



Goaltide
A Prelims IAS Academy

Goaltide Daily Quiz (consolidation)

**October
2020
Part - II**

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Q1. Pumped storage project inside Sharavathi Valley is threatening lion-tailed macaque. So, now lion-tailed macaque should not threaten you in exam. Come we will learn now. Consider the following statements.

1. Lion-tailed macaque are endemic to rainforests of the Western Ghats.
2. It is categorized in same IUCN Red List as Indian Tiger.
3. Sharavathi is a tributary of Godavari River.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

WILDLIFE & BIODIVERSITY

How pumped storage project inside Sharavathi Valley can threaten lion-tailed macaque

Sharavathi is one of the most exploited rivers in India; it flows for 132 km, but 4 major power projects on it produce 40% of all hydroelectric power in Karnataka



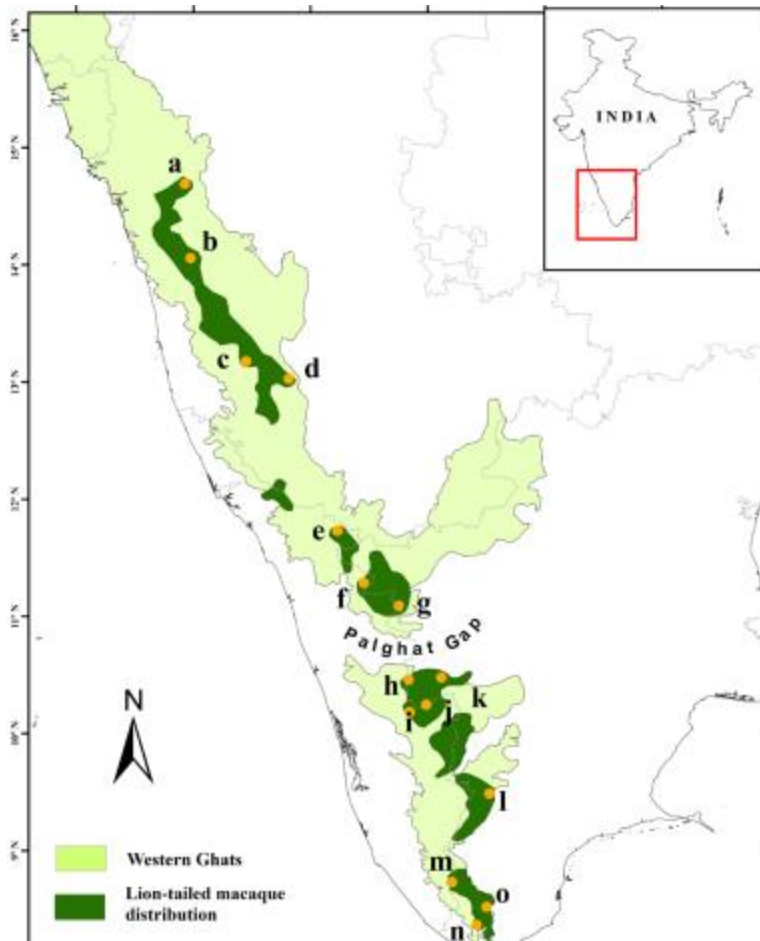
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By Narendra Patil
Published: Tuesday 20 October 2020

Lion-tailed macaque has now become very basic species for exam, i.e. these species now play a role to reach the final answer in UPSC exam. This type of species are now placed in between two difficult species in UPSC question. If you know about it, it will help you to eliminate options. So, it is very important now you remember it.

First statement is correct.

Endemic to rainforests of the Western Ghats, the Lion-tailed Macaque (Macaca Silenus) is an endangered species, according to International Union for Conservation of Nature assessment.



it is listed in Appendix 1 of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

It is a Schedule 1 species under WPA, 1972 and thereby, accorded the highest protection under the Indian law.

Second option is also correct.

Panthera tigris, Tiger

Assessment by: Goodrich, J., Lynam, A., Miquelle, D., Wibisono, H., Kawanishi, K., Pattanavibool, A., Htun, S., Tempa, T., Karki, J., Jhala, Y. & Karanth, U.



Third option is incorrect.

Sharavathi is not a tributary of any river.

Sharavathi is a river which originates and flows entirely within the state of Karnataka in India. It is one of the few westward flowing rivers of India and a major part of the river basin lies in the Western Ghats. **The famous Jog Falls are formed by this river.**

Link: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/wildlife-biodiversity/how-pumped-storage-project-inside-sharavathi-valley-can-threaten-lion-tailed-macaque-73872>

Q2. Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution is related to:

- a. Berlin Convention
- b. Barcelona Convention
- c. Moscow Convention
- d. Oslo Convention

Solution: b

Explanation:

Suppose you don't know this answer. But your life is in danger (don't laugh, learn) and it is mandatory to solve this. So, how you will proceed.

Oslo is capital of Norway; it has no business in Mediterranean.

Moscow is Russia. Nothing to do in Mediterranean.

Now, you are left with Berlin and Barcelona. Berlin is Germany. It is far away from Mediterranean. It is close to Baltic and North Sea.

You are left with Barcelona (Spain). This you will choose.

Note: There is no guarantee 100 percent, you will reach final answer. This is how you will approach in every question.

The Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution (Barcelona Convention) was adopted on 16 February 1976 in Barcelona and entered into force in 1978.

The Barcelona Convention and its seven Protocols adopted in the **framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)** constitute the principal regional legally binding Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) in the Mediterranean.

The 22 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention are: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, and the European Union.

Just see these countries in map book today.

Q3. Consider the following Places

1. Sea of Marmara
2. Aegean Sea
3. Adriatic Sea.

Arrange the above seas from East to West.

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

We are putting one question daily. If you don't solve map daily, in the end, you can't do anything. So, please follow regularly.



Q4. Consider the following statements regarding fertilizer subsidy in India.

1. Subsidy scheme for fertilizers was introduced in India after LPF reforms of 1991.
2. Government also provides subsidy on City compost fertilizers.
3. Government use Direct Benefit Transfer to transfer subsidy directly to farmers.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

In India, Fertilizers are made available to the farmers at a subsidized and affordable price to help with increase in yield. The Department of Fertilizers has subsidized fertilizers in the range of 30% to 70% of its cost. **The subsidy is passed onto companies manufacturing fertilizers so that farmers get the fertilizers at subsidized MRP.** The subsidy is given only to those fertilizers which meet the standards laid down by the government.

First statement is incorrect.

Subsidy scheme for fertilizers was first introduced by the Indian Government in 1977 through the Retention Price Scheme (RPS) for indigenous nitrogenous fertilizer units. Subsequently, it was extended to phosphatic and other complex fertilizers and Single Super Phosphate.

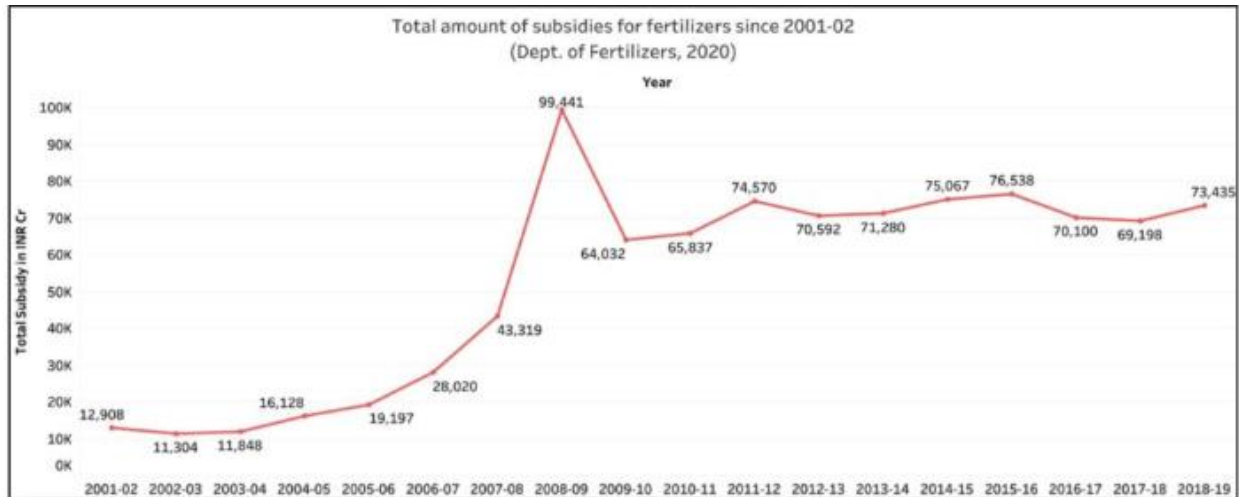
In the case of P&K fertilizers, those which contain Phosphorous and Potassium compounds, **a Nutrition Based Subsidy (NBS) Policy was implemented since 2010**, under which a fixed rate of subsidy, in Rs per Kg basis, on each nutrient- **Nitrogen (N), Phosphate (P), Potash (K) and Sulphur (S)**, is provided by the government each year taking into consideration international prices, exchange rate, and other factors. Secondary and micronutrients are also eligible for subsidy.

Second statement is correct.

A third category of fertilizers, known as City Compost, is given a fixed subsidy of ₹ 1500 per tonne. This scheme was notified in 2016 to promote the use of city compost made from garbage in cities, that would provide carbon and other primary and secondary nutrients to the soil, in addition to keeping cities clean.

Third statement is incorrect:

The present system of delivering subsidies is through **Direct Benefit Transfer to the manufacturer (not farmers)**. The system is such that a farmer identifies themselves with Aadhar biometric at the time of purchasing the fertilizer at subsidized rate. The subsidy amount is then paid to the company by the government.



Q5. Consider the following statements regarding seagrasses.

1. They are abundant in the Palk Strait and Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu.
2. They trap fine sediments and suspended particles in the water column and increase water clarity.
3. Seagrass photosynthesize and manufacture their own food.

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:

Seagrasses are seed-bearing, flowering, rooted plants which grow under water, only in shallow coastal seas and coastal wetlands. Like grasses on land, they form meadows on the bed of coastal seas.

Seagrasses are indicator species

Seagrasses are important as they die out very quickly when **there are changes in the environment — for example — from pollution**. Therefore, they serve to show us that there **is damage to the environment**. Also, many species of fish and other animals live among their leaves. Famous among the animals that live in seagrass meadows is the Dugong or Sea Cow.

Seagrasses occur all along the coastal areas of India. **They are abundant in the Palk Strait and Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu.**



Figure 2.10 – Seagrass – Gulf of Mannar

Ecosystem engineers

Seagrasses are known for providing many ecosystem services. They are considered to be 'Ecosystem Engineers'.

- a. Seagrasses help maintain water quality. They trap fine sediments and suspended particles in the water column and increase water clarity.
- b. In the absence of seagrass communities, **the sediments are stirred by wind and waves, decreasing water quality. This reduced water clarity** affects marine animal behaviour besides decreasing the recreational quality of coastal zones. They

filter nutrients released from land-based industries before they reach sensitive habitats like coral reefs.

- c. **Ocean bottoms without seagrasses are prone to intense wave action from currents and storms.** The extensive vertical and horizontal root systems of seagrasses stabilize the sea bottom similar to land grasses that prevent soil erosion.

Characteristics:

- a. Like terrestrial plants, seagrass also **photosynthesize and manufacture their own food and release oxygen.**
- b. Seagrasses **reproduce through both sexual and asexual methods.** The pollen from the flower of the male plant is transferred to the ovary of the female flower through the sexual reproduction method.
- c. This is **known as submarine pollination.** Most species undergo this process and complete their life cycle underwater.
- d. Seagrasses can also **reproduce asexually by branching off at their rhizomes** (modified subterranean plant stem that sends out roots and shoots from its nodes). Because of this character, **they can recover after being cut by grazers like dugongs or disturbed by storms.**

Q6. Consider the following statements.

1. All States have to mandatorily constitute all the three tiers of Panchayats irrespective of their size and population.
2. There is no provision for reservations for the OBCs in Panchayats as per the Constitution.

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: b

Explanation:

First statement is incorrect as the **intermediary level body need not be constituted in smaller States (with a population less than 20 lakhs).** See below.

243B. Constitution of Panchayats.—(1) There shall be constituted in every State, Panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels in accordance with the provisions of this Part.

(2) Notwithstanding anything in clause (1), Panchayats at the intermediate level may not be constituted in a State having a population not exceeding twenty lakhs.

OBC reservation in Panchayats have been a policy step from states **and not provided in the constitution as such.** This is a step taken by each state based on their requirement on the upliftment of the backward class. **The Constitution only mentions about reservation for SC and ST.**

Q7. Consider the following statements.

1. President has been given power by the Constitution for the appointment of Joint Public Service Commission.
2. The chairman of Joint Public Service commission is appointed by the President.

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: b

Explanation:

We will see here. Article 315(2) and 316.

315. Public Service Commissions for the Union and for the States.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this article, there shall be a Public Service Commission for the Union and a Public Service Commission for each State.

(2) Two or more States may agree that there shall be one Public Service Commission for that group of States, and if a resolution to that effect is passed by the House or, where there are two Houses, by each House of the Legislature of each of those States, Parliament may by law provide for the appointment of a Joint State Public Service Commission (referred to in this Chapter as Joint Commission) to serve the needs of those States.

316. Appointment and term of office of members.—(1) The Chairman and other members of a Public Service Commission shall be appointed, in the case of the Union Commission or a Joint Commission by the President, and in the case of a State Commission, by the Governor of the State:

Q8. Consider the following Pairs.

Military Exercises	Between
1. SLINES-20	India and Sri Lanka
2. MALABAR	India, Korea, the United States

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

Military Exercises	Between
1. SLINES-20	India and Sri Lanka
2. MALABAR	India, Japan, the United States

Australia is also joining MALABAR this year.

Q9. Which of the following is **not** a function of the Constitution of India?

- a. It provides a set of basic rules that allow for minimal coordination amongst members of society.
- b. It specifies who has the decision-making power and what is the hierarchy.
- c. It states the procedure for the constitution of the government.
- d. It sets limitations on what citizens can or cannot do.

Solution: d

Explanation:

**Constitution imposes limitations on government as to what it can or cannot do.
Citizen's actions are not directly limited by the Constitution of India**

- a. The first function of the Constitution is to provide a set of basic rules that allow for minimal coordination amongst members of society. **So, the statement (1) is correct.**
- b. The second function of the Constitution is to specify who has the power to make decisions in a society. It decides how the government will be constituted. **So, the statement (2) is correct.**
- c. The third function of the Constitution is to set some limits on what a government can impose on its citizens. These limits are fundamental in the sense that the government may never trespass them.

- d. The fourth function of the Constitution is to enable the government to fulfil the aspirations of a society and create conditions for a just society and also the way the government is constituted. **So, the statement (3) is correct.**

Q10. Who among the following foreign travellers described, in detail, about the feudal "Nayankara system" of Vijayanagar's military organization and the annual royal Durga festival in the city of Vijaynagara?

- a. Marco Polo
- b. Ibn Battuta
- c. Domingo Paes
- d. Nicolao Manucci

Solution: c

Explanation:

The report of Domingo Paes (1520-1522 AD) who visited Vijayanagar during Krishna deva's reign describes in detail the so-called feudal Nayankara system of Vijayanagar's military organisation and the annual royal Durga festival. So, option (c) is correct.

Domingo Paes, Vijayanagara: "The best provided city of the world"

Introduction: After the conquest of Goa in 1510 and its rise as capital of the Portuguese Estado da India, several Portuguese travellers and traders visited Vijayanagara and wrote detailed reports about the glory of Bisnaga or Vijayanagara. Most valuable are those of Domingos Paes and Fernão Nuni, z written in c. 1520–22 and 1535–37 respectively. The report of Paes, who visited Vijayanagara during Krishnadeva's reign, is based primarily on careful observation, whereas Nuniz relied often also on hearsay and legends. Paes described in detail the so-called feudal nayankara system of Vijayanagara's military organisation and the annual royal Durga festival and he was fascinated by the greatness of Vijayanagara's fortified urban landscape, its markets, temples and the royal centre. Paes detailed description of the city of Vijayanagara (which is only partly quoted here) is of immense help for identifying and interpreting the still impressive ruins of Vijayanagara, which once was, according to Paes, as large as Rome and "the best provided city of the world." Vijayanagara was sacked by the united armies of the central Indian Sultanates in 1565

Q11. Consider the following statements regarding India -US Defence deals.

1. US is the largest arms supplier to India for last three years after Russia.
2. India is purchasing M-777 Howitzer guns, Apache and MH-60 Romeo helicopters, S-400 anti-missile system, from US.

3. Except BECA, India has signed both LEMOA and COMCASA.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

First Statement is incorrect: Its Russia.

India retained its position as the world's second largest arms importers during 2015-19, with Russia remaining the largest supplier even though its share of Indian weapons purchases declined from 72% to 56%.

The US emerged as India's second-largest arms supplier during 2010-14 as security ties between the two sides developed into a strategic partnership. However, in 2015-19 India continued with its policy of supplier diversification, and imports of arms from the USA were 51 per cent lower than in 2010-14.

Second Statement is incorrect: Just because of S-400 anti-missile system. It is from Russia.

India and the US have been working very closely in the field of defence and security as India has acquired equipment worth around USD 20 billion from there in the last 15 years including the **C-17 Globemasters and the C-130J Super Hercules Special Operations** transport aircraft which have become the mainstays of the Indian Air Force's heavy-lift fleet.

In the field of choppers also, the **American Chinook heavy lift and Apache attack helicopters** have come as force multipliers for the armed forces. The Army is also using the **Ultra-Light Howitzers** from the US while the Navy has also recently opted for the American **MH-60 Romeo anti-submarine warfare multirole choppers** for its requirements.

The two sides are also going to hold regular military exercises with the Army set to hold the '**Yudh Abhyas**' and '**Vajra Prahar**' with American troops early next year while the Navy is going to take part in the **Malabar series exercise** in November in the Indian Ocean with the Australian and Japanese Navies also set to participate. (ANI)

Third statement is correct (till today, may it sign later).

Seeking to build close ties amid an ongoing conflict with China, **India and the United States of America are expected to sign the Basic Exchange and Cooperation**

Agreement (BECA) for geospatial cooperation during the 2+2 dialogue between the Defence and Foreign Ministers of the two countries to be held on **October 26-27 this month in New Delhi.**

This is the foundational agreement to be signed between India and the US after the **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)** and the **Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)** in 2016 and 2018 respectively.

It is believed that the signing of BECA and the follow-up arrangements between the sides will allow India to use American inputs on geospatial intelligence and to enhance military accuracy of automated hardware systems and weapons like cruise, ballistic missiles and drones.

Q12. Consider the following Pairs.

Hubs in India	famous for
1. Ludhiana	Apparel industry manufacturing woollen garments
2. Dindigul	Locks
3. Sindri, Jharkhand	Fertilizers
4. Pimpri-Chinchwad	Automobile

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

UPSC has asked such questions before and in future too it will. I think in NCERT, many such places are given in Geography part. Do read if you haven't.

Hubs in India	famous for
Ludhiana	Apparel industry manufacturing woollen garments
Dindigul	Locks
Sindri, Jharkhand	Fertilizers
Pimpri-Chinchwad	Automobile

Q13. National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) is an Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by:

- Competition Commission of India (CCI)
- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

3. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

ABOUT NCLAT



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

NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC), with effect from 1st December, 2016. NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC. ✓

NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) as per the amendment brought to Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 by Section 172 of the Finance Act, 2017, with effect from 26th May, 2017. ✓

Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal:

The formation of Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) ✓

In order to bring in functional clarity and strengthen the regulatory framework and the disputes settlement mechanism in the telecommunication sector, the TRAI Act of 1997 was amended in the year 2000 and TDSAT was set up to adjudicate disputes and dispose of appeals with a view to protect the interests of service providers and consumers of the telecom sector and to promote and ensure orderly growth of the telecom sector. In January 2004, the Government included broadcasting and cable services also within the purview of TRAI Act. After coming into force of the relevant provisions of the Finance Act 2017, the jurisdiction of TDSAT stands extended to matters that lay before the Cyber Appellate Tribunal and also the Airport Economic Regulatory Authority Appellate Tribunal. ✓ ✓

Table 1: Tribunals proposed to be merged by amendments to the Finance Bill, 2017

Act	Tribunal being replaced	Tribunal to take over functions
Competition Act, 2002	Competition Appellate Tribunal	National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (under Companies Act, 2013)
Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008	Airports Economic Regulatory Authority Appellate Tribunal	Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (under the TRAI Act, 1997)
Information Technology Act, 2000	Cyber Appellate Tribunal	
Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002	National Highways Tribunal	Airport Appellate Tribunal (under the Airport Authority of India Act, 1994)
Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952	Employees Provident Fund Appellate Tribunal	Industrial Tribunal (under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947)
Copyright Act, 1957	Copyright Board	Intellectual Property Appellate Board (under the Trade Marks Act, 1999)
Railways Act, 1989	Railways Rates Tribunal	Railway Claims Tribunal (under the Railways Claims Tribunal Act, 1987)
Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999	Appellate Tribunal for Foreign Exchange	Appellate Tribunal (under the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act, 1976)

Q14. Consider the following statements regarding Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas' (SVAMITVA) scheme.

1. It aims to reduce dispute over land ownership in rural habited areas.
2. It is central sector scheme under Ministry of Rural Development.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

In this question, we tried to make first statement very obvious. So, now second statement you people will make it obvious and do mistake.

It is Ministry of Panchayats, NOT RURAL.

How to start to learn any scheme? Introduction.

Gramoday se Bharat Uday has been a central theme in all policies and programmes of the Government of India.

It is our resolve to fulfil Mahatma Gandhi's dreams of an ideal village by the year 2022 that will mark 75 years of India's Independence. On this occasion the **SVAMITVA** scheme is being launched which will enable the aim of survey of inhabited areas of villages with the use of progressive technology.

SVAMITVA scheme would be proved a mile stone in providing the 'record of rights' to each of the village household owners in inhabited rural areas in villages. The scheme would be helpful in achieving the following two aims:-

- a. Enable households to use their immovable property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits from Banks;
- b. Strengthen development of rural infrastructure and demand assessment process of Gram Panchayats by institutionalising the asset and Tax collection register.

Why Land is important? Why we need proper survey?

Land as an asset is unique because it is immovable, and with growing population, its demand keeps increasing, while its supply is limited. Access to land (or land rights) has a wide-ranging impact on livelihoods, economic, and social growth.

Land records, as are available today, do not reflect the on-ground position. The owner of the property in the rural areas are not able to leverage their own property as a financial asset in the absence of any legal document acceptable to the banks. Moreover, survey of rural land in India for settlement and record of rights, which were last completed about 70 years back, did not cover ABADI (inhabited) area of villages in many States.

SVAMITVA scheme, a collaborative effort of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, State Panchayati Raj Departments, State Revenue Departments and Survey of India, aims to provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India, engaging the latest Drone Surveying technology, for demarcating the inhabitant (Aabadi) land in rural areas. The scheme targets to

- Protect the Civil rights of villagers, and reduce disputes over land ownership in Rural habited areas through issuance of Property card to the rural household owners;
- Increase the coverage of property tax collection in the Panchayats through automated tax collection records;
- Prevent encroachment by identifying public land;
- Enable creation of better-quality Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GDPs), leveraging the maps created under this programme.

The scheme is for surveying the land parcels in rural inhabited area using Drone technology. The survey shall be done across the country in a phase wise manner over the

period of four years **(2020 -2024)**. The scheme is proposed as a **Central Sector scheme** with a projected outlay of Rs **79.65 crores for the pilot phase (FY 2020 -21)**.

Objectives:

- a. To bring financial stability to the citizens in rural India by enabling them to use their property as a financial asset for taking loans and other financial benefits.
- b. Creation of accurate land records for rural planning.
- c. Determination of property tax, which would accrue to the GPs directly in States where it is devolved or else, add to the State exchequer.
- d. Creation of survey infrastructure and GIS maps that can be leveraged by any department for their use.
- e. To support in preparation of better-quality Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) by making use of GIS maps.
- f. To reduce property related disputes and legal cases

Q15. Consider the following statements.

1. Jammu and Kashmir shares international boundary only with Pakistan.
2. Ladakh shares international boundary only with Pakistan and China.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

Jammu and Kashmir shares boundary only with **Pakistan**.

Ladakh shares boundary with **Pakistan, China and Afghanistan**.



Q16. In the context of India, consider the following statements regarding **Lokpal and lokayuktas Act 2013**.

1. The chairperson and members of Lokpal are appointed by the President.
2. The Prime Minister is the chairperson of the Selection Committee to recommend the names of members of Lokpal.
3. Currently, every state has Lokayuktas.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

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.

14. (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 5

(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.

Some more important points you need to remember for Prelims exam.

- Jurisdiction of Lokpal to include **Prime Minister, Ministers, members of Parliament, Groups A, B, C and D officers and officials of Central Government.**
- The administrative expenses of the Lokpal, including all salaries, allowances and pensions payable to or in respect of the Chairperson, Members or Secretary or other officers or staff of the Lokpal, shall be charged upon the **Consolidated Fund of India.**
- The Act provides power to Lokpal **to recommend transfer or suspension of public servant connected with allegation of corruption.**
- Matters pending before any court or committee or authority for inquiry not to be affected.

15. In case any matter or proceeding related to allegation of corruption under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 has been pending before any court or committee of either House of Parliament or before any other authority prior to commencement of this Act or prior to commencement of any inquiry after the commencement of this Act, such matter or proceeding shall be continued before such court, committee or authority.

Third statement is incorrect:

Less than 20 states has constituted Lokayuktas.

Q17. According to the **law of diminishing marginal utility**, as the supply of the amount of a good/service consumed increases, the marginal utility of that good tends to:

- Improve

- b. Diminish
- c. Remain constant
- d. First diminish and then improve

Solution: b

Explanation:

In economics, the law of diminishing marginal utility states that the marginal utility of a good or service declines as its available supply increases.

When we get more and more units of a commodity, the intensity of our desire for that commodity tends to diminish. The law of diminishing marginal utility also explains the same thing. It means that as more and more units of a commodity are consumed, marginal utility derived from each successive unit goes on diminishing.

Q18. In context of Art and Architecture, "**Kulhadar Group**" is associated with:

- a. Paintings
- b. Dance
- c. Puppetry
- d. Regional song of Rajasthan

Solution: a

Explanation:

Kulhadar group belongs to miniature paintings.

~~The finest examples of painting belonging to the first half of the 16th century are, however, represented by a group of miniatures generally designated as the "Kulhadar Group". This group includes illustrations of the 'Chaurapanchasika' - "Fifty Verses of the Thief by Bilhan, the *Gita Govinda*, the *Bhagavata Purana* and *Ragamala*. The style of these miniatures is marked by the use of brilliant contrasting colours, vigorous and angular drawing, transparent drapery and the appearance of conical caps 'Kulha' on which turbans are worn by the male figures.~~

Link: <http://ccrtindia.gov.in/miniaturepainting.php>

Q19. Consider the following Statements.

1. Elections disputes pertaining to Panchayats shall be decided in accordance with law of Parliament.
2. Audit and Accounts of Panchayats is done by State Finance Commission.

Which of the above statement is correct?

- a. 1 only

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

Elections disputes pertaining to Panchayats shall be decided **in accordance with law of State Legislature. Therefore, statement 1 is wrong.**

243-O. Bar to interference by courts in electoral matters.—Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution,—

(a) the validity of any law relating to the delimitation of constituencies or the allotment of seats to such constituencies, made or purporting to be made under article 243K, shall not be called in question in any court;

(b) no election to any Panchayat shall be called in question except by an election petition presented to such authority and in such manner as is provided for by or under any law made by the Legislature of a State.]

Audit and Account of State Legislature is done **in accordance with law of state legislature. Therefore, statement 2 is wrong.**

243J. Audit of accounts of Panchayats.—The Legislature of a State may, by law, make provisions with respect to the maintenance of accounts by the Panchayats and the auditing of such accounts.

Q20. Anamudi Shola National Park:

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

Anamudi Shola National Park is a protected area located along the Western Ghats in Idukki District, **Kerala state**, South India.

Plan to fell 9,276 eucalyptus trees in Anamudi Shola National Park

Move is to sell trees worth D8.17 cr to timber mafia, say green activists.



Published: 22nd October 2020 05:51 AM | Last Updated: 22nd October 2020 05:51 AM

🔍 | A+ A A-

Q21. Six new sites apart from the Kuno-Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary have been identified under Project Lion that was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi August 15, 2020. Let us solve one question.

Consider the following Pairs.

News sites	Location
1. Madhav National Park	Madhya Pradesh
2. Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve	Tamil Nadu
3. Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary	Rajasthan

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

Six new sites apart from the Kuno-Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary have been identified under Project Lion that was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi August 15, 2020, on the lines of Project Tiger and Project Elephant.

The programme has been launched **for the conservation of the Asiatic Lion**, whose last remaining wild population is in Gujarat's Asiatic Lion Landscape (ALL).

The Wildlife Institute of India, along with the Gujarat Forest Department, **had created a Project Lion** proposal and sent it to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on September 15

The six new sites identified for possible lion relocation in the future include:

- Madhav National Park, Madhya Pradesh
- Sitamata Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan
- Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan
- Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh
- Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan
- Jessore-Balaram Ambaji WLS and adjoining landscape, Gujarat

The motive behind finding a relocation site for the species is because the population in Gir has low genetic diversity, making it vulnerable to threats of extinction from epidemics.

For the first time, the entire genome of the Asiatic lion has been sequenced by scientists from CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad. The full genome sequencing of Gir lions has shown them to be lacking genetic diversity in comparison to other lion populations and historical samples of Asiatic lions, the proposal said

Q22. Consider the following statements regarding Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).

1. It is a member of World Economic Forum whose mandate is to promote cross-border investment in developing countries by providing guarantees to investors and lenders.
2. India is a member of this group.
3. It also provides a Dispute resolution mechanism between investors and government actions.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

For any Body/institutions, remember these three things:

- a. Who is a parent body?
- b. Whether India is a member of not?
- c. Objective and work.

So, now see all three with Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA). We will go to MIGA [original site](#) and find. *Authentic information. No chance of any error.*


First statement is incorrect.




The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) is a member of the **World Bank Group**. Its mandate is to promote cross-border **investment in developing countries by providing guarantees (political risk insurance and credit enhancement) to investors and lenders.**


Members: **Second statement is correct.**


 The World Bank Group consists of five organizations:


The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
 The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) lends to governments of middle-income and creditworthy low-income countries. 

The International Development Association
 The International Development Association (IDA) provides interest-free loans — called credits — and grants to governments of the poorest countries. 

Together, IBRD and IDA make up the World Bank.

The International Finance Corporation
 The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is the largest global development institution focused exclusively on the private sector. We help developing countries achieve sustainable growth by financing investment, mobilizing capital in international financial markets, and providing advisory services to businesses and governments. 

The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
 The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) was created in 1988 to promote foreign direct investment into developing countries to support economic growth, reduce poverty, and improve people's lives. MIGA fulfills this mandate by offering political risk insurance (guarantees) to investors and lenders. 

The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
 The International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) provides international facilities for conciliation and arbitration of investment disputes. 

India is a member **of four of the five constituents** of the World Bank Group:

- a. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- b. International Development Association (IDA)
- c. International Finance Corporation (IFC) and
- d. **Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).**

India is not a member of ICSID (International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes).

Third statement is correct.

✓ As a member of the World Bank Group, MIGA provides an umbrella of deterrence against government actions that could disrupt insured investments and helps resolve potential disputes to the satisfaction of all parties—both of which enhance investor confidence in the safety of investments and encourage the flow of foreign direct investment. In order to prevent a potential claims situation from escalating, we provide dispute resolution services to all of our clients. In order to mitigate against the risk of loss in the case of investment disputes, we require investors to notify MIGA as early as possible of difficulties with a host government that might give rise to a claim of loss under the guarantee. To date, MIGA has been able to resolve disputes that would have led to claims in all but two cases. We have paid eight additional claims resulting from damage due to war and civil disturbance.

Q23. Consider the following statements.

1. Slender-billed Vulture are endemic to western ghats in India.
2. Flamingos- Lesser and Greater both are endemic to India only.
3. Snow Leopards are primarily found in the states of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu will get a vulture conservation and breeding centre each, according to the [Action Plan for Vulture Conservation 2020-2025](#).

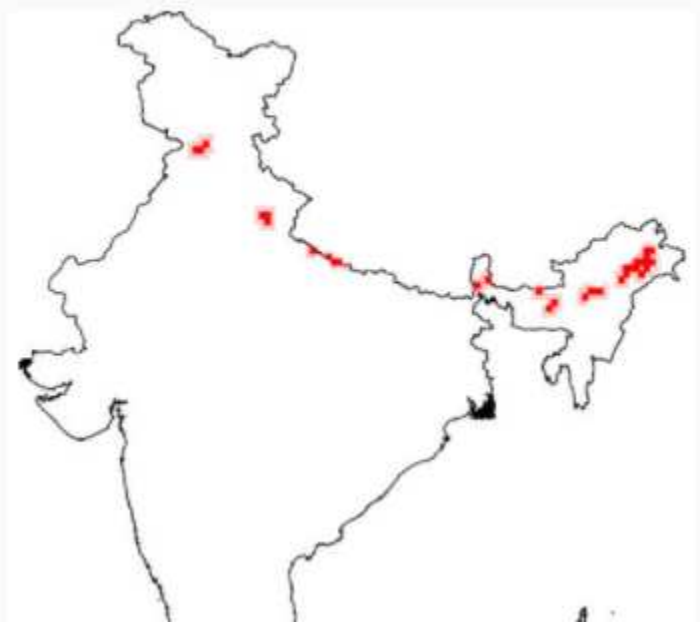
The new plan has laid out strategies and actions to stem the decline in vulture population, especially of the **three Gyps species**:

- a. Oriental white-backed vulture (*Gyps bengalensis*)
- b. Slender-billed vulture (*Gyps tenuirostris*)
- c. Long-billed vulture (*Gyps indicus*)

This would be done through both ex-situ and in-situ conservation.

First statement is incorrect. See the map. We have searched two different to maps to find its habitat. Answer is same in both the maps. It's not Western Ghats.

3. Slender-billed Vulture *Gyps tenuirostris*





Second statement is wrong. It is not endemic to India.

India has two [flamingo species](#) – the greater and the lesser flamingos – and tens of thousands of them congregate in clusters around the city. Here, they feed on benthic animals – those living on the bottom of oceans, lakes, rivers, etc. – like molluscs, crustaceans and blue-green algae.

On the IUCN Red list, **lesser flamingos** are listed as ‘near threatened’ and greater flamingos, as being of ‘least concern’.

The lesser flamingo is primarily an *African species*. Populations are found in eastern, southwestern, and western Africa. In addition, a sizable population nests in India. Stragglers can be found as far north as southern Spain.

The greater flamingo has the most widespread distribution of all flamingo species. Populations are found in northwest India, the Middle East, the western Mediterranean, and Africa. Limited numbers of this species can be found over much of northern Europe and eastward to Siberia.

Third statement is correct:

[Snow leopards](#) live in the **mountainous regions of central and southern Asia. In India, their geographical range encompasses a large part of the western Himalayas including the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh in the eastern Himalayas.**

International Snow Leopard Day is observed on October 23 to raise awareness on protection of snow leopards which are endangered. We will solve one quiz on Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme (GSLEP).

Q24. Consider the following statements regarding **Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Programme (GSLEP)**.

1. It is an alliance in which leopard range countries, local communities come together to protect the snow leopard and its mountain ecosystems.
2. India is a part of this Programme.
3. Bishkek Declaration is related to the conservation of Leopard.

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:

GSLEP, the **Global Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Protection Program**, is an unprecedented alliance of all **snow leopard range countries, non-governmental organizations, multi-lateral institutions, scientists and local communities**, united by one goal: **saving the snow leopard and its mountain ecosystems**.

It is noteworthy to mention that Snow Leopard is found in 12 countries. **They are India, Nepal, Bhutan, China, Mongolia, Russia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.**

The snow leopard range countries and partners unanimously agree to the shared goal of the GSLEP for the 7 years through 2020. The snow leopard range countries agree, with support from interested organizations, to work together to identify and secure at least 20 snow leopard landscapes across the cat's range by 2020 or, in shorthand – **“Secure 20 by 2020.**

Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, October 23, 2013

Leaders in the governments of all 12 snow leopard range countries have adopted the Bishkek Declaration on the Conservation of the Snow Leopard today in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.

Q25. Which of the following countries is very near to India?

- a. Mauritius
- b. Madagascar
- c. Comoros
- d. Seychelles

Solution: d

Explanation:

See the map below. Don't only look for answers. You have to see the other places too. Just see after 1-2 months, you will be an expert in map.



Q26. Consider the following statements.

1. A person elected to fill the vacancy occurred due to death of President is entitled to hold office for full term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office.
2. The proposal to impeach the President shall be preferred in House only after it is signed by not less than one-fourth of total member of the House.

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:

We will refer here article number 61 and 62. Read the articles below before proceeding to next question. Both the statements are correct.

First statement is correct.

62. Time of holding election to fill vacancy in the office of President and the term of office of person elected to fill casual vacancy.—(1) An election to fill a vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office of President shall be completed before the expiration of the term.

(2) An election to fill a vacancy in the office of President occurring by reason of his death, resignation or removal, or otherwise shall be held as soon as possible after, and in no case later than six months from, the date of occurrence of the vacancy; and the person elected to fill the vacancy shall, subject to the provisions of article 56, be entitled to hold office for the full term of five years from the date on which he

Second statement is correct.

61. Procedure for impeachment of the President.—(1) When a President is to be impeached for violation of the Constitution, the charge shall be preferred by either House of Parliament.

(2) No such charge shall be preferred unless—

(a) the proposal to prefer such charge is contained in a resolution which has been moved after at least fourteen days' notice in writing signed by not less than one-fourth of the total number of members of the House has been given of their intention to move the resolution, and

(b) such resolution has been passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the total membership of the House.

Q27. Consider the following provisions with respect to India.

1. Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.
2. Appointment of acting Chief Justice
3. Uniform Civil Code

Which of the above provisions are **mentioned in the Constitution**?

- 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 above provisions are mentioned in the Constitution. We are pasting all the three articles. You will read all the provisions of the article given below.

First option is correct.

75. Other provisions as to Ministers.—(1) The Prime Minister shall be appointed by the President and the other Ministers shall be appointed by the President on the advice of the Prime Minister.

¹[(1A) The total number of Ministers, including the Prime Minister, in the Council of Ministers shall not exceed fifteen per cent. of the total number of members of the House of the People.]

Second option is correct.

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

Third option is correct.

Central Government Act

Article 44 in The Constitution Of India 1949

44. Uniform civil code for the citizens The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India

Q28. Consider the following Pairs.

Traditions	Belongs to
1. Lai Haraoba Festival	Manipur
2. Therukoothu	Kerala
3. Chhath Puja	Bihar

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

traditions	Belongs to
Lai Haraoba Festival	Manipur

Therukoothu	Tamil Nadu
Chhath Puja	Bihar

Q29. Brihadeshwara Temple was built during the period of which among the following dynasty.

- Pandya dynasty
- Chola dynasty
- Vijayanagar Empire
- Chalukya dynasty

Solution: b

Explanation:

The Brihadeshwara Temple at Tanjavur marks the greatest achievement of the **Chola architects**. Known in the inscriptions as Dakshina Meru, the construction of this temple was inaugurated by the Chola King, Rajaraja I (985-1012 CE).

Q30. In the respect of Indian National Movement, consider the following.

- Morley Minto Reforms, 1909
- Lucknow Pact, 1916
- Poona Pact, 1932

Which of the above **helped in the process of Communalism** during India's National Movement?

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

Solution: b

Morley Minto reforms introduced **separate electorates for Muslims**. For the first time, the demand for a separate electorate was accepted. A constitutional recognition of Separate Electorate was a great achievement for the Muslims. Muslims could now have their own representative members at the Legislative Councils. They were to be elected by Muslims alone.

In Lucknow Pact, Muslim League and Congress **formally agreed to separate electorate** which means Congress formally **recognized communal politics** and gave recognition that India consists of different communities.

Poona Pact was a reaction to Communal Award.

The Communal Award was made by the British prime minister Ramsay MacDonald on 16 August 1932 granting separate electorates in India for the Forward Caste, Scheduled Caste, Muslims, Buddhists, Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, Europeans and Depressed Classes (now known as the Scheduled Caste) etc. **Mahatma Gandhi objected to the provision of separate electorates** for the Scheduled (formerly “untouchable”) Castes, which in his view separated them from the whole Hindu community.

The Poona Pact refers to an agreement between B. R. Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi on behalf of depressed classes and caste Hindu leaders on the reservation of electoral seats for the depressed classes in the legislature of British India government. **It withdrew separate electorates given under Award. It didn't help in the process of Communalism.**

Q31. Consider the following statements regarding **Nirbhaya Fund**.

1. The Fund is administered by the Ministry of Finance.
2. The Fund is contributed 100 percent by Central Government.
3. Ministry of Women and Child Development is responsible to review and monitor the progress of sanctioned projects under this Fund.

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: c

Explanation:

It can asked as one liner or anything, it is important. Learn today.

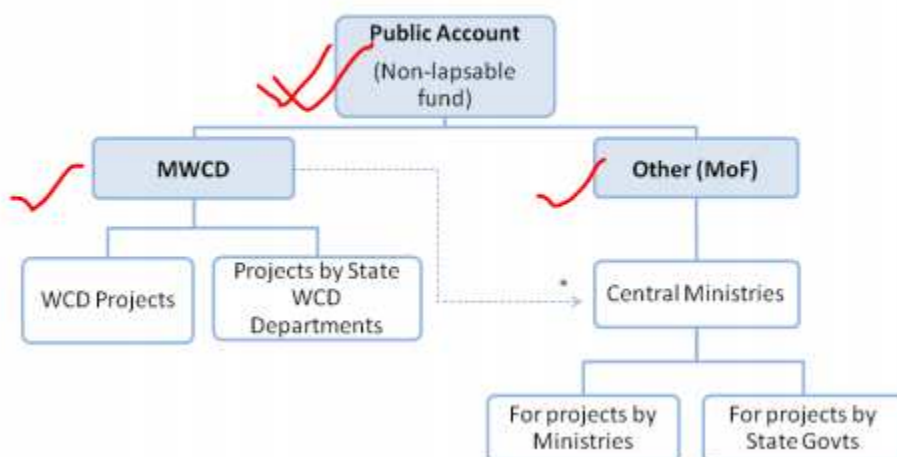
BACKGROUND

Violence and abuse against women and girls is frequent on streets, in public transportation and in other public places. Such occurrences restrict women's right to mobility, discouraging their freedom to walk freely and move in public spaces of their choice. Such violence also limits their access to essential services and adversely impact their health and wellbeing.

In this context, and following the tragedy of December 2012, the Government has set up a dedicated fund – Nirbhaya Fund – which can be utilized for projects specifically designed to improve the safety and security of women. It is a non-lapsable corpus fund, being administered by Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.

As per the guidelines issued by Ministry of Finance dt 25.03.2015, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) is the nodal Ministry to appraise/recommend proposals and schemes to be funded under Nirbhaya Fund. MWCD further has the responsibility to review and monitor the progress of sanctioned schemes in conjunction with the line Ministries/Departments.

FUND FLOW UNDER NIRBHAYA:



FUNDING PATTERN

The below standard funding pattern will be followed:

- 60:40 for all States
- 90:10 for States with difficult terrains
- 100% for UTs
- Few initiatives are 100% funded

Q32. Consider the following statements regarding Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

1. It is a UN body aims to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services.
2. India is a member of this group.

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: b

Explanation:

What is IPBES?

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is an independent intergovernmental body established by States to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development. It was established in Panama City, on 21 April 2012 by 94 Governments. It is not a United Nations body. ✓ However, at the request of the IPBES Plenary and with the authorization of the UNEP Governing Council in 2013, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provides secretariat services to IPBES. See [here](#) for more information on the history of IPBES.



India

Member

About

Member since
Sat, 21/04/2012

IPBES Region

Asia-Pacific States

Q33. Consider the following statements regarding Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.

1. These rules are applied only to wetlands categorized as 'wetlands of international importance' under the Ramsar Convention.
2. There are currently more than 30 recognized wetlands sites under Ramsar Convention.
3. Asan Conservation Reserve recognized under Ramsar Convention is present in Bihar.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

First statement is incorrect. "only" is creating problem.

3. **Applicability of rules.**—These rules shall apply to the following wetlands or wetlands complexes, namely:—

- (a) wetlands categorised as 'wetlands of international importance' under the Ramsar Convention;
- (b) wetlands as notified by the Central Government, State Government and Union Territory Administration:

Provided that these rules shall not apply to the wetlands falling in areas covered under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the State Forest Acts, and the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 as amended from time to time.

Second statement is correct:

There are currently 39 sites under Ramsar. You will always keep this [list](#). It is very important.

Third statement is incorrect:

Asan Conservation Reserve becomes Uttarakhand's first Ramsar site

Asan Conservation Reserve is home to many rare and endangered species like the Ruddy Shelduck, Red Crested Pochard, among others.

INDIA Updated: Oct 15, 2020, 23:11 IST

Suparna Roy
Hindustan Times, Dehradun

Q34. Blue Dot Network recently seen in news. It is:

- a. An alliance to curb cyber crime
- b. An initiative in Asia Pacific Region to bring all pacific countries on one platform and promote their development and challenge the aggressive expansionist policy of China
- c. An initiative to bring together governments, the private sector and civil society to promote high-quality, trusted standards for global infrastructure development
- d. To curb frauds in blockchain technology

Solution: c

Explanation:

More than half of the students will mark b, because they have habit of taking quiz in very casual manner and will not focus on questions.

Blue Dot Network is as "a multi-stakeholder initiative to bring together governments, the private sector and civil society **to promote high-quality, trusted standards for global infrastructure development**".

The BDN was announced by the United States, Japan, and Australia in November 2019 at the Indo-Pacific Business Forum in Thailand. Together, the three allies plan **to certify**

infrastructure projects around the world that meet high standards of transparency, sustainability, and developmental impact.

Assess BDN's effectiveness as a geopolitical mechanism to counter China's BRI.

The three governments have been at pains to say that the BDN is not a response to China's Belt and Road Initiative. However, cynics have argued that the choice of "blue" in the initiative's name was not an accident: a clear contrast to the "red" of BRI. As we said in our recent CSIS commentary, the United States and its allies cannot and should not try to compete with China over every infrastructure project in the world. Washington will never spend the kind of money that Beijing says it intends to through BRI. But the ~~United~~ States also has a commercial and strategic interest in promoting infrastructure around the world, and it brings unique assets to this effort. These include innovative companies, technical expertise, rule of law, and, as I mentioned earlier, trillions of dollars of pension and insurance funds looking for long-term returns. The United States can and should compete in providing needed global infrastructure.

Q35. Which of the following doesn't form boundary with any country of Africa?

1. Gulf of Aden
2. Persian Gulf
3. Atlantic Sea
4. Black SEA.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:





Q36. Consider the following statements regarding Delimitation Commission.

1. The Constitution provides for setting up of Delimitation Commission after every census.
2. The Judge of Supreme Court is the chairman of Delimitation Commission.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

Whether Constitution provides for setting up of Delimitation Commission or not, **we can refer to the provision given in article 82 of the Constitution.**

Article 82 of Indian Constitution provides for delimitation and it says:

82. Readjustment after each census.—Upon the completion of each census, the allocation of seats in the House of the People to the States and the division of each State into territorial constituencies shall be readjusted by such authority and in such manner as Parliament may by law determine:

It clearly reads that **Parliament will decide** (not Constitution) to set up such authority after every census. **Therefore, statement one is incorrect.**

As per Article 82, Parliament by law **enacted four times a Delimitation Act after every census.**

- In 1952 under Delimitation Commission Act, 1952
- In 1963 under Delimitation Commission Act, 1962
- In 1973 under Delimitation Commission Act, 1972
- In 2002 under Delimitation Commission Act, 2002

Once the Act comes into force, **the Central Government constitutes a Delimitation Commission.**

As you can clearly see from the image given below, Supreme Court Judge is the chairperson of the Commission. Therefore, second statement is correct. Do refer other points also given in image. It's important.

3. Constitution of Delimitation Commission.—As soon as may be after the commencement of this Act, the Central Government shall constitute a Commission to be called the Delimitation Commission which shall consist of three members as follows:—

(a) one member, who shall be a person who is or has been a Judge of the Supreme Court, to be appointed by the Central Government who shall be the Chairperson of the Commission;

(b) the Chief Election Commissioner or an Election Commissioner nominated by the Chief Election Commissioner, *ex officio*:

Provided that after the nomination of an Election Commissioner as a member under this clause, no further nomination under this clause shall be made except to fill the casual vacancy of such member under section 6; and

(c) the State Election Commissioner of concerned State, ex officio.

Q37. Consider the following sentences.

1. Tipu Sultan was intolerant person towards religion as he destroyed many Hindu temples.
2. The Treaty of Seringapatam ended the fourth Anglo-Mysore War.
3. Tipu Sultan was considered as father of missile technology.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

Tipu was tolerant towards Hindu religion or not, just read the below given circular in image:

~~III~~ TIPU SULTAN'S RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE TOWARDS TEMPLES

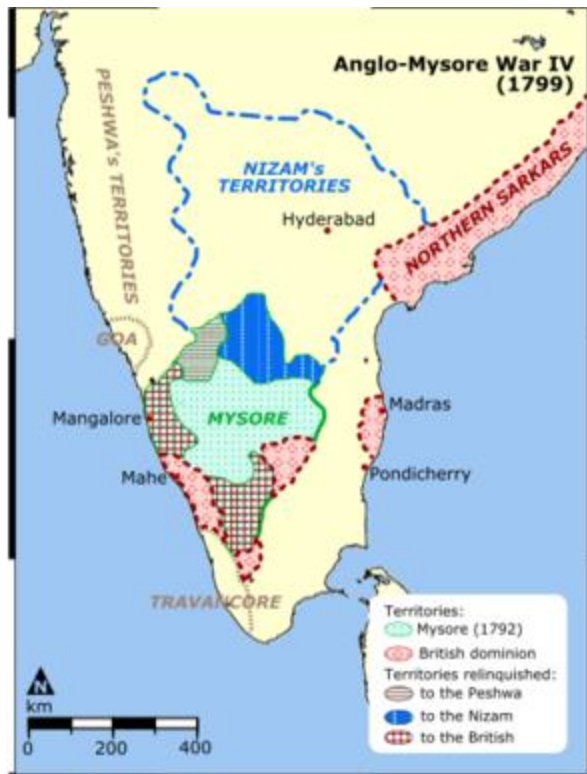
The following circular order issued by Tipu in 1790-91 to all his District officers is a proof of the tolerance of the sultan and the testimony how personally he was interested in the neat and clean administration of the Hindu temples of his kingdom. It was as follows, "The temples are under your management: you are, therefore to see that the offering of the gods and the temple illuminations are duly regulated, as directed out of the government grants. The offerings are to be subsequently distributed among the poor, but they ought not be partaken of by the Pujaris. You are to take care that the money and provisions belonging to temples are not stolen; and you are further to prepare a list of all the jewels of the temples, stating their respective weight, etc., enter the same in the Daftar accounts and the diary; and hand over the jewels under your seal to the charge of the temple Parpattegar. You are to allow (the temple authorities) to use the jewels during the festivals and them carefully preserve them in the temple under your seal. This procedure will prevent the pujaris from stealing the jewels of the temple.

A certain amount of money is set apart and given out on interest for the purpose of conducting the worship, etc., of the gods; and this money being paid to the temple is called Puduvat money. You are to enter both the principal and the interest in the temple accounts, and also to preserve in the temple the document executed by the person who received the money on interest. You are to order both the Pujaris and the Parpattegars to make use of the jewels, cloths, etc., during the car festivals, and then to preserve them as before. A newly appointed Parpattegar should receive a list countersigned by the retiring Parpattegar, of all the temple jewels, furniture, etc., before the latter is relieved of his duties".

The Treaty of Seringapatam signed 18 March 1792, ended the Third Anglo-Mysore War.

Its signatories included Lord Cornwallis on behalf of the British East India Company, representatives of the Nizam of Hyderabad and the Maratha Empire, and Tipu Sultan, the ruler of Mysore.

Under the terms of the treaty, Mysore ceded about one-half of its territories to the other signatories. The Peshwa acquired territory up to the Tungabhadra River, the Nizam was awarded land from the Krishna to the Penner River. The East India Company received a large portion of Mysore's Malabar Coast territories between the Kingdom of Travancore and the Kali River, and the Baramahal and Dindigul districts.



Hyder Ali, the de-facto ruler of 18th century Mysore developed the **first examples of explosives-filled rockets**.

Then his son **Tipu Sultan** planned and made cylindrical iron tubes that would have gunpowder in them and would travel to a greater range of 2 km. Then to provide stability and better accuracy, he fastened them to bamboo poles or swords. The rockets produced were very destructive and the best in the world of that time.

Tipu was considered as father of missile technology. After the fall of Seringapatam in 1799, the British Army discovered as many as 600 launchers, 700 serviceable rockets and 9,000 empty rockets at Tipu's fort. The Royal Artillery Museum in Woolwich received most of them. This inspired it to start a military rocket research and development program in 1801.

Q38. Consider the following statements.

1. Chairman of Rajya Sabha presides over joint sitting of two houses, if Speaker and Deputy Speaker of lower house is absent.
2. The Provision of Joint sitting is not applied to Money Bills or Constitutional Amendment Bills of State Legislature.

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:

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.

The Chairman of Rajya Sabha does not preside over a joint sitting as he is not a member of either House of Parliament. First Statement is incorrect.

A joint sitting is an extraordinary machinery provided by the Constitution to resolve a deadlock between the two Houses over the passage of a Bill.

The President can summon both the Houses to meet in a joint sitting to deliberate and vote on the Bill. The provision of joint sitting **is applicable to Ordinary Bills and Finance Bills only and not to Money Bills or Constitutional Amendment Bills**. In the case of a Money Bill, the Lok Sabha has overriding powers, while a Constitutional Amendment Bill must be passed by each House separately.

The Provision of Joint Sitting is not provided in State Legislature. Second Statement is incorrect.

Q39. *Samantabhadra, Ksitigarbha and Akasagarbha* are:

- a. Books compilations of Buddhism Philosophy
- b. They are the tax imposed by Gupta empire on various commodities
- c. Jain texts which talks about how to achieve salvation
- d. Bodhisattvas

Solution: d

Explanation:

Samantabhadra, Ksitigarbha and Akasagarbha are Bodhisattvas.

Ksitigarbha is the savior of the oppressed, the dying

Samantabhadra represents kindness and happiness

Akasagarbha denotes repository of void. Void here doesn't indicate nothingness, but the mysterious potentiality that gives rise to all phenomena.

Q40. Consider the following statements.

1. High albedo results in increase in sea level due to faster melting of ice.
2. Deposition of Aerosols, particularly black carbon on arctic ice will decrease the albedo of ice.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

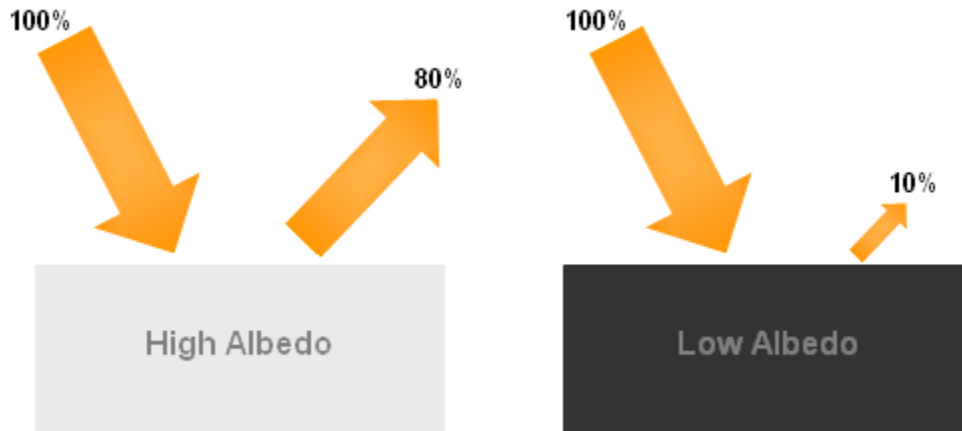
Solution: b

Explanation:

The amount of energy that is reflected by a surface is determined by the reflectivity of that surface, called the albedo.

A high albedo means the surface reflects the majority of the radiation that hits it and absorbs the rest.

A low albedo means a surface reflects a small amount of the incoming radiation and absorbs the rest.



For instance, fresh snow reflects up to 95% of the incoming radiation. Therefore, fresh snow has a high albedo of .95. By contrast, water reflects about 10% of the incoming radiation, resulting in a low albedo of 10.

Low albedo means ice will absorb more heat, it will then melt and sea level increases. Therefore, **statement one is wrong.**

Deposition of black carbon means, more heat will be absorbed, it will decrease the albedo of ice. Therefore, **statement 2 is correct.**

Q41. Consider the following statements regarding National Board for Wildlife.

1. Recommendation of NBWL is essential for any diversion of the habitat of any wild animal in a National Park.
2. It is a statutory Board constituted under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 chaired by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
3. Approval of NBWL is mandatory for construction of commercial tourist lodges, hotels, zoos inside sanctuaries.

Select the correct code.



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

Solution: c

Explanation:

First Statement is correct:

According to Section 35 (6) of the Wildlife Protection Act, **recommendation of NBWL** is essential for any use or **diversion of the habitat of any wild animal or produce including water etc. in a National Park.**

 No person shall destroy, exploit or remove any Wild Life including forest produce from a National Park or destroy or damage or divert the habitat of any wild animal by any act whatsoever or divert, stop or enhance the flow of water into or outside the National Park, except under and in accordance with a permit granted by the Chief Wild Life Warden, and no such permit shall be granted unless the State Government being satisfied in consultation with the National Board that such removal of wild life from the National Park or the change in the flow of water into or outside the National Park is necessary for the improvement and better management of wild life therein, authorises the issue of such permit: 

Second Statement is correct:

National Board for Wildlife is a statutory Board constituted officially in 2003 under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. **The NBWL is chaired by the Prime Minister** and is responsible for promotion of conservation and development of wildlife and forests.

¹[5A. Constitution of the National Board for Wild Life.—(1) The Central Government shall, within three months from the date of commencement of the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2002 (16 of 2003), constitute the National Board for Wild Life consisting of the following members, namely:—

- (a) the Prime Minister as Chairperson;
- (b) the Minister in-charge of Forests and Wild Life as Vice-Chairperson;

Third statement is correct:

According to Section 33 (a) of the Act, approval of the Standing Committee of NBWL is mandatory for construction of commercial tourist lodges, hotels, zoos and safari parks.

33. Control of sanctuaries.—The Chief Wild Life Warden shall be the authority who shall control, manage and maintain all sanctuaries and for that purpose, within the limits of any sanctuary,—

(a) may construct such roads, bridges, buildings, fences or barrier gates, and carry out such other works as he may consider necessary for the purposes of such sanctuary:

³[Provided that no construction of commercial tourist lodges, hotels, zoos and safari parks shall be undertaken inside a sanctuary except with the prior approval of the National Board.]

Q42. Consider the following Pairs.

Community/tribes in news	Are found in
1. Maldharis	Bhitarkanika National Park
2. Baiga communities	Kanha Tiger Reserve
3. Mishing Tribal communities	Orange National Park

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:

The Maldharis, a pastoral community, have been living in the Banni grasslands of Kutch for centuries and have enjoyed customary grazing rights over the land.

Maldharis, a traditional pastoral people found in and around the Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, might end up being uprooted from their homes, if the Project Lion proposal takes shape, a *Down To Earth* (DTE) investigation has shown.

Bhitarkanika is in Odisha. **So, first Statement is incorrect.**

Baiga and Gond communities are from central India. And Kanha is in Madhya Pradesh. So, this option is correct.

Mishing is the Tribal Community of Assam. Orange National park is in Assam. So, it is also correct.

So, in this way you will reach answer for such questions.

Q43. Consider the following statements regarding Rudram Anti-Radiation Missile.

1. It is first indigenous anti-radiation missile of the country developed by DRDO.
2. Currently, the IAF uses US-origin Kh-31 R anti-radiation missiles.
3. India has become second country after US to induct anti radiation missiles in their armmourey.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully flight tested indigenously developed Anti-Radiation Missile (Rudram-1).



The **long-range air-launched missile was launched from Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft.** Anti-radiation missiles are meant to debilitate enemy air defence systems, by taking out radars, communication sites, and other radio frequency emitting targets, thereby foiling any plans to launch surface-to-air missiles.

The reason RUDRAM was tested off a Su-30 is because the jets constitute the largest fighter fleet in the IAF and have a carrying capacity second only to the newly-inducted Rafales'. **Currently, the IAF uses Russian-origin Kh-31 R anti-radiation missiles**, which are deployed with Su-30s too. **Second statement is incorrect.**

RUDRAM is **the first indigenous anti-radiation missile of the country** and has the capability of varying ranges based on launch conditions.

It has **INS-GPS navigation as well as a Passive Homing Head** for the final attack. The Passive Homing Head can detect, classify and engage targets over a wide band of frequencies as programmed.

What is an anti-radiation missile?

An anti-radiation missile can take out **designated targets that emit radio frequency, including radars and jammers.**

- a. An anti-radiation missile homes in on to the target radar and heads towards it, **hits it, and destroys the enemy's ability to launch a surface-to-air missile.**
- b. The missile is fed with various types of frequencies and relevant electronic information gathered from surveillance missions.
- c. Signals intelligence operations are carried out, during peacetime as well as wartime, with the help of special aircraft and aerial platforms, to detect different sources of transmission and their location.
- d. The data captured is then subject to a detailed analysis to identify and classify the type of equipment that has been located.
- e. **This data is then fed into the anti-radiation missiles** and leads it to the designated radiating target.
- f. Being a passive seeker (missile is not radiating on its own to pick up the target at any stage) and launched from long stand-off ranges of 100-150 kilometres, **it does not warn the enemy of the intended threat.**

In accomplishing the significant landmark, **India joined the likes of the United States, Russia, Brazil, China, United Kingdom and Iran** who all boast indigenous ARM missiles in their armory. **Third Statement is incorrect.**

You don't need more than this.

Q44. Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) is for:

- a. specific response to the unprecedented situation of farm losses in the country caused by the COVID-19 pandemic
- b. to aid Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises sector in view of the economic distress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic
- c. To aid neighbouring countries to help them to come out of distress during COVID Pandemic

- d. To increase credit facilities of Banks to finance infrastructure projects

Solution: b

Explanation:

The **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)** was unveiled as part of the **Rs 20 lakh crore comprehensive package** announced by Finance Ministry on 13/05/2020, to aid **Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** sector in view of the economic distress caused by the **COVID-19 pandemic**. The key highlights of the scheme are as follows:

Name of the Facility ✓	Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL)
Facility Type	Fund Based- Working Capital Term Loan ✓
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ All Business Enterprises /MSME borrower accounts with combined outstanding loans of up to Rs. 25 crore as on 29.2.2020, and annual turnover of up to Rs. 100 crore for FY 2019-20 are eligible for the Scheme. □ Total Outstanding Amount would comprise of the on-balance sheet exposure. Off-balance sheet and non-fund-based exposures will be excluded. □ Loans provided to Business Enterprises / MSMEs constituted as Proprietorship, Partnership, registered company, trusts and Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) shall be eligible under the Scheme. □ Business Enterprises / MSMEs would include loans covered under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana extended on or before 29.2.2020, and reported on the MUDRA portal. □ Loans provided in individual capacity are not covered under the Scheme. □ The Scheme is valid for existing customers on the books of the MLIs. □ Borrower accounts should be less than or equal to 60 days past due as on 29th February, 2020 in order to be eligible under the Scheme. Borrower accounts which had NPA or SMA-2 status, as on 29.02.2020 shall not be eligible under the Scheme. □ Business Enterprises / MSME borrower must be GST registered in all cases where such registration is mandatory. This condition will not apply to Business Enterprises / MSMEs that are not required to obtain GST registration □ To be eligible under the Scheme it is not necessary that the existing loans of the borrowers should be covered under the ECLGS of NCGTC.

Q45. Which of the following Seas form border with Turkey?

1. Mediterranean Sea
2. Black Sea
3. Adriatic Sea
4. Persian Gulf
5. Aegean Sea

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:





Q46. In context of Indian history, who among the following represents **Future Buddha**?

- a. Shakyamuni
- b. Rishabhdeva
- c. Maitreya
- d. Dipankara

Solution: c

Explanation:



According to Buddhist tradition, there were 24 past Buddhas before Buddha. Out of these 24 Buddhas first one is called as Dipankara.

Shakyamuni was another name of Gautama Buddha, also considered Buddha of the Present. Rishabhdeva was first Tirthankara of Jainism.

Maitreya is future Buddha to be born as last Buddha. Hence, option (c) correct.

Q47. Consider the following statements.

1. Minor Forest Produce (MFP) is defined by Indian Forest Act 1927.
2. Panchayat Raj (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act of 1996 endows power over ownership of minor forest produce to the Gram Sabha.

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: b

Explanation:

You have to learn first basics and factual of some important topics, then only you can go for advanced level of questions. So, keep following us regularly. Do OPT FOR [Test Series](#), if you are following us regularly. **It will be a complete preparation for Prelims.**

Section 2(4) of the Indian Forest Act 1927 defines only "forest-produce" and this term connotes to those products whether found in or brought from a forest.

Minor Forest Produce (MFP) is a subset of forest produce and **got a definition only in 2007 when the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006**. Therefore, first statement is wrong.

Section 2(i) of the said Act defines a Minor Forest Produce (MFP) as all non-timber forest produce of plant origin and includes bamboo, brushwood, stumps, canes, Tusser, cocoon, honey, waxes, Lac, tendu/kendu leaves, medicinal plants and herbs, roots, tuber and the like.

~~(i)~~ "minor forest produce" includes all non-timber forest produce of plant origin including bamboo, brush wood, stumps, cane, tussar, cocoons, honey, wax, lac, tendu or kendu leaves, medicinal plants and herbs, roots, tubers and the like;

PESA endows power over ownership of minor forest produce to the Gram Sabha.

~~(m)~~ while endowing Panchayats in the Scheduled Areas with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government, a State Legislature shall ensure that the Panchayats at the appropriate level and the Gram Sabha are endowed specifically with-

(i) the power to enforce prohibition or to regulate or restrict the sale and consumption of any intoxicant;

~~(ii)~~ the ownership of minor forest produce;

(iii) the power to prevent alienation of land in the Scheduled Areas and to take appropriate action to restore any unlawfully alienated land of a Scheduled Tribe;

(iv) the power to manage village markets by whatever name called;

(v) the power to exercise control over money lending to the Scheduled Tribes;

(vi) the power to exercise control over institutions and functionaries in all social sectors;

(vii) the power to control over local plans and resources for such plans including tribal sub-plans;

Q48. With reference to the Private member's bill, consider the following statements:

1. It can only be introduced in the House by members other than members of ruling government.
2. Private Member Bills can be a Constitutional Amendment Bill.
3. No Private Member Bill has been passed till date by Parliament.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. None of these

Solution: b

Explanation:

A Member of Parliament (MP) who is not a Minister in the Union Cabinet is called a Private Member. Bills introduced by such members are called Private Member's Bills. **So, private member bill can be from ruling party also. First statement is incorrect.**

The scope of a Private Member Bill (PMB) is same as that of a Government Bill. **These bills can deal with any issue and can also be a Constitutional Amendment Bill. Second statement is correct.**

A PMB can be introduced in either the Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha.

14 private member bills out of thousands became laws since 1952. Therefore, statement 3 is wrong. See below:

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS PASSED BY PARLIAMENT			
Title	MP's Name	House	Date of Assent
1 The Muslim Wakfs Bill, 1952	Syed Mohammed Ahmed Kasmi	Lok Sabha	21.05.1954
2 The Indian Registration (Amendment) Bill, 1955	S C Samanta	Lok Sabha	06.04.1956
3 The Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Bill, 1956	Feroze Gandhi	Lok Sabha	26.05.1956
4 The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1953	Raghunath Singh	Lok Sabha	01.09.1956
5 The Women's and Children's Institutions (Licensing) Bill, 1954	Kamledu Mati Shah	Lok Sabha	30.12.1956
6 The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1957	Subhadra Joshi	Lok Sabha	26.12.1960
7 The Salary and Allowances of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 1964	Raghunath Singh	Lok Sabha	29.09. 1964
8 The Hindu Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 1963	Diwan Chand Sharma	Lok Sabha	20.12.1964
9 The Supreme Court (Enlargement of Criminal Appellate Jurisdiction) Bill, 1968	Anand Narian Mullah	Lok Sabha	09.08.1970
10 The Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archeological Sites and Remains (Declaration of National Importance) Bill, 1954	Dr Raghunath Singh	Rajya Sabha	15.12.1956
11 The Hindu Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 1956	Dr Seeta Parmanand	Rajya Sabha	20.12.1956
12 The Orphanages and Other Charitable Homes (Supervision and Control) Bill, 1960	Kailash Bihari Lall	Rajya Sabha	09.04.1960
13 The Marine Insurance Bill, 1959	MP Bhargava	Rajya Sabha	18.04.1963
14 The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill, 1963	Diwan Chaman Lall	Rajya Sabha	07.09.1969

Q49. Consider the following pairs.

traditions	Belongs to
1. Lai Haraoba Festival	Arunachal Pradesh
2. Thang-Ta Martial Art	Sikkim
3. Chhakri folk music	Kashmir

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- 3 only

d. 1 and 2 only

Solution: c

Explanation:

traditions	Belongs to
Lai Haraoba Festival	Manipur
Thang-Ta Martial Art	Manipur
Chhakri folk music	Kashmir

Q50. Consider the following statements regarding **composition of GST Council**.

1. It is a Constitutional Body.
2. The Chairperson of Central Board of Indirect Excise and Customs (CBEC) is the ex-officio member of GST Council.
3. Secretary, Department of Expenditure, is the ex-officio secretary to the GST Council.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

In Prelims, they won't ask what all decisions have been taken in GST Council. They will ask this basic question.

GST Council is a constitutional body for making recommendations to the Union and State Government on issues related to Goods and Service Tax. Union Finance Minister is the chairman of GST Council.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Second Amendment) Bill, 2016, for introduction of Goods and Services tax in the country got assent by the President of India on 8th September 2016, and the same was notified as the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016.

As per Article 279A (1) of the amended Constitution, the GST Council has to be constituted by the President within 60 days of the commencement of Article 279A.

It is very important to observe composition carefully. You guys miss that. But don't worry. We won't let you.

The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 12th September, 2016 approved setting-up of GST Council and setting-up of its Secretariat. The Cabinet inter alia took decisions for the following:

- (a) Creation of the GST Council as per Article 279A of the amended Constitution;
- (b) Creation of the GST Council Secretariat, with its office at New Delhi;
- (c) Appointment of the Secretary (Revenue) as the Ex-officio Secretary to the GST Council;
- (d) Inclusion of the Chairperson, Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC), as a permanent invitee (non-voting) to all proceedings of the GST Council;

The Chairperson of Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) is a permanent invitee **with no voting rights. He is not a member of Council.**

Secretary, **Department of Revenue**, is the **ex-officio secretary to the GST Council.**

Q51. Consider the following statements regarding State Development Loans (SDLs)?

1. State Government issue and coordinates the actual process of selling these securities, there is no role of RBI.
2. Foreign Investment in SDL is allowed in India.
3. Higher the Fiscal strength of a state, the lesser the interest rate/yield that it has to pay on SDL.

Which of the above statements is are correct?

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

First Statement is incorrect.

State Development Loans (SDL) are debt issues by the state governments to fund their fiscal deficit. **The issue of SDLs is managed by the RBI.** It also takes up the responsibility of ensuring the SDLs are serviced by monitoring escrow accounts for payment of interest and principal.

d. State Development Loans (SDLs)

1.7 State Governments also raise loans from the market which are called SDLs. SDLs are dated securities issued through normal auction similar to the auctions conducted for dated securities issued by the Central Government (please see [question 3](#)). Interest is serviced at half-yearly intervals and the principal is repaid on the maturity date. Like dated securities issued by the Central Government, SDLs issued by the State Governments also qualify for SLR. They are also eligible as collaterals for borrowing through market repo as well as borrowing by eligible entities from the RBI under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) and special repo conducted under market repo by CCIL. State Governments have also issued special securities under "Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojna (UDAY) Scheme for Operational and Financial Turnaround of Power Distribution Companies (DISCOMs)" notified by Ministry of Power vide Office Memorandum (No 06/02/2015-NEF/FRP) dated November 20, 2015.

SDLs encourage the states to have a better fiscal strength, since the higher the Fiscal strength of a state, the lesser the interest rate/yield that it has to pay.

SDL offers two main advantages which encourage investors to invest in them and help the state governments to raise the required market borrowings to meet the budgetary requirements.

- a. Higher yield
- b. SDLs are similar to Central Government Securities, and do not have Credit risks.

Most of the investors of SDLs are Commercial banks, Insurance companies etc. who are looking for a higher yield on investment. **Since 2014, the government has also [allowed Foreign investments in SDLs](#). Second statement is correct.**

Third statement is correct.

SDLs encourage the states to have a better fiscal strength, **since the higher the Fiscal strength of a state, the lesser the interest rate/yield that it has to pay.**

Something more:

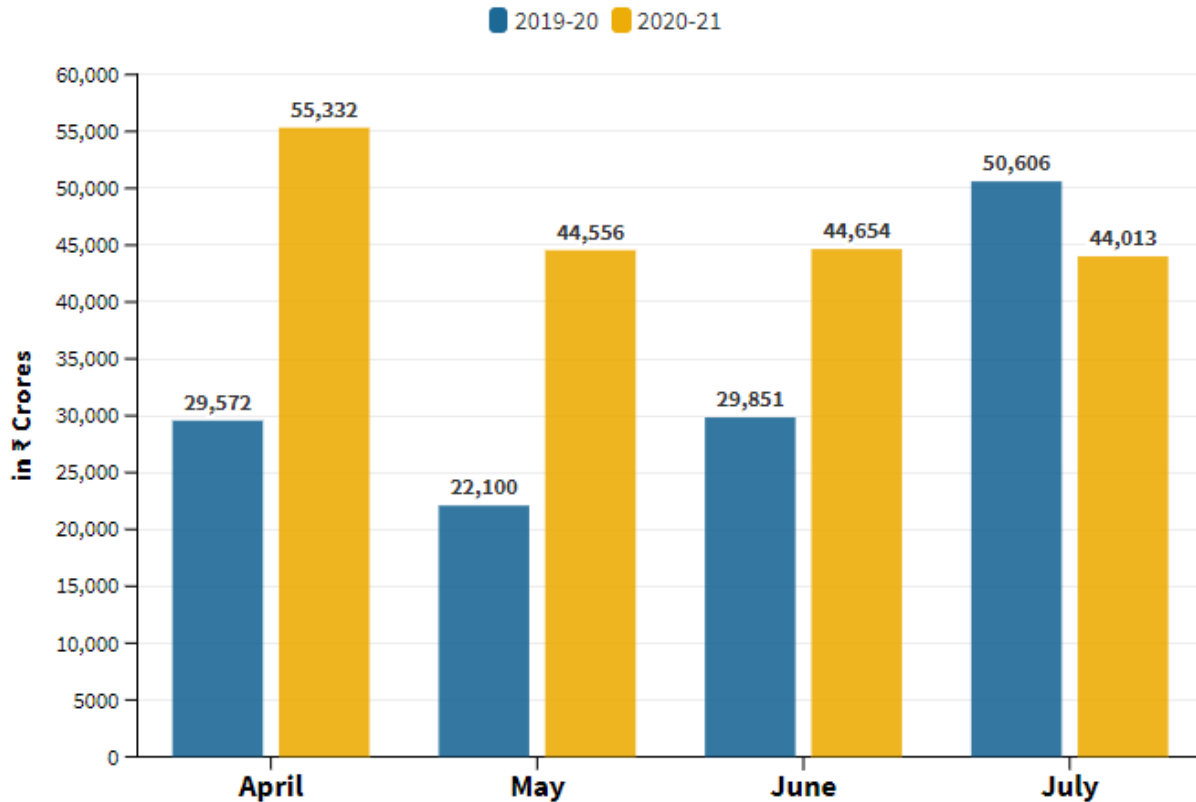
SDLs qualify as approved SLR (Statutory Liquidity Ratio) security under Section 24 of Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

The investment in State Government Stocks will be reckoned as an eligible investment in Government Securities by banks for the purpose of Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) under Section 24 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. The stocks will qualify for the ready forward facility.

Nearly 50 % increase in borrowings through SDLs in 2020-21 so far

There is a severe strain on the finances of the various state governments because of COVID-19. Trends of recent years suggest an increase in the preference of the states to go for SDLs. The need of the states for higher market borrowings is evident through the increase in funds raised through SDLs in the current financial year of 2020-21 (until the first week of August 2020), compared to the same period last year.

Amount raised through SDLs by State Governments April-July



Q52. The crop thrives well in areas with well distributed rainfall of 2,500 mm spread over vegetative growth period of the crop with no cloudiness. Temperatures below 15 degree Celsius and above 43 degree Celsius during growth are not suitable for this crop. It is mainly produced in the eastern region of India. MSP is provided for this crop. The crop is:

- Cotton
- Jute
- Oilseeds
- Sugarcane

Solution: b

Explanation:

In order to help the jute industry, the government on Thursday decided that 100% food grains and 20% sugar will be mandatorily packaged in jute bags.

About Crop:

It is one of the major industries in the eastern region, particularly in West Bengal.

Jute, the golden fibre, meets all the standards for 'safe' packaging in view of being a natural, renewable, biodegradable and eco-friendly product.

3.1 Climatic requirement for cultivation of Jute/Mesta:

Jute is a crop of humid tropical climates. It thrives well in areas with well distributed rainfall of 2,500 mm spread over vegetative growth period of the crop with no cloudiness. Locations with a mean rainfall of <1,000 mm, incessant rainfall and water logging are not suitable for its cultivation. For better growth, a mean maximum and minimum temperature of 34°C and 15°C and a mean relative humidity of 65% are required. Temperatures below 15°C and above 43°C during growth are not suitable for jute crop. *Corchorus olitorius* (Tossa jute) cannot withstand water logging, however, *C. capsularis* (White jute) can withstand water logging, but its fibre quality is impaired with prolonged water stagnation. At a temperature below 10°C, no germination occurs in both the species. *C. capsularis* can withstand higher temperature at germination (up to 32°C), while *C. olitorius* is sensitive to such high temperatures.

India is a leading jute goods producing country in the world, accounting for about 50% of estimated world production. Bulk of the manufactured jute goods is predominantly being used in packaging purposes in domestic market. The trend in production of jute goods from last few years and current year is given below: Production is declining.

(Quantity in thousand M.T.)

Period April-March	Hessian	Sacking	Carpet Backing Cloth	Others	TOTAL
2011-12	239.9	1165.1	3.6	173.8	1582.4
2012-13	210.0	1218.2	2.9	160.3	1591.3
2013-14	202.5	1150.4	3.3	171.5	1527.7
2014-15	211.3	901.8	3.0	151.2	1267.3
2015-16	196.5	891.9	0.0	128.9	1217.3
2016-17	178.6	871.6	0.0	92.3	1142.5
2017-18	175.3	910.3	0.0	101.5	1187.1
2018-19	147.6	912.3	2.0	99.5	1161.4
2019-20 (Estimated)	130.0	944.2	0.0	117.3	1191.5

Minimum Support Price for raw jute and mesta is fixed every year to protect the interest of farmers.

Link: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/govt-makes-packaging-of-food-grains-in-jute-bags-mandatory/article32972342.ece>

Q53. In the context of India, consider the following statements regarding Environment clearances of Development projects.

1. EIA comes under the provisions of **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.
2. The public hearing is a mandatory step in the process of environmental clearance of development projects.
3. State Pollution Control Board has been empowered to issue consent to establish unit if it is satisfied that the proposed unit will meet all the prescribed effluent and emissions standards.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

EIA comes under **Notification on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of developmental projects 1994** under the provisions of **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.

Besides EIA, the Government of India under **Environment (Protection) Act 1986** issued a number of other notifications, which are related to environmental impact assessment.

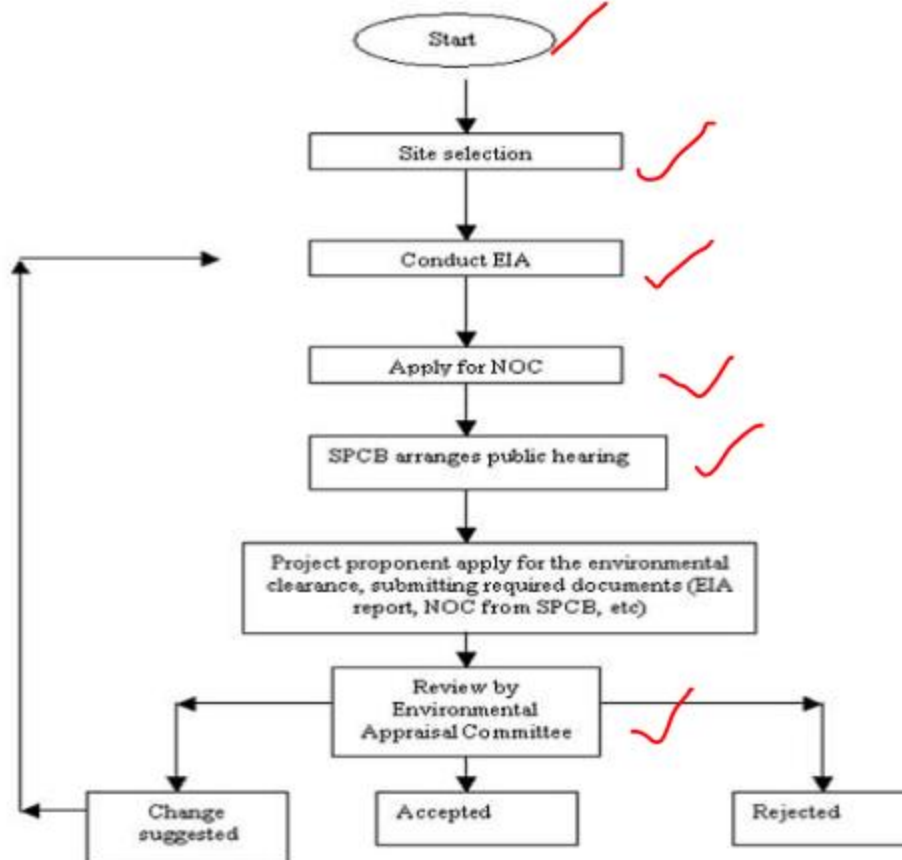
Now, you will read the entire process below: very important to know.

The process consists of following steps:

- a. Project proponent identifies the location of proposed plant after ensuring compliance with existing siting guidelines. If project site does not agree with the siting guideline, the proponent has to identify another alternative site for the project
- b. The project proponent then assesses if the proposed activity/project falls under the purview of environmental clearance. If it is mentioned in schedule of the notification, the proponent conducts an EIA study either directly or through a consultant. If the project falls in B category, the project goes to state government for clearance.

- c. After the EIA report is ready, the investor approaches the concerned State Pollution Control Board (SPCB).
- d. The SPCB evaluates and assesses the quantity and quality of effluents likely to be generated by the proposed unit as well as the efficacy of the control measures proposed by the investor to meet the prescribed standards.
- e. **If the SPCB is satisfied that the proposed unit will meet all the prescribed effluent and emissions standards, it issues consent to establish (popularly known as NOC), which is valid for 15 years.**
- f. **The public hearing is a mandatory step in the process of environmental clearance** for certain developmental projects. This provides a legal space for people of an area to come face-to-face with the project proponent and the government and express their concerns.
- g. The process of public hearing is conducted prior to the issue of NOC from SPCB. The District Collector is the chairperson of the public hearing committee.
- h. The hearing committee hears the objections/suggestions from the public and after inserting certain clauses it is passed on to the next stage of approval (Ministry of Forest and Environment).
- i. The project proponent submits an application for environmental clearance with the MoEF if it falls under Project A category or the state government if it falls under project B category. The application form is submitted with EIA report, EMP, details of public hearing and NOC granted by the state regulators.
- j. Environmental appraisal: The documents submitted by an investor are first scrutinised by a multi-disciplinary staff functioning in the Ministry of Environment and Forests who may also undertake site-visits wherever required, interact with the investors and hold consultations with experts on specific issues as and when necessary.
- k. After this preliminary scrutiny, the proposals are placed before specially constituted committees of experts whose composition is specified in the EIA Notification.

The process is summarised in Figure 2.1: Environmental clearance process in India.



Q54. 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.

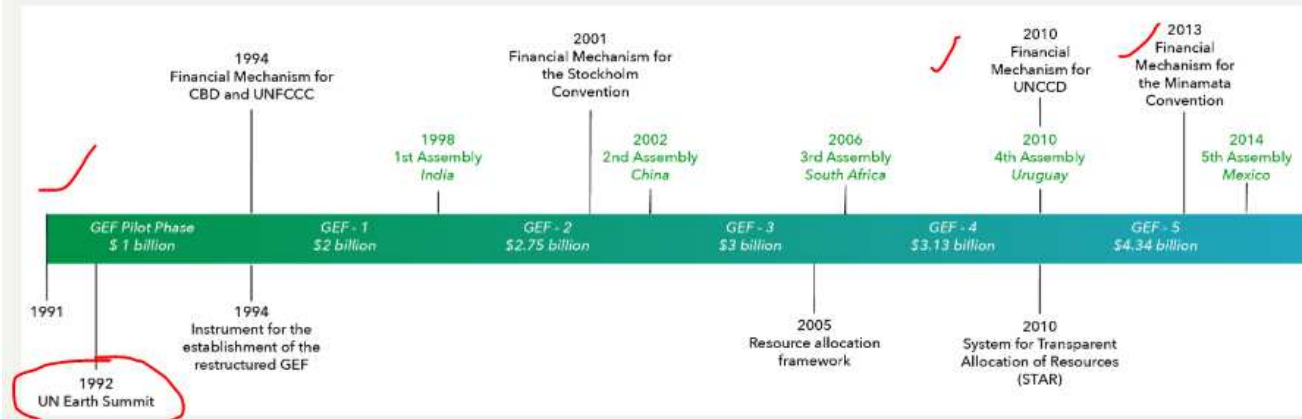
- a. 1, 2 and 3 only
- b. 2, 3 and 4 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 4

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.

Q55. Which of the following lakes is designated as Ramsar wetland sites in India?

1. Kabartal Wetland, Bihar.
2. Asan Conservation Reserve, Uttarakhand
3. Kolleru Lake, Andhra Pradesh
4. Rudrasagar Lake, Tripura

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

All above mentioned wetlands sites are correct.

Few new sites have been added recently. So, what you will do is go to his [link](#): Check all the sites and learn.

Q56. Consider the following.

1. South China Sea

2. Taiwan Strait
3. Yellow Sea

Arrange the above places from North to South.

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

Solution: c

Explanation:



Q57. The division of industries in different schedules in the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 was based on:

- a. Ownership and responsibility of development
- b. Size and investment
- c. Geographical location
- d. Core vs non-core industries

Solution: a

Explanation:

D. PUBLIC SECTOR POLICY

- ✓ 29. The public sector has been central to our philosophy of development. In the pursuit of our development objectives, public ownership and control in critical sectors of the economy has played an important role in preventing the concentration of economic power, reducing regional disparities and ensuring that planned development serves the common good.
- ✓ 30. The Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 gave the public sector a strategic role in the economy. Massive investments have been made over the past four decades to build a public sector which has a commanding role in the economy. Today key sectors of the economy are dominated by mature public enterprises that have successfully expanded production, opened up new areas of technology and built up a reserve of technical competence in a number of areas.

It was the first comprehensive statement on industrial development of India. The 1956 policy continued to constitute the basic economic policy for a long time.

According to this resolution the objective of the social and economic policy in India was the establishment of a socialistic pattern of society. It provided more powers to the governmental machinery. It laid down three categories of industries which were more sharply defined. These categories were:

Schedule A: those industries which were to be an exclusive responsibility of the state.

Schedule B: those which were to be progressively state-owned and in which the state would generally set up new enterprises, but in which private enterprise would be expected only to supplement the effort of the state; and

Schedule C: all the remaining industries and their future development would, in general be left to the initiative and enterprise of the private sector.

Although there was a category of industries left to the private sector (Schedule C above), the sector was kept under state control through a system of licenses.

Q58. 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. ⁵ [Power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and procedure therefor.]— ⁶ [(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.]

⁷[(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, ⁸[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 ^{1***} by resolutions to that effect passed by those Legislatures before the Bill making provision for such amendment is presented to the President for assent.

Q59. The concept of Special Category Status states emerged based on the

- Gadgil formula in 1969
- 8th Five Year Plan
- 14th Finance Commission
- Objective Resolutions presented by Jawahar Lal Nehru

Solution: a

Explanation:

Special category status - Historical background

The concept of a special category status was first introduced in 1969 when the fifth Finance Commission sought to provide certain disadvantaged states with preferential treatment in the form of central assistance and tax breaks, establishing special development boards, reservation in local government jobs, educational institutions, etc.

This formula was named after the then Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Dr Gadgil Mukherjee and is related to the transfer of assistance to the states by centre under various schemes.

Initially, three states; Assam, Nagaland and Jammu & Kashmir were granted special status but from 1974-1979, five more states were added under the special category. These include Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim and Tripura.

In 1990, with the addition of Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram, the states increased to 10. The state of Uttarakhand was given special category status in 2001.

But after the dissolution of the planning commission and the formation of NITI Aayog, the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission were implemented which meant the discontinuation of the Gadgil formula-based grants.

The 14th Finance Commission effectively removed the concept of special category status after its recommendations were accepted in 2015.

Q60. Consider the following statements:

- The Chief Election Commission has been given power by Constitution to fix the composition of Election Commission.
- President publishes the notification for the general election to the House of People.
- Election Commission is empowered to allot symbols to Political Parties under RPA Act, 1951.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 2 only

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

First Statement is wrong. President has been given power for that.

324. Superintendence, direction and control of elections to be vested in an Election Commission.—(1) The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to Parliament and to the Legislature of every State and of elections to the offices of President and Vice-President held under this Constitution ^{1***} shall be vested in a Commission (referred to in this Constitution as the Election Commission).

(2) The Election Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner and such number of other Election Commissioners, if any, as the President may from time to time fix and the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners shall, subject to the provisions of any law made in that behalf by Parliament, be made by the President.


Second Statement is correct.

14. Notification for general election to the House of the People.—(1) A general election shall be held for the purpose of constituting a new House of the People on the expiration of the duration of the existing House or on its dissolution.

(2) For the said purpose the President shall, by one or more notifications published in the Gazette of India on such date or dates as may be recommended by the Election Commission, call upon all parliamentary constituencies to elect members in accordance with the provisions of this Act and of the rules and orders made thereunder:

Third statement is wrong. Not RPA Act, 1951.

 **Under what authority does the EC decide such disputes?**

 The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 empowers the EC to recognise political parties and allot symbols. Under Paragraph 15 of the Order, it can decide disputes among rival groups or sections of a recognised political party staking claim to its name and symbol.

Q61. The La Niña weather phenomenon is back in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean after nearly a decade's absence, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said in its latest Global Seasonal update released October 29, 2020. Let us solve one Question on it.

1. Under La Niña conditions, winds blow the warm surface water of the Pacific Ocean from Indonesia to South America.
2. La Nina results in droughts in Peru and Ecuador and heavy floods in Australia.

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

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

Solution: d

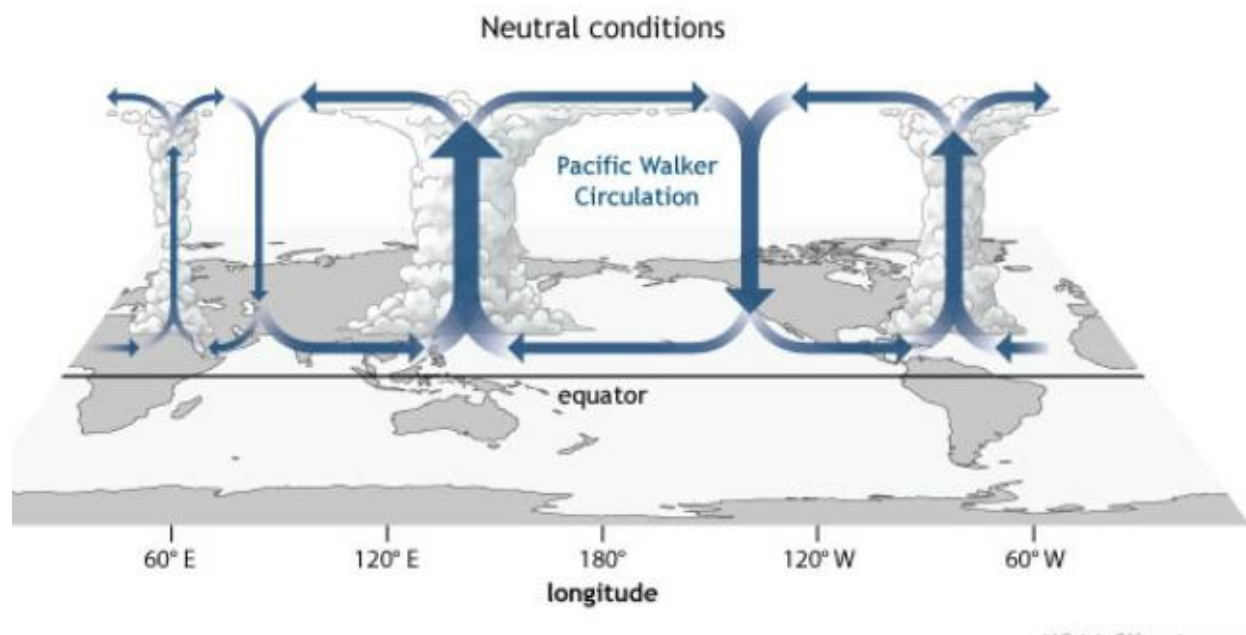
Explanation:

Even if you don't revise these topics for long, you should learn in the way, you never forget.

La Niña is one part of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) cycle, a complex phenomenon that takes place over the Pacific Ocean with wide-ranging ramifications for global weather. The other part of this cycle is El Niño, whose effects are the absolute opposite of La Niña's.

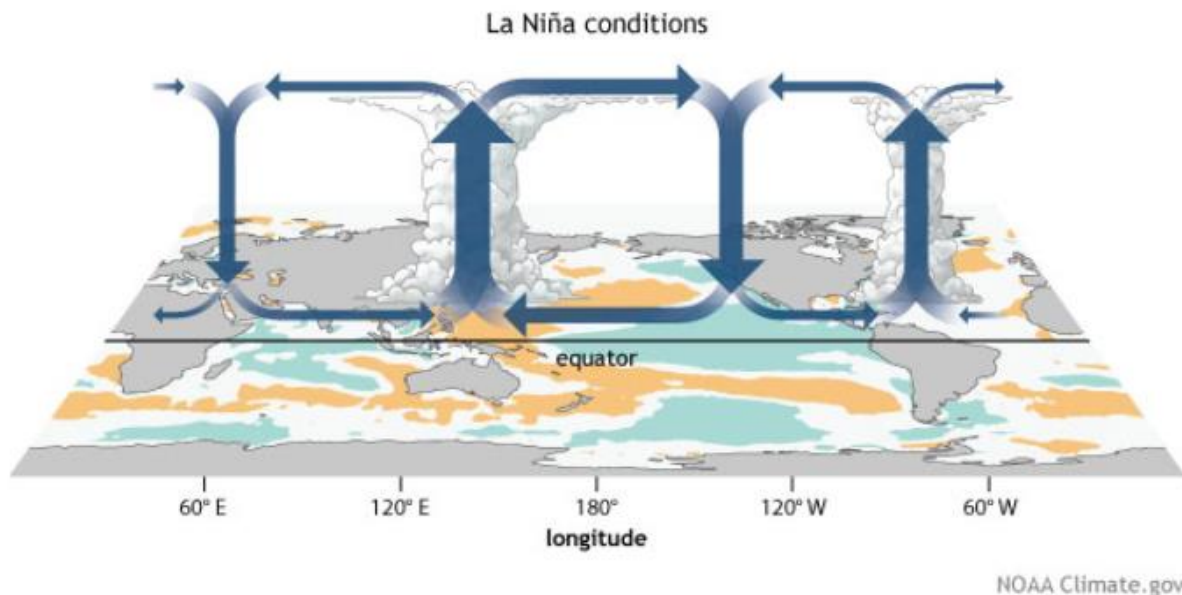
To understand how the two patterns, work, it helps to keep in mind the geography of the **Pacific Ocean, which is bordered by the Americas to its east, and Asia and Australia to the west.**

While La Niña is referred to as the cold phase of ENSO, El Niño is the warm phase of ENSO. Both La Niña and El Niño are deviations from the **normal surface temperatures** of the Pacific Ocean.



Under La Niña conditions, winds blow the warm surface water of the Pacific Ocean westwards on the ocean's surface from South America to Indonesia.

During La Niña, it's the opposite. The surface winds across the entire tropical Pacific are stronger than usual, and most of the tropical Pacific Ocean is cooler than average. Rainfall increases over Indonesia (where waters remain warm) and decreases over the central tropical Pacific (which is cool). Over Indonesia, there is more rising air motion and lower surface pressure. There is more sinking air motion over the cooler waters of the central and eastern Pacific.



As the warm water moves, the cold water rises to the surface, which causes water in the eastern Pacific to be colder than normal.

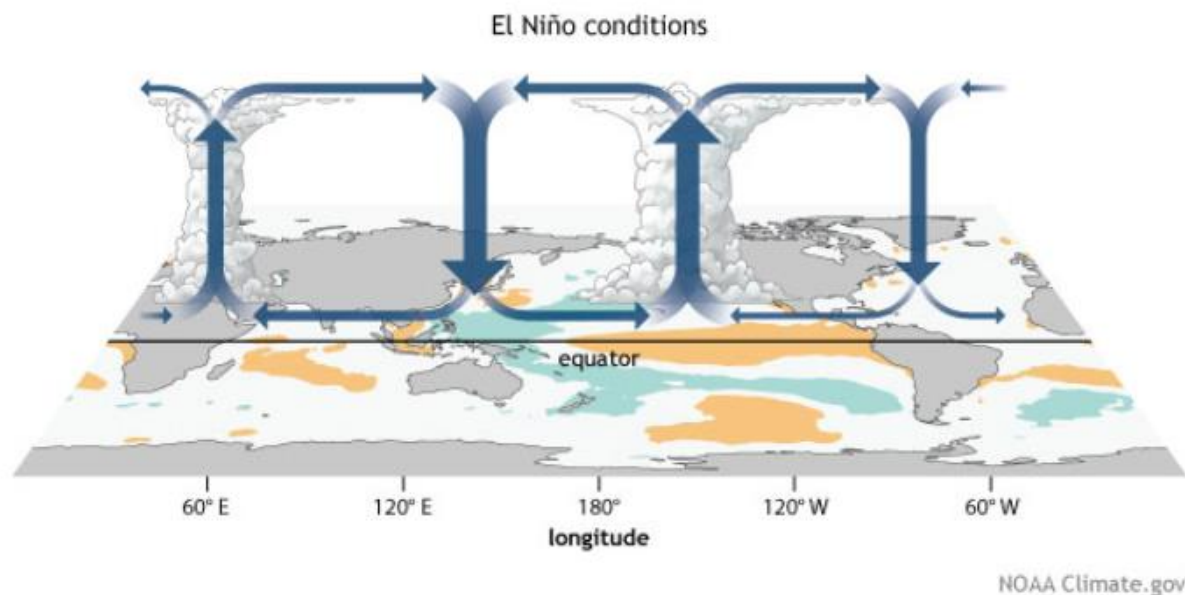
Climate-wise, in a La Niña year, winds blow much stronger during the winter, which makes the water near the equator a few degrees colder than normal. This change in the ocean's temperature impacts the weather across the world.

La Niña results in heavy or **better monsoon rains in India, droughts in Peru and Ecuador, heavy floods in Australia, and high temperatures in the Indian Ocean and Western Pacific.**

Also see El Niño:

During El Niño, the surface winds across the entire tropical Pacific are weaker than usual. Ocean temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean are warmer than average, and rainfall is below average over Indonesia and above average over the central or eastern Pacific.

Rising air motion (which is linked to storms and rainfall) increases over the central or eastern Pacific, and surface pressure there tends to be lower than average. Meanwhile, an increase in sinking air motion over Indonesia leads to higher surface pressure and dryness.



Link: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/climate-change/la-nina-is-back-what-does-that-mean-for-africa-asia-74021>

Q62. Consider the following statements.

1. An incorrect expenditure by a candidate beyond the ceiling can attract disqualification for up to three years under the provisions of The Representation of the People Act, 1951.
2. The election Commission is empowered to fix expenditure limit on political parties.
3. A poll expenditure allowed for MP is more than a candidate contesting for state Legislature.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

The Law Ministry has increased the ceiling on poll expenditure for Assembly and Lok Sabha elections by 10%.

NATIONAL

Govt. hikes poll expenditure ceiling by 10%



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 20, 2020 10:51 IST

UPDATED: OCTOBER 20, 2020 22:28 IST

First Statement is correct:

An incorrect account, or expenditure beyond the ceiling can attract disqualification for up to **three years under Section 10A of The Representation of the People Act, 1951.**

¹[10A. Disqualification for failure to lodge account of election expenses.—If the Election Commission is satisfied that a person—

- (a) has failed to lodge an account of election expenses within the time and in the manner required by or under this Act; and
- (b) has no good reason or justification for the failure,

the Election Commission shall, by order published in the Official Gazette, declare him to be disqualified and any such person shall be disqualified for a period of three years from the date of the order.

Second statement is incorrect:

The Election Commission of India imposes limits on campaign expenditure incurred by a candidate, but not by a political party. Decision has to be taken by the Government to fix ceiling on Political Party.

Our first question was, how many times has the ECI tried to push for a cap on the expenditure incurred by political parties during an election? The ECI said, "Information under this item is not available in any compiled form. However, efforts have been made to compile the same and this is to inform you that proposal for a ceiling of election expenditure was sent on 09-04-2013 to the Law Commission, a copy was endorsed to the Law Ministry."

Our second query linked to the first - If the EC had taken such a proposal/initiative what had been the outcome? In response, the ECI said, "The proposal is pending with the government." efforts have been made to compile the same and this is to inform you that proposal for a ceiling of election expenditure was sent on 09-04-2013 to the Law Commission, a copy was endorsed to the Law Ministry." Our second query linked to the first - If the EC had taken such a proposal/initiative what had been the outcome? In response, the ECI said, "The proposal is pending with the government."

This means that while the ECI tried at least five times to push for a ceiling on the expenditure of political parties, yet no action has been taken by the government on this issue over the last six years.

Third Statement is correct:

✓ The notification, issued late on Monday evening, will help candidates contesting the Bihar Assembly polls as well as those fighting bypolls to 59 Assembly seats across 11 States and one Lok Sabha seat.

The ceiling on poll expenditure varies across States, with candidates in Assembly elections in bigger States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu now allowed to spend up to ₹30.8 lakhs as against ₹28 lakhs earlier.

For a candidate contesting a Lok Sabha poll in these States, the revised ceiling on poll expenditure is now ₹77 lakhs instead of the earlier amount of ₹70 lakhs.

Q63. Consider the following statements regarding FDI inflows into India.

1. Service Sector acquires highest FDI equity inflows into India.
2. The share of US is highest among countries' FDI equity inflows into India.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

Go to original website and find answer always. We are doing this for you. So, you just need to solve regularly.

D. SHARE OF TOP INVESTING COUNTRIES FDI EQUITY INFLOWS (Financial years):

Amount in Rupees Crores (in US\$ Million)						
Rank s	Country	2018-19 (April – March)	2019-20 (April – March)	2020-21 (April – June)	Cumulative Inflows (April, 00 – June, 20)	%age to total Inflows (in terms of US \$)
1.	MAURITIUS ✓	57,139 (8,084)	57,785 (8,241)	6,825 (900)	802,766 (143,610)	30%
2.	SINGAPORE ✓	112,362 (16,228)	103,615 (14,671)	13,847 (1,824)	623,409 (99,494)	21%
3.	NETHERLANDS	27,036 (3,870)	46,071 (6,500)	8,224 (1,085)	216,546 (34,937)	7%
4.	JAPAN	20,556 (2,965)	22,774 (3,226)	3,131 (412)	199,236 (33,911)	7%
5.	U.S.A. ✓	22,335 (3,139)	29,850 (4,223)	4,879 (642)	181,101 (30,421)	6%

E. SECTORS ATTRACTING HIGHEST FDI EQUITY INFLOWS:

Amount in Rs. Crores (in US\$ Million)

Ranks	Sector	2018-19 (April – March)	2019-20 (April – March)	2020-21 (April – June)	Cumulative Inflows (April, 00 - June, 20)	% age to total Inflows (in terms of US\$)
1.	SERVICES SECTOR **	63,909 (9,158)	55,429 (7,854)	8,699 (1,147)	480,429 (83,150)	17%
2.	COMPUTER SOFTWARE & HARDWARE	45,297 (6,415)	54,250 (7,673)	8,082 (1,065)	284,088 (45,976)	10%
3.	TELECOMMUNICATIONS	18,337 (2,668)	30,940 (4,445)	12 (2)	219,201 (37,273)	8%
4.	TRADING	30,963 (4,462)	32,406 (4,574)	3,235 (426)	179,240 (28,020)	6%
5.	CONSTRUCTION DEVELOPMENT: Townships, housing, built-up infrastructure and construction- development projects	1,503 (213)	4,350 (617)	217 (29)	124,181 (25,691)	5%

Q64. Consider the following statements regarding NISAR Mission.

1. It is a NASA-ISRO mission to study steroids.
2. It is the first satellite mission to collect radar data in two microwave bandwidth regions, called the L-band and the S-band.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

ISRO-NASA satellite NISAR expected to be launched by 2022

India and US have also decided to share Space Situational Awareness information, which will catalyse efforts to create the conditions for a safe and sustainable space environment.

PTI 28 October, 2020 10:56 am IST

The **NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) Mission** will measure Earth's changing ecosystems, dynamic surfaces, and ice masses providing information about biomass, natural hazards, sea level rise, and groundwater, and will support a host of other applications.

NISAR is the first satellite mission to collect radar data in two microwave bandwidth regions, called the L-band and the S-band, to measure changes in our planet's surface less than a centimeter across. This allows the mission to observe a wide range of Earth processes, from the flow rates of glaciers and ice sheets to the dynamics of earthquakes and volcanoes.

NISAR uses a sophisticated information-processing technique known as synthetic aperture radar (SAR) to produce extremely high-resolution images. Radar penetrates clouds and darkness, enabling NISAR to collect data day and night in any weather

~~✓~~ Synthetic aperture radar (SAR) refers to a technique for producing fine-resolution images from a resolution-limited radar system. It requires that the radar be moving in a straight line, either on an airplane or, as in the case of NISAR, orbiting in space.

The basic principle of any imaging radar is to emit an electromagnetic signal (which travels at the speed of light) toward a surface and record the amount of signal that bounces/echoes back, or "backscatters," and its time delay. The resulting radar imagery is built up from the strength and time delay of the returned signal, which depends primarily on the roughness and electrical conducting properties of the observed surface and its distance from the orbiting radar.

Link: <https://nisar.jpl.nasa.gov/mission/quick-facts/>

Q65. Consider the following.

1. Strait of Hormuz
2. Gulf of Aqaba
3. Gulf of Aden
4. Gulf of Oman

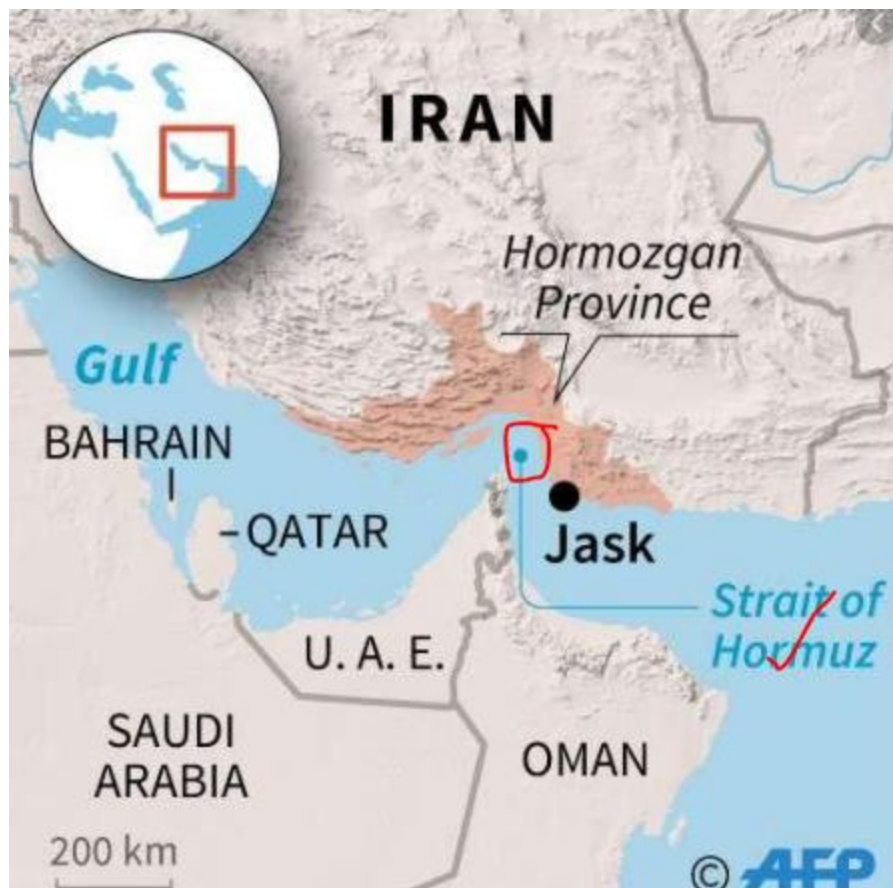
Saudi Arabia forms border with:

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

Solution: d

Explanation:







Q66. Consider the following statements.

1. There are no WTO definitions of “developed” and “developing” countries.
2. Decision at WTO is taken on the basis of consensus where, the implication is that effectively every member has veto power.

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:

Basically, there are 3 types of countries in WTO,

- a. developed countries,
- b. developing countries and

c. the least developed countries

There are no WTO definitions of “developed” and “developing” countries (very important for prelims).

There are no WTO definitions of “developed” or “developing” countries. Developing countries in the WTO are designated on the basis of self-selection although this is not necessarily automatically accepted in all WTO bodies.

So,

the next question now is how we categorize which country to fall in which basket (developed, developing or least developed countries). Don’t worry we will explain you.

It’s very simple. The countries themselves categorizes in which basket they fall. For example, if country A says that I am developing country. WTO will say OK FINE, you are now a part of developing countries. But problem comes when any country challenges his decision (here country A decision to join developing country can be challenged).

Now, we will see second statement.

The WTO is run by its member governments. All major decisions are made by the membership as a whole, either by ministers or by their ambassadors or delegates. Decisions are normally taken by consensus. According to website of the WTO, **it is a member driven, consensus-based organizations.**

Hence, the working of WTO is different from some other international organizations such as World Bank and IMF.

In WTO, power is not delegated to Board of Directors or Organization’s head.

The topmost decision-making body of the WTO **is the Ministerial Conference**, which usually meets every two years.

It brings together all members of the WTO, all of which are countries or customs unions. The Ministerial Conference can take decisions on all matters under any of the multilateral trade agreements.

Q67. Consider the following statements.

1. Currently, there is no law in India to prevent damage and protect public property.
2. Indian Constitution also mentions to protect Public Property under DPSP.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

d. Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: D

Explanation:

There is a law. Just no one is following. It punishes anyone “who commits mischief by doing any act in respect of any public property” with a jail term of up to five years and a fine or both.

Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, 1984

(Act 3 of 1984, 16th March, 1984)

An Act to provide for prevention of damage to public property and for matters connected therewith.

Be it enacted by Parliament in the Thirty-fifth Year of the Republic of India as follows :-

1. Short title, extent and commencement. –
 1. This Act may be called the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, 1984.
 2. It extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir .
 3. It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 28th day of January, 1984.

Constitution has provision to protect Public Property. **Read Fundamental Duties. NOT DPSP.**

1. To abide by the Indian Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem.
2. To cherish and follow the noble ideals of the freedom struggle.
3. To uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India.
4. To defend the country and render national service when required.
5. To promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities, to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women.
6. To value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture.
7. To protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wild life, and to have compassion for living creatures.
8. To develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform.
9. To safeguard public property and to abjure violence.
10. To strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement.
11. Who is a parent or guardian to provide opportunities for education to his child or ward, as the case may be, between the age of six and fourteen years.

Q68. Consider the following macro-economic tools:

1. Capital Expenditure
2. Monetary Policy
3. Fiscal Policy
4. Revenue Expenditure

An **income guarantee scheme** for the citizens through a **direct transfer of money** to their bank accounts is an example of which of the above macroeconomic measures?

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

Solution: a

Explanations:

Any income guarantee scheme like, **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (giving 6000 Rs every year to farmers)** or **Universal Basic Income** is an example of the **fiscal policy**.

This is because it is a subsidy (a transfer payment from the government to its people) and **such government expenditures are part of fiscal policy**.

Revenue expenditure is an expenditure incurred by the Government on its departments, various services, interest on debt, subsidies, etc. Broadly speaking, expenditure that does not result in creation of assets is treated as revenue expenditure. **As it is a form of subsidy it forms part of revenue expenditures.**

The income guarantee scheme does not come under capital expenditure as it does not create any assets immediately.

Monetary policy refers to **control and regulation of money supply. It is primarily the job of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).**

Q69. With reference to the President of India, consider the following statements:

1. No demand for a grant can be made except on the recommendation of the President.
2. The advice tendered by the Supreme Court on any question of law or fact is binding on 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: a

Explanation:

The financial powers and functions of the President are:

- a. Money Bills can be introduced in the Parliament only with his prior recommendation.
- b. He causes to be laid before the Parliament the annual financial statement (i.e., the Union Budget).
- c. He can make advances out of the contingency fund of India to meet any unforeseen expenditure.
- d. He constitutes a Finance Commission every five years to recommend the distribution of revenues between the Centre and the states.
- e. No demand for a grant can be made except on his recommendation.**

113. Procedure in Parliament with respect to estimates.—(1) So much of the estimates as relates to expenditure charged upon the Consolidated Fund of India shall not be submitted to the vote of Parliament, but nothing in this clause shall be construed as preventing the discussion in either House of Parliament of any of those estimates.

(2) So much of the said estimates as relates to other expenditure shall be submitted in the form of demands for grants to the House of the People, and the House of the People shall have power to assent, or to refuse to assent, to any demand, or to assent to any demand subject to a reduction of the amount specified therein.

(3) No demand for a grant shall be made except on the recommendation of the President.

The judicial powers and functions of the President are:

- a. He appoints the Chief Justice and the judges of Supreme Court and High Courts.
- b. **He can seek advice from the Supreme Court on any question of law or fact.**
However, the advice tendered by the **Supreme Court is not binding on the President.**

143. Power of President to consult Supreme Court.—(1) If at any time it appears to the President that a question of law or fact has arisen, or is likely to arise, which is of such a nature and of such public importance that it is expedient to obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court upon it, he may refer the question to that Court for consideration and the Court may, after such hearing as it thinks fit, report to the President its opinion thereon.

Q70. The Eastern and the Western Ghats meet at:

- a. Shevroy Hills
- b. Seshachalam Hills
- c. Sathyamangalam Hills
- d. Nilgiri Hills

Solution: d

Explanation:

The Eastern Ghats are a discontinuous range of mountains along India's eastern coast whereas Western Ghats also known as Sahyadri is a mountain range that runs parallel to the western coast of the Indian peninsula.

