



**Goaltide**  
A Prelims IAS Academy

# Goaltide Daily Quiz (consolidation)

**August 2020  
Part - I**

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Q1. Consider the following statements.

1. E-office is a project under National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) aims to significantly improve the operational efficiency of Government.
2. India is categorized as a 'High' EGDI country as per UN E-Governance Survey-2020.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

**Why we took this question:**

*COVID-19 has pushed many organizations go the online route to continue business. The Government's e-Office initiative is meant to take the government working online. It is an urgent need now to shift government institutions to E-office mode. So, what is this E-office mode? We will learn today. There is lot to learn.*

The National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) was formulated by Department of Information Technology (DIT) and Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DAR&PG).

✓ 1.3 The National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) has been formulated by the Department of Information Technology (DIT) and Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DAR&PG). The Union Government approved the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP), comprising of 27 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) and 10 components on May 18, 2006. The NeGP aims at improving delivery of Government services to citizens and businesses with the following vision:

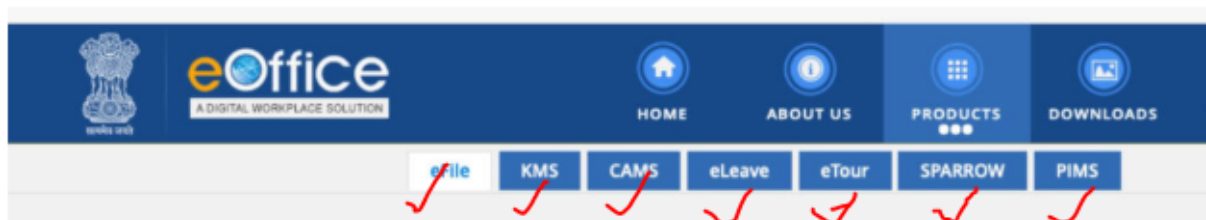
*"Make all Government services accessible to the common man in his locality, through common service delivery outlets and ensure efficiency, transparency & reliability of such services at affordable costs to realise the basic needs of the common man."*

The then UPA government approved 27 Mission Mode Projects (MMPs) under NeGP on 18th May, 2006 out of which **e-Office is one of the MMPs, with Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DAR&PG)** identified as the nodal agency for implementing the project.

Table 7.1: Mission Mode Projects - Central Government Category <i>Contd.</i>		
Sl. No.	Projects	Line Ministry/Department Responsible
5	National Citizen Database	Ministry of Home Affairs/Registrar General of India (RGI)
6	Central Excise	Department of Revenue/Central Board of Excise & Customs
7	Pensions	Department of Pensions & Pensioners Welfare and Department of Expenditure
8	Banking	Department of Banking
9	e-Office	Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances

e-Office was approved by the Cabinet to be implemented as part of the 11th Five Year Plan. e-Office is a 'paper-less initiative' with the main aim to significantly improve the operational efficiency of Government Ministries and Departments through improvement in the workflow mechanism and office procedure manuals.

Over a period of time, e-Office under the aegis of National Information Centre has developed 7 products as part of the e-Office Suite.



Should I discuss all these 7 products? I don't find it so much important. So, leave it. Ok, this *Sparrow*, 'duck' we will discuss.

**SPARROW:** This system provisions for electronic filling of Performance Appraisal Reports (PAR) by Officers and provides for a online system based comprehensive appraisal dossier for each service member of the respective State & Central Government. It helps in reducing the delays in submission of PARs.

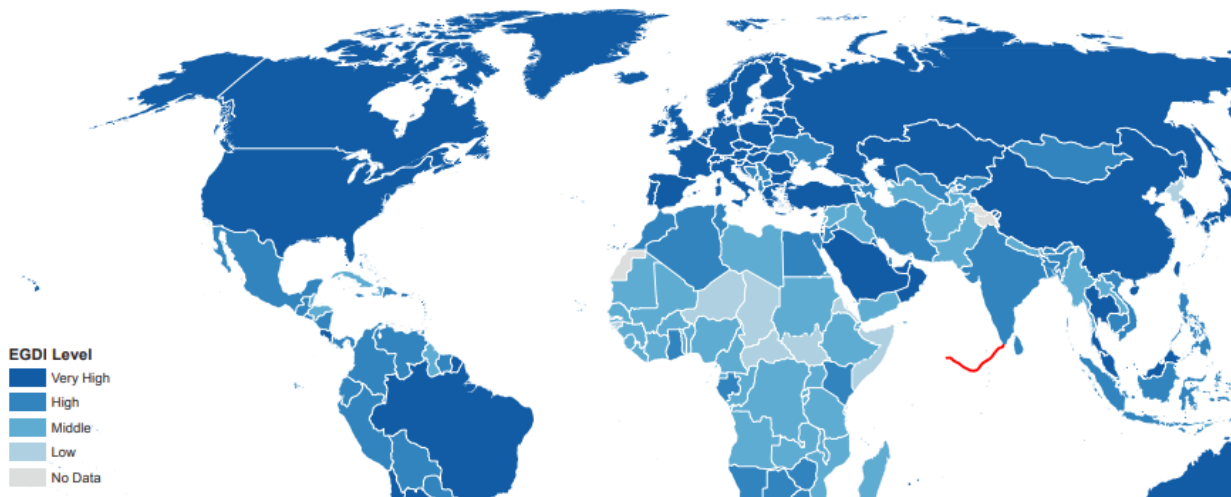
**PIMS:** Personnel Information Management System (PIMS) helps in maintaining the details of the employees. These include identity, skill sets, contact details, postings, nominations, loans, salary details etc.

~~India is categorized as a 'High' EGD countries as per UN E-Governance Survey-2020~~

The United Nations E-Governance Survey Categorizes the countries into four different categories as per EGDI ( E-Governance Development Index) with the categories being:

- Very High
- High
- Medium
- Low

As per the **latest survey** conducted in 2020, India is categorized as 'High' in E-Governance Development Index. South Africa, ~~Mexico~~, Iran, Indonesia, most of Latin American countries are under this category.



Q2. Consider the following statements regarding 'Green-Ag Project'.

1. It aims to reduce emissions from agriculture and ensure sustainable agricultural practices.
2. The Green-Ag Project is funded by the World Bank.
3. NABARD is the implementing Agency of this Project.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 only

- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Solution: a

Explanation:

If you have read our Current Affairs section of yesterday, then you will get 2 marks

The Union government on July 28, 2020, launched the **Green-Ag Project in Mizoram**, to reduce emissions from agriculture and ensure sustainable agricultural practices. Mizoram is one of the five states where the project will be implemented. Other states include **Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Uttarakhand**.

**Aims of Project:**

- a. The project seeks to mainstream biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land management objectives and practices into Indian agriculture.
- b. The overall objective of the project is to catalyze transformative change of India's agricultural sector to support achievement of national and global environmental benefits and conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes.
- c. The project will support harmonization between India's agricultural and environmental sector priorities and investments so that the achievement of national and global environmental benefits can be fully realized without compromising India's ability to strengthen rural livelihoods and meet its food and nutrition security.

**Who is funding and implementing agencies? Second and third statement is wrong.**

**The Green-Ag Project is funded by the Global Environment Facility**, while the **Department of Agriculture, Cooperation, and Farmers' Welfare is the national executing agency**. Other key players involved in its implementation are Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

Focal Areas	Climate Change, Biodiversity, Land Degradation
Funding Source	GEF Trust Fund
Implementing Agencies	Food and Agriculture Organization
Executing Agencies	Ministry of Agriculture (MoA); Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoE&CC)
GEF Period:	GEF - 6
Approval Fiscal Year:	2016

**The pilot project is supposed to end on March 31, 2026. Nothing more than this is required for this project.**

Link: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/agriculture/centre-launches-pilot-project-to-reduce-emissions-from-agriculture-72528>

Q3. First Inter-state translocation project of Tiger took place between:

- Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh
- Madhya Pradesh and Odisha
- Odisha and Gujarat
- Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh

Solution: b

Explanation:

Two years ago, the Odisha government welcomed a tiger and a tigress – Mahavir and Sundari – under **India's first inter-state tiger relocation project**. Now, only the tigress survives, **and the state is preparing to return her back to Madhya Pradesh.**

In the summer of 2018, the tiger Mahavir was relocated *from Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh (MP) to the Satkosia Tiger Reserve of Odisha. A few days later, tigress Sundari was also sent to Satkosia from MP's Bandhavgarh.*

Mahavir died some months later allegedly due to poaching. Tigress Sundari meanwhile, after roaming in the wild of Satkosia was kept in an enclosure as she attacked local villagers from the periphery villages. Her attack triggered protests and resentment from the locals. Now, two years later, **the Odisha government is preparing to return Sundari to Madhya Pradesh.**

Link: <https://india.mongabay.com/2020/07/setback-in-inter-state-tiger-relocation-as-odisha-prepares-to-return-sundari-to-mp/>

**Q4. Consider the following Pairs.**

National Parks	River Flowing through it.
1. Silent Valley National Park	Kunthipuzha River
2. Valmiki wildlife sanctuary	Gandak River
3. Mukundra Hills National Park	Narmada River

Which of the above pairs is correctly matched?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

**It is a difficult question. In exam, attempt only if your other questions don't go well.**

*Sir, from where we can cover all rivers crossing National Parks? From here only. If you are making notes then till now, so many we have covered including temples, hills, etc. In coming days, more we will cover.*

National Parks	River Flowing through it.
1. Silent Valley National Park	Kunthipuzha River
2. Valmiki wildlife sanctuary	Gandak River
3. Mukundra Hills National Park	Chambal River

**Q5. The 2020 World Wildlife Crime Report is a publication of:**

- a. TRAFFIC
- b. CITES
- c. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- d. Wildlife Institute of India and CITES

Solution: c

Explanation:

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime recently released the World Wildlife Crime Report.

As per the UN World Wildlife Crime Report- **India one of the biggest suppliers of Tiger body parts.**



**Link:** <https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/science/india-amongst-biggest-suppliers-of-tiger-body-parts-in-the-world-un-world-wildlife-crime-report/2036420/>

Q6. Which of the following qualifications a person must possess to qualify for election as President?

1. He should have completed 35 years of age.
2. He should be qualified for election as a member of either House of Parliament.
3. He should not hold any office of profit.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1, 2 and 3
4. 1 and 3 only

Solution: d

Explanation:

**58. Qualifications for election as President.**—(1) No person shall be eligible for election as President unless he—

(a) is a citizen of India,

(b) has completed the age of thirty-five years, and

(c) is qualified for election as a member of the House of the People.

(2) A person shall not be eligible for election as President if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State or under any local or other authority subject to the control of any of the said Governments.

Q7. Which committee of parliament considers and advises on matters concerning the affairs of the house, which do not fall within the jurisdiction of any other parliamentary committee.

- a. General Purpose Committee
- b. Rules Committee of Lok Sabha
- c. Business Advisory Committee
- d. Committee on Subordinate legislation

Solution: a

Explanation:



~~(13) General Purposes Committee.~~ The General Purposes Committee consists of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, Members of the Panel of Chairpersons, Chairpersons of all Standing Parliamentary Committees of Lok Sabha, Leaders of recognised parties and groups in Lok Sabha and such other Members as may be nominated by the Speaker. The Speaker is the *ex-officio* Chairperson of the Committee. The functions of the Committee are to consider and advise on such matters concerning the affairs of the House as may be referred to it by the Speaker from time to time.

Q8. Which of the following functions in precision-farming are aided through GPS based applications?

1. Farm planning
2. Field mapping
3. Soil sampling
4. Fertilizers application

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

GPS-based applications in precision farming are being used for **farm planning, field mapping, soil sampling, tractor guidance, crop scouting, variable rate applications, and yield mapping**. By using GPS on the tractors, the entire process from levelling the field to planting the seed to irrigating the crop has been much more efficient. **So, statements (1), (2) and (3) are correct.**

GPS also allows farmers to work during low visibility field conditions such as rain, dust, fog, and darkness. Many of the new innovations rely on the integration of on-board computers, data collection sensors, and GPS time and position reference systems.

Through the use of GPS, geographic information systems (GIS), and remote sensing, the information needed for improving land and water use can also be collected.

Farmers can achieve additional benefits by **combining better utilization of fertilizers, pesticides etc.** with the GPS aided technology. **So, statement (4) is correct.**

Q9. Consider the following pairs.

Festivals/traditions	Belongs to
1. Dwijing Festival	Mizoram
2. Behdienkhlam Festival	Meghalaya
3. Cheiraoba festival	Manipur

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

Festivals/traditions	Belongs to
Dwijing Festival	Assam
Behdienkhlam Festival	Meghalaya
Cheiraoba festival	Manipur

Q10. Which among the following statements about the Indus Valley Civilization is correct?

- In a terracotta figurine discovered at Mohenjo-Daro, a plant is shown growing out of the embryo of a woman.
- The Harappans did not keep gods in the temple, a practice which was common in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

In Harappa, number of terracotta figurines of women have been found. **In a terracotta figurine discovered at Harappa, a plant is shown growing out of the embryo of a woman.** Probably the image represented goddess of earth and was intimately connected with the origin and growth of plants. The Harappans looked upon earth as a fertility goddess and worshipped her in the same manner as the Egyptians worshipped the Nile Goddess Isis. **So, statement 1 is incorrect.**

✓ Its ✓ Harappa ✓ numerous ✓ terracotta figurines of women have been found. In one figurine a plant is shown growing out of the embryo of a woman. ✓ Probably the image represents the goddess of earth and it was intimately connected with the origin and growth of plants. The Harappans, therefore, looked upon the earth as a fertility goddess and worshipped her in the same manner as the Egyptians worshipped the Nile goddess Isis. But we do not know whether the Harappans were a matriarchal people like the Egyptians. In Egypt the daughter inherited the throne or property, but we do not know about the nature of inheritance in the Harappan society.

**The inhabitants of Indus Valley Civilization worshipped gods in the form of trees, animals, and human beings.** Most important animal worshipped was the humped bull, represented on seals. But Harappans did not keep gods in temple, a practice which was common in ancient Egypt and Mesopotamia. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

Q11. Consider the following statements regarding India -China Trade as per the recent report 2018-19 from Commerce Ministry.

1. The China emerged as the leading trade partner for India in 2018-19.
2. Share of China in total important to India has fallen in 2018-19.
3. Electrical Machinery & Equipment constitute the largest part of Imports from China.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: b

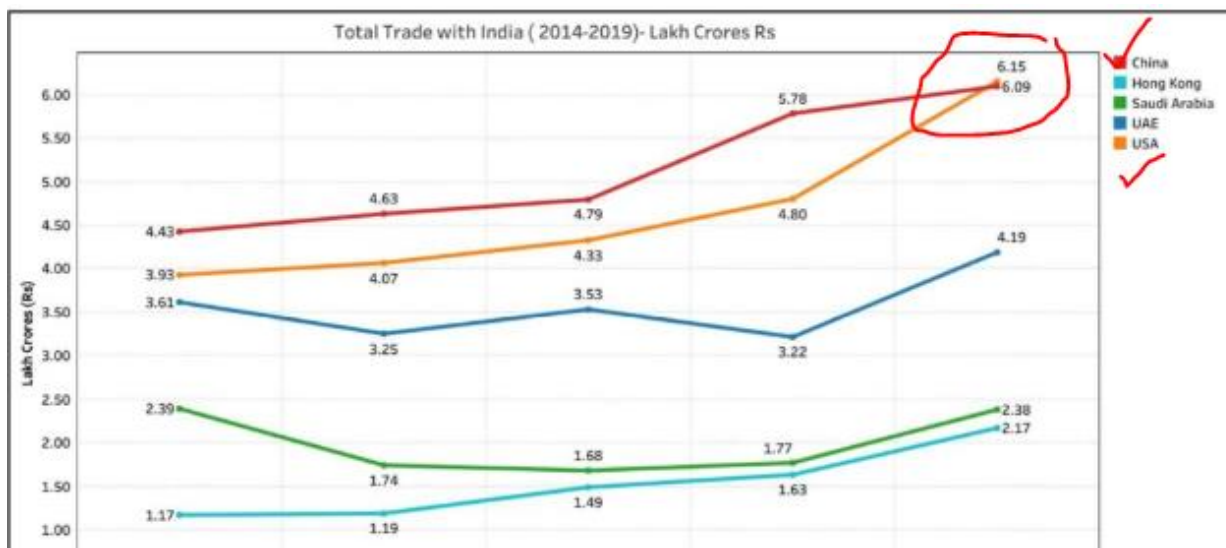
Explanation:

*Ok, we will do one thing, in today's current affairs section, we will cover India-China Trade extensively. Now you see solutions to above statements.*

**First statement is incorrect:**

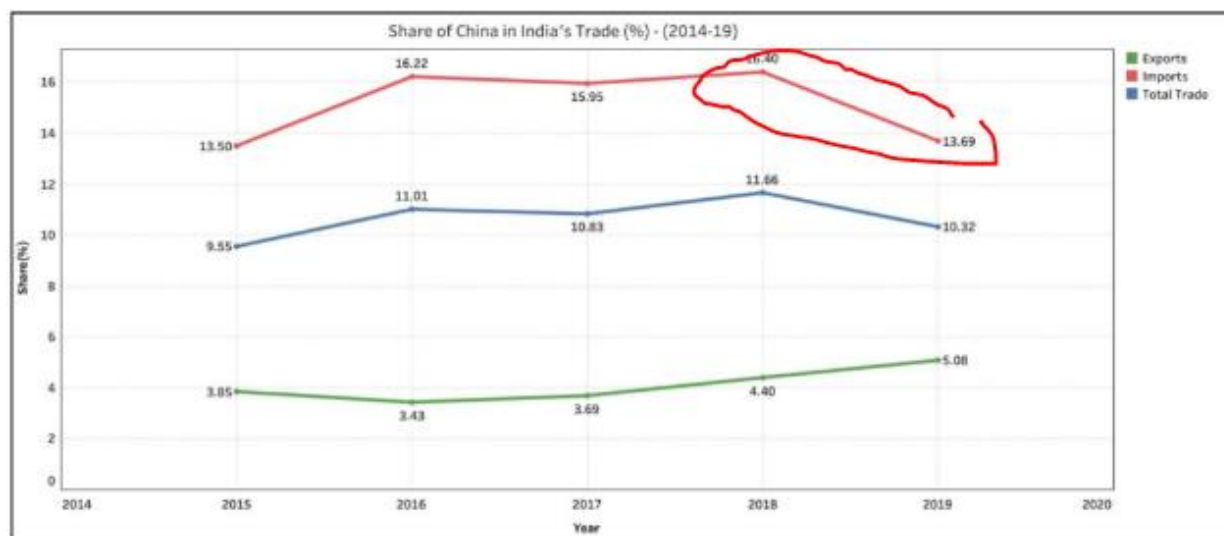
**As per the data on Export-Import Data Bank of the Commerce Ministry, the USA emerged as the leading trade partner for India in 2018-19 with ₹ 6.15 lakh crores. It has managed to just overtake China, with which the value of India's trade in that year was ₹6.09 lakh crores.**

**Prior to 2018-19, China was India's leading trade partner.** However, in 2018-19, value of trade with USA witnessed a significant increase, enabling it to overtake China. However, a major portion of it is due to the increase in India's exports to USA.



**Second statement is correct:**

While China continues to hold the top position in value of Imports into India, **its share in total imports has fallen in 2018-19 to 13.69% from the high of 16.4% in 2017-18.** In the three years between 2015-16 & 2017-18, the share of Chinese imports was greater than almost 16% and more each year.



Even though India's share in China's overall exports is less than 3%, this has been consistently increasing in the last few years. In 2014, India's share was 2.22% which increased to 2.93% in 2018.

**Third statement is correct.**

Out of the ₹ 4.92 lakh crores worth of imports from China in 2018-19, ₹ 1.44 lakh crores worth of imports is under the category 'Electrical Machinery & Equipment' i.e. nearly 30 %.

Top Ten Categories of Imports from China by Value (Rs. Lakh Crores)					
Commodity	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Electrical Machinery & Equipment etc.	1.02	1.29	1.47	1.85	1.44
Nuclear Reactors, Boilers etc.	0.62	0.69	0.75	0.87	0.94
Organic Chemicals	0.39	0.40	0.38	0.46	0.60
Plastic & Articles etc.	0.10	0.11	0.12	0.15	0.19
Fertilisers	0.19	0.21	0.08	0.07	0.14
Articles of Iron/Steel	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.12
Opticals	0.07	0.08	0.09	0.11	0.11
Vehicles other than Railway	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.09	0.11
Iron & Steel	0.17	0.15	0.09	0.10	0.10
Chemical Products (Misc.)	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.09	0.09

Q12. Consider the following statements.

1. The only approved GM crop in India till date is Bt. Cotton.

2. India, have signed the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, aims to ensure safe handling, transport and use of living modified organisms which are a result of modern biotechnology.
3. Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) regulate the use, manufacture, storage, import, and export of genetically engineered organisms in India.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

**First statement is correct.**

The only approved GM crop in India till date is Bt. Cotton. For developing resistance to Lepidoptera order of insects such as butterflies and moths, a gene from *Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki* bacteria is introduced, which produces a protein insecticidal to Lepidoptera larvae, thereby aiding cotton production without excessive use of chemical insecticides.

**Second statement is also correct.**

172 countries, including **India**, have signed the **Cartagena Protocol** on Biosafety, an international agreement to ensure safe handling, transport and use of **living modified organisms** which are a result of modern biotechnology.

**Third statement is also correct**

**Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) has been set up in India under the Ministry for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.** According to the 1986 rules on genetically engineered organisms, the main function of the statutory body is to **regulate the use, manufacture, storage, import, and export of hazardous organisms, genetically engineered organisms and cells in India.** Thus, GEAC must approve commercial production of GM crops in the country for any of them to be used. The approval is given on the basis of a regulatory framework under the rules.

Q13. Consider the following statements.

1. The concept of 'Living Wage' is enshrined in the Directive Principles of State Policy in the constitution.
2. Minimum Wages Act, 1948, along with other Acts has been now subsumed under Code of Wages, 2019.

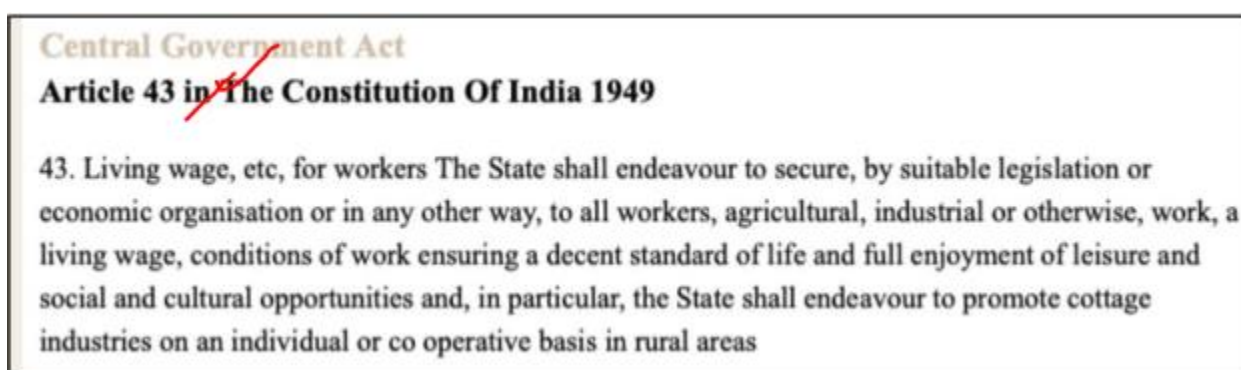
Select the correct code.

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

The concept of 'Living Wage' is enshrined in the Directive Principles of State Policy in the constitution. The Minimum Wages Act, 1948 thus is based on Article 43, of Indian Constitution.



**The Code of Wages, 2019**, was enacted recently to combine similar legislations and simplify procedures under various wage legislations. The code replaced the following acts:

- a. Payment of Wages Act, 1936
- b. Minimum Wages Act, 1948**
- c. Payment of Bonus Act, 1965
- d. Equal Remuneration Act, 1976

Q14. Nationalization of coal mines took place:

- a. 1963 by Indira Gandhi
- b. 1964 by Rajiv Gandhi
- c. 1965 by Indira Gandhi
- d. None of the above.

Solution: d

Explanation:

We have tried to confuse you with year here. It is important. You should remember it. *And also, Indira Gandhi served as prime minister from January 1966 to March 1977 and again from January 1980 until her assassination in October 1984. Alert!!*



**Until 1970s, private sector participation was permitted in coal mining in India.** But growing needs in the steel industry and burgeoning energy needs of the country resulted in employment of unscientific mining techniques, exploitation of coal reserves, and poor working conditions of labour. **This forced the then government led by Indira Gandhi, to nationalize coal mines.** It was done in two phases- first with the coking coal mines in 1971-72 and then with the non-coking coal mines in **1973**.

Q15. Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund (APDRF) is developed by:

- a. Asian Development Bank
- b. BRICS
- c. National Development Bank
- d. European Union

Solution: a

Explanation:

~~This paper proposes the establishment of the Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund (APDRF) as a special fund to provide immediate assistance to developing member countries impacted by major natural disasters.~~

The Disaster and Emergency Assistance Policy of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), approved on 1 June 2004, recognizes the importance of addressing disaster and emergency assistance in an integrated fashion, financing not only long-term disaster reconstruction programs but also disaster risk management and disaster risk reduction activities. The action plan for this policy, approved by Management in April 2008, includes a recommendation to explore the provision of a quick disbursing fund for developing member countries (DMCs) impacted by a major natural disaster. This paper proposes the establishment of the Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund (APDRF) as a special fund to provide such immediate assistance.

Q16. Which one of the following objectives is not embodied in the Preamble to the Constitution of India?

- a. Liberty of thought
- b. Economic liberty
- c. Liberty of expression
- d. Liberty of belief

Solution: b

Explanation:

“We, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a SOVEREIGN *SOCIALIST SECULAR* DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC and to secure to all its citizens:

JUSTICE, Social, Economic and Political;

LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all;

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity *and integrity* of the Nation;

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949, do HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION”.

Q17. Which of the following lakes **is** designated as Ramsar wetland sites in India?

1. Kolleru Lake
2. Pulicat Lake
3. Sambhar Lake
4. Rudrasagar Lake
5. Renuka Lake
6. Chilika Lake

Select the correct code.

- a. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6
- b. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 only
- c. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- d. 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only

Solution: d

Explanation:

**Pulicat is not part of Ramsar. Hope we don't need to make you remember now all the sites at this stage of your preparation.**

Q18, Consider the following statements.

1. India's public health expenditure (sum of central and state spending) has remained below 2 percent of GDP in last three years (2017-18 to 2019-20).
2. India's public Education expenditure (sum of central and state spending) has remained below 2 percent of GDP in last three years (2017-18 to 2019-20).

Select the correct code.

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: a

Explanation:

**Table 1: Trends in Social Service Sector Expenditure by General Government (Combined Centre and States)**

Item	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 RE	2019-20 BE
(₹ in Lakh crore)						
Total Budgetary Expenditure	32.85	37.61	42.66	45.16	55.17	60.72
Expenditure on Social Services	7.68	9.16	10.41	11.40	14.47	15.79
of which:						
i) Education	3.54	3.92	4.35	4.83	5.81	6.43
ii) Health	1.49	1.75	2.13	2.43	2.92	3.24
iii) Others	2.65	3.48	3.93	4.13	5.74	6.12
As percentage to GDP						
Expenditure on Social Services	6.2	6.6	6.8	6.7	7.6	7.7
of which						
i) Education	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	3.1	3.1
ii) Health	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.6
iii) Others	2.1	2.5	2.6	2.4	3.0	3.0

Q19. Which of the following languages is/are listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India?

1. Nepali
2. Kashmiri
3. Sanskrit
4. English
5. Manipuri

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

**List of languages in the Eighth Schedule**

The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution consists of the following 22 languages:-

(1) Assamese, (2) Bengali, (3) Gujarati, (4) Hindi, (5) Kannada, (6) Kashmiri, (7) Konkani, (8) Malayalam, (9) Manipuri, (10) Marathi, (11) Nepali, (12) Oriya, (13) Punjabi, (14) Sanskrit, (15) Sindhi, (16) Tamil, (17) Telugu, (18) Urdu (19) Bodo, (20) Santhali, (21) Maithili and (22) Dogri.

Of these languages, 14 were initially included in the Constitution. Sindhi language was added in 1967. Thereafter three more languages viz., Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali were included in 1992. Subsequently Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali were added in 2004.

Q20. Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve is in:

- a. Karnataka
- b. Maharashtra
- c. Assam
- d. Odisha

Solution: b

Explanation:

The Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve is a wildlife sanctuary in Maharashtra state in India.

Q21. Recently, the Ministry of Agriculture issued a draft order, 'Banning of Insecticides Order, 2020', in May this year which prohibits the manufacture, sale, and use of 27 pesticides in India as they were likely to involve risk to human being and animals. Keeping this in mind, consider the following statements regarding this.

1. Currently, there is no legal statute to regulate the manufacturing. Import and export of insecticides and Pesticides in India.
2. Anupam Verma committee recommended the ban on the 27 pesticides.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: B

Explanation:

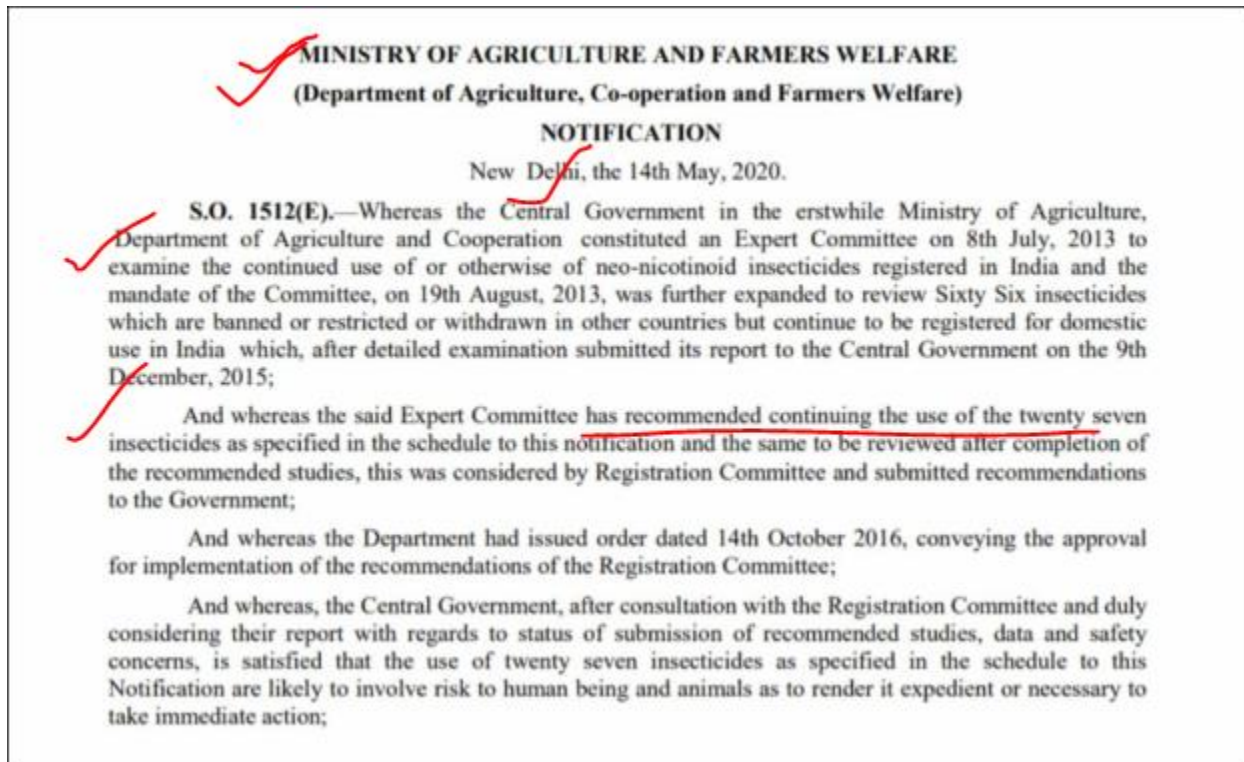
The Ministry of Agriculture issued a draft order, '**Banning of Insecticides Order, 2020**', in May this year **which prohibits the manufacture, sale, and use of 27 pesticides in India** as they were likely to involve risk to human being and animals. The list includes pesticides which have been banned in the European Union, like Monocrotophos which has been classified by WHO as highly hazardous.

### **Insecticides Act, 1968 governs the use of insecticides in India.**

The use, sale, manufacture, import, export, transportation, and distribution of insecticides or pesticides is governed by the Insecticides Act, 1968.

As on 30 June 2020, 273 pesticides are registered for use in India with and without restrictions. A total of 746 formulations are registered in the country. Only 71 formulation of **combination pesticides** is approved, that is, mixing of different pesticides should be done in a specified ratio as given in the list. Similar restrictions are listed for herbicides and fungicides as well. At the same time, 40 pesticides are **banned in India** for manufacture, import, and use including Endosulfan which was used in cashew plantations and is alleged to have led to congenital deformities and even deaths in the Kasargod district of Kerala.

The ban on the 27 pesticides follows from the **Anupam Verma Committee Report constituted in 2013 to review 66 insecticides** that were banned or restricted in other countries but continue to be registered for domestic use in India.



✓ **PMFAI claims that the move would lead to a loss of Rs. 6000 crores**

Most of the pesticides in the list are those which are commonly used by the farmers for a long time. The proposed ban has been opposed by Pesticides Manufacturers & Formulators Association of India (PMFAI) as per news reports, as the ban would result in a loss up to Rs. 6000 crores. It further added that these generic pesticide formulations which are proposed to be banned were affordable as it costs between Rs. 350 to Rs. 450 per litre. As per PMFAI, the price of the alternatives can be as high as Rs. 1,200 to Rs. 2,000 per litre. Meanwhile, environmentalists and civil society welcome the ban since these pesticides are toxic for people, aquatic life, animals, and the environment.

Q22. Consider the following statements.

1. More than 90 percent of MSMEs are Micro Enterprises.
2. Share of MSMEs in the total GVA and GDP has increased in last five years.
3. As per the new definition of MSME, the criteria of classification are different for enterprises involved in Manufacturing activities and those involved in Services.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

**First statement is correct.**

As per the estimates of National Sample Survey, there are a total of 6.33 crore MSMEs in India as of 2015-16. Of these, 3.24 crores are in Rural areas and 3.09 crores in urban areas. More than 99 % i.e. around 6.31 crores of MSMEs are Micro Enterprises.

✓ <b>Distribution of MSMEs by Enterprise Category (Lakhs)</b>					
Sector	✓ <b>Micro</b>	Small	Medium	Total	Share (%)
Rural	324.09	0.78	0.01	324.88	51
Urban	306.43	2.53	0.04	309	49
All	✓ <b>630.52</b>	3.31	0.05	633.88	100

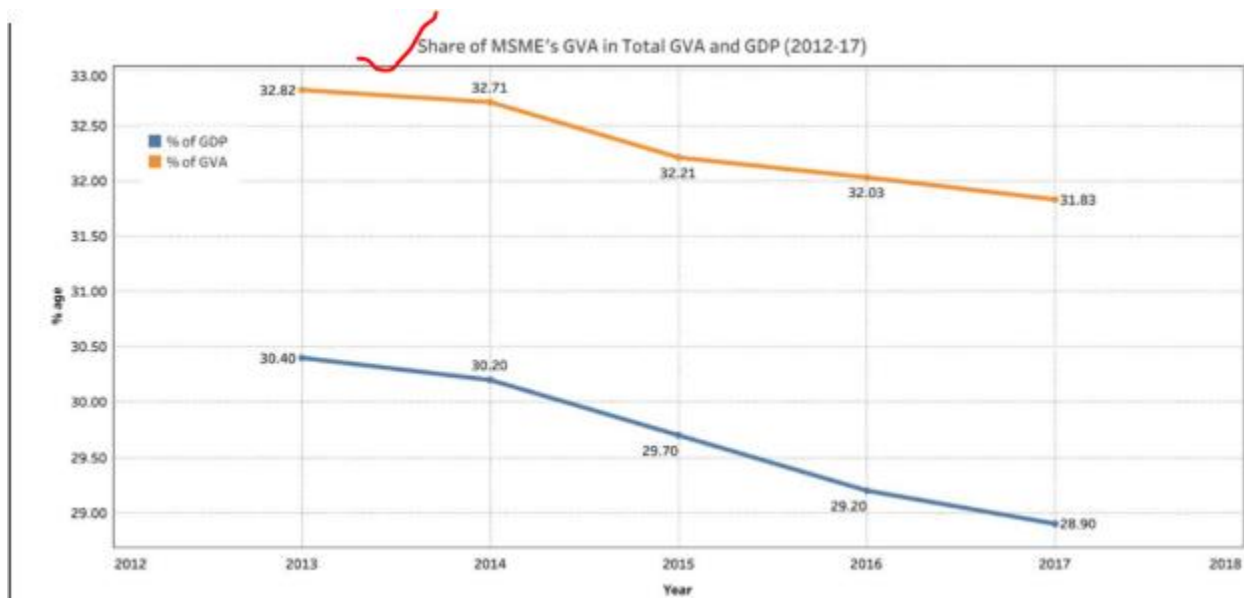
Ok, one thing here is, highest number of Micro is based on early definition. **But now worries**, because **many of the enterprises which are currently classified as Small**



would now be categorized as Micro as per new definition. This could further increase the number of Micro enterprises, which already account for more than **99% of the current MSMEs**.

**Second statement is incorrect:**

As per the data provided in [Annual Report 2018-19](#), of the Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, the volume GVA ( Gross Value Addition) of MSMEs have increased over the five year period of 2012-17 , however their share in the total GVA and GDP has slightly reduced.



**Third statement is incorrect.**

As per the initial definition provided under MSME Development Act, **the criteria of classification were different** for enterprises involved in Manufacturing activities and those involved in Services. This has **now** been modified in the new definition, wherein **no classification was made on the basis of activity of the enterprise**.

Further, in the earlier definition, only the investment was considered as a criterion. As per the new definition, even turnover is included for classification of MSMEs.



✓ Definition of MSMEs - Comparison				
	2006 Act		✓ June 2020 (Cabinet approval)	
Type	Manufacturing	Services	✓ Both (Manufacturing & Services)	
Criteria	Investment in ₹		Investment in ₹	Turnover in ₹
Micro	Up to 25 lakh	Up to 10 lakh	1 crore	5 crore
Small	25 Lakh- 5 crore	10 lakh – 2 Crore	1 crore – 10 crore	5 crore- 50 crore
Medium	5 crore – 10 crore	2 crore – 5 crore	10 crore- 50 crore	50 crore- 250 crore

Q23. Consider the following statements.

1. The Food Corporation of India (FCI) was established under National Food Security Act, 2013.
2. FCI also facilitates sale of surplus stock under Open Market Sales Scheme.
3. Movement and distribution of the food grains is important function of FCI.
4. The Government of India announces the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) as per the recommendation of FCI.

Which of the above statements above **is/are incorrect**?

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

Solution: B

Explanation:

**First statement is incorrect.**

**The Food Corporation of India (FCI) was established under Food Corporations Act, 1964.**

**Second statement is correct.**

**FCI also facilitates sale of surplus stock under Open Market Sales Scheme.** This is done to supply the markets with food grains, especially during the lean season and to avert a situation of price rise due to lower supply of the food grains. FCI is supposed to transfer food grains to the deficit regions for this purpose.

### Open Market Sale Scheme

Food Corporation of India sells surplus stocks of wheat and rice under Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) at pre-determined prices through e-auction in the open market from time to time to enhance the supply of food grains, especially wheat during the lean season and thereby moderate the open market prices specially in the deficit regions. Quantum for sale of wheat and Grade 'A' rice under OMSS(D) during 2019-20 has been fixed as 100 LMT and 50 LMT, respectively.

### **Third statement is also correct:**

Movement and distribution of the food grains is another important function of FCI. This is to ensure that the food grains are distributed to states as per the requirement of various welfare measures announced by the government.

### **FCI undertakes movement for the following purposes:**

- a. To evacuate food grain stocks from the surplus regions.
- b. Supply them to deficit regions for distribution through PDS and other schemes.
- c. To create buffer stocks in deficit region.

### **Fourth Statement is incorrect.**

The Government of India announces the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) as per the recommendation of Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), prior to every harvest (Rabi/kharif season).

### Determinants Of MSP

While recommending price policy of various commodities under its mandate, the Commission keeps in mind the various Terms of Reference (ToR) given to CACP in 2009. Accordingly, it analyzes

- 1) demand and supply;
- 2) cost of production;
- 3) price trends in the market, both domestic and international;
- 4) inter-crop price parity;
- 5) terms of trade between agriculture and non-agriculture;
- 6) a minimum of 50 percent as the margin over cost of production; and
- 7) likely implications of MSP on consumers of that product.

It may be noted that cost of production is an important factor that goes as an input in determination of MSP, but it is certainly not the only factor that determines MSP.

Q24. As per the recent telemedicine guidelines issued by Government of India, consider the following statements.

1. Medicines listed in Schedule X of Drug and Cosmetic Act shall not be provided through tele consultations.
2. The use of digital technology to conduct surgical or invasive procedure remotely is not permitted.
3. Telemedicine has been given a legal status in India.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

In India, the **Ministry of Health issued guidelines on telemedicine. It was prepared in collaboration with NITI Aayog.**

Not only does this prove useful at a time when there are restrictions on movement, but also helps in reducing crowd in hospitals, bringing down the risk of infection.

**Telemedicine by a Registered Medical Practitioner (RMP) under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 is now permitted as per the notified guidelines. Third statement is correct.**

**The notification also states that these guidelines are not applicable to the use of digital technology to conduct surgical or invasive procedure remotely. Second is correct.**

**First is correct.**

There are four categories of medicines based on potential for abuse:

There are four categories of medicines which have been listed out – List O, List A, List B, and Prohibited List.

Prohibited list comprises of medicines which have the potential to be abused and affect the person or society. These cannot be prescribed through tele-consultation. **Medicines listed in Schedule X of Drug and Cosmetic Act and Rules or any Narcotic and Psychotropic substance listed in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, Act, 1985 fall under this list.**

**Q25.** Which one of the following best describes the objective of recently launched 'AstroGen project'?

- a. It's a project to provide assistance to the astronomers, while working in space.
- b. It has been launched to further study the Big Bang.
- c. It aims at taking support of global astronauts by the Indian scientists in making human flight successful.
- d. It is a genealogy project for academics to trace their academic 'ancestors'.

Solution: d

Explanation:

A genealogy project for academics — who earned doctorates on astronomy-related theses or supervised research for such dissertations — was launched by the American Astronomical Society (AAS) and its Historical Astronomy Division July 25, 2020.

**The Astronomy Genealogy or AstroGen project allows these academics to trace their ‘ancestors’.**

**Link:** <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/science-technology/new-genealogy-project-allows-astronomers-to-trace-ancestors--72531>

Q 26. Consider the following National Parks.

1. Mukurthi National Park
2. Periyar National Park
3. Anamudi Shola National park

Which of the above national parks is/are **located in Tamil Nadu**?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

**Periyar and Anamudi Shola National Park is in Kerala.**

Q27. The Budget for the State governments under President’s Rule and Union Territory (UT) administrations is prepared by the?

- a. Department of Expenditure of Union Finance Ministry.
- b. Department of Economic Affairs of the Union Finance Ministry
- c. Department of Revenue of Union Finance Ministry.
- d. Department of Financial Services of the Union Finance Ministry

Solution: b

Explanation:

The Department of Economic Affairs is the nodal agency of the government to formulate and monitor the country’s economic policies and programmes having a bearing on domestic and international aspects of economic management.

**A principal responsibility of this Department is the preparation and presentation of the Union Budget to the Parliament and budget for the state governments under President's Rule and union territory administrations.**

Other functions include formulation and monitoring of macroeconomic policies, including issues relating to fiscal policy and public finance, inflation, public debt management and the functioning of the capital market including stock exchanges; production of banknotes and coins of various denominations, postal stationery, postal stamps; and cadre management, career planning and training of the Indian Economic Services. **Therefore, the correct answer is (b).**

**Q28.** *Samyakdarshana, Samyakjnana, Samyakcharita*" are doctrines related to which religion?

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

### ~~The~~ Three Jewels of Jainism

The aim of Jain life is to achieve liberation of the soul.

This is done by following the Jain ethical code, or to put it simply, living rightly by following the three jewels of Jain ethics.

There are three parts to this: right faith, right knowledge and right conduct. The first two are very closely connected.

#### Right faith - Samyak darshana

This doesn't mean believing what you're told, but means seeing (hearing, feeling, etc.) things properly, and avoiding preconceptions and superstitions that get in the way of seeing clearly.

Some books call samyak darshana "right perception". You can't achieve this unless you are determined to find the truth, and distinguish it from untruth.

#### Right knowledge - Samyak jnana

This means having an accurate and sufficient knowledge of the real **universe** - this requires a true knowledge of the five (or six) substances and nine truths of the universe - and having that knowledge with the right mental attitude.

One writer puts it like this: "if our character is flawed and our conscience is not clear, knowledge alone will not help us achieve composure and happiness".

Today this means having a proper knowledge of the Jain **scriptures**.

Some writers describe right knowledge as meaning having a pure **soul**; a soul that is free from attachment and desire... others say that a person who has right knowledge will naturally free themselves from attachment and desire, and so achieve peace of mind.

#### Right conduct - Samyak charitra

This means living your life according to **Jain ethical rules**, to **avoid doing harm** to living things and freeing yourself from attachment and other impure attitudes and thoughts.

Q29. Arrange the following events as per their chronology:

1. The Indian National Congress took up the Swadeshi call at Banaras session.
2. Establishment of National Council of Education.
3. Split between the Moderates and the Extremists in the Congress.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a. 2-1-3
- b. 1-2-3
- c. 2-3-1
- d. 2-1-3

Solution: b

Explanation:

The Indian National Congress took up the Swadeshi call at **the Banaras Session, 1905, presided over by G. K. Gokhale.**

In **August 1906, the National Council of Education was established.** The Council, consisting of virtually all the distinguished persons of the country at the time, defined its objectives in this way. . . 'to organize a system of Education - Literary; Scientific and Technical, on National lines and under National control from the primary to the university level.

It was Satish Chandra Mukherjee of the Dawn Society who came forward with a concrete plan and line of action. The greatest work of Satish Chandra in the field of education was the foundation of the National Council of Education, Bengal, on 11 March, 1906 setting up under it at Calcutta the Bengal National College and School with Sri Aurobindo as its first Principal and Satish Chandra as its highest Executive Head or Superintendent (August, 1906). Satish Chandra Mukherjee in co-operation with Bajendra Nath Seal, Gurudas Banerjee and others established the National Council of Education. The object of the Council was to impart a three-dimensional system of education "literary as well as scientific and technical \_on National lines and exclusively under National Control, not in opposition to but standing apart from" the existing systems of official Education". Bipin Pal later added to it a further clause, viz., "for the realization of the national destiny."

**The differences between the Moderates and Extremists**, especially regarding the pace of the movement and the techniques of struggle to be adopted, came to a head in the **1907 Surat session of the Congress** where the party split with serious consequences for the Swadeshi Movement.

Q30. Who among the following are elected by the Members of Lok Sabha?

1. Speaker
2. Deputy Speaker
3. A panel of Chairpersons of Lok Sabha
4. Pro Tem Speaker

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1, 2 and 3 only



d. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Solution: a

Explanation:

**Speaker and Deputy Speaker are elected by the Lok Sabha itself from amongst its members. Hence Statements (1) and (2) are correct.**

Under the Rules of Lok Sabha, **the Speaker nominates from amongst the members a panel of not more than ten chairpersons.** Any of them can preside over the house in the absence of the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker. However, a member of the panel of chairpersons cannot preside over the House, when the office of the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker is vacant. During such time, the Speaker's duties are to be performed by such member of the House as the President may appoint for the purpose. **Hence Statement (3) is not correct.**

As provided by the Constitution, the Speaker of the last Lok Sabha vacates his office immediately before the first meeting of the newly elected Lok Sabha. Therefore, the **President appoints a member of the Lok Sabha as the Speaker Pro Tem.** Hence Statement (4) is not correct.

Q31. The Central Government has recently, on 27 July 2020, released the GST compensation pending to the states for March'2020. The Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 was passed to compensate for the loss of revenue to states. So, we will solve one question and will try to learn some basic things.

Consider the following statements regarding Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017.

1. It provides for levying of Cess on Intra-state and Inter-state supply of Goods and Services, for the purpose of providing compensation to the States.
2. The Financial Year ending 31 March 2010, is taken as the base year for the purpose of calculation of GST Compensation to be paid to the states.
3. Maharashtra received the highest GST Compensation for 2019-20.

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

Solution: c

*It's very important that you reach root of any topic. If you don't do, you will find it difficult at the end of exam. From this topic, several questions can be framed, so learn in comprehensive way and we are focusing on that only.*

The Central Government has recently, on 27 July 2020, released the GST compensation pending to the states for March'2020. This amounted to a total of ₹ 13.8 thousand crores and with this payment, the entire compensation due to the states for the year 2019-20 has been released by the Centre.

Background:

The provisions of Goods & Services Tax Act (GST) came into force from 01 July 2017, with an intention to implement a simplified, self-regulating and non-intrusive indirect tax compliance regime.

At the Central level, Service Tax, Custom Duties, Central Excise (except for products of Petroleum & Tobacco) etc. were subsumed by GST. **Since GST is a consumption-based tax, it was believed that manufacturing states might lose tax revenue.** Therefore, to compensate for the loss of revenue, **The Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 was passed.**

**First statement is correct:**

**Provision for levy and collection of Cess for GST compensation**

Section 8 of GST (Compensation to States) Act -2017, **provides for levying of Cess on Intra-state and Inter-state supply of Goods & Services, for the purpose of providing compensation to the States**, for any loss of revenue due to the implementation of GST. The time provision for collection of this levy is initially proposed to be **for 5 years**, which **can be reviewed by the GST council.**

<p>✓ 8. (1) There shall be levied a cess on such intra-State supplies of goods or services or both, as provided for in section 9 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, and such inter-State supplies of goods or services or both as <u>provided for in section 5 of the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act</u>, and collected in such manner as may be prescribed, on the recommendations of the Council, for the purposes of providing compensation to the States for loss of revenue arising on account of implementation of the goods and services tax with effect from the date from which the provisions of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act is brought into force, for a period of five years or for such period as may be prescribed on the recommendations of the Council:</p>	<p>Levy and collection of cess.</p>
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**Second statement is incorrect.**

**For the purpose of calculation of GST Compensation to be paid to the states the Financial Year (FY) ending 31 March 2016, is taken as the base year.**

**Third statement is correct.**

**Maharashtra received the highest GST Compensation for 2019-20 followed by Karnataka.** Among the states, Maharashtra has received the highest amount of GST compensation for 2019-20 with ₹ 19.23 thousand crores. Another traditional high revenue state, Karnataka received ₹ 18.62 thousand crores as GST Compensation. These two states are also among the states which have collected the highest GST Cess.

**See this trend also.**

Financial Year	GST Compensation released to States (in ₹ Crores)
2017-18	49,276
2018-19	81,888
2019-20	1,65,302

**Also learn,**

**Section -10 of GST (Compensation to States) Act- 2017, states that the proceeds of the cess levied would be credited to Goods & Services Tax Compensation Fund, which is a non-lapsable fund.** The compensation amount that is paid to the states is paid out of this fund.

Link: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1641537>

Q32. Every year, the daily wage for MNREGA workers is revised by the Central Government. In 2020 also, it was revised to Rs 202 from Rs 182. So, we will learn here important things through one Question.

Consider the following Statements.

1. The daily wage for MNREGA workers is revised by the Central Government on the basis of Consumer Price Index– Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL).
2. The fixing of rates for unemployment allowance are within the purview of the state government.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

**First statement is correct.**

MNREGA is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented on cost sharing basis between Central and State governments with the centre funding a large portion of the budget. Every year, the daily wage for **MNREGA workers is revised by the Central Government on the basis of Consumer Price Index– Agricultural Labourers**, in order to neutralize the effect of inflation.

The Finance Ministry announced that the daily wage under MNREGA was increased from ₹ 182 to ₹ 202, an increase of 11%. **The increase is a result of higher CPI – AL in 2020 as compared with the previous years, which indicates an increase in inflation in rural India.**

**Second statement is also correct**

When a person who has registered under MGNREGA applies for work and does not get it **within 15 days of raising the demand**, he/she is entitled to a daily unemployment allowance.

For the first 30 days of unemployment in a financial year, they will be paid 25% of the wage rate. For the rest of the financial year, they will be paid 50% of the wage rate. The fixing of rates for unemployment allowance and making necessary budgetary provision **are within the purview of the state government.**

*Section 7(1), Mahatma Gandhi NREGA: "If an applicant for employment under the Scheme is not provided such employment within fifteen days of receipt of his application seeking employment or from the date on which the employment has been sought in the case of an advance application, whichever is later, he shall be entitled to a daily unemployment allowance in accordance with this section."*

**5.1. Responsibility of the State Government**

Accordingly, State Governments are required to:

- 5.1.1 Specify the rate of unemployment allowance payable, which will not be less than one-fourth of the wage rate for the first thirty days and not less than one-half of the wage rate for the remaining period of the financial year.
- 5.1.2 Frame Rules governing the procedure for payment of Unemployment Allowance.
- 5.1.3 Make necessary budgetary provision for payment of Unemployment Allowance.

Q33. Consider the following statements regarding Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards [CA|TS].

1. It is a partnership of tiger range governments which sets minimum standards to manage target species.

2. India have recently announced the adoption of the CA|TS across all of the country's 50 tiger reserves.
3. India is the first among the 13 tiger range countries to nationally adopt CA|TS.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

**CA|TS is a conservation tool that sets minimum standards to manage target species** and encourages assessments to benchmark progress. Tigers are the first species selected for the initiative. Launched in 2013, the tool was developed in collaboration with field managers, tiger experts and government agencies engaged in tiger conservation.

### **WHAT IS CA|TS?**

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.

**CA|TS is a partnership of tiger range governments, inter-governmental agencies, institutions, NGOs and conservation organizations.**

**Second statement is also correct**

On the eve of Global Tiger Day 2020, the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change of India have announced the adoption of the Conservation Assured Tiger Standards [CA|TS] across all of the country's 50 tiger reserves.**

**Third statement is correct.**

**This announcement means India is the first among the 13 tiger range countries to nationally adopt CA|TS, which are a set of minimum standards setting the benchmark for managing conservation sites.**

**Tiger Range Countries** The 13 Tiger Range Countries (TRCs) are Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam.

**This announcement further strengthens India's contribution to the global goal set in 2010 to double the number tigers in the wild, known as TX2. India reported a population of 2,967 wild tigers during the last population estimation in 2018.**

Link: <https://tigers.panda.org/news and stories/press releases/?uNewsID=364747>

Q34. R. C. Cooper V. Union of India case is related to:

- a. Nationalization of Indian Banks
- b. Judicial Review un Basic Structure of Constitution
- c. Minority Educational Institutions
- d. Rule of Law is a basic structure of the Constitution

Solution: a

Explanation:

**The court upheld the rights of the government to nationalize banks in R.C. Cooper case V. Union of India.**

Link: <https://www.livelaw.in/know-the-law/the-bank-nationalization-ordinance-a-remembrance-on-its-51st-anniversary-160135>

Q35. In the context of Fish Production in India, consider the following statements.

- 1. Inland fishes contribute to almost two-thirds of the net fish production in the country.
- 2. West Bengal accounts for more than a quarter of India's fish production for last five years.
- 3. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) scheme aims to harness the potential of fisheries in the country in a sustainable manner.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

**First of all, it is important to know:**

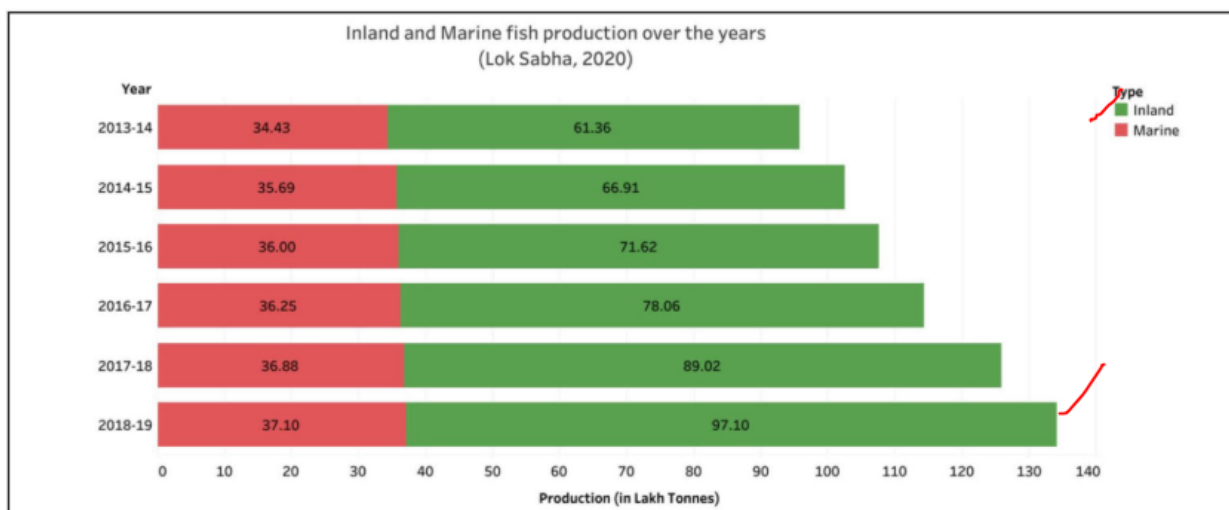
A separate ministerial portfolio, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying was created in 2019 by the central government, with two separate departments- department of fisheries and department of animal husbandry & dairying to focus on livestock and fisheries in the country. The main role of the department is promotion of policies and

strategies aimed at the sustainable and responsible development of fisheries and aquaculture in both inland and marine waters.

**Inland fisheries and aquaculture are the main components** of the fisheries sector in India whose production is more than twice that in marine fisheries.

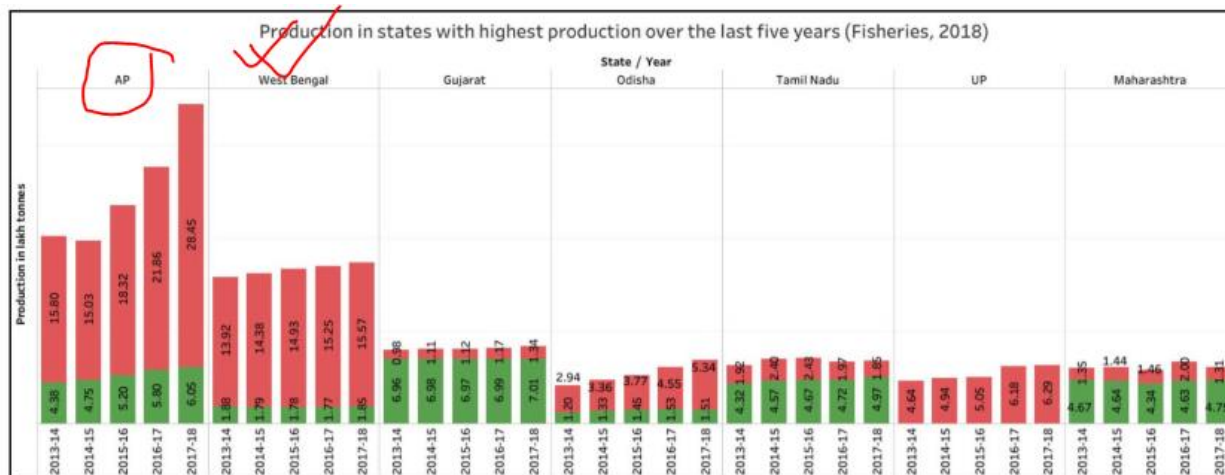
**First statement is correct.**

**Inland fishes contribute to almost two-thirds of the net fish production in the country.** While the marine fish production in India increased by 7.75% in the span of six years, the inland fish production increased by 58.2%. The data for 2018-19 is provisional, according to Lok Sabha answer given in February 2020. **The overall fish production increased by around 38.5% in these six years.**



**Second statement is wrong.**

Andhra Pradesh accounts for more than a quarter of India's fish production in 2017-18.



**Third statement is correct.**



**Finance Minister had proposed the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) scheme in her union budget for 2019-20.** It was later announced in the Atmanirbhar package and approved by the cabinet. Through this scheme, the government aims to **harness the potential of fisheries in the country in a sustainable, responsible, inclusive, and equitable manner.** Like in the case of agricultural sector, this new scheme is aimed at doubling fishers' and fish farmers' income, as per government's scheme information.

Q36. In the context of India, consider the following statements regarding **Rajya Sabha**.

1. Government of India Act, 1919 provided that the Indian Legislature shall consist of two chambers, namely the Council of State and the House of Assembly.
2. One-third of the members of Rajya Sabha shall retire on the expiration of every year.

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

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

**First Statement is correct:**

In India, a Second Chamber was envisaged for the first time under the Montague Chelmsford Reforms proposals. **The Government of India Act, 1919** accordingly, provided that the Indian Legislature shall consist of the Governor-General and the two chambers, namely the **Council of State** and the House of Assembly.

#### **Growth of Bicameralism**

In India, a Second Chamber was envisaged for the first time under the Montague Chelmsford Reforms proposals. The Government of India Act, 1919 accordingly, provided that the Indian Legislature shall consist of the Governor-General and the two chambers, namely the Council of State and the House of Assembly. The term of the Council was fixed at five years. Under the Government of India Act, 1935, however, the Council of State was made a continuous body, not subject to dissolution. The members were to hold their seats for nine years and one-third of them retiring at the end of every three years. But the scheme envisaged for the Second Chamber under the Government of India Act, 1935 never materialised because the provisions pertaining to the federal structure under the Act were never put into operation. As a result, the Second Chamber set up under the Government of India Act, 1919 continued to function till 1947.

**Second statement is incorrect.**

**83. Duration of Houses of Parliament.**—(1) The Council of States shall not be subject to dissolution, but as nearly as possible one-third of the members thereof shall retire as soon as may be on the expiration of every second year in accordance with the provisions made in that behalf by Parliament by law.

Q37. Consider the following statements regarding **International Energy Agency**

1. It is an intergovernmental organization established in 1974 in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis.
2. India is a member of International Energy Agency.
3. To become a member of IEA, a candidate must be a member of The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

**Founded in 1974**, the IEA was initially designed to help countries co-ordinate a collective response to major disruptions in the supply of oil, such as the **crisis of 1973-74**.

The four main areas of IEA focus are:

- Energy Security
- Economic Development
- Environmental Awareness
- Engagement Worldwide

India is an associate member (NOT MEMBER). So, what do you mean by an associate member?



According to the Joint Declaration, **Association is "a progressive relationship** that will have an evolving nature and that will serve as a **basis for higher levels of mutual co-operation in the future"**. Association will be further **enhanced and enriched in the future through joint consultations between the IEA and Association countries**, under mutually agreed terms and conditions.

Who can become member of International Energy Agency?

## IEA Membership

The IEA is made up of 30 member countries.

Before becoming a member country of the IEA, a candidate country must demonstrate that it has:

- crude oil and/or product reserves equivalent to 90 days of the previous year's net imports, to which the government has immediate access (even if it does not own them directly) and could be used to address disruptions to global oil supply;
- a demand restraint programme to reduce national oil consumption by up to 10%;
- legislation and organisation to operate the Co-ordinated Emergency Response Measures (CERM) on a national basis;
- legislation and measures to ensure that all oil companies under its jurisdiction report information upon request;
- measures in place to ensure the capability of contributing its share of an IEA collective action. An IEA collective action would be initiated in response to a significant global oil supply disruption and would involve IEA Member Countries making additional volumes of crude and/or product available to the global market (either through increasing supply or reducing demand), with each country's share based on national consumption as part of the IEA total oil consumption.

The Executive Director of the IEA has to make a finding to ascertain whether the potential member country can meet these requirements, during which the IEA Secretariat advises and works with the candidate country. The IEA Governing Board makes the final decision on the country membership.

A candidate country must be a member country of the OECD. However, membership in the OECD does not automatically result in membership in the IEA.

Q38. With respect to the members of **Legislative Council**, consider the following statements.

1. If a person elected as a member of Legislative Council declared as of unsound mind, the final decision to disqualify him remains with Governor.
2. Every member of the Legislative Council of a State shall, before taking his seat, make and subscribe before the Governor or person appointed by him.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

Both statements are correct. Read three articles given below:

*Conduct of Business*

**188. Oath or affirmation by members.**—Every member of the Legislative Assembly or the Legislative Council of a State shall, before taking his seat, make and subscribe before the Governor, or some person appointed in that behalf by him, an oath or affirmation according to the form set out for the purpose in the Third Schedule.

**191. Disqualifications for membership.**—(1) A person shall be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being, a member of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council of a State—

<sup>2</sup>[(a) if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State specified in the First Schedule, other than an office declared by the Legislature of the State by law not to disqualify its holder;]

(b) if he is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court;

(c) if he is an undischarged insolvent;

(d) if he is not a citizen of India, or has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of a foreign State, or is under any acknowledgment of allegiance or adherence to a foreign State;

(e) if he is so disqualified by or under any law made by Parliament.

**192. Decision on questions as to disqualifications of members.**—(1) If any question arises as to whether a member of a House of the Legislature of a State has become subject to any of the disqualifications mentioned in clause (1) of article 191, the question shall be referred for the decision of the Governor and his decision shall be final.

(2) Before giving any decision on any such question, the Governor shall obtain the opinion of the Election Commission and shall act according to such opinion.]

Q39. With reference to Ancient India, the term "**Ghatika**" refers to:

- Education centre
- Underground water storage
- Lower class peasants
- Woman slave

Solution: a

Explanation:

The **Ghatika** was **Education center** during the reign of the Pallava kings.

Education was given great importance in ancient and medieval India. Many centres of learning functioned in the premises of temples or close to these shrines. One such important educational institution of the ancient Tamil country was called the ghatika.

These ghatikas functioned during the reign of the Pallava kings and even later. Though there were many ghatikas across the far-flung Pallava kingdom, the best-known was in the hoary city of Kanchipuram, the capital of the Pallavas. Kanchipuram (75 km from Chennai) is even today one of the most sacred and historical places in India.

Q40. Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary is in:

- a. Tamil Nadu
- b. Kerala
- c. Karnataka
- d. Andhra Pradesh

Solution: b

Explanation:

Need to explain? The Sanctuary is in Kerala.

Q41. Migrants workers have been in news since corona outbreak in India. The questions can be asked from it in your Prelims exam. So, we will cover this now from easy statements to difficult one.

Consider the following statements.

1. India doesn't have legislation to safeguard and regulate the condition of service of Inter-state labourers.
2. National Migrant Information System was recently created by National Disaster Management Authority aids in streamlining the movement of migrant workers.
3. During recent Covid outbreak, both migration and reverse migration was seen in India.
4. In India, inter-district migration is more than inter-state migration, clearly observed in last three census, 1991, 2001 and 2011.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. 2, 3 and 4 only
- b. 1 and 3 only



- c. 3 and 4 only
- d. 2 and 4 only

Solution: a

Explanation:

**First statement is incorrect.**

Although **India has passed a legislation** four decades ago to safeguard and regulate the condition of service of Inter-state labourers through the '*The Inter-state Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act,1979*', **there is no centralized database yet as far as migrant workers is concerned.**

**Responding to a question in Lok Sabha on 23 March 2020, the Minister for Labour and Employment stated** that there is no register maintained with details of migrants.

**(b): No such register maintained by the Ministry of Labour & Employment. However, every citizen has a right to migrate to any part of the country. The Constitution of India guarantees the right to every citizen to move to and reside in any State/UT in search of Occupation/Job. Migration of workers from one place to another place is a continuous process and the migrant workers keep on moving from one place to another place in search of work and such workforce also keeps on shifting from one sector to another sector depending upon the opportunities (such as more wages, duration and continuity of work) etc. and, therefore, it is not feasible to keep record/data of migrant labour workforce.**

**Second statement is correct.**

On 16May 2020, the Central Government has announced the launch of National Migrant Information System. It is an online database created by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and aids in streamlining the movement of migrant workers.

Ministry of Home Affairs

**National Migrant Information System (NMIS) - a central online repository on Migrant Workers - developed by NDMA to facilitate their seamless movement across States**

**MHA writes to States to use NMIS for capturing the information on movement of migrants and for better inter-State co-ordination**

Posted On: 16 MAY 2020 9:05PM by PIB Delhi

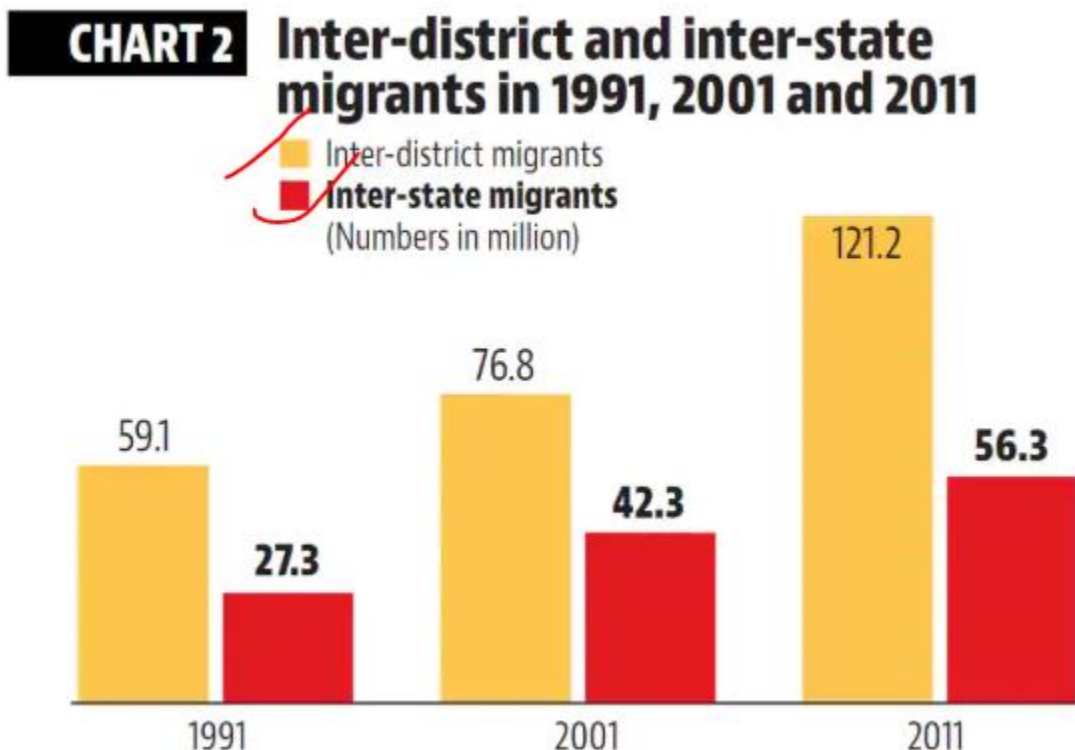
Government of India has allowed the movement of migrant workers by buses and 'Shramik' special trains to enable them to travel to their native places. In order to capture the information regarding movement of migrants and facilitate the smooth movement of stranded persons across States, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has developed an online Dashboard - National Migrant Information System (NMIS).

**Third statement is correct:**



Over the last two months, migrant workers have been travelling from various states back to their native places, especially to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal & Jharkhand. Even now, as India enters the last few days of Lockdown 4.0, **the reverse migration is still going on** unabated as per reports coming from various parts of the country.

**Fourth statement is correct.**



Q42. Consider the following statements regarding Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

1. Under IBC, when a default occurs, the resolution process can be initiated by the debtor or creditor.
2. The resolution under IBC is much higher as compared to SARFESI, DRTs.
3. As per the Ease of Doing Business Report 2020, India has made significant improvement in the 'resolving insolvency' parameter.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

**First statement is correct.**

**What is the procedure under the Code?**

**Initiation: When a default occurs, the resolution process may be initiated by the debtor or creditor.** The insolvency professional administers the process. The professional provides financial information of the debtor from the information utilities to the creditor and manage the debtor's assets. This process lasts for 180 days and any legal action against the debtor is prohibited during this period.

**Decision to resolve insolvency:** A committee consisting of the financial creditors who lent money to the debtor will be formed by the insolvency professional. The creditors committee will take a decision regarding the future of the outstanding debt owed to them. They may choose to revive the debt owed to them by changing the repayment schedule or sell (liquidate) the assets of the debtor to repay the debts owed to them. If a decision is not taken in 180 days, the debtor's assets go into liquidation.

**Liquidation:** If the debtor goes into liquidation, an insolvency professional administers the liquidation process. Proceeds from the sale of the debtor's assets are distributed in the following order of precedence:

- a. Insolvency resolution costs, including the remuneration to the insolvency professional
- b. Secured creditors, whose loans are backed by collateral, dues to workers, other employees
- c. Unsecured creditors
- d. Dues to government
- e. Priority shareholders
- f. Equity shareholders.

**Second statement is correct:**

**The resolution under IBC in terms of proportion has been substantially higher as compared to other processes.** As per the data provided in the report on *Trend and Progress of Banking in India 2018-19*, the amount recovered as a percentage of amount involved in 2017-18 and 2018-19 has been much higher for IBC at 49.6% in 2017-18 and 42.5% in 2018-19 as compared to Lok Adalats, DRTs etc.

Recovery Channel	2018-19 (P)			
	No. of cases Referred	Amount Involved (cr)	Amount Recovered (cr)	Proportion of Amount Recovered in Amount Involved
Lok Adalats	40,80,947	53,506	2,816	5.3%
<del>BRTs</del>	52,175	3,06,499	10,574	3.5%
<del>SARFAESI</del>	2,48,312	2,89,073	41,876	14.5%
<del>IBC</del>	1,135	1,66,600	70,819	42.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,82,569</b>	<b>8,15,678</b>	<b>1,26,085</b>	<b>15.5%</b>

**Third statement is correct:**

According to the Ease of Doing Business Report 2020, India's overall ranking improved by 14 places to 63rd position among 190 countries as against last year's 77th position. **In the 'resolving insolvency' parameter, India's ranking improved 56 places to 52 this year from 108 last year.**

Particulars	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Rank in Resolving Insolvency	136	136	103	108	52
Score for Resolving Insolvency	32.6	32.8	40.7	40.8	62
Time (years)	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	1.6
Recovery Rate (cents on the dollar)	25.7	26	26.4	26.5	71.6
Strength of insolvency framework index (0-16)	6	6	8.5	8.5	7.5

Q43. Consider the following statements regarding.

1. The Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017 is the first model released in Independent India to bring about reforms in agricultural marketing
2. One major drawback of the APMC model is farmer is not allowed to sign a contract with a manufacturer or processor.
3. Under British India, the first regulated market was established in 1886 under Hyderabad Residency Order.
4. Intra-state trade in commodities falls under the State list but inter-state trade and commerce falls under the Concurrent List.

Which of the above statements is/are **incorrect**?

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

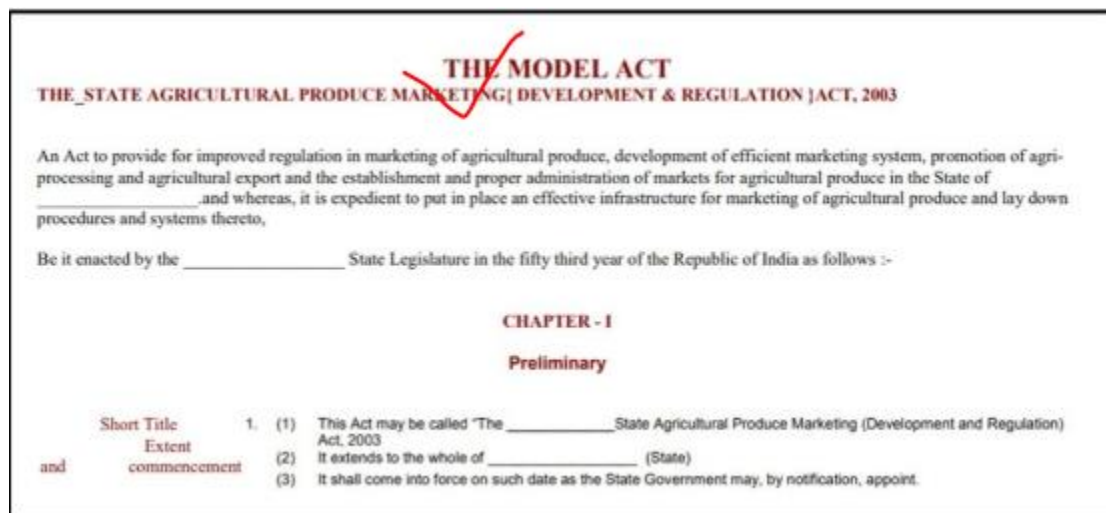
Solution: c

Explanation:

If you don't have any idea about third statement, it doesn't matter. See other statements.

**First statement is incorrect.**

In 2003, to bring about a much-needed reform in the agriculture market, the then government released the **2003 Model APMC Act** that brought about new market channels such as private wholesale markets, direct purchase, and contract farming based on the recommendations by an Inter-Ministerial Task Force. But it was badly implemented by the states.



The latest model **Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2017** was released in 2017 to bring about reforms in agricultural marketing **after 14 years of the first model act in 2003.**

**Second statement is correct.**

One major drawback of the APMC model is the restriction imposed on farmers. A farmer is not allowed to sign a contract with a manufacturer or processor. It is mandatory that they sell their produce through the specified channels.

**Third statement is correct**

Since the British rulers wanted to make cotton available at reasonable prices in the textile mills of Manchester, **the first regulated market (Karanja)** was established in 1886 under Hyderabad Residency Order. **Berar Cotton and Grain Market Act of 1887 was the first legislation** under which an empowered British Resident could decide any place in the assigned district as a market and set up a committee to supervise regulated markets.

**Fourth statement is incorrect:**

Agriculture falls under the purview of the State, as per the Constitution of India. Intra-state trade in commodities falls under the State list as well, but **inter-state trade and commerce falls under the Union List.**

**Do read our current affairs section. It contains the most relevant articles for your UPSC Exam. [Click here to read.](#)**

Q44. Under which of the following laws currently in India, a person be arrested for social media posts?

1. Section 66A of the IT Act, 2000
2. Disaster Management Act, 2005
3. Indian Penal Code

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

**First option is wrong.**

**66A has been struck down by the Supreme Court's Order on 24 March 2015 in the Shreya Singhal vs. Union of India case. See below:**

<sup>1</sup>[66A. Punishment for sending offensive messages through communication service, etc.—Any person who sends, by means of a computer resource or a communication device,—

(a) any information that is grossly offensive or has menacing character; or

(b) any information which he knows to be false, but for the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience, danger, obstruction, insult, injury, criminal intimidation, enmity, hatred or ill will, persistently by making use of such computer resource or a communication device;

(c) any electronic mail or electronic mail message for the purpose of causing annoyance or inconvenience or to deceive or to mislead the addressee or recipient about the origin of such messages,

shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years and with fine.

*Explanation.*—For the purposes of this section, terms “electronic mail” and “electronic mail message” means a message or information created or transmitted or received on a computer, computer system, computer resource or communication device including attachments in text, image, audio, video and any other electronic record, which may be transmitted with the message.]

1. Section 66A has been struck down by Supreme Court's Order dated 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 in the Shreya Singhal vs. Union of India, AIR 2015 SC. 1523.

Section 54 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005: Second is correct.



ndmindia.nic.in/images/The%20Disaster%20Management%20Act.%202005.pdf

own use or disposes of such money or materials or any part thereof or wilfully compels any other person so to do, shall on conviction be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, and also with fine.

**54. Punishment for false warning.**—Whoever makes or circulates a false alarm or warning as to disaster or its severity or magnitude, leading to panic, shall on conviction, be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to one year or with fine.

Third is correct:

There are many other incidents where people have been arrested under various other sections of IPC for their posts on social media. Whether some of those sections should be used or not for such incidents is debatable and it is for the courts to decide but the details regarding some of those IPC sections can be read below:

**Section 153A.** Promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence. Previous | Next

<sup>1</sup>[153A. Promoting enmity between different groups on ground of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc., and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony.— (1) Whoever—

(a) by words, either spoken or written, or by signs or by visible representations or otherwise, promotes or attempts to promote, on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, caste or community or any other ground whatsoever, disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or illwill between different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities, or

**Section 295A.** Deliberate and malicious acts, intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs. Previous | Next

<sup>1</sup>[Whoever, with deliberate and malicious intention of outraging the religious feelings of any class of <sup>2</sup> [citizens of India], <sup>3</sup> [by words, either spoken or written, or or by signs or by visible representations or otherwise], insults or attempts to insult the religion or the religious beliefs of that class, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to <sup>4</sup> [three years], or with fine, or with both.]

**Section 507.** Criminal intimidation by an anonymous communication. Previous | Next

Whoever commits the offence of criminal intimidation by an anonymous communication, or having taken precaution to conceal the name or abode of the person from whom the threat comes, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, in addition to the punishment provided for the offence by the last preceding section.

**Section 124A.** Sedition. Previous | Next

<sup>1</sup>[**124A Sedition.**—Whoever by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, <sup>2</sup>\*\*\* the Government established by law in <sup>3</sup>[India], <sup>4</sup>\*\*\* shall be punished with <sup>5</sup>[imprisonment for life], to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which fine may be added, or with fine.

Q45. NASA launched its most sophisticated and ambitious spacecraft named Perseverance rover. It will be launched to:

- Study microbial life on Mars
- Study asteroids
- Study Corona
- To study atmospheric pressure in Atlantic

Solution: a

Explanation:

**On July 30, NASA launched its most sophisticated and ambitious spacecraft to Mars: the aptly named Perseverance rover.** This will be the **third launch to Mars this month, following the UAE's Hope and China's Tianwen-1 spacecraft.** Perseverance will look for signatures of ancient life preserved in Mars rocks. **And, for the first time, this rover will collect rock samples that will be brought back to Earth,** where they can be scrutinized in laboratories for decades to come.

**How it is different from previous mission to Mars?**

**The Perseverance mission differs from previous ones** in the fact that earlier, rovers were sent to determine if Mars has habitable conditions more broadly **whereas this one aims to look for signs of historical microbial life**. As such, it marks the **first time NASA** has designed a rover to conduct experiments **related to astrobiology on Mars**.

Q46. Consider the following statements.

1. When the Vice-President acts as President or discharges the functions of the President, he continues to perform the duties of the office of Chairman of the Council of States.
2. All doubts and disputes arising out of or in connection with the election of a Vice-President shall be decided by the Supreme Court.
3. A procedure to remove Vice President is provided in the Constitution.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

**First Statement: incorrect**

✓ 64. The Vice-President to be *ex officio* Chairman of the Council of States.—The Vice-President shall be *ex officio* Chairman of the Council of the States and shall not hold any other office of profit:

Provided that during any period when the Vice-President acts as President or discharges the functions of the President under article 65, he shall not perform the duties of the office of Chairman of the Council of States and shall not be entitled to any salary or allowance payable to the Chairman of the Council of States under article 97.

**Second Statement: correct**

✓ 71. Matters relating to, or connected with, the election of a President or Vice-President.—(1) All doubts and disputes arising out of or in connection with the election of a President or Vice-President shall be inquired into and decided by the Supreme Court whose decision shall be final.

(2) If the election of a person as President or Vice-President is declared *void* by the Supreme Court, acts done by him in the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of the office of President or Vice-President, as the case may be, on or before the date of the decision of the Supreme Court shall not be invalidated by reason of that declaration.



**Third Statement: correct****Removal Procedure is provided by Article 67 (2)**

Provided that—

- (a) a Vice-President may, by writing under his hand addressed to the President, resign his office;
- (b) a Vice-President may be removed from his office by a resolution of the Council of States passed by a majority of all the then members of the Council and agreed to by the House of the People; but no resolution for the purpose of this clause shall be moved unless at least fourteen days' notice has been given of the intention to move the resolution;
- (c) a Vice-President shall, notwithstanding the expiration of his term, continue to hold office until his successor enters upon his office.

Q47. Consider the following Committees of the Lok Sabha.

1. Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.
2. Rules Committee
3. General Purposes Committee

Which of the above committees does Speaker has its ex-officio chairman?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

(5) *Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.* —The Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions is constituted after each general election to Lok Sabha and thereafter from time to time under rule 293. It consists of 15 members nominated by the Speaker. The Deputy Speaker is the *ex-officio* Chairperson of the Committee. The term of the Committee is one year. The functions of the Committee are: (a) to allot time to Private Members' Bills and Resolutions; (b) to examine Private Members' Bills seeking to amend the Constitution before their introduction in Lok Sabha; (c) to categorise Private Members' Bills according to their nature, urgency and importance into two categories, namely, category-A and category-B, after they have been introduced in Lok Sabha; (d) to examine every Private Member's Bill which is opposed in the House on the ground that the Bill initiates legislation outside the legislative competence of the House; and (e) to perform such other functions in respect of Private Members' Bills and Resolutions as may be assigned to it by the Speaker under Rule 294. The report of the

✓ (12) *Rules Committee.*— (i) the Rules Committee is constituted under Rule 330. It consists of 15 members including the Speaker who is the ex-officio Chairperson of the Committee. The members of the Committee are nominated by the Speaker.

✓ (13) *General Purposes Committee.*—The General Purposes Committee consists of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, Members of the Panel of Chairpersons, Chairpersons of all Standing Parliamentary Committees of Lok Sabha, Leaders of recognised parties and groups in Lok Sabha and such other Members as may be nominated by the Speaker. The Speaker is the ex-officio Chairperson of the Committee. The functions of the Committee are to consider and advise on such matters concerning the affairs of the House as may be referred to it by the Speaker from time to time.

Q48. Consider the following statements regarding Bioaccumulation.

1. It is the process by which toxins enter the food web by building up in individual organisms.
2. Biomagnification occurs at the base of a food web, usually within primary producers like phytoplankton.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d

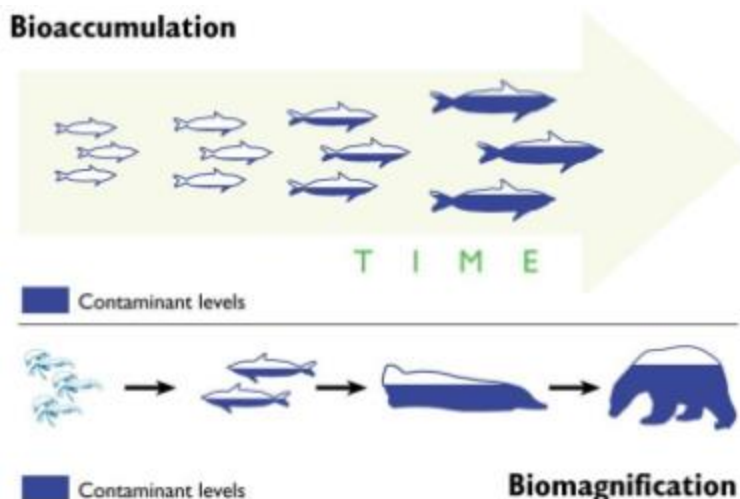
Explanation:

*There is always confusion between Biomagnification and Bioaccumulation. From today you will never forget.*

Bioaccumulation and biomagnification are two different processes that often occur in tandem with one another.

**Bioaccumulation is the process by which toxins enter the food web by building up in individual organisms,** so first statement is correct.

while biomagnification is **the process by which toxins are passed from one trophic level to the next (and thereby increase in concentration) within a food web.**



**How bioaccumulations occur? Second is also correct.**

**Bioaccumulation occurs at the base of a food web, usually within primary producers like phytoplankton.** These microscopic photosynthetic organisms absorb POPs directly from the seawater and accumulate them in their bodies over time. The toxins build up in their tissues because they are absorbed from the water at a rate faster than they can be metabolized.

**How biomagnification occurs?**

**Biomagnification occurs when slightly larger organisms called zooplankton feed upon the contaminated phytoplankton** and in turn absorb POPs into their own tissues at a higher concentration.

The more contaminated phytoplankton a zooplankton eats, the more pollutants it will have in its body. In other words, the POPs can be passed from producer to consumer (to consumer, to consumer, and so on...)

Biomagnification can continue all the way up the food web or chain. Because the amounts of POPs become more and more concentrated at each trophic level, some of the ocean's apex predators are at risk of gaining potentially fatal levels of POPs within their bodies.

Q49. With reference to an organization known as '**Birdlife International**' which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is a Global Partnership of Conservation Organizations which believes in local-to-global approach for conservation.
2. The concept of 'biodiversity hotspots' originated from this organization.
3. It identifies the sites known/referred to as 'Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas'.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

**First statement is also correct.**

**BirdLife International is a global partnership of conservation organizations (NGOs)** that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. Together we are over 100 BirdLife Partners worldwide – one per country or territory – and growing.

They are driven by our belief that local people, working for nature in their own places but connected nationally and internationally through our global Partnership, are the key to sustaining all life on this planet. This unique **local-to-global approach delivers high impact and long-term conservation for the benefit of nature and people.**

**Second statement is wrong.**

**From where concept came is different story:**

## HOW DID THE CONCEPT OF BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS BEGIN?

In 1988, British ecologist Norman Myers published a seminal paper identifying 10 tropical forest “hotspots.” These regions were characterized both by exceptional levels of plant endemism and serious levels of habitat loss.

Conservation International, one of CEPF's **global donor organizations**, adopted Myers' hotspots as its institutional blueprint in 1989. In 1996, the organization made the decision to undertake a reassessment of the hotspots concept, including an examination of whether key areas had been overlooked. Three years later an extensive global review was undertaken, which introduced quantitative thresholds for the designation of biodiversity hotspots and resulted in the designation of 25.

**Third statement is also correct.**

**BirdLife's Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) concept** initially identified only for terrestrial and freshwater environments, but over the past decade, the IBA process and method has been adapted and applied in the marine realm.

Q50. Bannerghatta National Park is in:

- a. Karnataka

- b. Maharashtra
- c. Madhya Pradesh
- d. Tamil Nadu

Solution: a

Explanation:

**Bannerghatta National Park is in Karnataka.**

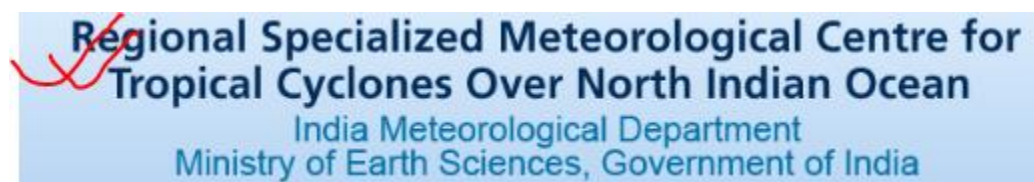
Q51. Which agency is responsible for naming Tropical Cyclones in India?

- a. Nation Weather Service Organization of India
- b. The Indian Meteorological Society of Tropical Organizations
- c. Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre of Tropical Cyclones
- d. Indian Tropical Weather Organization

Solution: c

Explanation:

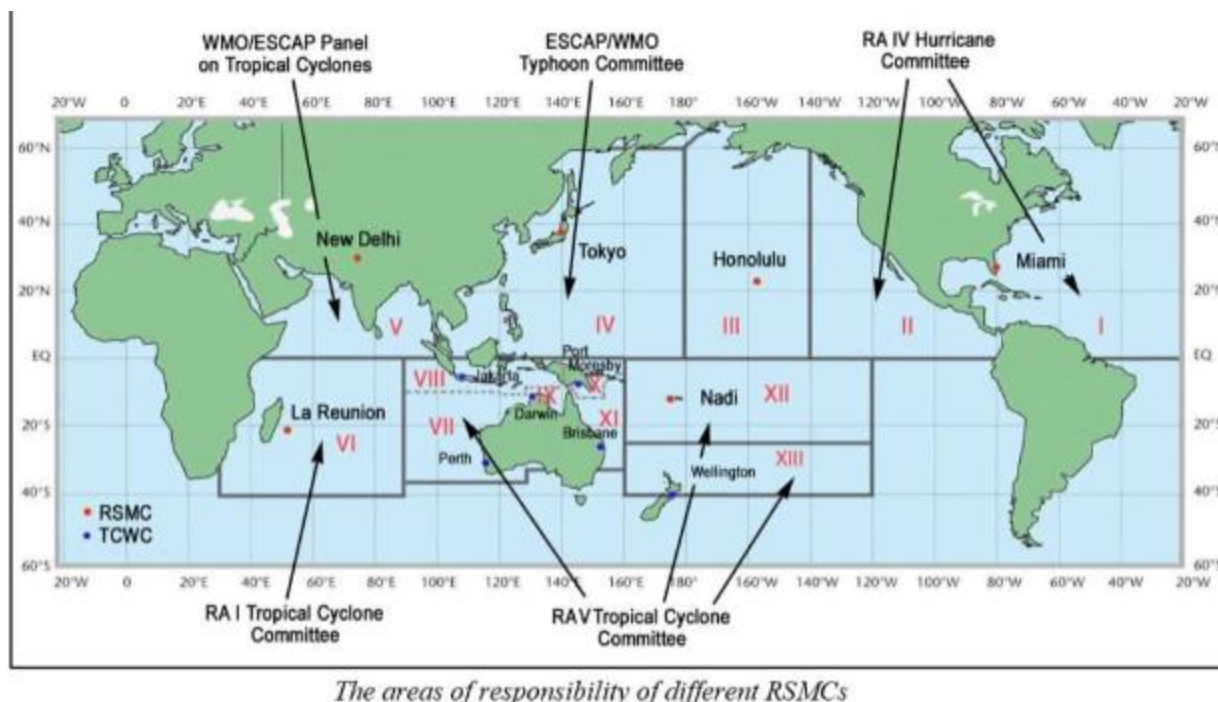
The **Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC) of Tropical Cyclones in New Delhi** is assigned the responsibility of issuing weather outlooks and tropical cyclone advisories for the countries in the WMO/ESCAP Panel region bordering the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. **This is also the agency responsible for naming the cyclones in this region.**



What is this WMO/ESCAP Panel?

There is a strict procedure in place **to determine a list of tropical cyclone names in any ocean basin.** The Tropical Cyclone regional body responsible for that basin determines these names at its annual/biennial meeting. The following are the five tropical cyclones regional bodies.

- ESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee
- **WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones: see below image**
- RA I Tropical Cyclone Committee
- RA IV Hurricane Committee
- RA V Tropical Cyclone Committee



Q52. Consider the following statements regarding Corporate Social Responsibility.

1. Companies Act 2013 mandates qualifying companies to spend a stipulated amount under Corporate Social Responsibility.
2. Contribution to the Prime Minister National Relief Fund is a part of CSR.
3. Contribution to any fund set up by Centre and States for socio-economic development is considered as part of CSR activity.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

First statement is correct.

**Section 135 of the Companies Act 2013 mandates** qualifying companies to spend a stipulated amount under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). As per the existing provisions, every company that fulfils **any** of the below criteria (during a financial year) is required to constitute a CSR Committee.



- a. Net worth of Rs. 500 crores or more
- b. Turnover of Rs. 1,000 crore or more
- c. Net profit of Rs. 5 crore or more

The company is required to spend every financial year, at least 2% of the average net profits made during the three immediately preceding financial years towards their CSR activities.


**Second statement is correct.**

Section VII of Companies act 2013 provides the list of activities that are eligible to be considered as CSR activities and any expenditure incurred towards these activities will be counted as CSR expenditure.

**NOTIFICATION**  
New Delhi, the 27th February, 2014

**G.S.R. 130(E).**—In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 467 of the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013), the Central Government hereby makes the following amendments to Schedule VII of the said Act, namely :—

(1) In Schedule VII, for items (i) to (x) and the entries relating thereto, the following items and entries shall be substituted, namely :—

- “(i) eradicating hunger, poverty and malnutrition, promoting preventive health care and sanitation and making available safe drinking water;
- (ii) promoting education, including special education and employment enhancing vocation skills especially among children, women, elderly, and the differently abled and livelihood enhancement projects;
- (iii) promoting gender equality, empowering women, setting up homes and hostels for women and orphans; setting up old age homes, day care centres and such other facilities for senior citizens and measures for reducing inequalities faced by socially and economically backward groups;
- (iv) ensuring environmental sustainability, ecological balance, protection of flora and fauna, animal welfare, agroforestry, conservation of natural resources and maintaining quality of soil, air and water;
- (v) protection of national heritage, art and culture including restoration of buildings and sites of historical importance and works of art; setting up public libraries; promotion and development of traditional arts and handicrafts;
- (vi) measures for the benefit of armed forces veterans, war widows and their dependents;
- (vii) training to promote rural sports, nationally recognised sports, paralympic sports and Olympic sports;
-  (viii) contribution to the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund or any other fund set up by the Central Government for socio-economic development and relief and welfare of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, other backward classes, minorities and women;
- (ix) contributions or funds provided to technology incubators located within academic institutions which are approved by the Central Government;
- (x) rural development projects.”

2. This notification shall come into force with effect from 1st April, 2014.

**Third statement is not correct.**

on 10 April 2020, MCA released 'COVID-19 related Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)'. As per these FAQs:

- a. Contributions to PM CARES fund are included as part of CSR expenditure



- b. Contributions to Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) or 'State Relief Fund: Covid-19' are not considered to be CSR expenditure.
- c. Contributions made to State Disaster Management Authority to combat COVID-19 are included as part of CSR expenditure.

The reason for not including contributions made to CMRF or other State Relief funds is that **these are not included in Schedule VII of Companies Act 2013**, which was the basis for inclusion of PM CARES fund. It has to be noted that currently, the list of items in Schedule VII only mentions about the funds set up by Centre and does not include any mention of the states.

2. ✓	Whether contribution made to 'Chief Minister's Relief Funds' or 'State Relief Fund for COVID-19' shall qualify as CSR expenditure?	'Chief Minister's Relief Fund' or 'State Relief Fund for COVID-19' is not included in Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013 and therefore any contribution to such funds shall not qualify as admissible CSR expenditure.
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Q53. India recently announced the implementation of “**high impact community development projects**” (HICDP) in which one of the following countries?

- a. Maldives
- b. Myanmar
- c. Afghanistan
- d. Bangladesh

Solution: a

Explanation:

India also announced the implementation of nine “high impact community development projects” (HICDP) in the Maldives recently.

India and the Maldives signed a MoU on HICDPs during the visit of late former external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj in March 2019. A grant of \$5.6 million was announced for these projects and there was another cash grant of \$7 million for small projects.

Link: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-mauritius-pms-to-inaugurate-new-supreme-court-building-on-thursday/story-HMxmeZjRsK0SyqVuSQfdDL.html>

Q54. Consider the following statements regarding International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

1. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights is an international human rights treaty adopted by the UN.
2. Human Rights Committee was established to monitor the Implementation of ICCPR.
3. India is a part of it.

Consider the following statements.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

#### About International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

- a. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 1966.
- b. The ICCPR is a key international human rights treaty, providing a range of protections for civil and political rights.
- c. The ICCPR, together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights, are considered the International Bill of Human Rights.
- d. The ICCPR obligates countries that have ratified the treaty to protect and preserve basic human rights, such as: *the right to life and human dignity; equality before the law; freedom of speech, assembly, and association; religious freedom and privacy; freedom from torture, ill-treatment, and arbitrary detention; gender equality; the right to a fair trial; right family life and family unity; and minority rights.*

#### What is the Human Rights Committee?

The Human Rights Committee was established to monitor the implementation of the ICCPR. It is composed of 18 independent experts with recognized competence in the field of human rights. Committee members are elected for a term of four years and must be from countries that have ratified the Covenant. As of January 2019, members of the Committee come from: Albania, Canada, Chile, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Mauritania, Paraguay, Portugal, Slovenia, South Africa, Tunisia, and Uganda.

**What is the function of the Human Rights Committee?**

The Human Rights Committee meets three times a year for sessions lasting three weeks at the United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland. Countries that have ratified the ICCPR are obliged to report to the Committee every four years. Three to five countries are invited to present their reports at each session which is open to the public and is usually live streamed. The Committee examines the report and addresses its concerns and recommendations to the country in the form of "concluding observations." The Committee also publishes general comments which are its interpretation of the content of the treaty's human rights provisions.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), 1966	India acceded to the Convention on 10 April 1979
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Q55. Consider the following capitals.

1. Jerusalem (Israel)
2. Beirut (Lebanon)
3. Amman (Jordan)
4. Damascus (Syria)

**Arrange the above capitals from North to South.**

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

*In exam, they won't ask such latitudes with minute difference. This region is very confusing. So, we want to have complete picture of this region in your mind.*

**Beirut- 33.89-degree N**

**Damascus- 33.51-degree N**

**Amman- 31.9-degree N**

**Jerusalem-31.76-degree N**



Q56. In the context of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960, consider the following statements.

1. Animals used in scientific research are exempt from cruelty considerations in the Prevention of Animal Cruelty Act 1960.
2. PCA Act, 1960 bans animal sacrifices for religious purposes.
3. The Act provides for the creation of National Board for Wildlife chaired by Prime Minister.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

**The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1960 is the main piece of animal welfare legislation in India.** This Act recognizes that animals can suffer physically and mentally and is applicable to 'all living creatures. This implicit recognition of animal sentience is echoed in the country's Constitution, which enshrines the principle of ahimsa and mandates to all citizens of India to 'have compassion for living creatures.

Animals used in scientific research are exempt from cruelty considerations in the Prevention of Animal Cruelty Act 1960.

27. **Exemptions** : Nothing contained in this Chapter shall apply to -

- (a) the training of animals for bonafide military or police purpose or the exhibition of any animals so trained; or
- (b) any animals kept in any zoological garden or by any society or association which has for its principal object the exhibition of animals for educational or scientific purposes.

**NO ban on animal sacrifices for religious purpose.**

28. **Saving as respects manner of killing prescribed by religion** : Nothing contained in this Act shall render it an offence to kill any animal in a manner required by the religion of any community.

It created Animal Welfare Board of India, NOT NATIONAL BOARD OF WILDLIFE. National Board for Wildlife is a "Statutory Organization" constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Q57. Consider the following statements.

1. Appointment and Promotion of district judge in any state is made by Governor in consultation with High Court of that State.
2. President has been authorized to extend and exclude the jurisdiction of a High Court from any Union Territory.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: A

Explanation:

We will see here two articles: **230 and 233.**



<sup>3</sup>[230. Extension of jurisdiction of High Courts to Union territories.—(1) Parliament may by law extend the jurisdiction of a High Court to, or exclude the jurisdiction of a High Court from, any Union territory.

(2) Where the High Court of a State exercises jurisdiction in relation to a Union territory,—

(a) nothing in this Constitution shall be construed as empowering the Legislature of the State to increase, restrict or abolish that jurisdiction; and

(b) the reference in article 227 to the Governor shall, in relation to any rules, forms or tables for subordinate courts in that territory, be construed as a reference to the President.

**233. Appointment of district judges.**—(1) Appointments of persons to be, and the posting and promotion of, district judges in any State shall be made by the Governor of the State in consultation with the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to such State.

(2) A person not already in the service of the Union or of the State shall only be eligible to be appointed a district judge if he has been for not less than seven years an advocate or a pleader and is recommended by the High Court for appointment.

Q58. Consider the following statements.

1. Registration of political parties is governed by the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.
2. Right to form association is not a Fundamental Right under article 21.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

If mistake in this question means you guys are still not reading questions properly. Please don't run.

Registration of political parties is governed by the provisions of **Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. See below image.**

<sup>3</sup>[PART IVA

REGISTRATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES

**29A** Registration with the Election Commission of associations and bodies as political parties.—(1) Any association or body of individual citizens of India calling itself a political party and intending to avail itself of the provisions of this Part shall make an application to the Election Commission for its registration as a political party for the purposes of this Act.

**Right to Form Association is a fundamental Right given in the Constitution of India under Article 19(1)(c).** It Proclaims that all citizens shall have the freedom to form associations or unions for a lawful purpose.

Q59. Consider the following statements:

1. Tansen was the court poet of the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan.
2. Amir Khusrau was a popular poet in the court of Delhi Sultanate.

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

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

**Tansen**, the magical musician, was one of the 'Navratna' (nine gems) at the court of the **Mughal Emperor Akbar**.

**Amir Khusrau lived through the reigns of six sultans - patronised by Jalaluddin Khalji Allaudin Khalji and Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq.**

Q60. A freshwater to brackish lake of North India. The site is said to represent the only breeding ground outside of China for one of the most endangered cranes, the Black-necked crane, and the only breeding ground for Bar-headed geese in India. Korzok monastery is part of this wetland. The barley fields at Korzok have been described as the highest cultivated land in the world. Name the wetland.

- A. Surinsar-Mansar
- B. Hokersar
- C. Wular
- D. Tsomoriri

Solution: d

Explanation:



Tsomoriri. 19/08/02. Jammu & Kashmir. 12,000 ha. 32°54'N 078°18'E. Wetland Reserve. A freshwater to brackish lake lying at 4,595m above sea level, with wet meadows and borax-laden wetlands along the shores. The site is said to represent the only breeding ground outside of China for one of the most endangered cranes, the Black-necked crane (*Grus nigricollis*), and the only breeding ground for Bar-headed geese in India. The Great Tibetan Sheep or Argali (*Ovis ammon hodgsoni*) and Tibetan Wild Ass (*Equus kiang*) are endemic to the Tibetan plateau, of which the Changthang is the westernmost part. The barley fields at Korzok have been described as the highest cultivated land in the world. With no outflow, evaporation in the arid steppe conditions causes varying levels of salinity. Ancient trade routes and now major trekking routes pass the site. The 400-year-old Korzok monastery attracts many tourists, and the wetland is considered sacred by local Buddhist communities and the water is not used by them. The local community dedicated Tsomoriri as a WWF Sacred Gift for the Living Planet in recognition of WWF-India's project work there. The rapidly growing attraction of the recently opened area to western tourists (currently 2500 per summer) as an "unspoilt destination" with pristine high desert landscapes and lively cultural traditions brings great promise but also potential threats to the ecosystem. Ramsar site no. 1213. Most recent RIS information: 2002.

Q61. Consider the following statements.

Places/Projects in News	Location
1. Bekaa Valley	Syria
2. Agatti island	Bay of Bengal
3. Barakah nuclear power plant	UAE

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

Places/Projects in News	Location
Bekaa Valley	Lebanon
Agatti island	Lakshadweep
Barakah nuclear power plant	UAE



Q62. Consider the following statements regarding Bharat Net Project.

1. The idea to connect gram panchayats with broadband internet was announced under priministership of Modi government through Bharat Net Project.
2. Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) is a special purpose vehicle set up for management and operation of BharatNet.

3. It aims to empower citizens digitally and to bridge the digital gap between rural and urban India.

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

*In statement 1, it is asked, "when idea was mooted"?*

**First statement is wrong.**

**With a vision to connect over 2,50,000 Gram Panchayats across the country, the Manmohan Singh led UPA government initiated the National Optical Fiber Network (NOFN) programme in 2011.**

Like in the case of a few other schemes, **the Modi government renamed the programme as BharatNet programme.** The programme aims at taking broadband connectivity to every nook and corner of the country by using optical fiber.

**Third statement is correct.**

**It is considered the biggest rural telecom project in the world.** The project is now an integral part of the **current government's Digital India initiative-** the flagship programme to empower citizens digitally and to bridge the digital gap between rural and urban India.

**Second statement is correct.**

**Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL)** is a special purpose vehicle, set up by the government of India under the Department of Telecommunications for management, establishment, and operation of BharatNet. It was incorporated in 2012 as a PSU under the Companies Act.

Something extra:

In her budget speech on 01 February 2020, the government has proposed to allocate ₹ **6000 crores in 2020-21 to 'BharatNet' programme** to link one lakh gram panchayats by providing Fibre to the Home connections (FTTH).

**Deadlines have been modified time and again**

✓ The program was originally planned to be **implemented** in a phased manner. Deadlines were set by the UPA government for each of the three phases. They had **ambitious deadlines** to complete the entire project **in two years**— by 2013. This was further extended to

- ✓ • Phase I – 50,000 Gram Panchayats by 31 March 2015
- ✓ • Phase II- 1 lakh Gram Panchayats by March 2016
- ✓ • Phase III- remaining 1 Lakh Gram Panchayats by December 2016

But, after the NDA came to power in 2014, these deadlines were extended up to March 2017. Nonetheless, the first phase of connecting more than one lakh panchayats was completed in only December 2017. The implementation was undertaken by three Central PSUs, namely, BSNL, RailTel, and Powergrid. Currently, phase – II to connect the remaining 1.5 lakh panchayats is under implementation. The government is expecting to complete the project by August 2021.

**Funds for BharatNet** are allocated **as a whole** and **not state-wise**. A lump sum amount is allocated and disbursed from **Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)** to BBNL for implementation of BharatNet. **USOF's task is to make sure that people in rural areas have access to telecom connectivity at an affordable and reasonable rate.** It was established in 2002.

Q63. Consider the following statements regarding 'Prime Minister's National Relief Fund' (PMNRF).

1. The PMNRF was started by the then Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru.
2. PMNRF is not constituted by the Parliament.
3. PMNRF was recently scrapped after the formation of PM-CARES Fund.

Select the correct code.

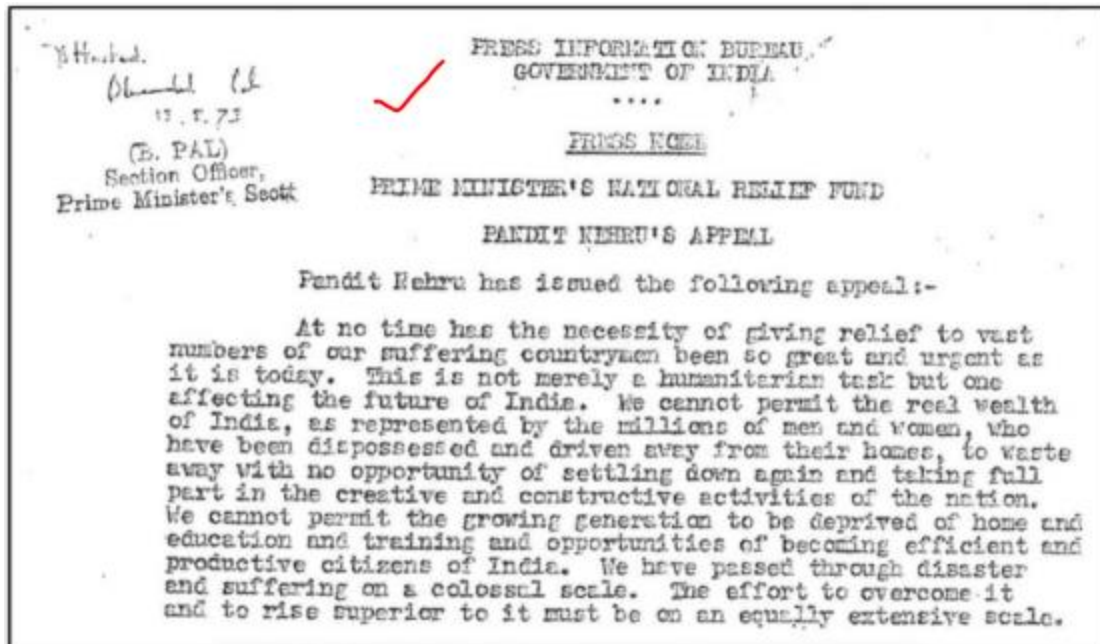
- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 2 only
- d. 1 only

Solution: a

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is correct.**

**The PMNRF was started in 1948**, following an appeal by the then Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, to support people displaced from Pakistan.



Statement 2 is correct.

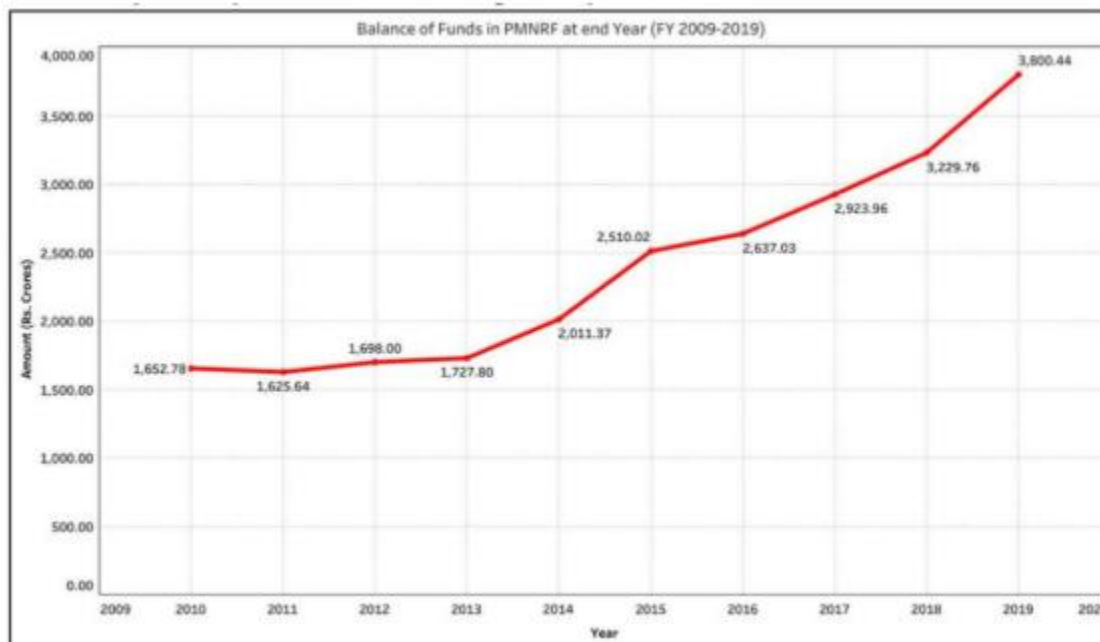
<b>PMNRF- Features</b>	PMNRF accepts only voluntary donations by individuals and institutions.
	The fund does not get any budgetary support and constitutes entirely of public donations.
	PMNRF is not constituted by the Parliament ✓
	The fund is recognised as a Trust under Income Tax Act.
	Prime Minister is the chairman of the Fund and manages the same with assistance from other honorary delegates.
	The corpus fund is invested in various forms in Commercial banks and other institutions.
	It is exempt under IT Act-1961 under section 10 & 139 in respect to filing of returns.
	All the contributions made are 100 % exempted from taxable income under Section 80G of IT Act-1961. Receipts are provided to this extent.
	The contributions to PMNRF qualify as CSR spend of the companies
	Donations can be made in the form of Cash, Cheque or Demand Draft, BHIM UPI, Credit Cards, Debit Cards, Net Banking (of Indian Accounts only). Minimum acceptable donations is Rs.100.

Third statement is incorrect.

On 28 March 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the **Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES)** is being constituted to deal with COVID-19.

**'Prime Minister's National Relief Fund' (PMNRF) was not scrapped. It still exists. A controversy going on why PM-CARES was created when PMNRF is still there.**

As per the PMNRF's [Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year 2018-19](#), the balance of funds available at the end of FY 2018-19 was Rs. 3,800.44 crores. The availability of these funds further raises questions around the need for creating a new fund 'PM CARES' for tackling COVID-19 and other disasters. Except for 2010-11, over the 10-year period between 2009-19, **the income of PMNRF has always been higher than the expenditure. See below image: Just have an idea.**



Q64. Consider the following statements regarding National Anti-Profiteering Authority.

1. The NAA was established under Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.
2. National Anti-Profiteering Authority is chaired by Union Finance Minister.
3. Since NAA is not a permanent body, its constitution is extended by the GST Council.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

**The NAA was established under Section 171 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.** As per the provisions, any reduction of GST rates or the benefit of input tax



credit needs to be passed on to the customers in the form of reduction in prices. The wilful action of not passing the benefits to the recipients is considered as profiteering.

Anti-  
profiteering  
measure.

**171** (1) Any reduction in rate of tax on any supply of goods or services or the benefit of input tax credit shall be passed on to the recipient by way of commensurate reduction in prices.

(2) The Central Government may, on recommendations of the Council, by notification, constitute an Authority, or empower an existing Authority constituted under any law for the time being in force, to examine whether input tax credits availed by any registered person or the reduction in the tax rate have actually resulted in a commensurate reduction in the price of the goods or services or both supplied by him.

**Second statement is not correct:**

The National Anti-Profiteering Authority (NAA) comprises of a five-member committee. **This includes a Chairman and four technical Members.**

- a. **Chairman** – is equivalent to a rank of secretary in the government
- b. **Technical Members** – Current/former commissioners of State tax or Central Tax departments
- c. **Secretary to NAA** – The Additional Director General of Safeguards under the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBEC)

**Third statement is correct:**

**As per Rule 137, of CGST Rules, 2017 – Anti Profiteering Authority ceases to exist after a period of two years**, unless recommended otherwise by **GST council**. However, the tenure of NAA was extended by GST council by two more years in its meeting on 21 June 2019.

**137. Tenure of Authority.**—The Authority shall cease to exist after the expiry of [four years]<sup>230</sup> from the date on which the Chairman enters upon his office unless the Council recommends otherwise.

*Explanation.*—For the purposes of this Chapter,

(a) “Authority” means the National Anti-profiteering Authority constituted under rule 122;

So far, a total of 125 orders issued by NAA. In its latest order, the **NAA fined Patanjali Ayurveda Ltd Rs.75.08 crores**. The NAA stated that the benefits from the rate change from 28% to 18% as well as that of 18% to 12% in November 2017 have not been passed on to the consumers. Patanjali has also increased the price of their washing powder, after GST reduction.

Q65. The National Education Policy (NEP) has dropped 'Mandarin' from its list of examples of foreign languages that can be taught in schools. Mandarin is the language most commonly spoken in

- a. China
- b. Japan
- c. USA
- d. Australia

Solution: a

Explanation:

**Security concerns raised about Mandarin teaching, say government sources.**

The National Education Policy (NEP) has dropped Mandarin or 'Chinese' from its list of examples of foreign languages that can be taught in schools. The language was included in the draft version of the Policy released in May 2019, but was missing from the final Policy document approved by the Union Cabinet this week.

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/education/national-education-policy-2020-mandarin-dropped-from-language-list/article32249227.ece>

Q66. Consider the following statements regarding India-UN Development Partnership Fund.

1. It is a dedicated facility within the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation.
2. The Fund project portfolio aims to contribute to the efforts of developing countries towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

NATIONAL

## India contributes over \$15 mn to India-U.N. Development Partnership Fund



UNITED NATIONS, AUGUST 05, 2020 17:45 IST  
UPDATED: AUGUST 05, 2020 17:43 IST

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**The India-UN Development Partnership Fund is a dedicated facility within the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation established in 2017.**

*It is supported and led by the Government of the Republic of India, managed by the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, and implemented in collaboration with the United Nations system.*

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund supports Southern-owned and led, demand-driven, and transformational sustainable development projects across the developing world, with a focus on least developed countries and small island developing states. **United Nations agencies implement the Funds projects in close collaboration with partnering governments.**

The India-UN Development Partnership Fund established in 2017, has an ambitious agenda of **promoting multilateralism and shared prosperity**. The Fund project portfolio aims to **contribute to the efforts of developing countries towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

The Fund responds directly to the national priorities and development objectives of partner countries, contributing financial resources and technical knowledge to support **partner governments in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals**.

**Link:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-contributes-over-15-mn-to-india-un-development-partnership-fund/article32277072.ece>

Q67. Who among the following are the members of selection committee to recommend the Chairperson of Lokpal and its members as per the **Lokpal and lokayuktas Act 2013**?

1. Prime Minister
2. Ministry of Law and Justice
3. Leader of opposition in Lok Sabha
4. Chief Justice of India or a member appointed by him

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

**ONLY SPEAKER OF LOK SABHA, NOT RAJYA SABHA. See below.**

The Chairperson and Members shall be appointed by the **President** after obtaining the recommendations of a Selection Committee consisting of:

Appointment  
of Chairperson  
and Members  
on  
recommendations  
of Selection  
Committee.

4. (1) The Chairperson and Members shall be appointed by the President after obtaining the recommendations of a Selection Committee consisting of—

- (a) the Prime Minister—Chairperson;
- (b) the Speaker of the House of the People—Member;
- (c) the Leader of Opposition in the House of the People—Member;

Sec. 1]

THE GAZETTE OF INDIA EXTRAORDINARY

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(d) the Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court nominated by him—Member;

(e) one eminent jurist, as recommended by the Chairperson and Members referred to in clauses (a) to (d) above, to be nominated by the President—Member.

Q68. With reference to **Statutory Grants under Article 275 of Indian Constitution**, consider the following statements:

1. It empowers the Parliament to make grants to states which need Financial assistance.
2. It is charged to Consolidated Fund of India.
3. It is given to the states on the recommendations of the Finance Commission.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

All the three statements are correct with reference to **statutory grants under article 275**.

Go through both the article given below.

### Central Government Act

#### Article 275 in The Constitution Of India 1949

275. Grants from the Union to certain States

(1) Such sums as Parliament may by law provide shall be charged on the Consolidated Fund of India in each year as grants in aid of the revenues of such States as Parliament may determine to be in need of assistance, and different sums may be fixed for different States: Provided that there shall

### Central Government Act

#### Article 280 in The Constitution Of India 1949

280. Finance Commission

(1) The President shall, within two years from the commencement of this Constitution and thereafter at the expiration of every fifth year or at such earlier time as the President considers necessary, by order constitute a Finance Commission which shall consist of a Chairman and four other members to be appointed by the President

(2) It shall be the duty of the Commission to make recommendations to the President as to

(a) the distribution between the Union and the States of the net proceeds of taxes which are to be, or may be, divided between them under this Chapter and the allocation between the States of the respective shares of such proceeds;

(b) the principles which should govern the grants in aid of the revenues of the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India;

(c) any other matter referred to the Commission by the President in the interests of sound finance

Q69. Consider the following statements with reference to **Megadiversity Countries**.

1. To qualify as a Megadiverse Country, a country must have at least 5000 of the world's plants as endemics.
2. India is one of the identified Megadiverse Country.
3. Since this is a country-focused biodiversity prioritization approach, mainly to raise awareness, there is no legal protection or compliance associated with the designation itself.

Select the correct code.

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 only
- c. 2 and 3 only

d. 1, 2 and 3

Solution: d

Explanation:

**Megadiversity Countries** is a term used to refer to the world's top biodiversity-rich countries. This country-focused method raises national awareness for biodiversity conservation in nations with high biological diversity, with many species unique to a specific country. Together, the Megadiversity Countries account for at least two thirds of all non-fish vertebrate species and three quarters of all higher plant species.

#### COVERAGE

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✓ The identified Megadiverse Countries are: United States of America, Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo, South Africa, Madagascar, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea, China, and Australia.

✓ **Legal and compliance** – ✓ Since this is a country-focused biodiversity prioritisation approach, mainly to raise awareness, there is no legal protection or compliance associated with the designation itself. The legal and compliance requirements present within these countries will relate to other designations of biodiversity importance present within each country, such as legally protected areas.



biodiversity management. The Megadiversity Country concept is based on four premises:

- ✓ 1. The biodiversity of each and every nation is critically important to that nation's survival, and must be a fundamental component of any national or regional development strategy
- ✓ 2. Biodiversity is by no means evenly distributed on our planet, and some countries, especially in the tropics, harbour far greater concentrations of biodiversity than others;
- ✓ 3. Some of the most species rich and biodiverse nations also have ecosystems that are under the most severe threat;
- ✓ 4. To achieve maximum impact with limited resources, conservation efforts must concentrate heavily (but not exclusively) on those countries richest in diversity and endemism and most severely threatened; resources invested in them for conservation should be roughly proportional to their overall contribution to global biodiversity.

#### ✓ CRITERIA

The principle criterion is endemism, first at the species level and then at higher taxonomic levels such as genus and family. To qualify as a Megadiverse Country, a country must:

1. Have at least 5000 of the world's plants as endemics ✓✓
2. Have marine ecosystems within its borders. ✓✓

Q70. Consider the following statements regarding the functions of Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA).

1. Since, it is an advisory body, it cannot file complaints in courts if its directions are not followed.
2. The EPCA has been empowered to take suo motu action as well as on the basis of complaints made by individual.
3. Tenure of EPCA is 2 year from the date of constitution of Authority.
4. It has power to ban or restrict industry, process or operation emitting noise.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

The EPCA was constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 **The EPCA was constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act by the central government in 1998 at the behest of the Supreme Court.** Though it has existed for 20 years, its term is extended by specific notifications issued by the Government of India.

Now, therefore, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (29 of 1986) (hereafter in this notification referred to as the said Act); and in pursuance of the order dated the 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2016 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (C) No. 13029 of 1985 and in supersession of the notification of the Government of India in the erstwhile Ministry of Environment and Forests number S.O. 93(E), dated the 29<sup>th</sup> January, 1998, except as respect things done or omitted to be done before such supersession, the Central Government hereby re-constitutes the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority, consisting of the following persons, namely:-

1.  Shri Bhure Lal, Ex-Secretary, Government of India	 Chairman
--	--

**Functions:** Once you read link given below after reading solutions.

The reason why EPCA is an authority, and not just an advisory committee, is because it has powers similar to those enjoyed by the Centre. Specifically, it can issue directions in writing to any person, officer or authority. **If its directions are not followed, it has powers to file**

criminal complaints (under section 19 of the Act) before courts. *First statement is incorrect.*

7. The Authority shall exercise the powers under section 19 of the said Act, for making complaints against offences under the said Act and for non-compliance of directions issued by it under sub-paragraph (1.1) of paragraph 1 of its mandate.

1.2 The Authority shall have the power to take up matters as mentioned above, suo-moto, or on the basis of complaints made by any individual, representative body or organization functioning in the field of environment. Such complaints may be against any individual, association, company, public undertaking or local body carrying on any industry, operation or process.

3. The Authority shall, for ensuring maintenance of the specified ambient noise standards, have the power to issue directions under section 5 of the said Act, including banning or restricting any industry, process or operation emitting noise.

10. The tenure of the Authority will be for a period of two year from the date of notification of the reconstitution of the Authority.

Link: <https://epca.org.in/IA-for-the-re-constitution-of-the-EPCA.pdf>

Q71. Which of the following provisions is/are present in Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951?

1. The President shall lay down recommendation made by the Finance Commission before each House of Parliament.
2. The Commission shall have all the powers of a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
3. Qualification of the members of the Commission are provided in the said Act.
4. Members of Finance Commission are eligible for reappointment.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

First statement is a part of Indian Constitution.

~~281.~~ **Recommendations of the Finance Commission.**—The President shall cause every recommendation made by the Finance Commission under the provisions of this Constitution together with an explanatory memorandum as to the action taken thereon to be laid before each House of Parliament.

**All others are part of the Act. See below.**

## THE FINANCE COMMISSION (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1951

ACT NO. 33 OF 1951

[16th May, 1951.]

An Act to determine the qualifications requisite for appointment as members of the Finance Commission and the manner in which they shall be selected, and to prescribe their powers.

BE it enacted by Parliament as follows:—

**1. Short title.**—This Act may be called the Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951.

**2. Definition.**—In this Act, “the Commission” means the Finance Commission constituted by the President pursuant to clause (1) of article 280 of the Constitution.

~~3.~~ **Qualifications for appointment as, and the manner of selection of, members of the Commission.**—The Chairman of the Commission shall be selected from among persons who have had experience in public affairs, and the four other members shall be selected from among persons who—

(a) are, or have been, or are qualified to be appointed as Judges of a High Court; or

(b) have special knowledge of the finances and accounts of Government; or

(c) have had wide experience in financial matters and in administration; or

(d) have special knowledge of economies.

~~6.~~ **Term of office of members and eligibility for reappointment.**—Every member of the Commission shall hold office for such period as may be specified in the order of the President appointing him, but shall be eligible for reappointment:

Provided that he may, by letter addressed to the President, resign his office.

~~8.~~ **Procedure and powers of the Commission.**—(1) The Commission shall determine their procedure and in the performance of their functions shall have all the powers of a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908), while trying a suit in respect of the following matters, namely:—

(a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of witnesses;

(b) requiring the production of any document;

(c) requisitioning any public record from any court or office.

Q72. Consider the following statements:

1. An amendment to the Constitution of India can be initiated by an introduction of a bill in the Lok Sabha only.



2. If such an amendment seeks to make changes in the federal character of the Constitution, the amendment also requires to be ratified by the legislature of one-third of the States of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

**An amendment of the Constitution** can be initiated by introduction of a bill **in either house of the Parliament.**

368. <sup>5</sup> [Power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and procedure therefor.]— <sup>6</sup> [(1) Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, Parliament may in exercise of its constituent power amend by way of addition, variation or repeal any provision of this Constitution in accordance with the procedure laid down in this article.]

<sup>7</sup>[(2)] An amendment of this Constitution may be initiated only by the introduction of a Bill for the purpose in either House of Parliament, and when the Bill is passed in each House by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting, <sup>8</sup>[it shall be presented to the President who shall give his assent to the Bill and thereupon] the Constitution shall stand amended in accordance with the terms of the Bill:

If the bill seeks to amend the Federal provisions of the Constitution, it must also be ratified by the legislatures of **half of the states by a simple majority.**

- (c) any of the Lists in the Seventh Schedule, or
- (d) the representation of States in Parliament, or
- (e) the provisions of this article,

the amendment shall also require to be ratified by the Legislatures of not less than one-half of the States <sup>1\*\*\*</sup> by resolutions to that effect passed by those Legislatures before the Bill making provision for such amendment is presented to the President for assent.



Q73. If the Lok Sabha has been adjourned by the speaker. Then which of the following would take place.

1. All pending notices would lapse.
2. A bill pending in Lok Sabha lapses.
3. A bill passed by both houses but pending assent by president does not lapse

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 1 and 3 only
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. None

Solution: d

Explanation:

Adjournment only terminates a sitting and not a session of the House. It does not affect the bills or any other business pending before the House and the same can be resumed when the House meets again. **Hence, option (d) is correct.**

Q74. Which of the following agreement/convention are binding with respect to ozone protection?

1. Montreal Protocol
2. Vienna Convention
3. Kyoto protocol
4. Kigali Agreement

Choose the correct answer using codes given below.

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

**Once you will come to know, Vienna is non-binding, problem is solved.**

### The Vienna Convention ✓

It is for the Protection of the Ozone Layer is a Multilateral Environmental Agreement. It was agreed upon at the Vienna Conference of 1985 and entered into force in 1988. It has been ratified by 196 states (all United Nations members as well as the Holy See, Niue and the Cook Islands) as well as the European Union.

It acts as a framework for the international efforts to protect the ozone layer. However, it does not include legally binding reduction goals for the use of CFCs, the main chemical agents causing ozone depletion. These are laid out in the accompanying Montreal Protocol. ✓

The **Montreal Protocol under the Vienna Convention (the protocol)** was agreed in **1987**. It facilitates global cooperation in reversing the rapid decline in atmospheric concentrations of ozone, a gas that protects life on Earth from the sun's harmful radiation. Under the protocol countries agreed to phase out the production and consumption of certain chemicals that deplete ozone. Phase out of these substances is required by specific deadlines. **It is legally binding.**

## Kigali Agreement: Important Points

- It is a **legally binding agreement** between the signatory parties with non-compliance measures.
- It will come into effect from 1st January 2019 provided it is ratified by at least 20 member parties by then.

Q75. Which among the following are the work areas of IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources)?

1. Biodiversity Conservation
2. Poverty Alleviation
3. Gender Equality

Choose the correct answer using codes given below.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

You have always read IUCN maintains Red list, **so Biodiversity Conservation is good** but what about other?? All are included. Don't get confused.

Since its establishment in 1948, IUCN has become the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. The knowledge and the tools IUCN provide are critical for ensuring that human progress, economic development and nature conservation take place together. IUCN is a membership Union composed of both government and civil society organisations.

**In the early 2000s**, IUCN developed its business engagement strategy. Prioritising sectors with a significant impact on nature and livelihoods, such as mining and oil and gas, its aim is to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

**Later in the 2000s**, IUCN pioneered 'nature-based solutions' – actions to conserve nature which also address global challenges, such as **food and water security, climate change and poverty reduction**.

Q76. What determines how much Ultraviolet Radiation reaches the earth's surface?

1. Aerosols in the troposphere,
2. Water depth of Ocean
3. Cloud Cover
4. Reflectivity of the Earth's Surface

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

What Determines How Much Ultraviolet Radiation Reaches the Earth's Surface?

The amount of UV radiation reaching the Earth's surface varies widely around the globe and through time. Several factors account for this variation at any given location. They are discussed below:

### Aerosols

Unlike clouds, aerosols in the troposphere, such as dust and smoke, not only scatter but also absorb UV-B radiation. Usually the UV reduction by aerosols is only a few percent, but in regions of heavy smoke or dust, aerosol particles can absorb more than 50 percent of the radiation.

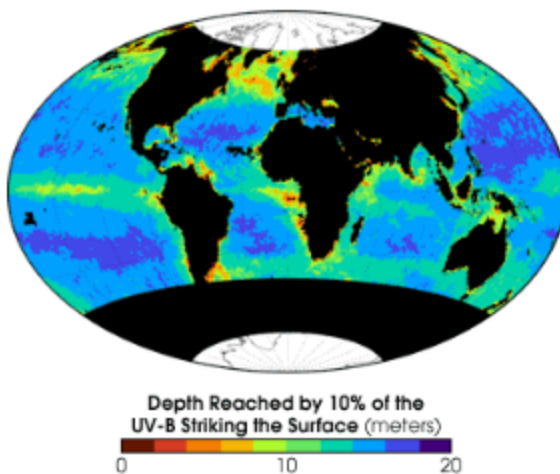
While the presence of aerosols anywhere in the atmosphere will always scatter some UV radiation back to space, in some circumstances, aerosols can contribute to an increase in UV exposure at the surface. For example, over Antarctica, cold temperatures cause ice particles (Polar Stratospheric Clouds) to form in the stratosphere. The nuclei for these particles are thought to be sulfuric acid aerosol, possibly of volcanic origin. The ice particles provide the surfaces that allow complex chemical reactions to take place in a manner that can deplete stratospheric ozone.

### Water Depth

UV-B exposure decreases rapidly at increasing depths in the water column. In other words, water and the impurities in it strongly absorb and scatter incoming UV-B radiation. Some substances that are dissolved in water, such as organic carbon from nearby land, will also absorb UV-B radiation and enhance protection of microorganisms, plants, and animals from UV-B. Different masses of water at different locations contain different amounts of such dissolved substances and other particles, making evaluation of UV damage very difficult.

Penetration of UV-B into Ocean Water

June 6, 2001





### *Reflectivity of the Earth's Surface*

As a highly reflective substance, snow dramatically increases UV-B exposure near the Earth's surface as it reflects most of the radiation back into the atmosphere, where it is then scattered back toward the surface by aerosols and air molecules. Fresh snow can reflect much as 94 percent of the incoming UV radiation. In contrast, snow-free lands typically reflect only 2-4 percent of UV and ocean surfaces reflect about 5-8 percent (Herman and Celarier 1997).

### *Cloud Cover*

Cloud cover plays a highly influential role in the amount of both UV-A and UV-B radiation reaching the ground. Each water droplet in a cloud scatters some incoming UV radiation back into space, so a thick cover of clouds protects organisms and materials from almost all UV. The larger the percentage of the sky that is covered by clouds, the less UV reaches the ground. The more opaque the cloud, the less UV-B. However, thin or broken cloud cover can be deceiving to people who are sunbathing, and the result can be an unexpected and severe sunburn.

Q77. Which of the above states share **least number of International Boundaries**?

- a. Assam
- b. Sikkim
- c. Arunachal Pradesh
- d. West Bengal

Solution: a

Explanations:

**West Bengal** Borders with **Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan**

**Sikkim** borders with **Bhutan, Nepal and China.**

**Arunachal Pradesh** borders with **Myanmar, Bhutan and China.**

**Assam** Borders with **Bangladesh and Bhutan**



Q78. Which of the following are released by Central Statistics Office (CSO)?

1. Index of Industrial Production (IIP)
2. CPI(Rural)
3. CPI for Industrial workers CPI(IW)
4. Wholesale Price Index (WPI)

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

The all India index of Industrial Production (IIP) is compiled and published monthly by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO).

CPI(Urban) and CPI(Rural) are compiled by Central Statistical Organization.

**CPI for Industrial workers CPI(IW) compiled by Labour Bureau.**

**In India, Office of Economic Advisor (OEA), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry calculates the Wholesale Price Index (WPI).**

Q79. Inflation would usually redistribute wealth from

1. Consumers to producers
2. Debtors to creditor

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. None

Solution: a

Explanation:

**Statement 1 is correct.:**

Inflation has impact on all the economic units. It has favorable impact on some and unfavorable impact on others. In inflationary situation, the producers stand to gain and consumers stand to lose.

**The producer's profit will increase as a result of inflation.** The purchasing power of money held by consumer falls. So, they have to pay more money to purchase the same amount of goods and services what they bought before inflation. **Here, the income of consumer gets transferred from consumers to producers.**

**Statement 2 is wrong.**

In case of debtor and creditor, **debtor is gainer and creditor is loser.** Take an example. The debtor borrowed for interest at the rate of 5 % a day and debtor is a mango vendor. He has to repay Rs 105 on the next day. The price of mango on day one is Rs. 10 per mango. The debtor can buy 10 mangoes.

On day two, the price of mango is Rs. 15. The debtor can sell 10 mangoes for Rs. 150. The debtor can repay his debt by selling only 7 mangoes. So, he gains Rs. 45 or 3 mangoes. The creditor can buy only 7 mangoes with Rs. 105 he got back. Suppose he purchased mango on day one instead of lending, he may have bought 10 mangoes. So, he loses 3 mangoes. This relation holds true for private as well as public debt.

Q80. Consider the following statements-

1. Uttar Pradesh is the largest producer of Wheat and Sugarcane in India.

2. Madhya Pradesh is the largest producer of Pulses in India.

3. Bihar is the largest producer of Jute in India.

Which of them are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 2 only

c) 1 only

d) 1,2 and 3

Solution: a

Explanation:

**Table 4.2:** Three Largest Producing States of Important Crops during 2017-18\*

Production : Million Tonnes			
Group of Crops	Crops	States	Production
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
<b>I. Foodgrains</b>	Rice	West Bengal	14.97
		Punjab	13.38
		Uttar Pradesh	13.27
		<b>All - India</b>	<b>112.91</b>
	Wheat	Uttar Pradesh	31.88
		Punjab	17.85
		Madhya Pradesh	15.91
		<b>All - India</b>	<b>99.70</b>
<b>III. Other Cash Crops</b>	Total Pulses	Madhya Pradesh	8.11
		Rajasthan	3.39
		Maharashtra	3.30
		<b>All - India</b>	<b>25.23</b>
	Sugarcane	Uttar Pradesh	177.06
		Maharashtra	83.13
		Karnataka	28.26
		<b>All - India</b>	<b>376.90</b>
	Cotton®	Gujarat	12.637
		Maharashtra	6.546
		Telangana	4.754
		<b>All - India</b>	<b>34.89</b>
	Jute & Mesta <sup>§</sup>	West Bengal	7.64
		Bihar	1.45
		Assam	0.84
		<b>All - India</b>	<b>10.14</b>

Q81. Consider the following surveys/Reports.

1. OBICUS Survey on the Manufacturing sector
2. Consumer Confidence Survey
3. Financial Stability Report.

Which of the above surveys/reports is/are released by Reserve Bank of India?

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

August 06, 2020

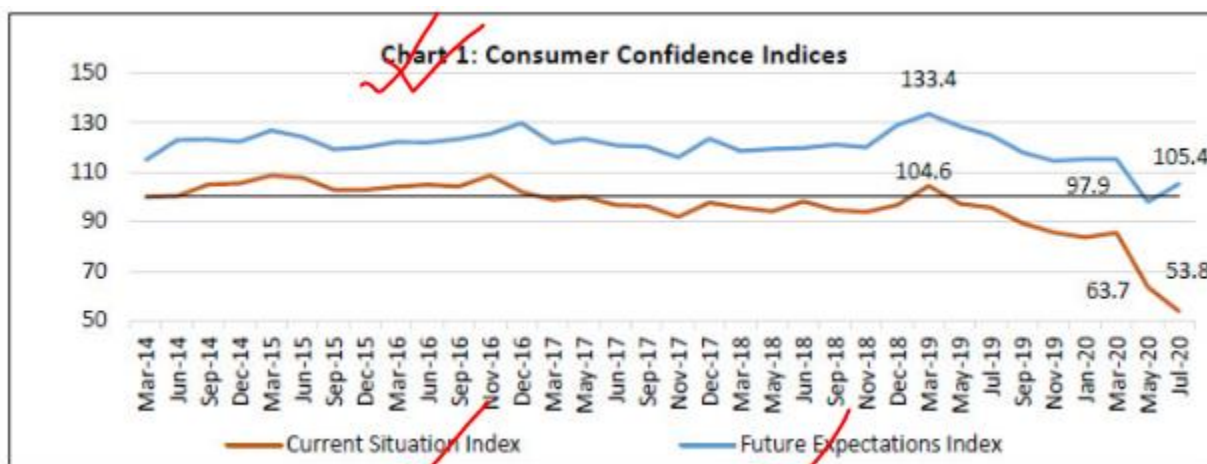
### RBI releases the results of forward looking Surveys

The Reserve Bank of India today released on its website the results of the following Surveys:

- [Consumer Confidence Survey \(CCS\) – July 2020](#)
- [Inflation Expectations Survey of Households \(IESH\) – July 2020](#)
- [OBICUS Survey on manufacturing sector – Q4:2019-20](#)
- [Industrial Outlook Survey of the Manufacturing Sector for Q1:2020-21](#)
- [Survey of Professional Forecasters on Macroeconomic Indicators– Round<sup>1</sup> 65<sup>th</sup>](#)

The [RBI has been conducting the OBICUS](#) (Order Books, Inventories and Capacity Utilization Survey) of the manufacturing sector on a quarterly basis since 2008.

Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS) is also released quarterly by RBI.





1. It aims to mobilize a short-term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects related to infrastructure development in agriculture sector.
2. The Scheme will be operational for ten years from 2020-21 to 2029-30.
3. Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs) and Self-Help Group (SHG) are not eligible for the loan facility under this Fund.
4. NABARD will finance loan to beneficiaries at rate of interest decided by the Central Government.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

Very important Fund. You have to learn it. A huge amount of money has been allocated to this Fund (1Lakh crore).

*For any scheme, if you read introduction, you will never forget the scheme completely, some part of scheme, you will always remember. And this will help you in exam. Read introduction below.*

## 1 Introduction

The role of infrastructure is crucial for agriculture development and for taking the production dynamics to the next level. It is only through the development of infrastructure, especially at the post harvest stage that the produce can be optimally utilized with opportunity for value addition and fair deal for the farmers. Development of such infrastructure shall also address the vagaries of nature, the regional disparities, development of human resource and realization of full potential of our limited land resource.

In view of above, the Hon'ble Finance Minister announced on 15.05.2020 Rs 1 lakh crore Agri Infrastructure Fund for farm-gate infrastructure for farmers. Financing facility of Rs. 1,00,000 crore will be provided for funding Agriculture Infrastructure Projects at farm-gate & aggregation points (Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies, Farmers Producer Organizations, Agriculture entrepreneurs, Start-ups, etc.). Impetus for development of farm-gate & aggregation point, affordable and financially viable Post Harvest Management infrastructure.

Accordingly, DAC&FW has formulated the Central Sector Scheme to mobilize a medium - long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects relating to post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through incentives and financial support.

**The Scheme will be operational from 2020-21 to 2029-30. Second statement is correct.**

## 4 Implementation Period of Scheme

The Scheme will be operational from 2020-21 to 2029-30. Disbursement in four years starting with sanction of Rs. 10,000 crore in the first year and Rs. 30,000 crore each in next three financial years. Moratorium for repayment under this financing facility may vary subject to minimum of 6 months and maximum of 2 years.

**Third statement is incorrect.**

## 7 Size of the financing facility and eligible beneficiaries

Rs. 1 Lakh Crore to be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Marketing Cooperative Societies, Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Group (SHG), Farmers, Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Agri-entrepreneurs, Startups and Central/State agency or Local Body sponsored Public Private Partnership Projects.

**Fourth statement is wrong.** NABARD will not lend to farmers directly.

### 8 Participating institutions

All scheduled commercial banks, scheduled cooperative banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), Small Finance Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) may participate to provide this financing facility, after signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD)/DAC&FW.

Q83. 'Loya Jirga' was recently seen in news. It:

- A traditional way of farming in Himalayas
- Grand Assembly of Afghanistan
- Water harvesting technique
- Water falls in Peninsular Region

Solution: b

Explanation:

Recently, a three-day Loya Jirga-grand assembly has been called in Afghanistan to decide on freeing about 400 Taliban fighters convicted for serious crimes including murder and abductions.

### Loya Jirga

- It is a mass national gathering that brings together representatives from the various ethnic, religious, and tribal communities in Afghanistan.
- It is a highly respected centuries-old consultative body that has been convened at times of national crisis or to settle national issues.
- According to the Afghan Constitution, a Loya Jirga is considered the highest expression of the Afghan people. It is not an official decision-making body and its decisions are **not legally binding**.
- However, the Loya Jirga's decision is seen as final, with the president and parliament expected to respect the ruling.

Q84. India's only pitcher plant species *Nepenthes khasiana* can be found in:

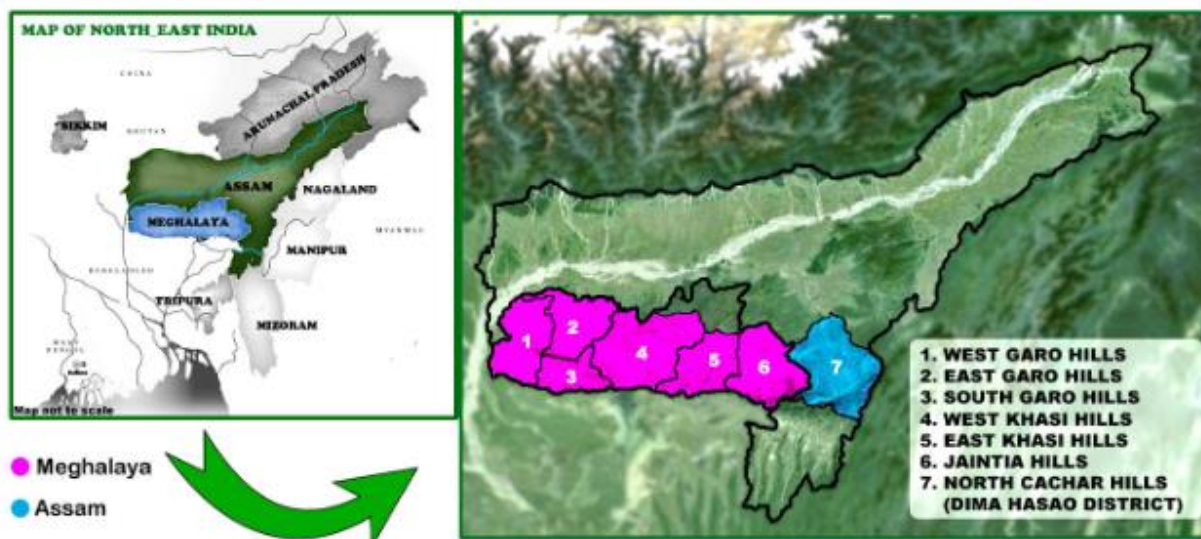
- North Eastern Region
- Western Ghats
- Sunderbans
- Himalayan Region

Solution: a

Explanation:

Pitcher plants are carnivorous plants that attract, kill and digest insects. **Found mainly in the state of Meghalaya, India's only pitcher plant species *Nepenthes khasiana* is endangered**, facing threats from mining, shifting cultivation, and excessive collection, among others.

India's only known pitcher plant species ***Nepenthes khasiana*** is an evergreen shrub considered endemic to **Meghalaya**. But in 2016, it was reported in Dima Hasao district in the neighbouring state of **Assam**. It is mostly distributed in Meghalaya's west and east Khasi Hills, west and south Garo Hills and Jaintia Hills at an altitude of about 1000 to 1500 metres.



### Distribution of *N. khasiana* in Meghalaya and Assam

*The endangered tropical pitcher plant, *Nepenthes khasiana*, is found in the Garo, Khasi, and Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya as well as in the Dima Hasao district of Assam. Photo by Albert Sajem Betlu/Wikimedia.*

Pitcher plants are carnivorous plants that attract, kill and digest insects. The plants have evolved modified leaves consisting of **jug-like pitchers**, which function as pitfall traps that 'hunt' prey, mainly insects that curiously approach the pitcher rims and **end up falling inside**. Often unable to escape the slippery inner walls and sticky fluid inside the pitcher, the unfortunate victims die and enzymes at the bottom of the pitcher **digest them to release nutrients needed by the plant**.

Because it is at risk of extinction, the plant is included in the **Negative List of Exports of the Government of India** and it is a **Schedule VI species under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**. It is also listed under **Appendix I of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)**, prohibiting the trade of this species.

To conserve this species, methods such as tissue culture, micropropagation and germplasm preservation have been carried out primarily by government institutions. Villagers and students have been involved in various conservation initiatives.

Link: <https://india.mongabay.com/2020/08/captivating-carnivores-saving-indias-only-pitcher-plant/>

Q85. Consider the following statements regarding Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN).

1. It is an indigenous technology of India aimed at digitizing vaccines stock in the country.
2. The technological innovation is implemented by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in partnership with UNDP.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

**Three images below to explain eVIN: Very important.**

#### Preface

Immunization against vaccine preventable childhood diseases is the right of each and every child. India, being a signatory of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), is committed to achieve SDG3 encompassing target of infant mortality rate below 25/1000 live births. The Universal Immunization Programme of the country is one intervention with the potential to achieve the desired target. It is one of the largest public health programme in the world, which caters to a birth cohort of 2.6 crore infants and around 3 crore pregnant women every year utilizing a cold chain network of more than 27,000 cold chain points with 95% of it situated below the district level. This is not a small task in a nation with the largest and most ambitious immunization program in the world which aims to immunize this huge birth cohort.



The innovative Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) is at present being implemented across 12 states of India. The technology aims to support the Government's Immunization Program by providing real time information on vaccine stock and flows, and storage temperature across all cold chain points in these states. The technological innovation is implemented by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India and UNDP being the implementing partner. Integrating innovation with health care, eVIN aims to strengthen the vaccine supply chain to ensure equity in vaccine availability.

In 2015, India implemented the electronic vaccine intelligence network (eVIN) –an indigenous, smart and easy-to-use technology– aimed at digitizing vaccine stocks in the country. eVIN empowers the state cold chain network by building the capacities of cold chain handlers; and deploying vaccine and cold chain managers in every district for constant support to estimate vaccine requirements, supervise cold chain handlers and coordinate with cold chain technicians across the district. eVIN empowers the cold chain handlers by building technical capacities, while providing a robust decision-making tool for cold chain managers through a complete overview of vaccine replenishment times, supply and consumption patterns.

Q86. In the context of the Indian economy, which of the following are the causes of the low growth rate in India during the current period?

1. High capital-output ratio
2. Low level of skill among workers
3. Low women Labour Force Participation Rate
4. Static/ low level of agricultural growth rate
5. The increased flow of Foreign Direct Investments into India

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

**High capital-output ratio:** It is the amount of capital required to produce one unit of output. The high capital-output ratio implies the low efficiency of the economy due to the high capital involved in the production.

**Low level of skill among workers, Low women Labour Force Participation Ratio (WLFPR), Static/ low level of agricultural growth rate** are also the potential factors that



inhibit India's growth. India's WLFPR has fallen to a historic low of 23.3% in 2017-18. India's agriculture growth rate is on an average below 4%.

**Low inflows of foreign direct investments:** India hosts ninth highest FDI inflows. India received the highest-ever FDI inflow of USD 64.37 billion during the fiscal ended March 2019, said a government report. So, **this cannot be the reason behind the low growth rate** in India. **Thus, option a is correct.**

**Hence, option a is the correct answer.**

**Q87.** Which of the following statement is Correct with respect to Basel III norms?

1. Presently, the Indian banking system follows Basel III norms.
2. It is an internationally agreed set of measures developed in response to the financial crisis of post-2008 period.
3. It aims at making most banking activities more capital-intensive.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

**Basel guidelines refer** to broad supervisory standards formulated by a group of central banks- called the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS). The set of the agreement by the BCBS, which mainly focuses on risks to banks and the financial system is called Basel accord.

**In 2010, Basel III guidelines were released. These guidelines were introduced in response to the financial crisis of 2008. Hence statement 2 is correct.**

The guidelines aim to promote a more resilient banking system by focusing on four vital banking parameters viz. capital, leverage, funding and liquidity. **Basel III norms aim at making most banking activities such as their trading book activities more capital-intensive. Hence statement 3 is correct.**

Presently Indian banking system follows **Basel II norms**. According to a report by the Basel Committee on Bank Supervision (BCBS), the Reserve Bank of India has fallen short of meeting more stringent requirements set by the Basel III norms. **Hence statement 1 is incorrect.**

As of 2019, under Basel III, the minimum capital adequacy ratio is 8%, and the capital conservation buffer is 2.5%. The capital conservation buffer recommendation is designed to build up banks' capital, which they could use in periods of stress.

Q88. Who among the following British officers had introduced the statutory civil service?

- a. Lord Dufferin
- b. Lord Lytton
- c. Lord Curzon
- d. Lord Mayo

Solution: b

Explanation:

Lord Lytton was known for his reactionary policies and decisions such as Vernacular Press Act 1878, Arms Act 1878 and decided to reduce the maximum permissible age for civil servants from 21 to 19 in 1878. In 1878-79, Lord Lytton introduced the Statutory Civil Service consisting of one-sixth of covenanted posts to be filled by Indians of high families through nominations by local governments subject to approval by the secretary of state and the viceroy. However, the system failed and was abolished. **Therefore, the correct answer is b.**

Q89. Which of the above states share **least number of International Boundaries**?

- e. Assam
- f. Sikkim
- g. Arunachal Pradesh
- h. West Bengal

Solution: a

Explanations:

**West Bengal** Borders with **Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan**

**Sikkim** borders with **Bhutan, Nepal and China.**

**Arunachal Pradesh** borders with **Myanmar, Bhutan and China.**

**Assam** Borders with **Bangladesh and Bhutan**



Q90. Consider the following statements.

1. The Election to the office of President is conducted through secret ballot.
2. A president is eligible for re-election.
3. The President can resign by writing under his hand addressed to the Vice president.

Which of the above statements is/are correct **as per the provisions mentioned in the Constitution?**

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

All the three above statements are correct.

**Central Government Act**

**Article 55(3) in The Constitution Of India 1949**

(3) The election of the President shall be held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot: ~~Explanation n this article, the expression population means the population ascertained~~

**Central Government Act**

**Article 57 in The Constitution Of India 1949**

57. Eligibility for re election A person who holds, or who has held, office as President shall, subject to the other provisions of this Constitution, be eligible for re election to that office

**Central Government Act**

**Article 56 in The Constitution Of India 1949**

56. Term of office of President

(1) The President shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office: Provided that

(a) the President may, by writing under his hand addressed to the Vice President, resign his office;

Q91. Consider the following statements regarding Sunspots.

1. They form at areas where magnetic fields are particularly strong.
2. Sunspots are a common sight on our Sun during the years around solar maximum.
3. They are much cooler than the surrounding surface of the Sun itself.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

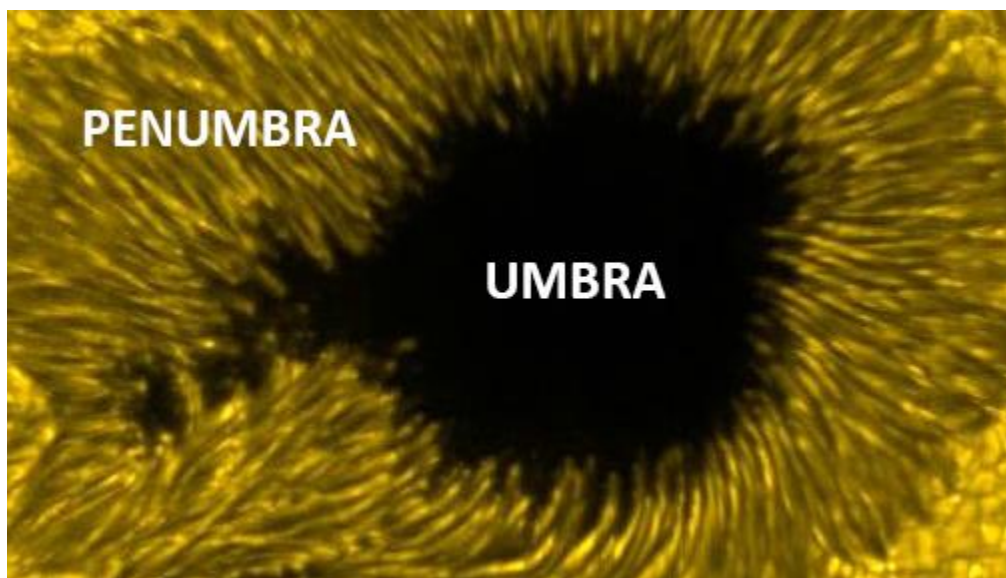
**Sunspots form on the surface of the Sun due to strong magnetic field** lines coming up from within the Sun trough the solar surface and **appear visibly as dark spots** compared to their surroundings.

**These sunspots which can become many times bigger than the Earth are always dark** because they are **much cooler than the surrounding surface of the Sun itself**. A big sunspot can have a temperature of  $3700^{\circ}\text{C}$ . This sounds like much but if we compare this with the temperature of the photosphere of the Sun which is about  $5500^{\circ}\text{C}$ , then you see that there is a considerable difference.

**Sunspots are a common sight on our Sun during the years around solar maximum.** Solar maximum or solar max is the period of greatest solar activity in the solar cycle of the Sun, where one solar cycle lasts about 11 years. **Around solar minimum, only very few or even no sunspots can be found.**

A sunspot consists of two parts:

- a. **The dark part (umbra)**
- b. **Lighter part around the dark part (penumbra)**



#### **Rotation of Sunspots:**

**The Sun rotates around its axis just like Earth does.** Solar features on the Sun like **sunspot regions follow the rotation of the Sun**. This means that **a sunspot region travels across the solar disk from east to west as seen from Earth**. This is important because sunspot regions need to be close to the central meridian (as seen from Earth) in order to be able to send coronal mass ejection towards Earth. It takes a sunspot region near the equator about 2 weeks to move from the east limb to west limb as seen from Earth. **The further away a sunspot region is from the equator the longer it takes move across the face of the Sun.** This is because the Sun rotates faster at its equator than at its poles.

**Every day, all the sunspot regions on the Earth-facing solar disk are analysed for their eruptive threat and receive a number. This is done by the NOAA Space Weather**

**Prediction Center. Sunspot regions, especially those with complex magnetic layouts, are known to cause a phenomenon called solar flares.**

**Ok, we will learn solar flares also. Quick revision.**

The magnetic field lines near sunspots often tangle, cross, and reorganize. This can cause a sudden explosion of energy **called a solar flare**. Solar flares release a lot of radiation into space. If a solar flare is very intense, the radiation it releases can interfere with our radio communications here on Earth.

**Solar flares are sometimes accompanied by a coronal mass ejection (CME for short).** CMEs are huge bubbles of radiation and particles from the Sun. They explode into space at very high speed when the Sun's magnetic field lines suddenly reorganize.

When charged particles from a CME reach area near Earth, **they can trigger intense lights in the sky, called auroras**. When particularly strong, a CME can also interfere in power utility grids, which at their worst can cause electricity shortages and power outages. Solar flares and CMEs are the most powerful explosions in our solar system.

[See a small video](#) (This animation shows how coronal mass ejections can blow out from the Sun, interfere with Earth's magnetic fields (the curved purple lines), and cause auroras (the blue rings of light circling the North and South poles)).

Abhi itna padhne ke baad, paper blank toh ni jayga. Kuch toh kr hi doge exam main (English version: *Now after reading this much, paper won't go blank. You will be able to write and think something in exam*)

Q92. Consider the following pairs.

Places in news	Location
1. Mount Sinabung	Malaysia
2. Ellesmere Island	Canada
3. Lebanon	Shares boundary with Syria and Jordan

Which of the following pairs is/are correct?

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

Places in news	Location
<a href="#">Mount Sinabung</a>	<b>Indonesia</b>



<a href="#">Ellesmere Island</a>	Canada
Lebanon	<b>Shares boundary with Syria and Israel</b>



Q93. Consider the following statements regarding Lok Adalats.

1. Lok Adalats have been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
2. Lok Adalats cannot perform judicial role, i.e. they cannot enforce any decision on them.
3. One of the criticisms of Lok Adalats are that it can only be organized at State level.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

Old students, if you do this question wrong, then it will be very disappointing. All statements taken from original [website](#).

**First statement is correct.**

**Lok Adalats have been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.** Under the said Act, the award (decision) made by the Lok Adalats is deemed to

be a decree of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal against such an award lies before any court of law.

**Second is correct.**

The persons deciding the cases in the Lok Adalats are called the Members of the Lok Adalats, **they have the role of statutory conciliators only and do not have any judicial role**; therefore they can only persuade the parties to come to a conclusion for settling the dispute outside the court in the Lok Adalat and **shall not pressurize or coerce any of the parties to compromise or settle cases or matters either directly or indirectly**. The Lok Adalat shall not decide the matter so referred at its own instance, instead the same would be decided on the basis of the compromise or settlement between the parties.

**Third statement is wrong.**

#### Levels and Composition of Lok Adalats:

##### At the State Authority Level -

The Member Secretary of the State Legal Services Authority ; Court or a sitting or retired judicial officer and any one or more persons engaged in the implementation of legal services schemes or programmes.

##### At High Court Level -

The Secretary of the High Court Legal Services Committee with a member from the legal profession; a social worker engaged

##### At District Level -

The Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority organized or both of either a member from the legal profession; and/or programmes or a person engaged in para-legal activities of the

##### At Taluk Level -

The Secretary of the Taluk Legal Services Committee organized

Q94. With reference to the process of **Plasma Pyrolysis**, often seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is a state of art technology for the safe disposal of medical waste.
2. This system provides high temperatures combined with high UV radiation flux which destroys pathogens completely.

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

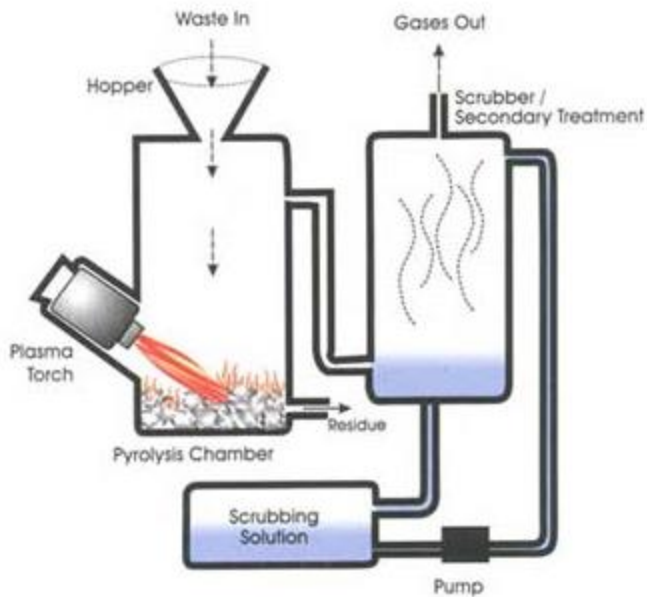
*This term was in my mind for last few days. Today I have asked you. Maybe you won't find in news. But learn basic today about it. It can be important as medical waste has become important topic due to COVID-19. We are providing the below information [from Government site](#). So, learn with confidence.*

Plasma technologies offer unique solutions to meet the increasing demands of dematerialization to develop ecologically sensible industrial practices like high temperatures, high chemical reactivity, high energy density and ability to process solids, liquids and gases.

**In plasma pyrolysis, generation of heat is independent of chemistry of material used.**

It is fast heating – 5000 Celsius can be achieved in milliseconds. It is fast quenching and consumes small quantity of gas. **The high ultraviolet radiation flux destroys pathogens and waste to be treated, could be dry or wet.** It is possible to recover energy in the form of carbon monoxide and hydrogen.

**Plasma pyrolysis provides solutions for complete pyrolysis of typical hospital waste** such as cellulose polymer dressings, polyvinyl chloride blood bags, polyurethane and silicon rubber gloves & catheters and other disposables made of polyethylene, polymethyl methacrylate, rubber, glass etc. **The system provides high temperatures combined with high UV radiation flux which destroys pathogens completely.**



**Commercial Plasma Pyrolysis System**

Q95. Recently, a committee has been formed under the chairmanship of KV Kamath, to make recommendations on

- Privatization of railways
- Reforming education sector
- Climate change
- Restructuring of loans impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic.

Solution: d

Explanation:

MUMBAI: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has formed a five member **committee** under the chairmanship of former ICICI Bank CEO **KV Kamath** to make recommendations on the financial parameters to be considered in the restructuring of loans impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic. 4 days ago



Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/rbi-forms-five-member-committee-under-kv-kamath-panel-to-recommend-parameters-for-loan->

[restructuring/articleshow/77411332.cms#:~:text=MUMBAI%3A%20Reserve%20Bank%20of%20India,by%20the%20Covid%2019%20pandemic.](https://restructuring/articleshow/77411332.cms#:~:text=MUMBAI%3A%20Reserve%20Bank%20of%20India,by%20the%20Covid%2019%20pandemic.)

Q96. Which of the following is/are the processes that can contribute to cloud formation?

1. Convection
2. Frontal lifting
3. Physical lifting
4. A convergence of surface air currents

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

Four main processes are occurring at or near the Earth's surface, which can give rise to ascending air: convergence, convection, frontal lifting and physical lifting. Ascending air is a pre-requisite for cloud formation.

**Convection** occurs when air is heated from below by sunlight or by contact with a warmer land or water surface until it becomes less dense than the air above it. The heated parcel of air will rise until it has again cooled to the temperature of the surrounding air. Hence, **Statement (1) is correct.**

**Frontal lifting** occurs when a warmer air mass meets a colder one. Since warm air is less dense than cold, it will ascend over the cold air. This forms a **warm front**. When a cold air mass approaches a warm one, it wedges under the warmer air, lifting it above the ground. This forms a **cold front**. In either case, there is ascending air at the frontal boundary. Hence, **Statement (2) is correct.**

**Physical lifting**, also known as orographic lifting, occurs when horizontal winds are forced to rise in order to cross topographical barriers such as hills and mountains. Hence, **Statement (3) is correct.**

**Convergence** occurs when several surface air currents in the horizontal flow move toward each other to meet in a shared space. When they converge, there is only one way to go: Up. A surface low-pressure cell is an example of an area of convergence and air at its centre must rise as a result. Hence, **Statement (4) is correct.**

**Hence, option (d) is the correct answer.**

Q97. Which of the following can cause Indian rupee to appreciate in a market-determined exchange rate system?

- a. Increase in remittances from Indian diaspora to their families in India.
- b. Increased imports of Chinese electronic products by Indian consumers.
- c. Repayment of foreign debts by the Indian Government in foreign currencies.
- d. Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures on India's agricultural exports.

Solution: a

Explanation:

Rupee appreciation is when the value of rupee increases (becomes expensive) and fewer rupees can buy one unit of foreign currency. This is also known as strengthening of rupee as now INR is worth more than foreign currency. In the given question, only option (a) will lead to an inflow of foreign currencies; option (b) and (c) will lead to an outflow of foreign currencies. Whereas option (d) will lead to less gain in foreign currencies due to reduced exports of Indian products. Thus, option b, c and d would cause depreciation of Indian rupee. Therefore, **option (a) is the correct answer.**

Q98. Which of the following is/are fiscal tools to reduce inflation?

1. Reduction of subsidies
2. Raising direct taxes
3. Increasing rates on government securities

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

Policies to reduce inflation include:

**Fiscal tools** – Higher income tax and lower government spending, will reduce aggregate demand, leading to lower growth and less demand-pull inflation. Raising direct taxes, leading to a reduction in real disposable income. Reduction of subsidies is a fiscal measure that reduces inflation. High subsidies increase the fiscal deficit which is inflationary.

**Monetary tools** – Reserve Bank of India (RBI) sets rates of government securities based on rates prevalent in the market. Higher interest rates on securities increase the cost of borrowing and discourage spending. This leads to lower inflation.

**Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.**



Q99. In the context of Indian polity, the term 'Republic' implies:

1. Vesting of political power in the hands of people of the country.
2. All public offices are open to citizens without any discrimination.

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

A democratic polity can be classified into two categories—monarchy and republic.

In a monarchy, the head of the State (usually king or queen) enjoys a hereditary position, that is, he comes into office through succession, e.g.- Britain. In a republic, on the other hand, the head of the State is always elected directly or indirectly for a fixed period, e.g.- USA. Therefore, the term 'republic' in the Preamble indicates that India has an elected head called the President. He is elected indirectly for five years.

**A republic also means two more things:**

(a) Vesting of political sovereignty in the people and not in a single individual like a king.

**So, statement (1) is correct.**

(b) The absence of any privileged class and hence all public offices are open to every citizen without any discrimination. **So, statement (2) is correct.**

**Therefore, the correct answer is (c).**

Q100. Kudremukh National Park is in:

- a. Maharashtra
- b. Odisha
- c. Karnataka
- d. Madhya Pradesh

Solution: c

Explanation:

It is in Karnataka.

Q101. Consider the following statements regarding Indus Water Treaty.

1. The pact was signed between India and Pakistan by the then Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.
2. All rivers under Pakistan control under this treaty originates from Tibet, China.
3. Indus Water Treaty was brokered by World Bank.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

The Indus Waters Treaty is one of the most liberal water distribution agreements between the two countries. The pact was signed between India and Pakistan in September 1960 in Karachi by the then Indian **Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistan President Ayub Khan**.

In the year 1960, India and Pakistan signed a water distribution agreement -- came to be known as Indus Waters Treaty, **which was orchestrated by the World Bank**.

This agreement took nine years of negotiations and divides the control of six rivers between the two nations once signed.

Under this treaty, India got control over:

- a. Beas
- b. Ravi
- c. Sutlej

While Pakistan got control over:

- a. Indus
- b. Chenab
- c. Jhelum

**While Chenab and Jhelum originate from India, Indus originates from China, making its way to Pakistan via India. Second statement is wrong.**



Indus Waters Treaty: Indus, Ravi, Beas, Chenab, Jhelum and Sutlej.

Q102. PM-SVANidhi Scheme is:

- A Central Sector Scheme to provide scholarship facilities to tribal girls and facilitate their participation in higher education
- A central sector scheme to provide easy credit facilities to MSME sector to resume economy after easing Lockdown
- A central sponsored scheme to provide Farmers sum of 600 Rs support for 6 months to support their livelihood.
- A Central Sector Scheme to facilitate street vendors to access affordable working capital loan for resuming their livelihoods activities, after easing of lockdown.

Sector: d

Explanation:

## PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi)

A SPECIAL MICRO-CREDIT FACILITY FOR STREET VENDORS

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### Generic

**1. What is the Scheme?**  
This is a Central Sector Scheme to facilitate street vendors to access affordable working capital loan for resuming their livelihoods activities, after easing of lockdown.

**2. What is the rationale of 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.

**3. What are the objectives of the Scheme?**  
(i) To facilitate working capital loan up to ₹10,000 at subsidized rate of interest;  
(ii) To incentivize regular repayment of loan; and  
(iii) To reward digital transactions.

**4. What are the salient features of the Scheme?**  
(i) Initial working capital of up to ₹10,000/-  
(ii) Interest subsidy on timely/ early repayment @ 7%

**5. Who is the target beneficiary for the Scheme?**  
Street vendors/ hawkers vending in urban areas, as on or before March 24, 2020, including the vendors of surrounding peri-urban and rural areas.

**6. Who is a Street Vendor/hawker?**  
Any person engaged in vending of articles, goods, wares, food items or merchandise of daily use or offering services to the public in a street, footpath, pavement etc., from a temporary built up structure or by moving from place to place. The goods supplied by them include vegetables, fruits, ready-to-eat street food, tea, pakodas, breads, eggs, textile, apparel, artisan products, books/ stationary etc. and the services include barber shops, cobblers, pan shops, laundry services etc.

**7. Which lending institutions will provide credit?**  
Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Small Finance Banks, Cooperative Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies, Micro-Finance Institutions and SHG Banks.

Q103. Which of the following organizations in the Pre-Independent India envisioned the creation of the United States of India?

- a. Unionist Party.
- b. Hindustan Socialist Republican Association
- c. Forward Block
- d. Congress Socialist Party.

Solution: b

Explanation:

**The Revolutionary** was published by the Hindustan Republican Association (HRA) - renamed in 1928 as the **Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)** - a

revolutionary organisation that was set up in 1923. **It was written by Ram Prasad Bismil**, a leader of the Association, but was signed under a fake name.

The document expressed the ideology, plans and vision of the HRA on questions regarding foreign rule, the independence movement and the future of India. It was widely circulated in different parts of the country and aimed to galvanize the people of India to mount a revolution to overthrow British rule.

**The document rejected foreign rule and advocated for a revolutionary approach towards obtaining independence for the country** – dismissing constitutional means adopted by other political parties like the Indian National Congress.

Para 7 of the document, though only brief and incomplete, contains an articulation of a constitutional vision. **The document aimed to establish (through ‘organised and armed revolution’) a ‘Federal Republic of the United States of India’**. It called for a Constitution to be framed, and the resulting Constitutional republic would be based on principles that included: universal adult suffrage, nationalization of major industries, right to recall elected representatives and group rights.

Link:

[https://www.constitutionofindia.net/historical\\_constitutions/the\\_revolutionary\\_hindustan\\_socialist\\_republican\\_association\\_1925\\_1st%20January%201925](https://www.constitutionofindia.net/historical_constitutions/the_revolutionary_hindustan_socialist_republican_association_1925_1st%20January%201925)

Q104. Consider the following statements regarding One Sun One World One Grid' (OSOWOG).

1. OSOWOG is India's initiative to build a global ecosystem of interconnected renewable energy resources.
2. Technical assistance for One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative is provided by World Bank.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

**Now, since the project has been put on hold, we will learn only basics to it now.**

ENERGY

## **One Sun One World One Grid project put on hold**

Reasons for putting the project on hold remain unknown; calls to Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy go unanswered



By Pratha Jhawar  
Last Updated: Tuesday 11 August 2020

**OSOWOG is India's initiative to build a global ecosystem of interconnected renewable energy resources.** The blueprint for the OSOWOG will be developed **under the World Bank's technical assistance programme** that is implemented to accelerate the deployment of grid connected rooftop solar installations.

**OSOWOG is planned to be completed in three phases.** The first phase will entail interconnectivity within the **Asian continent; the second phase will add Africa and the third phase will globalize the whole project.**

**This is seen as India's counter to China's Belt and Road initiative (BRI)** that is primarily an economic diplomacy strategy to boost its domestic economy by improving connectivity and cooperation among the current 78 partner countries.

The mantra *One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)*, was first given by Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi in October 2018** while addressing the inaugural function of the 2nd Global RE-Invest meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association and the first assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

**This Project is under the aegis of the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).**

*Nothing more than this required now for this project.*

Link: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/energy/one-sun-one-world-one-grid-project-put-on-hold-72754>

Q105. Consider the following capitals of Indian states.

1. Chennai (Tamil Nadu)
2. Amravati (Andhra Pradesh)
3. Hyderabad (Telangana)
4. Bengaluru (Karnataka)

Arrange the following capitals from North to South.

- a. 3-2-1-4
- b. 2-3-4-1
- c. 3-2-4-1



d. 2-3-1-4

Solution: a

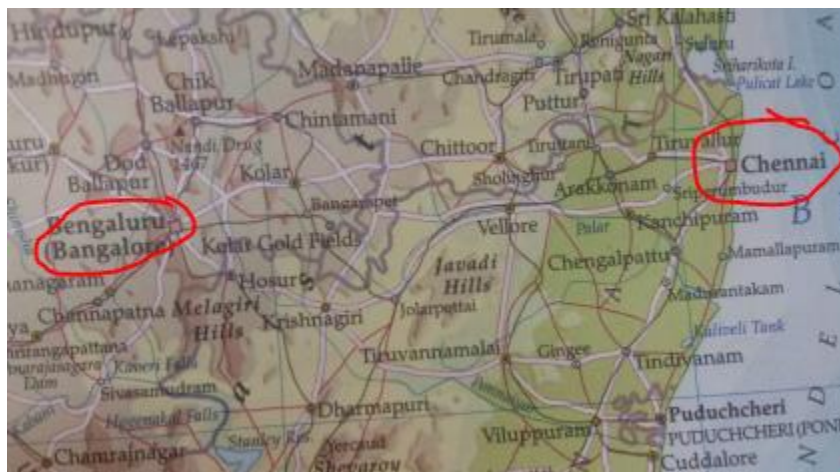
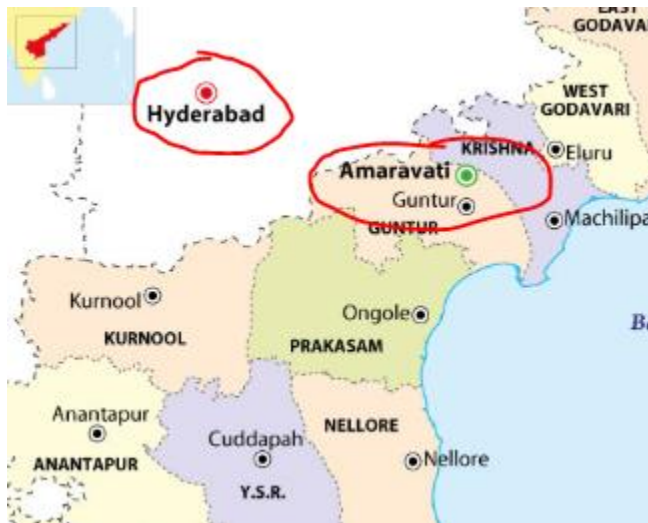
Explanation:

*This question will serve so many purposes, not just it will help you with the above four places, you can solve many questions with this map in mind.*

**You can differentiate Hyderabad and Amravati, but you can get confuse between Chennai and Bengaluru. Chennai is located north to Bengaluru.**

**Chennai Latitude: 13.0827° N**

**Bengaluru Latitude: 12.9716° N**



Q106. Which among the following are indicators of de-globalisation?

1. Raising Quantitative Barriers
2. Undermining of the World Trade Organisation
3. A trade war between countries
4. Brexit

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

The term de-globalisation is used by economic and market commentators to highlight an attempt to decrease the interdependence and integration among economies.

These policies often take the form of tariffs or quantitative barriers that impede the free movement of people, products and services among countries. The idea behind all this protectionism is to shield local manufacturing by making imports costlier. **Hence, Statement (1) is correct.**

Undermining of WTO (an institution for the facilitation of world trade and commerce) like making the functioning of Dispute Settlement System difficult. Recently, the USA has threatened to pull out of WTO. This would impact global trade. Hence, **Statement (2) is correct.**

Trade Wars between countries is one aspect of de-globalisation. The US economy, for instance, imports a lot of inexpensive manufactured goods from China. If a tariff war increases costs of imports into the US, its domestic inflation may rocket, and US interest rates may increase faster. **Hence, Statement (3) is correct.**

Brexit is a unique example of de-globalisation. It highlights the disenchantment of British people with common market and integration of the UK with the EU. **Hence, Statement (4) is correct.**

Q107. Which of the following can lead to an increase in Foreign Exchange reserves, in the Indian economy?

1. Increased Exports
2. Increased Imports
3. Increased Foreign Investments
4. Increased domestic output
5. Increased crude oil price

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

**Statement (1):**

Increasing exports can lead to a trade surplus and it will help in tackling the Current Account Deficit issue that India is facing mainly due to Trade Deficit. Thus, by increasing exports, India will have increased foreign income and thereby, **higher FOREX**.

**Statement (2):** Increasing imports **will have a negative effect** as India need to pay off the source countries in foreign currencies, and it will reduce India's FOREX.

**Statement (3):** Increased Foreign Investments leads to increase in FOREX as investments are made in global currencies, thus enhancing India's FOREX reserves.

**Statement (4):** Increased domestic output mostly due to economies of scale, makes the product more competitive by reducing operational costs and leads to increased imports, thereby, leading to higher FOREX.

**Statement 5:** India is highly dependent on the import of crude oil, which **results in an outflow of foreign currencies**. Increased Crude oil price results in a higher outflow of foreign currencies, thus reducing FOREX reserves.

Q108. In the context of Indian Polity, consider the following statements regarding **Tribes Advisory Council (TAC)**.

1. Tribes Advisory Council is a Constitutional body under Sixth Schedule.
2. Three-Fourth member of the council shall be the representatives of the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly of the State.
3. The Governor has been empowered to make rules and regulations regarding the number of members of Tribal Advisory Council and their appointment.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

Tribes Advisory Council is a Constitutional body under **FIFTH Schedule**.

**So, what is in sixth schedule?? It is Constitution of district councils and regional councils. So, remember this difference.**

**Members are three-fourth. See below now.**

**4. Tribes Advisory Council.**—(1) There shall be established in each State having Scheduled Areas therein and, if the President so directs, also in any State having Scheduled Tribes but not Scheduled Areas therein, a Tribes Advisory Council consisting of not more than twenty members of whom, as nearly as may be, three-fourths shall be the representatives of the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly of the State:

Provided that if the number of representatives of the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly of the State is less than the number of seats in the Tribes Advisory Council to be filled by such representatives, the remaining seats shall be filled by other members of those tribes.

(2) It shall be the duty of the Tribes Advisory Council to advise on such matters pertaining to the welfare and advancement of the Scheduled Tribes in the State as may be referred to them by the Governor <sup>6\*\*\*</sup>.

(3) The Governor <sup>5\*\*\*</sup> may make rules prescribing or regulating, as the case may be,—

(a) the number of members ~~of~~ the Council, the mode of their ~~appointment~~ and the appointment of the Chairman of the Council and of the officers and servants thereof;

(b) the conduct of its meetings and its procedure in general; and

(c) all other incidental matters.

Q109. Consider the following pairs.

Folk dances	Belongs to
1. Gungtey' folk dance	Arunachal Pradesh
2. Poi kal kuthirai	Kerala
3. Koli Dance	Maharashtra

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

Folk dances	Belongs to
1. Gungtey' folk dance	Arunachal Pradesh
2. Poi kal kuthirai	Tamil Nadu
3. Koli Dance	Maharashtra

Q110. Which of the following sites is/are the basins of Shale gas reserves in India?

1. Cauvery basin
2. Godavari basin
3. Vindhyan basins
4. Damodar Valley Basins

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

Shale gas has abundant reserves around the world, which may be sufficient to meet the demand of clean energy for many years to come. Shale gas is found in unconventional reservoirs typically trapped in shale rock, having low permeability, originally deposited as clay and silt.

✓ The US Geological Survey (USGS) has released a lower estimate of 6.1 tcf in 3 basins. As per published report of EIA, June 2013, the risked shale gas in-place is 584 tcf and the technically recoverable shale gas is about 96 tcf (Cambay, Krishna-Godavari, Cauvery, Damodar Valley, Upper Assam, Pranhita-Godawari, Rajasthan and Vindhyan basins). The

Q111. Consider the following statement regarding Sovereign Gold Bonds Scheme.

1. People don't want to invest in SGB as there is high risk associated with it.

2. There have been fall in the demand for SGBs in recent years compared to the initial period.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

*We have covered features of Sovereign Gold Bonds in our Previous Quizzes. Today see the trend. Then, nothing will be left. You can solve any question related to this topic.*

In his Budget – 2015-16 speech, the then Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, proposed 'Sovereign Gold Bond' as an alternative financial asset, which would also act as a substitute for physical gold.

- (ii) ✓ Also develop an alternate financial asset, a Sovereign Gold Bond, as an alternative to purchasing metal gold. The Bonds will carry a fixed rate of interest, and also be redeemable in cash in terms of the face value of the gold, at the time of redemption by the holder of the Bond.

Further to this, Central government issued a notification on **30 October 2015**, duly notifying the '**Sovereign Gold Bonds Scheme – 2015**'.

New Delhi, dated the October 30, 2015

#### Notification

G.S.R.--- (E). — In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (iii) of section 3 of the Government Securities Act, 2006 (38 of 2006), the Central Government hereby makes the following Scheme, namely: -

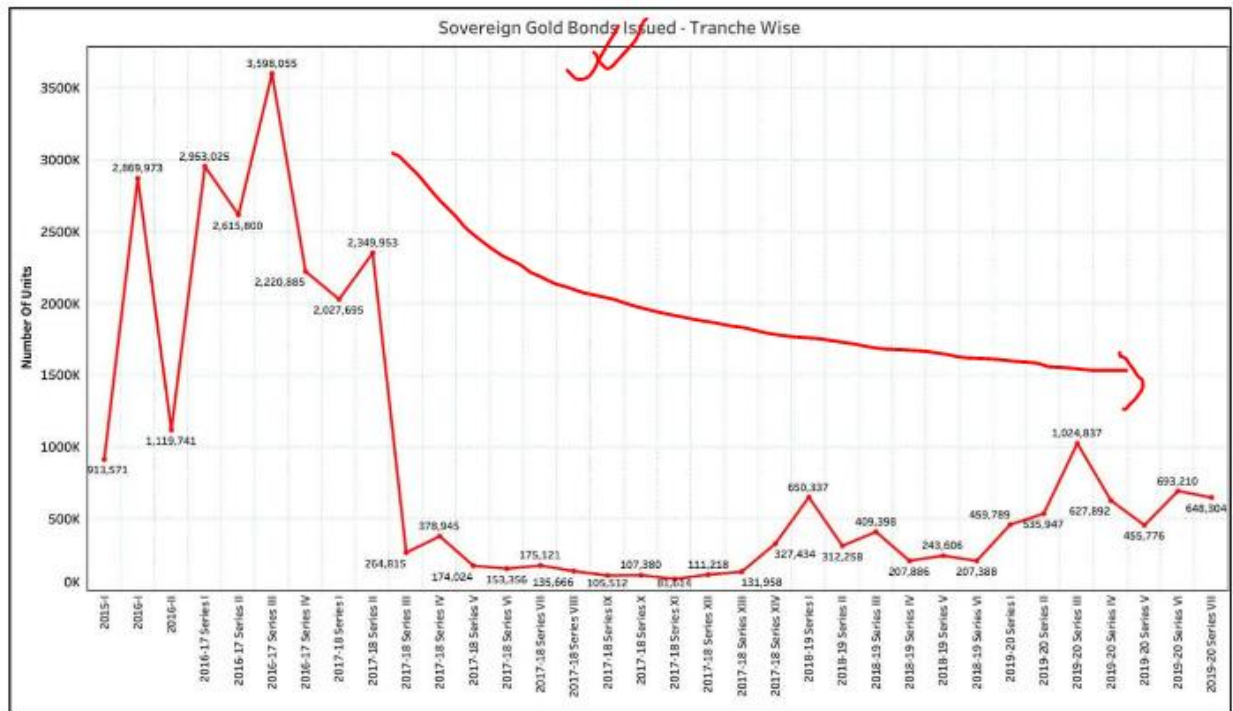
1. Short title and commencement.— (1) This scheme may be called the Sovereign Gold Bonds Scheme, 2015.

**A Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) is issued by Reserve Bank of India on behalf of the government.** These are considered as government securities and are **treated as a substitute for holding gold physically, hence the risks associated with storage are eliminated.** First statement is incorrect.



Since the inception of the scheme in November 2015, there have been a total of **34 tranches of issues so far**. A total of over 2.92 crores units have been subscribed and issued so far. Compared to the initial years between end of 2015 and beginning of 2017, when high number of SGB units that were sold, **the previous couple of years has seen a huge fall in the numbers**.

You can see how the demands for SGBs declined. *You have to remember such things. They are not asking the number, just the trend.*



Q112. Consider the following statements regarding Foreign Direct Investments in India (Trend based).

1. There has been a yearly increase in the FDI inflow for every fiscal year during this period 2014-19.
2. Rate of growth of FDI inflow in India is highest during the period 2014-19 compared to previous terms in last two decades.

Select the correct code.

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

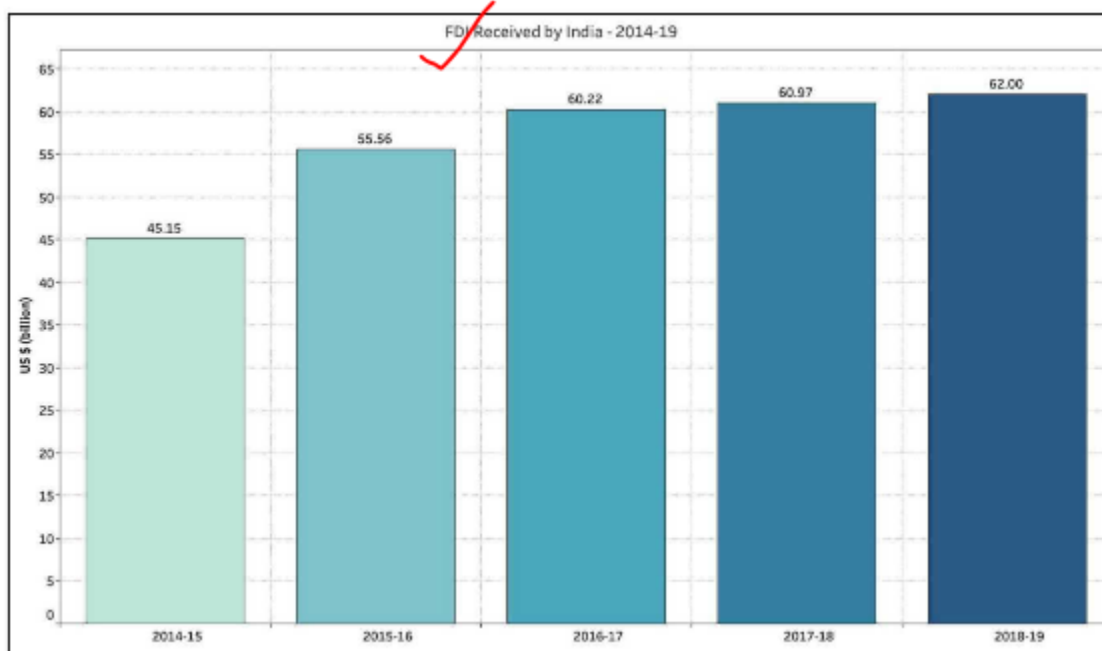
Solution: a

Explanation:

***My aim is to make you learn today important trends regarding FDI.***

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) yearly report '[Handbook of Statistics on Indian Economy](#)', provides the details of FDI every year.

As per the data in this report, approximately US \$ 284 billion was the FDI into India during the five- year period 2014-19. There has been a **yearly increase in the FDI inflow** for every fiscal year during this period. **The biggest increase during the period, was in 2015-16** when FDI inflows increased by nearly 10 billion dollars.



Even though in terms of absolute numbers, FDI inflows for the period 2014-19 is higher than that of the earlier five-year period of 2009-14, the **“rate” of growth of FDI inflows is less than the two earlier terms. Second statement is wrong. It is lowest.**

5-year period	Total FDI Inflow (US \$ billion)	% Increase
1999-2004	31.70	162
2004-2009	114.59	262
2009-2014	190.69	67
2014-2019	283.90	49

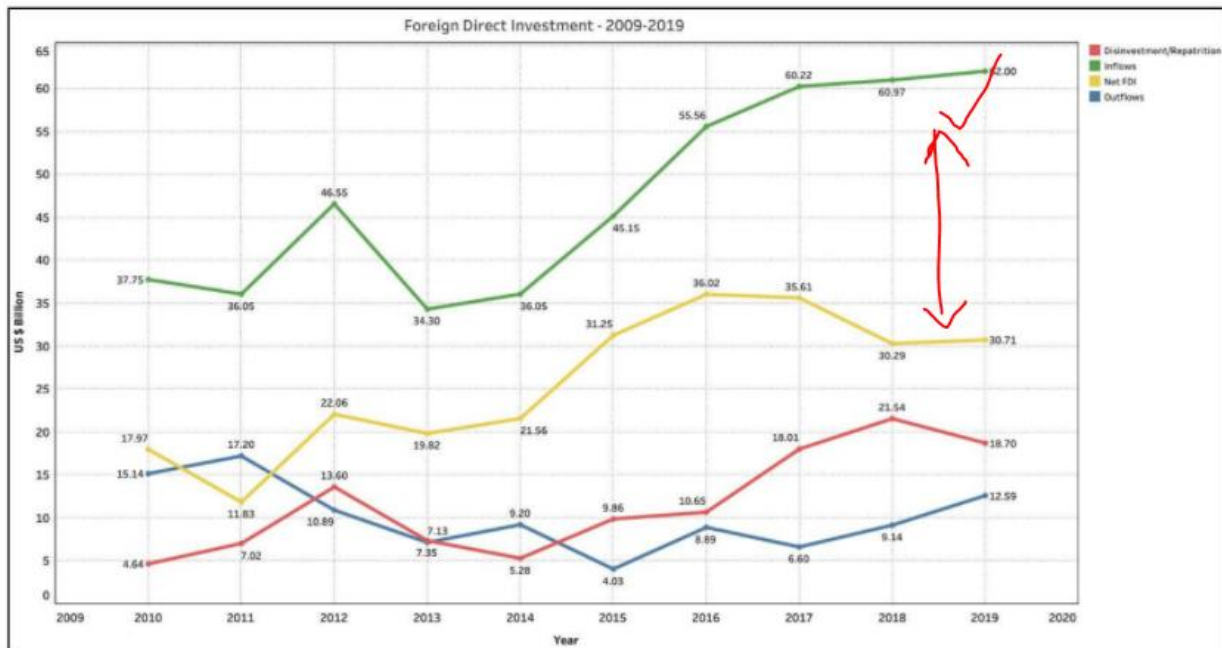
One more term is important here is Net FDI Inflow.

FDI inflows are the FDI that are made in India by foreign investors. Apart from this, there is also scope for investments leaving the country i.e. **FDI Outflow**. Apart from this there is also **Disinvestment/repatriation of the funds that were invested earlier** in India. Hence, the Net FDI provides a more holistic picture of the state of FDI than just the FDI inflow numbers.

$$\text{Net FDI} = \text{Gross FDI Inflows} - \text{FDI outflow} - \text{disinvestment/repatriation}$$

In the recent years, the net FDI has shown a negative growth especially with an increase in the FDI outflows as well as disinvestment/repatriation amount.

**This increase in FDI Outflows and Disinvestment/repatriation has affected the net FDI as seen in the chart below.**



Q113. Consider the following statements regarding **Minamata Convention**.

1. It regulates supply, trade, use, emissions, releases, storage, and the management of waste and contaminated sites of mercury.
2. Under this treaty, Parties are required to cease the manufacture, import and export of mercury-containing products listed in the Convention by 2020.
3. India has ratified this Convention.

Select the correct code.

- a. 1 and 2 only

- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Solution: d

Explanation:

**In 2013, a new treaty, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, was adopted** by a global community under the auspices of UNEP. The Convention is named after Minamata Bay in Japan to remember the lessons of the tragic health damage by industrial mercury pollution in the 1950s and 1960s.

The Minamata Convention on Mercury is an international treaty designed to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds.

*The aim of the treaty is to protect the environment and the human health from anthropogenic emissions and releases of the toxic heavy metal. It regulates the entire life cycle of mercury – its supply, trade, use, emissions, releases, storage, and the management of waste and contaminated sites. First statement is correct.*

**This new piece of international law entered into force on 16 August 2017.**

**Second statement is also correct.**

**2020 is a major deadline in the Convention.** By the end of this year, Parties are required to cease the manufacture, import and export of many mercury-containing products listed in the Convention.

*These products are in every-day use and include batteries, switches and relays, certain types of lamps, cosmetics, pesticides, biocides and topical antiseptics, and certain types of measuring devices such as thermometers and manometers. Mercury use in two major manufacturing processes, Chlor-alkali industry and acetaldehyde production, is being phased out as well, along with restricting use in other industrial processes.*

**Third statement is also correct:**

**India is a member of this Convention. On 18 June 2018, the Government of India deposited its instrument of ratification, thereby becoming the 93rd Party to the Minamata Convention.**

**Link:** <https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/story/minamata-convention-mercury-marks-three-years-protecting-human-health-and>

**Q114.** As per the recent report, which of the following nations have the “*highest plant diversity*” of any island on Earth?

- a. Madagascar

- b. New Guinea
- c. Fiji
- d. Peru

Solution: b

Explanation:

**New Guinea is the planet's most floristically diverse island**, reports a comprehensive assessment of vascular plant species *published in the journal Nature*.

The species list, which was compiled by 99 botanists from 56 institutions across 19 countries, verified the identity of over 23,000 plant names from over 704,000 specimens collected from New Guinea since the 1750s.

The research concludes New Guinea has 13,634 species of plants from 1742 genera and 264 families. That gives **New Guinea**, the world's second largest island, **the highest plant diversity of any island on Earth, surpassing Madagascar** (11,832 species), Borneo (11,165 species), and Sumatra (8,391 species). New Guinea's diversity of plants is greater than that of the entire archipelago of the Philippines (9,432 species).



Q115. Consider the following statements.

1. One of the key targets of FRBM Act, 2003 was to limit the Fiscal deficit of the states to 3% of GSDP.
2. The Gross Fiscal deficit of states has always been more than 3 percent (as targeted by FRBM) during the period (2016-2019).

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

One of the targets set as part of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003 was to limit the Fiscal Deficit to 3% of GDP.

Over the past 15 years, **with the exception of 2015-16 & 2016-17**, the Gross Fiscal Deficit (GFD) of the states remained at **less than 3% of the GDP**.

Item	2006-11 (Average)	2011-2016 (Average)	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19 (BE)	2018-19 (RE)	2019-20 (BE)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Gross Fiscal Deficit (Per cent to GDP)	1.30 (2.2)	2.74 (2.4)	4.20 (3.0)	5.36 (3.5)	4.10 (2.4)	4.90 (2.6)	5.55 (2.9)	5.52 (2.6)
Revenue Deficit (Per cent to GDP)	-0.17 (-0.4)	-0.02 (-0.0)	-0.03 (-0.0)	0.36 (0.2)	0.19 (0.1)	-0.34 (-0.2)	0.13 (0.1)	-0.08 (-0.0)
Primary Deficit (Per cent to GDP)	0.20 (0.3)	0.98 (0.8)	2.02 (1.5)	2.81 (1.8)	1.17 (0.7)	1.71 (0.9)	2.36 (1.2)	1.98 (0.9)

BE: Budget Estimates. RE: Revised Estimates.

Q116. Recently, a submarine communications cable has been laid on the seabed between land-based stations to transmit telecommunication signals. It has been laid down between

- a. Kolkata to Andaman and Nicobar
- b. Chennai to Andaman and Nicobar
- c. Kandla to Chabahar port
- d. Vishakhapatnam to Maldives

Solution: b

Explanation:



✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) connecting Chennai and Port Blair on August 10 through video conferencing. He had laid the foundation stone for this project on December 30, 2018, at Port Blair.

The submarine fiber cable connectivity will enable the delivery of faster and more reliable mobile and landline telecom services to Andaman and Nicobar Islands, on par with other parts of India.

"Enhanced telecom and Broadband connectivity will boost tourism and employment generation in the Islands, give an impetus to the economy and raise standards of living," the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) tweeted on this day.

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-launches-submarine-optical-fibre-cable-to-andaman-nicobar-islands/article32314430.ece>

Q117. Consider the following Nations.

1. Norway
2. Sweden
3. North Korea

Which of the above nations **share boundaries with Russia?**

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

The countries with whom Russia shares its land border include **North Korea**, China, **Norway**, **Finland**, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Poland, Georgia, Mongolia, Latvia, Estonia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, and Lithuania.



Q118. Consider the following statements with respect to a Joint Sitting in the Parliament:

1. The Chairman of Rajya Sabha presides over the sitting in case of absence of the Speaker of Lok Sabha.
2. It is governed by the Rules of Procedures of the Lok Sabha and not of the Rajya Sabha.

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

Joint sitting is extraordinary machinery provided by the Constitution to resolve a deadlock between the two Houses over the passage of a Bill. A deadlock is deemed to have taken place under any one of the following three situations after a Bill has been passed by one House and transmitted to the other House: **1) if the Bill is rejected by the other House; 2) if the Houses have finally disagreed as to the amendments to be made in the Bill; or 3) if more than six months have elapsed from the date of the receipt of the Bill by the other House without the Bill being passed by it.**

The Speaker of Lok Sabha presides over a joint sitting of the two Houses and the Deputy Speaker, in his absence. If the Deputy Speaker is also absent from a joint sitting, the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha presides. If he is also absent, such other person as may be determined by the members present at the joint sitting, presides over the meeting. **It is clear that the Chairman of Rajya Sabha does not preside over a joint sitting as he is not a member of either House of Parliament. So, statement 1 is not correct.**

The quorum to constitute a joint sitting is one-tenth of the total number of members of the two Houses. The joint sitting is governed by the Rules of Procedure of Lok Sabha and not of Rajya Sabha. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

Q119. Consider the following statements with reference to the Governor of a State/s:

1. No civil or criminal proceedings whatsoever shall be instituted against her/his in any court during her/his term of office
2. His emoluments and allowances are determined by the Parliament but charged on the Consolidated Fund of the State/s concerned.

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

According to Article 361 of the Constitution, **no criminal proceedings** whatsoever shall be instituted or continued against the President/Governor, in any court during his term of office, including a complete prohibition on the process for the arrest or imprisonment of the officers. It states that any **civil proceedings** in which relief is claimed against the President/Governor **shall be instituted** during his term of office in any court in respect of any act done or purporting to be done by him in his personal capacity, whether before or after he entered upon his office as President/Governor until the expiration of two months next after notice in writing has been delivered to the President or Governor. **So, Statement (1) is not correct.**

As per Article 158, the Governor is entitled to such emoluments, allowances and privileges as may be **determined by the Parliament**. When the same person is appointed as the Governor of two or more States, the emoluments and allowances payable to her are shared by both States as determined by the President. And as per Article 202(3) (a), the emoluments and allowances of the Governor and other expenditure relating to his office; shall be the expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of each State. **So, Statement (2) is correct.**

(3) The following expenditure shall be expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of each State—

(a) the emoluments and allowances of the Governor and other expenditure relating to his office;

(b) the salaries and allowances of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and, in the case of a State having a Legislative Council, also of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council;

(c) debt charges for which the State is liable including interest, sinking fund charges and redemption charges, and other expenditure relating to the raising of loans and the service and redemption of debt;

(d) expenditure in respect of the salaries and allowances of Judges of any High Court;

(e) any sums required to satisfy any judgment, decree or award of any court or arbitral tribunal;

(f) any other expenditure declared by this Constitution, or by the Legislature of the State by law, to be so charged.

Q120. Dampa Tiger Reserve is in:

- a. Odisha
- b. Assam
- c. Mizoram
- d. Chhattishgarh

Solution: c

Explanation:

**Its in Mizoram dear.**

Q121. With regard to the judge of a High Court, consider the following statements:

1. He can be removed from his office by the Governor on the recommendation of the President.
2. He can resign from his office by writing to 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

Solution: b

We will here refer to article 217:

### **Article 217 in The Constitution Of India 1949**

#### **217. Appointment and conditions of the office of a Judge of a High Court**

(1) Every Judge of a High Court shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, the Governor of the State, and, in the case of appointment of a Judge other than the chief Justice, the chief Justice of the High court, and shall hold office, in the case of an additional or acting Judge, as provided in Article 224, and in any other case, until he attains the age of sixty two years Provided that

(a) a Judge may, by writing under his hand addressed to the President, resign his office;

(b) a Judge may be removed from his office by the President in the manner provided in clause (4) of Article 124 for the removal of a Judge of the Supreme Court;

He can be **removed from his office by the President on the recommendation of the Parliament**. Although, the High Court judge does not work on the pleasure of the President. *In article mentioned above, it is written under provision of Article 124.*

We will also see here, what is written in article 124 (4).

**Article 124(4) of the Constitution** of India states: *"A Judge of the Supreme Court shall not be removed from his office except by an order of the President passed after an address by each House of Parliament supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting has been presented to the President in the same session for such removal on the ground of proved misbehavior or incapacity."*

**He can resign from his office by writing to the President.** Hence, only statement 2 is correct.

Q122. Consider the following statements regarding Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA).

1. It is a Private Limited Government Company established as a Non-Banking Financial Institution.
2. IREDA has been notified as a "Public Financial Institution" under Companies Act, 1956.

3. It aims to maintain its position as a leading organisation to provide efficient and effective financing in renewable energy and conservation projects.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

For your kind information, this has already been a part of UPSC question indirectly. So, such questions do exist.

**First statement is incorrect. It is Public, not Private.**

### Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA) is a Mini Ratna (Category – I) Government of India Enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). IREDA is a Public Limited Government Company established as a Non-Banking Financial Institution in 1987 engaged in promoting, developing and extending financial assistance for setting up projects relating to new and renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency/conservation with the motto: "ENERGY FOR EVER"
- IREDA has been notified as a "Public Financial Institution" under section 4 'A' of the Companies Act, 1956 and registered as Non-Banking Financial Company (NFBC) with Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- IREDA's mission is "Be a pioneering, participant friendly and competitive institution for financing and promoting self-sustaining investment in energy generation from Renewable Sources, Energy Efficiency and Environmental Technologies for sustainable development."
- IREDA's Motto is "Energy for Ever."



**The main objectives of IREDA are :**

1. To give financial support to specific projects and schemes for generating electricity and / or energy through new and renewable sources and conserving energy through energy efficiency.
2. To maintain its position as a leading organisation to provide efficient and effective financing in renewable energy and energy efficiency / conservation projects.
3. To increase IREDA`s share in the renewable energy sector by way of innovative financing.
4. Improvement in the efficiency of services provided to customers through continual improvement of systems, processes and resources.
5. To strive to be competitive institution through customer satisfaction.

Q123. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister recently approved procurement proposals of 106 Basic Trainer Aircraft for Indian Air Force. These Aircraft has been developed by:

- a. Israel
- b. Korea
- c. India, DRDO
- d. India, HAL

Solution: d

Explanation:

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister approved procurement proposals worth over Rs. 8,722 crores including 106 Basic Trainer Aircraft for Indian Air Force. With Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) having successfully developed Basic Trainer Aircraft (HTT-40).

Link: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1645092>

Q124. Consider the following statements regarding Dadabhai Naoroji.

1. He is the founder of National Indian Association.
  2. He presided over the Calcutta session of Indian National Congress in 1906.
  3. He was a member of Liberal Party in the United Kingdom House of Commons.
- 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

Solution: b

Explanation:

Ok, first we will discuss three very confusing Associations.

- a. The **National Indian Association** was founded in Bengal in 1876 by **Surendra Nath Banerjee and Ananda Mohan Bose**.
- b. The **East India Association** was founded by **Dadabhai Naoroji** in 1866 in London.
- c. The **British Indian Association** was established on 28 October 1851. The first committee of the association was composed of: **Raja Radhakanta Deb – President and Debendranath Tagore- Secretary**.

He was also a **Liberal Party member of Parliament (MP)** in the United Kingdom House of Commons between 1892 and 1895, and the **first Indian** to be a British MP.

**President of Indian national Congress:** 1825-1917 (**1886** – Calcutta, 2nd Session, **1893** - Lahore; 9th Session, **1906** - Calcutta; 22nd Session).

**Q125. Papum Reserve Forest (RF)**, recently seen in news, is located in:

- a. Arunachal Pradesh
- b. Kerala
- c. Sikkim
- d. Nagaland

Solution: a

Explanation:

A study has flagged a high rate of deforestation in Papum Reserve Forest (RF), a major hornbill habitat in Arunachal Pradesh. 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.

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/forest-cover-loss-threatens-hornbills-in-arunachal/article32339946.ece>

**Q126.** With reference to 'Report of the Committee on Business Responsibility Reporting (BRR)', consider the following statements:

1. It recommended a new reporting framework called as the 'Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR)' to better reflect the intent and scope of reporting on non-financial parameters.
2. The report has been released by NITI Aayog.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

**Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) released** the 'Report of the Committee on Business Responsibility Reporting (BRR)'. The committee was chaired by Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, MCA.

**It recommended a new reporting framework called as the 'Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report (BRSR)'** to better reflect the intent and scope of reporting on non-financial parameters.

It recommended two formats for disclosures: one 'comprehensive format' and the second a 'Lite version'. The implementation of the reporting requirements should be done in a gradual and phased manner. It also recommended that the BRSR be integrated with the MCA21 portal. As a long-term measure, the Committee envisions that the information captured through BRSR filings be used to develop a Business Responsibility-Sustainability Index for companies.

Link: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1645169>

Q127. Consider the following statements regarding Global Environment Facility (GEF)

1. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit to help tackle environment problems.
2. GEF funds are available to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to meet the objectives of the international environmental conventions and agreements.
3. India has formed a permanent Constituency in the Executive Council of the GEF together with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal and Maldives.
4. GEF is a financial mechanism for UNCCD and Minamata Convention.

Select the correct code.

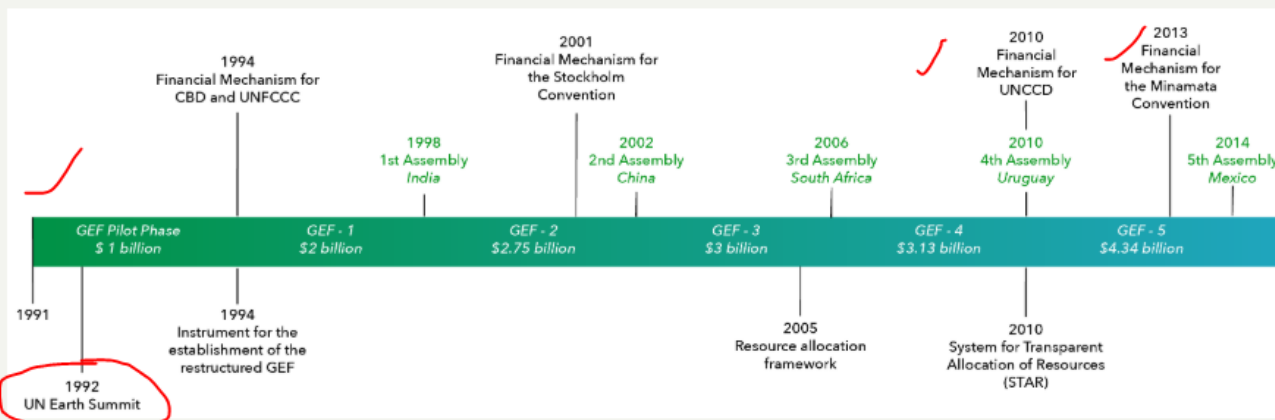
- a. 1, 2 and 3 only
- b. 2, 3 and 4 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Solution: d

Explanation:

From below image it is clear that statement 1 and 4 are correct.

## GEF Timeline



Fourth option is correct. If **only** is there in statement, then problem.

the world's most challenging environmental issues. The GEF has a large network of civil society organizations, works closely with the private sector around the world, and receives continuous inputs from an independent evaluation office and a world-class scientific panel. It is a **FINANCIAL MECHANISM** for five major international environmental conventions: the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). GEF is also

Third statement is also correct.

## India and Global Environment Facility (GEF)

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a financial mechanism that provides grants to developing countries for projects that benefit the global environment and promote sustainable livelihoods in local communities. GEF projects address six designated focal areas: Biodiversity, Climate Change, International Waters, Ozone Depletion, Land Degradation and Persistent Organic Pollutants.

India has formed a permanent Constituency in the Executive Council of the GEF together with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal and Maldives. The Council Meetings are held semi-annually or as frequently necessary. At each meeting, the Council elects a Chairperson from among its members for the duration of that meeting. India's Executive Director in the World Bank represents the GEF Council from our Constituency.

India is both a donor and a recipient of GEF. It has been a leading developing country

**Second statement is also correct.**

**GEF funds are available to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to meet the objectives of the international environmental conventions and agreements.**

Q128. What determines how much Ultraviolet Radiation reaches the earth's surface?

- 5. Aerosols in the troposphere,
- 6. Water depth of Ocean
- 7. Cloud Cover
- 8. Reflectivity of the Earth's Surface

Select the correct code.

- e. 1 and 3 only
- f. 1, 3 and 4 only
- g. 2, 3 and 4 only
- h. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Solution: d

Explanation:

**What Determines How Much Ultraviolet Radiation Reaches the Earth's Surface?**

The amount of UV radiation reaching the Earth's surface varies widely around the globe and through time. Several factors account for this variation at any given location. They are discussed below:

### Aerosols

Unlike clouds, aerosols in the troposphere, such as dust and smoke, not only scatter but also absorb UV-B radiation. Usually the UV reduction by aerosols is only a few percent, but in regions of heavy smoke or dust, aerosol particles can absorb more than 50 percent of the radiation.

While the presence of aerosols anywhere in the atmosphere will always scatter some UV radiation back to space, in some circumstances, aerosols can contribute to an increase in UV exposure at the surface. For example, over Antarctica, cold temperatures cause ice particles (Polar Stratospheric Clouds) to form in the stratosphere. The nuclei for these particles are thought to be sulfuric acid aerosol, possibly of volcanic origin. The ice particles provide the surfaces that allow complex chemical reactions to take place in a manner that can deplete stratospheric ozone.

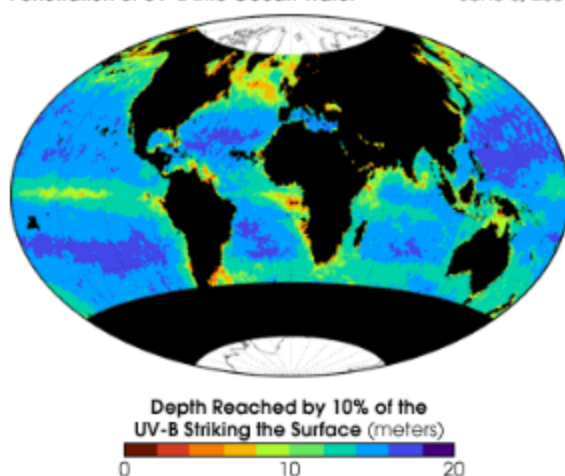


### Water Depth

UV-B exposure decreases rapidly at increasing depths in the water column. In other words, water and the impurities in it strongly absorb and scatter incoming UV-B radiation. Some substances that are dissolved in water, such as organic carbon from nearby land, will also absorb UV-B radiation and enhance protection of microorganisms, plants, and animals from UV-B. Different masses of water at different locations contain different amounts of such dissolved substances and other particles, making evaluation of UV damage very difficult.

Penetration of UV-B into Ocean Water

June 6, 2001



### Reflectivity of the Earth's Surface

As a highly reflective substance, snow dramatically increases UV-B exposure near the Earth's surface as it reflects most of the radiation back into the atmosphere, where it is then scattered back toward the surface by aerosols and air molecules. Fresh snow can reflect much as 94 percent of the incoming UV radiation. In contrast, snow-free lands typically reflect only 2-4 percent of UV and ocean surfaces reflect about 5-8 percent (Herman and Celarier 1997).

Cloud Cover

Cloud cover plays a highly influential role in the amount of both UV-A and UV-B radiation reaching the ground. Each water droplet in a cloud scatters some incoming UV radiation back into space, so a thick cover of clouds protects organisms and materials from almost all UV. The larger the percentage of the sky that is covered by clouds, the less UV reaches the ground. The more opaque the cloud, the less UV-B. However, thin or broken cloud cover can be deceiving to people who are sunbathing, and the result can be an unexpected and severe sunburn.

Q129. Consider the following Committees of the Lok Sabha.

4. Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.
5. Rules Committee
6. General Purposes Committee

Which of the above committees does Speaker has its ex-officio chairman?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

(5) *Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.* —The Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions is constituted after each general election to Lok Sabha and thereafter from time to time under rule 293. It consists of 15 members nominated by the Speaker. The Deputy Speaker is the *ex-officio* Chairperson of the Committee. The term of the Committee is one year. The functions of the Committee are: (a) to allot time to Private Members' Bills and Resolutions; (b) to examine Private Members' Bills seeking to amend the Constitution before their introduction in Lok Sabha; (c) to categorise Private Members' Bills according to their nature, urgency and importance into two categories, namely, category-A and category-B, after they have been introduced in Lok Sabha; (d) to examine every Private Member's Bill which is opposed in the House on the ground that the Bill initiates legislation outside the legislative competence of the House; and (e) to perform such other functions in respect of Private Members' Bills and Resolutions as may be assigned to it by the Speaker under Rule 294. The report of the

✓ (12) *Rules Committee.*— (i) the Rules Committee is constituted under Rule 330. It consists of 15 members including the Speaker who is the *ex-officio* Chairperson of the Committee. The members of the Committee are nominated by the Speaker.

✓ (13) *General Purposes Committee.*—The General Purposes Committee consists of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, Members of the Panel of Chairpersons, Chairpersons of all Standing Parliamentary Committees of Lok Sabha, Leaders of recognised parties and groups in Lok Sabha and such other Members as may be nominated by the Speaker. The Speaker is the *ex-officio* Chairperson of the Committee. The functions of the Committee are to consider and advise on such matters concerning the affairs of the House as may be referred to it by the Speaker from time to time.

Q130. Eravikulam National Park is in:

- a. Tamil Nadu
- b. Kerala
- c. Karnataka
- d. Andhra Pradesh

Solution: b

Explanation:

It is in Kerala.

