik V

- Russia became the first country to grant regulatory approval to a COVID-19 vaccine after less than two months of human testing.
- The vaccine is named – ‘Sputnik V’ – in homage to the world’s first satellite launched by the Soviet Union.
- Sputnik V yet to complete its final trials.
- Russia expects the vaccine into mass production by the end of the year.

Source: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/world/russia-becomes-first-country-to-approve-a-covid-19-vaccine-says-putin/article32324971.ece>

Q.279) Mitakshara and Dayabhaga is associated with

- A work on astronomy
- An Agamic text
- A compendium on medicine
- A treatise on ancient Hindu law of inheritance

Q.279) Solution (d)

The Mitākṣarā is a vivṛti (legal commentary) on the Yajñavalkya Smṛiti best known for its theory of “inheritance by birth.” It was written by Vijñāneśvara, a scholar in the Western Chalukya court in the late eleventh and early twelfth century. Along with the Dāyabhāga, it was considered one of the main authorities on Hindu Law from the time the British began administering laws in India. The entire Mitākṣarā, along with the text of the Yājñavalkya-smṛiti, is approximately 492 closely printed pages.

The Dāyabhāga is a Hindu law treatise written by Jīmūtavāhana which primarily focuses on inheritance procedure. The Dāyabhāga was the strongest authority in Modern British Indian courts in the Bengal region of India, although this has changed due to the passage of the Hindu Succession Act of 1956 and subsequent revisions to the act. Based on Jīmūtavāhana’s criticisms of the Mitākṣarā, it is thought that his work is precluded by the Mitākṣarā. This has led many scholars to conclude that the Mitākṣarā represents the orthodox doctrine of Hindu law, while the Dāyabhāga represents the reformed version.

The central difference between the texts is based upon when one becomes the owner of property. The Dāyabhāga does not give the sons a right to their father's ancestral property until after his death, unlike Mitākṣarā, which gives the sons the right to ancestral property upon their birth. The digest has been commented on more than a dozen times.

Q.280) The active volcano in Indonesia's Mount Sinabung, which often seen in news, is located in –

- a) Sumatra island
- b) Java island
- c) Kalimantan island
- d) Sulawesi island

Q.280) Solution (a)

Mount Sinabung

- It is an active volcano in North Sumatra, Indonesia.
- Indonesia is home to many active volcanoes, due to its position on the "Ring of Fire", or the Circum-Pacific Belt, which is an area along the Pacific Ocean characterised by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.

Source: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-volcanic-eruption-in-indonesias-mount-sinabung-6550530/>

Q.281) Consider the following statements about Absciscic acid (ABA):

1. ABA helps prepare a plant for winter by slowing growth
2. ABA ensures seeds do not germinate during winter
3. ABA inhibits growth, and closes stomata during water stress.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.281) Solution (d)

Absciscic acid (ABA) inhibits growth, and closes stomata during water stress. It also promotes seed dormancy. Seed dormancy only germinates seed under good conditions of light, temp, and moisture.

The high levels of ABA in maturing seeds inhibit germination, inducing production of special proteins that help seeds withstand dehydration.

ABA helps prepare a plant for winter by slowing growth, preventing new branches from forming and ensuring seeds do not germinate during winter.

Absciscic acid is the key to many plant processes, including to survival tactics in challenging environmental conditions.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/iiser-bhopal-scientists-study-on-seed-germination-may-lead-to-crop-improvement/article32340355.ece>

Q.282) Which of the statements given below are true with reference to Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971?

1. Under the Act, an abortion cannot be performed based solely on women's request.
2. Under the Act, a pregnancy may be terminated within 20 weeks, only with the opinion of two registered medical practitioners.
3. Under the 1971 Act, even pregnant rape victims cannot abort after 20 weeks.

Choose correct answer:

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

Q.282) Solution (c)

Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971

In India, under the MTP Act, abortion is a qualified right. An abortion can't be performed based solely on a woman's request. And it can only be performed by a registered medical practitioner before 12 weeks of pregnancy. In case the woman had been pregnant for more than 12 weeks – but for less than 20 weeks – the opinions of two medical practitioners are required.

However, the underlying condition remains: an abortion is permitted only if continuing the pregnancy poses a 'substantial risk' to the woman's life or to her 'physical or mental health'. Alternatively, if the child that is yet to be born faces similar substantial risk – in that it would suffer from 'physical or mental abnormalities' or may be 'seriously handicapped' – an abortion may be allowed.

In case of pregnancies caused by rape, or a failure of birth control (for married women), the risk to their mental health is admissible grounds for abortion. The premise of keeping the window for abortion open only until 20 weeks is that, generally, abnormalities can be detected by that time.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/study-finds-poor-access-to-abortion-drugs/article32340119.ece>

Q.283) Consider the following statements:

1. Papum Reserve Forest (RF) is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) in Assam.
2. Pakke Tiger Reserve lies in the foothills of the eastern Himalaya in Arunachal Pradesh.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.283) Solution (b)

Papum Reserve Forest (RF) is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) in Arunachal Pradesh. It is located between two IBAs, Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary to the east and Pakke Wildlife Sanctuary to the west.

Pakke Tiger Reserve lies in the foothills of the eastern Himalaya in the East Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh. It falls within the Eastern Himalaya Biodiversity Hotspot.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/forest-cover-loss-threatens-hornbills-in-arunachal/article32339946.ece>

Q.284) Consider the following pairs:

(Endangered species) : : (IUCN Status)

1. Wreathed hornbill : : Least Concern
2. Rufous-necked hornbill : : Vulnerable
3. Oriental pied hornbill : : Vulnerable

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

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

Q.284) Solution (c)

Wreathed hornbill

- It is a species of hornbill found in forests from far north-eastern India and Bhutan, east and south through mainland Southeast Asia and the Greater Sundas in Indonesia, except Sulawesi.
- IUCN – Vulnerable

Oriental pied hornbill

- It is considered to be among the smallest and most common of the Asian hornbills. It has the largest distribution in the genus and is found in the Indian Subcontinent and throughout Southeast Asia.
- Its natural habitat is subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests.
- IUCN – Least Concern

Rufous-necked hornbill

- It is a species of hornbill in northeastern India, especially in Arunachal Pradesh, Indian Subcontinent and Southeast Asia.
- It is locally extinct in Nepal due to hunting and significant loss of habitat.
- IUCN – Vulnerable

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/forest-cover-loss-threatens-hornbills-in-arunachal/article32339946.ece>

Q.285) Adi, Galos, Nyishi and Tagin are ethnic groups or communities belonging to gin community-

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Assam
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Meghalaya

Q.285) Solution (a)

Galos are one of the 26 major communities of Arunachal Pradesh, and dominate West Siang, Lepa Rada and Lower Siang districts. They have a big population in East Siang, Upper Subansiri and Namsai districts too.

The Nyishi community is the largest ethnic group in Arunachal Pradesh.

The Tagin are one of the major tribes of Arunachal Pradesh, a member of the larger designation of Tani Tribes. Tagins are known for their warm hospitality and are considered very friendly in nature and also pure hearted.

The Adi people are one of the most populous groups of indigenous peoples in Arunachal Pradesh.

Q.286) Consider the following statement about 'Fishing Cat'

1. It is listed as 'critically endangered' under the IUCN Red List
2. It is the state animal of West Bengal and Odisha

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

Q.286) Solution (c)

Fishing Cat

- The fishing cat (*Prionailurus viverrinus*) is a medium-sized wild cat of South and Southeast Asia. Since 2016, it is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.
- Fishing cat populations are threatened by destruction of wetlands and declined severely over the last decade.
- Fishing cats live foremost in the vicinity of wetlands, along rivers, streams, oxbow lakes, in swamps and mangroves.
- The fishing cat is the state animal of West Bengal.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/fishing-cat-collaring-project-to-begin-in-aps-coringa/article32358722.ece>

Q.287) Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, which is known for its wildlife attractions such as Golden Jackal, Sea turtle, Fishing cat, Estuarine Crocodile, Small Blue Kingfisher, Cattle Egret, is situated in –

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Odisha

Q.287) Solution (b)

Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary:

- It is a wildlife sanctuary and estuary situated in Andhra Pradesh.
- The sanctuary is a part of the Godavari estuary and has extensive mangrove and dry deciduous tropical forest.
- It is the second largest stretch of mangrove forests in India (after Sundarbans).

- It is home to the critically endangered white-backed vulture and the long-billed vulture.
- Its main wildlife attractions are Golden Jackal, Sea turtle, Fishing cat, Estuarine Crocodile, Small Blue Kingfisher, Cattle Egret.
- Hope Island and Sacramento Island located in the mangrove region are two important nesting sites for the endangered Olive Ridley turtles.

Article reference: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/fishing-cat-collaring-project-to-begin-in-aps-coringa/article32358722.ece>

Q.288) In India, the use of Acephate, Triazophos, Thiamethoxam, Carbendazim, Tricyclazole, Buprofezin, Carbofuron, Propiconazole and Thiophinate Methyl is viewed with apprehension. These chemicals are used as

- preservatives in processed foods
- fruit-ripening agents
- moisturising agents in cosmetics
- pesticides in agriculture

Q.288) Solution (d)

Recently, Punjab government ordered a ban on the sale and use of nine agro-chemicals, after the agriculture department found that these were still being used by farmers though they adversely impacted the quality of rice.

Agro-chemicals which are banned include – Acephate, Triazophos, Thiamethoxam, Carbendazim, Tricyclazole, Buprofezin, Carbofuron, Propiconazole and Thiophinate Methyl.

Source: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/punjab-bans-sale-use-of-nine-agro-chemicals/article32360056.ece>

Q.289) Consider the following statements:

- Article 244 in Part X of the Constitution envisages a special system of administration for certain areas designated as 'scheduled areas' and 'tribal areas'.
- The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes in all the states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.289) Solution (a)

Article 244

- Article 244 of Constitution of India deals with Administration of Scheduled Areas and Tribal Areas.
- The provisions of the Fifth Schedule shall apply to the administration and control of the Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes in any State other than the States of Assam Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

- The provisions of the Sixth Schedule shall apply to the administration of the tribal areas in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram

Q.290) Consider the following statements about the District and Regional councils formed under the Sixth Schedule:

1. The district and regional councils have power to make laws on all the matters for their territorial jurisdiction subject to the approval of governor.
2. District Council in an autonomous district consists of 30 members and they are elected on the basis of adult franchise.

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

Q.290) Solution (d)

The various features of administration contained in the Sixth Schedule are as follows:

The tribal areas in the four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram have been constituted as autonomous districts. Each autonomous district has a district council consisting of 30 members, of whom four are nominated by the governor and the remaining 26 are elected on the basis of adult franchise. Hence, statement (2) is wrong.

The district and regional councils administer the areas under their jurisdiction. They can make laws on certain specified matters (not on all matters) like land, forests, canal water, shifting cultivation, village administration, inheritance of property, marriage and divorce, social customs and so on. But all such laws require the assent of the governor. Hence, statement (1) is wrong.

The district and regional councils within their territorial jurisdictions can constitute village councils or courts for trial of suits and cases between the tribes. They hear appeals from them. The jurisdiction of high court over these suits and cases is specified by the governor.

The district council can establish, construct or manage primary schools, dispensaries, markets, ferries, fisheries, roads and so on in the district. It can also make regulations for the control of money lending and trading by non-tribals. But such regulations require the assent of the governor.

Q.291) Consider the following pairs:

1. 'Palash flower' (Butea monosperma) : : State flower of Jharkhand
2. Elephant : : Jharkhand's State animal

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

Q.291) Solution (c)

Jharkhand unveiled the new State logo on the eve of 74th Independence Day.



The State logo is circular in size with the Emblem of India placed at the centre.

Jharkhand's rich cultural heritage, age-old traditions, musical instruments, folklore and dance are reflected in the new logo. The logo accommodates 'Palash flower' (Butea monosperma), which is the State flower of Jharkhand. Its bright red colour represents Jharkhand's beauty and the struggle of people.

Elephant, Jharkhand's State animal is also in the logo.

Q.292) The term "COBOTICS", seen in news often, is associated with –

- Robots specifically designed to help in fight against COVID-19, where robots are isolated from human contact.
- Robots intended for direct human robot interaction within a shared space or where humans and robots are in close proximity.
- The hidden threat of antibiotics resistance lurking behind COVID-19.
- Interdisciplinary research area at the interface of computer science and engineering, involving design, construction, operation and use of robots during pandemic times.

Q.292) Solution (b)

Cobotics

- Cobots, or collaborative robots, are robots intended for direct human robot interaction within a shared space, or where humans and robots are in close proximity.
- Cobot applications contrast with traditional industrial robot applications in which robots are isolated from human contact.

Q.293) Among the agriculture product exported by India which one of the following which one of the following accounts for the highest export in terms of value in the last five years?

- Basmathi rice
- Wheat
- Fresh fruits
- Dairy products

Q.293) Solution (a)

In FY19, export of agricultural and processed food products totalled US\$ 38.49 billion. During the period, top commodities to be exported were basmati rice (US\$ 4.71 billion), buffalo meat (US\$ 3.58 billion) and non-basmati rice (US\$ 3.00 billion).

Q.294) Recently the word Sepsis is seen in news in reference to:

- a) AI technology for Data analysis
- b) Organ dysfunction
- c) New venture of CSIR
- d) Drug against cold and cough

Q.294) Solution (b)

Sepsis is a common cause of death from Coronavirus

Sepsis is a life-threatening organ dysfunction caused by the body's immune system overreacting in response to an infection.

This overactive, toxic response can lead to tissue damage, multiple organ failure and death.

Cause: Sepsis can be triggered by a variety of pathogens- Viruses, bacteria, fungi or parasites

Treatment: The blood is examined, a broad-spectrum antibiotic is administered, and sufficient blood circulation and ventilation are ensured.

Q.295) NASA's first mission dedicated to looking deep beneath the Martian surface is named as:

- a) Vision
- b) InSight
- c) View mars
- d) NIMM

Q.295) Solution (b)

NASA's InSight Mars Mission

NASA's Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport (InSight) lander touched down on Mars at the end of 2018.

InSight is the first mission dedicated to looking deep beneath the Martian surface.

Among its science tools are a seismometer for detecting quakes, sensors for gauging wind and air pressure, a magnetometer, and a heat flow probe designed to take the planet's temperature.

It is part of NASA's Discovery Program.

InSight is a two year mission that will study the deep interior of Mars to learn how all celestial bodies with rocky surfaces, including Earth and the Moon, formed.

Q.296) The Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) ICGS is built by Goa Shipyard Limited has been launched by the Indian Coast Guard in the name of:

- a) Yashas
- b) Veer
- c) Vikram
- d) Sarthak

Q.296) Solution (d)

An Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) for the Indian Coast Guard named as Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) 'Sarthak' was launched on 13 August 2020, as a part of Atmanirbhar Bharat Week activities. Sarthak is 4th in the series of five Coast Guard OPVs, being designed in-house and built by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).

Q.297) Consider the following pairs

Rivers :: Origin states

1. Ganga :: Uttarakhand
2. Indus :: Himachal Pradesh
3. Krishna :: Karnataka

Which of the pairs given above is/are correct?

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

Q.297) Solution (a)

Important rivers and their places of origin

Rivers and their Places of Origin

River	Place of origin
Ganga	Gangotri (Uttarakhand)
Yamuna	Yamunotri (Uttarakhand)
Indus	Mansarovar (Tibet)
Narmada	Maikal Hills, Amarkantak (MP)
Tapi/Tapti	Satpura Range, Betul (MP)
Mahanadi	Nagri Town (Chhattisgarh)
Brahmaputra	Chemayungdung (Tibet)
Sutlej	Mt Kailash (Tibet)
Beas	Rohtang Pass (Himachal Pradesh)
Godavari	Nasik (Maharashtra)
Krishna	Mahabaleshwar (Maharashtra)
Cauvery	Brahmagiri Hills, Coorg (Karnataka)

Q.298) Consider the following Statements with respect to PM-CARES:

1. PM-CARE is under the ambit of Section 2(h) of RTI Act 2005.
2. Donations given to PM-CARE fund avail 100% tax exemption.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.298) Solution (b)

PM-CARES Fund

- PM-CARES was set up as a public charitable trust with the trust deed registered on March 27, 2020.
- It can avail donations from the foreign contribution and donations to fund can also avail 100% tax exemption.
- PM-CARES is different from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF).
- PM-CARES Not a Public Authority: It has been stated that the PM-CARES Fund is not a Public Authority under the ambit of Section 2(h) of the RTI Act, 2005.

Composition:

- Prime Minister as chairperson
- Defence Minister, Home Minister, Finance Minister
- Three trustees nominated by the Prime Minister "who shall be eminent persons in the field of research, health, science, social work, law, public administration and philanthropy".
- Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)

Q.299) "Magistrate point", which is recently seen in news, is referred to:

- a) Name of the mountain peak
- b) Name of the District magistrate conference
- c) Name of the deepest point in Mediterranean sea
- d) Place of Honor given to retired magistrate

Q.299) Solution (a)

"Magistrate point"

- Spain mountain peak named after Uttarakhand's IAS officer Dr Ashish Chauhan
- Spanish mountaineer Antonio has named the virgin peak in Spain as 'Magistrate's Point' after the Spanish mountaineer summits
- Antonio has dedicated the achievement to the former Uttarkashi collector for his humane gesture for helping him during his summit to Mt Satopanth in 2018, where he had stuck amid climbing the peak

Q.300) Which of the following Indian states does not share border with Bhutan?

- a) West Bengal
- b) Assam
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Bihar

Q.300) Solution (d)

Bhutan shares borders with the Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh in its east, Sikkim in the west and Assam and West Bengal in the south. The Himalayan kingdom also shares border with Nepal and China.

**Q.301) Consider the following statement with respect to International Solar Alliance (ISA):**

1. International Solar Alliance is head quartered in India
2. 67 countries have signed and ratified the ISA framework agreement

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.301) Solution (c)

International Solar Alliance

- The launch of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was announced by the Prime Minister of India (Narendra Modi) and former President of France (Francois Hollande) on 30th November 2015, at the 21st session of United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-21) in Paris, France.
- Head quarter of International Solar alliance is situated in Gurugram, India.
- It was conceived as a coalition of solar-resource-rich countries (which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn) to address their special energy needs.
- 67 countries have signed and ratified the ISA framework agreement.
- The Assembly of the ISA is the apex decision-making body which comprises representatives from each Member Country.
- It aims at lowering the cost of technology and finance and thereby facilitate deployment of over 1,000 GW of solar energy and mobilize more than USD 1,000 billion into solar power by 2030 in Member countries.
- Solar is a key source of affordable and reliable energy, thus it could play a significant role in achieving the universal energy access goal (SDG 7).

Q.302) What is the name of the app that ensures involvement of the public in monitoring of pollution entering into the river Ganga?

- Bhuvan Ganga web app
- Akash Ganga web app
- Sagar Ganga web app
- Jal web app

Q.302) Solution (a)

The application and web portal was launched after a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the National Mission for Clean Ganga and the National Remote Sensing Centre (ISRO).

Purpose of the user-friendly Bhuvan Mobile App and Portal

The android based app will help in monitoring Union Government's flagship Clean Ganga Mission.

It will be used as a tool to support decision making and planning for the Clean Ganga Mission.

It will enable public to collect and report information on various pollution sources that affects the water quality of river Ganga.

Bhuvan Ganga Portal is an exclusive web portal deployed in ISRO Bhuvan's geoportal with all geospatial layers related to river Ganga.

Q.303) Bhadbhut project is related to which river?

- Kaveri River
- Ganga River
- Yamuna River
- Narmada river

Q.303) Solution (d)

Bhadbhut project

It is located across the river Narmada, 5 km from Bhadbhut village and 25 km from the mouth of the river, where it flows into the Gulf of Khambhat.

The project is part of the larger Kalpasar Project, which entails the construction of a 30-km dam across the Gulf of Khambhat between Bharuch and Bhavnagar districts.

Kalpasar Project aims to store Gujarat's 25% average annual surface water resources..

This reservoir will store about 8,000 million cubic metres (MCM) of surface water and will be one of the world's largest freshwater reservoirs in the sea.

Q.304) Consider the following statements with respect to Mewati Gharana of music:

1. Gharana system can be seen in Carnatic music
2. Gharanas exist for both vocal and instrumental traditions as well as for dance.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.304) Solution (b)

Gharana in Hindustani music of India, is a community of performers who share a distinctive musical style that traces to a particular instructor or region or ancestry.

It includes not only peculiarities of performance and repertoire but also a broader ideology of music, aesthetics, and pedagogy.

The style must be passed down through at least three generations before it and its practitioners may be considered a gharana.

Gharanas exist for both vocal and instrumental traditions as well as for dance.

The gharana concept gained currency only in the nineteenth century when the royal patronage enjoyed by performers weakened. Performers were then compelled to move to urban centres. To retain their respective identities, they associated themselves with the names of the regions they hailed from.

Some of the gharanas well known for singing are : Agra, Gwalior, Mewati, Bhendibazar, Jaipur (Khyal Singing); Mathura, Rampur, Darbhanga (Dhrupad Singing); Banaras, Lucknow, Patiala (Thumri Singing).

Q.305) Consider the following statement with respect to ASHA worker

1. Full form of ASHA is Accredited Social Health Activist.
2. ASHA worker comes under Women and child development Ministry.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.305) Solution (a)

Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) is a trained female community health activist. Selected from the community itself and accountable to it, the ASHA will be trained to work as an interface between the community and the public health system

ASHA is a community health worker instituted by the government of India's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) as a part of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

Role of ASHA

ASHA will take steps to create awareness and provide information to the community on determinants of health such as nutrition, basic sanitation & hygienic practices, healthy living and working conditions, information on existing health services and the need for timely utilization of health & family welfare services.

She would counsel women on birth preparedness, importance of safe delivery, breastfeeding and complementary feeding, immunization, contraception and prevention of common infections including Reproductive Tract Infection/Sexually Transmitted Infection (RTIs/STIs) and care of the young child.

She also work with the Village Health & Sanitation Committee of the Gram Panchayat to develop a comprehensive village health plan.

ASHA will provide primary medical care for minor ailments such as diarrhoea, fevers, and first aid for minor injuries.

She is a provider of Directly Observed Treatment Short-course (DOTS) under Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme.

She also act as a depot holder for essential provisions being made available to every habitation like Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORS), Iron Folic Acid Tablet (IFA), chloroquine, Disposable Delivery Kits (DDK), Oral Pills & Condoms, etc. A Drug Kit is provided to each ASHA. Contents of the kit will be based on the recommendations of the expert/technical advisory group set up by the Government of India.

She will inform about the births and deaths in her village and any unusual health problems/disease outbreaks in the community to the Sub-Centres/Primary Health Centre.

Q.306) Consider the following statement:

1. "Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge" is organized by Ministry of Science and technology
2. India developed its first indigenous microprocessor in 2018

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.306) Solution (b)

"Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge- Innovate Solutions for #Aatmanirbhar Bharat"

- It was launched under the ministry Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)
- Aim of the challenge is to provide further impetus to the strong ecosystem of Start-up, innovation and research in the country and to realize the ambition of self-reliance.

- Indigenously developed microprocessors SHAKTI and VEGA have also been rolled out under the Microprocessor Development Programme.
- Aim of Microprocessor Development Programme Meeting India's future requirements of strategic and industrial sectors and to mitigate the issues of security, licensing, technology obsolescence and cutting dependency on imports.
- India developed its first indigenous microprocessor "The Shakthi" in October 2018

Q.307) The 11th century Lingaraja temple in Bhubaneswar is built in which style of Architecture?

- Dravidian style of Architecture
- Deula style of Architecture
- Nagara style of Architecture
- Vesara style of Architecture

Q.307) Solution (b)

About: Lingaraja Temple

Lingaraja Temple is a temple dedicated to Shiva and is one of the oldest temples in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

It represents the quintessence of the Kalinga Architecture and culminating the medieval stages of the architectural tradition at Bhubaneswar.

The temple is believed to be built by the kings from the Somavamsi dynasty, with later additions from the Ganga rulers.

It is built in the Deula style that has four components namely, vimana (structure containing the sanctum), jagamohana (assembly hall), natamandira (festival hall) and bhoga-mandapa (hall of offerings), each increasing in the height to its predecessor.

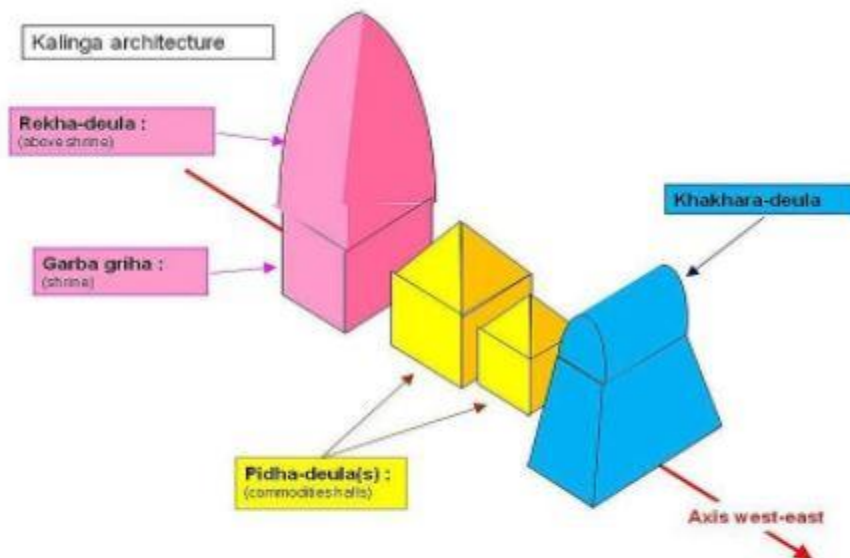


Image Source: [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lingaraja_Temple)

Bhubaneswar is called the Ekamra Kshetra as the deity of Lingaraja was originally under a mango tree (Ekamra) as noted in Ekamra Purana, a 13th-century Sanskrit treatise.

The temple has images of Vishnu, possibly because of the rising prominence of Jagannath sect emanating from the Ganga rulers who built the Jagannath Temple in Puri in the 12th century.

Q.308) Consider the following statements

1. IUCN status of African cheetah is Vulnerable
2. The Asiatic Cheetah was officially declared extinct from India in 1952

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.308) Solution (c)

Explanation:

Cheetahs (*Acinonyx jubatus*) are large cat of the subfamily Felinae and are considered as the fastest land animal.

The 4 subspecies of cheetahs are Southeast African cheetah, Asiatic cheetah, Northeast African cheetah and Northwest African cheetah.

They are found in North, Southern and East Africa, and a few localities in Iran.

It inhabits a variety of mostly arid habitats like dry forests, scrub forests, and savannahs.

The cheetah has been classified as Vulnerable by the IUCN; and listed under Appendix I of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species).

The Asiatic Cheetah was officially declared extinct from India in 1952.

Now the reintroducing program of cheetah is going on first it was reintroduced in Palpur Kuno sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh

Q.309) Recently a mobile van providing non-COVID essential healthcare services to the doorsteps of the people in the city of Ahmadabad was launched in the name of:

- a) Dhanvantri Rath
- b) Dhanvantri Sathi
- c) Dhanvantri Shakti
- d) Medicine at your door

Q.309) Solution (a)

Dhanvantri Rath is a unique and innovative example has been set by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC).

Key Features of Dhanvantri rath:

- Many of the large hospitals in the city have been dedicated for COVID-19 treatment.
- Hence various measures have been taken to ensure that non-COVID essential services related to diabetes, blood pressure, heart ailment etc., are also provisioned to people who cannot visit the hospitals as many of them were not operating the OPDs.
- One of interventions adopted by AMC is large scale deployment of the Mobile Medical Vans named 'Dhanvantri Rath'.

- These vans have an Ayush Doctor, paramedic and nursing staff along with local Medical Officer from Urban Health Centre of AMC.
- OPD SERVICES : These vans have been visiting various areas and providing OPD services for non-COVID essential services and field medical consultations to people all over Ahmedabad City at their doorsteps.
- CLINICAL TREATMENT : Dhanvantri Rath has helped identify those who need further clinical treatment or an IPD admission, and ensured that they reach the hospital in a timely manner.
- The mobile medical vans carry all essential medicines including ayurvedic & homeopathic medicines, vitamin supplements, basic testing equipments along with pulse Oxymeter.

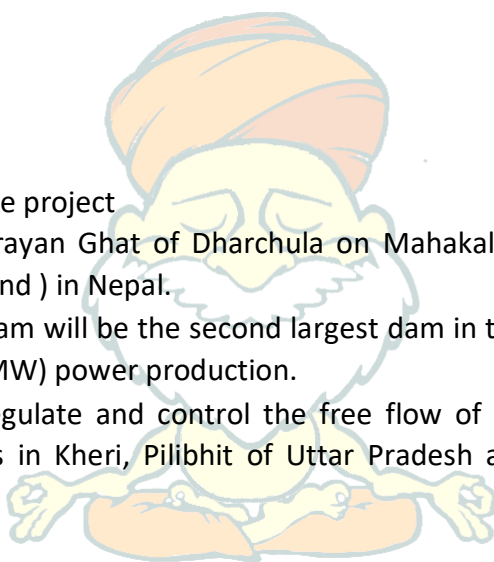
Q.310) Pancheshwara multi-purpose project is constructed over which of the following river?

- Ganga River
- Mahakali River
- Yamuna River
- Sutlej River

Q.310) Solution (b)

Pancheshwar multi-purpose project

- It is located at Narayan Ghat of Dharchula on Mahakali River(also known as Kali Ganga in Uttarakhand) in Nepal.
- After completion dam will be the second largest dam in the world with a capacity of 6720 Mega Watt (MW) power production.
- This project will regulate and control the free flow of Karnali and Mohana rivers which cause floods in Kheri, Pilibhit of Uttar Pradesh and other Terai districts of northern India.



Q.311) Consider the following statements with respect to National recruitment agency:

1. The NRA will conduct the Common Eligibility Test (CET) for recruitment to all posts in government and public sector banks.
2. Common eligibility test conducted by National recruitment agency will be held twice in a year.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.311) Solution (b)

A new National Recruitment Agency (NRA) will be set up to conduct the Common Eligibility Test (CET) for all various competitive examinations, in which an estimated 2.5 crore candidates appear annually.

NRA will conduct preliminary examinations for all these recruitment, which are at present conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) and the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS).

It will then subsequently forward the list of qualifying candidates to the respective recruiting agencies to conduct the mains examinations.

The basic idea behind this proposal is to shortlist qualifying candidates through a Common Eligibility Test before sending them for the mains examination.

Salient features:

- The Common Eligibility Test will be held twice a year.
- There will be different CETs for graduate level, 12th Pass level and 10th pass level to facilitate recruitment to vacancies at various levels.
- The CET will be conducted in 12 major Indian languages. This is a major change, as hitherto examinations for recruitment to Central Government jobs were held only in English and Hindi.
- To begin with CET will cover recruitments made by three agencies : viz. Staff Selection Commission, Railway Recruitment Board and the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection. This will be expanded in a phased manner.
- CET will be held in 1,000 centres across India in a to bid remove the currently prevalent urban bias. There will be an examination centre in every district of the country. There will be a special thrust on creating examination infrastructure in the 117 aspirational districts.
- CET will be a first level test to shortlist candidates and the score will be valid for three years.
- There shall be no restriction on the number of attempts to be taken by a candidate to appear in the CET subject to the upper age limit. Age relaxation for SC/ST and OBC candidates as per existing rules will apply.

Q.312) Consider the following with respect to The Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC):

1. It is an autonomous technology think tank under Ministry of chemicals and fertilizers.
2. Recently TIFAC highlighted the shortcomings of the Indian chemical industry which prove to be barriers in competing with China.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.312) Solution (b)

Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC)

- TIFAC is an autonomous organisation and think-tank of the Department of Science and Technology under the ministry of Science and technology.

- It was established in 1986, as per the recommendation of Technology Policy Implementation Committee (TPIC) in 1985.
- Recently, a report by the Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) has highlighted the shortcomings of the Indian chemical industry which prove to be barriers in competing with China.
- Thinking for the future in important socio-economic sectors is one of its mandates.
- TIFAC activities comprise of wide array of technology areas and fill a critical gap in the overall S&T system of India.

Q.313) Which of the following Utsav, which was recently in news, is mentioned in the holy book Guru Granth Sahib?

- Prakash Purab utsav
- Deepa utsav
- Aditya utsav
- Pach utsav

Q.313) Solution (a)

- The first Prakash Purab Utsav marked the installation of Guru Granth Sahib in Harmandir Sahib, also known as the Golden temple, in 1604.
- Granth Sahib is the sacred scripture of Sikhism (religion). It is a collection of nearly 6,000 hymns of the Sikh Gurus (religious leaders) and various early and medieval saints of different religions and castes.
- It is the central object of worship in all gurdwaras and is accorded the reverence paid to a living Guru.
- The first version of the book was compiled by the 5th Sikh Guru Arjan at Amritsar in 1604 CE. He included his own hymns and those of his predecessors, the Gurus Nanak, Angad, Amar Das, and Ram Das, and a selection of devotional songs of both Hindu and Islamic saints.
- The language is mostly Punjabi or Hindi, interspersed with Marathi, Persian, and Arabic words.
- After the death of Guru Gobind Singh, his hymns and other writings were compiled into a book known as the Dasam Granth.

Q.314) Consider the following statements:

- International Civil Aviation Organization is a United Nations (UN) specialized agency.
- India is a member of International Civil Aviation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.314) Solution (c)

International Civil Aviation Organization

- ICAO is a United Nations (UN) specialized agency, established in 1944, which laid the foundation for the standards and procedures for peaceful global air navigation.
- The Convention on International Civil Aviation was signed on 7th December 1944 in Chicago.
- It established the core principles permitting international transport by air, and also led to the creation of the ICAO.
- It is one of the objectives is to foster the planning and development of international air transport so as to ensure the safe and orderly growth of international civil aviation throughout the world.
- India is among its 193 members.
- It is headquartered in Montreal, Canada.

Q.315) Which of the following statements says about Article 143:

- a) President to seek the opinion of Supreme court
- b) The executive power of the State shall be vested in the Governor
- c) There shall be a Comptroller and Auditor General of India
- d) Supreme Court the can take up cases straight instead of going through a lower court

Q.315) Solution (a)

Article 143 is about Advisory Jurisdiction

The Constitution under Article 143 authorises the President to seek the opinion of the Supreme Court in the two categories of matters:

On any question of law or fact of public importance which has arisen or which is likely to arise. The SC may tender or may refuse to tender its opinion to the President.

On any dispute arising out of any pre-constitution treaty, agreement, covenant, engagement, sanador other similar instruments. Here, the SC must tender its opinion to the President.

In both the cases, the opinion expressed by the Supreme Court is only advisory and not a judicial pronouncement. Hence, it is not binding on the President.

The references made by the President under Article 143 are decided by a Bench consisting of at least five judges.

Few important references made by the President to the SC under its advisory jurisdiction are:

- Berubari Union, 1960.
- Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, 1992.
- Rama Janma Bhumi case, 1993.
- Punjab Termination of Agreements Act, 2004.
- 2G spectrum case verdict and the mandatory auctioning of natural resources across all sectors, 2012.

Q.316) Consider the following statements with respect to Swachh Survekshan 2020:

1. It has been launched by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
2. It is the first edition of the annual cleanliness urban survey.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

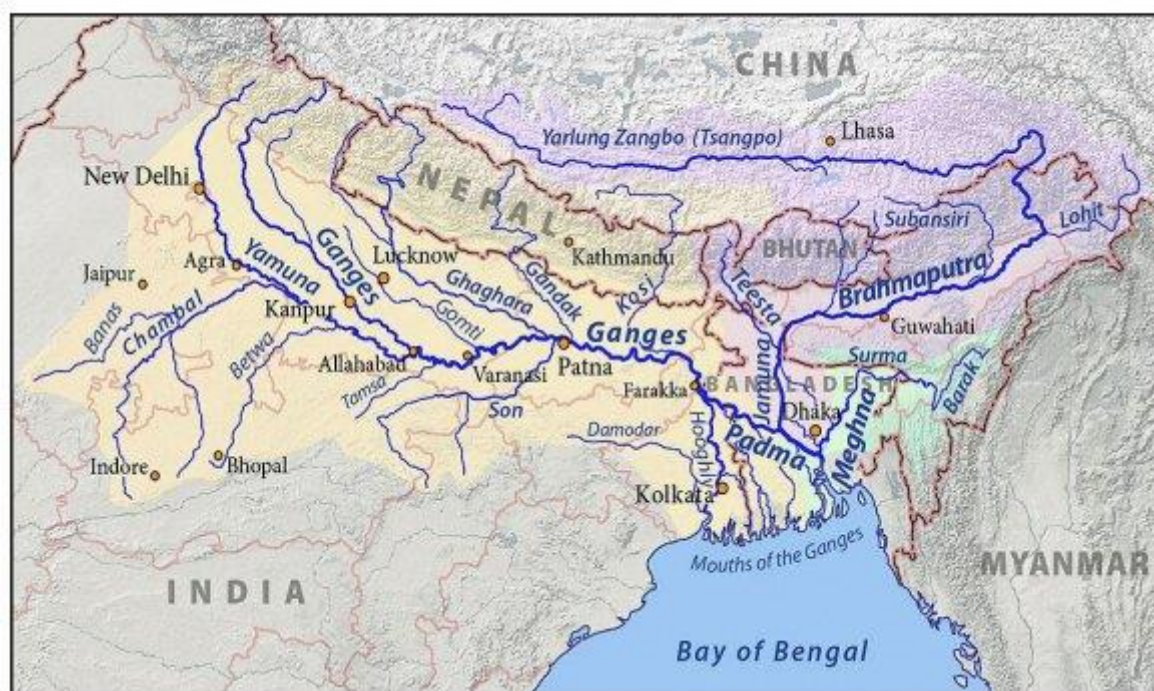
Q.316) Solution (a)

Swachh Survekshan 2020

- Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched the Swachh Survekshan 2020 report
- It is the fifth edition of the annual cleanliness urban survey conducted by the MoHUA. It is one of the world's largest sanitation surveys.
- This year the Ministry has released rankings based on the categorisation of cities on population, instead of releasing overall rankings.
- The categories based on population were introduced in 2019 for the first time but the exact groupings have been changed this year.
- In July 2020, MoHUA launched the sixth edition of the survey, Swachh Survekshan 2021 and also introduced a new performance category, the Prerak DAUUR Samman.
- It has a total of five additional subcategories namely Divya (Platinum), Anupam (Gold), Ujjwal (Silver), Udit (Bronze) and Aarohi (Aspiring).

Q.317) Which of the following statements is correct with respect to Teesta River?

- a) It is the tributary of River Ganga.
- b) It originates in Tibet.
- c) The main tributary of river Teesta is the Rangeet River.
- d) It makes a border between West Bengal and Bihar

Q.317) Solution (c)**The Ganges-Brahmaputra Basin**

- Teesta River originates from the Pahunri (or Teesta Kangse) glacier above 7,068 m, and flows southward through gorges and rapids in the Sikkim Himalaya.
- It flows through Sikkim and West Bengal to merge with the Brahmaputra in Assam
- Teesta River is considered to be the lifeline of the Sikkim.
- The basin lies in the states of Sikkim (72.43%) and West Bengal (27.57%).
- The main tributary of river Teesta is the Rangeet River.
- Teesta River makes a border between Sikkim and West Bengal before joining the Brahmaputra as a tributary in Bangladesh

Q.318) Consider the following statements:

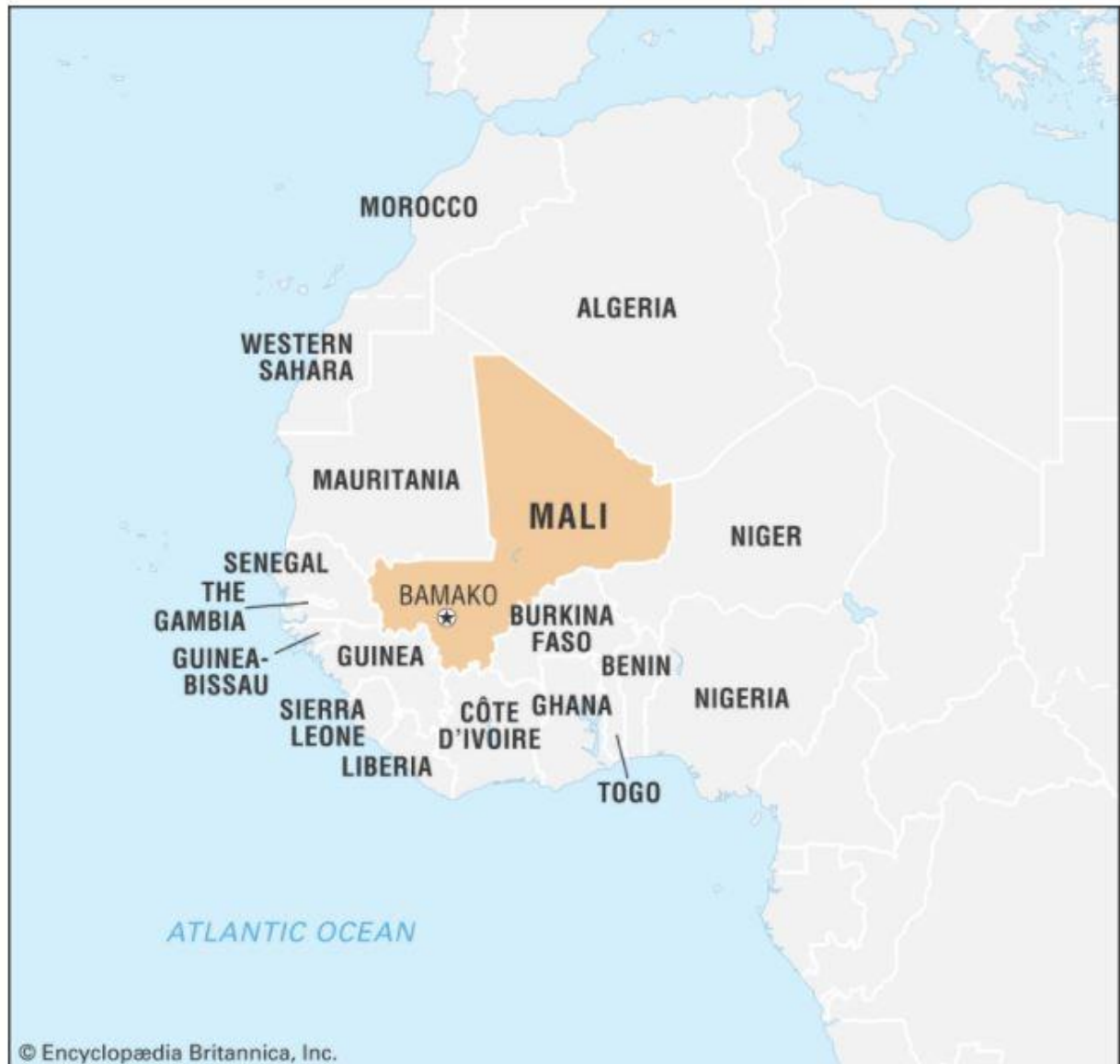
1. It is a vast country stretching into the Sahara Desert in western Africa.
2. It got independence from France in 1960.
3. It is a landlocked country in West Africa with Niger to the east, Ivory Coast to the south, Senegal to the west.

The above statements explain which of the following country?

- a) Nigeria
- b) Libya
- c) Sudan
- d) Mali

Q.318) Solution (d)





- Mali is a landlocked country in West Africa.
- It got independence from France in 1960.
- Its capital is Bamako.
- It borders Niger to the east, Cote d'Ivoire to the south, Senegal to the west.
- Most of it lies in the southern Sahara Desert.
- Some of Mali's prominent natural resources include gold, being the third largest producer of gold in the African continent and salt.
- It was recently in news because its President has announced his resignation amid a military coup.

Q.319) Consider the following with respect to National Cadet Corps:

1. The NCC was formed after the Independence.
2. The NCC falls under the purview of the Ministry of Defence.

Which of the following is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Q.319) Solution (c)

National Cadet Corps (NCC) was formed in 1948 on the recommendation of H. N. Kunzru Committee.

The NCC falls under the purview of the Ministry of Defence and is headed by a Director General of three-star military rank.

It enrolls cadets at high school and college level and also awards certificates on completion of various phases.

The NCC cadets receive basic military training at various levels and also have academic curriculum basics related to Armed forces and their functioning.

Various training camps, adventure activities and military training camps are an important aspect of NCC training.

Q.320) Which of the following country is not a member of ASEAN?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Singapore
- d) Malaysia

Q.320) Solution (b)

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is a regional organization which was established to promote political and social stability amid rising tensions among the Asia-Pacific's post-colonial states.

- The motto of ASEAN is "One Vision, One Identity, One Community".
- 8th August is observed as ASEAN Day.
- ASEAN headquartered in Indonesia, Jakarta.
- ASEAN-led Forums
- ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)
- ASEAN Plus Three
- East Asia Summit (EAS)



Image: ASEAN

Q.321) Which of the following country does not share border with Red sea?

- a) Sudan
- b) Yeman
- c) Saudi Arabia
- d) Oman



Q.321) Solution (d)

Red Sea:

- The Red Sea is a seawater inlet of the Indian Ocean, lying between Africa and Asia.
- The connection to the ocean is in the south through the Bab el Mandeb strait and the Gulf of Aden.
- To the north lie the Sinai Peninsula, the Gulf of Aqaba, and the Gulf of Suez (leading to the Suez Canal).
- The sea is underlain by the Red Sea Rift which is part of the Great Rift Valley.



The six countries bordering the Red Sea are:

- Saudi Arabia
- Yemen
- Egypt
- Sudan
- Eritrea
- Djibouti



Q.322) Mitra shakti the Joint military exercise is conducted between India and which country?

- a) Nepal
- b) Srilanka
- c) France
- d) Indonesia

Q.322) Solution (b)

- The 7th edition of India-Sri Lanka joint military training exercise Mitra Shakti– 2019 is scheduled to be conducted in Pune in December 2019.
- The exercise aims to build and promote positive relations between armies of India and Sri Lanka for counter-insurgency & counter-terrorism operations in the urban and rural environment under United Nations mandate.

- The joint exercise also aims for incorporating the current dynamics of United Nations peacekeeping operations through practical & comprehensive discussions and tactical exercises.
- SLINEX is the Naval exercises between India and Sri Lanka



Q.323) Consider the following statements with respect to Election commission of India?

1. It is an Autonomous body
2. It is not concerned with the elections to panchayats and municipalities in the states
3. The President appoints Chief Election Commissioner.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 Only
- b) 2 and 3 Only
- c) 1 and 3 Only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

Q.323) Solution (d)

- The Election Commission of India is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India.
- It is not concerned with the elections to panchayats and municipalities in the states. For this, the Constitution of India provides for a separate State Election Commission.
- Under Article 324 the Election Commission shall consist of the chief election commissioner and such number of other election commissioners, if any, as the President may from time to time fix.
- Presently, it consists of the Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.
- The President appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners.
- They have tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- They enjoy the same status and receive salary and perks as available to Judges of the Supreme Court of India.
- All Election Commissioners have equal say in the decision making of the Commission.

Q.324) Recently program called “Namath Basai” was in news it is related to which State?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Tamil nadu
- c) Kerala
- d) Andra Pradesh

Q.324) Solution (c)

- “Namath Basai” programme is a Kerala government initiative to teaching tribal children in their mother tongue.
- The programme is being implemented by the Samagra Shiksha Kerala (SSK).
- SSK is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class 12.
- It aims at improving school effectiveness measured in terms of equal opportunities for schooling and equitable learning outcomes.
- It offers pre-recorded classes through a YouTube channel in three tribal languages in Attappady valley in Palakkad District Kerala.
- These languages belong to the Irula, Muduka and Kurumba tribes.

Q.325) Consider the following statement with respect to Indian Bison:

1. It is in the state of Vulnerable in IUCN Red List.
2. It is Included in the Schedule II of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.

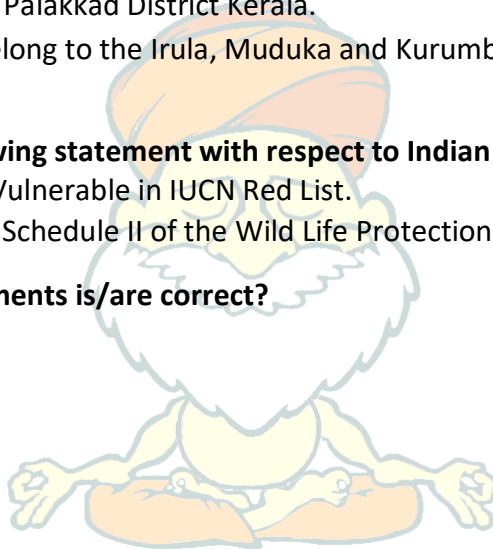
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.325) Solution (a)

Indian Bison

- It is habitat to South and Southeast Asia
- In India, they are found in Nagarhole, Bandipur, Masinagudi National Parks and BR Hills.
- It is in the state of Vulnerable in IUCN Red List.
- Included in the Schedule I of the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972.
- It is the tallest species of wild cattle found in India and largest extant bovine.
- First population estimation exercise of the Indian Gaur (Bison) was carried out in the Nilgiris Forest Division, Tamil Nadu.





Q.326) Which of the following state does not share border with Nepal?

- a) Uttarakhand
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Jharkhand
- d) West Bengal

Q.326) solution (c)

Currently, India and Nepal have border disputes over Kalapani – Limpiyadhura – Lipulekh trijunction between India-Nepal and China and Susta area (West Champaran district, Bihar).



Q.327) The Offshore Derivative Instruments issued by registered Foreign Portfolio Investors to overseas investors who wish to be a part of the Indian stock markets without registering themselves directly is called as:

- a) Participatory notes

- b) Treasury bills
- c) Commercial papers
- d) Debentures

Q.327) Solution (a)

- Participatory Notes are Offshore Derivative Instruments (ODIs) issued by registered Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to overseas investors who wish to be a part of the Indian stock markets without registering themselves directly.
- P-notes have Indian stocks as their underlying assets.
- Though P-note holders have less stringent registration requirements, they have to go through a proper due diligence process of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- SEBI was established in 1992 in accordance with the provisions of the SEBI Act, 1992.
- Its functions include protecting the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate the securities market and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Q.328) Consider the following statements:

1. Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award is the highest sporting award given by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
2. The National Sports Day is observed every year across India on 29th August

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Q.328) Solution (c)

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award

- For the first time five sports persons will be receiving the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna on the occasion of the National Sports Day on 29th August.
- Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award is the highest sporting award given by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years.
- The award comprises a medallion, a certificate, and a cash prize of Rs 7.5 lakh.
- The National Sports Day is observed every year across India on 29th August to mark the birth anniversary of the legendary hockey player Dhyan Chand who was born on 29th August 1905.

Q.329) What is the name of the mobile app developed by NHAI for the creation of Green Highway?

- a) Harith Path
- b) Lal path
- c) Environment path

d) Green path

Q.329) Solution (a)

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has developed a mobile App, 'Harit Path' to facilitate creation of Green Highways across the country.

The App will help to monitor location, growth, species details, maintenance activities, targets and achievements for each and every plant.

In order to track the growth and health of the plants, photographs along with data of the plants captured using Harit Path App shall be uploaded every 3 months on NHAI's Artificial Intelligence powered Big Data Analytics platform – Data Lake.

Highway contractors shall be accountable for proper upkeep and maintenance of the plantation and liable to replace the missing/dead plants.

Performance and growth of the plants shall be linked to the payment to the contractors for this work.

Q.330) Nuakhai Juhar is the festival recently in news it is refer to which field:

- a) State festival of Odisha
- b) Agricultural festival
- c) Martial art festival
- d) Tribe festival

Q.330) Solution (b)

Nuakhai Juhar

- It is an agricultural festival, also called Nuakhai Parab or Nuakahi Bhetghat.
- It is celebrated to welcome the new crop of the season.
- Nuakhai is a combination of two words that signifies eating of new rice as 'nua' means new and 'khai' means eat.
- This is the festival of Western Odisha, southern Chhattisgarh and adjoining areas of Simdega (Jharkhand).
- Its coastal counterpart is Nabanna, observed in Coastal Odisha.
- It is observed on panchami tithi (the fifth day) of the lunar fortnight of the month of Bhadrapada (August–September), the day after the Ganesh Chaturthi festival.
- Lagan is the fixed time of the day to celebrate the festival.
- Festive Activities: Farmers offer the first produce from their lands to Goddess Samaleswari, the famous 'Mother Goddess' of Sambalpur district of Odisha.
- Sambalpuri dance forms like Rasarkeli and Dalkhai can be witnessed.

Q.331) Consider the following statements with respect to Aarogya Setu app:

1. The motto of Aarogya Setu is 'Main Surakshit, Hum Surakshit, Bharat Surakshit'.
2. Aarogya Setu was developed by the National Informatics Centre.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.331) Solution (c)

Aarogya Setu was launched in April 2020. It was developed by the National Informatics Centre under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.

The motto of Aarogya Setu is 'Main Surakshit, Hum Surakshit, Bharat Surakshit'.

Since its launch, Aarogya Setu has continuously innovated and introduced more novel features like:

- e-pass integration,
- QR Code scanning,
- Sharing of Health status with family/known persons, etc.

The Aarogya Setu ITIHAS interface which uses location data and Aarogya Setu analytics to predict emerging hotspots at Sub Pincode levels has been very effective in helping the health officials and administration to take necessary precautionary steps.

Q.332) Consider the following statements with respect to river Brahmaputra:

1. It flows through only three Indian states
2. Majuli Island is situated on this river

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.332) Solution (b)

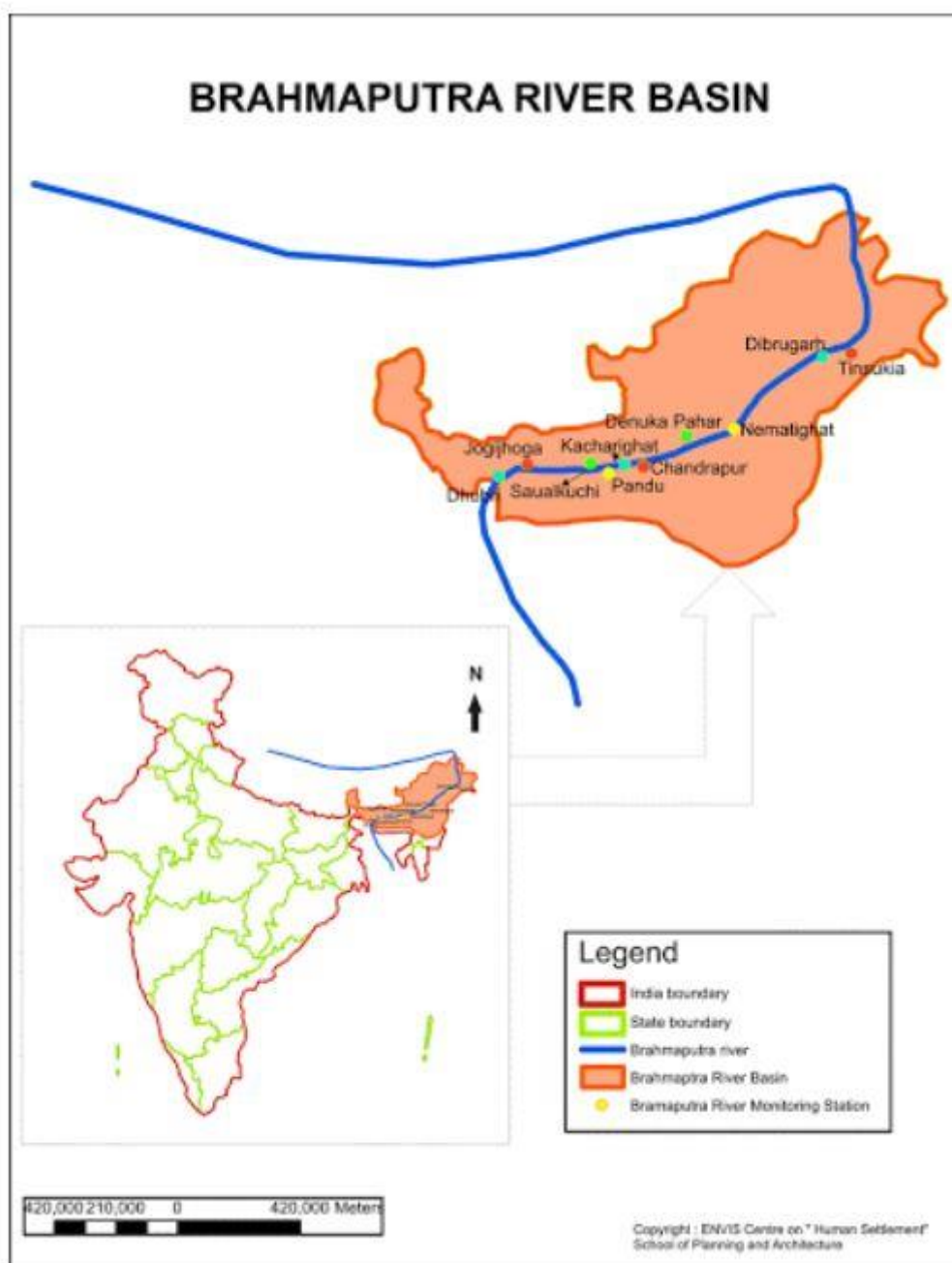
About Brahmaputra river:

The river originates from the Kailash ranges of Himalayas at an elevation of 5300 M. After flowing through Tibet it enters India through Arunachal Pradesh and flows through Assam and Bangladesh before it joins Bay of Bengal

- In Tibet the river is known as TSANG – PO
- In China it is known as YARLUNG ZANBO
- After joining Teesta, known as Jamuna in Bangladesh

Do you know?

- Majuli, the largest river island in the world is situated right at the heart of Assam on the turbulent waters of the Brahmaputra River.



Source: ENVIS

Q.333) Which of the following bank/banks is/are currently authorized to issue electoral bonds?

- RBI
- SBI
- All financial institutions
- All public sector banks

Q.333) Solution (b)

- Electoral Bond is a financial instrument for making donations to political parties.
- The bonds are issued in multiples of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 10,000, Rs. 1 lakh, Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 1 crore without any maximum limit.

- State Bank of India is authorised to issue and encash these bonds, which are valid for fifteen days from the date of issuance.
- These bonds are redeemable in the designated account of a registered political party.
- The bonds are available for purchase by any person who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established in India for a period of ten days each in the months of January, April, July and October as may be specified by the Central Government.
- A person being an individual can buy bonds, either singly or jointly with other individuals.
- Donor's name is not mentioned on the bond.
- During general elections, the central government may specify an additional period of thirty days for sale of these bonds.

Q.334) Consider the following statements:

1. Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture.
2. The Behrupiya festival is an agricultural festival observed on the fifth day of the lunar fortnight of the month of Bhadrapada in Jharkhand.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.334) Solution (a)

Behrupiya festival

- The word 'behrupiya' is a derivative of the Sanskrit word bahu (many) and roop (form).
- Behrupiyas are impersonators, mostly known to perform in villages and markets all over India.
- They put on various costumes to play figures from mythology, folklore and traditional stories.
- The behrupiya festival is a traditional Indian style of street theatre and takes place every year in different locations- Delhi, Ahmedabad, Udaipur, Jaipur, Kumbh, Muzaffarnagar and others.
- Behrupiyas were more than artists in the past. They assisted in circulating, transmitting and publicising the various knowledge forms in the popular domain of Samaj, the people. The vibrant tradition of Ramlila can also be seen as an extension of this practice which continues even today.

Do you know?

- National Behrupiya Festival was organized by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) from 5th-8th October 2018.
- IGNCA is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture.

Q.335) Consider the following statements with respect to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB):

1. India is among the founding members of AIIB.
2. Japan is the largest shareholder of AIIB

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.335) Solution (a)

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

- AIIB is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia. It was established in December 2015.
- It is headquartered in Beijing (China) and began its operations in January 2016.
- It has 103 members including India.
- India is among the founding members of AIIB.
- China is the largest shareholder in AIIB with a 26.6% voting power, followed by India with a 7.62% voting power.

Q.336) Consider the following statements:

1. The Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative was proposed by Indian Prime Minister
2. India is a member of East Asia Summit

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.336) Solution (c)

Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative

- IPOI was launched by the Prime Minister of India at the East Asia Summit in November 2019.
- The idea of the initiative was mooted by the PM when he addressed the East Asia Summit in Thailand.
- It focuses on seven central pillars conceived around Maritime Security, Maritime Ecology, Maritime Resources, Capacity Building and Resource Sharing, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation, and Trade Connectivity and Maritime Transport.

East Asia Summit:

- The East Asia Summit(EAS) was established in 2005.It is a forum of 18 countries.
- The summit has evolved as a forum for strategic dialogue and cooperation on political, security and economic issues of common regional concerns.

- The EAS comprises the ten member states of the ASEAN countries along with 8 members Australia, China, Japan, India, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States.
- The concept of an East Asia Grouping was first promoted in 1991 by then Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir bin Mohamad.
- The first summit was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2005. India is a founding member of the East Asia Summit.

Q.337) Laos the land locked country in East Asia does not share boarder with which of the following?

- Vietnam
- Myanmar
- Taiwan
- Cambodia

Q.337) Solution (c)

Laos is the only landlocked country in Southeast Asia bordered by Cambodia, China, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.



Q.338) Consider the following statements with respect to New Development Bank:

1. NDB is headquartered in Shanghai
2. NDB is developed by ASEAN countries

Which of the following is/are correct?

- 1 only

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

Q.338) Solution (a)

New Development Bank (NDB)

- It is headquartered in Shanghai.
- At the Fourth BRICS Summit in New Delhi (2012) the possibility of setting up a new Development Bank was considered to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies, as well as in developing countries.
- During the Sixth BRICS Summit in Fortaleza (2014) the leaders signed the Agreement establishing the New Development Bank (NDB).
- Fortaleza Declaration stressed that the NDB will strengthen cooperation among BRICS and will supplement the efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global development thus contributing to sustainable and balanced growth.
- NDB's key areas of operation are clean energy, transport infrastructure, irrigation, sustainable urban development and economic cooperation among the member countries.
- The NDB functions on a consultative mechanism among the BRICS members with all the member countries possessing equal rights.

Q.339) Consider the following statements with reference to National Green tribunal:

1. NGT is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing the same.
2. It draws inspiration from India's constitutional provision of Article 21

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Q.339) Solution (d)

National Green Tribunal

- It is a specialised body set up under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- It draws inspiration from India's constitutional provision of Article 21, which assures the citizens of India the right to a healthy environment.
- Original Jurisdiction: It is related to matters of "substantial question relating to the environment" and "damage to the environment due to specific activity".
- It follows principles of Natural Justice.

- NGT is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing the same.
- The NGT has five places of sittings, New Delhi is the Principal place of sitting and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai are the other four.

Q.340) Which of the following country does not have coastline on the Mediterranean sea?

- Libya
- Greece
- Italy
- Bulgaria

Q.340) Solution (d)

21 countries have coastlines on the Mediterranean Sea. They are Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey.



Q.341) Consider the following statements with respect to Export Preparedness Index 2020:

1. This report is released by NITI Aayog in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness.
2. Gujarat has topped the overall EPI 2020.

Which one of the following is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only

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

Q.341) Solution (c)

Export Preparedness Index (EPI) report 2020

The NITI Aayog in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) report 2020.

EPI 2020:

Aim: To identify challenges and opportunities, enhance the effectiveness of government policies and encourage a facilitative regulatory framework for export.

The index ranked states on four key pillars

- Policy
- Business Ecosystem
- Export Ecosystem
- Export Performance

The index also took into consideration 11 sub-pillars – export promotion policy; institutional framework; business environment; infrastructure; transport connectivity; access to finance; export infrastructure; trade support; R&D infrastructure; export diversification; and growth orientation.

Features: The EPI is a data-driven effort to identify the core areas crucial for export promotion at the sub-national level (states and union territories).

The Index would be a helpful guide for the state governments to benchmark regional performance with respect to export promotion and thus deliver key policy insights on how to improve and enhance the exports.

Performance:

- Gujarat has topped the overall EPI 2020 followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.
- Among the landlocked states, Rajasthan has topped the index, followed by Telangana and Haryana.
- Among the Himalayan states, Uttarakhand topped the index, followed by Tripura and Himachal Pradesh.
- Across Union Territories, Delhi has performed the best.

Q.342) The Edakkal caves which are believed to be camping shelters of the Neolithic community is in which state?

- a) Tamil nadu
- b) Kerala
- c) Karnataka
- d) Andra Pradesh

Q.342) Solution (b)

The Edakkal Caves are located on the Ambukuthi Hills (a part of the Western Ghats) on the Mysore Plateau, in Wayanad district of Kerala. It is located 1,200m above the sea level. It has engravings from the late Neolithic period. It is the only evidence for the existence of true Neolithic Culture in Kerala.

Q.343) Which of the following method in macroeconomics attempts to explain economic phenomena, such as economic growth and business cycles, and the effects of economic policy, through econometric models based on applied general equilibrium theory and economic principles?

- a) Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium model
- b) Static Stochastic General Equilibrium model
- c) Multistage General Equilibrium model
- d) Single Stochastic General Equilibrium model

Q.343) Solution (a)

Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium model (DSGE) Model:

- DSGE modelling is a method in macroeconomics that attempts to explain economic phenomena, such as economic growth and business cycles, and the effects of economic policy, through econometric models based on applied general equilibrium theory and economic principles.
- Econometrics is the application of statistical methods to economic data in order to give empirical content to economic relationships.
- General Equilibrium Theory is a macroeconomic theory that explains how supply and demand in an economy with many markets interact dynamically and eventually culminate in equilibrium of prices.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is using Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium (DSGE) model to provide a tentative and proximate assessment of the likely impact of Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdown on the Indian economy.

Q.344) The term ARIES is recently seen in news, refers to:

- a) New species of frog
- b) New unmanned vehicle launched by DRDO
- c) Institute under Department of Science & Technology
- d) Commercial wing of ISRO

Q.344) Solution (c)

Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES)

- ARIES is an autonomous institute of Department of Science & Technology (DST).
- Asia's largest and first of its kind optical telescope was unveiled at Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) at Devasthal in Nainital District, Uttarakhand.
- Recently, astronomers from the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) have found out the reasons behind intense star formation in some dwarf galaxies.

Q.345) Consider the following statements with respect to AustroSat:

1. It is a multi-wavelength astronomy mission on an IRS-class satellite
2. The Ground Command and Control Centre for ASTROSAT is located at MCF Hassan.

Which one of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.345) Solution (a)

AustroSat

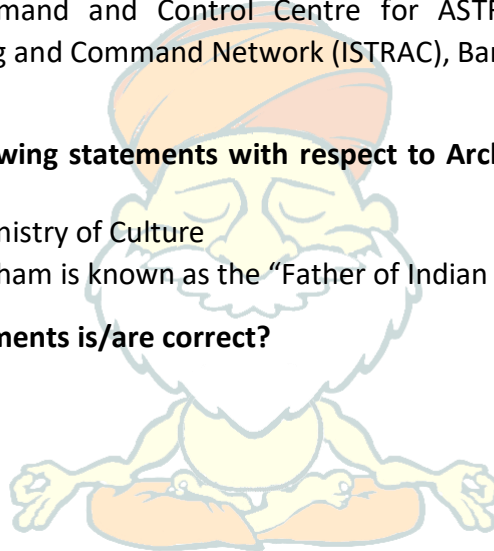
- AstroSat is a multi-wavelength astronomy mission on an IRS-class (Indian Remote Sensing-Class) satellite in a 650-km, near-equatorial orbit.
- It was launched by the Indian launch vehicle PSLV from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota by ISRO.
- It is the first dedicated Indian astronomy mission aimed at studying celestial sources in X-ray, optical and UV spectral bands simultaneously with its five unique X-ray and ultraviolet telescopes working in tandem.
- One of the unique features of AstroSat mission is that it enables the simultaneous multi-wavelength observations of various astronomical objects with a single satellite.
- The Ground Command and Control Centre for ASTROSAT is located at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC), Bangalore, India.

Q.346) Consider the following statements with respect to Archaeological Survey of India (ASI):

1. ASI is under the Ministry of Culture
2. Alexander Cunningham is known as the “Father of Indian Archaeology”.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.346) Solution (c)**

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)

- ASI, under the Ministry of Culture, is the premier organization for the archaeological research and protection of the cultural heritage of the nation.
- It administers more than 3650 ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains of national importance.
- Its activities include carrying out surveys of antiquarian remains, exploration and excavation of archaeological sites, conservation and maintenance of protected monuments etc.
- It was founded in 1861 by Alexander Cunningham- the first Director-General of ASI. Alexander Cunningham is also known as the “Father of Indian Archaeology”.

Q.347) Pulikkali folk art which was recently in news, practiced to which state?

- a) Kerala
- b) Karnataka

- c) Odisha
- d) West Bengal

Q.347) Solution (a)

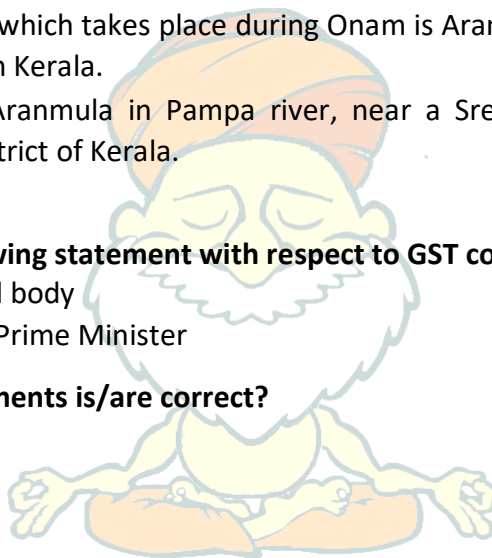
- The folk art is mainly practiced in Thrissur district of Kerala.
- Pulikkali (Puli means Leopard/Tiger and Kali means Play in Malayalam) is a recreational street folk art performed on the fourth day of Onam celebrations.
- Onam (August–September) is a Hindu rice harvest festival of Kerala celebrated to commemorate King Mahabali.
- The folk art is mainly practiced in Thrissur district of Kerala.
- The main theme of this folk art is tiger hunting with participants playing the role of tiger and hunter.
- Performers paint their bodies like tigers and hunters and dance on streets to the beats of traditional percussion instruments such as thakil, udukku and chenda.
- It was introduced by Maharaja Rama Varma Sakthan Thampuran, the then Maharaja of Cochin.
- Another key event which takes place during Onam is Aranmula Boat Race, the oldest river boat festival in Kerala.
- It takes place at Aranmula in Pampa river, near a Sree Parthasarathy temple in Pathanamthitta district of Kerala.

Q.348) Consider the following statement with respect to GST council:

1. It is a constitutional body
2. It is chaired by the Prime Minister

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Q.348) Solution (a)**

GST council is a constitutional body (Article 279A) for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Services Tax.

The GST Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister and other members are the Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all the States.

It is considered as a federal body where both the centre and the states get due representation.

Q.349) Consider the following statements:

1. Urdu is one of the languages mentioned in the 8th Schedule to the Constitution
2. National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language comes under Ministry of Education.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Q.349) Solution (b)

Urdu is one of the languages mentioned in the 8th Schedule to the Constitution.

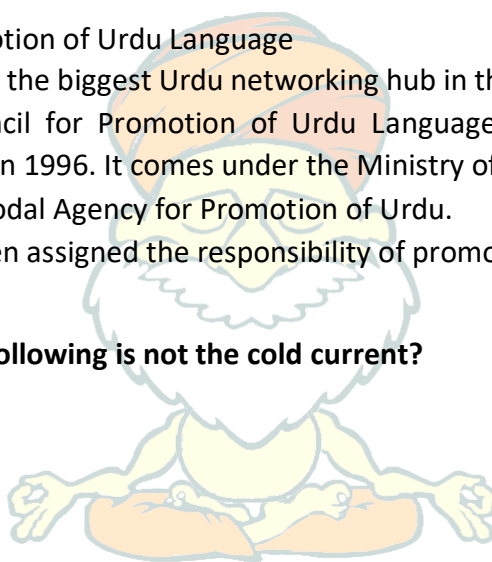
- The Constitutional provisions relating to the 8th Schedule are articles 344(1) and 351.
- Presently, 8th Schedule consists of the 22 languages namely (1) Assamese, (2) Bengali, (3) Gujarati, (4) Hindi, (5) Kannada, (6) Sanskrit, (15) Sindhi, (16) Tamil, (17) Telugu, (18) Urdu (19) Bodo, (20) Santhali, (21) Maithili and (22) Dogri. Kashmiri, (7) Konkani, (8) Malayalam, (9) Manipuri, (10) Marathi, (11) Nepali, (12) Oriya, (13) Punjabi, (14)
- Urdu is one of the official languages in states like Kashmir, Telangana, UP, Bihar, New Delhi and West Bengal.

National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language

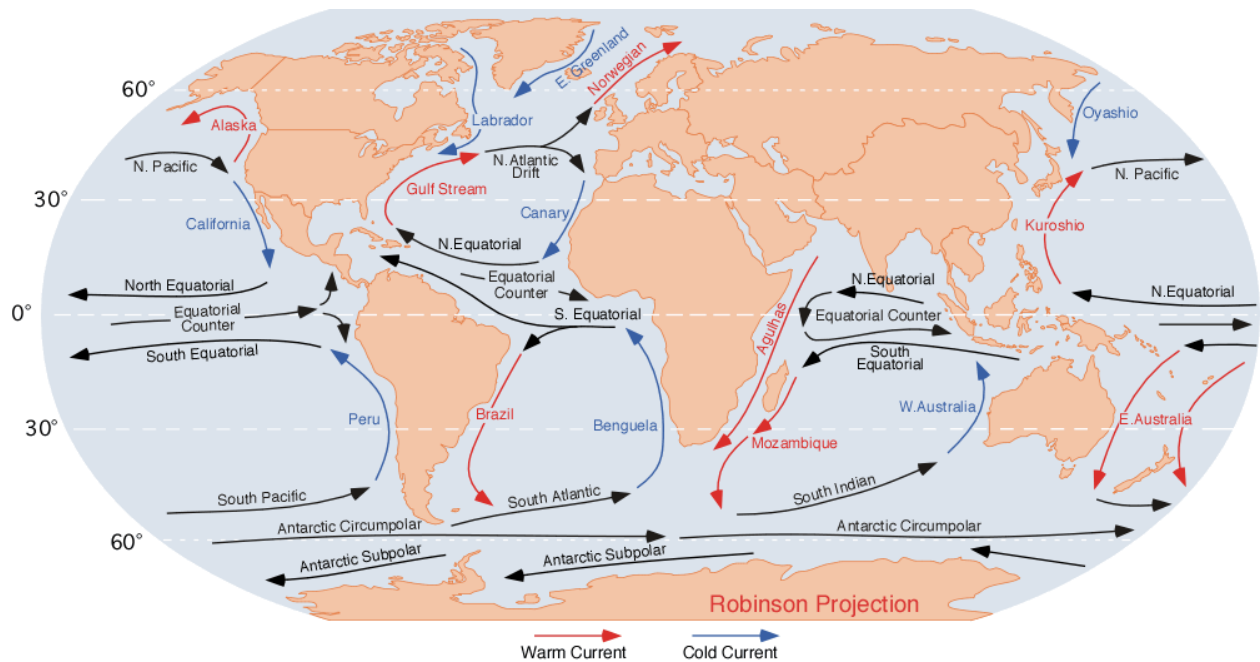
- NCPUL has become the biggest Urdu networking hub in the world.
- The National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language started functioning as an autonomous body in 1996. It comes under the Ministry of Education.
- It is the National Nodal Agency for Promotion of Urdu.
- NCPUL has also been assigned the responsibility of promotion of Arabic and Persian.

Q.350) Which one of the following is not the cold current?

- a) Oyashio
- b) Benguela
- c) Peru
- d) Kuroshio

**Q.350) Solution (d)**

The Kuroshio, also known as the Black or Japan Current or the Black Stream, is a north-flowing, warm ocean current on the west side of the North Pacific Ocean.



Q.351) Consider the following statements with respect to Saffir-Simpson wind scale:

1. Saffir-Simpson wind scale is used to measure Hurricane.
2. Hurricanes that reach category three or higher are classified as major hurricanes

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.351) Solution (c)

Explanation:

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale: Hurricanes are categorized on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, which rates them on a scale of 1 to 5 based on wind speed. Hurricanes that reach category three or higher are classified as major hurricanes. It is because of their potential to cause devastating damage to property and life.



Q.352) Consider the following pairs:

1. Cyclone names : : Region
2. Typhoon : : Pacific ocean
3. Hurrican : : Indian ocean
4. Willy Willies : : Atlantic ocean

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

Q.352) Solution (a)

Depending on where hurricanes occur, they may be called typhoons or cyclones. They are given many names in different regions of the world:

- Typhoons: tropical cyclones are known as Typhoons in the China Sea and Pacific Ocean.
- Hurricanes: In the West Indian islands in the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean.
- Tornados: In the Guinea lands of West Africa and southern USA.
- Willy-willies: In north-western Australia and
- Tropical Cyclones: In the Indian Ocean Region.

Q.353) Consider the following statements:

1. Dengue is a animal-borne tropical disease
2. National Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) works under Ministry of science and technology

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Q.353) Solution (d)

Explanation:

Dengue is a mosquito-borne tropical disease caused by the dengue virus (Genus Flavivirus), transmitted by several species of mosquito within the genus Aedes, principally Aedes aegypti.

Symptoms include fever, headache, muscle and joint pains, and a characteristic skin rash.

There are four strains from Type I-IV, of which Type-II and IV are considered more severe.

Incidence of dengue has grown dramatically around the world in recent decades, with a vast majority of cases under-reported, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

WHO estimates 39 crore dengue virus infections per year, of which 9.6 crore show symptoms.

India registered over 1 lakh dengue cases in 2018 and over 1.5 lakh cases in 2019, according to the National Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP).

NVBDCP is the central nodal agency for prevention and control of six vector borne diseases i.e. Malaria, Dengue, Lymphatic Filariasis, Kala-azar, Japanese Encephalitis and Chikungunya in India. It works under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Q.354) “India Component” of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)–Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA). Is launched by which of the following?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) Ministry of transport
- c) Ministry of finance
- d) Ministry of home affairs

Q.354) Solution (a)

NITI Aayog launched the “India Component” of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)–Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA).

NDC–TIA is a regional initiative that aims to promote a comprehensive approach to decarbonize transport in India, Vietnam, and China.

In each of the partner countries, the NDC-TIA supports in making their sectoral contributions to the achievement of the NDCs of the Paris Agreement.

The NDC-TIA programme has a duration of 4 years.

It is a joint programme, supported by the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

Q.355) Consider the following statements with respect to Amnesty International:

1. It is an UK based international Non-Governmental Organization
2. It was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace.

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

Q.355) Solution (c)

Amnesty International (AI)

- It is an international Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) founded in London (UK) in 1961.
- It seeks to publicise violations by governments and other entities of rights recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), especially freedom of speech and of conscience and the right against torture.
- In 1977, it was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace.
- AI India is a part of the global human rights movement spearheaded by Amnesty International. It has its registered office in Bangalore (Karnataka).

Q.356) Recently the term “AITIGA” was seen in news, it refers to:

- It is a free trade agreement
- It is a new mission by ISRO
- It is a new financial inclusion scheme launched by NITI Aayog
- It is a dwarf planet found out by NASA

Q.356) Solution (a)

ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA)

- The AITIGA is a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) among the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and India which came into force in January, 2010.
- Under the pact, two trading partners set timelines for eliminating duties on the maximum number of goods traded between the two regions.
- India's trade deficit with the ASEAN rose from around 5 billion USD in 2011 to 21.8 USD billion in 2019.
- India emphasized on review on AITIGA at the earliest and the need to strengthen the Rules of Origin provisions, work towards removal of non-tariff barriers and provide better market access.

Q.357) Which of the following country does not share Coastline with Caspian sea?

- Russia
- Kazakhstan
- Iran
- Iraq

Q.357) Solution (d)

The Caspian Sea is the world's largest inland body of water. It is an endorheic basin (a basin without outflows) located between Europe and Asia, to the east of the Caucasus Mountains and to the west of the broad steppe of Central Asia. It is bounded by Kazakhstan to the northeast, Russia to the northwest, Azerbaijan to the west, Iran to the south, and Turkmenistan to the southeast.

Q.358) Consider the following statements with respect to Kavkaz:

- Kavkaz 2020 to be held in Astrakhan (Russia)

2. It is the tri-service exercise is part of a four-year exercise cycle of the Russian army

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.358) Solution (c)

Kavkaz-2020 Exercise:

- It is a strategic command-post exercise, and also known as Caucasus-2020.
- The tri-service exercise is part of a four-year exercise cycle of the Russian army. Previous editions of the exercise were held in 2012 and 2016.
- In 2020 it will be conducted in the Astrakhan province of Southern Russia.
- Member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and Central Asian countries would be participating.

Q.359) Which of the following is the implementing agency of PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM-YASASVI)?

- a) Ministry of skill development Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment Ministry of human resource development Ministry of Education
- b) Ministry of Social justice and Empowerment
- c) Ministry of human resource development
- d) Ministry of Education

Q.359) Solution (b)

PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM-YASASVI)

The Central government is contemplating setting up a single national scholarship scheme called PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (PM-YASASVI) for meritorious students which will absorb all the existing scholarship schemes.

Students in the Other Backward Class (OBC), SC, Denotified, Nomadic and semi-Nomadic Tribe (DNT) and Economically Backward Caste (EBC) categories will be able to avail the national scholarship.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been tasked to implement the Scheme by conducting a merit test.

Q.360) Consider the following statements with respect to Poshan Maah:

1. The month of August is observed as Poshan Maah i.e. Nutrition month every year, since 2018.
2. It is implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.360) Solution (b)

Poshan Abhiyan

- It is also called as the National Nutrition Mission, it is Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Poshan implies 'Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition'.
- Under Poshan Abhiyaan, the month of September is observed as Poshan Maah i.e. Nutrition month every year, since 2018.
- It includes a month-long activities focussed on antenatal care, optimal breastfeeding, anaemia, growth monitoring, girls education, diet, right age of marriage, hygiene and sanitation and eating healthy (food fortification).
- The activities focus on Social and Behavioural Change Communication (SBCC) and are based on Jan Andolan Guidelines.
- SBCC is the strategic use of communication approaches to promote changes in knowledge, attitudes, norms, beliefs and behaviours.
- Jan Andolan is one of the strategies under the Poshan Abhiyaan.
- A food and nutrition quiz as well as meme competition will be organized on the My Gov portal.
- A unique kind of nutrition park has been created at Statue of Unity (Gujarat), where one can witness nutrition related education along with fun and frolic.
- Implemented by Ministry of Women and Child Development

Q.361) Consider the following statements:

1. National Statistical Office is formed by merging National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) with the Central Statistics Office (CSO)
2. National Statistical Office publishes Index of industrial production.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.361) Solution (c)

The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) with the Central Statistics Office (CSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is merged to form an overarching body National Statistical Office (NSO) through the merger of the NSSO and the CSO.

The order states that the proposed NSO would be headed by Secretary (Statistics and Programme Implementation), but skips any mention of National Statistical Commission (NSC), which has been the overseeing body for all the statistical work done in the country.

Index of Industrial production

- The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an indicator that measures the changes in the volume of production of industrial products during a given period.

- It is compiled and published monthly by the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- IIP is a composite indicator that measures the growth rate of industry groups classified under:
 - Broad sectors, namely, Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity.
 - Use-based sectors, namely Basic Goods, Capital Goods, and Intermediate Goods.
 - Base Year for IIP is 2011-2012.

Q.362) What are bad banks?

- It is an asset reconstruction company
- It is bankrupted financial institute
- It is a bank forced to shut-down by RBI
- It is a part of National company law tribunal

Q.362) Solution (a)

A Bad Bank is an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC).

Once it is formed, banks divide their assets into two categories (a) one with non-performing assets and other risky liabilities and (b) others with healthy assets, which help banks grow financially.

ARC or Bad Bank buys bad loans from the commercial banks at a discount and tries to recover the money from the defaulter by providing a systematic solution over a period of time.

The bad bank will manage these Non-Performing Assets in suitable ways, some may be liquidated, others may be restructured, etc.

RBI, too, came up with a suggestion to form two entities to clean up the bad loan problems ailing public sector banks-PAMC (Private Asset Management Company) and NAMC (National Assets Management Company).

PAMC would be formed by roping in banks and global funding companies.

This would invest in areas where there's a short-term economic viability.

NAMC would be formed with government support, which would invest in bad assets with short-term stress but good chances of turnaround and economic benefit.

Q.363) Which of the following is not among the eight core sector industries?

- Electricity generation
- Coal production
- Natural Gas production
- Automobile Industry

Q.363) Solution (d)

The eight core sector industries include coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement, and electricity.

These comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

The eight core Industries in decreasing order of their weightage: Refinery Products> Electricity> Steel> Coal> Crude Oil> Natural Gas> Cement> Fertilizers.

Industry :: Weight (In percentage)

- Petroleum & Refinery production :: 28.04
- Electricity generation :: 19.85
- Steel production :: 17.92
- Coal production :: 10.33
- Crude Oil production :: 8.98
- Natural Gas production :: 6.88
- Cement production :: 5.37
- Fertilizers production :: 2.63

Q.364) Consider the following statements:

1. African baobab is the oldest Known Angiosperm Tree
2. Baobabs are deciduous dwarf trees with 3-9 feet height

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Q.364) Solution (b)

Explanation:

Baobabs are deciduous trees ranging in height from 5 to 20 meters. Deciduous forest is a vegetation composed primarily of broad-leaved trees that shed all their leaves during one season.

The African baobab (*Adansonia digitata*) is one of the nine species of baobab and is native to mainland Africa. They are also found in African Savannah here the ecosystem is a tropical grassland with warm temperatures year-round and with its highest seasonal rainfall in the summer.

It is characterized by grasses and small or dispersed trees that do not form a closed canopy, allowing sunlight to reach the ground.

Carbon-14 dating places the age of a specimen of African baobab in Namibia at about 1,275 years which is the oldest Known Angiosperm Tree.

Q.365) Onam one of the major harvesting festival of which of the following state?

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

Q.365) Solution (b)

About Onam:

Onam is a major harvest festival in Kerala and is celebrated to honour the home-coming of Asura king Mahabali who brought about peace and prosperity in Kerala.

It is one of the three major festivals of Kerala, celebrated during the month of Chingam, the first month in the Malayalam calendar, Kollavarsham.

The other two major festivals of the state are Vishu and Thiruvathira.

The 10-day harvest festival begins on Atham (first day of Onam) and concludes on Thiruvonam (last day).

The main attraction is the traditional Onam sadhya (grand feast).

Q.366) Consider the following statements with respect to Chola dynasty:

1. The Cholas ruled the central and northern parts of Assam
2. Brihadeshwara temple was built during their period

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.366) Solution (b)

The Cholas controlled the central and northern parts of Tamil Nadu from around the 8th-12th century AD.

Their core area of the rule was the Kaveri delta, later known as Cholamandalam. Their capital was Uraiyur (near Tiruchirapalli town) and Puhar or Kaveripattinam was an alternative royal residence and chief port town.

Tiger was their emblem.

King Karikala was a famous king of the Sangam Cholas. Trade and commerce flourished during his reign. He founded the port city of Puhar (identical with Kaveripattinam)

Recently, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has launched 'Project Digital Poompuhar' to recreate the Chola Dynasty port city (Poompuhar) in Tamil Nadu.

Brihadisvara Temple was built by Chola emperor Raja Raja Chola I (985-1014 AD) between 1003 AD and 1010 AD.

Q.367) Consider the following statements with respect to National Sports Development Fund (NSDF):

1. Donation given to NSDF can be considered as corporate social responsibility.
2. Fund is managed by a Council constituted by the Central Government and the Union Minister in charge of Youth Affairs and Sports is the Chairperson of the Council.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.367) Solution (c)

National Sports Development Fund (NSDF) was established in 1998 under the Charitable Endowments Act 1890

- It was notified by Government of India in November 1998
- Donation given to NSDF can be considered as corporate social responsibility initiative
- Purpose of creation is to impart momentum and flexibility to assist the cause of sports

- The Fund helps sportspersons excel by providing them opportunities to train under coaches of international repute with technical, scientific and psychological support and giving them exposure to international competitions
- The Fund also provides financial assistance for the development of infrastructure and other activities for the promotion of sports
- The Fund is managed by a Council constituted by the Central Government. Union Minister in charge of Youth Affairs and Sports is the Chairperson of the Council.
- The Council decides all policy matters relating to the Fund.

Q.368) National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj is located in which city?

- a) Hyderabad
- b) Bengaluru
- c) Chennai
- d) New Delhi

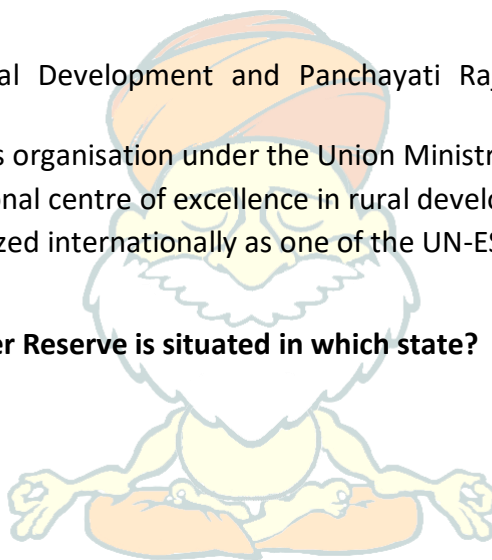
Q.368) Solution (a)

National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj is located in Hyderabad (Telangana).

- It is an autonomous organisation under the Union Ministry of Rural Development.
- It is a premier national centre of excellence in rural development and Panchayati Raj.
- It has been recognized internationally as one of the UN-ESCAP Centres of Excellence.

Q.369) Parambikulam Tiger Reserve is situated in which state?

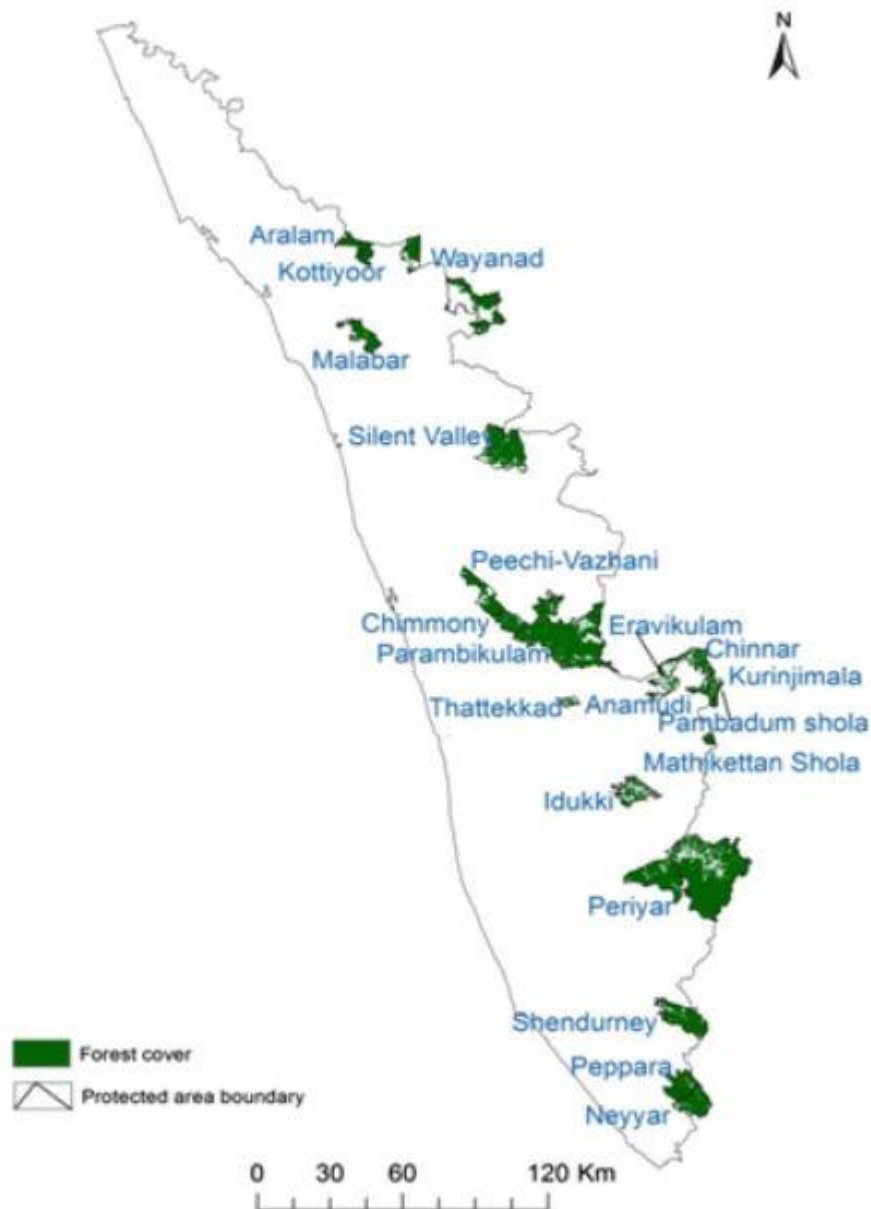
- a) Assam
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Tamil nadu
- d) Kerala



Q.369) Solution (d)

Parambikulam Tiger Reserve

- It is a well-protected ecological portion in the Nelliampathy – Anamalai landscape of the Southern Western Ghats in India.
- It is located in the Palakkad District of Kerala.
- It was declared as Tiger Reserve during 2008-09.
- The reserve is credited with the first scientifically managed teak plantation in the world which was later merged with the forest land.
- It has the world's largest and oldest teak tree. Named "Kannimara" (corrupt version of Irish name Connemara), the tree is believed to be 350 years old and has a height of 40m and girth of 6.4m.



Q.370) Tri-Services Exercise Indra is between which India and which country?

- a) Russia
- b) Japan
- c) France
- d) Turkmenistan

Q.370) Solution (a)

India and Russia are scheduled to hold Indra 2020 in the Andaman Sea, close to the Strait of Malacca instead of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

The Strait of Malacca connects Indian Ocean to the South China Sea and is 900 km in length and is also a prominent trade route between East Asia and West Asia-Europe.

IOR is under high operational alert by the Indian Navy due to the ongoing standoff with China in Ladakh.

About Indra exercise

- The Indra series of exercises began in 2003 and was conducted as a bilateral naval exercise alternately between the two countries.
- However, the first joint Tri-Services Exercise was conducted in 2017.
- Indra 2020 will be the first bilateral naval exercise since all such engagements were suspended due to Covid-19 pandemic.
- Its timing coincides with Indian Defence Minister's visit to Russia for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers Meet.

Q.371) 'Mission Karmayogi' was recently seen in news, it is related to:

- Civil services capacity building program
- Farmers monetary aid program
- Soldiers emotional training program
- Creation of jobs with minimum wage

Q.371) Solution (a)

'Mission Karmayogi' – the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB). It is meant to be a comprehensive post-recruitment reform of the Centre's human resource development. Similar to pre-recruitment changes in the form of the National Recruitment Agency.

Objectives of Mission Karmayogi:

- It is aimed at building a future-ready civil service with the right attitude, skills and knowledge, aligned to the vision of New India.
- It aims to prepare Indian civil servants for the future by making them more creative, constructive, imaginative, proactive, innovative, progressive, professional, energetic, transparent, and technology-enabled.
- Comprehensive reform of the capacity building apparatus at the individual, institutional and process levels for efficient public service delivery.

Q.372) Consider the following statements:

1. The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) is a subordinate organization of the Ministry of Science and technology
2. The Zoological Survey of India has its headquarters at Kolkata

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.372) Solution (b)

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), a subordinate organization of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, was established in 1916.

It is a national centre for faunistic survey and exploration of the resources leading to the advancement of knowledge on the exceptionally rich faunal diversity of the country.

It has its headquarters at Kolkata and 16 regional stations located in different geographic locations of the country.

Q.373) Consider the following statements Special Frontier Force (SFF):

1. The units that comprise the SFF are known as Vikas battalions.
2. It falls under the purview of the Cabinet Secretariat

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.373) Solution (c)

Special Frontier Force (SFF)

- SFF was raised in the immediate aftermath of the 1962 Sino-India war.
- It was a covert outfit which recruited Tibetans (now it has a mixture of Tibetans and Gorkhas) and initially went by the name of Establishment 22.
- It was named so because it was raised by Major General Sujan Singh Uban, an Artillery officer who had commanded 22 Mountain Regiment. He named the new covert group after his regiment. Subsequently, the group was renamed as Special Frontier Force.
- SFF now falls under the purview of the Cabinet Secretariat where it is headed by an Inspector General who is an Army officer of the rank of Major General.
- It falls under the purview of the Cabinet Secretariat where it is headed by an Inspector General who is an Army officer of the rank of Major General.
- The units have their own rank structures which have equivalent status with Army ranks.
- However, they are highly trained Special Forces personnel who can undertake a variety of tasks which would normally be performed by any Special Forces unit.

Q.374) Consider the following statements:

1. International Commission of Jurists is an NGO
2. Geneva is the headquarters of International Court of Justice

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.374) Solution (a)

International Commission of Jurists

- International Commission of Jurists is an international human rights non-governmental organization.

- It is a standing group of 60 eminent jurists—including senior judges, attorneys and academics.
- Its function is to develop national and international human rights standards through the law.
- Headquarters is located at Geneva, Switzerland.

International Court of Justice

- ICJ was established in 1945 by the United Nations charter and started working in April 1946.
- It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, situated at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands).
- Unlike the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York (USA).

Q.375) Consider the following statements with respect to Andaman and Nicobar:

1. Barren islands is the only active Island in India
2. Port Blair is located in Middle Andaman

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.375) Solution (a)

The Andaman and Nicobar islands (A&N islands), popularly known as 'Bay Islands', are situated in the Bay of Bengal, midway between peninsular India and Myanmar, spreading like a broken necklace in the North-south direction.

The maximum altitude of these islands is 730 m at Saddle Peak in North Andaman, formed mainly of limestone, sandstone, and clay.

Two islands of volcanic origin are found, namely the Narcondam and the Barren islands. The former is now apparently extinct while the latter is still active.

The Andaman and Nicobars are separated by the Ten Degree Channel which is 150 Kms. wide.

The indigenous people of Andamans are the Great Andamanese, the Jarawa; the Onge; and the Sentinelese (the most isolated of all the groups).

The indigenous peoples of the Nicobars (unrelated to the Andamanese) are the Nicobarese; and the Shompen.

The Andaman Wood Pigeon, Andaman Padauk and Dugong are declared as State Bird, State Tree and State Animal respectively.

Port blair the capital city of Andaman and Nicobar is situated in South Andaman

Q.376) The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is called as which of the following?

- a) Question Hour
- b) Zero Hour
- c) Parliament hour

d) Submission hour

Q.376) Solution (a)

The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is slotted for the Question Hour. However, in 2014 the Question Hour was shifted in the Rajya Sabha from 11 am to 12 noon.

During this one hour, Members of Parliament (MPs) ask questions to ministers and hold them accountable for the functioning of their ministries.

The questions can also be asked to the private members (MPs who are not ministers).

The presiding officers of the both Houses (Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha) are the final authority with respect to the conduct of Question Hour.

Kinds of Questions: There are three types of questions asked.

- Starred question (distinguished by an asterisk)- this requires an oral answer and hence supplementary questions can follow.
- Unstarred question- this requires a written answer and hence, supplementary questions cannot follow.
- Short notice question is one that is asked by giving a notice of less than ten days. It is answered orally.

Q.377) Which of the following does not have postal ballot service?

- a) Voters on election duty
- b) Voters under preventive detention
- c) Voters above 80 years of age
- d) Persons in prison

Q.377) Solution (d)

Ballot papers are distributed electronically to electors and are returned to the election officers via post.

Currently, only the following voters are allowed to cast their votes through postal ballot:

Service voters (armed forces, the armed police force of a state and government servants posted abroad),

- Voters on election duty.
- Voters above 80 years of age or Persons with Disabilities (PwD).
- Voters under preventive detention.

The exception to the above-mentioned category of voters is provided under Section 60 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Q.378) Consider the following statements with respect to Mass Spectrometry:

1. It is based on ionization and fragmentation of sample molecules in the gaseous phase.
2. The instrument operates on the principle that moving ions may be deflected by electric and magnetic fields.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.378) Solution (c)

Mass Spectrometry (MS):

- It is an analytical technique used for determining the elemental composition of samples, quantifying the mass of particles and molecules, and elucidating their chemical structure.
- MS is based on ionization and fragmentation of sample molecules in the gaseous phase.
- The instruments used in this technique are called mass spectrometers and mass spectrographs, and they operate on the principle that moving ions may be deflected by electric and magnetic fields.
- Clinical laboratories use the MS technology for disease screening, diagnosis of disease and metabolic disorders, monitoring of drug therapy, identifying drug toxicity and poisoning, and discovering new biomarkers.
- Biomarker is short for biological marker, and is used as an indication that a biological process in the body has happened or is ongoing.

Q.379) Which of the following country share border with both Black sea and Mediterranean Sea?

- a) Turkey
- b) Serbia
- c) Georgia
- d) Russia

Q.379) Solution (a)

Turkey is the only county which shares borders with both Black sea and Mediterranean Sea





Q.380) which part of the Indian constitution deals with the official languages?

- a) Part XVII
- b) Part XVIII
- c) Part XIV
- d) Part XV



Q.380) Solution (a)

Part XVII of the Indian Constitution deals with the official languages in Articles 343 to 351.

- Article 350A (Facilities for instruction in mother-tongue at primary stage) provides that it shall be the endeavour of every State and of every local authority within the State to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother-tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups.
- Article 345: Official language or languages of a State subject to the provisions of Article 346 and 347.
- Article 351 (Directive for development of the Hindi language) provides that it shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language.

Q.381) Consider the following statements:

1. 5th BRICS Culture Minister's Meeting was held under the Chairpersonship of Russian Federation.
2. New development bank was established by BRICS countries.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.381) Solution (c)

The 5th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting was held through a video conference under the Chairpersonship of Russian Federation.

The delegates from Culture Ministries of the BRICS nations – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – participated in the meeting.

During the Sixth BRICS Summit in Fortaleza (Brazil) in 2014, the leaders signed the Agreement establishing the New Development Bank (NDB – Shanghai, China). They also signed the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement to provide short-term liquidity support to the members.

Q.382) Consider the following statements with respect to Zoological survey of India:

1. It is India's apex organization on animal taxonomy.
2. It works under Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.382) Solution (c)

It is India's apex organization on animal taxonomy.

Its objective is to promote survey, exploration, research and documentation on various aspects of animal taxonomy in Indian subcontinent.

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), a subordinate organization of the Ministry of Environment and Forests was established in 1916 and headquartered in Kolkata.

It also seeks advancement of knowledge on animal taxonomy.

It has been declared as designated repository for National Zoological Collection as per section 39 of the National Biodiversity Act, 2002.

The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), a subordinate organization of the Ministry of Environment and Forests was established in 1916 and headquartered in Kolkata.

Q.383) Consider the following statements with respect to US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF):

1. It started for the first time in august 2020 to fight against the Global Pandemic COVID-19
2. Theme of the forum 2020 is US-India Navigating New Challenges.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q.383) Solution (b)

US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)

- Established in The USISPF is a non-profit organization established in 2017.
- Objective is to Strengthening the USA-India bilateral and strategic partnership.
- Aim of the forum is to Strengthening economic and commercial ties between the two countries through policy advocacy that will lead to driving economic growth, entrepreneurship, employment-creation, and innovation to create a more inclusive society.
- Enabling business and governments to collaborate and create meaningful opportunities that can positively change the lives of citizens.
- Theme for 2020: US-India Navigating New Challenges.

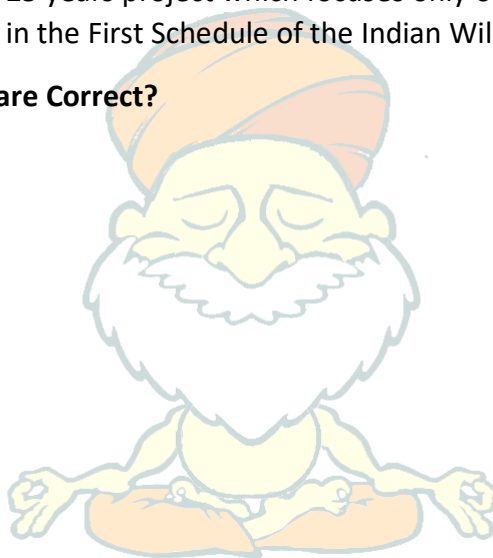
Q.384) Consider the following statements:

1. Project Dolphin is a 25 years project which focuses only on river dolphin.
2. Gangetic Dolphin is in the First Schedule of the Indian Wildlife (Protection), Act 1972.

Which of the following is/are Correct?

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

Q.384) Solution (b)





Project got in-principle approval in December 2019, at the first meeting of the National Ganga Council (NGC), headed by the Prime Minister.

It is expected to be implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Special Conservation program needs to be taken up for Gangetic Dolphin which is a national aquatic animal and also indicator species for the river Ganga spread over several states.

Gangetic Dolphin

- These are generally blind and catch their prey in a unique manner. They emit an ultrasonic sound which reaches the prey.
- It is found mainly in the Indian subcontinent, particularly in Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems.

Status of Conservation:

- In the First Schedule of the Indian Wildlife (Protection), Act 1972.
- Endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Q.385) Which of the following Indian State/ Union territory does not share border with China?

- Jammu and Kashmir
- Uttarkhand
- Arunachal Pradesh

d) Sikkim

Q.385) Solution (a)

The entire China-Indian border (including the western LAC, the small undisputed section in the centre, and the McMahon Line in the east) is 4,056 km (2,520 mi) long and traverses one Indian union territory, Ladakh, and four Indian states Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.



Q.386) Consider the following statements with reference to G20:

1. India is a member of G20 group
2. The headquarters of G20 group is in New York

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.386) Solution (a)

The G20 is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union, with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The G20 membership comprises a mix of the world's largest advanced and emerging economies, representing about two-thirds of the world's population, 85% of global gross domestic product, 80% of global investment and over 75% of global trade.

The members of the G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union. It does not have any permanent secretariat or headquarters.

Q.387) Which of the following article provide facilities for instruction in mother-tongue at the primary stage?

- a) 343 A
- b) 343 B
- c) 350 A
- d) 350 B

Q.387) Solution (c)

A linguistic minority is a class of people whose mother tongue is different from that of the majority in the state or part of a state. the constitution provides for the protection of the interests of linguistic minorities.

Article 350-A imposes a duty on the states to Endeavour to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority. The president is authorized to issue such directions to any state, as he considers necessary or proper for securing the provisions of such facilities.

Article 347 provides for the use of majority language in the administration. If a demand is made in this behalf and the president is satisfied that a substantial proportion of the population of a state desire the use any language spoken by them to be recognized by the state, the president may direct that such language shall also be officially recognized throughout the state or any part of tire state for such purposes as he may specify.

Article 350 gives right to every person to submit a representation for the redress of any grievance to any officer or authority of the union or a state in any of the language used in the union or a state, as the case may be.

Article 350-B empowers the president to appoint a special officer for linguistic minorities. It is the duty of the special officer to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities under this constitution and report to the president upon those matters at such intervals as the president may direct. The president shall cause reports to be laid before each house of parliament and send to the government of the state concerned.

Q.388) Arrange the following in the decreasing order of their power production in India:

1. Hydro power
2. Renewable resource power
3. Thermal power
4. Nuclear power

Which of the following order is correct?

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

Q.388) Solution (c)

India mainly uses three types of thermal power plants- Coal, Gas and Liquid-fuel based. The electricity generated by these plants adds up to 62.2% of the total power generation in the country.

Fuel	MW	% of Total
Total Thermal	2,31,456	62.2%
Coal	1,99,595	53.7%
Lignite	6,360	1.7%
Gas	24,992	6.7%
Diesel	510	0.1%
Hydro (Renewable)	45,699	12.3%
Nuclear	6,780	1.8%
RES* (MNRE)	88,042	23.7%
Total	371,977	

Q.389) The term “Nord Stream 2”, recently seen in news, refers to which of the following?

- a) Sagar mala project in India
- b) Construction of port in Sri Lanka
- c) Sea way in south china sea
- d) Gas pipe line project between Russia and Germany

Q.389) Solution (d)





- Nord Stream 2 is a gas pipeline project.
- Its purpose is to bring Russian gas under the Baltic Sea direct to Germany.
- The decision to build Nord Stream 2 was based on the successful experience in building and operating the Nord Stream gas pipeline.
- So it is an expansion of the Russia's existing Nord Stream gas pipeline.
- It will also ensure a highly reliable supply of Russian gas to Europe.

Q.390) Consider the following statements with respect to Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA):

1. This act is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. All NGOs are required to be registered under the Act to receive foreign funding.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.390) Solution (c)

Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA)

- Foreign funding of voluntary organizations in India is regulated under FCRA act which is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The Acts ensures that the recipients of foreign contributions adhere to the stated purpose for which such contribution has been obtained.

Do you know?

As per the FCRA Act 2010, all NGOs are required to be registered under the Act to receive foreign funding.

According to terms stipulated in the FCRA, an organisation cannot receive foreign funding unless it is registered under the 2010 Act, except when it gets government approval for a specific project.

Under the FCRA Act, registered NGOs can receive foreign contribution for five purposes — social, educational, religious, economic and cultural.

Q.391) Consider the following statements:

1. Malabar rebellion in 1921 was against the British rule in India.
2. Wagon tragedy is related to Moplah rebellion.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.391) Solution (c)

Malabar Rebellion or Moplah Uprising or Mapillah Revolt (1921)

The trigger of the uprising came from the Non-Cooperation Movement launched by the Congress in 1920 along with the Khilafat agitation.

The anti-British sentiment fuelled by these agitations affected the Muslim Mapillahs (also known as Moplahs) of south Malabar region of Kerala.

New Tenancy Laws

After the death of Tipu Sultan in 1799 in the Fourth Anglo-Mysore War, Malabar had come under British authority as part of the Madras Presidency.

The British had introduced new tenancy laws that tremendously favoured the landlords known as Janmis and instituted a far more exploitative system for peasants than before.

The new laws deprived the peasants of all guaranteed rights to the land, share in the produce they earlier got and in effect rendered them landless.

Most of the landlords were Namboodiri Brahmins while most of the tenants were Mapillah Muslims.

It is fuelled by the fiery speeches by Muslim religious leaders and anti-British sentiments, the Mopillahs launched a violent rebellion. Numerous actions of violence were reported and series of persecutions were committed both against the British and the Hindu landlords.

By the end of 1921, the rebellion was crushed by the British who had raised a special battalion, the Malabar Special Force for the riot.

In November 1921, 67 Moplah prisoners were killed when they were being transported in a closed freight wagon from Tirur to the Central Prison in Podanur. They died of suffocation. This event is called the Wagon Tragedy.

Q.392) Consider the following statements with respect to Indian Council of Historical Research:

1. It was established under Societies Registration Act, 1860 in 1972.
2. It is under the Ministry of Culture.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.392) Solution (a)

Indian council of Historical Research

- Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) is an autonomous organization, established under Societies Registration Act, 1860 in 1972.
- It is under the Ministry of Education.
- The council also provides grants, assistance and fellowships for historical research.

Objectives of ICHR:

- To bring historians together for exchange of views.
- To give a national direction to an objective and scientific writing of history.
- To promote, accelerate and coordinate research in history and ensure its dissemination.

Q.393) Recently the word “Mysticellus franki” was in news. It is related to which of the following?

- a) Antibodies against Corona virus
- b) Newly spotted frog species
- c) Lander name of Chandrayan 3
- d) New comet found in Kuiper belt

Q.393) Solution (b)

Mysticellus franki is a mysterious narrow-mouthed frog that was spotted in the seasonal roadside puddles in Kerala's Wayanad district.

It is a new species and belongs to a completely new genus, Mysticellus.

Mysticellus is named after Latin 'mysticus', meaning mysterious; and 'ellus' meaning diminutive as the frog is just around 3 cm long.

The species is named after evolutionary biologist Franky Bossuyt from Brussel's Vrije Universiteit.

The frogs' calls are extremely different as it resembles that of insects.

Genetic studies further revealed that the frog is around 40 million years old and its nearest relatives live more than 2,000 km away, in Southeast Asia (including Indo-Burma, Malaysia and Vietnam).

The genetic studies add strength to the theories that India and Southeast Asia were connected in the past by land bridges.

Q.394) Which of the following is considered as forex reserve by RBI?

1. Gold
2. Special drawing rights of the IMF
3. Foreign currency assets
4. Reserve Tranche in the IMF

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.394) Solution (d)

Foreign exchange reserves are assets denominated in a foreign currency that are held on reserve by a central bank. These may include foreign currencies, bonds, treasury bills and other government securities.

Forex Reserves in India: Forex reserves are external assets accumulated by India and controlled by the RBI in the form of:

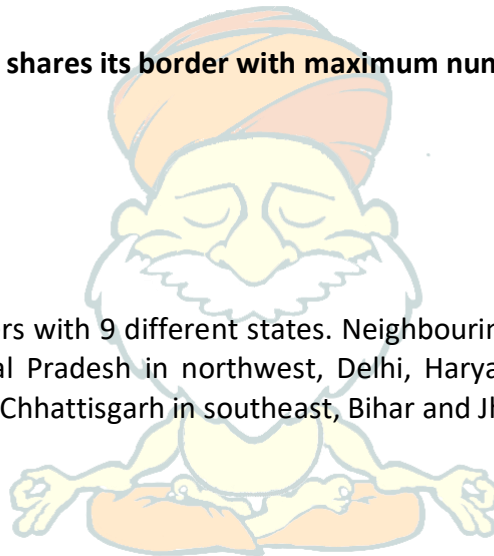
- Gold
- SDRs (special drawing rights of the International Monetary Fund – IMF)
- Foreign currency assets (capital inflows to the capital markets, Foreign Direct Investment and external commercial borrowings)
- Reserve Position with IMF

Q.395) Which Indian state shares its border with maximum number of states?

- a) Uttar Pradesh
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Assam
- d) West Bengal

Q.395) Solution (a)

Uttar Pradesh share borders with 9 different states. Neighbouring States of Uttar Pradesh – Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh in northwest, Delhi, Haryana and Rajasthan in west, Madhya Pradesh in south, Chhattisgarh in southeast, Bihar and Jharkhand in east.





Q.396) Consider the following statements:

1. Forests and Protection of Wild Animals and Birds are included in the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India.
2. Article 48 A mandates that the State shall endeavor to protect and improve the environment and to safeguard the forests and wildlife of the country

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.396) Solution (c)

Forests and Protection of Wild Animals and Birds are included in the Concurrent List in the (Seventh Schedule) of the Constitution of India.

Through the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976 Forests and Protection of Wild Animals and Birds were transferred from State to Concurrent List along with Education, Weights & Measures and Administration of Justice.

Article 51 A (g) of the Constitution states that it shall be the fundamental duty of every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment including forests and Wildlife.

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

Q.397) Recently Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a 24/7 toll-free helpline to provide support to people facing anxiety, stress, depression, suicidal thoughts and other mental health concerns. What is the name of the helpline?

- a) Sahaya
- b) Kiran
- c) Vikas
- d) M Support

Q.397) Solution (b)

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched a 24/7 toll-free helpline 'Kiran' to provide support to people facing anxiety, stress, depression, suicidal thoughts and other mental health concerns.

About the Helpline:

- It will cater to – People in Distress, pandemic induced psychological issues and Mental Health Emergency.
- It will offer mental health rehabilitation services with the objective of early screening, first-aid, psychological support, distress management, promoting positive behaviours, etc.
- It will be available in 13 languages and has 660 clinical/rehabilitation psychologists and 668 psychiatrists as volunteers.
- It is being coordinated by the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Multiple Disabilities (NIEPMD), Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR), Sehore (Madhya Pradesh).
- NIEMPD and NIMHR are under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- Helpline operators had been sensitised not to ask the caller for name or any identification details

Q.398) Consider the following statements with respect to Assam Rifles:

1. It is a Paramilitary Force under the Central Armed Police Forces.
2. It operated as a part of Indian Peace Keeping force to Sri Lanka in 1987

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Q.398) Solution (d)

Assam Rifles is a Central Paramilitary Force under the Central Armed Police Forces.

- It came into being in 1835, as a militia called the 'Cachar Levy', to primarily protect British Tea estates and their settlements against tribal raids.
- It significantly contributed to the opening of Assam region to administration and commerce and over time it came to be known as the "right arm of the civil and left arm of the military".

Major role post-Independence:

- Conventional combat role during the Sino-India War 1962.
- Operations in a foreign land as part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force to Sri Lanka in 1987 (Operation Pawan).
- Peacekeeping role in the North-Eastern areas of India.

Q.399) Which of the following country is a land locked country in South America?

- a) Brazil
- b) Venezuela
- c) Bolivia
- d) Peru

Q.399) Solution (c)

Paraguay and Bolivia are the only two landlocked countries in South America.





Q.400) Blue- Green Policy was launched recently for the conservation of environment by which Indian State/UT?

- Kerala
- Uttar Pradesh
- Delhi
- Ladak

Q.400) Solution (c)

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is holding public consultations for the preparation of the Master Plan for Delhi 2041.

- It is a vision document for the city's development over the next two decades.

- The existing Master Plan 2021 will be outdated next year.
- The agency wants to notify the new plan by the time that happens.
- The draft policy's focus on water bodies and the land around it, which is referred to as the "Green-Blue policy", would give the city a new shape.

What is Green-Blue infrastructure?

- 'Blue' infrastructure refers to water bodies like rivers, canals, ponds, wetlands, floodplains, and water treatment facilities.
- 'Green' infrastructure stands for trees, lawns, hedgerows, parks, fields, and forests.
- The concept refers to urban planning where water bodies and land are interdependent, and grow with the help of each other.
- They will offer environmental and social benefits.

Q.401) A CAPTCHA is a type of response test used in computing to determine whether or not the user is human, which we regularly see in many websites' login pages. CAPTCHA stands for:

- Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart
- Completely Automated Person to tell computer it is a human Act
- Completely Automated Personal test to tell Computer and Humans Apart
- Completely Activated Public test to tell Computer and Humans Apart

Q.401) Solution (a)

CAPTCHA

- CAPTCHA stands for Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart.
- CAPTCHA determines whether the user is real or a spam robot.
- CAPTCHA uses several human validation methods including math or general knowledge questions, visual puzzles and even chess puzzles.
- It is a type of challenge–response test used in computing to determine whether or not the user is human.
- The term was coined in 2003 by Luis von Ahn, Manuel Blum, Nicholas J. Hopper, and John Langford. The most common type of CAPTCHA (displayed as Version 1.0) was first invented in 1997 by two groups working in parallel.

Q.402) Consider the following statements with respect to Centre for Railways Information System:

1. It is the Information Technology (IT) wing of Indian Railways.
2. It is headquartered in New Delhi.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.402) Solution (c)

Centre for Railway Information Systems

- The Ministry of Railways set up CRIS as a Society in July 1986. It is the Information Technology (IT) wing of Indian Railways.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi.
- It performs the functions of Indian Railways such as passenger ticketing, freight operations, train dispatching and control, crew management, e-procurement, etc.

Q.403) Recently PM Modi inaugurated the Patrika gate through video conference. The Patrika gate is in which city?

- Bangalore
- New Delhi
- Kolkata
- Jaipur

Q.403) Solution (d)

Recently the Prime Minister has inaugurated the Patrika Gate in Jaipur (Rajasthan) through video conferencing.

Key Points

- The Gate has been constructed by the Rajasthan Patrika Group of Publications (media conglomerate).
- It is an iconic gate built as a monument under Mission Anupam of the Jaipur Development Authority.
- The construction of Patrika Gate was in keeping with Jaipur having recently been recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- In 2019, Jaipur became the second city of the country after Ahmedabad to get the recognition.
- India has 38 world heritage sites, including 30 cultural properties, 7 natural properties and 1 mixed site

Q.404) Consider the following statements:

1. According to NSO Report on Education, literacy rate among persons (aged 7 years and above) in India was about 77.7%
2. For the first time Female literacy rate is almost equal to male literacy rate

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.404) Solution (a)

Recently, the National Statistical Organisation (NSO) released a report 'Household Social Consumption: Education in India', as part of the 75th round of National Sample Survey (July 2017 to June 2018).

Education and Literacy Rates:

- Literacy rate among persons (aged 7 years and above) in India was about 77.7%. In rural areas, the literacy rate was 73.5% compared to 87.7% in urban areas (Report on Literacy Rate).
- Male literacy rate was higher (84.7%) than female literacy rate (70.3%).
- Only 5.7% were graduates or above in rural areas while the percentage was 21.7% in urban areas.

Q.405) Consider the following:

1. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy in the defence sector which allows the FDI through automatic approval is increased to 74%.
2. FDI is an investment made by a firm or individual in one country into business interests located in another country.

Which of the above is/are correct?

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

Q.405) Solution (c)

Foreign Direct Investment

FDI is an investment made by a firm or individual in one country into business interests located in another country.

Routes through which India gets FDI:

- Automatic Route: In this, the foreign entity does not require the prior approval of the government or the RBI.
- Government route: In this, the foreign entity has to take the approval of the government.

Recently, the Union Cabinet approved a new Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy in the defence sector which allows the FDI through automatic approval to be increased from 49% to 74%.

Earlier, the defence industry can bring FDI up to 49% under the automatic route, and above it under government route.

However, the new policy has a 'National Security' clause as a condition which has been proposed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Q.406) English canal passes between which two countries?

- a) France and United Kingdom
- b) Sweden and Finland
- c) Italy and Spain
- d) Italy and Greece

Q.406) Solution (a)



The English Channel, also called simply the Channel, is an arm of the Atlantic Ocean that separates Southern England from northern France and links to the southern part of the North Sea by the Strait of Dover at its northeastern end. It is the busiest shipping area in the world.

Q.407) Consider the following statements;

1. World Teachers' Day is celebrated on 5th September annually
2. Shikshak Parv is an initiative under Ministry of Human Resource

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.407) Solution (d)

Explanation:

Shikshak Parv is being celebrated from 8th-25th September 2020 to felicitate the teachers and to take New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 forward.

Shikshak Parv, initiative by Ministry of Education is organizing a series of webinars on New Education Policy (NEP) and its implementation.

Teachers' Day is celebrated on 5th September every year throughout India in memory of Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan on his birth anniversary.

However, World Teachers' Day is celebrated on 5th October annually to commemorate the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers.

This instrument sets forth the rights and responsibilities of teachers, and standards for their initial preparation and further education, recruitment, employment, teaching and learning conditions.

Q.408) Consider the following statements:

1. Global Innovation Index 2020 was released by the World Intellectual Property Organisation.
2. India's position increased in the Global Innovative Index compared to last year.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Q.408) Solution (c)

Global Innovation Index 2020 was released by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

- India is at the 48th position in the list of top 50 innovative countries.
- India occupied the 52nd position in 2019 rankings.
- Switzerland, Sweden, the USA, the UK and Netherlands are the top five countries.

India Specific Highlights:

- India has become the third most innovative lower-middle-income economy in the world.
- India ranks in the top 15 in indicators such as the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services exports, government online services, graduates in science and engineering, and Research and Development-intensive global companies.
- India improved the most in three pillars: Institutions (61st), business sophistication (55th), and creative outputs (64th).
- The consistent improvement in the index rankings is owing to the immense knowledge capital, the vibrant startup ecosystem, and the amazing work done by the public and private research organisations.
- The India Innovation Index 2019 which was released by the NITI Aayog, has been widely accepted as the major step in the direction of decentralisation of innovation across all the states of India.

Q.409) Which of the following country is not a part of 23rd edition of the Trilateral Maritime Exercise MALABAR?

- a) India
- b) Japan
- c) USA
- d) Australia

Q.409) Solution (d)

The 23rd edition of the Trilateral Maritime Exercise MALABAR is scheduled between the navies of India, Japan, and the USA.

It is an annual exercise between the navies of India, Japan, and the U.S. held alternately in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

It began in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the U.S.

Then it got permanently expanded into a trilateral format with the inclusion of Japan in 2015.

MALABAR 2019 would endeavour to further strengthen India – Japan – US Naval cooperation and enhance interoperability, based on shared values and principles.

Q.410) Which state topped the Ease of Doing Business Ranking by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Telangana
- d) Karnataka

Q.410) Solution (b)

Recently, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry released the 4th edition of Ease of Doing Business Rankings based on the State Business Reform Action Plan (State BRAP).

Andhra Pradesh has topped the rankings followed by Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. Tripura, Sikkim, Odisha were among the worst performers.

Andhra Pradesh has achieved 100% compliance with BRAP.

It is the first State to take measures to revive the economy hit by the global pandemic and revive the small and medium scale industries with a ReSTART package.

The ReSTART package includes the payment of sanctioned incentives, working capital loans, preferential market access etc. to MSME units.

Ease of Doing Business (EODB): It is a joint initiative by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the World Bank to improve the overall business environment in the States.

Q.411) Consider the following statements with respect to SAROD-Ports:

1. 'SAROD-Ports' is similar to SAROD-Roads constituted by National Highways Authority of India.
2. SAROD-Ports are established under Societies Regulation Act, 1860.

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Q.411) Solution (c)

The Union Ministry of Shipping launched 'SAROD-Ports' (Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes – Ports) through virtual ceremony in New Delhi.

It is established under Societies Registration Act, 1860.

'SAROD-Ports' is similar to provision available in Highway Sector in the form of SAROD-Roads constituted by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

It consists of members from Indian Ports Association (IPA) and Indian Private Ports and Terminals Association (IPTTA).

Functions:

SAROD-Ports will advise and assist in settlement of disputes through arbitrations in the maritime sector, including ports and shipping sector in Major Port Trusts, Non-major Ports, including private ports, jetties, terminals and harbors.

It will also cover disputes between:

Granting authority and Licensee/Concessionaire /Contractor.

Also, disputes between Licensee/Concessionaire and their contractors arising out of and during the course of execution of various contracts.

Q.412) "Five star village" scheme is related to which of the following?

- a) Financial inclusion in the village
- b) Education in the village school levels
- c) Rating village on the basis of Open defecation
- d) Universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas

Q.412) Solution (d)

The Department of Posts (Ministry of Communications) has launched a scheme called Five Star Villages. The scheme seeks to bridge the gaps in public awareness and reach of postal products and services, especially in interior villages.

Objective of the scheme is to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of the country.

Features of the scheme:

Three components: Product and Service Availability, Product and Service Publicity and Product and Service Marketing.

One-Stop Centre: Branch offices will function as one-stop shops to cater all post office related needs of the villagers.

Schemes covered:

- Savings Bank accounts, Recurring Deposit Accounts, NSC/KVP certificates,
- Sukanya Samridhi Accounts/ PPF Accounts,
- Funded Post Office Savings Account linked India Post Payments Bank Accounts,
- Postal Life Insurance Policy/Rural Postal Life Insurance Policy and
- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana Account/Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana Account.

Q.413) Consider the following Statements with respect to WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control:

1. It is the first international treaty negotiated under the auspices of the World Health Organization.
2. India has not ratified this treaty

Which of the following is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

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

Q.413) Solution (a)

WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC):

- It is the first international treaty negotiated under the auspices of the WHO.
- It was adopted by the World Health Assembly on 21 May 2003 and entered into force on 27 February 2005.
- India ratified it in 2004.
- It was developed in response to the globalization of the tobacco epidemic and is an evidence-based treaty that reaffirms the right of all people to the highest standard of health.
- The FCTC's measures to combat tobacco use include:
 - Price and tax measures.
 - Large, graphic warnings on tobacco packages.
 - 100% smoke-free public spaces.
 - A ban on tobacco marketing.
 - Support for smokers who want to quit.
 - Prevention of tobacco industry interference.

Q.414) Arrange the following cities from South to North:

1. New Delhi
2. Beijing
3. Tokyo
4. Astana

Which of the following is the right order?

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

Q.414) Solution (d)

When arranged from North to south the order will be Astana the capital city of Kazakhstan will be in northern position then the china capital Beijing, after that Tokyo, Japan capital, the southern city will be India Capital New Delhi



Q.415) 'Ranking of States on Support to Startup Ecosystems' were released by which of the following?

- a) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) Department of Investment and Public Asset Management
- d) Competition Commission of India

Q.415) Solution (a)

The Results of the 2nd edition of Ranking of States on Support to Startup Ecosystems were released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (Ministry of Commerce & Industry).

DPIIT has recently released the Ease of Doing Business Rankings of the States-2019 based on the State Business Reform Action Plan.

The rankings were started with an objective of fostering competitiveness, mutual learning and propel States and Union Territories (UTs) to work proactively towards uplifting the startup ecosystem.

The 2019 Ranking Framework has seven broad reform areas consisting of 30 action points ranging from institutional support, easing compliances, relaxation in public procurement norms, incubation support, seed funding support, venture funding support, and awareness and outreach.

2 Categories: To establish uniformity and ensure standardization in the ranking process, States and UTs have been divided into two groups.

Category Y: All UTs except Delhi and all States in North East India except Assam.

Category X: All other States and UT of Delhi.

Results: The States and UTs were classified as: Best Performers, Top Performers, Leaders, Aspiring Leaders and Emerging Startup Ecosystems.

Gujarat was the Best performer in Category X followed by Karnataka and Kerala. Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu occupied the lowest positions.

Andaman and Nicobar Islands was the Best performer in Category Y. Sikkim secured the bottom place.

Gujarat had secured the Best Performer position previous year as well.

Q.416) Which of the following writ is issued by the court to a public official asking him to perform his official duties that he has failed or refuse to perform?

- a) Certiorari
- b) Prohibition
- c) Mandamus
- d) Quo-warranto

Q.416) Solution (c)

SC writs are under Article 32 which in itself is a fundamental right thus SC cannot refuse to exercise its writ jurisdiction. Whereas article 226 is discretionary thus HC can refuse to exercise its writ jurisdiction.

The Supreme Court can issue writs only for the enforcement of fundamental rights whereas a High Court can issue writs for enforcement of fundamental rights along with “for any other purpose”

Habeus Corpus

- Habeas corpus is a Latin term which literally means “You may have the body”
- This writ can be issued against any person, Private or official
- An order calling upon the person who has unlawfully detained another person to produce the later before the court to ascertain, whether the detention is legal or not

Mandamus

- The Latin word ‘mandamus’ means ‘we command’.
- The writ of ‘mandamus’ is an order of the High Court or the Supreme Court commanding a person or a body to do its duty.
- Mandamus writ is used to command authority against both judicial & administrative, but entrusted only with public duty
- A writ of mandamus can be granted only in cases where a statutory duty imposed on an officer concerned results in failure on the part of officer or public authority to discharge the statutory obligation

Prohibition

- The Writ of prohibition means to forbid or to stop and it is popularly known as ‘Stay Order’.
- Writ of Prohibition is used against judicial & Quasi-Judicial authorities to command inactivity to certain judgment
- Sole purpose of this writ is to prevent inferior courts from usurping a jurisdiction with which they are not legally vested it Can be issued in excess or absence of jurisdiction

- Issued by superior court to inferior court or tribunal to prevent it from exceeding its jurisdiction & compel it to be within its limits of jurisdiction

Certiorari

- Literally, Certiorari means to be certified.
- It is issued by the higher court to the lower court either to transfer the case pending with the latter to itself or to squash the order already passed by an inferior court, tribunal or quasi judicial authority.

Quo Warranto

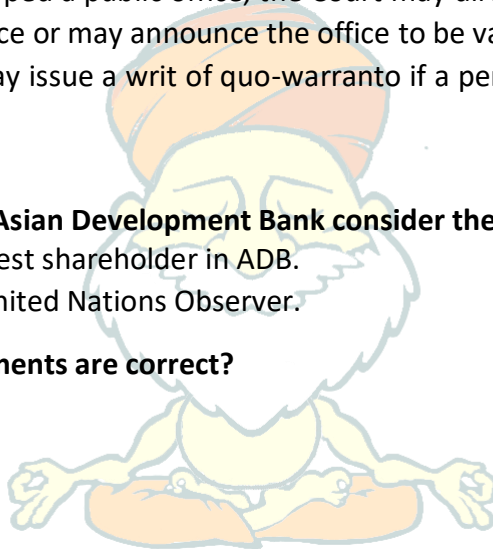
- The word Quo-Warranto literally means “by what warrants?” or “what is your authority”?
- It is a writ issued with a view to restrain a person from holding a public office to which he is not entitled.
- The writ requires the concerned person to explain to the Court by what authority he holds the office.
- If a person has usurped a public office, the Court may direct him not to carry out any activities in the office or may announce the office to be vacant.
- Thus High Court may issue a writ of quo-warranto if a person holds an office beyond his retirement age.

Q.417) With reference to Asian Development Bank consider the following statements:

1. India is second largest shareholder in ADB.
2. ADB is an official United Nations Observer.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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



Q.417) Solution (c)

ADB is a regional development bank established on 19th December 1966.

- The ADB was modeled closely on the World Bank, and has a similar weighted voting system.
- ADB now has 68 members, 49 from within Asia.
- As of 31 December 2019, ADB's five largest shareholders are Japan and the United States (each with 15.6% of total shares), the People's Republic of China (6.4%), India (6.3%), and Australia (5.8%).
- It aims to promote social and economic development in Asia.
- ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty.
- ADB is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.
- ADB is an official United Nations Observer.

- ADB announced that it had appointed Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa as its vice-president (V-P) for private sector operations and public private partnerships.

Q.418) The monetary policy which involves printing large sums of money and distributing it to the public, to stimulate the economy during a recession or when interest rates fall to zero is called as:

- Helicopter money
- Jet money
- Pushing money
- Liquid money

Q.418) Solution (b)

Helicopter money:

It is an unconventional monetary policy tool, which involves printing large sums of money and distributing it to the public, to stimulate the economy during a recession (decline in general economic activity) or when interest rates fall to zero.

Under such a policy, a central bank “directly increases the money supply and, via the government, distribute the new cash to the population with the aim of boosting demand and inflation”

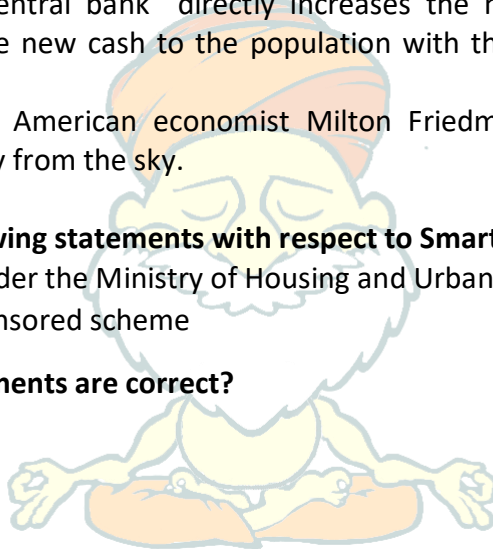
The term was coined by American economist Milton Friedman. It basically denotes a helicopter dropping money from the sky.

Q.419) Consider the following statements with respect to Smart Cities Mission:

1. It is an initiative under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
2. It is a Centrally sponsored scheme

Which of the above statements are correct?

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



Q.419) Solution (c)

Smart Cities Mission

- It is an initiative under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life of people by enabling local development and harnessing technology as a means to create smart outcomes for citizens.
- It was launched in the year 2015 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
- Objective is to promote cities that provide core infrastructure and give a decent quality of life to its citizens, a clean and sustainable environment and application of Smart Solutions.

Strategy:

- Pan-city initiative in which at least one Smart Solution is applied city-wide.
- Develop areas step-by-step with the help of these three models:
- Retrofitting.
- Redevelopment.

- Greenfield.

Q.420) Consider the following statements with respect to Index of industrial Production:

1. It is published yearly by the National Statistical Office (NSO)
2. Base Year for IIP is 2011-2012

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Q.420) Solution (b)

Index of Industrial Production

- It is an indicator that measures the changes in the volume of production of industrial products during a given period.
- It is compiled and published monthly by the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- NSO is the central statistical agency of the government, set up by an Act of the Parliament, Statistical Services Act (Chapter 386) 1980.
- IIP is a composite indicator that measures the growth rate of industry groups classified under:
 - Broad sectors, namely, Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity.
 - Use-based sectors, namely Basic Goods, Capital Goods, and Intermediate Goods.
 - Core Sector Industries comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in IIP.
- The eight core Industries in decreasing order of their weightage: Refinery Products> Electricity> Steel> Coal> Crude Oil> Natural Gas> Cement> Fertilisers.
- Base Year for IIP is 2011-2012.