

MCQ 01.08.2020 TO 31.08.2020

1. **Consider the following statements about the Index of Eight Core Industries.**

1. It is a production volume index released by the Central Statistical Organisation.
2. The eight core industries comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- The monthly Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) is a **production volume index**.
- The objective of the ICI is to provide an advance indication on production performance of industries of 'core' nature before the release of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) by the Central Statistics Office.
- These industries are likely to impact on general economic activities as well as industrial activities.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Eight Core Industries- **Electricity, steel, refinery products, crude oil, coal, cement, natural gas and fertilizers**- comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- **Industry Weight (In percentage)**
 - Petroleum & Refinery production - 28.04
 - Electricity generation - 19.85
 - Steel production - 17.92
 - Coal production - 10.33
 - Crude Oil production - 8.98
 - Natural Gas production - 6.88
 - Cement production - 5.37

- Fertilizers production - 2.63
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** ICI is released by the **Office of Economic Advisor**, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industries. The base year of the ICI is **2011-12**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/eight-core-industries-output-shrinks-by-15-in-june-2020/article32240448.ece>

2. **Consider the following statements.**

1. At present, 100 per cent FDI is allowed through the automatic route in coal mining and related activities.
2. The Central government recently announced that it would allow commercial mining in the coal sector without any end-use restrictions.
3. Till recently, India imported coal to meet the shortages of domestic supply, but now India is self-sufficient in coal production.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Despite India having the **world's fourth largest coal reserve** and being the **second largest producer**, the country was the **second largest coal importer**. The sector had been kept out of competition and devoid of transparency, hampering investment and efficiency.
- As a part of the announcements under the **Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**, the Central government recently announced that it would allow commercial mining in the coal sector.

What is commercial mining?

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Commercial mining **allows the private sector** to mine coal commercially on a **revenue-sharing model without placing any end-use restrictions**.

- *A revenue sharing mechanism instead of the earlier fixed price per tonne will introduce competition, transparency and private sector participation in the market.*
- The private firms have the option of either gasification of the coal or exporting it. They can also use it in their own end-use plants or sell them in the markets.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** Last year, the government approved 100 per cent FDI through the automatic route in coal mining and related activities.
- With 100 per cent foreign direct investment allowed in the coal sector, global companies can also participate in the auctions.
- The complete freedom to decide on sale, pricing, and captive utilisation is expected to attract many private sector firms to participate in the auction process.
- The government expects these steps will generate employment and reduce India's import bill.

Was the private sector never allowed in mining?

- Private sector participation was permitted until the early 1970s. The Indira Gandhi government announced the **nationalisation of the coal blocks** in two phases **between 1971 and 1973**.
- The recently announced reforms will effectively **end state-owned Coal India Ltd (CIL)'s monopoly** over mining and selling of coal.

Is this the first attempt by govt to open up the sector?

- After the Supreme Court cancelled the coal block allocations made to the private sector in 2014, the central government had brought in the Coal Mines (Special provisions) Act of 2015 to return these coal blocks to the private sector through auctions.
- But there had been **end-use restrictions** and the private sector was **not allowed to trade into the market** making it unattractive for the private sector.
- Further in 2018, private sector firms were allowed to **sell upto 25 per cent of the output** in the market, but this also saw a lukewarm response from the private sector.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1642606>

3. Which of the following factors are contributions of Bal Gangadhar Tilak?

1. He founded the Deccan Education Society which was aimed at educating the masses through the English language.
2. Tilak owned and edited two weekly newspapers — Kesari and The Mahratta.
3. He also established the Indian Independence League.

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Bal Gangadhar Tilak was considered the **first popular leader of the freedom movement**.
- He was **born on 23 July 1856 in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra**.
- A nationalist to the core, he was a **great scholar, mathematician and a philosopher**.
- He was conferred upon the title, “**Lokmanya**” (beloved leader) by his followers.
- **Mahatma Gandhi** called him “**The maker of modern India**” while **Jawaharlal Nehru** described Tilak as “**The father of the Indian revolution**”.

Works and contributions to freedom movement

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Tilak founded the **Deccan Education Society (1884)**, aimed at educating the masses through the **English language**, which he considered as a **conveyor of liberal and democratic ideals**.
- Tilak popularised Maratha icon Shivaji and organised the **first Shivaji festival in 1886**.
- In **1883** Tilak organised “**Ganesh Utsav**” that mobilized people from different castes and communities to spread nationalism.
- Despite being perennially against early marriage, he **opposed the 1891 Age of Consent Bill** which proposed to raise the minimum age for a girl to get married from 10 to 12 years. Tilak saw the bill as interfering with Hinduism.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Political career

- Tilak **joined the Indian National Congress in 1890** and opposed the moderate nationalists within the party.
- Following the **partition of Bengal in 1905**, Tilak supported the **Swadeshi movement** and said that once British goods were boycotted, there will be a gap which will be filled by the Indian goods.
- Tilak **quit the Congress in the 1907 Surat Session** along with other extremist nationalists due to his differences with moderates.
- He founded the **Indian Home Rule League in 1914**, setting the stage for the freedom movement.
- He gave the slogan of **“Swaraj is my birthright and I will have it”**.
- Tilak also concluded the **“Lucknow Pact” with Mohammed Ali Jinnah** which helped create a “Hindu-Muslim” unity during the Khilafat movement (1919) and the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920).
- Tilak died of pneumonia on 1 August, 1920 in Mumbai.

Books and Magazines

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Tilak **owned and edited two weekly newspapers — Kesari (Marathi) and The Mahratta (English)**.
- The papers criticized many aspects of British rule and called for a rejuvenation of India's national life.
- Tilak's editorial in Kesari titled **“The misfortune of the country”** in 1908 slammed the brutal bureaucracy under the British rule, leading to his imprisonment.
- He was sent to jail in Mandalay, Myanmar, from 1908 to 1914 where he wrote an original commentary on the Bhagavadgita, **Bhagawadgita-Rahasya** (Secret of the Bhagavadgita) or **Gita Rahasya in Marathi**.
- In 1893, he published **The Orion**; or, **Researches into the Antiquity of the Vedas**, and, in 1903, **The Arctic Home in the Vedas**.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Indian Independence League was founded by **Rash Behari Bose**.
<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1642776>

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

4. With reference to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), consider the following statements.

1. It is the National Standard Body of India.
2. It works under the aegis of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the **National Standard Body of India** established under the BIS Act 2016.
- BIS is responsible for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, marking and quality certification of goods.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** BIS works under the aegis of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1642820>

5. Consider the following statements about the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

1. It was launched to provide connectivity to unconnected habitations of designated population size.
2. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways along with state governments is responsible for the implementation of PMGSY.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), was launched in 2000 to provide connectivity to unconnected habitations of designated population size (500+ in plain areas and 250+ in North-East, hill, tribal and desert areas as per Census, 2001).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The **Ministry of Rural Development** along with state governments is responsible for the implementation of PMGSY.
- In 2015, under the recommendation of the 14th finance commission, the funding pattern was changed.
- **Current funding pattern:** In ratio of 60:40 between Centre and State for all States except for 8 North Eastern and 3 Himalayan States (Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu & Kashmir) for which it is 90:10.

Related information:

- **Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism affected Areas:** Government launched Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism affected Areas in the year 2016 as a separate vertical **under PMGSY** to provide all-weather road connectivity with necessary culverts and cross-drainage structures in 44 districts (35 are worst LWE affected districts and 09 are adjoining districts), which are critical from security and communication point of view.
- **Meri Sadak mobile app:** It was launched to enable citizens to register complaints regarding the quality and pace of construction of PMGSY roads.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1642578>

6. With reference to the Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS), consider the following statements.
1. The objective of the scheme is to mobilise gold and further facilitate its use for productive purposes.
 2. One can deposit a minimum 30 grams of raw gold under the scheme in the form of bars, coins, jewellery excluding stones and other metals.

3. Importing huge amounts of gold leads to depreciation of Indian Rupee.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Gold Monetisation Scheme (GMS) was launched by the Government of India in 2015. The main aim of this scheme is to turn the unused gold which is lying idle at our households or institutions into a productive asset.
- The scheme would also reduce India's dependability on gold imports. Importing huge amounts of gold using foreign exchange reserves depreciates the value of the rupee. This in turn makes key imports like crude oil more costly. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The depositors can deposit a **minimum of 30 gms** of raw gold in the form of bars, coins, jewellery. There is **no cap** on the maximum amount of gold that can be deposited.
- The deposits under GMS are held by banks on behalf of the Centre, who also decides the interest rate.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/as-gold-imports-take-a-hit-industry-looks-for-ways-to-make-deposit-schemes-attractive/articleshow/77323854.cms>

7. Which of the following aims to protect the growers of their commodities from making distress sale in the event of a bumper crop?

- A. Minimum Support Price
- B. Market Intervention Scheme
- C. Price Stabilisation Fund
- D. Minimum Export Price

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- Market Intervention Scheme is a price support mechanism implemented on the request of State Governments for procurement of **perishable and horticultural commodities** in the event of a fall in market prices.
 - The Scheme is implemented when there is at least **10% increase in production or 10% decrease** in the ruling rates over the previous normal year.
 - It works in a similar fashion to Minimum Support Price based procurement mechanism for food grains, but is an **ad hoc mechanism**.
 - **Objective:** To intervene in the market to protect the growers of their commodities from making distress sale in the event of a bumper crop during the peak arrival period when the prices tend to fall below economic levels and cost of production.
 - **Pattern of Assistance:** The amount of loss is shared on a 50:50 basis between the Central government and the State government (on a 75:25 basis in case of North-Eastern States).
 - **Eligibility:** State / UT government ready to share the loss on 50:50 basis between the Central government and the State government (75:25 basis in case of North-Eastern States).
- <http://newsonair.com/News?title=MIS-scheme-generated-awareness-among-farming-community-in-Kashmir&id=396384>

8. With reference to the Production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing, consider the following statements.

1. The scheme aims to attract large investments in mobile phone manufacturing and specified electronic components.
2. It proposes creating quality infrastructure with a minimum area of 200 acres along with industry-specific facilities such as common facility centres, ready-built factory sheds/ plug-and-play facilities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

- In March 2020, to boost large-scale electronics manufacturing in India, the Union Cabinet approved three schemes with a total outlay of almost Rs 48,000 crore.
- The three schemes together will enable large-scale electronics manufacturing, a domestic supply chain ecosystem of components and a state-of-the-art infrastructure and common facilities for large anchor units and their supply chain partners.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **production-linked incentive scheme** aims to attract large investments in mobile phone manufacturing and specified electronic components.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The scheme will offer an incentive of 4-6% on incremental sales of goods manufactured in India and is expected to create a total of 8 lakh jobs.
- The **'Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronics Components and Semiconductors'** will give a financial incentive of 25% on capital expenditure for the identified list of electronic goods.
- The third scheme, **Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC) 2.0**, aims at creating quality infrastructure with a minimum area of 200 acres along with industry-specific facilities such as common facility centres, ready-built factory sheds/ plug-and-play facilities. The scheme is expected to create about 10 lakh jobs. **Statement 2 is related to EMC 2.0.**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/national-policy-on-electronics-production-linked-incentive-scheme-explained-6530777/>

9. **With reference to the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), consider the following statements.**
1. CSR is a corporate initiative to assess and take responsibility for the company's effects on the environment and impact on social welfare.
 2. India has legally mandated CSR.

3. Any company that has a net worth of at least Rs 500 crore, a turnover of Rs 1,000 crore or a net profit of Rs 5 crore is obliged to spend 1.5% of its average profits over the last three years on CSR.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The term "Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)" can be referred to as a corporate initiative to assess and take responsibility for the company's effects on the environment and impact on social welfare.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** India is one of the first countries in the world to make CSR **mandatory**, following an amendment to the Company Act, 2013.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Any company that has a net worth of at least Rs 500 crore, a turnover of Rs 1,000 crore or a net profit of Rs 5 crore is obliged to spend **2% of its average profits** over the last three years on CSR.
- Businesses can invest their profits in areas such as education, poverty, gender equality, and hunger.
<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/india-china-dispute-military-economic-power-6536498/>

10. In which of the following situations the Governor can act without the advice of the Council of Ministers?

1. Reserving a bill passed by the legislature for the consideration of the President of India.
2. Recommendation for the imposition of the President's Rule in the state.
3. Dissolution of the state legislative assembly if the Council of Ministers has lost its majority.
4. Asking the Chief Minister to place a matter for the consideration of the Council of Ministers.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

Constitutional Discretion

The Governor has constitutional discretion in the following cases:

- **Article 167:** Governor can seek any information from the chief minister with regard to the administrative and legislative matters of the state.
- **Article 167(c)** empowers the Governor to ask the Chief Minister to submit for the consideration of the Council of Ministers any matter, on which a decision was taken by an individual Minister.
- **Article 200:** A bill shall be presented to the Governor and the Governor shall declare either that he assents to the Bill or that he withholds assent therefrom or that he reserves the Bill for the consideration of the President.
- **Article 356** empowers the Governor to recommend the imposition of President's Rule in the state in case he feels that there is a breakdown of constitutional machinery in the state.
- **Article 239 (2):** While exercising his functions as the administrator of an adjoining Union Territory (in case of additional charge) independently of his council of Ministers.
- Determining the amount payable by the Government of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram to an autonomous Tribal district council as royalty accruing from licenses for mineral exploration.

Situational discretion

- In addition to the above constitutional discretion (i.e., the express discretion mentioned in the constitution), the governor also has situational discretion (i.e., the hidden discretion derived from the exigencies of a prevailing political situation) in the following cases:

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- **Appointment of chief minister:** As per **Article 164**, discretion is exercised in appointment of CM when a hung assembly turns up after the elections or when coalition partner suddenly withdraws the support from the ruling party.
- **Dissolution of the state legislative assembly:** As per **Article 174**, the Governor may Dissolve the Assembly if he/she is satisfied that the government has lost the majority in legislative assembly.
- **Dismissal of the council of ministers:** Since Council of Ministers under **Article 164 (2)** is collectively responsible to the state legislative assembly hence if a ministry has lost confidence of the house but refuses to resign, in that case Governor can dissolve the Ministry.
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/the-hindu-explains-why-are-questions-being-raised-about-the-actions-of-rajasthan-governor-kalraj-mishra/article32249795.ece>

11. With reference to Chit funds, which one of the following statements is not correct?

- A. They are a type of unregulated deposit schemes.
- B. Chit funds are mostly used by the poor which acts as both a source of finance and an avenue for savings.
- C. Chit fund business does not come under the regulatory ambit of the RBI or SEBI.
- D. Both the centre and state can frame legislation regarding chit funds.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- A chit fund is a type of saving scheme where a specified number of subscribers contribute payments in instalments over a defined period.
- Each subscriber is entitled to a prize amount determined by lot, auction or tender depending on the nature of the chit fund.

Regulations

- **Option D is correct:** Both the centre and state can frame legislation regarding chit funds.
- **Option C is correct:** Chit fund business does not come under the regulatory ambit of the RBI or SEBI.

- However, the RBI can provide guidance to state governments on regulatory aspects like creating rules or exempting certain chit funds.
- In 1982, the Ministry of Finance enacted the Chit Funds Act to regulate the sector.

Significance

- **Option B is correct:** Chit funds are mostly used by the poor which acts as both a source of finance and an avenue for savings because of deficiencies in the banking sector which have existed for years.
- **Option A is incorrect:** Chit funds are legal and they are different from unregulated deposit schemes or Ponzi schemes, which the government banned recently.
- All chit funds must be registered with the office of the **registrar of chit funds** in every state that monitors their operations.
- Last year, the Parliament passed the Chit Funds (Amendment) Act, 2019 which is aimed at reducing the compliance burden on chit funds and protecting subscribers.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/cbi-registers-six-more-chit-fund-scam-cases-in-bengal/article32262440.ece>

12. Which of the following constitute Narrow Money (M_1)?

1. Time Liabilities portion of saving deposits with banking system
2. Certificate of Deposits issued by Banks
3. Call borrowings from Non Depository Financial Corporations by the banking system.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

RBI publishes information for four alternative measures of Money supply, namely,

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- Reserve Money or Base Money (M_0)
- Narrow Money (M_1)
- Intermediate Money (M_2)
- Broad Money (M_3)

Reserve Money or Base Money (M_0)

- $M_0 = \text{Currency in Circulation} + \text{Bankers' Deposit with RBI} + \text{Other Deposits with RBI}$
- Currency in circulation is equal to money held by the public and banks.
- Bankers deposit with RBI includes CRR and Excess Reserve.
- Other Deposits include deposits of financial institutions, IMF, PF funds of RBI staffs etc.

Narrow Money (M_1)

- $M_1 = \text{Currency with public} + \text{Current Deposits with Banking System} + \text{Demand liabilities portion of saving deposits with the banking system} + \text{Other Deposits with RBI}$
- Currency with public is equal to Currency in circulation minus cash on hand with banking system
- Current Deposits and Demand liabilities portion of saving deposits that can be withdrawn by a depositor at any point of time.

Intermediate Money (M_2)

- $M_2 = M_1 + \text{Time Liabilities portion of saving deposits with banking system} + \text{Certificate of Deposits issued by Banks} + \text{Term Deposits (Excluding FCNR (B) deposits upto 1 year maturity with banking system)}$

Broad Money (M_3)

- $M_3 = M_2 + \text{Term Deposits (Excluding FCNR (B) deposits over 1 year maturity with banking system)} + \text{Call borrowings from "Non Depository Financial Corporations by the banking system.}$

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/rising-real-lending-rate-roiling-rbi-rate-cuts-scuppering-credit-offtake-and-growth-report/articleshow/77329890.cms?from=mdr>

13. With reference to the Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN), consider the following statements.

1. It is an indigenously developed technology system in India that digitizes vaccine stocks and monitors the temperature of the cold chain through a smartphone application.
2. eVIN is being implemented under the National Health Mission (NHM) by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** eVIN (Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network) is an indigenously developed technology system in India that digitizes vaccine stocks and monitors the temperature of the cold chain through a smartphone application.
- It is aimed at strengthening immunization supply chain systems across the country.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Introduced in 2015, the eVIN is being implemented under the National Health Mission (NHM) by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- eVIN aims to provide real-time information on vaccine stocks and flows, and storage temperatures across all cold chain points in the country.
- eVIN has reached 32 States and Union Territories (UTs) and will soon be rolled-out in the remaining States and UTs of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Ladakh and Sikkim.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1643172>

14. Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti is related to

- A. Anti-satellite missile test conducted by DRDO.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- B. Promoting a culture of innovation and technology development in Indian defence manufacturing ecosystem.
- C. Providing mentorship to tribal youth through digital mode.
- D. Department of Science & Technology's initiative to accelerate research in Quantum computing.

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- The Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti was launched in 2018 with the objective to inculcate IP culture in Indian defence manufacturing ecosystem.
- Under this mission, an Intellectual Property Facilitation Cell (IPFC) has been established under the aegis of Directorate General Quality Assurance (DGQA) which has within a short span of a year achieved challenging target of training more than 12,000 personnel on IPR and facilitating filing of more than 1000 new IPR applications.
- **Option A** is related to Mission Shakti.
- **Option C** is related to the GOAL (Going Online As Leaders) programme.
- **Option D** is related to the Quantum-Enabled Science & Technology (QuEST) programme.

<https://ddpmod.gov.in/dpepp>

15. Which of the following is/are the components of Ayushman Bharat scheme?

1. Setting up of 1.5 lakh Health & Wellness Centres
2. Setting up of new AIIMS like institutes in underserved regions of the country
3. Health insurance cover of up to Rs. 5 lakh per family per year for secondary & tertiary hospitalization

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Ayushman Bharat is an umbrella of two major health initiatives, namely **Health and Wellness Centres** and **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY)**.

Health and Wellness Centres

- Under this 1.5 lakh existing sub centres will bring the health care system closer to the homes of people in the form of Health and wellness centres to provide comprehensive **primary health care** to the population.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

- PMJAY will provide health cover to 10.74 crore poor & vulnerable families upto ` 5 lakh per family per year for **secondary & tertiary hospitalization**.
- To ensure that nobody is left out (especially women, children and elderly) there will be **no cap on family size** and age in the scheme.
- The benefit cover will also include pre and post-hospitalisation expenses.
- A defined transport allowance per hospitalization will also be paid to the beneficiary.
- Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country and a beneficiary covered under the scheme will be allowed to take cashless benefits from any public/**private empanelled hospitals** across the country.

Eligibility criteria

- The Scheme has been rolled out based on the deprivation and occupational criteria of the **Socio Economic Caste Census** for rural and urban areas respectively.

Implementation Strategy

- At the national level to manage, a **National Health Authority** has been set up. It will be chaired by the Minister of Health & Family Welfare which will enable the decision making at a faster pace, required for smooth implementation of the scheme.
- States/ UTs are advised to implement the scheme by a dedicated entity called State Health Agency (SHA).

- Setting up of new AIIMS like institutes in underserved regions of the country is a component of **Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY)**.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Manipur-Govt-inks-agreement-with-nine-hospitals-in-state-to-implement-PMJAY-%26-CM%e2%80%99s-Health-Scheme&id=396436>

16. Consider the following statements about the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).

1. It is the only statutory body for the Petroleum and Natural Gas Sector.
2. One of the tasks of PNGRB is to ensure competitive markets for gas.
3. Appeals against the decisions of PNGRB go before the Appellate Tribunals for Electricity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) is the only statutory body for the Petroleum and Natural Gas Sector which has been constituted under the PNGRB Act, 2006 on 1st October, 2007.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The objective of PNGRB is to protect the interests of consumers and entities engaged in specified activities relating to petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas and to **promote competitive markets**.
- The board has also been mandated to regulate the refining, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, marketing and sale of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas excluding production of crude oil and natural gas so as to ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas in all parts of the country.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- **Statement 3 is correct:** The appeals against the decisions of the Board go before the **Appellate Tribunal** established under the **Electricity Act, 2003.**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/gas-distribution-infrastructure-regulations-pngrb-6538568/>

17. With reference to the Locust Warning Organization (LWO), consider the following statements.

1. LWO is responsible for monitoring, survey and control of Desert Locust in Scheduled Desert Areas mainly in the States of Rajasthan and Gujarat.
2. It is established under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** In order to keep the menace of locust at bay Locust Warning Organization was established in 1946 under the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.**
- **Statement 1 is correct:** LWO is responsible for monitoring, survey and control of Desert Locust in Scheduled Desert Areas mainly in the States of Rajasthan and Gujarat while partly in the States of Punjab and Haryana. by way of intensive survey, surveillance, monitoring and control operations where required.

Objectives:

1. To monitor, forewarn and control locust in the Scheduled Desert Area (SDA) being International obligation and commitment.
2. To conduct research on locust and grasshoppers.
3. Liaison and coordination with National and International Organizations.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

4. Human resource development through training and demonstration for staff of Locust Warning Organization (LWO), State officials, BSF personnel and Farmers.

5. To maintain control potential to combat locust emergencies by organizing locust control campaigns.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/where-the-locusts-are-where-they-head-next-6537875/>

18. Consider the following statements about the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

1. India is a founder member of FATF.
2. Recently, FATF released the “Money Laundering and the Illegal Wildlife Trade” report.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an intergovernmental organization that designs and promotes policies and standards to combat target money laundering, terrorist financing, and other threats to the global financial system.
- The FATF was created in 1989 by the **G7 countries**, and is headquartered in Paris.
- There are 39 members, including India and two regional organisations- European Commission and the Gulf Cooperation Council.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** India became an observer at FATF in 2006. FATF admitted India as the 34th Country Member of FATF in 2010.
- FATF maintains two different lists of countries: those that have deficiencies in their anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing (AML/CTF) regimes but they commit to an action plan

to address these loopholes, and those that do not end up doing enough. The former is commonly known as the **grey list** and latter as **blacklist**.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Recently, FATF released its first global report on the illegal wildlife trade titled “**Money Laundering and the Illegal Wildlife Trade**”.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/ahead-of-fatf-meet-india-to-highlight-pak-inaction/article32271365.ece>

19. With reference to the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), consider the following statements.

1. It is an Indian-government backed entity established to provide long-term capital to the country’s infrastructure sector.
2. It is a 100% government-owned entity.
3. It is registered as a Category II Alternative Investment Fund.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** National Investment and Infrastructure Fund, is an Indian-government backed entity established to provide long-term capital to the country’s infrastructure sector.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Indian government has 49 per cent stake in NIIF with the rest held by foreign and domestic investors. With the Centre’s significant stake, NIIF is considered India’s quasi sovereign wealth fund.
- NIIF is envisaged as a fund of funds with the ability to make direct investments as required.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** NIIF got registered with SEBI as Category II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF).

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- AIFs are private funds which are otherwise not coming under the jurisdiction of any regulatory agency in India. In India, AIFs are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/delhi-mumbai-eway-nhai-niif-part-ways/articleshow/77357908.cms>

20. With reference to the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), consider the following statements.

1. It decides the RBI's benchmark interest rates.
2. Three Members of the MPC are appointed by the Central Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is a committee of the RBI, headed by its Governor, which is entrusted with the task of fixing the benchmark policy interest rate (repo rate) to contain inflation within the specified target level.
- The MPC has six members
 - RBI Governor (Chairperson), RBI Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy, one official nominated by the RBI Board and remaining 3 members would represent the Government. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The MPC makes decisions based on **majority vote**. In case of a tie, the **RBI governor will have a second or casting vote.**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/rbi-governor-headed-mpc-begins-deliberations-on-monetary-policy/articleshow/77350815.cms>

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

21. Consider the following pairs:

Currency	Meaning
1. Hard currency	widely accepted around the world as a form of payment
2. Hot money	short-term capital flow that exit a country quickly in times of crisis
3. Soft currency	hyper sensitive and fluctuates frequently

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

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. None of them are correct

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Hard currency refers to money that is issued by a nation that is seen as politically and economically stable. Hard currencies are widely accepted around the world as a form of payment for goods and services and may be preferred over the domestic currency.
- Soft currency is a currency which is hyper sensitive and fluctuates frequently. Such currencies react very sharply to the political or economic situation of a country.
- Hot money refers to short-term capital flow that exit a country quickly in times of crisis.
- **Hence, all the pairs are correctly matched.**

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/how-to-pay-for-the-stimulus/article32279610.ece>

22. With reference to the Nuclear Command Authority (NCA) of India, consider the following statements.

1. It is the authority responsible for command, control and operational decisions regarding India's nuclear weapons programme.
2. The Executive Council is the sole body which can authorize the use of nuclear weapons.
3. The Executive Council is chaired by the Chief of Defence Staff.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **A**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Nuclear Command Authority (NCA) of India is the authority responsible for command, control and operational decisions regarding India's nuclear weapons programme. It was constituted in 2003.
- The Nuclear Command Authority comprises a **Political Council** and an **Executive Council**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Political Council is chaired by the **Prime Minister**. It is the sole body which can authorize the use of nuclear weapons.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The Executive Council is chaired by the **National Security Advisor**. It provides inputs for decision making by the Nuclear Command Authority and executes the directives given to it by the Political Council.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/taking-nuclear-vulnerabilities-seriously/article32279584.ece>

23. **Consider the following statements:**

1. Borrowing from RBI becomes cheaper with increase in Repo rate.
2. Increasing Repo rate results in increasing the money supply in the market.
3. Increasing Repo rate is a sign of hawkish monetary policy stance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- Repo rate is the rate of interest which is applied by RBI to commercial banks when the latter borrows from RBI.
- Repo rate is used to control inflation.
- **Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect:** In the event of rising inflation, RBI increases the repo rate which will act as a disincentive for banks to borrow from the central bank. This ultimately reduces the money supply in the economy and thus helps in arresting inflation.
- Similarly, if it wants to make it cheaper for banks to borrow money, it reduces the repo rate.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The term hawkish is used to describe **contractionary monetary policy**. Central banks can be said to be hawkish if they tighten monetary policy by increasing interest rates or reducing the central bank's balance sheet.
- A monetary policy stance is said to be hawkish if it forecasts future interest rate increases.
- Dovish refers to the opposite. When central banks reduce interest rates or increase quantitative easing to stimulate the economy they are said to be dovish.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Reserve-Bank-of-India-keeps-repo-rate-unchanged-at-4-percent&id=396632>

24. The National Board for Wildlife is chaired by

- A. The Prime Minister
- B. Minister in charge of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- C. Principal Chief Conservator of Forests
- D. Chairperson of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) is constituted by the Central Government under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- The role is “advisory” in nature and advises the Central Government on framing policies and measures for conservation of wildlife in the country.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- Primary function of the Board is to promote the conservation and development of wildlife and forests. NBWL has power to review all wildlife-related matters and approve projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries.
- The National Board for Wildlife has 47 members with the **Prime Minister** in the Chair. The Minister in charge of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in the Central Government is the Vice-Chairperson.
- Recommendation of the NBWL is mandatory for alteration of the boundary of a protected area such as National Park, Wildlife sanctuary, Tiger reserve, etc.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/wildlife-nod-not-required-for-rly-projects-ministry/story-Ik4I56MXDMxeQD0q5JQhIK.html>

25. With reference to the Right to Education Act, 2009, consider the following statements.

1. The Act gives effect to Article 21A of the constitution.
2. It mandates a minimum of 25% free seats for children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups (EWS) in private unaided schools at the entry level.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The 86th Constitution Amendment Act inserted Article 21A in our constitution. Article 21A states that every child between the ages of 6 to 14 years has the right to free and compulsory education. The Right to Education Act, 2009, seeks to give effect to this amendment.
- The Act makes education a fundamental right of every child between the ages of 6 and 14 and specifies minimum norms in elementary schools.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- **Statement 2 is correct:** RTE Act mandates a minimum of 25% free seats for children belonging to weaker sections and disadvantaged groups (EWS) in private unaided schools at the entry level.
- The Right to Education Act lays down norms and standards relating to Pupil-Teacher-Ratios (number of children per teacher), classrooms, separate toilets for girls and boys, drinking water facility, number of school-working days, working hours of teachers, etc.
- To improve performances of children in schools, the Right to Education Act introduced the **Continuous Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE)** system in 2009 to ensure grade appropriate learning outcomes in schools.
- In pursuance of Section 6 of the Act, the Central RTE Rules has notified the area or limits of neighbourhood as one kilometre, within which a primary school and 3 kilometre within which an upper primary school, has to be established.

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/governance/no-smartphones-internet-access-odisha-s-rural-kids-caught-in-digital-divide-72656>

26. The terms 'neutral', 'calibrated tightening', 'accommodative' sometimes seen in the news are related to

- A. Inflation
- B. External trade
- C. Fiscal policy
- D. Monetary policy

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- These terms indicate the central bank's monetary policy stance on deciding policy rates like repo rate.
- "Accommodative" indicates that the central bank is telling the market to expect a rate cut anytime, "neutral" means that RBI could either increase or reduce repo rates as per liquidity conditions, "calibrated tightening" means that a cut in the repo rate is unlikely in the current rate cycle.

<https://www.timesnownews.com/business-economy/economy/article/rbi-mpc-outcome-after-whatever-it-takes-vow-in-march-guv-das-maintains-accommodative-stance-ahead/632758>

27. The Global Hunger Index is released by

- A. United Nations World Food Programme
- B. Doctors Without Borders
- C. Action Against Hunger
- D. Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- The Global Hunger Index is an annual score ranking countries of the world on hunger levels.
- It is prepared by NGO **Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide**.
- It is based on 4 indicators:
 - **Undernourishment**
 - **Child wasting** - the share of children under the age of five who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition
 - **Child stunting** - children under the age of five who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition
 - **Child mortality** - the mortality rate of children under the age of five.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/an-invisible-humanitarian-crisis-in-india/article32288036.ece>

28. ‘Sir Creek dispute’ sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of

- A. India and Nepal
- B. India and Pakistan
- C. India and China
- D. Israel and Palestine

Answer: **B**

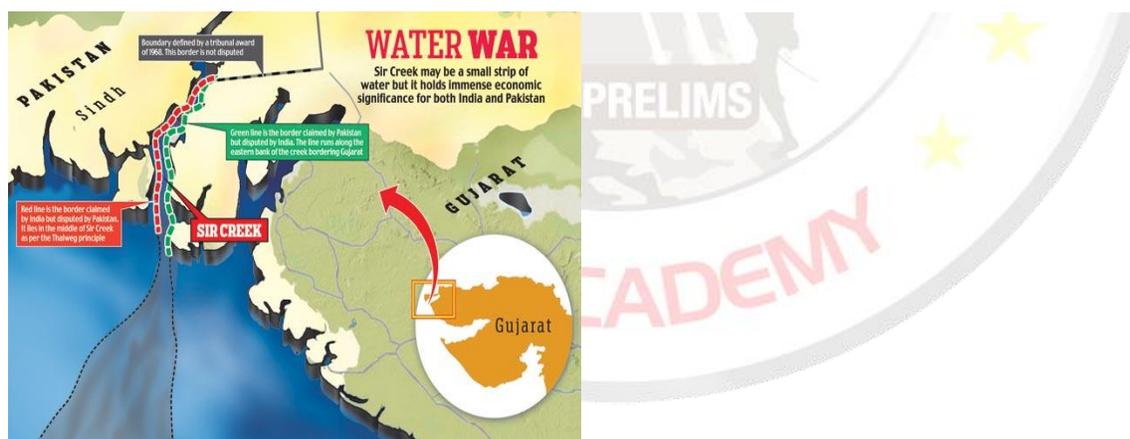
Explanation:

What is Sir Creek?

- Sir Creek is a 96-km strip of water **disputed between India and Pakistan** in the **Rann of Kutch marshlands**.
- The Creek opens up in the Arabian Sea and roughly divides the Kutch region of Gujarat from the Sindh Province of Pakistan.

What's the dispute?

- The dispute lies in the interpretation of the maritime boundary line between Kutch and Sindh.
- The dispute goes back to 1908 between the ruler of Kutch and the British authorities in Sindh.
- In 1914, the government of Bombay province took up the resolution of the dispute and gave an award where on the map attached they indicated that the boundary lay along the eastern bank of the creek, called the **Green Line**, now claimed by Pakistan.
- But the actual text of the decision seemed to suggest that the boundary was through the middle of the creek, as per the international law's '**Thalweg principle**'.
- *The Thalweg principle defines the border between two states separated by a watercourse or flowing body of water as lying along the thalweg, which is the line of greatest depth of the channel or watercourse.*



War in 1965 and tribunal

- After Pakistan's and India's independence in 1947, the creek was physically noted as the border between India and Pakistan but no formal resolution of the 1914 map's ambiguity was determined.

- The war of 1965 between India and Pakistan over various territorial differences also involved the Kutch region. Subsequently, both countries agreed to take the matter to the **International Court of Justice**, which issued a ruling in 1968 favoring 90 percent of India's claim to the salt marsh (i.e., the Rann of Kutch) but excluded a mention of Sir Creek itself, thus leading to an uncertain outcome regarding its status.
- Since 1969, 12 rounds of talks have been held over the issue of Sir Creek, but both sides have denied reaching any solution.

What's the importance of Sir Creek?

- Apart from strategic location, Sir Creek's core importance is **fishing resources**. Sir Creek is considered to be among the largest fishing grounds in Asia.
- It is also significant for the possible presence of **oil and gas concentration** under the sea.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/straying-into-troubled-waters/article32287870.ece?homepage=true>

29. Which of the following countries share a border with Lebanon?

1. Iraq
2. Syria
3. Israel
4. Turkey

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 2 and 4 only

Answer: C

Explanation:



- Lebanon is located in the Middle East. It is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea to the west, **Israel** to the south, and **Syria** to the east and north. The country also shares maritime borders with Cyprus. <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/beirut-explosion-what-are-its-possible-causes-what-we-know-so-far-6541185/>

30. Consider the following statements about the Mega Food Park scheme.

1. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to provide modern infrastructure facilities to link agricultural production to the market.
2. Projects under the scheme are implemented by Special Purpose Vehicles.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Scheme of Mega Food Park is an initiative of the **Ministry of Food Processing** which aims at providing a mechanism to link agricultural production to the market by bringing together farmers, processors and retailers so as to ensure maximizing value addition,

minimizing wastage, increasing farmers income and creating employment opportunities particularly in the rural sector.

- The Mega Food Park Scheme is based on the “**Cluster**” **approach** and envisages creation of state of art support infrastructure in a well-defined agri / horticultural zone for setting up of modern food processing units in the industrial plots provided in the park with a well-established supply chain.
- Mega food parks typically consist of supply chain infrastructure including collection centers, primary processing centers, central processing centers, cold chains and around 25-30 fully developed plots for entrepreneurs to set up food processing units.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Mega Food Park project is implemented by a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** which is a Body Corporate registered under the Companies Act. State Government, State Government entities and Cooperatives are not required to form a separate SPV for implementation of Mega Food Park project. Subject to fulfillment of the conditions of the Scheme Guidelines, the funds are released to the SPVs.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=10-acre-food-park-to-be-set-up-at-Vedasanthoor-in-Dindigul-district%2c-says-Tamil-Nadu-Chief-Minister&id=396620>

31. **The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) created which of the following institutions on the international scene?**

1. The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
2. The International Seabed Authority
3. The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

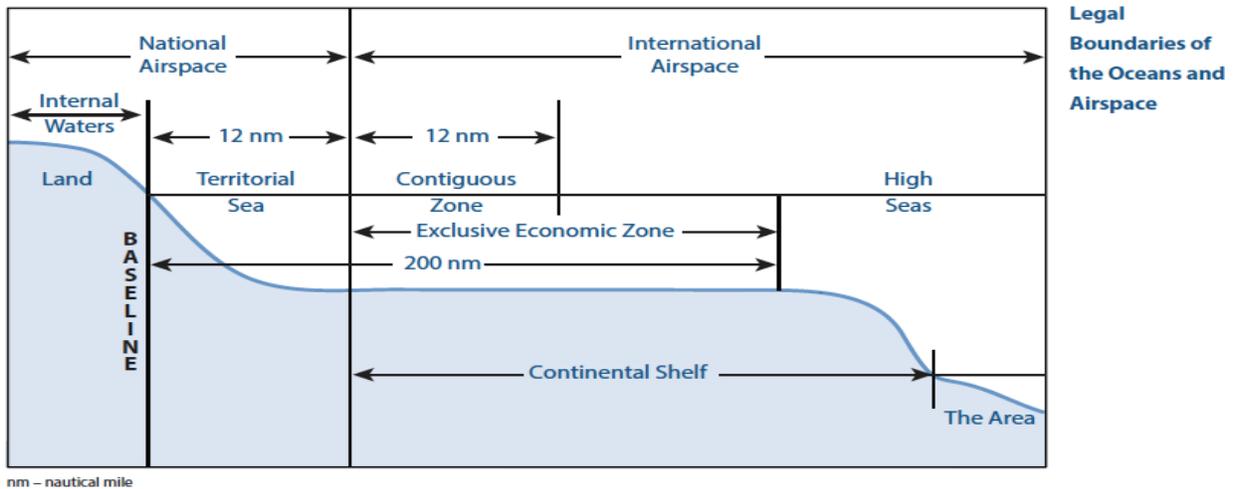
Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), also known as the **Law of the Sea Treaty**, is an international treaty which was adopted and signed in 1982. The Convention was formed to ensure freedom of shipping navigation at the sea.
- The Convention has created three new institutions on the international scene :
 - **the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea,**
 - **the International Seabed Authority,**
 - **the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.**
- **India** is party to UNCLOS.
- UNCLOS classifies marine areas into five zones. They are:
 - Territorial sea
 - Contiguous zone
 - Exclusive economic zone
 - Continental shelf
 - High Sea



Territorial sea

- According to UNCLOS, the territorial sea can be defined as the area which extends up to **12 nautical miles** from the baseline of a country's coastal state. The territorial sea is under the

jurisdiction of that particular country; however, foreign ships (both merchant and military) ships are allowed passage through it.

- This type of passage of territorial passage of foreign ships is known as an **innocent passage**. However, the right to the innocent passage can be suspended if there is a threat to the security of the coastal state.

Contiguous Zone

- The contiguous zone can be defined as the belt which **extends 12 nautical miles beyond the territorial sea limit**.
- A coastal state's control on this area is limited to prevention of actions which can infringe its customs, fiscal, and immigration laws. It can also act if any activity in the contiguous zone threatens regulations in the territorial sea.
- **Exclusive economic zone**
- The exclusive economic zone can be defined as a belt of water which **extends up to 200 nautical miles** from the baseline of the coastal state. Thus it **includes both territorial sea and contiguous zone**.
- The exclusive economic zone provides the coastal state **control over all economic resources** such as fishing, mining, oil exploration, and marine research.
- The coastal state also has jurisdiction regarding protection and preservation of natural resources and marine environment.

Continental Shelf

- The continental shelf can be defined as the area whose outer limit **shall not exceed 350 nautical miles from the baseline** or **shall not exceed 100 nautical miles from the 2500 meters isobath**.
- *Isobath is a line connecting points of equal underwater depth.*
- The coastal state has exclusive rights for exploring and exploiting its natural resources in this area. The state also has the exclusive rights to authorize and regulate drilling on the shelf for all purposes.

High Seas

- High seas can be defined as the part of the sea that is **not included** in the exclusive economic zone, in the territorial sea, or in the internal waters of a coastal state or archipelagic waters of an archipelagic state.
- High seas are **open to all states** for freedom of navigation, freedom of overflight, freedom to construct artificial islands installation, freedom of fishing, and freedom of scientific research.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/italian-marines-case-will-close-trial-only-after-victims-kin-get-hefty-compensation-says-sc/article32295037.ece>

32. With reference to the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006, consider the following statements.

1. FRA provides recognition of land up to 4 ha to each legitimate claimant.
2. A forest right conferred under the Act shall be heritable and transferable.
3. To qualify as a Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribe (FDST) and be eligible for recognition of rights under FRA, he/she should have primarily resided in forest land for three generations (75 years) prior to 13-12-2005

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006, is a people-centric law for forests, which “recognises” the rights of forest- dwelling communities to **use and manage forest resources**.

Rights under FRA:

- **Title rights** – Ownership to land that is being farmed by tribals or forest dwellers subject to a maximum of **4 hectares**; ownership is only for land that is actually being cultivated by the concerned family, meaning that no new lands are granted. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- **Use rights** – to minor forest produce (also including ownership), to grazing areas, to pastoralist routes, etc.
- **Relief and development rights** – to rehabilitation in case of illegal eviction or forced displacement; and basic amenities, subject to restrictions for forest protection.
- **Forest management rights** – to protect forests and wildlife.

Eligibility

- To qualify as Other Traditional Forest Dweller (OTFD) and be eligible for recognition of rights under FRA, two conditions need to be fulfilled:
 - Primarily resided in forest or forests land for three generations (75 years) prior to 13-12-2005, and
 - Depend on the forest or forests land for bonafide livelihood needs.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** To qualify as a Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribe (FDST) and be eligible for recognition of rights under FRA, three conditions must be satisfied by the applicant/s, who could be “members or community”:
 - Must be a Scheduled Tribe in the area where the right is claimed; and
 - Primarily resided in forest or forests land prior to 13-12-2005; and
 - Depend on the forest or forests land for bonafide livelihood needs.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The FRA provides that a forest right conferred under the Act shall be **heritable but not alienable or transferable**, and shall be registered jointly in the name of both the spouses in case of married persons and in the name of the single head in the case of a household headed by a single person.

Process of recognition of rights:

- The Act provides that the **gram sabha**, or village assembly, will initially pass a resolution recommending whose rights to which resources should be recognised.
- This resolution is then screened and approved at the **level of the sub-division** (or taluka) and subsequently at the district level.
- The **screening committees** consist of three government officials (Forest, Revenue and Tribal Welfare departments) and three elected members of the local body at that level. These committees also hear appeals.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/maoists-are-making-a-comeback-in-telangana/article32298580.ece>

33. In which one of the following States is Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve located?

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Mizoram

Answer: **A**

Explanation:

- Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve is situated in the state of **Uttarakhand**.
- The two core zones of the Biosphere reserve i.e the Nanda Devi National Park and the Valley of Flowers National Park were inscribed as World Heritage sites in 2005.

<https://www.outlookindia.com/outlooktraveller/travelnews/story/70474/uttarakhand-to-set-up-indias-first-snow-leopard-conservation-centre>

34. Consider the following statements about the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

1. It is under the charge of Director General of Health Services in the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. 'Eat Right Movement' is an initiative of the FSSAI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is an **autonomous statutory body** established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
- The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is the administrative Ministry of FSSAI.
- FSSAI is responsible for protecting and promoting public health through the regulation and supervision of food safety.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** To improve public health in India and combat negative nutritional trends to fight lifestyle diseases, FSSAI launched 'The Eat Right Movement' on 10th July, 2018.
- On the demand side, the Eat Right Movement focuses on empowering citizens to make the right food choices.
- On the supply side, it nudges food businesses to reformulate their products, provide better nutritional information to consumers and make investments in healthy food as responsible food businesses.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1644130>

35. With reference to the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG), consider the following statements.

1. CAG is appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.
2. CAG shall only be removed from office in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court.
3. CAG is not eligible for further office either under the Government of India or under the Government of any State after he has ceased to hold his office.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- **Statements 1 & 2 are correct:** According to **Article 148 (1):** There shall be a Comptroller and Auditor-General of India who shall be appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal and shall only be removed from office in like manner and on the like grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Comptroller and Auditor-General shall not be eligible for further office either under the Government Of India or under the Government of any State after he has ceased to hold his office.
- The reports of the CAG are submitted to the **President** in case of the Union and to the **Governor** in case of the State who in turn cause them to be tabled before the House.
- Once tabled in the House, the Reports stand permanently referred to the Central and State Standing Committees on Public Accounts (PAC)/Committees on Public Undertakings (COPU).

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=G-C-Murmu-takes-oath-as-Comptroller-and-Auditor-General-of-India&id=396789>

36. Consider the following statements about **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India.**

1. At least one PVTG resides in every State and Union Territory of India.
2. A stagnant or declining population is one of the criteria for determining PVTG status.
3. Odisha has the highest number of PVTGs.
4. There are 95 PVTGs officially notified in the country so far.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer: C

Explanation:

- In India, tribal population makes up for 8.6% of the total population. Tribal people live in about 15% of the geographical area of the country.
- Among them some groups are declared as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) based on the following criteria.
 - A pre-agriculture level of technology;
 - A stagnant or declining population; Hence, statement 2 is correct.
 - Extremely low literacy; and
 - A subsistence level of economy.
- In 1973, the **Dhebar Commission** created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups.
- In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.
- **Statement 4 is incorrect: 75 tribal groups** have been categorized by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** as PVTGs.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect: PVTGs** reside in **18 States and UT of A&N Islands**.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Among the 75 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in **Odisha (13)**, followed by Andhra Pradesh (12).
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the Scheme of “Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)” exclusively for them.
- PVTGs depend on various livelihoods such as food gathering, Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP), hunting, livestock rearing, shifting cultivation and artisan works. Most of their livelihoods depend on the forest.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=World-Tribal-Day-being-observed-today&id=396845>

37. With reference to Government e-Marketplace (GeM), consider the following statements.

1. The Government of India holds 51% of the share capital of GeM, while the private sector has the balance 49% of the share capital.

2. It is mandatory for sellers on the GeM portal to clarify the country of origin of goods when registering new products.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is a **100 percent government-owned company** setup under the aegis of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. GeM aims to enhance transparency, efficiency and speed in public procurement.
- In 2017, the government made it mandatory for all the departments and ministries to source goods and services from the GeM.
- More than 3,000 startups are already registered on GeM and the marketplace also working to onboard self-help groups and artisan clusters on the platform.
- In 2019, GeM launched 'SWAYATT' [Startups, Women And Youth Advantage Through eTransactions] to bring together key stakeholders, within the Indian entrepreneurial ecosystem to the national procurement portal of Government [GeM].
- **Statement 2 is correct:** On June 23, 2020, the government made it mandatory for sellers on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal to clarify the country of origin of goods when registering new products.
- The GeM portal now allows buyers to reserve a bid for Class I local suppliers, or suppliers of those goods with more than 50 per cent local content. For bids below Rs 200 crore, only Class I and Class II (those with more than 20 per cent local content) are eligible.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Piyush-Goyal-calls-upon-more-buyers-and-sellers-to-join-GeM&id=396878>

38. The main objective of the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) is

- A. Scheme to promote village development under which each Member of Parliament will take the responsibility of developing physical and institutional infrastructure in three villages.
- B. Integrated development of selected villages having more than 50% Scheduled Caste (SC) population through implementation of existing schemes in a convergent manner.
- C. To provide good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected villages.
- D. To ensure universal household electrification by providing last mile connectivity.

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana (PMAGY) aims for integrated development of selected villages having more than 50% Scheduled Caste (SC) population through implementation of existing scheme of Central and State Governments in a convergent manner and by utilization of gap filling funds provided as Central Assistance.
- The scheme was launched in 2009-10 on a pilot basis, for the integrated development of 1000 villages in 5 States viz. Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Assam and further extended in 2015 to another 1500 villages in 11 states.
- The Government of India is planning to cover all the eligible 26968 villages by the end of 2024-25.
- Works and programmes taken up under PMAGY in the identified States include inter alia, construction of village roads, community halls/meeting places, community toilets, drainage works, installation of hand pumps, solar powered street lights, drinking water scheme etc.
- As per scheme, for a village to be declared as Adarsh village a **minimum of three of the targets listed below** have to be achieved by the end of the third year of implementation of PMAGY:-
 - As far as possible, elimination of poverty, but reduction in its incidence by at least 50% within three years.
 - Universal adult literacy
 - 100% enrolment and retention of children at the elementary stage (I-VIII).

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- Reduction of infant mortality rate (per thousand live births) to 30 and maternal mortality rate (per lakh) to 100, by 2012.
 - Village should fulfill the Nirmal Gram Puraskar norms of the Deptt. Of Drinking Water Supply, M/o Rural Development, ie, these villages should be 100 % open defecation free
 - Access to safe drinking water facility to all villagers on a sustainable basis.
 - 100% institutional deliveries for pregnant women
 - Full immunisation of children
 - Achieving all weather road connectivity to the village
 - 100% registration of deaths and births in the village
 - No child marriages, and child labour
 - No public consumption of liquor and other intoxicating substances
 - 100% allotment of Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awaas Yojana (PMGAY) houses to all eligible families
 - Option A is related to **Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)**.
 - Option C is related to **Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana**.
 - Option D is related to **Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana (or Saubhagya)**.
- <http://newsonair.com/News?title=J%26K%3a-424-PMAGY-works-identified-for-31-villages-of-Udhampur-district&id=396863>

39. **With reference to the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP), consider the following statements.**

1. It is an outcomes-focused programme to improve health, nutrition, education, and economic outcomes in India's 102 socio-economically challenged districts.
2. NITI Aayog anchors the programme with support from Central Ministries and the State Governments.
3. The Ministry of Home Affairs has been tasked with the monitoring of Aspirational districts programme in 35 Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- Launched in January 2018, the Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) is one of the largest experiments on **outcomes-focused governance** in the world.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Spread across **115 of India's socio-economically challenged districts**, the ADP is **Niti Aayog's** flagship initiative to improve health, nutrition, education, and economic outcomes.

Core Strategy

- The broad contours of the programme are **Convergence** (of Central & State Schemes), **Collaboration** (of Central, State level 'Prabhari' Officers & District Collectors), and **Competition** among districts driven by a spirit of mass Movement.
- With States as the main drivers, this program will focus on the strength of each district, identify low-hanging fruits for immediate improvement, measure progress, and rank districts.

Selection of districts 115 districts were identified from 28 states, at least one from each state using a composite index of key data sets that included deprivation enumerated under the Socio-Economic Caste Census, key health and education sector performance and state of basic infrastructure.

Institutional framework

- **Statement 2 is correct:** NITI Aayog anchors the programme with support from Central Ministries and the State Governments.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** While NITI Aayog is steering the initiative in 30 districts, various central ministries oversee 50 districts besides the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, which focuses on 35 Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- Officers at the level of Joint Secretary / Additional Secretary have been nominated to become the ‘Central Prabhari Officers’ of each district.
- States have appointed state-nodal and Prabhari officers.
- An Empowered Committee under the Convenorship of the CEO, NITI Aayog will help in the convergence of various government schemes and streamlining of efforts.

Focus Areas

- To enable optimum utilization of their potential, this program focuses closely on improving people’s ability to participate fully in the vibrant economy.
- Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure are this programme’s core areas of focus.

Baseline Ranking

- The objective of the program is to monitor the real-time progress of aspirational districts based on 49 indicators (81 data-points) from the 5 identified thematic areas.
- Districts are aspiring to first catch-up with the best district within their State, and subsequently aspire to become one of the best in the country, by competing with, and learning from others in the spirit of competitive & cooperative federalism.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Gadkari-emphasises-upon-improving-MSME-footprint-in-115-aspirational-districts&id=396807>

40. With reference to the Indus Water Treaty (IWT), consider the following statements.

1. It was signed by former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the then President of Pakistan, Ayub Khan.
2. The treaty was brokered by the World Bank, which is also a signatory.
3. Under the treaty, India received the control of Jhelum, Chenab and Indus.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

What is the Indus Water Treaty (IWT)?

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Signed in the year 1960 by former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and the then President of Pakistan, Ayub Khan, the Indus Water Treaty is an agreement that was made to chalk out the control over the 6 rivers that run across India and then Pakistan into the Indus basin.
- This treaty was signed following the partition of the subcontinent.
- On an international level, the IWT has been seen as one of the most successful cases of conflict resolution. It is so because India and Pakistan, ever since IWT was signed, have engaged in 4 major wars but the treaty has stayed in place.
- The origin of the six rivers that make the Indus basin take place in **Tibet** from where they flow across the Himalayan ranges and end in the Arabian sea south of Karachi. The Treaty was devised as the Indus basin was one of the networks between the two nations and because Pakistan was unsurprisingly threatened with the prospect of being fed by India.

Which rivers belong to India and which ones to Pakistan?

- Before 1960, in order to sort out the water sharing issue, the Inter-Dominion accord was laid down in order to release enough waters to Pakistan from India in return for annual payments. However, the problem of this arrangement was soon realised. A new alternative solution was considered necessary.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Indus Waters Treaty was signed in 1960 after nine years of negotiations between India and Pakistan with the help of the **World Bank**, which is also a signatory.
- Precise details were laid out about how the water will be divided.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** While **Jhelum, Chenab and Indus** (3 western rivers) were allocated to Pakistan, India received the control of **Ravi, Beas and Sutlej** (3 eastern rivers).

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- The treaty also stated that aside from certain specific cases, no storage and irrigation systems can be built by India on the western rivers.
- India's share of water from Ravi, Beas and Sutlej rivers came to 33 million acres feet (MAF). While about 95 per cent of the water was being used in the country after the construction of three main dams across the rivers, close to 5 per cent water or 1.6 MAF would flow to Pakistan.
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-pak-spar-over-indus-water-talks-amid-pandemic/article32310182.ece>

41. Invisibles in the Balance of Payments (BOP) includes

1. Net services earnings
2. Income from Investment
3. Unilateral Transfers
4. Merchandise exports

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Under the current account of the BoP, transactions are classified into merchandise (exports and imports) and invisibles. Invisible transactions are further classified into three categories, namely:
- **'Services'** such as travel, transportation, insurance, etc.
- **'Income from Investment'** comprises payment of interest on non-resident deposits, payment of interest on loans from non-residents, payment of dividend/profit to non-resident shareholders, etc.
- **'Unilateral Transfers'** represent one-sided transactions, i.e., transactions that do not have any quid pro quo, such as grants, gifts, and migrants' transfers by way of remittances for family maintenance, repatriation of savings, etc.

- Official transfer receipts record grants, donations and other assistance received by the Government from bilateral and multilateral institutions. Similar transfers by the Indian Government to other countries are recorded under official transfer payments.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/balance-of-payments-will-be-strong-this-year-says-goyal/article32320275.ece>

42. The Duncan Passage separates

- A. Little Andaman and South Andaman
- B. Andaman Islands and Nicobar Islands
- C. Islands of Java and Sumatra
- D. Java and Bali

Answer: A

Explanation:

Duncan Passage separates Little Andaman from South Andaman



<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-launches-submarine-optical-fibre-cable-to-andaman-nicobar-islands/article32314430.ece>

43. Banking Correspondents engage in which of the following activities?

1. Creating awareness about savings and other products
2. Promoting, nurturing and monitoring of Self-Help Groups/ Joint Liability Groups/Credit Groups
3. Receipt and delivery of small value remittances
4. Recovery of principal / collection of interest
5. Sale of micro insurance/ mutual fund products/ pension products/ other third-party products

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- Banking Correspondents (BCs) are individuals/entities engaged by a bank in India (commercial banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Local Area Banks (LABs)) for **providing banking services in unbanked / under-banked geographical territories.**
- A banking correspondent works as an agent of the bank and substitutes for the brick and mortar branch of the bank.
- BCs engage in
 - identification of borrowers;
 - collection and preliminary processing of loan applications including verification of primary information/data;
 - **creating awareness about savings and other products and education and advice on managing money and debt counselling;**

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- processing and submission of applications to banks;
- **promoting, nurturing and monitoring of Self-Help Groups/ Joint Liability Groups/Credit Groups/others;**
- post-sanction monitoring;
- follow-up for recovery,
- disbursal of small value credit,
- **recovery of principal / collection of interest**
- collection of small value deposits
- **sale of micro insurance/ mutual fund products/ pension products/ other third-party products and**
- **receipt and delivery of small value remittances/ other payment instruments.**
- The banks in India may engage the following individuals/entities as BCs.
- Individuals like retired bank employees, retired teachers, retired government employees and ex-servicemen, individual owners of kirana (small shops) / medical /Fair Price shops, individual Public Call Office (PCO) operators, agents of Small Savings schemes of Government of India/Insurance Companies, individuals who own petrol pumps, authorized functionaries of well-run Self Help Groups (SHGs) which are linked to banks, any other individual including those operating Common Service Centres (CSCs);
- NGOs/ Microfinance Institutions set up under Societies/ Trust Acts or as Section 25 Companies ;
- Cooperative Societies registered under Mutually Aided Cooperative Societies Acts/ Cooperative Societies Acts of States/Multi State Cooperative Societies Act;
- Post Offices;
- Companies registered under the Indian Companies Act, 2013 with large and widespread retail outlets
- Non-banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) were not allowed to be appointed as Business Correspondents (BCs) by banks. However, since 2014 banks have been permitted to engage non-deposit taking NBFCs (NBFCs-ND) as BCs, subject to certain conditions.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/when-the-postman-acts-as-a-human-atm/article32315734.ece>

44. Consider the following statements about Nutrient Based Subsidy scheme (NBS).

1. Under the scheme, a fixed amount of subsidy is provided on each grade of subsidized Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers depending upon its nutrient content.
2. The scheme is being implemented by the Department of Fertilizers under the Ministry of Agriculture and farmers welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

- In a country like India, where around **65 per cent of the population depends on agriculture** for their livelihood, the **Government has a major role in ensuring** the availability of agri-inputs including **fertilisers at affordable prices**. At the same time, **balanced fertilisation** is necessary to enhance farm productivity
- Government is making available Urea and 21 grades of P&K fertilizers to farmers at subsidized prices through fertilizer manufacturers/importers. The subsidy on P&K fertilizers is being governed by the NBS Scheme.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) programme for fertilizer was initiated in the year 2010. Under the scheme, a **fixed amount of subsidy decided on an annual basis** is provided on each grade of subsidized Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers based on its nutrient content.

Aims of the Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme

- The scheme aims at ensuring that sufficient quantity of P&K is at the farmer's disposal at statutory controlled prices, so that the agricultural growth can be sustained and **balanced nutrient application to the soil can be ensured**
- It aims at improving the agricultural productivity, promoting the **growth of the indigenous fertilizers industry** and also reducing the burden of Subsidy
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The scheme is being implemented by the **Department of Fertilizers** under the **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers** (not under the Ministry of agriculture and farmers welfare).
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/pm-wants-farmers-to-slash-use-of-urea/articleshow/77451010.cms>

45. Consider the following statements about the UMANG mobile app.

1. It was launched in 2017 to drive Mobile Governance in India.
2. It was developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National e-Governance Division (NeGD).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

- The UMANG mobile app (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance) is a Government of India all-in-one single, unified, secure, multi-channel, multi-platform, multi-lingual, multi-service mobile app, powered by a robust back-end platform providing access to high impact services of various organizations (Central and State).

- **Statements 1 & 2 are correct:** It was developed by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** and **National e-Governance Division (NeGD)** to **drive Mobile Governance in India.**
- Launched in 2017, at present, about 660 services from 127 departments & 25 states and about 180 utility bill payment services are live and more are in pipeline. UMANG user base has crossed 2.1 Crore including Android, iOS, Web and KaiOS.
- Services offered include Provident Fund (PF) services, Aadhaar-related services, online tax payments, and pension-related services.
- Citizens can also access their Digilocker from UMANG and give their feedback after availing any service through Rapid Assessment System (RAS) which has been integrated with UMANG.
<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1644807>

46. The Budapest Convention is related to

- A. International treaty seeking to address Cybercrime.
- B. Multilateral treaty to provide an expeditious method to return a child internationally abducted by a parent from one-member country to another.
- C. International treaty to ensure that countries put in place various institutional mechanisms to prevent the use of torture.
- D. International treaty which aims to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The Convention on Cybercrime of the **Council of Europe**, known as the Budapest Convention, is the only binding international instrument on crimes committed via the Internet and other computer networks, dealing particularly with infringements of copyright, computer-related fraud, child pornography and violations of network security. It also contains a series of powers and procedures such as the search of computer networks and interception.
- It serves as a guideline for any country developing comprehensive national legislation against Cybercrime and as a framework for international cooperation between State Parties to this treaty.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- It was open for signature in 2001 and came into force in 2004.
- The Budapest Convention is supplemented by a **Protocol on Xenophobia and Racism committed through computer systems.**
- Option B is related to the **Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.**
- Option C is related to the **United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT).**

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/from-locker-rooms-to-classrooms/article32329122.ece>

47. Consider the following statements about the National Food Security Act, 2013.

1. The families coming under the category of 'below poverty line (BPL)' only are eligible to receive subsidised grains.
2. According to the Act, pregnant women and lactating mothers will be entitled to meals and maternity benefits of not less than Rs 6000.
3. It comes under the ambit of the Ministry of Agriculture and farmer's welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- The National Food Security Act, 2013 was notified on 10th September, 2013 with the objective to provide for food and nutritional security in **human life cycle approach**, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity.
- NFSA covers upto **75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population** under **Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and priority households.** While AAY households, which

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

constitute the poorest of the poor are entitled to 35 kg of foodgrains per family per month, priority households are entitled to 5 kg per person per month.

- Corresponding to the all India coverage of 75% and 50% in the rural and urban areas, State-wise coverage under NFSA was determined by the erstwhile Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog) by using the NSS Household Consumption Survey data for 2011-12.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Within the coverage under TPDS determined for each State, the work of identification of eligible households is to be done by States/UTs. It is the **responsibility of the State Governments/UTs, to evolve criteria for identification of priority households and their actual identification.**
- The Act also contains provisions for setting up of **grievance redressal mechanism** at the District and State levels
- The eldest women of the household of age 18 years or above will be the head of the household for the purpose of issuing ration cards
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It comes under the ambit of the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.**
- Eldest woman of the household of age 18 years or above to be the head of the household for the purpose of issuing of ration cards.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Pregnant women and lactating mothers are entitled to a nutritious "take home ration" of 600 Calories and a maternity benefit of at least Rs 6,000.
- Children 6 months to 14 years of age are to receive free hot meals or "take home rations".

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ramvilas-paswan-asks-states-to-do-doorstep-ration-delivery-in-flood-hit-areas/article32326564.ece>

48. With reference to the Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), consider the following statements.

1. Mutual funds is an example of AIF.
2. In India, they are primarily regulated by the RBI.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- Alternative Investment Fund or AIF means any fund established or incorporated in India which is a privately pooled investment vehicle which collects funds from sophisticated investors, whether Indian or foreign, for investing it in accordance with a defined investment policy for the benefit of its investors.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect: AIF does not include funds covered under the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996, SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999 or any other regulations of the Board to regulate fund management activities. Thus, mutual funds will not come under the category of AIF.**
- **Categories of AIF:**
 - Category I AIF:
 - Venture capital funds (Including Angel Funds)
 - SME Funds
 - Social Venture Funds
 - Infrastructure funds
 - Category II AIF (real estate funds, private equity funds, funds for distressed assets, etc)
 - Category III AIF (hedge funds, private investment in public equity (PIPE) Funds, etc.)
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** In India, AIFs are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/cbd-t-notifies-new-rules-for-foreign-investors-of-aifs-operating-in-ifsc/articleshow/77482315.cms>

49. With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), consider the following statements.

1. It aims to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses.
2. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation is the implementation agency for PMBJP.
3. Reputed NGOs, Private hospitals and individual entrepreneurs are eligible to apply for new Jan Aushadhi stores.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses.
- PMBJP stores have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementation agency for PMBJP.

Who can open a Jan Aushadhi store?

- **Statement 3 is correct:** State Governments or any organization / reputed NGOs / Trusts / Private hospitals / Charitable institutions / Doctors / Unemployed pharmacists/ individual entrepreneurs are eligible to apply for new Jan Aushadhi stores.
- The applicants shall have to employ one B Pharma / D Pharma degree holder as Pharmacist in their proposed store.

About BPPI

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- The Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India comprising all the Pharma CPSUs under the Department of Pharmaceuticals was established in 2008.
- It aims to bring about effective collaboration and cooperation in furthering the working and resources of these organizations.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1645085>

50. The Defence Procurement Policy 2016 accorded top most priority for procurement of capital equipment to which among the following categories?

- A. Buy (Indian)
- B. Buy and Make (Indian)
- C. Buy Indian-IDDM (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)
- D. Buy & Make (Global)

Answer: **C**

Explanation:

- The Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP-2016) replaced the DPP-2013.
- DPP, 2016 focuses to boost the Make-in-India initiative by promoting indigenous design, development, and manufacturing of defense equipment, platforms, and systems.
- The government has introduced a newly incorporated procurement class called “**Buy Indian (IDDM)**”, where IDDM stands for Indigenous Designed Developed and Manufactured. **This would have the first preference in all acquisitions once the DPP comes into effect.**
- Besides this, preference has been accorded to ‘Buy (Indian)’ and ‘Buy and Make (Indian)’ categories of capital acquisition over ‘Buy (Global)’ & ‘Buy & Make (Global)’ categories.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1645092>

51. In which one of the following States is Sariska tiger reserve located?

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Gujarat

D. Rajasthan

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- Sariska tiger reserve is located in Rajasthan.
- The reserve area has varied topography that includes grasslands, dry deciduous forests, cliffs and rocky landscape. The **Aravalli mountain ranges** surround the reserve.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/how-the-tiger-can-regain-its-stripes/article32339842.ece>

52. Consider the following statements about the Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme.

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for providing affordable Working Capital loans to street vendors.
2. Under the Scheme, vendors can avail an initial working capital loan of up to Rs. 1,00,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **A**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme was launched by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** for **providing affordable Working Capital loans to street vendors** to resume their livelihoods that have been adversely affected due to Covid-19 lockdown.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Under the Scheme, vendors can avail a working capital loan of up to **Rs. 10,000**, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of **one year**. The loans would be **without collateral**.
- On timely/ early repayment of the loan, an **interest subsidy @ 7% per annum** will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer on quarterly basis.
- There will be no penalty on early repayment of loan. The scheme promotes digital transactions through cash back incentives up to an amount of Rs. 100 per month.
- The scheme targets to benefit over **50 lakh street vendors**. The duration of the scheme is till March 2022.
- **SIDBI** will implement the PM SVANidhi Scheme.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1645282>

53. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) acts as a financial mechanism for which of the following conventions?

1. The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
2. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
3. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
4. The Minamata Convention on Mercury
5. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established on the eve of the **1992 Rio Earth Summit** to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- The GEF is a unique partnership of 18 agencies — including United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks, national entities and international NGOs — working with 183 countries to address the world’s most challenging environmental issues.
- 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 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.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/how-the-tiger-can-regain-its-stripes/article32339842.ece>

54. Consider the following statements about Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER).

1. It is the weighted average of bilateral nominal exchange rates of the home currency in terms of foreign currencies.
2. It is often taken as a measure of a country’s international competitiveness

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- Effective exchange rates are summary indicators of movements in the exchange rates of home currency against a basket of currencies of trade partner countries and are considered to be an indicator of international competitiveness. It is divided into 2 categories. NEER & REER.
- Nominal Effective Exchange Rate (NEER) is the weighted average of bilateral nominal exchange rates of the home currency in terms of foreign currencies.
- Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER) is defined as a weighted average of India's bilateral **real exchange rates** of the home currency in terms of foreign currencies. The real exchange rate calculates the purchasing power of a currency by adjusting the nominal exchange rate for inflation effects. **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** REER is often taken as a measure of a country's international competitiveness.
- REER has two components: (i) real exchange rates and (ii) weights assigned to each currency (which depends on the importance of the countries in the currency basket as India's trading partners).

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1062940820301595>

55. 'Mount Sinabung' recently seen in the news is located in?

- A. Japan
- B. New Zealand
- C. Papua New Guinea
- D. Indonesia

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- Mount Sinabung volcano is located in Indonesia.
- The volcano erupted recently, sending a column of ash and smoke more than 16,000 feet into the air.
- The volcano became active in 2010, erupting after nearly 400 years of inactivity.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-volcanic-eruption-in-indonesias-mount-sinabung-6550530/>

56. Which of the following are the features of 5G technology?

1. Faster speeds
2. Higher bandwidth
3. Higher latency

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation:

The three major differences between 4G and 5G are **faster speeds, higher bandwidth and lower "latency,"** or lag time in communications between devices and servers.

5G is expected to be nearly 100 times faster than 4G. Those speeds are possible because most 5G networks are built on **super-high-frequency airwaves**, also known as **high-band spectrum**. The higher frequencies can transmit much more data, much faster than on 4G.

A small but significant **difference exists between speed and latency**, which is the time it takes for devices to communicate with each other or with the server that's sending them information.

Speed is the amount of time it takes for your phone to download the contents of a webpage. Latency is the time between when you send a text to a friend's phone and when their phone registers that it has received a new message. Although latency is measured in milliseconds, all those milliseconds add up when sending and receiving huge packets of information for something as complex as video — or self-driving car data.

Latency is already low with 4G, but 5G will make it virtually zero.

It will be essential for technologies, such as self-driving cars, which will need to send signals about their environment over the internet to a computer in the cloud, have the computer analyze the situation and return signals to the car telling it how to respond.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/boost-to-cybersecurity-ties-says-tara-cavanagh/article32347379.ece>

57. 'Oslo Accords' sometimes seen in the news is related to

- A. Tariff concessions for least developed countries
- B. Peace process in the Middle East region
- C. Freedom of navigation in the South China Sea
- D. Comprehensive rules, procedures, and guidelines for reducing Global warming

Answer: B

Explanation:

Israel-Palestine conflict

- Jerusalem lies in the heart of the Israel-Palestine conflict. The tussle is over who gets to control the ancient city that is sacred to Jews, Muslims and Christians
- After the end of the **First Arab-Israel War in 1948**, Jerusalem was partitioned into West and East, under Israeli and Palestinian control respectively
- But in 1967, during the **Six-Day Arab-Israel War**, Israel occupied East Jerusalem from Jordanian forces, and Israel's Parliament declared the territory had been annexed to Israel
- This marginalised the Palestinians, who wanted East Jerusalem to be their capital under the **"two-state solution"**

What is it?

- Its basis is two separate states, Israel and Palestine, living peacefully side by side on the land between the western bank of the Jordan river and the Mediterranean Sea.
- This territory would be divided broadly along the **pre-1967 armistice line or "green line"**
- **Jerusalem**, which both sides want as their capital, would be shared.

Past negotiations have failed to make progress and there are currently no fresh talks in prospect

Oslo Accords & India's position

- Despite Israel's hold over the Jerusalem, in 2016, the UN reaffirmed that Jerusalem's Palestinian territories were under "hostile occupation".
- Undeterred by the refusal of the international community to endorse the annexation, Israel further expanded settlements in the territories of East Jerusalem.
- Under the **Oslo Accords** of the 1990s, both Israel and the Palestinians agreed that the status of settlements would be decided by negotiations. But the negotiations process has been stalled for several years now.
- India has **traditionally backed a two-state solution** to resolve the Israel-Palestine conflict
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/uae-israel-reach-agreement-to-establish-diplomatic-ties/article32347451.ece>

58. Consider the following categories.

1. Primary Articles
2. Fuel and Power
3. Manufactured products

Arrange them in decreasing order of their weightage in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI)?

- A. 1-2-3
- B. 1-3-2
- C. 3-2-1
- D. 3-1-2

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- Wholesale Price Index (WPI) measures and tracks the changes in the price of goods in the stages before the retail level. It provides estimates of inflation at the wholesale transaction level for the economy as a whole. WPI does not cover services.

WPI is divided into three major groups: **PRIMARY ARTICLES (Weight 22.62%), FUEL & POWER (Weight 13.15%) and MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS (Weight 64.23%).**

It is released by the Office of Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The base year is 2011-2012.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1645696>

59. Consider the following statements about Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs).

1. These schools are being set up by the Ministry of Education.
2. At least 75% seats are reserved for rural children.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** has been setting up Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) since 1998-99 for imparting quality education to tribal children in their own environment.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The objective of EMRSs is to provide quality middle and high level education to **Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote areas**.
- As per the budget 2018-19, **every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons**, will have an Eklavya Model Residential School by the year 2022.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1645464>

60. Which of the following became the first State in the world to become fully organic?

- A. Shikoku
- B. Kerala
- C. Sikkim

D. Hanoi

Answer: C

Explanation:

Sikkim became the first state in the World to officially announce adoption of organic farming in the year 2003 to ensure long term sustenance of soil fertility, protection of environment and ecology, healthy living and decreasing the risk of health ailments.

Other States including Tripura and Uttarakhand have set similar targets.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1645497>

61. With reference to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), consider the following statements.

1. It is an international treaty which aims to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament.
2. Full compliance with the obligations of the NPT is a membership criteria to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group.
3. India is yet to sign the NPT.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to foster the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of disarmament.
- It entered into force in 1970.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- Its 190 states-parties are classified into two categories: **nuclear-weapon states (NWS)**—consisting of the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom—and **non-nuclear-weapon states (NNWS)**.
- Under the treaty, the five NWS commit to pursue general and complete disarmament, while the NNWS agree to forgo developing or acquiring nuclear weapons.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Only four countries (South Sudan, **India**, Israel, and Pakistan) have not signed the treaty, and one country (North Korea) has signed and then withdrawn from the treaty.
Why didn't India join?
- The Treaty defines nuclear weapon states as those that had manufactured and detonated a nuclear explosive device prior to 1 January 1967.
- Thus, the spirit of the NPT creates a divide between countries that did develop nuclear power before 1967 and those that didn't develop nuclear power before 1967.
- Being a signatory to NPT means that the party state will cease all development of nuclear weapons and will open doors for inspection of its nuclear facilities by the **International Atomic Energy Agency**.
- The NPT, in India's opinion, doesn't explain the need for this distinction and loss of national sovereignty.

Nuclear Suppliers Group

- Established in 1975, the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) comprises 48 states that have voluntarily agreed to coordinate their export controls to non-nuclear-weapon states.
- The NSG governs the transfers of civilian nuclear material and nuclear-related equipment and technology.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Full compliance with the obligations of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is a **membership criteria** to join NSG.

China's blockade

- India has been trying, since 2008, to join the NSG, which would give India access to more sophisticated nuclear technology.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- However, China has repeatedly blocked India's entry into NSG as India is not a signatory to the NPT.
- It should be noted that members are admitted to NSG only by **consensus**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/gaps-in-the-casting-of-indias-foreign-policy/article32359123.ece>

62. Which of the following are components of RBI's reserves?

1. Contingency Fund
2. Currency and Gold Revaluation Account
3. Asset Development Fund
4. Investment Revaluation Account

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

RBI's reserves fall under four main heads: **the Contingency Fund (CF), the Currency and Gold Revaluation Account (CGRA), the Asset Development Fund (ADF) and the Investment Revaluation Account (IRA).**

CF is the corpus created to take care of unexpected and unforeseen contingencies, including depreciation in the value of securities held, systemic risks and risks arising out of monetary and exchange rate policy operations. The ADF corpus is meant to be drawn upon for investments in subsidiaries and to meet internal capital expenditure etc.

Of these, the CGRA and the IRA are 'notional' in the sense that they are there to reflect the movements in the market prices of the asset classes (mainly gold, foreign currency and investments) to which they relate. No cash flow is involved in their case and the net credit balance

in the CGRA account only indicates the unrealised or potential gain from the disposal by sale of those assets today.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/rbi-board-approves-transfer-of-57128-crore-as-surplus-to-govt/article32356075.ece>

63. Which among the following are examples of Non-tariff barriers?

1. Quotas
2. Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary requirements
3. Rules of Origin
4. Anti Dumping duty

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) is a way to restrict trade using trade barriers **in a form other than a tariff**. It refers to restrictions that result from prohibitions, conditions, or specific market requirements that make importation or exportation of products difficult and/or costly.
- Quotas, Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary requirements and Rules of Origin are part of Non-Tariff Barriers.
- A **“quota”** is a government-imposed trade restriction that limits the number or monetary value of goods that a country can import or export during a particular period. Countries use quotas in international trade to help regulate the volume of trade between them and other countries.
- **“Sanitary and phytosanitary measures”** are restrictions placed on imports to protect humans, animals, and plants from diseases, pests, or contaminants.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- “**Rules of origin**” are the criteria used to define where a product was made. They are an essential part of trade rules because a number of policies discriminate between exporting countries.
- On the other hand, a tariff barrier is a **price based policy** to restrict trade because it changes the price of import paid by the importer. Eg: Customs duty, **Anti-dumping duty**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/india-to-take-equal-proportional-measures-if-other-countries-impose-trade-barriers-goyal/article32358864.ece>

64. With reference to the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), consider the following statements.

1. It is a statutory organisation of the Ministry of Science and Technology.
2. It is the nodal agency to deal with cyber security threats and strengthens security-related defence of the Indian Internet domain.
3. "Cyber Swachhta Kendra" is an initiative of the CERT-In.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** CERT-In is a **statutory organisation** of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** established in 2004.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is the nodal agency to deal with cyber security threats and strengthens security-related defence of the Indian Internet domain.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The "Cyber Swachhta Kendra" is a Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre (BCMAC), operated by CERT-In as part of the Government of India's Digital India initiative.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- Its goal is to create a secure cyberspace by detecting botnet infections in India and to notify, enable cleaning and securing systems of end users so as to prevent further infections.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/democracy-needs-an-internet-ombudsman/article32359134.ece>

65. "SRIJAN" portal has been launched with the main objective of

- A. Improving coordination between the power, coal and railway ministries to ensure coal supplies to power plants.
- B. Facilitating trading across Borders.
- C. Creating awareness of the value of Snow Leopard for the ecosystem.
- D. To promote indigenisation of defence items' production.

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh recently launched the "SRIJAN"- an online portal that provides information about defence equipment and items that can be taken up for indigenisation by private sector companies.

It aims to promote indigenisation of defence items' production.

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=397312>

66. With reference to the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), consider the following statements.

1. NDHM aims to provide health ID to Indian citizens which will store an individual's medical records.
2. Enrolment in the initiative is mandatory for everyone.
3. The Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India has been given the mandate by the government to design, build, roll-out and implement the NDHM in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only

- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day speech announced a major digital initiative in the form of National Digital Health Mission.
- The project will provide a health ID to every person in the country, and benefit the poor. The prime minister said that whatever medicine a doctor prescribed, when was it prescribed, what were the reports - all this information will be linked to a person's health ID.
- It is going to be another flagship initiative of the government like Ayushman Bharat.

What is the National Digital Health Mission?

- The blueprint of the programme was launched last year. It seeks to provide efficient and affordable health coverage through a wide-range of data and infrastructure services.
- The key feature of this mission is the **technology part** - it will leverage open digital systems to provide high-quality healthcare for all. It will integrate various digital health services to create an ecosystem which can assimilate existing health information systems.
- The government has said that it will ensure security and privacy of personal information.

What is a health ID?

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Under NDHM, Indian citizens will get a digital health ID which is basically a digital format of all his/her health records which will be linked to the registry of doctors and health facilities across the country.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The government has said that enrollment in the initiative will be **voluntary**.
- The health ID will contain information about medical data, prescriptions and diagnostic reports and summaries of previous discharge from hospitals for ailments. The mission is expected to bring efficiency and transparency in healthcare services in the country.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- The NDHM aims to liberate citizens from the challenges of finding the right doctors, seeking appointment with them, payment of consultation fee, making several rounds of hospitals for prescription sheets and will empower all Indians with the correct information and sources enabling them to take an informed decision to avail the best possible healthcare.
- The NDHM comprises **six key building blocks or digital systems** - HealthID, DigiDoctor, Health Facility Registry, Personal Health Records, e-Pharmacy and Telemedicine - that will enable access to timely, safe and affordable healthcare through a 'citizen-centric' approach.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The **National Health Authority (NHA)**, the apex agency responsible for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), has been given the mandate by the government to design, build, roll-out and implement the NDHM in the country.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/explained-what-is-national-digital-health-mission-and-how-it-will-benefit-people/story-qOKlv3rbkrvB0aR9ZQyvdk.html>

67. Consider the following statements about National Cadet Corps (NCC).

1. The officers and cadets have no liability for active military service.
2. NCC operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The National Cadet Corps (NCC) is a youth development movement. The NCC provides opportunities to the youth of the country for their all-round development with a sense of Duty, Commitment, Dedication, Discipline and Moral Values so that they become able leaders and useful citizens.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- The NCC provides exposure to the cadets in a wide range of activities., with a distinct emphasis on Social Services, Discipline and Adventure Training. The NCC is open to all regular students of schools and colleges on a voluntary basis.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The students have **no liability for active military service.**
- The motto of NCC is:“ UNITY AND DISCIPLINE”.
- NCC is headed by the Director General (DG), an Army Officer of the rank of Lieutenant General.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The NCC operates under the **Ministry of Defence.**

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Defence-Minister-approves-proposal-for-major-expansion-of-NCC-to-cover-173-border-and-coastal-districts&id=397420>

68. New Development Bank was established by

- A. G 20 countries
- B. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
- C. BRICS countries
- D. Association of Southeast Asian Nations

Answer: C

Explanation:

- The NDB created by the BRICS countries formally came into existence at the Ufa Summit (Russia) in 2015.
- It was established with the objective of financing infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies and developing countries, complementing the efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions toward global growth and development.
- In 2018, the NDB received **observer status** in the UN General Assembly.
- The five member nations – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – have an **equal shareholding in the NDB.**
- Voting power of each member is equal to the number of its subscribed shares in capital stock.
- All members of the United Nations could be members of the bank, however the share of the BRICS nations can never be less than **55% of voting power.**

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=India-calls-for-real-time-information-sharing-among-BRICS-nations-to-tackle-drug-menace&id=397431>

69. **Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan was launched with the major objective of**

- A. Providing affordable loans to street vendors affected due to COVID-19 lockdown.
- B. To offer immediate employment to migrant workers who have returned to their villages because of COVID-19 lockdown.
- C. Providing health insurance to COVID-19 frontline workers.
- D. Providing rural people with the right to document their residential properties so that they can use their property for economic purposes.

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyan aims to offer **immediate employment to migrant workers who have returned to their villages because of COVID-19 lockdown**, and while doing so it is expected to create durable infrastructure in rural areas.
- A total of **116 Districts** with more than 25 thousand returnee migrant workers across **six States**, namely Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha have been chosen for the campaign.
- These districts are estimated to cover about two-third of such migrant workers.
- Public Works worth Rs 50,000 crore would be carried out in these districts to provide immediate relief to these workers.
- This is an umbrella scheme that has brought under it 25 different government schemes of 12 ministries/departments.
- Workers will be employed in rural housing, rural connectivity including the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, national highways, railway works, community sanitation complex, gram panchayats, anganwadis, water conservation, digging of wells, plantation and horticulture.
- This scheme will be made available for **125 days** and extension of the scheme will be decided based on the need.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- Option A is related to **Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme.**

- Option D is related to **SVAMITVA scheme.**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/generated-5-5-lakh-mandays-of-work-under-gareeb-kalyan-rozgar-abhiyan-in-6-states-railways/articleshow/77576991.cms>

70. Consider the following statements about the Navroz festival.

1. It is inscribed in the list of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of India.
2. Mughal emperor Aurangzeb banned the celebration of Navroz during his rule.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Navroz is New Year celebrations for Parsis, followers of Zoroastrianism and various sects of Muslim, both Shias and Sunnis.
- Although the festival originated in Persia, it is celebrated with much fervour in many Indian states. The day is also referred to as Jamshedi Navroz after the Persian King Jamshed who founded the Parsi calendar.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** It is inscribed in the list of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** During his tenure, Aurangzeb banned the celebration of Navroz.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1646240>

71. “Tax levied on the excess capital raised by an unlisted company through the issue of shares over and above the fair market value of those shares”.

Which of the following is described in the above definition?

- A. Capital gains tax
- B. Property tax
- C. Venture capital tax
- D. Angel tax

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- The above definition is related to Angel tax.
- It is levied on the excess capital raised by an unlisted company through the issue of shares over and above the ‘fair market value’ of those shares. This excess capital is treated as income and taxed accordingly.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/comment-re-imagining-and-reinventing-the-indian-economy/article32376209.ece>

72. **Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project (PMP) is a bi-national hydropower project between**

- A. India and Bhutan
- B. India and Nepal
- C. India and Myanmar
- D. China and Nepal

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- The Pancheshwar multipurpose project — first envisaged 24 years ago as part of the **Mahakali treaty** that India and Nepal signed in 1996 — includes setting up of two hydro-electric plants with a total installed capacity of 5,040 MW and a 315 metre-high dam to meet the power and irrigation requirements of the two countries.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- It is a bi-national hydropower project to be developed in **Mahakali River** bordering **Nepal and India**.
- It straddles Uttarakhand in India and the Far Western Development Region of Nepal. According to India, the river draws its waters from the Mahakali river (known as Sarada in India), which originates at Kalapani, one of the disputed sites in Uttarakhand that Nepal has now claimed as its own.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/indian-nepalese-diplomats-discuss-bilateral-projects-after-months-of-acrimony/article32375151.ece>

73. Which among the following is/are the likely measure(s) the Government takes to control the surge in the price of an agricultural commodity in the domestic market?

1. Removing Minimum Export Price (MEP) restrictions
2. Removing stock limits on traders
3. Removing tariff and non-tariff restrictions on imports

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- A. 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 3
- C. 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation: Price surge of an agriculture commodity usually happens as a result of scarcity of the commodity to cater to the demand of consumers. Hoarding by traders further increases scarcity and worsens the situation.

- Minimum Export Price (MEP) is the price below which an exporter is not allowed to export the commodity from India. MEP is a kind of quantitative restriction to trade.
- Government impose/increase MEP to restrict exports and increase the supply of commodities which will consequently reduce its price levels.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- Stock limits are imposed on traders to restrict them from hoarding scarce commodities. **Hence, statements 1 and 2 are incorrect.**
- Removing tariff and non-tariff restrictions on imports increases imports of that commodity which will dampen their market prices. **Hence, statement 3 is correct.**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1646632>

74. 'Samagra Shiksha' subsumed which of the following schemes?

1. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
2. Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan
3. Teacher Education

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- Samagra Shiksha is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class 12. The scheme has been prepared with the broader goal of improving school effectiveness measured in terms of equal opportunities for schooling and equitable learning outcomes.
- It subsumes the three Schemes of **Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)**, **Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)** and **Teacher Education (TE)**.
- It was introduced in the Union Budget, 2018-19.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Five-day-online-IMPACT-training-concludes-under-Samagra-Shiksha-in-J%26K&id=397562>

75. Who was the first to discuss the concept of a poverty line in pre-independent India?

- A. Dadabhai Naoroji
- B. G.K. Gokhale
- C. R.C. Dutt
- D. G Subramaniam iyer

Answer: A

Explanation:

- In pre-independent India, Dadabhai Naoroji was the first to discuss the concept of a poverty line. Poverty line is defined as the money value of the goods and services needed to provide basic welfare to an individual.
- Dadabhai Naoroji presented the first estimates of poverty in his 1877 paper 'Poverty in India', subsequently published in his book **Poverty and Un-British Rule in India** in 1899.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/british-colonialism-independence-economic-growth-poverty-in-india-6555157/>

76. Consider the following statements about the Asian Development Bank's (ADB).

1. ADB does not have any members from outside Asia.
2. China is the largest shareholder in ADB.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Explanation: Founded in 1966, the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) headquarters are in Manila, Philippines. The Asian Development Bank's primary mission is to foster growth and cooperation among countries in the Asia-Pacific Region.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** At present, ADB comprises 68 members (including **India**)- of which 49 are from within Asia and the Pacific and **19 outside**.
- The ADB was modeled closely on the World Bank, and has a similar weighted voting system where votes are distributed in proportion with members' capital subscriptions.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The two largest shareholders of the ADB are **the US and Japan**.
- ADB is an official United Nations Observer.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/ashok-lavasa-resigns-as-election-commissioner-to-join-ADB-as-vice-president/articleshow/77618015.cms>

77. Consider the following statements about Asiatic cheetah.

1. It is classified as a “critically endangered” species by the IUCN Red List.
2. At present, they are naturally found only in the Kuno-Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Asiatic cheetah is classified as a “critically endangered” species by the IUCN Red List, and is believed to survive only in **Iran**.
- Asiatic cheetahs were once widespread across India but were eradicated in the country as they were hunted for sport.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** In 1952, Asiatic cheetah was **declared extinct** from India.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/now-cheetahs-for-mysuru-zoo/article32385230.ece>

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

78. Black Sea is a border of which of the following countries?

1. Ukraine
2. Iraq
3. Turkey
4. Lebanon
5. Syria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 3 and 4 only
- D. 2, 3 and 5 only

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Six countries border the Black Sea, including **Ukraine** to the north, **Russia** and **Georgia** to the east, **Turkey** to the south, and **Bulgaria** and **Romania** to the west.



<https://www.businessinsider.in/international/news/the-us-and-nato-are-boosting-their-presence-in-a-hotspot-for-military-activity-near-russia/articleshow/77511226.cms>

79. Which among the following is/are components of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Programme?

1. Promotion of Affordable Housing for the weaker section through credit linked subsidy.
2. Affordable Housing in Partnership with Public & Private sectors.
3. Subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house construction /enhancement.
4. Slum rehabilitation of Slum Dwellers with participation of private developers using land as a resource.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- Mission Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) for ensuring housing for all in urban areas was launched in 2015 which is to be implemented during 2015-2022.
- The Mission provides central assistance to all eligible families/ beneficiaries across all statutory towns for houses included under the mission.
- States/UTs will have the flexibility to include the Planning Areas (to the exclusion of rural areas) as notified with respect to Statutory Towns and such Planning Areas (to the exclusion of rural areas) as notified by development authorities.
- To address Housing for All in urban area, the Mission has four verticals:
 - In-situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR) with participation of private developers using land as resource for providing housing to eligible slum dwellers;

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- affordable housing through credit-linked subsidy scheme (CLSS now renamed as CLSS for EWS/LIG);
- affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) with public and private sectors;
- subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house construction/ enhancements; size of house for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) is 30 sq. mt., in the carpet area but states have flexibility to enhance the size of houses in consultation with the Ministry.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1646643>

80. Which of the following techniques are used to clean up oil spills?

1. Sorbents
2. Skimmers
3. Oil booms
4. Bioremediation
5. Burning In-situ

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

The use of **oil booms** is a very simple and popular method of controlling oil spills. Equipment called containment booms acts like a fence to prevent the oil from further spreading or floating away.

- Once the oil has been confined by using oil booms, **skimmers or oil scoops** can be deployed onto boats to remove the contaminants from the water surface. Skimmers are machines specially designed to suck up the oil from the water surface like a vacuum cleaner. They are used to physically separate the oil from the water so that it can be collected and processed for re-use.

- **Sorbents** are materials that soak up liquids by either absorption (pulling in through pores) or adsorption (forming a layer on the surface). Both these properties make the process of clean-up much easier. Materials commonly used as oil sorbents are hay, peat moss, straw or vermiculite.
- **Burning In-situ:** In this method, the oil floating on the surface is ignited to burn it off. This in-situ burning of oil can effectively remove up to 98% of an oil spill, which is more than most of the other methods.
- **Bioremediation** refers to the use of specific microorganisms to remove any toxic or harmful substances. There are various classes of bacteria, fungi, archaea and algae that degrade petroleum products by metabolizing and breaking them into simpler and non-toxic molecules (mostly fatty acids and carbon dioxide). Sometimes, reagents and fertilizers may be added to the area. These phosphorus-based and nitrogen-based fertilizers provide adequate nutrients to the microbes so that they are able to grow and multiply quickly.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/india-rushes-emergency-technical-support-to-mauritius-to-control-oil-spill-as-part-of-extended-neighbourhood-outreach/articleshow/77572772.cms>

81. Which of the following countries are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council?

1. Saudi Arabia
2. Bahrain
3. Kuwait
4. Iran
5. Oman

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
- B. 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- C. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: C

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Explanation:

- The Gulf Cooperation Council is a political and economic alliance of six countries in the Arabian Peninsula: **Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.** Established in 1981, the GCC promotes economic, security, cultural and social cooperation between the six states and holds a summit every year to discuss cooperation and regional affairs.



<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/formalising-a-known-reality/article32396796.ece>

82. With reference to river Teesta, consider the following statements:

- The source of river Teesta is the same as that of Brahmaputra but it flows through Sikkim.
- River Rangeet originates in Sikkim and it is a tributary of river Teesta.
- River Teesta flows into Bay of Bengal on the border of India and Bangladesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **B**

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect: While Teesta originates from Tso Lhamo lake of **North Sikkim Himalayas**, the Brahmaputra originates on the Angsi Glacier in **Tibet**.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The river winds its way down, from the mountains gathering along its course streams, large and small; and its most significant tributary — the **Rangee river** — at a sacred confluence in Darjeeling's Teesta Bazaar, before crossing an international border in Mekhligunj in north Bengal's Cooch Behar district, where it enters **Bangladesh**, meets the **Brahmaputra**, and flows into the Bay of Bengal.
- Around 83% of the river's catchment lies in India and the remaining 17% lies in Bangladesh.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Rangee river originates in the Himalayan mountains in West Sikkim district.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-to-offer-covid-19-vaccine-to-bangladesh-on-priority-basis/article32395700.ece>

83. The “The Power of Siberia” project, sometimes seen in the news, is related to

- A. Project involving \$1 billion worth line of credit from India for the development of Far East Russia.
- B. First cross-border gas pipeline between Russia and China.
- C. Project involving reconstruction of the Trans-Siberian Railway and connecting the Trans-Korean Mainline to the Russian railway network.
- D. None of the above

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- The Power of Siberia is the **first cross-border gas pipeline between Russia and China**.
- From Siberia to China's Yangtze River delta in Shanghai, the massive pipeline will cover 8,000 km, with 5,111 km inside China, passing through nine provinces and municipalities.

- The "Power of Siberia" pipeline was officially launched by Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/china-russia-ties-as-a-major-determinant/article32397585.ece>

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

1. The Act declares that the religious character of a place of worship shall continue to be the same as it was on September 21, 1991, when the act came into force.
2. The act would not apply to ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains that are covered by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- The aim of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 was to freeze the status of any place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947. It was also to provide for the maintenance of the religious character of such a place of worship as on that day.
- It was intended to pre-empt new claims by any group about the past status of any place of worship and attempts to reclaim the structures or the land on which they stood. It was hoped that the legislation would help the preservation of communal harmony in the long run.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Act declares that the religious character of a place of worship shall continue to be the same as it was on **August 15, 1947**. It says no person shall convert any place of

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

worship of any religious denomination into one of a different denomination or section. No further legal proceedings can be instituted.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** However, the act would not apply to ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains that are covered by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
- The disputed site at Ayodhya was also exempted from the Act.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/pushing-bigotry-to-the-margins/article32396791.ece>

85. Which of the following acts as the nodal agency for strategic disinvestments?

- A. Department of Economic Affairs
- B. Department of Investment and Public Asset Management
- C. Department of Revenue
- D. NITI Aayog

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- Strategic disinvestment implies the sale of a substantial portion of the Government shareholding of a central public sector enterprises (CPSE) of **up to 50%, or such higher percentage** as the competent authority may determine, along with **transfer of management control**.
- The **Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)** under the Ministry of Finance is the nodal department for the strategic disinvestment.
- **DIPAM and NITI Aayog** jointly identify PSUs for strategic disinvestment.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/no-divestment-yet-against-target-of-rs-2-1-lakh-crore-for-2020-21-officials-blame-covid/articleshow/77647720.cms>

86. With reference to the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, consider the following statements.

1. The Act recognised women as coparceners for property partitions.
2. Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains and followers of Arya Samaj, Brahma Samaj are also considered Hindus for the purposes of this law.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **B**

Explanation: About Hindu Succession Act, 1956

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Hindu Succession Act, 1956 governed succession and inheritance of property but recognised **only males as legal heirs**.
- The law applied to everyone who is not a Muslim, Christian, Parsi or Jew by religion.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains and followers of Arya Samaj, Brahmo Samaj are also considered Hindus for the purposes of this law.
- In a Hindu Undivided Family (HUF), several legal heirs through generations can exist jointly.
- Traditionally, HUF includes only the male descendants of a common ancestor along with their mothers, wives and unmarried daughters. The legal heirs hold the family property jointly.

2005 Amendment

- The 1956 Act was amended in September 2005 and **women were recognised as coparceners** for property partitions arising from 2005.

A **coparcener** is the one who shares equally in the inheritance of an undivided property.

Coparcenary property is one which is inherited by a Hindu from his/her father, grandfather or great-grandfather.

- **Section 6** of the Act was amended to make a daughter of a coparcener also a coparcener by birth “in her own right in the same manner as the son”.
- It also gave the daughter the same rights and liabilities “in the coparcenary property as she would have had if she had been a son”.
- The law applies to ancestral property and to intestate succession in personal property, where succession happens as per law and not through a will.

- While the 2005 law granted equal rights to women, questions were raised in multiple cases on whether the law applied retrospectively, and if the rights of women depended on the living status of the father through whom they would inherit.

Supreme Court Judgements

- **Prakash v Phulwati (2015):** The SC held that the benefit of the 2005 amendment could be granted only to “living daughters of living coparceners”.
- **Danamma v. Amar case in 2018:** Contrary to the 2015 ruling, the SC held that the share of a father who died in 2001 will also pass to his daughters as coparceners during the partition of the property as per the 2005 law. Then again in a judgement, the SC reiterated the position taken in 2015.

Why in News?

- The Supreme Court recently held that daughters, like sons, have an equal birthright to inherit joint Hindu family property. A three-judge Bench says that the rights do not depend on whether her father was alive or not when the law was enacted in 2005.
- The Supreme court has overruled the earlier verdict of 2015 that the right to coparcenary of a daughter is by birth, it is not necessary that the father should be alive as on September 9, 2005.
- It overrules the verdicts from 2015 and April 2018. It settles the law and expands on the intention of the 2005 legislation “to remove the discrimination as contained in section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 by giving equal rights to daughters in the Hindu Mitakshara coparcenary property as the sons have”.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/supreme-court-order-on-coparcenary-rights-6562197/>

87. **With reference to the National Recruitment Agency (NRA), consider the following statements.**

1. The Agency aims to conduct a common preliminary examination, the scores of which will be used for various central government recruitment.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

2. The NRA will replace the Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Board (RRB), and Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS).
3. Candidates will have to appear for the exams in either Hindi or English.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1 and 3 only

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The central government chaired by PM Narendra Modi decided to set up a common recruitment body called National Recruitment Agency on August 20.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Agency aims to conduct a common preliminary examination, the scores of which will be used for various central government recruitment.
- Initially, the Agency will conduct exams for Group B and C (non-technical) posts. There is a proposal to expand the purview of the exams.
- Currently, the Group B and C recruitment is done by Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Board (RRB), and Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** NRA will conduct a common preliminary exam and based on the scores received by the candidates, IBPS, SSC and RRB will conduct the Tier II and Tier III examinations. This means that these agencies **will remain in place**; however, the preliminary exams will be conducted by the NRA.
- NRA aims to conduct separate exams for graduate candidates, 12th pass candidates, and 10th pass candidates. The scores received in these exams will be valid for 3 years which can be used to apply for Tier II recruitment.
- There is **no restriction on the number attempts** a candidate can make but there will be an **upper age limit for candidates**. The best valid score will be considered as the current score.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Initially candidates will have an option to appear for the exams in **12 languages**. There are plans to expand the number of languages in which the exam will be conducted in the future.
- Special focus would be given on creating examination infrastructure in the **117 Aspirational Districts**.
- Currently, around 2.5 crore candidates appear for these exams for around 1.25 lakh vacancies. The Agency aims to streamline the process of recruitment for various central government positions.
- NRA will have representatives from the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Finance/Department of Financial Services, the SSC, RRB & IBPS.

<https://scroll.in/announcements/970871/national-recruitment-agency-all-you-need-to-know-about-nra>

88. In which of the following circumstances herd immunity can be best achieved?

- A. Preventing an infectious disease from spreading by immunising a certain percentage of the population.
- B. Situation in which sufficient proportions of a population develop immunity for an infectious disease after being infected.
- C. Delaying in acceptance or refusal of vaccines despite availability of vaccination services.
- D. Both A and B

Answer: D

Explanation:

What does herd immunity mean?

- Herd immunity refers to preventing an infectious disease from spreading by **immunising a certain percentage of the population**.
- While the concept is most commonly used in the context of vaccination, herd immunity can also be achieved after **enough people have become immune after being infected**.
- Hence both a and b refers to herd immunity.

- The premise is that if a certain percentage of the population is immune, members of that group can no longer infect another person. This breaks the chain of infection through the community (“herd”), and prevents it from reaching those who are the most vulnerable.

When do we know that a population has achieved herd immunity?

- It depends on multiple factors: how effective the vaccine for a given disease is, how long-lasting immunity is from both vaccination and infection, and which populations form critical links in transmission of the disease.
- Mathematically, it is defined on the basis of a number called “herd immunity threshold”, which is the number of immune individuals above which a disease may no longer circulate.
- Polio has a threshold of 80% to 85%, while measles has 95%. With the current data for COVID-19, experts have estimated a threshold of over 60%. That means more than 60% of the population needs to develop immunity to reach the stage of herd immunity.
- **Option C** refers to **Vaccine hesitancy**.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/why-delhi-is-not-out-of-woods-yet/story-deMbXCbBj5vMutMrT9uVBN.html>

89. Gadgil Report and Kasturirangan Report, sometimes seen in the news, are related to?

- A. Restructuring and reforms of Food Corporation of India
- B. To study various issues relating to data privacy
- C. To address the challenges faced by the current education system
- D. Development and environment protection of Western Ghats

Answer: D

Explanation:

- The Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel under Madhav Gadgil was set up in 2010 to make an assessment of the ecology and biodiversity of the Western Ghats and suggest measures to conserve, protect and rejuvenate the entire range that stretches to over 1500 km along the coast, with its footprints in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.

What did the Gadgil Committee say?

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- It defined the boundaries of the Western Ghats for the purposes of ecological management. The total area in this boundary came to 1,29,037 square km, running about 1,490 km north to south, with a maximum width of 210 km in Tamil Nadu and minimum of 48 km in Maharashtra.
- It proposed that this **entire area be designated as ecologically sensitive area (ESA)**. Within this area, smaller regions were to be identified as ecologically sensitive zones (ESZ) I, II or III based on their existing condition and nature of threat.
- It recommended:
 - Ban on cultivation of genetically modified in entire area
 - Plastic bags to be phased out in three years
 - No new special economic zones or hill stations to be allowed
 - Ban on conversion of public lands to private lands, and on diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes in ESZ I and II
 - No new mining licences in ESZ I and II area
 - No new dams in ESZ I
 - No new thermal power plants or large scale wind power projects in ESZ I
 - No new polluting industries in ESZ I and ESZ II areas
 - No new railway lines or major roads in ESZ I and II areas
 - Strict regulation of tourism
 - Cumulative impact assessment for all new projects like dams, mines, tourism, housing
 - Phase-out of all chemical pesticides within five to eight years in ESZ I and ESZ II
- The committee proposed a **Western Ghats Ecology Authority** to regulate these activities in the area.

What was the need for the subsequent Kasturirangan Committee?

- None of the six concerned states agreed with the recommendations of the Gadgil Committee, which submitted its report in August 2011 (its official public release was cancelled).
- In August 2012, then Environment Minister Jayanthi Natarajan constituted a High-Level Working Group on Western Ghats under Kasturirangan to “examine” the Gadgil Committee report in a

“holistic and multidisciplinary fashion in the light of responses received” from states, central ministries and others.

What did the Kasturirangan Committee say?

- It broadened the definition of Western Ghats and included a total of 1,64,280 square km in it. It then classified it as comprising **cultural landscape and natural landscape**. It said nearly 60% of the Western Ghats was cultural landscape, where human settlements, agriculture and plantations existed. The remaining was natural landscape, of which the “biologically rich” area was only 37% or about 60,000 sq km.
- It was **only this part that the committee said needed to be classified as ecologically sensitive area (ESA)**.
- Its main recommendations for ESA
 - Ban on mining, quarrying and sand mining
 - No new thermal power projects, but hydro power projects allowed with restrictions
 - Ban on new polluting industries
 - Building and construction projects up to 20,000 sq m was to be allowed but townships were to be banned
 - Forest diversion could be allowed with extra safeguards

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/kerala-idukki-landslide-munnar-quixplained-6558204/>

90. Which of the following acts as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations?

- A. International Court of Arbitration
- B. Permanent Court of Arbitration
- C. International Court of Justice
- D. International Criminal Court

Answer: C

Explanation:

- The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations.
- The Court's role is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.
- Unlike most other organs of international organizations, the Court is **not composed of representatives** of governments. Members of the Court are **independent judges**.
- The Court is composed of 15 judges, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.
- All members of the UN are **automatic** parties to the statute of the court, but this does not automatically give the ICJ jurisdiction over disputes involving them. The ICJ gets jurisdiction **only on the basis of consent of both parties**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/jadhav-should-be-represented-by-indian-lawyer-india/article32406857.ece>

91. **With reference to the Economic survey 2019-20, consider the following statements.**

1. China remains as the largest trading partner of India.
2. With the USA, India has consistently run trade surplus since 2014-15.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **B**

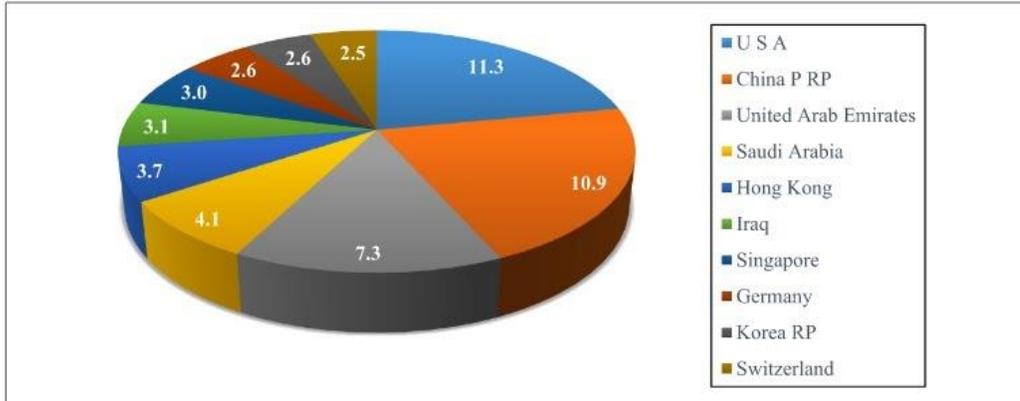
Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** India's top five trading partners continue to be USA, China, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Hong Kong respectively.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Figure 5: Top 10 Trading Partners of India in 2019-20 (April-November)(in Per cent)



Source: Computed from latest data available on Department of Commerce's website, '<https://commerce-app.gov.in/eidb/default.asp>'.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** With two top trading countries i.e. The USA and United Arab Emirates, India has consistently run **trade surplus** since 2014-15.
- On the other hand, India has trade deficit continuously since 2014-15 with respect to other major trading partners i.e. China PRP, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Germany, Korea RP, Indonesia and Switzerland.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/shipments-to-china-driving-export-recovery/article32416273.ece>

92. Consider the following statements.

1. Dengue is a Neglected tropical disease.
2. Dengue is a vector borne disease transmitted by mosquitoes of Culex species.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Dengue is common in more than 100 countries around the world. Forty percent of the world's population, about 3 billion people, live in areas with a risk of dengue. Dengue is often a leading cause of illness in areas with risk.
- The mosquitoes that spread dengue are found in most tropical and subtropical regions of the world.
- The dengue virus (DEN) comprises four distinct serotypes (DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3 and DEN-4) which belong to the **genus Flavivirus, family Flaviviridae**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The **Aedes aegypti mosquito** is the main vector that transmits the viruses that cause dengue. The viruses are passed on to humans through the bites of an infective female Aedes mosquito, which mainly acquires the virus while feeding on the blood of an infected person.
- Once infected, humans become the main carriers and multipliers of the virus, serving as a source of the virus for uninfected mosquitoes.
- Rarely, dengue can be spread through blood transfusion, organ transplant, or through a needle stick injury.
- Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a diverse group of communicable diseases that prevail in tropical and subtropical conditions in 149 countries which will affect more than one billion people and cost developing economies.
- Populations living in poverty without adequate sanitation and in close contact with infectious vectors and domestic animals and livestock are those worst affected.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The World Health Organization's Roadmap on NTDs set out a comprehensive plan for the control, elimination and eradication of 17 neglected tropical diseases by 2020. It includes **Dengue**, **Blinding trachoma**, **Human dog-mediated rabies**, **Leprosy (Hansen disease)**, **Endemic treponematoses (yaws)**, **Human African trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness)**, **Leishmaniasis**, **Lymphatic filariasis**, etc.

<https://www.pressreader.com/india/the-hindu/20200822/282093459111807>

93. Which of the following are initiatives under the Atal Innovation Mission.

1. Atal Incubation Centres
2. Mentor India Campaign
3. ARISE programme
4. SPARC programme

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative set up by the **NITI Aayog** to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of the country.
- AIM's objective is to develop new programmes and policies for fostering innovation in different sectors of the economy, provide platform and collaboration opportunities for different stakeholders, create awareness and create an umbrella structure to oversee the innovation ecosystem of the country.

Initiatives under Atal Innovation Mission

Atal Tinkering Labs - at School Level

- Over the last two years, AIM has launched the establishment of thousands of Atal Tinkering Labs enabling students from **grade 6 to grade 12** to have access to and tinker with innovative tools and technologies like 3D printers, robotics, miniaturised electronics do-it-yourself kits, thus stimulating a problem solving innovative mindset to solve problems in the community they are in.
- Some activities related to ATL Operational Excellence, Proactive Promotion of Innovation & Thought Leadership, Collaborations & Partnerships and New Initiatives by AIM:
 - **ATL Gandhian Challenge** - launched in all schools along with UNICEF.
 - **India Stamp Creativity challenge**- launched with UNICEF and India Post.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- **PM India Innovative Learning DHRUV Program** – AIM invited as key partner by MHRD.

Atal Incubators at Universities, Institutions, Industry Level

- To promote creation of a supporting ecosystem for start-ups and entrepreneurs, AIM has been establishing world-class incubators called Atal Incubation Centres (AICs) in universities, Institutions, corporates, etc. that would foster innovative start-ups and become scalable and sustainable enterprises.
- Some activities related to AIC Operational Excellence, Proactive Promotion of Innovation & Thought Leadership, Collaborations & Partnerships and New Initiatives by AIM:
- **Youth-CoLab Sustainable Innovation Challenge** along with UNDP–based on Gandhian Values.
- **UNLEASH Startups Challenge** with Netherlands embassy support.

Atal Community Innovation Centres - Serving Unserved and Under-Served Regions of India

- To promote the benefits of technology led innovation to the unserved/ underserved regions of India including Tier 2, Tier 3 cities, aspirational districts, tribal, hilly and coastal areas, AIM is setting up Atal Community Innovation Centres (ACICs) with a unique partnership driven model wherein AIM would **grant up to Rs. 2.5 crore** to an ACIC subject to a partner providing equal or greater matching funding.

Atal New India Challenges - Product and Service Innovations with National Impact

- To create product and service innovations having national socio-economic impact, AIM has launched over 24 Atal New India Challenges in partnership with five different ministries and departments of the central government.

Applied Research and Innovation for Small Enterprises (ARISE) - to Stimulate MSME Industry Innovation

- To promote innovation in a phased manner in the MSME/Start-up sector AIM will be launching ARISE along with partner Ministries so that great research ideas are converted to viable innovative prototypes followed by product development and commercial deployment.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Mentorship and Partnerships - with Public, Private sector, NGOs, Academia, Institutions

- To enable all the initiatives to succeed, AIM has launched the “**Mentor India – The Mentors of Change**” programme, in collaboration with the public sector, corporates and institutions, to support all the initiatives of the mission.
- It is a strategic nation building initiative to engage leaders who can guide and mentor students in Atal Tinkering Labs.
- The Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) aims at improving the research ecosystem of India’s Higher Educational Institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world from 28 selected nations to jointly solve problems of national and/or international relevance.
- It is an initiative of the **Ministry of Human Resource Development**.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=AIM%2c-NITI-Aayog%2c-Business-Sweden-collaborate-to-promote-disruptive-potential-of-Indian-entrepreneurs&id=397801>

94. **With reference to the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), consider the following statements.**

1. BIS is the world's oldest international financial institution and remains the principal centre for international central bank cooperation.
2. BIS is owned by more than 50 central banks including the Reserve Bank of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) is a bank for central banks.

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Founded in 1930, the Bank for International Settlements is the world's oldest international financial institution and remains the principal centre for international central bank cooperation.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The BIS is owned by 62 central banks (including the Reserve Bank of India), representing countries from around the world that together account for about 95% of world GDP.
- BIS' mission is fostering discussion and facilitating collaboration among central banks.
<https://www.ft.com/content/aaf192ac-dc94-4509-8f24-5831a32e7aa2>

95. With reference to the Election Commission of India, consider the following statements.

1. In case of difference of opinion amongst the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and election commissioners, the decision of the CEC will prevail.
2. The Election Commissioners can be removed from office only through impeachment by Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- The Election Commission of India is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering Union and State election processes in India. The body administers elections to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies in India, and the offices of the President and Vice President in the country.
- The **President** appoints Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners. They have tenure of **six years**, or up to the age of **65 years**, whichever is earlier.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- They enjoy the same status and receive salary and perks as available to Judges of the **Supreme Court of India**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** According to Article 324 (5), the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) can be removed from office **only through impeachment by Parliament**. However, the same constitutional provision is silent about the procedure for removal of the two Election Commissioners. It only provides that they cannot be removed from office **except on the recommendation of the CEC**.
- The Commission transacts its business by holding regular meetings and also by circulation of papers. All Election Commissioners have **equal say in the decision making of the Commission**.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** If the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners differ in opinion on any matter, such matter shall be decided according to the **opinion of the majority**.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/rajiv-kumar-election-commissioner-ashok-lavasa-6564700/>

96. SWAYAM is

- A. A network that aims to tap the talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs towards self reliant India.
- B. A Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) initiative on a national platform.
- C. An empowerment scheme for advancing the participation of girls in education.
- D. A scheme that supports differently abled children to pursue technical education

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- The 'Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds' (SWAYAM) is a programme initiated by Government of India and designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of Education Policy viz., **access, equity and quality**.
- It is an integrated platform for offering online courses and covering school (9th to 12th) to Postgraduate Level.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- The objective of this effort is to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged.
- SWAYAM seeks to bridge the digital divide for students who have hitherto remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the mainstream of the knowledge economy.
<https://www.hindustantimes.com/chandigarh/more-than-10-000-enroll-for-pu-s-online-digital-marketing-course/story-GOG00d4FeiipgBmDaJNwNM.html>

97. With reference to Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs), consider the following statements.

1. Government of India uses ETF to disinvest its holdings in public sector companies.
2. Gold-backed ETFs are passive investment instruments that are based on price movements and investments in physical gold.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

- An exchange-traded fund (ETF) is a basket of securities that trade on an exchange. ETFs can contain all types of investments including stocks, commodities, or bonds.
- ETFs are in many ways similar to mutual funds; however, they are listed on exchanges and ETF shares trade throughout the day just like ordinary stock.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** Government of India uses ETF to disinvest its holdings in public sector companies. According to the Department of Investment & Public Asset Management (DIPAM), the total subscription received by the Centre from various ETFs launched so far stands at Rs 1.87 lakh crores.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Gold-backed ETFs are passive investment instruments that are based on price movements and investments in physical gold.

<https://www.businesstoday.in/markets/commodities/coronavirus-impact-gold-etfs-now-hold-more-precious-metal-than-any-central-bank/story/413768.html>

98. Of the major ports in India, which of the following has been constituted under the Companies Act, 2013?

- A. Mormugao Port
- B. Mumbai Port
- C. Chennai Port
- D. Ennore Port

Answer: D

Explanation:

- Currently, India has 12 major ports. These are Kandla Port (Gujarat), Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT; Maharashtra), Mumbai Port Trust (Maharashtra), New Mangalore Port (Karnataka), Cochin Port (Kerala), Mormugao Port (Goa), Paradip Port (Odisha), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Port of Kolkata (West Bengal), Chennai Port (Tamil Nadu), Tuticorin Port (Tamil Nadu), Ennore Port (also known as Kamarajar Port; Tamil Nadu).
- While the major ports fall under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Shipping**, the non-major ports come under the administrative jurisdiction of the respective **State maritime boards or governments**.
- Of the major ports, only **Ennore** has been constituted under the **Companies Act, 2013**, while the rest are administered and governed by the provisions of the **Major Port Trusts Act 1963**.

About Ennore port

- Located on the Coromandel Coast about 24 km north of Chennai Port, Chennai, Ennore port is the 12th major port of India, and the **first port in India which is a public company**.
- The port was declared as a major port under the Indian Ports Act, 1908 in March 1999 and incorporated as Ennore Port Limited under the Companies Act, 1956 in October 1999.
- The Kamarajar Port is the **only corporatized major port** and is **registered as a company**.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1647887>

99. Nuakhai Juhar is an agricultural festival celebrated in

- A. Eastern India
- B. North-Eastern India
- C. Western India
- D. Southern India

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Nuakhai Juhar, one of the most ancient festivals, is the agricultural festival celebrated in **Odisha, Chhattisgarh and areas of neighbouring states** to welcome the new crop of the season.
- It is also called Nuakhai Parab or Nuakahi Bhetghat.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1647996>

100. In which one of the following States is Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary located?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Chhattisgarh
- D. Jharkhand

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary was created in the year 1984 mainly to protect the Indian giant squirrel. It is located in north-west **Maharashtra**.
- The sanctuary is known for avifauna with species of birds including Indian shag, little cormorant, little egret, Indian pond heron, Asian openbill, black-winged kite, brahminy kite shikra, red wattled lapwing, common sandpiper and spotted dove.
- In a boost to preserve the wildlife corridors in Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, the Union government has recently declared the sanctuary as an eco-sensitive zone.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/bhimashankar-wildlife-sanctuary-declared-as-eco-sensitive-zone/story-wni982LRT0C3Bm6KAzNFsN.html>

101. Consider the following statements about the Delimitation Commission of India.

1. It is a constitutional body.
2. The Commission is tasked with identifying seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- The Delimitation Commission is appointed by the **President of India** and works in **collaboration with the Election Commission of India**.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Delimitation Commission is a statutory body.
- It is appointed for the purpose of drawing up the boundaries of constituencies all over the country. A quota of constituencies to be reserved in each State is fixed depending on the proportion of SC or ST in that State.
- In India, Delimitation Commissions have been **constituted 4 times** – in 1952 under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952, in 1963 under Delimitation Commission Act, 1962, in 1973 under Delimitation Act, 1972 and in 2002 under Delimitation Act, 2002.
- The Delimitation Commission in India is a high power body whose orders have the **force of law** and **cannot be called in question before any court**.
- These orders come into force on a date to be specified by the President of India on this behalf.
- The copies of its orders are laid before the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly concerned, but **no modifications are permissible therein by them**.

What is Delimitation?

- Delimitation is the act of redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and state Assembly seats to represent changes in population.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- The main objective of delimitation is to provide **equal representation to equal segments of a population**. It also aims at a fair division of geographical areas so that one political party doesn't have an advantage over others in an election (i.e. to prevent *Gerrymandering*).
- Delimitation is carried out by an independent Delimitation Commission.

How is delimitation carried out?

- Under **Article 82**, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act **after every Census**.
- Once the Act is in force, the Delimitation Commission is appointed by the **President of India** which works in **collaboration with the Election Commission of India**.
- The Delimitation Commission consists of
 - a retired Supreme Court judge,
 - the Chief Election Commissioner and
 - the respective State Election Commissioners.

The Commission is supposed to determine the number and boundaries of constituencies in a way that the population of all seats, so far as practicable, is the same.

Statement 2 is correct: The Commission is also tasked with identifying seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; these are where their population is relatively large.

All this is done on the **basis of the latest Census** and, in case of difference of opinion among members of the Commission, the **opinion of the majority prevails**.

Special powers of the Delimitation Commission

- The orders of the Delimitation Commission have the force of law and **cannot be called in question before any court** as it would hold up an election indefinitely.
- The copies of its orders are laid before the House of the People and the State Legislative Assembly concerned, but **no modifications are permissible therein by them**.

How often has delimitation been done in the past?

- In India, Delimitation Commissions have been **constituted 4 times** – 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002 under the Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002.

- There was **no delimitation after the 1981 and 1991 Censuses** because the union government had suspended delimitation in 1976 until after the 2001 census so that states' family planning programs would not affect their political representation in the Lok Sabha.
- This freeze on the number of seats in Lok Sabha and Assemblies was **postponed until 2026** by another amendment.
- So, the last delimitation exercise was based on the 2001 Census and **only readjusted boundaries of existing Lok Sabha and Assembly seats and reworked the number of reserved seats** (without changing the number of seats in Lok Sabha and Assemblies).

102. **The objective of the Astana Declaration is**

- A. Gradually reduce the consumption and production of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).
- B. Phasing out the production of numerous substances that are responsible for ozone depletion.
- C. Strengthening primary health care systems as an essential step toward achieving universal health coverage.
- D. Protection of privacy on global networks.

Answer: C

Explanation:

- In Astana on October 27, 2018, the Global Conference on Primary Health Care organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF welcomed a declaration to strengthen primary health care in pursuit of health and well-being, and pursue universal health coverage—access for all to high-quality health care, without undue financial burden.
- Countries around the world agreed to the Declaration of Astana, vowing to strengthen their primary health care systems as an essential step toward achieving universal health coverage.
- The Declaration of Astana reaffirms the historic **1978 Declaration of Alma-Ata**, the first time world leaders committed to primary health care.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/reversing-health-sector-neglect-with-a-reform-agenda/article32432569.ece>

103. Consider the following statements about cess and surcharge.

1. Cess and surcharge are earmarked for a specific purpose.
2. The Union government does not have to share cesses and surcharges with the states.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- A cess is a tax that is levied by the government to raise funds for a specific purpose. Collections from the Education Cess and Secondary and Higher Education Cess, for instance, are supposed to be used for funding primary and higher and secondary education respectively.
- Surcharge is an additional charge or tax. For example: A surcharge of 10% on a tax rate of 30% effectively raises the combined tax burden to 33%.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The main difference between surcharge and cess is that surcharge can be spent like any other taxes, the cess should be spent only for a specific purpose for which it is created.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Union government does not have to share cesses and surcharges with the states as they are not part of the divisible pool that needs to be shared with states.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/gst-council-urged-to-hike-compensation-cess-on-tobacco-products/article32430594.ece>

104. The vivad se vishwas scheme, sometimes seen in the news, is related to

- A. Initiative to create an ecosystem that fosters innovation and technology development for Defence and Aerospace.
- B. Providing basic civic amenities to improve the quality of life for all especially the poor and the disadvantaged.

- C. Bringing together urban planning, economic growth and heritage conservation in an inclusive manner.
- D. Settling tax disputes between individuals and the income tax department.

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

The vivad se vishwas scheme is a direct tax scheme announced in Budget 2020, for settling tax disputes between individuals and the income tax department.

- Earlier, the scheme offered complete waiver on interest and penalty to the taxpayers with a full and final settlement of the dispute if the scheme was availed by March 31, 2020.
- An individual opting for settlement after March 31, 2020 was required to pay an additional 10 per cent penalty on the disputed tax amount. However, now till December 31, 2020, there is no need to pay any penalty.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-challenge-of-catching-elusive-taxpayers/article32431928.ece>

105. Consider the following statements about the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

1. IAEA reports annually to the UN General Assembly.
2. India is one of the members of IAEA.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **C**

Explanation:

- The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the nuclear field.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- It works for the safe, secure and peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology, contributing to international peace and security and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.
- The IAEA is an autonomous international organization within the United Nations system. It partners with more than a dozen UN organizations, thereby helping extend the reach of its services.
- **Statement 1 is correct: IAEA reports annually to the UN General Assembly.**
- Created in 1957, the IAEA Secretariat is headquartered in Vienna, Austria.
- **Statement 2 is correct: Total Membership: 171 (including India).**

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=United-Nations-atomic-watchdog-agency-head-visits-Iran-amid-US-sanctions-push&id=398131>

106. **Consider the following statements.**

1. MCA-21 is an e-Governance initiative of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
2. Recently, MCA-21 has been replaced by the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for estimating the GDP.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** MCA21 is an e-Governance initiative of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), Government of India.
- It enables an easy and secure access
- of the MCA services to the corporate entities, professionals and citizens of India.
- In 2015, the government adopted a new method for the calculation of the GDP of the country.

Changes made:

- Shift to the **new base year** 2011-12 from 2004-05
- As per the new methodology, Central Statistics Office (CSO) calculates GDP by adding product taxes to GVA at basic prices and removing product subsidies
- In addition to data from Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), CSO started using data from MCA-21
- The new series opted for the MCA-21 database, replacing the earlier sources like the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for manufacturing and RBI data on company finances. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1648579>

107. **Consider the following statements about the geographical indication (GI) tag.**

1. India enacted its GI legislation to comply with India's obligations to the International Monetary Fund.
2. The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 is administered by the Competition Commission of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- A geographical indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a **specific geographical origin** and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place.
- It is used for **agricultural, natural and manufactured goods**. Darjeeling tea became the first GI tagged product in India.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- The registration of GI is valid for **10 years** after which it needs to be renewed.
- In India, GI is given under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Act is administered by the **Controller General of Patents, Designs & TradeMarks, GI (CGPDTM-India)** under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** India enacted its GI legislation to comply with India's obligations under the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (**TRIPS**) **agreement**.
- GI registration gives to the registered proprietor and its authorized users, the legal right to the exclusive use of the GI and also the right to obtain relief in case of its infringement.
- GI is a **collective intellectual property right** and is thus owned by all the producers within the defined GI territory unlike intellectual properties like patent and trademark which are owned by an individual or a business entity.

Benefits of registration of geographical indications

- It confers legal protection to Geographical Indications in India
- Prevents unauthorised use of a Registered Geographical Indication by others
- It provides legal protection to Indian Geographical Indications which in turn boost exports.
- It promotes economic prosperity of producers of goods produced in a geographical territory.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=E-auction-portal-launched-to-promote-trading-of-GI-tagged-%e2%80%98Kashmir-Saffron%e2%80%99&id=398234>

108. **‘Tricyclazole’, ‘Buprofezin’, ‘Carbofuron’, sometimes seen in the news, are related to?**
- A. Pesticides in agriculture
 - B. First line drugs to treat tuberculosis
 - C. Preservatives in processed foods
 - D. Moisturising agents in cosmetics

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Recently, the Punjab government has banned the usage of nine pesticides, generally used for Basmati and non Basmati crops, for 60 days — August 14 to October 14.
- The nine pesticide that have been banned temporarily include Acephate, Carbendazim, Thiamethoxam, Triazofos, Tricyclazole, Buprofezin, Carbofuron, Propiconazole, and Thiophanate Methyl.
- Experts say that farmers use these pesticides even after the grain formation stage in the rice crop. It leads to the presence of pesticides beyond the permissible maximum residue limit (MRL) on the grains after harvesting of the crop.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/punjab-pesticide-ban-farmers-6568309/>

109. **Consider the following statements about the poliovirus.**

1. Two of the three wild poliovirus strains are now eradicated globally.
2. Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine does not cause Vaccine Associated Paralytic Poliomyelitis (VAPP) or circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

What is Polio?

- Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious viral disease caused by the Polio virus which mainly affects young children.

- The virus is transmitted by person-to-person spread mainly through the faecal-oral route or, less frequently, by a common vehicle (e.g. contaminated water or food) and multiplies in the intestine, from where it can invade the nervous system.
- There is no cure for polio, it can only be prevented by immunization.

About Polio vaccine:

- There are three wild types of poliovirus (WPV) – type 1, type 2, and type 3.
- There are two vaccines used to protect against polio disease, oral polio vaccine (OPV) and inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV).
- After wild poliovirus type 2 was declared eradicated in 2015, the world switched from trivalent to bivalent OPV. Trivalent OPV contains all three types of poliovirus, while bivalent OPV only contains poliovirus type 1 and 3.

Vaccine derived Polio:

- Oral polio vaccine contains attenuated (weakened) vaccine-virus, activating an immune response in the body.
- When a child is immunized with OPV, the weakened vaccine-virus replicates in the intestine for a limited period, thereby developing immunity by building up antibodies.
- During this time, the vaccine-virus is also excreted. In areas of inadequate sanitation, this excreted vaccine-virus can spread in the immediate community, before eventually dying out.
- OPV is very effective against the wild poliovirus, but in very rare cases the vaccine can lead to paralysis. One type of polio caused by OPV is called Vaccine Associated Paralytic Poliomyelitis (VAPP).
- Another form of vaccine associated polio is the Circulating Vaccine Derived Poliovirus (cVDPV). These are mutated versions of OPV which can cause paralysis and spread from person-to-person.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Inactivated Poliovirus Vaccine does not cause Vaccine Associated Paralytic Poliomyelitis (VAPP) or circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus (cVDPV) as it doesn't contain live viruses.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In 2019, the Global Commission for the Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication officially declared that wild poliovirus type 3 has been eradicated globally.
- With two of the three wild polioviruses eliminated, only type 1 wild poliovirus is still in circulation and is restricted to just two countries — Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- It opens up the possibility of switching from the currently used bivalent oral polio vaccine containing type 1 and type 3 to a monovalent vaccine containing only type 1.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=World-Health-Organization-declares-Africa-free-of-polio&id=398227>

110. Consider the following statements about the National Anti-Profiteering Authority.

1. It was constituted under the Companies Act, 2013.
2. The core function of the body is to curb Base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The National Anti-Profiteering Authority (NAA) has been constituted under the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 to check the unfair profit-making activities by the trading community.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Authority's core function is to ensure that the benefits of the reduction in GST rates on goods or services made by the GST Council is passed on to the ultimate consumers by way of a reduction in prices by traders.

Base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS)

- Typically, a company needs to pay tax for the income or profits they earn.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) is a tax avoidance strategy by which firms make profits in one country, and shift them across borders by exploiting gaps and mismatches in tax rules, to take advantage of lower tax rates.
- It results in not paying taxes in the country where the profit is made (*known as Base erosion*).
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/top-indian-companies-take-on-indirect-tax-department-over-gst-anti-profiteering/articleshow/77733460.cms>

111. With reference to the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, consider the following statements.

1. The Governor of the State can declare the whole or part of the State as a disturbed area.
2. The act empowers security forces to conduct operations anywhere and arrest anyone without prior notice.
3. Currently, it is operational in Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, and parts of Arunachal Pradesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation

- Passed in 1958 for the North-East and in 1990 for Jammu & Kashmir, the Armed Forces Special Powers Act gives armed forces special powers to control “disturbed areas”, which are designated by the government when it is of the opinion that a region is in such a disturbed or dangerous condition that the use of armed forces in aid of civil power is necessary.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **Central Government**, or the **Governor of the State** or **administrator of the Union Territory** can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- **Statement 2 is correct:** Under its provisions, the armed forces have been empowered to open fire, enter and search without warrant, and arrest any person who has committed a cognisable offence, all while having immunity from being prosecuted.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** Presently, AFSPA, 1958, is operational in the entire States of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur (except Imphal Municipal area), three districts namely Tirap, Changlang and Longding of Arunachal Pradesh and the areas falling within the jurisdiction of the eight police stations in the districts of Arunachal Pradesh, bordering the State of Assam.
- In 2018, the Centre removed Meghalaya from the list.

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Assam-declared-%26%2339%3bDisturbed-Area%26%2339%3b-for-6-more-months-w.e.f.-28th-August&id=398205>

112. Which of the following are used as criteria to designate tribal groups as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)?

1. A pre-agriculture level of technology
2. A stagnant or declining population
3. Extremely low literacy
4. A subsistence level of economy

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1, 2 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- In India, tribal population makes up for 8.6% of the total population. Tribal people live in about 15% of the geographical area of the country.
- Among them some groups are declared as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) based on the following criteria.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- A pre-agriculture level of technology;
- A stagnant or declining population;
- Extremely low literacy; and
- A subsistence level of economy.
- In 1973, the **Dhebar Commission** created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups.
- In 2006, the Government of India renamed the PTGs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.
- **75 tribal groups** have been categorized by the **Ministry of Home Affairs** as PVTGs.
- PVTGs reside in **18 States and UT of A&N Islands**.
- Among the 75 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in **Odisha (13)**, followed by Andhra Pradesh (12).
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the Scheme of “Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)” exclusively for them.
- PVTGs depend on various livelihoods such as food gathering, Non Timber Forest Produce (NTFP), hunting, livestock rearing, shifting cultivation and artisan works. Most of their livelihoods depend on the forest.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/covid-19-takes-odisha-s-primitive-tribal-group-into-its-tentacles/story-QkyFtNSFT3csaRTLxeAnhI.html>

113. Which one of the following best describes the “principle of non refoulement” sometimes seen in the news?

- A. It is a legal doctrine which states that once a right is recognised and given to the public, it cannot be taken back by the state at a later date.
- B. It forbids a country receiving asylum seekers from returning them to a country in which they would be in likely danger of persecution.
- C. Criterion used by countries to prevent undue exploitation of benefits of a preferential system.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

D. It prohibits discrimination between imported and domestically produced goods with respect to internal taxation or other government regulation.

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- Under international human rights law, the principle of non-refoulement guarantees that no one should be returned to a country where they would face torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and other irreparable harm.

114. With reference to the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL), consider the following statements.

1. It is a statutory body constituted under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
2. The Prime Minister acts as the chairman of the NBWL.
3. Recommendation of the NBWL is mandatory for alteration of the boundary of a protected area.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 3 only

Answer: **C**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) is constituted by the Central Government under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- The role is “advisory” in nature and advises the Central Government on framing policies and measures for conservation of wildlife in the country.
- Primary function of the Board is to promote the conservation and development of wildlife and forests. NBWL has power to review all wildlife-related matters and approve projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The National Board for Wildlife has 47 members with the Prime Minister in the Chair. The Minister in charge of the Ministry of Environment & Forests in the Central Government is the Vice-Chairperson.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Recommendation of the NBWL is mandatory for alteration of the boundary of a protected area such as National Park, Wildlife sanctuary, Tiger reserve, etc.
<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/villagers-write-to-javadekar-on-proposed-projects-in-mollem-forest-areas/articleshow/77773053.cms>

115. Consider the following statements about the Banking Ombudsman Scheme.

1. It is an expeditious forum to bank customers for resolution of complaints relating to certain services rendered by banks.
2. All Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Scheduled Primary Co-operative Banks are covered under the Scheme.
3. One can approach the Ombudsman directly even without approaching the bank.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Banking Ombudsman Scheme is an expeditious and inexpensive forum to bank customers for resolution of complaints relating to certain services rendered by banks.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** All Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Scheduled Primary Co-operative Banks are covered under the Scheme.
- Customers can approach Ombudsman for complaints relating to deficiency in banking services like
 - Non-payment or inordinate delay in the payment or collection of cheques, drafts, bills etc.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- Non-acceptance, without sufficient cause, of small denomination notes or coins tendered for any purpose, and for charging of commission in respect thereof;
- Refusal to open deposit accounts without any valid reason for refusal;
- Levying of charges without adequate prior notice to the customer;
- One's complaint will not be considered if he/she has not approached his bank for redressal of his grievance first. **Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.**
- One can file a complaint before the Banking Ombudsman if the reply is not received from the bank within a period of one month after the bank concerned has received one's complaint, or the bank rejects the complaint, or if the complainant is not satisfied with the reply given by the bank.
- To strengthen the grievance redressal mechanism for customers, RBI has tightened rules concerning the banking ombudsman scheme and issued revised directions in the form of '**Internal Ombudsman Scheme, 2018**'.
- The IOS 2018 mandates Banks with more than 10 branches to have an Internal Ombudsman to review complaints that were partially or wholly rejected by the respective banks.
- It aimed to ensure that the complaints of the customers are redressed at the level of the bank itself so as to minimize the need for the customers to approach other fora for redressal.
- In 2018, the RBI also introduced an **NBFC Ombudsman scheme** to redress complaints with regard to NBFCs.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/rbi-to-dissolve-the-banking-codes-and-standards-board-of-india/article32438145.ece>

116. **Consider the following statements about the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) system.**

1. It is a global member-owned cooperative that provides safe and secure financial transactions for its members.
2. It acts as a secure funds transfer platform.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The SWIFT is a global member-owned cooperative that is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium. It was founded in 1973 by a group of 239 banks from 15 countries which formed a co-operative utility to develop a secure electronic messaging service and common standards to facilitate cross-border payments. It carries an average of approximately 26 million financial messages each day. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The SWIFT is a secure financial message carrier — in other words, it transports messages from one bank to its intended bank recipient. Its core role is to provide a secure transmission channel so that Bank A knows that its message to Bank B goes to Bank B and no one else.
- **SWIFT doesn't do any of the funds transfers itself.** At its core, SWIFT is basically just a bank-to-bank messaging system. It supplies a standardized language that institutions use to communicate payment instructions and other info to each other. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

<https://www.livemint.com/opinion/online-views/the-almighty-us-dollar-might-be-losing-lustre-as-a-global-currency-11598281032416.html>

117. **With reference to District Mineral Foundations (DMFs), consider the following statements.**

1. The Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015 mandates setting up of DMFs in all districts in the country.
2. They act as implementing agencies of the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **B**

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Setting up of District Mineral Foundations (DMFs) in **all districts in the country affected by mining related operations** was mandated through the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, (MMDRA) 2015.
- Under the Act, mining lease holders are required to make contributions to DMF funds. This contribution is equivalent to a certain percentage of the royalty paid by them. PMKKKY was launched in 2015 to implement the projects approved by DMFs.

About DMFs

- District Mineral Foundation is a trust set up as a non-profit body, in those districts affected by the mining works, to work for the interest and benefit of persons and areas affected by mining related operations. It is funded through the contributions from miners.
- Its manner of operation comes under the jurisdiction of the relevant State Government.
- In case of all mining leases executed before 12th January, 2015 miners will have to contribute an amount equal to 30% of the royalty payable by them to the DMFs. Where mining leases are granted after 12.01.2015, the rate of contribution would be 10% of the royalty payable.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) has been launched by the Government which will be implemented by DMFs of the respective districts using the funds accruing to the DMF.
- At least 60% of PMKKKY funds will be utilized for high priority areas like: (i) drinking water supply; (ii) environment preservation and pollution control measures; (iii) health care (iv) education; (v) welfare of women and children; (vi) welfare of aged and disabled people; (vii) skill development; and (viii) Sanitation.
- The rest of the funds will be utilized undertaking works like for: (i) physical infrastructure; (ii) irrigation; (iii) energy and watershed development; and (iv) any other measures for enhancing environmental quality in mining districts.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/environment/misuse-of-mineral-foundation-funds-hc-asks-go-to-respond-in-two-weeks/story-lbGVtWyQxWICVVGJMPUACIJ.html>

118. **With reference to the Law Commission of India, consider the following statements.**

1. It is a non-statutory body constituted by the Government of India from time to time.
2. The Chairman of the Commission must be a person who has been a Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court.
3. The Commission was originally constituted in 1955 and is reconstituted every three years.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Law Commission of India is a non-statutory body constituted by the Government of India from time to time.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Commission was originally constituted in 1955 and is reconstituted every three years.
- Various Law Commissions have been able to make important contributions towards the progressive development and codification of Law of the country. The Law Commission has so far submitted 277 reports.

Composition

- The Law Commission consists of:
- a full-time Chairperson
- four full-time Members
- Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs as ex-officio Member;
- Secretary, Legislative Department as ex officio Member; and

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- Not more than five part-time Members.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** There are **no defined eligibility criteria** for chairperson and members and the terms of reference are specified afresh each time it is reconstituted.

Functions of the Law Commission:

- The Law Commission advises the government on legal issues, conducts research to review and reform the law or to bring new legislation.
- Either through a reference made to it by the government or suo-motu, it researches laws and reviews existing laws in India to reform them, remove them or bring new legislation.
- It also undertakes studies for reforms in the justice delivery systems.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/retrospective-legal-backing-for-delimitation-in-ne-states/articleshow/7779399a7.cms>

119. **Who acts as the National Implementing Entity for implementation of adaptation projects under the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change?**

- A. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- B. The Ministry of Rural Development
- C. NABARD
- D. Indian Network on Climate Change Assessment

Answer: C

Explanation:

- The National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) was established in August, 2015 to meet the cost of adaptation to climate change for the State and Union Territories of India that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
- Considering the existing arrangement with NABARD as National Implementing Entity (NIE) for Adaptation Fund (AF) under **Kyoto Protocol** and its presence across the country, **NABARD** has been designated as National Implementing Entity (NIE) for implementation of adaptation projects under NAFCC by Govt. of India.

- Under this arrangement, NABARD would perform roles in facilitating identification of project ideas/concepts from State Action Plan for Climate Change (SAPCC), project formulation, appraisal, sanction, disbursement of funds, monitoring & evaluation and capacity building of stakeholders including State Governments.

<https://www.outlookindia.com/website/story/opinion-with-green-climate-fund-getting-replenished-it-is-time-to-invest-in-innovation/359129>

120. **What is the primary objective of the SRISTI scheme?**

- A. Incentivising employers to recruit unemployed persons and to formalize informal employees.
- B. Providing basic civic amenities to improve the quality of life for all especially the poor and the disadvantaged.
- C. Bringing together urban planning, economic growth and heritage conservation in an inclusive manner.
- D. Accelerated deployment of solar rooftop systems in the country by providing them financial support.

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- SRISTI (Sustainable Rooftop Implementation for Solar Transfiguration of India) scheme aims at accelerated deployment of solar rooftop systems in the country by providing them financial support.
- Under this scheme Central Financial Assistance for 4000 MW of small roof top capacity and incentives to Distribution Companies for 18,000 MW capacity by 2022 have been provided by the government.

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/mnre-to-see-cabinet-nod-soon-for-rooftop-solar-scheme-sristi/66963256>

121. “Senkaku Islands dispute” sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of the affairs of?

- A. Philippines and China
- B. Indonesia and Papua new guinea
- C. China and Japan
- D. Malaysia and Singapore

Answer: C

Explanation:

- The Diaoyu archipelago (known as the Senkakus in Japanese) is an uninhabited chain of islands in the **East China Sea** claimed by **China and Japan**.
- In recent years, the increased presence of Japanese and Chinese vessels in nearby waters has heightened concerns about possible clashes between the two countries.
- The archipelago has been controlled by **Japan** since 1895.

It is also claimed by Taiwan as its territory.



<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/analysis-shinzo-abe-the-prime-minister-who-raised-japans-profile-deepened-ties-with-india/article32467220.ece>

122. With reference to the Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR), consider the following statements.

1. EBRs are those financial liabilities that are raised by public sector undertakings for which repayment of the entire principal and interest is done from the Central Government Budget.
2. EBRs are not taken into account while calculating the Fiscal Deficit.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Apart from budgetary spending, Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR) have also been mobilized to finance infrastructure investment since 2016-17.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** EBRs are those financial liabilities that are raised by public sector undertakings for which repayment of the entire principal and interest is done from the Central Government Budget.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** These EBRs are not taken into account while calculating the Fiscal Deficit.
- However, they are considered in the calculations of Government Debt.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/to-raise-funds-govt-moots-divestment-in-kolkata-metro/>

123. Consider the statements about Atal Bhujal Yojana

1. It is a pan India initiative of the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.
2. The chief objective of the Mission is to provide Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household by 2024.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only

- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- **Both statements are incorrect:**
- Atal Bhujal Yojana (or, Atal Jal) has been designed with the principal objective of strengthening the institutional framework for **participatory groundwater management and bringing about behavioral changes** at the community level for sustainable groundwater resource management in **seven States**, viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. (not a pan India initiative).
- The scheme envisages undertaking various interventions, including awareness programmes, capacity building, convergence of ongoing/new schemes and improved agricultural practices etc.
- It is implemented by the Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission** has the chief objective of providing Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household by 2024.

<https://government.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/digital-india/atal-bhujal-joyana-bets-on-ai-and-space-tech-to-improve-groundwater-management/74252215>

124. **Consider the following statements about Priority Sector Lending (PSL) norms**

1. Foreign Banks are exempted from PSL norms.
2. Payment Banks are outside the ambit of PSL obligations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- Priority Sector means those sectors which the Government of India and Reserve Bank of India consider as important for the development of the basic needs of the country and are to be given priority over other sectors. The banks are mandated to encourage the growth of such sectors with adequate and timely credit.
- Priority Sector includes the following categories:
 - (i) Agriculture
 - (ii) Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
 - (iii) Export Credit
 - (iv) Education
 - (v) Housing
 - (vi) Social Infrastructure
 - (vii) Renewable Energy
 - (viii) Others
- **Targets Under the Priority Sector Lending**
 - Domestic scheduled commercial banks (excluding Regional Rural Banks and Small Finance Banks) and **Foreign banks** with 20 branches and above: 40 per cent of **Adjusted Net Bank Credit or Credit Equivalent Amount of Off-Balance Sheet Exposure**, whichever is higher. **Hence, statement 1 is incorrect.**
 - Regional Rural Banks & Small finance banks: 75 per cent of Adjusted Net Bank Credit or Credit Equivalent Amount of Off-Balance Sheet Exposure, whichever is higher.
 - Foreign banks with less than 20 branches: 40 per cent of Adjusted Net Bank Credit or Credit Equivalent Amount of Off-Balance Sheet Exposure, whichever is higher, to be achieved in a phased manner by 2020.
 - Sub-targets are specified for certain sectors like 18% to agriculture with 8% to small and marginal farmers, 7.5% to micro units etc.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- **Adjusted Net Bank Credit** is the net bank credit plus investments made by banks in non-SLR bonds held in the held-to-maturity category.
- Payment banks are the new age banks with limited facilities. It exists in between the mobile wallet and regular banks.
- Payment banks cannot lend or offer credit advance to customers like traditional banks. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- A payment bank provides the following services to its customers.
- Accept demand deposits (currently restricted upto Rs.1 lakh)
- Remittance services
- Mobile payments
- Fund transfers
- **Debit card** and associated services (Payment banks are not allowed to provide credit card facilities)
- Net Banking services
- Sell third-party financial products like insurance and mutual funds
- **They can't offer loans**

<https://bfsi.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/policy/priority-sector-lending-rules-revised-start-ups-get-psl-status/77389937>

125. **'Sadhujana Paripalana Sangham' was founded by**

- A. Sree Narayana Guru
- B. Ayyankali
- C. K. Kelappan
- D. Accamma Cherian

Answer: **B**

Explanation:

- Born on August 28th, 1863 in a small village in the princely state of Travancore, now within Kerala, Ayyankali efforts influenced many changes that improved social wellbeing of Dalits.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- Ayyankali was the first of eight children born to Ayyan and Mala, who were members of the Pulayar community of untouchable people. Growing up illiterate and seeing that many Pulayars had been efficaciously rural slaves, Ayyankali resolved to do what he should to get rid of the boundaries of the caste system.
- Ayyankali was 30 years old when he challenged the caste practices and rode a ‘villuvandi’ (ox-cart) challenging the ‘ban’ on untouchables from accessing public roads by caste-Hindus. It created the new phenomenon of self-respect and major historical achievement in the social reformation and Dalit history in Kerala.
- Ayyankali also led a rally to assert the rights of ‘untouchables’ at Balaramapuram. An ‘upper caste’ mob attacked them and a fight broke out. The walk Ayyankali took came to be known as ‘**walk for freedom**’ and the consequent riots as ‘**Chaliyar riots**’.
- He prompted the Travancore government to issue an order mandating the admission of Dalit children in public schools in 1907.
- Mahatma Gandhi called Ayyankali as '**Pulaya king**'. Indira Gandhi described him as '**India's greatest son**'.
- A **contemporary of social reformer Sri Narayana Guru**, Ayyankali drew a lot of inspiration from the great man, though their philosophies and the means of turning it into reality varied in different levels.
- He also went on to found **Sadhu Jana Paripalana Sangham** (Association for the Protection of the Poor), which aimed at uniting members from suppressed communities and campaigned for access to schools along with raising funds to set up Pulayar-operated schools.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1649195>

126. **With reference to the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) index, consider the following statements.**

1. India has improved its ranking steadily in the past four years.
2. India is one of the best performing countries in areas such as Ease of Starting Business, Registering Property, Paying Taxes, and Enforcing Contracts.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) index is a ranking system established by the **World Bank** Group. It is an aggregate figure that includes different parameters which define the ease of doing business in a country.

How is it calculated?

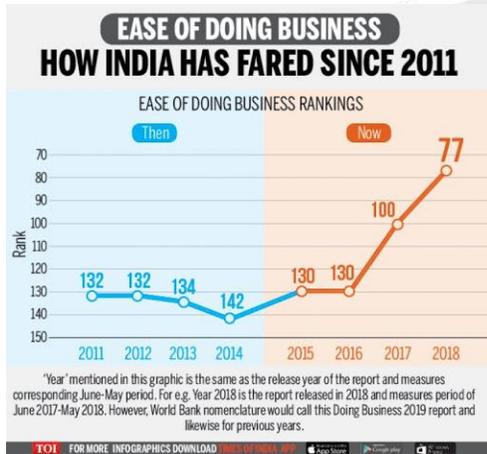
- It is computed by aggregating the **distance to frontier** scores of different economies.
- The distance to frontier score uses the 'regulatory best practices' for doing business as the parameter and benchmark economies according to that parameter.
- The **ten areas of study** are defined as: starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting minority investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts, and resolving insolvency.
- An 11th area- **employing workers**, is measured but not factored into the score.

Latest Ranking

- India has been ranked **63** in the Ease of Doing Business Index, 2019 out of 190 countries marking an improvement of 14 places from its 77th position in 2018.
- India is among the top ten most improved countries in the world for the third consecutive year.
- Rankings are based on samples and audits done in **Mumbai and Delhi only** (World Bank has said it would be covering Bengaluru and Kolkata too from next year).
- India has progressed on seven out of the 10 parameters. The Goods and Service Tax (GST) and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) top the list of reforms that have propelled India's rise in rankings.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** However, it continues to trail in parameters such as Ease of Starting Business (rank 136), Registering Property (rank 154), Paying Taxes (rank 115), and Enforcing Contracts (rank 163).

Statement 1 is correct: In the last five years, India's ranking has improved 79 places - to 63 in 2019 from 142 in 2014 - a record for a major economy



<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/a-development-that-will-hardly-put-india-at-ease/article32481836.ece>

127. Consider the following statements about the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).

1. NPPA prepares the National List of Essential Medicines of India.
2. NPPA functions as an attached office of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Explanation:

- National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), was established in 1997 as an independent body of experts as per the decision taken by the Cabinet committee in 1994 while reviewing Drug Policy as regulator for pricing of drugs.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It has been constituted as an attached office of the **Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.**
- The Authority has been entrusted with the task of
 - Fixation/revision of prices of pharmaceutical products (bulk drugs and formulations),
 - Enforcement of provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order.
 - Monitoring of the prices of controlled and decontrolled drugs in the country.
- The NPPA currently fixes prices of drugs placed in the **National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) under Schedule-I of the DPCO.**
- Non-scheduled drugs are allowed an increase of up to 10 per cent in prices every year, which is monitored by the NPPA.
- NPPA can also fix the price for non-scheduled drugs by invoking extraordinary powers in public interest, under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The National List of Essential Medicines is drawn up to include essential medicines that satisfy the priority health needs of the population. It is prepared by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.** This list forms the basis of price controls under the DPCO.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1649494>

128. **POSHAN Abhiyaan, a flagship programme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, targets to reduce**

1. Stunting
2. Under-nutrition
3. Low birth weight
4. Anemia

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) is a flagship programme of the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**, which ensures convergence with various programmes i.e., Anganwadi Services, Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), Scheme for Adolescent Girls (SAG), Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), National Health Mission (NHM), Swachh-Bharat Mission, Public Distribution System (PDS) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).
- The mission targets to reduce **stunting, under-nutrition, anemia** (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce **low birth weight** by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.
- The mission also strives to achieve a reduction in Stunting from 38.4% (NFHS-4) to 25% by 2022 (**Mission 25 by 2022**).

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1649764>

129. **With reference to the money multiplier, consider the following statements.**

1. It is measured as the ratio of $M3/M0$.
2. A country's money multiplier increases with an increase in reserve requirement ratio of Banks.
3. A country's money multiplier increases when more individuals hold cash in hand.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Money multiplier is the amount of money the banking system generates out of each rupee released by the central bank.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** Money multiplier is measured as $M_b = M_3/M_0$.
- Thus a country's money multiplier depends on two factors—how much individuals (and businesses) hold in cash and how much banks hold as reserves.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The more individuals hold cash in hand, the less the banking system will be able to create money and hence a lower value for the multiplier.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Similarly, reserves that banks hold with the central bank as Cash Reserve Ratio also amount to a leakage, which again reduces the money multiplier.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/currency-in-circulation-hits-pre-demonetisation-levels/articleshow/77754194.cms>

130. **With reference to the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), consider the following statements.**

1. MPs are entitled to recommend works to the tune of Rs 2 crore annually.
2. MPs shall recommend works costing at least 15 per cent of the MPLADS entitlement for the year for areas inhabited by Scheduled Caste population and 7.5 per cent for areas inhabited by S.T. population.
3. Nominated Members of both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

Explanation:

The Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) is a programme first launched 1993, aimed towards providing funds for developmental works recommended by individual MPs.

- The objective of the scheme is to enable MPs to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets based on the locally felt needs to be taken up in their Constituencies.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Under the MPLADS scheme, each MP has the choice of suggesting to the District Collector works to the tune of **Rs 5 crore per annum** to be taken up in his or her constituency.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Lok Sabha Members can recommend works within their Constituencies and Elected Members of Rajya Sabha can recommend works within the State of Election (with select exceptions). Nominated Members of both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the country.
- Under MPLADS, the role of the MPs is limited only upto recommendation of works. Thereafter, it is the responsibility of the District Authority to sanction, execute and complete the works recommended by Members of Parliament within the stipulated time.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The guidelines recommend MPs to suggest works costing at least 15 per cent of their MPLADS entitlement for the year for areas inhabited by Scheduled Caste population and 7.5 per cent for areas inhabited by ST population.
- In case there is insufficient tribal population in the area of Lok Sabha Member, they may recommend this amount for the creation of community assets in tribal areas outside of their constituency but within their State of election.

What kind of projects are executed?

- The guidelines lay down a number of development works, including construction of railway halt stations, providing financial assistance to recognised educational bodies, cooperative societies, bar associations, installing CCTV cameras, and rainwater harvesting systems,
- The MPLADS funds can be merged with other schemes such as MGNREGA and Khelo India.

OFFICERS IAS ACADEMY

IAS ACADEMY RUN BY FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS

- MPLADS was held constitutionally valid by the Supreme Court in its May 6, 2010 judgment. <https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/rs-ethics-committee-authorises-2-officers-to-receive-complaints-against-members/1922800>

