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MCQ 12.10.2020 TO 17.10.2020

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Blue Flag Programme.

1. The Blue Flag Programme is run by the International Intergovernmental Organization in partnership with the United Nations .
2. The Programme requires a Beach to meet certain criteria such as having clean and hygienic bathing water, facilities/amenities, waste disposal facilities, being disabled friendly.

Which of the above given statements 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 Blue Flag Programme for beaches and marinas is run by the international, non-governmental, non-profit organisation FEE (the Foundation for Environmental Education). It started in France in 1985 and has been implemented in Europe since 1987, and in areas outside Europe since 2001.

Statement 2 is correct.

- The 'Blue Flag' beach is an 'eco-tourism model' and marks out beaches as providing tourists and beachgoers clean and hygienic bathing water, facilities/amenities, a safe and healthy environment, and sustainable development of the area.
- The certification is accorded with 33 stringent criteria under four major heads for the beaches, that are-

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- Environmental Education and Information
- Bathing Water Quality
- Environment Management and Conservation
- Safety and Services

Why in the news?

- Kasarkod beach near Honnavar in Uttara Kannada and Padubidri beach near Udupi has been awarded with blue flag certification recently.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/kasarkod-padubidri-beaches-accorded-blue-flag-tag/article32827723.ece>

2. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, is a deal related to

- a) U.K -Brexit deal
- b) North Korea Nuclear deal
- c) Iran Nuclear deal
- d) Indo - France Rafale deal

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action or JCPOA is an agreement of China, France, Germany, Russia, the UK, the US and the European Union (EU) with Iran signed in 2015.
- Under JCPOA, Iran agreed to eliminate its stockpile of medium-enriched uranium, cut its stockpile of low-enriched uranium by 98%, and reduce by about two-thirds the number of its gas centrifuges.
- Signatories: China, France, Germany, European Union, Iran, Russia, United Kingdom, United States (withdrew)
- Purpose: Nuclear non-proliferation

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3. Consider the following pairs of ports owned by China and their respective countries

- 1) Djibouti- Africa
- 2) Gwadar - Pakistan
- 3) Hambantota - Sri Lanka
- 4) Kyaukpyu - Myanmar

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

- China is setting up ports across the Indian ocean. Examples include Djibouti in the horn of Africa, Gwadar in Pakistan, Hambantota in Sri Lanka, Kyaukpyu in Myanmar.
- These are called strings of pearls in the Indian ocean.
- These ports are of strategic importance to China to exercise dominance in the Indian ocean.

4. Graded Response Action Plan sometimes seen in news is related to

- a) Pollution abatement of the river Ganga, to improve the water quality
- b) A vast reforestation exercise along the Aravalli hill range
- c) A Supreme Court mandated direction for controlling pollution in Delhi NCR region.
- d) An Action plan by the Environment Ministry to restore lost biodiversity in himalayas.

Answer: C

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Explanation:

- It is an emergency plan prepared by the **Union Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEFCC)** to **contain worsening air quality of Delhi-NCR**.
- It was prepared after the order of the Supreme Court in December 2016.
- It comprises a series of measures that come into force incrementally as pollution increases.
- The nature, scope and rigor of measures to be taken is linked to levels of pollution viz. Severe + or Emergency, severe, Very poor, Moderate to poor and Moderate.
- It is implemented by the **Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA)**, which was constituted under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- The actions are to be implemented in the entire National Capital Region (NCR).
- It comprises measures such as prohibition on entry of trucks into Delhi; ban on construction activities, introduction of odd and even scheme for private vehicles, shutting of schools, closure of brick kilns, hot mix plants and stone crushers; shutting down of Badarpur power plant, ban on diesel generator sets, garbage burning in landfills and plying of visibly polluting vehicles etc.



Why in the news?

Starting October 15, some stricter measures to fight air pollution will come into force in Delhi and its neighbouring National Capital Region (NCR) towns, as part of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-what-is-grap-delhi-ncrs-action-plan-as-air-pollution-increases-6719746/>

5. Which of the following was/were included in UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage list?

1. Kumbh Mela
2. Sattriya Dance

3. Mudiyettu

4. Buddhist chanting of Ladakh

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

a) 1, 2 and 3 only

b) 1 and 3 only

c) 1, 3 and 4 only

d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Ans: C

Explanation

UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage

- This coveted list is made up of those intangible heritage elements that help demonstrate **diversity of cultural heritage** and raise awareness about its importance
- The list was established in 2008 when Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage came into effect

It has two parts viz. Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of urgent safeguarding
From India the Intangible Cultural Heritages added into this list include

- Tradition of Vedic chanting
- Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana
- **Kutiyattam**, Sanskrit theatre
- Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas
- **Mudiyettu**, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala
- Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan
- **Chhau dance**

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- **Buddhist chanting of Ladakh:** recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region, Jammu and Kashmir.
- Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur
- Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab
- Yoga
- Nawrouz
- **Kumbh Mela**

6. Consider the following statements about the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

1. India and Pakistan became full members of SCO in 2017.
2. Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is a permanent organ of the SCO to promote cooperation of member states against terrorism, separatism and extremism.

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

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

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation established in 2001.
- It's a Eurasian political, economic and military organisation aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.

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- Prior to the creation of SCO in 2001, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan were members of the Shanghai Five. Following the accession of Uzbekistan to the organisation in 2001, the Shanghai Five was renamed the SCO.
- India and Pakistan became members in 2017.
- The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) of the SCO engaged in furthering cooperation and ties between member countries on concerns of terrorism, security, drug trafficking, crime and cyber warfare.

Why in the news?

- 7 th Justice Ministers' Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States to be hosted by Union Law Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad on 16th October, 2020

Source: http://eng.sectsc.org/about_sco/

7. Atoms having the same number of protons (Z) but different number of neutrons (N) are called as

- a) Isotones
- b) Isotopes
- c) Isomers
- d) Isobars

Answer: B

Explanation

Isotopes

Atoms having the same number of protons (Z) but different numbers of neutrons (N) are isotopes.

Isobars

Atoms having the same mass number (A) are isobars.

Isotones

Atoms having the same number of neutrons (N) but a different number of protons (Z) are isotones.

Isomers

Atoms of the same element (same Z and N) but which are in different excited states are isomers.

Why in the news?

An **isotope based teletherapy** system for treating patients with cancer is being installed in the Department of Radiotherapy of Government Stanley Medical College Hospital.

8. Which of the following crops are grown during the month of June to October?

- 1) Maize
- 2) Sugarcane
- 3) Groundnut
- 4) Wheat

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The agricultural crop year in India is from July to June.
- The Indian cropping season is classified into two main seasons based on the monsoon:
- (i) **Kharif is from July -October** during the south-west monsoon

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- (ii) Rabi is from October-March (winter)
- (iii) Zaid is from March - June (summer)
- **Kharif means autumn and Rabi means spring.**
- The **kharif crops (July-October)** include rice, **maize**, sorghum, pearl millet/bajra, finger millet/ragi (cereals), arhar (pulses), soyabean, **groundnut** (oilseeds), cotton, **Sugarcane** etc.
- The **rabi crops (October-March)** include **wheat(not grown from june to october)**, barley, oats (cereals), chickpea/gram (pulses), linseed, mustard (oilseeds) etc.
- The **zaid crops (March and June)** include cucumber, muskmelon, watermelon, pumpkin etc.

[http://www.arthapedia.in/index.php%3Ftitle%3DCropping_seasons_of_India-Kharif %2526 Rabi](http://www.arthapedia.in/index.php%3Ftitle%3DCropping_seasons_of_India-Kharif_%2526_Rabi)

9. Consider the following statements with respect to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)

1. It is an inter-governmental body established by the Group of Seven (G7)
2. Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are categorized under the FATF Grey list
3. It works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

Explanation

- FATF is an **inter-governmental body established in 1989 on the initiative of the G7**
- It is a **“policy-making body”** which works to **generate the necessary political will** to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in various areas
- The FATF **Secretariat is housed at the OECD headquarters in Paris**

Roles and functions

- Initially it was established to examine and develop measures to **combat money laundering**.
- In October 2001, the FATF expanded its mandate to incorporate efforts to **combat terrorist financing**, in addition to money laundering.
- In April 2012, it added efforts to **counter the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction**

Composition

- The FATF currently **comprises 37 member jurisdictions** and 2 regional organisations, representing most major financial centers in all parts of the globe. It also has observers and associate members

Blacklist and Grey list

- **Black List:** Countries known as **Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs)** are put in the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities. The FATF **revises the blacklist regularly**, adding or deleting entries
- **Grey List:** Countries that are **considered safe haven for supporting terror funding** and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list. This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist

10. Consider the following statements about the “core inflation”.

1. It measures the price movements of eight core industries (Electricity, steel, refinery products, crude oil, coal, cement, natural gas and fertilizers) which comprise 40.27 per cent of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
2. The flexible inflation targeting (FIT) framework of the RBI targets to contain CPI core inflation within 4 percent with a band of (+/-) 2 percent.

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:

- Core inflation is a measure of inflation obtained by excluding commodities of high price volatility such as food items, energy products etc.
- If temporary price shocks are taken into account, they may affect the estimated overall inflation numbers in such a way that they are different from actual inflation. To eliminate this possibility, core inflation is calculated to gauge the actual inflation apart from temporary shocks and volatility.
- Under the flexible inflation targeting (FIT) framework, RBI aims to contain **headline CPI (Combined)** within 4 percent with a band of (+/-) 2 percent.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/definition/Core-inflation>

11. Which of the following reports is/are published by the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

1. World Investment Report
2. Global Hunger Report
3. Global Financial Stability Report

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The **Global Financial Stability Report** is published twice in a year by the **IMF**.
- Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR) identifies the current key vulnerabilities in the global financial system as the rise in corporate debt burdens, increasing holdings of riskier and more illiquid assets by institutional investors, and growing reliance on external borrowing by emerging and frontier market economies.
- The **World Investment Report is published by The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**. It focuses on trends in foreign direct investment (FDI) worldwide, at the regional and country levels and emerging measures to improve its contribution to development.
- The **Global Hunger Report** is an annual publication that is jointly prepared by the **Concern Worldwide (an Irish agency) and the Welt Hunger Hilfe (a German organization)**.

12. Which of the following is/ are the tributaries of river Krishna?

- 1) Tungabhadra
- 2) Bhima
- 3) Koyna
- 4) Pranhita

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Krishna River is the **second biggest river** in peninsular India after Godavari River.
- It originates near **Mahabaleshwar (Satara) in Maharashtra**.
- It runs from four states **Maharashtra (303 km), North Karnataka (480 km) and the rest of its 1300 km journey in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh** before it empties into the Bay of Bengal.
- **Tributaries: Tungabhadra, Mallaprabha, Koyna, Bhima, Ghataprabha, Yerla, Warna, Dindi, Musi and Dudhganga.**
- **Pranhita is a tributary of river Godavari.**



13. Consider the following statements about Quad

- 1) Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is the informal strategic dialogue between India, USA, Japan and Australia.
- 2) It is seen as one of the elements of its larger Indo-Pacific strategy for “a free, open and rules-based order” in face of an aggressive and expansionist China in the region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Both the statements are correct.

- Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is the **informal strategic dialogue between India, USA, Japan and Australia** with a shared objective to ensure and support a “**free, open and prosperous**” **Indo-Pacific region**.
- All four nations find a common ground of being the democratic nations and common interests of unhindered maritime trade and security.
- The idea was first mooted by **Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007**. However, the idea couldn't move ahead with Australia pulling out of it.
- The US believes the Quad, as one of the elements of its larger Indo-Pacific strategy for “a free, open and rules-based order” in face of an **aggressive and expansionist China** in the region.

14. Which of the following states does not share its boundary with Mediterranean Sea?

- a) Tunisia
- b) Greece
- c) Libya
- d) Portugal

Answer: D

Explanation:

- While Portugal is considered a Mediterranean country, and Portuguese people are considered as Mediterranean people, in terms of culture, history, language, and climate, **Portugal does not border the Mediterranean sea**



15. Consider the following statements regarding the 'Round tripping'

1. It refers to money that leaves the country through various channels and makes its way back into the country often as foreign investment
2. Global Depository Receipts (GDR) and Participatory Notes (P-Notes) can be used as a tool for Round tripping

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

Round tripping refers to **money that leaves the country through various channels and makes its way back into the country often as foreign investment**. This mostly involves black money and is allegedly often used for stock price manipulation

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- Round tripping is often done through a series of transactions that **don't have any substantial commercial purposes**, which makes it fall within the trappings of **General Anti Avoidance Rules (GAAR)**
- It could be **invested in offshore funds** that in turn invest in Indian assets. **The Global Depository Receipts (GDR) and Participatory Notes (P-Notes)** are some of the other routes that have been used in the past
- There are a number of observed factors that promotes round tripping. **Mainly, Tax concessions allowed in the foreign country** encourages individuals to park money there and then reroute it

16. It is a Wildlife Sanctuary located in the state of Kerala. It is now an integral part of the [Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve](#). It is part of the [Deccan Plateau](#) and the vegetation is predominantly of the south Indian moist deciduous teak forests. Also, the sanctuary has pastures of the west-coast semi-evergreen trees. The wildlife sanctuary comes under Project Elephant. It holds the largest tiger population in the State.

The above description refers to which of the following Wildlife Sanctuary ?

- a) [Mudumalai](#)
- b) [Bandipur](#)
- c) Nagarhole
- d) Wayanad

Answer: D

Explanation:

- Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary is an animal **sanctuary in Wayanad, Kerala**. It has an extent of 344.44 km² with four ranges namely **Sulthan Bathery, Muthanga, Kurichiat and Tholpetty**

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- Established in 1973, the sanctuary is **now an integral part of the [Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve](#)**. It is bounded by the protected area network of [Nagarhole](#) and [Bandipur](#) of [Karnataka](#) in the northeast, and on the southeast by [Mudumalai](#) of [Tamil Nadu](#).
- It is **part of the [Deccan Plateau](#) and the vegetation** is predominantly of the south Indian moist deciduous teak forests. Also, the sanctuary has pastures of the west-coast semi-evergreen trees. The wildlife sanctuary comes under Protect Elephant and one can spot a herd of elephants roaming in the area.
- Wayanad district has the **largest population of [Adivasi](#) in Kerala**. Scheduled tribes here include [Paniyas](#), [Kurumas](#), [Adiyans](#), [Kurichiyas](#), Ooralis and Kattunaikkans.
- A monitoring programme of the Forest Department for 2017-18 has found that the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (WWS), **holds the largest tiger population in the State**.

17. With reference to the International Solar Alliance, consider the following statements.

1. It is a coalition of solar resource rich countries lying fully or partially between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
2. The ISA is a treaty-based intergovernmental international organization that doesn't put any legal obligations on member countries.
3. UN member countries which are located beyond the Tropics can also join the ISA as "Partner Countries" with the right to vote.

Which of the above statements is\are correct?

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

Answer:B

Explanation

Statement 1 is correct: International Solar Alliance (ISA) is a coalition of solar resource rich countries **lying fully or partially between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn** to specifically address energy needs by harnessing solar energy.

The Alliance aims to provide a platform for prospective member countries to collaborate and address the identified gaps through a common agreed approach.

ISA has been envisioned as a dedicated platform that aims to contribute towards the common goal of increasing utilization and promote solar energy and solar applications in the prospective member countries **to help the world transform to a low-carbon and greener society.**

Statement 2 is correct: The ISA Framework Agreement has a total of 14 articles.

There are **no targets or legal obligations imposed on member-countries.**

Members take coordinated actions through Programmes and activities launched on a voluntary basis, aimed at better harmonizing and aggregating demand for, inter alia, solar finance, solar technologies, innovation, research and development, and capacity building.

Statement 3 is incorrect.

- UN member countries which are **located beyond the Tropics can join the ISA as “Partner Countries”.**
- Organizations that have potential to help the ISA achieve its objectives including regional intergovernmental economic integration organizations constituted by sovereign states at least one of which is a member of the ISA can join the ISA as a “Partner Organization”.
- United Nations including its organs can join the ISA as “Strategic Partners”.

Structure of the ISA and How are decisions taken?

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- The ISA will have a two-tier structure – the Assembly and the Secretariat. Each member-country is represented on the Assembly, which meets annually at the Ministerial level at the seat of the ISA. The Assembly may also meet under special circumstances.
- The Assembly makes all necessary decisions regarding the functioning of the ISA, including the selection of the Director General and approval of the operating budget.
- Each Member has one vote in the Assembly.
- **Partner Countries**, Partner Organizations, Strategic Partners, and Observers may **participate without having the right to vote.**

Why in the news?

India and France re-elected as President and Co- President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) at the third assembly of the ISA.

Source: <http://isolaralliance.org/Objective.aspx>

<http://isolaralliance.org/docs/ISA%20FAQs.pdf>

18. Consider the following about STARS programme

- 1) It aims to improve the quality and governance of school education through the Samagra Shiksha in all the states.
- 2) It is aided by the World Bank.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: B

Explanation

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- The STARS Project seeks to support States in developing, implementing and evaluating interventions with direct linkages to **improved education outcomes**. It aims to improve the quality and governance of school education through the Samagra Shiksha 6 states namely Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Odisha. (not all the states) Hence **statement 1 is incorrect**.
- The total project cost is 5,718 crore rupees with the **financial support of the World Bank** amounting to 500 million US dollar. **Statement 2 is correct**.
- The STARS project would be implemented as a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Department of School Education and Literacy.

Why in the news?

- The Union Cabinet has approved World Bank supported Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States -STARS project.

19. Which of the following is/are advantages of 5G technology?

- 1) Faster speed
- 2) Ultra Low latency
- 3) Increased connectivity

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

The fifth generation of mobile communication networks is 5g technology.

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5G is projected to bring three main benefits:

Faster speed: Data transfer speeds are projected to be about 10 times higher with 5G than is possible with 4G. That means significantly faster transmission of images and videos. With 4G/LTE, downloading a high-definition movie might take about 10 minutes. With 5G, it should take less than a second.

Shorter delays: Though it's not always noticeable, there is often a brief lag in time from when data is sent to when it's received. 5G should reduce this so-called latency, making it possible, for example, to watch high-speed virtual reality video with no delays or glitches.

Increased connectivity: Cell towers equipped with 5G technology would have greatly increased capacity over 4G/LTE. That means more people — and more devices — should be able to communicate at the same time.

Hence all three are advantages of 5G technology.

20. Consider the following statements about National Rural Livelihood Mission

- 1) National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)
- 2) The Mission aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor, enabling them to increase household income.
- 3) It is a Central sector scheme aided in part through investment support by the World Bank.

Select the correct answers using the code below

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

Answer: D

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Explanation:

About:

- Aajeevika - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) was launched by the **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) in 2011.**

Aim:

- The Mission aims at **creating efficient and effective institutional platforms of the rural poor**, enabling them to **increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements** and improved access to financial services.

Coverage;

- NRLM set out with an agenda to cover **7 Crore rural poor households**, across 600 districts, 6000 blocks, 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats and 6 lakh villages in the country through **self-managed Self Help Groups (SHGs)** and federated institutions and support them for livelihoods collectives in a **period of 8-10 years.**

Features:

- The poor would be facilitated to **achieve increased access to rights**, entitlements and public services, diversified risk and better social indicators of empowerment.
- DAY-NRLM believes in harnessing the innate capabilities of the poor and complements them with capacities (information, knowledge, skills, tools, finance and collectivization) to participate in the growing economy of the country.

Funding:

- **Central sector scheme** aided in part through investment support by the **World Bank.**
In November 2015, the program was renamed Deendayal Antayodaya Yojana (DAY-NRLM).

21. Consider the following statements about Trans fats

1. Trans fats are saturated fats that occur both naturally and artificially.
2. Trans fats are created through a process of Hydrogenation
3. Natural trans fats are found in meat and dairy of ruminant animals

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

About Trans fats :

Statement 1 is incorrect:

- Trans fats, or trans-fatty acids, are a form of **unsaturated fat**. They come in both natural and artificial forms.

Statement 3 is correct:

- Natural, or ruminant, trans fats occur in the meat and dairy from ruminant animals, such as cattle, sheep, and goats. They form naturally when bacteria in these animals' stomachs digest grass.

Statement 2 is correct:

- Manufacturers create trans fats via a process called hydrogenation. Hydrogenation is a process by which **vegetable oils are converted to solid fats simply by adding hydrogen atoms**. Hydrogenation **increases the shelf life and flavor stability of foods**.
- Artificial trans fats raise LDL "bad" cholesterol and increase the likelihood of heart disease. They also lower HDL "good" cholesterol.

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Related information:

- The Ministry of Health has launched the '**trans fat free**' logo, which can be voluntarily used by food business operators in their outlets and also on food products.
- Food establishments which use trans-fat free fats/oil and do not have industrial trans-fat more than 0.2g/100g of food, can display the logo in their outlets and on their food products.
- The logo has been launched to accelerate FSSAI's '**Eat Right India**', a movement to phase out transfat in the country.
- The target is to reduce the industrially produced trans fatty acids on food supply to less than 2% by 2022.

Why in the news?

- The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare while taking note of the fact the economic cost of food-borne diseases is estimated to be \$15 billion, believes that the "Eat Right India" and the "Fit India" Movement will prove to be game-changers.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/bakeries-sweet-shops-restaurants-can-now-sport-trans-fat-free-logo/article28712040.ece>

<https://www.webmd.com/diet/features/trans-fats-science-and-risks#1>

22. Nandankanan Zoological Park is located at

- a) Madhya pradesh
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Chattisgarh
- d) Odisha

Answer: D

Explanation

- Nandankanan Zoological Park is a premier large zoo of India situated 15kms from Odisha's capital, Bhubaneswar.
- Unlike other zoos in the country, Nandankanan is built right inside the forest and set in a completely natural environment.
- Nandankanan is the first zoo in the World to breed White tiger and Melanistic tiger.
- Nandankanan is the only conservation breeding centre of Indian Pangolins in the world.
- Nandankanan is the only zoological park in India to become an institutional member of World Association of Zoos and Aquarium (WAZA).
- Nandankanan is the only zoo in India after which an express train Puri-New Delhi express has been named as "Nandankanan Express".
- Nandankanan is the first zoo in India where endangered Ratel was born in captivity.
- Nandankanan is the only zoo in India to have an Open-top Leopard Enclosure.
- Nandankanan is the second largest heronry for Open Billied Storks in Odisha.

Why in the news?

- The Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) in Bhubaneswar, Odisha has revived its innovative 'Adopt-An-Animal' programme to mobilise resources for animals.

<https://www.nandankanan.org/>

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/bhubaneswars-nandankanan-zoo-revives-adopt-an-animal-scheme/article32865524.ece>

23. Consider the following regarding Manufactured sand (M-Sand):

1. Due to the depletion of good quality river sand for the use of construction, the use of manufactured sand has been increased.
2. It is costlier than conventional river sand.

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3. The advantage of using M-Sand is that the sizes of m-sand can be controlled easily so that it meets the required grading for the given construction.

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: C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct:

- Manufactured sand (M-Sand) is a substitute of river sand for concrete construction.
- Manufactured sand is produced from hard granite stone by crushing. Due to the depletion of good quality river sand for the use of construction, the use of manufactured sand has been increased.

Statement 2 is incorrect:

- It is less costly. Since manufactured sand can be crushed from hard granite rocks, it can be readily available at the nearby place, reducing the cost of transportation from far-off river sand bed.

Statement 3 is correct:

- The advantage of using M-Sand is, it can be dust free, the sizes of m-sand can be controlled easily so that it meets the required grading for the given construction.

Why in the news?

- The policy on M-Sand, which will have a legal framework for production and sale, is expected to be implemented early next year.

24. Consider the following statements about Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

- 1) Low-income economies with a Low Human Development Index (HDI) which are regarded as developing countries are mostly the members of OECD
- 2) India is a member of OECD.

Which of the statements given above is/are INCORRECT?

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

Answer: C

Explanation

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

- The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is **an international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives.**
- It is a **34 member countries group** with a goal to shape policies that foster prosperity, equality, opportunity and well-being for all.
- **Aim:** Together with governments, policy makers and citizens, it works on establishing international norms and finding **evidence-based solutions** to a range of social, economic and environmental challenges.
- OECD members are democratic countries that support free-market economies.
- **Most of the OECD members are high-income economies with a very high Human Development Index (HDI) and are regarded as developed countries** (not low income countries with low HDI and not developing countries). **Hence statement 1 is Incorrect.**
- **India is not a member of OECD. Hence statement 2 is Incorrect.**

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- OECD is an official United Nations (UN), observer member

Reports and Indices by OECD

- International Migration Outlook
- OECD Better Life Index

25. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

Ethnic communities- Region associated

- 1) Ahmadians - Pakistans
- 2) Kurds - Turkey
- 3) Houthis- Yemen
- 4) Uyghurs- China

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

Ahmadians

- There are an estimated **10 million Ahmadis** around the world, living in more than 200 countries.
- Of this, about **40 lakh live in Pakistan** and 1.5 lakh in India.
- Ahmadis from Pakistan have steadily moved to the West, fleeing persecution, seeking refuge in countries such as the UK, Germany and Canada.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/in-their-prophets-shadow-ahmadis-and-their-plight-as-a-community/articleshow/73100973.cms?from=mdr>

Khurds

- Iranian ethnic **group native to a mountainous region of Western Asia** known as Kurdistan, which spans **southeastern Turkey**, northwestern **Iran**, northern **Iraq**, and northern **Syria**.
- About 20 million Kurds, a quarter of Turkey's population live in the underdeveloped south-east. By **subsuming Kurdish sub-national identity**, Turkish nationalism resulted in politico-economic discontent among Kurds.
- It **fuelled a Kurdish insurgency** led by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which Turkey calls a terrorist organisation.
- Although most Kurds have conformed to their respective nationalities, **aspiration for a unified homeland, Kurdistan, remains**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/a-turkish-misadventure/article29683319.ece>

3) Houthis

- The **Houthi** movement, named after the family it is associated with, emerged from **Yemen's** northern province Saada.



- Saudi Arabia backed Yemeni government and Houthis supported by Iran has been locked in an increasingly complex war.

<https://www.dw.com/en/yemens-houthi-rebels-who-are-they-and-what-do-they-want/a-50667558>

4) Uyghurs

- Uyghurs (or Uighurs, Uygurs) are **ethnically and culturally a Turkic people** living in the **areas of Central Asia** commonly known as **East Turkistan**.
- The largest population live in **China's autonomous Xinjiang region**, in the country's north-west.
- Today, Uyghurs practice a moderate form of Islam and lead predominantly secular lives.
- There are an estimated 20 million Uyghurs living in East Turkistan and abroad, though Chinese sources put the number at 11.65 million.
- Under decades of repressive rule, the existence of the Uyghur nation is under threat as the Chinese government continues to carry out deliberate policies opposing centuries-old tradition, culture & religion.

<https://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/>

<http://theconversation.com/explainer-who-are-the-uyghurs-and-why-is-the-chinese-government-detaining-them-111843>

26. Consider the following statements about Institutions of Eminence

- 1) Under, Institutions of Eminence, both public and private institutions are identified to emerge as world-class Teaching and Research Institutions.
- 2) University Grants Commission (UGC) inspection shall not apply to Institutions of Eminence.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Both the statements are correct

About Institutions of Eminence scheme:

- Institutes of Eminence (IoE) is a recognition scheme for **higher education institutes** in India, set by the **University Grants Commission**.
- Institutions of Eminence scheme has been launched in order to implement the commitment of the Government to **empower the Higher Educational Institutions** and to help them become world class teaching and research institutions.
- Both public and ten private institutions identified emerge as world-class Teaching and Research Institutions. Hence **statement 1 is correct**.
- This will enhance affordable access to high quality education for ordinary Indians.

Objectives of the Scheme:

- To provide for higher education leading to excellence and innovations in such branches of knowledge as may be deemed fit at post-graduate, graduate and research degree levels and award degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions;

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- To provide for high quality teaching and research and for the advancement of knowledge
- To pay special attention to teaching and research in unique and emerging areas of knowledge, including interdisciplinary areas, which are regarded as important for strategic needs of the country but are not being pursued by conventional or existing institutions so far, and award degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions.
- To aim to be rated interNationally for its teaching and research as a top hundred Institution in the world over time.

Key Benefits of Institutions of Eminence

1. Government Institutions to get additional funding upto 1000 Cr.
2. The selected Institutions under IoE shall have complete academic and administrative autonomy.
3. Freedom to enter into academic collaborations with other Institutions within the country.
4. Freedom to have own transparent merit based system for admission of students.
5. Freedom to admit additionally foreign students on merit subject to a maximum of 30% of the strength of admitted domestic students.
6. Freedom to fix and charge fees from foreign students without restriction.
7. **UGC Inspection shall not apply to Institutions of Eminence.**

Hence statement 2 is correct.

27. Consider the following

1. Carbon monoxide
2. Methane
3. Ozone
4. Sulphur dioxide

Which of the above are released into the atmosphere due to the burning of crop/biomass residue?

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

Ans: D

Explanation

- Biomass burning is the **combustion of organic matter**. Burning can be from natural or manmade fires. Examples are the **burning of crop stubble, forest residues and vegetation burnt for land clearing**
- Burning of agricultural biomass residue, or **Crop Residue Burning (CRB)** has been identified as a major health hazard. Burning of crop residues not only **degrade the atmospheric quality** but also **affect the climate and ultimate the human health**.
- Crop residue and biomass burning (forest fires) are considered as a **major source of carbon dioxide (CO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), methane (CH₄), Ozone**, volatile organic compounds (VOC), nitrogen oxides, **Sulphur dioxide** and halogen compounds
- It is also a significant source of **aerosol in the atmosphere**, having potential impact on global air quality and that of a climate
- It was observed that **levels of SO₂ and NO₂ increases during the burning months** (October–November) incorporated with the effect of meteorological parameters especially wind direction, precipitation and atmospheric temperature.

28. Which of the following statements regarding Global Hunger Index (GHI) Report-2020 is/are incorrect?

- 1) The report is an annual publication that is jointly prepared by the World Bank and WeltHungerHilfe.
- 2) India's rank has improved from 102 in 2019 to 94 in 2020.
- 3) India has the highest prevalence of wasted children under five years in the world.

Select the correct options given below

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- The report is an annual publication that is jointly prepared by the **Concern Worldwide** (an Irish agency) and the **Welt Hunger Hilfe** (a German organization). (not world bank) Hence **Statement 1 is incorrect.**
- In the recently released **Global Hunger Index (GHI) Report-2020**, India was ranked at **94th position out of 107 countries. (While it was ranked at 102nd position out of 117 countries in 2019)** Hence statement 2 is correct.
- The report is based on four GHI indicators namely, **undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting, and child mortality.**

Where India stands

The Global Hunger Index score is computed using four indicators – undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality. A country's GHI score is classified by severity – low (green), moderate (yellow) and serious (red).



RANK	COUNTRY	2020 SCORE
1-17*	China	<5
64	Sri Lanka	16.3
73	Nepal	19.5
75	Bangladesh	20.4
78	Myanmar	20.9
88	Pakistan	24.6
94	India	27.2
99	Afghanistan	30.3

*17 countries have scores of less than 5 and are collectively ranked 1-17

Highlight of the report:

- India has the **highest prevalence of wasted children under five years** in the world, which reflects acute undernutrition, according to the Global Hunger Index 2020. Hence **statement 3 is correct**.
- Country has the highest prevalence of 'wasted children'; even Bangladesh and Pakistan score better
- **Child stunting** has actually **improved** significantly, from 54% in 2000 to less than 35% now.
- India has **improved in child mortality rates**, which is now at 3.7%.
- In the region of south, east and south-eastern Asia, the only countries which fare worse than India are **Timor-Leste, Afghanistan and North Korea**.

[.https://www.globalhungerindex.org/india.html](https://www.globalhungerindex.org/india.html)

29. New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty), a bilateral treaty for reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms is signed between which of the following countries?

- a) United States and India
- b) India and Russia
- c) United States and Russia
- d) United States and Iran

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Answer: C

Explanation:

- **New START** is a **nuclear arms reduction treaty** between the **United States and the Russian Federation** with the formal name of **Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms**.
- It was signed on 8 April 2010 in Prague, and, after ratification, **entered into force on 5 February 2011**. New START **replaced the Treaty of Moscow (SORT)**, which was due to expire in December 2012.

Features of the Treaty:

- The number of strategic nuclear missile launchers will be reduced by half.
- A new inspection and verification regime will be established, replacing the SORT mechanism.
- The number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads is limited to 1,550, which is down nearly two-thirds from the original START treaty, as well as 10% lower than the deployed strategic warhead limit of the 2002 Moscow Treaty.
- It will also limit the number of deployed and non-deployed inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM) launchers, submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) launchers, and heavy bombers equipped for nuclear armaments to 800.
- The number of deployed ICBMs, SLBMs, and heavy bombers equipped for nuclear armaments is limited to 700.

30. Choose the correct sequence of sea arranged from North to South in East Asian region/Western pacific:

- (a) Sea of Japan, East China Sea, Yellow Sea, Sea of Okhotsk, South China sea
- (b) Sea of Okhotsk, Sea of Japan, Yellow Sea, East China Sea, South China sea
- (c) Sea of Japan, East China Sea, Yellow Sea, South China Sea, Sea of Okhotsk

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(d) Sea of Okhotsk, Sea of Japan, East China Sea, South China Sea, Yellow Sea

Answer : (b)

Explanation:



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