

1. With reference to the Coral Reefs, consider the following statements:

1. Only hard corals build reefs.
2. Coral reefs occur in shallow tropical areas where the sea water is clean, clear and warm.

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

- Coral is a living animal.
- Coral has a symbiotic relationship with zooxanthellae microscopic algae which live on corals.
- zooxanthellae assist the coral in nutrient production through its photosynthetic activities . These activities provide the corals with fixed carbon compounds for energy, enhance classification, and mediate elemental nutrient flux.
- There are two types of corals: hard corals and soft corals, such as sea fens and gorgonians.
- Only hard corals build reefs. **Hence, statement 1 is correct.**
- The tissues of corals themselves are actually not the beautiful colors of the coral reefs, but are instead clear (white). The corals receive their coloration from the zooxanthellae living within their tissues.
- Corals occur in shallow tropical areas where the sea water is clean, clear and warm. **Hence, statement 2 is correct.**
- The reef building corals are a symbolic association of polyps (coral animals) and zooxanthellae (the microscopic algae).

Why in the news?

A new shrimp species were found in the coral reef in the Lakshad-weep islands.

2. Consider the following statements with respect to the appointment of judges to the High Court

1. The judges to the High Court are recommended by the collegium consisting of the Chief Justice of India and two senior most judges of the Supreme court
2. The appointment of High Court judges is made by the Governor of the respective states.

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 : A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. The collegium consists of CJI and 2 senior most judges for recommendation of judges to High Courts. For recommendation of name for the Supreme court judges, the collegium consists of CJI and 4 senior most judges.

Statement 2 is incorrect. The appointment is made by the President.

Why in the news?

Collegium system followed in India by the judiciary has been criticised that it not only encroaches on the rights of the States but is also against the idea of a federal structure.

3. Consider the following statements regarding Rafale aircraft

1. It is a twin-jet fighter aircraft able to operate only from aircraft carrier.
2. It can carry out all combat aviation missions.

Select the correct answer

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

Ans : B

Explanation

- **Rafale** is a twin-jet fighter aircraft able to operate from **both an aircraft carrier and a shore base**.
- It is a **fully versatile aircraft** which can carry out **all combat aviation missions** to achieve air superiority and air defence, close air support, in-depth strikes, reconnaissance, anti-ship strikes and nuclear deterrence.

4. Which of the following states share border with Mizoram?

- a) Assam, Tripura and Manipur
- b) Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur
- c) Nagaland, Manipur and Assam
- d) Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur and Nagaland

Answer: A



Why in the news?

- There is a border stand-off continuing in Assam-Mizoram border.

5. The term 'sponge city' in the news recently refers to which of the following?

- a) A city structured and designed to absorb and capture rainwater and utilize it to reduce floods.
- b) A city that has fallen short of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for over five years.
- c) A city where there is a significant and extensive improvement in the physical, social, and economic infrastructure.
- d) None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation:

- A city structured and designed to absorb and capture rainwater and utilize it to reduce floods is referred to as Sponge city.
- The idea of a sponge city is to make **cities more permeable** so as to hold and use the water which falls upon it.
- Sponge cities absorb the rain water, which is then naturally filtered by the soil and allowed to reach urban aquifers. This allows for the extraction of water from the ground through urban or peri-urban wells. This water can be treated easily and used for city water supply.
- In built form, this implies contiguous open green spaces, interconnected waterways, and channels and ponds across neighbourhoods that can naturally detain and filter water.
- The most promising idea that **mitigates flood risk** and provides a pathway to **water security** appears to be the idea of "**sponge cities**".
- It implies **support for urban ecosystems, bio-diversity** and **newer cultural and recreational opportunities**.
- These can all be delivered effectively through an urban mission along the lines of the **Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) and Smart Cities Mission**.

6. 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) preventing an infectious disease from spreading after enough people have become immune 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**.

7. Consider the following statements regarding the Enforcement Directorate

1. It is mandated with the task of enforcing the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).
2. The administrative control of the Directorate is 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

Ans: A

Explanation

- It is a **Multi Disciplinary Organization** mandated with the task of **enforcing the provisions of two special fiscal laws – Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA)**
- The origin of this Directorate goes back to 1st May, 1956, when an '**Enforcement Unit**' was formed, in **Department of Economic Affairs**, for handling Exchange Control Laws violations under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947
- The administrative control of the Directorate was transferred from Department of Economic Affairs to **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance** (not Home ministry) in 1960

Functions

- Processing cases of fugitives from India **under Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.**
- Sponsor cases of preventive detention under Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act, 1974(**COFEPOSA**) **in regard to contraventions of FEMA**

The Directorate enforces two laws

FEMA, a **Civil Law** having **quasi judicial powers**, for investigating suspected contraventions of the Exchange Control Laws and Regulations with the **powers to impose penalties** on those adjudged guilty

- **PMLA**, a **Criminal Law** whereby the Officers are **empowered to conduct enquiries to locate, provisionally attach/confiscate assets** derived from acts of Schedules Offences besides arresting and prosecuting the Money Launderers.

8. Consider the following statements about star campaigners

- 1) Both national and state parties enjoy the privileges of utilising star campaigners for their election campaigns.
- 2) A recognised national or state party can have a maximum of 40 star campaigners during a state or national election even for elections held during the pandemic.

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: A

Explanation:

- Star campaigners can be described as persons who are nominated by parties to campaign in a given set of Constituencies. These persons are, in almost all cases, prominent and popular faces within the Party. However, there are no specific definitions according to law or the Election Commission of India.
- Both national and state parties enjoy the privileges of utilising star campaigners for their election campaigns. Hence statement 1 is correct.

Benefits: The expenditure incurred on campaigning by such campaigners is exempt from being added to the election expenditure of a candidate. However, this only applies when a star campaigner limits herself to a general campaign for the political party she represents.

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- Recently, the Election Commission has revised norms for star campaigners for polls during the pandemic. As per the revised norms:
 - Maximum number of star campaigners reduced from 40 to 30 for a recognised party.
 - For unrecognised registered parties, the number of star campaigners has been reduced from 20 to 15.
 - Besides, they now require permission from the district election official 48 hours prior to campaigning.

The new norms will apply to the Bihar Assembly elections and the bypolls across the country, as well as future elections during the pandemic.

Hence statement 2 is incorrect.

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

Tribes	Regions associated
1) Jaintia	- Assam
2) Todas	- Tamilnadu
3) Munda	- Odisha

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: B

Explanation

Jaintia tribe

- **Meghalaya tribes** can mainly be classified into three groups - **Garos, Khasis and Pnars or Jaintias**. Garos are believed to be the descendants of Tibeto-Burman race who came down all the way from Tibet to the north eastern states while the Khasis and Pnars or **Jaintias are the descendants of Proto Australoid Monkhmer race**

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- The most noteworthy feature of tribes of Meghalaya is their **parental lineage**. The tribes at Meghalaya follow **matrilineal lineage** whereby a **property's inheritance is traced through the women**. Though the women section of the tribes at Meghalaya take the responsibility of the household work, men are responsible for the mental and material life of his family. The property gets transferred to the women in the house

Toda Tribe

- The Toda are **tribal pastoral people** who live in the **Nilgiri Hills of Tamilnadu**. Also known as the Todava, Ton and Tutavar, they are **linguistically, culturally and economically distinct**.
- They speak a **Dravidian language** like the other peoples of the Nilgiri Hills and southern India but their language has **no written form** and for the most part is not understood by non-Toda.
- They have traditionally been buffalo and **cattle herders** utilizing **grasslands called sholas**, while those around them have traditionally been farmers or forest people. Toda culture is being **threatened by encroachments** from the outside world,

Munda tribes

- Munda tribe **mainly inhabit the states of Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Chhatisgarh and Bihar**
- The Munda have **traditionally been farm labourers**, woodcutters and basket weavers. They are **endogamous**, that is, they marry within their community.
- Society is **patriarchal** with older men ruling over the villages. The Munda have **elaborate rituals** to celebrate birth, death, and marriage.

10. Which of the following states is not located in the Horn of Africa?

- a) Sudan
- b) Chad
- c) Eritrea
- d) Djibouti

Answer: B

Explanation:



11. Consider the following pairs:

Food items		Fortified with	
1.	Rice	-	Iron, Vitamin B12 and Folic Acid
2.	Salt	-	Vitamin C and Iron
3.	Milk	-	Vitamins A and D

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

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

Answer: (c)

In October 2016, FSSAI operationalized the **Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2016** for fortifying staples namely

- i. **Wheat Flour and Rice with Iron, Vitamin B12 and Folic Acid,**
- ii. **Milk and Edible Oil with Vitamins A and D and**
- iii. **Double Fortified Salt with Iodine and Iron** (not Vitamin C).

Hence **only 2 is incorrectly matched**. 1 and 3 (option C) are correctly matched.

Food Fortification in India

- Food Fortification is a scientifically proven, cost-effective, scalable and sustainable global intervention that **addresses the issue of micronutrient deficiencies** .
- Food Fortification Regulations are aimed to reduce the high burden of micronutrient malnutrition in India.
- The **‘+F’ logo** has been notified to identify fortified foods. Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2018 were notified in the Gazette of India on 09.08.2018.

<https://fssai.gov.in/cms/fortified-food.php>

What is Food Fortification?

- Fortification is the addition of key vitamins and minerals such as **Iron, Iodine, Zinc, Vitamins A & D** to staple foods such as rice, wheat, oil, milk and salt to improve their nutritional content.
- These nutrients may or may not have been originally present in the food before processing or may have been lost during processing.

Why do we Need Fortification of Food?

- Deficiency of micronutrients or micronutrient malnutrition, also known as **hidden hunger**, is a serious health risk.
- Access to safe and nutritious food is a must and sometimes due to lack of consumption of a balanced diet, lack of variety in the diet or unavailability of food, one does not get adequate micronutrients.
- Often, there is considerable loss of nutrients during the processing of food as well.

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- One of the strategies to address this problem is fortification of food.
- This method **complements other ways** to improve nutrition such as diversification of diet and supplementation of food.
- India has a **very high burden of micronutrient deficiencies** caused by inadequate consumption of Vitamin A, Iodine, Iron and Folic Acid leading to **Night Blindness, Goitre, Anaemia and various birth defects**.
- According to the **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4) 2015-16:**
 - a. 58.4 percent of children (6-59 months) are anaemic
 - b. 53.1 percent women in the reproductive age group are anaemic
 - c. 35.7 percent of children under 5 are underweight
- Fortification is a globally proven intervention to address the much prevalent micronutrient deficiencies in the population.

<https://ffrc.fssai.gov.in/aboutus?about=ff>

Why in the news?

In a bid to combat chronic anaemia and undernutrition, the government is making plans to distribute fortified rice through the **Integrated Child Development Services** and **Mid-Day Meal schemes** across the country from next year, with a special focus on **112 aspirational districts**, according to a statement from the Food Ministry.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/centre-to-extend-fortified-rice-scheme-to-112-districts/article33016045.ece>

12. Consider the following statements regarding the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)

1. Under the scheme, Jan aushadhi medical stores have been set up to provide generic drugs
2. It was launched by the Ministry of Health and family welfare to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses

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

Ans: A

Explanation

- It is a campaign **launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers** to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses
- Jan Aushadhi medical 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.
- It was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals in November 2008 under the name **Jan Aushadi Campaign. Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)** is the implementation agency for PMBJP
- The Main objective of the scheme includes making quality medicines available at affordable prices for all, particularly the poor and disadvantaged, **through exclusive outlets "Jan Aushadhi Medical Store"**, so as to **reduce out of pocket expenses** in healthcare.

13. Consider the following statements about FAME India scheme

- 1) It is an incentive scheme for the production of pest resistant genetically modified crop varieties in the country.
- 2) It was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture.

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 and 2 are incorrect :

- The **National Electric Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020** is a National Mission document providing the vision and the roadmap for the faster adoption of electric vehicles and their manufacturing in the country. As part of the NEMMP 2020, the **Department of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises** formulated a Scheme viz. **Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India)** Scheme in the year 2015 to **promote manufacturing of electric and hybrid vehicle technology and to ensure sustainable growth** of the same.

The Scheme operates in **two phases**.

Phase I: started in 2015 and was completed on March 31st, 2019.

Phase II: started from April 1st, 2019, will be completed by March 31st, 2022.

- The 1st Phase of FAME India Scheme was implemented through four focus areas namely (i) Demand Creation, (ii) Technology Platform, (iii) Pilot Project and (iv) Charging Infrastructure.
- Market creation through demand incentives was aimed at incentivizing all vehicle segments i.e. 2-Wheelers, 3-Wheelers Auto, Passenger 4-Wheeler vehicles, Light Commercial Vehicles and Buses.

Salient features of FAME 2 scheme

- The outlay of 10,000 crore has been made for three years till 2022 for FAME 2 scheme.
- The centre has sanctioned investment in **setting up charging stations** for electric vehicles in India
- The government will offer the incentives for electric buses, three-wheelers and four-wheelers to be used for commercial purposes.
- Plug-in hybrid vehicles and those with a sizeable lithium-ion battery and electric motor will also be included in the scheme and fiscal support offered depending on the size of the battery.

14. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

1. It is an international organisation consisting of 22 coastal states bordering the Indian Ocean

2. India is a founding member of this organisation

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

Ans: D

Explanation

Indian Ocean Commission (IOC)

- It is an **intergovernmental organization** that was created in **1982 at Port Louis, Mauritius** and institutionalized in 1984 by the **Victoria Agreement in Seychelles**. The COI is composed of five **African Indian Ocean nations: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Reunion and Seychelles**.
- **Indian ocean Rim Association (IORA):** It is an international organisation consisting of 22 coastal states bordering the Indian Ocean
- Notwithstanding their different characteristics (Reunion as a French overseas region; Mauritius and Seychelles as Middle-Income Countries whereas Comoros and Madagascar are amongst the Least-Developed Countries), the **five islands share geographic proximity, historical and demographic relationships**, natural resources and common development issues
- Recently, **India has been approved as an observer state** for a five-nation grouping in the Western Indian Ocean, Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), which includes Madagascar, Comoros, Seychelles, Mauritius and French Reunion
- The IOC is also **significant for its geographical location**, as the islands sit around a **“key choke-point” in the Indian Ocean** — the Mozambique Channel.

15. Consider the following statements

1. India's Balance of Payments (BOP) is characterised by large trade deficit sustained by large positive invisible inflows
2. India's capital account in the BOP ended with a surplus in the last five financial years

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:** India's widening trade deficit is largely sustained by positive invisible inflows in the form of service earnings, private remittances, etc.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** In the last 5 financial years, India's capital account has ended with a surplus.

16. 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.

17. Vultures which used to be very common in Indian countryside some years ago are rarely seen nowadays. This is attributed to:

- A) the destruction of their nesting sites by new invasive species
- B) a drug used by cattle owners for treating their diseased cattle
- C) scarcity of food available to them
- D) a widespread, persistent and fatal disease among them

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The major cause of mortality of vultures was found to be the veterinary non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug 'Diclofenac', given to cattle in pain and inflammation.
- "Diclofenac was found to be extremely toxic to vultures and causes renal failure.
- The Government of India banned the veterinary use of the drug in 2006 which was gazetted in 2008, but the misuse of multi-dose vials of human formulation of the drug in treating cattle was still causing mortality in vultures

Why in news? Nationwide vulture surveys are being carried out by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) every four years sponsored by the Ministry of Environment and Forest Departments of various States since 1990.

According to the recent vulture survey, there has been a sharp decline in the population of vultures in the country.

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/vulture-conservation-plan-targets-drug/article33026880.ece>

18. Which of the following species of vultures are accorded Critically endangered according to IUCN?

- 1) Slender billed vulture
- 2) Long billed vulture
- 3) Red headed vulture

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

- Of the nine species of vultures found in India
- Oriental white backed vulture, Slender billed vulture, Long billed vulture and Red headed vulture are critically endangered according to IUCN.
- Egyptian vulture- Endangered
- Indian griffon vulture, Himalayan Griffon, Cinereous vulture and Bearded Vulture are all near threatened.

19. 'International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol)', often in the news, is

- a) a division of the International Police Association
- b) a non-governmental international organization
- c) an inter-governmental body

d) a specialized agency of the United Nations

Ans: C

Explanation

- The **International Criminal Police Organisation, or Interpol**, is a 194-member **intergovernmental organisation**
- Headquartered in Lyon, France. Formed in **1923 as the International Criminal Police Commission**, and started calling itself Interpol in 1956. India joined the organisation in 1949, and is one of its oldest members.
- Interpol's declared global policing goals include **countering terrorism, promoting border integrity worldwide**, protection of vulnerable communities, providing a secure cyberspace for people and businesses, curbing illicit markets, supporting environment security, and promoting global integrity
- The **International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol)** has warned member countries that **cybercriminals were attempting to target major hospitals** and other institutions on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19 with **ransomware**. Interpol has also issued a 'Purple Notice'.
- Organisations at the forefront of the global response to the COVID-19 outbreak have also **become targets of ransomware attacks**, which were "designed to lock them out of their critical systems in an attempt to extort payments"
- Cybercriminals are **using ransomware to hold hospitals and medical services digitally hostage**, preventing them from accessing vital files and systems until a ransom is paid.

20. Which of the following are the provisions with respect to the disqualification of members of Parliament and the state legislatures on the ground of defection under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India?

1. If a member of a House belonging to any political party voluntarily gives up his membership of such political party.

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2. If an independent member of a House joins any political party after such election.
3. If a nominated member of a House joins any political party within six months from the date on which he takes his seat in the House.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

The Tenth Schedule contains the following provisions with respect to the disqualification of members of Parliament and the state legislatures on the ground of defection:

Disqualification

Members of Political Parties:

A member of a House belonging to any political party becomes disqualified for being a member of the House,

- (a) if he voluntarily gives up his membership of such political party; or
- (b) if he votes or abstains from voting in such House contrary to any direction issued by his political party without obtaining prior permission of such party and such act has not been condoned by the party within 15 days. From the above provision it is clear that a member elected on a party ticket should continue in the party and obey the party directions.

Independent Members:

An independent member of a House (elected without being set up as a candidate by any political party) becomes disqualified to remain a member of the House if he joins any political party after such election.

Nominated Members: A nominated member of a House becomes disqualified for being a member of the House if he joins any political party after the expiry of six months from the

date on which he takes his seat in the House. This means that he may join any political party within six months of taking his seat in the House without inviting this disqualification.

21. Consider the following statements

1. The coal sector was nationalized by the Government of India under Indira Gandhi.
2. Now, coal blocks are allocated on a lottery basis
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 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation

- Unscientific mining practices and **poor working conditions of labour** in some of the **private coal mines** became matters of concern for the Government. On account of these reasons, the **Central Government took a decision to nationalise the private coal mines.**
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The **nationalisation was done in two phases**, the first with the coking coal mines in 1971-72 and then with the non-coking coal mines in 1973. The coal sector was nationalized by the Government of India under **Indira Gandhi who served as prime minister of India for three consecutive terms (1966-77)** and a fourth term from 1980 until she was assassinated in 1984.
- **Coal Mines (Taking Over of Management) Act, 1973**, extended the right of the Government of India to take over the management of the coking and non-coking coal mines
- This was followed by the **nationalisation of all these mines** with the enactment of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 which now is the piece of Central legislation determining the eligibility of coal mining in India.

<https://www.coal.nic.in/content/historybackground>

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Currently, coal is allocated through a **process of Auction** by **Competitive Bidding** of Coal Mines. So it **not done through lottery basis**
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The country's **coal imports registered an increase** of 4.4 per cent to 161.43 million tonnes (MT) in the April-November (2019). The country produced 730.35 MT of coal in FY'19, while the imports were 235.24 MT. India's coal imports stood at 208.2 MT in 2017-18 and 190.95 MT in 2016-17. India's **coal imports is on increasing trend**, So, India is **not self-sufficient** in coal production

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/metals-mining/indias-coal-imports-rise-4-pc-to-161-mt-in-apr-nov/articleshow/73014825.cms?from=mdr>

22. Consider the following statements about Kartarpur Corridor

- 1) Kartarpur Sahib is located across the Ravi River which is a tributary of Indus.
- 2) The corridor is the first visa-free corridor between India and Pakistan since Independence.
- 3) Gurunanak was born and died in Kartarpur.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

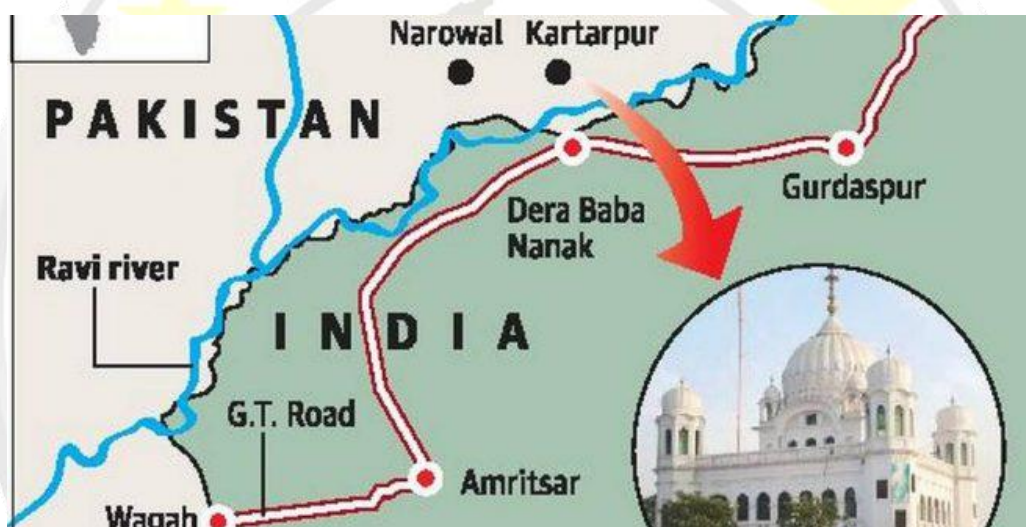
Answer: A

Explanation:

- India had signed an agreement with Pakistan on the modalities for **operationalisation of the Kartarpur corridor** at "Zero Point" of the international boundary at Dera Baba Nanak.
- The Kartarpur Corridor, connecting the Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur, Punjab to the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur in Pakistan, was inaugurated last year allowing Sikh pilgrims in India year round access to one of their holiest sites.

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- The Kartarpur Corridor opening marks the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, founder of Sikhism.
- The corridor facilitates visa-free movement of Indian pilgrims, who will have to just obtain a permit to visit Kartarpur Sahib, which was established in 1522 by Sikh faith founder Guru Nanak Dev.
- **The corridor is the first visa-free corridor between India and Pakistan since Independence. Hence statement 2 is correct.**
- Kartarpur Sahib is located in Pakistan's Narowal district **across the Ravi River**, about four kilometres from the Dera Baba Nanak shrine. Hence **Statement 1 is correct.**



- Gurunank was Born in Nankana Sahib, Pakistan(not Kartarpur) but died in Kartarpur. Hence **statement 3 is incorrect.**

23. “One number-One colour-One description” is associated with which of the following?

- (a) IUCN red data book
- (b) CITES
- (c) National Air Quality Index
- (d) WHO health indicators associated with pollution

Answer: C

- The **National Air Quality Index** is an initiative under the **Swachh Bharat Mission**.

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- AQI will act as a One Number- One Colour-One Description to judge the Air Quality for Common Man. The earlier measuring index was limited to three indicators, while this index has been made quite comprehensive by the addition of five additional parameters.
- The proposed AQI will consider eight parameters (PM10, PM2.5, NO2, SO2, CO, O3, NH3, and Pb) for which short-term National Ambient Air Quality Standards are prescribed.

24. Which of the following pollutants are monitored under both National air quality monitoring program and National air quality index?

- 1) Particulate Matter 2.5
- 2) Particulate Matter 10
- 3) Sulphur Dioxide
- 4) Carbon monoxide

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

National Air quality monitoring program

Central Pollution Control Board along with State Pollution Control Boards has been operating National Air Monitoring Program (NAMP). The objectives of the N.A.M.P. are

- To determine status and trends of ambient air quality;
- To ascertain whether the prescribed ambient air quality standards are violated,
- To Identify Non-attainment Cities
- To obtain the knowledge and understanding necessary for developing preventive and corrective measures;

- To understand the natural cleansing process undergoing in the environment through pollution dilution, dispersion, wind based movement, dry deposition, precipitation and chemical transformation of pollutants generated.

The **National Air Monitoring Program (NAMP)** will consider four air-pollutants viz., Sulphur dioxide (SO_x) , Nitrogen dioxide (NO_x) , Suspended Particulate Material (SPM) and Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM)

The National Air Quality Index

National Air Quality Index (AQI) transforms complex air quality data of eight pollutants into a single number (index value), nomenclature and colour. In simple terms it is '**One Number-One Colour-One Description**' for the common man to judge the air quality within his vicinity. The formulation of the index was an initiative under Swachh Bharat Mission

There are **six AQI categories**, namely Good, Satisfactory, Moderately polluted, Poor, Very Poor, and Severe. The AQI will consider **eight pollutants** .

Particulate Matter (size less than 10 µm) or (PM₁₀),

Particulate Matter (size less than 2.5 µm) or (PM_{2.5}),

Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂),

Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂),

Carbon Monoxide (CO),

Ozone (O₃),

Ammonia (NH₃), and

Lead (Pb)

AQI CATEGORY, POLLUTANTS AND HEALTH BREAKPOINTS

AQI Category (Range)	PM ₁₀ (24hr)	PM _{2.5} (24hr)	NO ₂ (24hr)	O ₃ (8hr)	CO (8hr)	SO ₂ (24hr)	NH ₃ (24hr)	Pb (24hr)
Good (0–50)	0–50	0–30	0–40	0–50	0–1.0	0–40	0–200	0–0.5
Satisfactory (51–100)	51–100	31–60	41–80	51–100	1.1–2.0	41–80	201–400	0.5–1.0
Moderately polluted (101–200)	101–250	61–90	81–180	101–168	2.1–10	81–380	401–800	1.1–2.0
Poor (201–300)	251–350	91–120	181–280	169–208	10–17	381–800	801–1200	2.1–3.0
Very poor (301–400)	351–430	121–250	281–400	209–748	17–34	801–1600	1200–1800	3.1–3.5
Severe (401–500)	430+	250+	400+	748+	34+	1600+	1800+	3.5+

25. Consider the following with respect to National Food Security Act, 2013

- 1) The Act legally entitled only the rural population to receive subsidized food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).
- 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 3 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

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Act provides for coverage of **upto 75% of the rural population** and **upto 50% of the urban population** for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), thus **covering about two-thirds of the population**.
 - The eligible persons will be **entitled to receive 5 Kgs of foodgrains per person per month at subsidised prices of Rs. 3/2/1 per Kg for rice/wheat/coarse grains**. The existing Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households, which constitute the poorest of the poor will continue to receive 35 Kgs of foodgrains per household per month.
 - **Statement 2 is correct:** The Act also has a **special focus on the nutritional support to women** and children. Pregnant women and lactating mothers will be entitled to meals and maternity benefits of not less than Rs 6000. **It is however restricted to two children only.**
 - **Children upto 14 years** of age will be entitled to **nutritious meals** as per the prescribed nutritional standards. In case of **non-supply of entitled foodgrains** or meals, **the beneficiaries will receive food security allowance**. 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** (not under the Ministry of Agriculture and farmer's welfare)
- Why in the news?**

According to the ministry of Food & Public Distribution, 4.39 crore bogus ration cards weeded out since 2013 for rightful targeting of beneficiaries under NFSA-

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

1. It has been constituted as an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. Currently, the NPPA fixes price of scheduled drugs only

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

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)

- 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 September 1994 while reviewing Drug Policy as regulator for pricing of drugs.
- It has been constituted as **an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers** (not the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare). **Hence statement 1 is Incorrect.**
- 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.

What is the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO) ?

- The Drugs Prices Control Order, 1995 is an order issued by the Government of India under Sec. 3 of **Essential Commodities Act, 1955** to regulate the prices of drugs.
- The Order provides the **list of price controlled drugs, procedures for fixation of prices of drugs, method of implementation of prices fixed by Government, penalties for contravention of provisions etc.**
- Later, the Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO) 2013 was notified.

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- The DPCO 2013 contains 680 scheduled drug formulations spread across 27 therapeutic groups. However, the prices of other drugs can be regulated, if warranted in public interest.
- The manufacturer of a **non-scheduled drugs** (drugs not under direct price control) is **not required to take price approvals** from NPPA for such drugs.
- However, NPPA is required to monitor the prices of such drugs and take corrective measures where warranted and their includes the **power to fix and regulate such prices**. Thus, NPPA **can fix the price for Non-scheduled drugs also (not only for scheduled drugs)**. Hence **statement 2 is Incorrect**.

Why in the news?

- NPPA Observes National Cancer Awareness day on 07th November.
- Invoking extraordinary powers in public interest NPPA had launched a Pilot on Trade Margin Rationalisation for 42 anti cancer drugs as a step towards making healthcare more affordable for the suffering patients.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1670707>

27. Consider the following statements about Prime Minister Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP)

- 1) It is a credit-linked subsidy programme aimed at generating self-employment opportunities in both farm and nonfarm sectors.
- 2) It was launched by the Ministry of Skill Development And Entrepreneurship.
- 3) The Scheme is being implemented by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) at the national level.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) is a **credit-linked subsidy** programme aimed at generating self-employment opportunities **through establishment of micro-enterprises in the non-farm sector** by helping traditional artisans and unemployed youth. (not both farm and non farm sector)
- Any **individual above 18 years of age is eligible**.
- For setting up of projects costing above Rs.10 lakh in the manufacturing sector and above Rs. 5 lakh in the business /service sector, the beneficiaries should possess at least VIII standard pass educational qualification. General category beneficiaries can avail of margin money subsidy of 25 % of the project cost in rural areas and 15% in urban areas.
- For beneficiaries belonging to special categories such as scheduled caste/scheduled tribe/OBC /minorities/women, ex-serviceman, physically handicapped, NER, Hill and Border areas etc. the margin money subsidy is 35% in rural areas and 25% in urban areas.
- It was introduced by merging the two schemes that were in operation till 31.03.2008, namely Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) and Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP)
- PMEGP is a **central sector scheme** administered by the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)**.
- At the national level, the Scheme is being implemented by **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)**, a statutory organization under the administrative control of the Ministry of MSME as the single nodal agency.
- At the State level, the Scheme will be implemented through State KVIC Directorates, State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs) and District Industries Centres (DICs) and banks.

Objectives

- To generate continuous and sustainable employment opportunities in Rural and Urban areas of the country

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- To provide continuous and sustainable employment to a large segment of traditional and prospective artisans, rural and urban unemployed youth in the country through setting up of micro enterprises.
- To facilitate participation of financial institutions for higher credit flow to the micro sector.

Why in the news?

Ministry of MSME, Government of India, has alerted the general public and potential entrepreneurs against cheating in the name of Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1670661>

28. Consider the following statements about Indian Meteorological Department

- 1) It has the responsibility of forecasting, naming and distribution of warnings for tropical cyclones in the Northern Indian Ocean region
- 2) It is the principal agency under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

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 2 is correct:** India Meteorological Department was established in 1875. It is the **National Meteorological Service of the country** and the principal government agency in all matters relating to **meteorology, seismology and allied subjects**. IMD is the **principal agency** under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**
- **Statement 1 is correct:** IMD is also one of the **six Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres** of the **World Meteorological Organization**. It has the responsibility for

forecasting, naming and distribution of **warnings for tropical cyclones in the Northern Indian Ocean region**, including the Malacca Straits, the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf.

Mandate

- To take meteorological observations and to provide current and **forecast meteorological information** for optimum operation of weather-sensitive activities like agriculture, irrigation, shipping, aviation, offshore oil explorations, etc.
- To warn against severe **weather phenomena like tropical cyclones, norwesters, dust storms**, heavy rains and snow, cold and heat waves, etc., which cause destruction of life and property.
- To provide **meteorological statistics required for agriculture**, water resource management, industries, oil exploration and other nation-building activities.
- To conduct and **promote research in meteorology** and allied disciplines.
- To detect and **locate earthquakes and to evaluate seismicity** in different parts of the country for development projects.

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is an **intergovernmental organization with a membership of 193 Member States** and Territories.
- It originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), the roots of which were planted at the **1873 Vienna International Meteorological Congress**.
- Established by the ratification of the WMO Convention on 23 March 1950, **WMO became the specialised agency of the United Nations** for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences a year later.
- The Secretariat, **headquartered in Geneva**, is headed by the Secretary-General. Its supreme body is the World Meteorological Congress.

Why in the news?

Salient weather features over the country for the month of Oct, 2020 has been released by IMD in its Report.

Highlights:

- Southwest Monsoon withdrew from the entire country and Northeast Monsoon rains simultaneously commenced over extreme south peninsular India on 28th October 2020
- In October 2020, a total of 3 Depressions formed over NIO with one intensifying into a Cyclone
- During, Oct, 2020, the rainfall over the country is 78.1 mm with 3% above Long Period Average (LPA) over the country as a whole.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1670698>

29. Consider the following statements regarding Khelo India Programme

1. The Khelo India programme has been introduced to revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level.
2. Promotion of Sports among the disabled is one of its objectives.
3. Annual financial assistance of 15 lakh per annum for the first 18 years of the age of players is given.

Which of the above statements is /are correct?

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

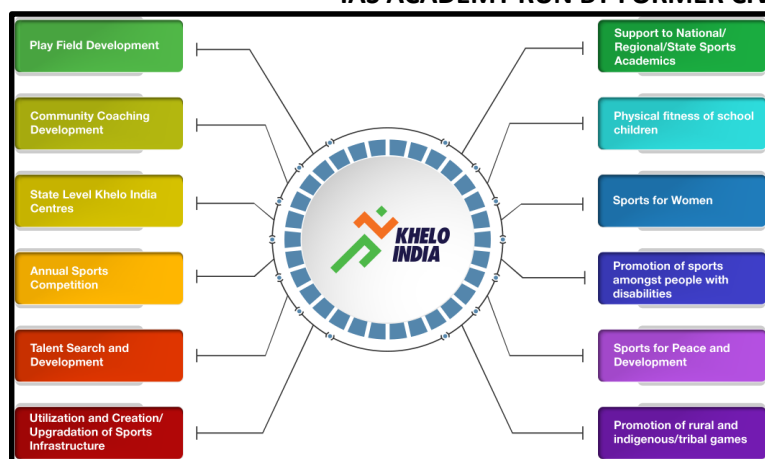
Answer: A

Explanation: Statements 1 and 2 are correct.

The Khelo India programme has been introduced to revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level by building a strong framework for all sports played in our country and establish India as a great sporting nation.

Its objectives are :

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Statement 3 is incorrect.

Talented players identified in priority sports disciplines at various levels by the High-Powered Committee will be provided **annual financial assistance of INR 5 lakh per annum for 8 years.**

30. Consider the following statements

- 1) Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) acts as the principal military advisor to the defence minister on all tri service matters.
- 2) The National Security Advisor (NSA) advises the Prime Minister of India on matters relating to external & internal security threats to 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:

Statement 1 is correct.

Chief of Defence Staff is in the rank of a four-star General with salary and perquisites equivalent to a Service Chief. The Chief of Defence Staff will also head the Department of

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Military Affairs (DMA), to be created within the Ministry of Defence and function as its Secretary.

The following areas will be dealt by the Department of Military Affairs headed by CDS:

- The Armed Forces of the Union, namely, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.
- Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence comprising Army Headquarters, Naval Headquarters, Air Headquarters and Defence Staff Headquarters.
- The Territorial Army.
- Works relating to the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.
- Procurement exclusive to the Services except capital acquisitions, as per prevalent rules and procedures.

The **duties and functions of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** include the following:

- To head the Department of Military Affairs in the Ministry of Defence and function as its Secretary.
- To act as the **Principal Military Advisor to Hon'ble Raksha Mantri on all Tri-Service matters.**
- To function as the **Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee**
- To administer the Tri-Service organizations/agencies/commands.
- To be a member of Defence Acquisition Council chaired by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri.
- To function as the Military Advisor to the Nuclear Command Authority.
- To bring about jointness in operation, logistics, transport, training, support services, communications, repairs and maintenance, etc of the three Services.

Statement 2 is correct.

The National Security Advisor is the **senior official on the National Security Council of India**, and **the chief adviser to the Prime Minister of India** on national security policy and international affairs. Ajit Doval is the current NSA, and uniquely has the same stature as a minister in the union cabinet.

Functions

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- The NSA is the senior official on the National Security Council (NSC) of India, and the chief **adviser to the Prime Minister of India on national and international security policy**. Presently NSA is the most powerful bureaucrat in the Government of India.
- The National Security Adviser (NSA) is tasked with regularly **advising the Prime Minister of India on all matters relating to internal and external threats and opportunities to India**, and oversees strategic and sensitive issues on behalf of the Prime Minister.
- The NSA of India also serves as the **Prime Minister's Special Interlocutor with China as well as the envoy to Pakistan and Israel on security affairs**.
- The NSA **receives all intelligence reports and co-ordinates them** to present before the Prime Minister. NSA is assisted by the Deputy National Security Advisers.

Why in the news?

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Saïd that India will not accept any "shifting" of the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

31. Which among the following measures help in containing inflation?

1. Demonetisation
2. Increasing both direct & indirect taxes
3. Surplus budgeting

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: **B**

Explanation:

- Demonetisation of currency means declaring that hereafter currencies of particular denominations are invalid. It reduced the circulation of money in the economy and helps in containing inflation.

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- Surplus budgeting occurs when government spending is less than tax revenue. It reduces the money supply and government demand for goods and services. Thus it helps in containing inflation.
- Increasing direct taxes will reduce disposable income available with people and therefore spending; this will cause a fall in aggregate demand and lead to a lower rate of inflation.
- However, increasing indirect taxes increases the price of goods and causes a rise in the rate of inflation.

32. Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana is related to

- a) providing unemployment allowance to workers rendered jobless due to the “changing employment pattern”
- b) income disclosure scheme (IDS) to allow tax evaders to come clean with unaccounted wealth.
- c) aid, assist and advice farmers on how to improve their farming techniques and raise their incomes
- d) India’s endeavour to promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship

Answer: A

Explanation

Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana

- The Employees’ State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has approved a scheme for **providing unemployment allowance to workers rendered jobless due to the “changing employment pattern”**, acknowledging the fact that permanent jobs are on a decline in the country
- Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana, will be **applicable for employees covered under the Employees’ State Insurance (ESI) Act, 1948.**
- It will benefit over **1 million workers** across the country.
- It offers **cash compensation to insured persons** when they are rendered unemployed.

Eligibility:

- Employees covered under Section 2(9) of the ESI Act 1948.

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- The **Insured Person (IP)** should have been rendered unemployed during the period the relief is claimed
- The Insured Person should have been in insurable employment for a **minimum period of two years**
- The Insured Person should have contributed not less than 78 days during each of the preceding four contribution periods
- The contribution in respect of him should have been paid or payable by the employer
- The contingency of unemployment should **not have been as a result of any punishment** for misconduct or superannuation or voluntary retirement.
- Aadhar and Bank Account of the Insured Person should be linked with insured person database.
- The scheme provides **relief to the extent of 25% of the average per day earning** during the previous four contribution periods (total earning during the four contribution period/730) to be **paid up to a maximum of 90 days of unemployment once in lifetime of the Insured Person.**
- The Relief under ABVKY shall be paid/ payable by Branch Office to IPs directly in their bank account electronically only. In the event of death of IP, the amount of Relief under ABVKY shall be paid/ payable to his/her nominee/legal heir.

Employees' State Insurance Act(ESI Act),1948

- The promulgation of Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948(ESI Act), by the Parliament was the **first major legislation on social Security** for workers in independent India
- The ESI Act 1948, encompasses **certain health related eventualities** that the workers are generally exposed to; such as sickness, maternity, temporary or permanent disablement
- **Occupational disease or death** due to employment injury, resulting in loss of wages or earning capacity-total or partial
- **Option B** refers to Income Disclosure scheme
- **Option C** refers to Krishi Kalyan Abhiyaan
- **Option D** refers to Atal Innovation Mission.

33. Consider the following statements regarding Green Crackers

1. Green crackers have chemical formulation that produces water molecules.
2. They are environment friendly and can potentially reduce particulate matter by 90%.

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: A

Explanation :

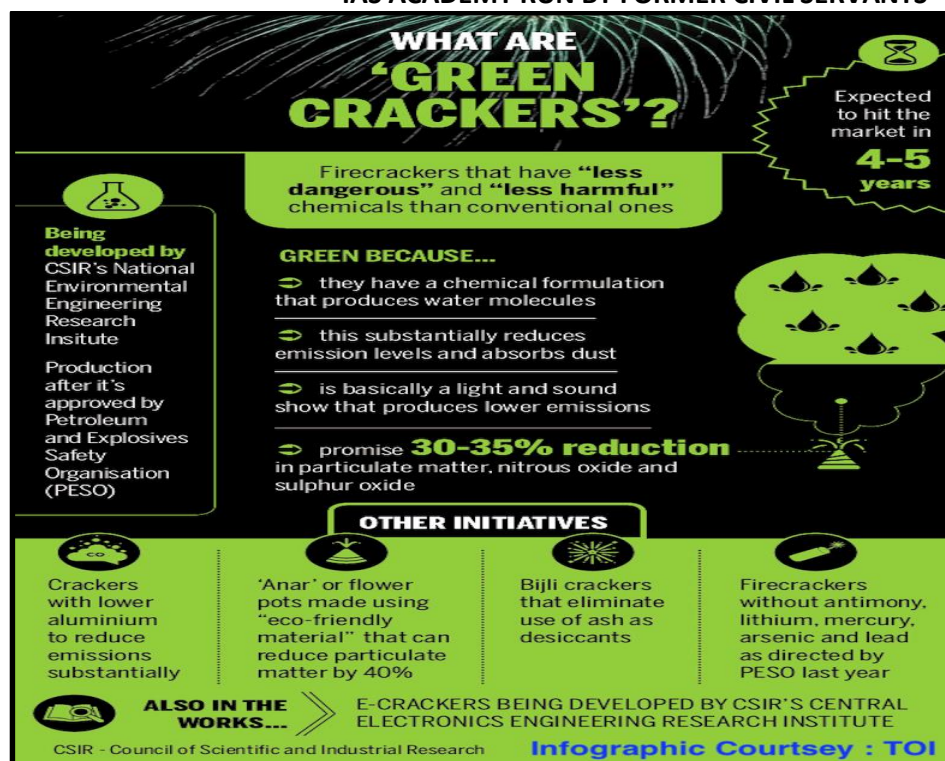
Statement 1 is correct:

What are green crackers?

- They are less harmful and less dangerous than the conventional ones. They are the crackers with reduced emission and decibel level. They are known as 'green' firecrackers because they have a chemical formulation that produces water molecules, which substantially reduces emission levels and absorbs dust.

Statement 2 is incorrect:

- It promises a **reduction in particulate matters and harmful gases, like nitrous oxide and sulfur oxide, by 30- 35 per cent.**
- The green crackers will be 25-30 per cent cheaper to manufacture and manufacturers would not have to make any changes in their facilities.
- Green crackers don't contain banned chemicals such as lithium, arsenic, barium and lead. They are called **Safe Water Releaser (SWAS), Safe Thermite Cracker (STAR) and Safe Minimal Aluminium (SAFAL) crackers.**



34. Consider the following countries:

1. Vietnam
2. Laos
3. Cambodia
4. Thailand
5. Myanmar

River Mekong runs through which of the above countries?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 5 only
- (c) 4 and 5 only
- (d) All of the above

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

Originating from the Tibetan plateau at an altitude of 5,000 metres in China, the Mekong river traverses 4,800 km through six countries — China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam — before emptying itself into the South China Sea.



35. Which of the following is/are the sub-indices of the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business Index'?

- 1) Maintenance of law and order
- 2) Paying taxes
- 3) Registering property
- 4) Dealing with construction permits

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The **Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) index** is a ranking system established by the **World Bank Group**. Doing Business presents **quantitative indicators on business regulations** and the protection of property rights that can be compared across **190 economies**.
- Doing Business Index covers 10 **sub-indices/parameters** which includes 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. These are included in the ease of doing business score and ease of doing business ranking.
- Doing Business analyzes regulation that **encourages efficiency and supports freedom to do business**.

Main findings

- Doing Business 2020 continues to show a **steady convergence** between **developing and developed economies**, especially in the area of business incorporation.
- **New Zealand** retained its **1st position** whereas **Somalia** was ranked at **190th** spot.
- Those economies that score well on Doing Business tend to **benefit from higher levels of entrepreneurial activity** and lower levels of corruption
- While economic reasons are the main drivers of reform, **the advancement of neighboring economies** provides an additional impetus for regulatory change

<https://www.doingbusiness.org/en/reports/global-reports/doing-business-2020>

India and the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) index

- **India has recorded a jump of 14 positions** against its rank of 77 in 2019 **to be placed now at 63rd rank among 190 countries**. India's leap of 14 ranks in the Ease of Doing Business ranking is significant considering that there has been **continuous improvement since 2015** and for the third consecutive year India is amongst the top 10 improvers
- India has **improved its rank in 7 out of 10 indicators** and has moved closer to international best practices

36. Consider the following pairs regarding the INTERPOL Notices

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|
| 1. Blue Notice | - | To provide warning about a person's criminal activities |
| 2. Red Notice | - | To seek the location and arrest of wanted persons |
| 3. Green Notice | - | To help locate missing persons, often minors |

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

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

Ans: C

Explanation

• INTERPOL Notices are **international requests for cooperation** or alerts allowing police in member countries to **share critical crime-related information**.

• Notices are published by the General Secretariat at the **request of a National Central Bureau** and are made available to all member countries.

• Notices can also be used by the United Nations, International Criminal Tribunals and the **International Criminal Court to seek persons wanted** for committing crimes within their jurisdiction, **notably genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity**.

Ø **Red Notice:** To seek the location and **arrest of wanted persons** wanted for prosecution or to serve a sentence

Ø **Yellow Notice:** To help **locate missing persons, often minors** or to help identify persons who are unable to identify themselves

Ø **Blue Notice:** To **collect additional information about a person's identity**, location or activities in relation to a crime

Ø **Black Notice:** To seek information on **unidentified bodies**

Ø **Green Notice:** To provide **warning about a person's criminal activities**, where the person is considered to be a possible threat to public safety

- Ø **Orange Notice:** To warn of an event, a person, an object or a process representing a serious and imminent threat to public safety
- Ø **Purple Notice:** To seek or **provide information on modus operandi**, objects, devices and concealment methods used by criminals

37. Which of the following statements is incorrect regarding the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT)?

- a) ITAT is a quasi judicial institution and specializes in dealing with appeals under the Direct Taxes Act
- b) The orders passed by the ITAT are final, an appeal lies to the High Court only if a substantial question of law arises for determination.
- c) ITAT works under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance
- d) ITAT is often referred to as 'Mother Tribunal' for being the oldest Tribunal in the country

Ans: C

Explanation

- ITAT is a **quasi judicial institution** set up in January, 1941 and **specializes in dealing with appeals under the Direct Taxes Acts.**
- The **orders passed by the ITAT are final**, an **appeal lies to the High Court** only if a substantial question of law arises for determination.
- Starting in 1941 **with six Members constituting three Benches** - one each at Delhi, Kolkata (Calcutta) and Mumbai (Bombay), the numbers of Benches have progressively increased and presently ITAT has 63 Benches at 27 different stations covering almost all the cities having a seat of the High Court
- **ITAT works under the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Law and Justice.**
- ITAT stands out for its **uniqueness of imparting justice to the litigants**, by an inexpensive, easily accessible forum free from technicalities, regarded for its expert knowledge on the subject of Direct Taxes, besides rendering expeditious justice.

- ITAT is often referred to as '**Mother Tribunal**' for being the **oldest Tribunal in the country**.
- More importantly, it is the success of the ITAT, which has prompted the Government of India to constitute **similar Appellate Tribunals for indirect taxes** i.e. Customs, Excise, Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT), Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) etc

38. Under 'Operation Sanjeevani', India has recently supplied 6.2 tonnes of essential medicines and hospital consumables to tackle COVID -19 crisis to which of the following countries?

- a) Myanmar
- b) USA
- c) Maldives
- d) United kingdom

Ans: C

Explanation

Operation Sanjeevani

- Recently, India supplied 6.2 tonnes of essential medicines and **hospital consumables to Maldives**, under Operation Sanjeevani as **assistance in the fight against COVID 19**.
- The medicines were **delivered by the Hercules C-130J-30 aircraft** of Indian Air Force.
- The medicines include **influenza vaccines, antiviral drugs such as lopinavir and ritonavir** among others as well as consumables such as catheters, nebulisers, urine bags and infant feeding tubes
- In March, India also dispatched a 14-member **Army medical team to Maldives** to set up a viral testing lab there and gifted 5.5 tonnes of essential medicines.
- 1988: **Under Operation Cactus**, the Indian Armed Forces have helped the government of Maldives in the **neutralization of the coup attempt**
- 2014: Under '**Operation Neer**' India supplied drinking water to Maldives **to deal with the drinking water crisis**.

Recently India and Maldives signed four MOUs to boost ties.

39. Which of the following are not included in National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) ?

- a. National Water Mission
- b. National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency
- c. National Mission for a Green India
- d. National Soil Mission

Answer (d)

Explanation:

The National Action Plan on Climate change identifies measures that promote development objectives while also yielding co-benefits for addressing **climate change** effectively.

The Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change is in charge of the overall implementation of the plan. There are **eight "National Missions"** which form the core of the National action plan. They focus on promoting understanding of climate change, adaptation and mitigation, energy efficiency and natural resource conservation."

The eight missions are:

- National Solar Mission
- **National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency**
- National Mission on Sustainable Habitat
- **National Water Mission**
- National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem
- **National Mission for a Green India**
- National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
- National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change

The NAPCC also describes other ongoing initiatives, including:

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- **Power Generation:** The government is mandating the retirement of inefficient coal-fired power plants and supporting the research and development of IGCC and supercritical technologies.
- **Renewable Energy:** Under the Electricity Act 2003 and the National Tariff Policy 2006, the central and the state electricity regulatory commissions must purchase a certain percentage of grid-based power from renewable sources.
- **Energy Efficiency:** Under the Energy Conservation Act 2001, large energy consuming industries are required to undertake energy audits and an energy labeling program for appliances has been introduced.

40. What is the correct sequence of occurrence of the following cities in South-East Asia as one proceeds from south to north?

1. Manila
2. Hanoi
3. Jakarta
4. Phnom Penh

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: C



41. The 'Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)' is related to

- (a) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
- (b) Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe
- (c) Heart of Asia
- (d) NATO

Answer: (a)

- SCO was established as 'Shanghai-5' in 1996 with China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia & Tajikistan as founding members. In 2001, Uzbekistan joined the grouping & it was renamed as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Hence **statement 1 is incorrect** since **Uzbekistan is not a founding member of SCO**.
- The organisation has expanded its membership to eight countries when India and Pakistan joined SCO as full members on 9 June 2017 at the 17th summit in Astana, Kazakhstan.

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- Apart from 8 member states, there are **4 Observer States** - Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia and **6 Dialogue Partners** - Azerbaijan, Armenia, Cambodia, Nepal, Turkey and Sri Lanka.
- The Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) **based in Tashkent** is **one of the two permanent bodies of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**. The other one is the SCO Secretariat based in Beijing.
Why in the news?
- 20th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State was held on November 10, 2020 (in Video Conference Format).
- The Meeting was chaired by the President of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi led the Indian delegation.
- This was the first SCO Summit held in Virtual Format and third meeting that India participated after becoming a full member in 2017.

42. 'Hunar haat' initiative is related to which of the following?

- a) Encourage and promote traditional master artisans and craftsmen
- b) Provide incubation and handholding to startups in their first five years.
- c) Encourage learning through creative activities in primary schools.
- d) Promote linkage of handlooms-based textile industry with the global market.

Answer: A

Explanation

- **National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC)**, on behalf of the Ministry of Minority Affairs organises **HUNAR HAAT exhibitions** under the **USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts / Crafts for Development)** scheme of Ministry.
- HUNAR HAAT provides a platform **to the artisans / crafts-persons from the Minority communities** for marketing their products. **NMDFC is intending to create a data-bank of crafts**, artisans / crafts-persons belonging to the notified Minority communities

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- “Hunar Haat” has become a **“Mega Mission” of indigenous Craft, Cuisine & Culture** and economic empowerment of master artisans, craftsmen
- The success of “Hunar Haat” can be gauged from the fact that about **3 lakh needy master artisans**, craftsmen & culinary experts have **been provided employment** through “Hunar Haat” in the last about 3 years. These beneficiaries include a **large number of women artisans**.

USTTAD

- USTTAD scheme aims **to preserve heritage of traditional arts and crafts of minority communities** and build capacity of traditional crafts persons and artisans and **establish linkages of traditional skills** with the global market
- It aims to **provide training and upgrade skills of craft persons** belonging to the minority communities thereby preserving traditional ancestral arts/crafts being practiced by them.

Why in the news?

Union Minister for Minority Affairs Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi will inaugurate the Hunar Haat at Delhi Haat at Pitampura on November 11 with the theme of “Vocal for Local” where indigenous exquisite products made from “Maati (clay), Metal and Machiya (wooden & jute products)” will be the major attraction.

- **Option B is related to Startup India:** It is a flagship initiative of the Government of India, intended to **build a strong eco-system for nurturing innovation** and Startups in the country that will drive sustainable economic growth and generate large scale employment opportunities.

43. Consider the following statements about INSPIRE programme

- 1) "Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)" is an innovative programme sponsored and managed by the Niti Aayog for attraction of talent to Science.
- 2) A striking feature of the programme is that it believes in and relies on the efficacy of the existing educational structure for identification of talent.

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

- "Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)" is an innovative programme sponsored and managed by the **Department of Science & Technology** for attraction of talent to Science. Hence **statement 1 is incorrect**.
- The basic objective of INSPIRE is to communicate to the youth of the country the excitements of creative pursuit of science, attract talent to the study of science at an early age and thus build the required critical human resource pool for strengthening and expanding the Science & Technology system and R & D base.
- A striking feature of the programme is that it does not believe in conducting competitive exams for identification of talent at any level. It believes in and **relies on the efficacy of the existing educational structure** for identification of talent. Hence **statement 2 is correct**.

44. With which of the following countries does Thailand share its borders

- 1. Myanmar
- 2. Laos
- 3. Cambodia
- 4. Vietnam
- 5. Malaysia

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- d) All of the above

Ans: C

Explanation:



45. Jaivik Kheti Portal sometimes seen in the news is related to

- a) Facilitating organic farmers to sell their organic produce
- b) Facilitate reporting of labour inspections and submission of Returns.
- c) Aviation Jobs Portal for Aspirants and prospective Employers
- d) Platform for farmers to seek any information related to agriculture.

Answer: A

Explanation:

Jaivikkheti portal is a unique initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Department of Agriculture (DAC) along with MSTC to promote organic farming globally.

Key Features of the portal:

- **Promotion of organic farming:** It is a one-stop solution for facilitating organic farmers to sell their organic produce and promoting organic farming and its benefits.
- **E-Commerce & knowledge platform:** The portal is an E-commerce as well as a knowledge platform. Knowledge repository section of the portal includes case studies, videos, and best

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farming practices, success stories and other material related to organic farming to facilitate and promote organic farming. The e-commerce section of the portal provides the whole bouquet of organic products ranging from grains, pulses, fruits and vegetables.

- **Products available at door-step:** Through this portal buyers can now avail organic products at their doorstep through the portal at much lower prices.
- **Linking the stakeholders:** This portal links various stakeholders like regional councils, local groups, individual farmers, buyers, government agencies and input suppliers for the all-inclusive development and promotion of organic farming.
- **Price discovery Mechanism to Farmers:** The portal provides various price discovery mechanisms to help farmers get the best prices for their products through forward auction, price-quantity bidding, book building and reverse auction mechanisms.

Benefits from the point of view of farmers

- The fertile capacity of the land increases.
- Irrigation intervals increase.
- Reducing dependence on chemical fertilizer reduces costs.
- Increase in productivity of crops.

Benefits of soil

- The use of organic manure improves the quality of the land.
- The water holding capacity of the land increases.
- Evaporation of water from the land will be less.

Environmental benefits

- The water level of the land increases.
- There is a reduction in pollution through soil, food and water in the ground.
- The use of waste, in composting, reduces diseases.
- Reduction in cost of crop production and increase in income.
- Quality of organic product in the international market competition.

Statement b refers to Shram Suvidha Portal

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Shram Suvidha Portal facilitates businessmen to get all kinds of registrations and submit returns that are required under labour laws at a single online window. It also makes available to them the inspection reports prepared by the enforcement agency inspectors online. The procedures have been simplified; returns and registration forms have been unified to provide a business environment that encourages compliance by reducing transaction costs and promoting ease of business.

Statement c refers to Aviation Jobs Portal

Aviation Jobs portal is a unique initiative to harness the growth potential of the aviation sector to contribute to employment and re-employment in skilled aviation jobs in India. Both Candidates and Employers would be able to access a wider choice. Candidates will be able to seek job opportunities matching their profiles. Employers will be able to shortlist those suitable to serve their HR requirements as per their company policy through an online medium.

Statement d refers to National Agriculture Market (eNAM) portal

National Agriculture Market (eNAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) is the lead agency for implementing eNAM under the aegis of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India. Its main objective is to promote uniformity in agriculture marketing by streamlining of procedures across the integrated markets, removing information asymmetry between buyers and sellers and promoting real time price discovery based on actual demand and supply.

46. Consider the following statements about Viability Gap Funding

- 1) Viability Gap Funding (VGF) signifies a grant provided to support infrastructure projects that are economically justified but fall short of financial viability.
- 2) The lack of financial viability usually arises from long gestation periods and the inability to increase user charges to commercial levels.

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: C

Explanation:

Viability Gap Funding (VGF) signifies a grant, one-time or deferred, provided to support infrastructure projects that are economically justified but fall short of financial viability. The lack of financial viability usually arises from long gestation periods and the inability to increase user charges to commercial levels. Hence **both the statements are correct.**

Why in the news?

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister has approved continuation and Revamping of the Scheme for Financial Support to Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in Infrastructure Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme Till 2024-25 with a total outlay of Rs. 8,100 cr.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1671914>

47. Which among the following are examples of Consumer goods?

1. Household appliances 2. Computers in an MNC company 3. Steam turbines 4. Apparel

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Capital goods and consumer goods are classified based on how they are used.

- Capital goods are any tangible assets used by one business to produce goods or services as an input for other businesses to produce consumer goods.
- The most common capital goods are property, plant, and equipment (PPE), or fixed assets such as buildings, machinery and equipment, tools, and vehicles.
- A consumer good is any good purchased for consumption and not used later for the production of another consumer good.
- Examples of consumer goods include food, clothing, vehicles, electronics, and household appliances.

48. Consider the following statements:

1. A major drawback of introducing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) is the increased impact of cascading effect. 2. Under the GST regime, it is mandatory for a state to get approval of the GST council to levy cess.

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:

- Cascading tax effect is also termed as “tax on tax”. This effect occurs when a good is taxed on every stage of production. Such a good is taxed till it is finally sold to the consumer. This means each succeeding transfer of good is taxed inclusive of the taxes charged on the preceding transfer. As a result, the final consumer bears the burden of the multiple taxes imposed on every stage of production.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Under the GST system, the consumer pays the final tax but an efficient input tax credit system ensures that there is no cascading of taxes- tax on tax

paid on inputs that go into manufacture of goods.

● **Statement 2 is correct:** Under the GST regime, it is mandatory for a state to get approval of the GST council to levy cess. In January 2019, the GST council gave permission to Kerala to implement 1 per cent Flood Cess, apart from GST.

49. Consider the following countries:

1. Turkmenistan
2. Uzbekistan
3. Kazakhstan
4. Kyrgyzstan
5. Tajikistan

Caspian Sea is bordered by which of the above countries?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
(b) 1, 3 and 5 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) All of the above

Ans: (c)

Explanation:



50. What is the correct sequence of occurrence of the following cities from North to South?

1. Kabul
2. Ashgabat
3. Astana
4. Bishkek

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Answer: B



51. The term 'Auto trigger mechanism' often seen in news is related to

- a) mechanism that actuates the firing sequence of a firearm
- b) mechanism to check import surges
- c) mechanism that prevent goods being routed through nations with lower duties
- d) self defence mechanism of the human body to control anxiety

Answer: B

Explanation:

India's trade deficit with the 16-member trade grouping is \$105.2 billion, of which \$53.6 billion is with China alone.

India batted for a special mechanism in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade agreement, negotiated among 16 Asia-Pacific countries, which will help it protect itself from sudden surges in imports from China.

In order to safeguard its domestic industry from cheap imports, India wanted 'transitional safeguards measures auto-trigger and snapback' to counter a sudden surge in imports for a period of six months when imports from an RCEP partner exceed a particular threshold.

This threshold would be mutually decided by the members and would be applied only on mutually identified select lines.

The snapback provision would allow India to revert to the original higher tariffs to counter a sudden surge in imports.

52. 'Gadgil Committee Report' and 'Kasturirangan Committee Report', sometimes seen in the news are related to

- a) Interlinking of rivers
- b) Conservation of Western Ghats
- c) Ganga action plan
- d) Framework for Wetland conservation

Ans: B

Explanation

Gadgil Committee

· It defined the **boundaries of the Western Ghats for the purposes of ecological management**. It proposed that this **entire area be designated as ecologically sensitive area (ESA)**.

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- 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.

Kasturirangan Committee

- None of the six concerned states **agreed with the recommendations of the Gadgil Committee**, which submitted its report in August 2011
- In August 2012, then Environment Minister 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.
- The Kasturirangan report seeks to **bring just 37% of the Western Ghats under the Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) zones** — down from the 64% suggested by the Gadgil report.

Recommendations of Kasturirangan Committee

- A **ban on mining, quarrying and sand mining**. No new thermal power projects, but hydro power projects allowed with restrictions.
- A 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.

53. Consider the following pairs:

Terms Definition

1. Recession - fall in growth rate
2. Slow down - fall in GDP
3. Deflation - fall in the rate of inflation over a period of time
4. Disinflation - persistent fall in the general price level of goods and services

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

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

C. 1, 2, 3 and 4

D. None of the above

Answer: **D**

Explanation:

- Recession- Drop in the gross domestic product (GDP)
- Slow down- Decline in the growth rate of the GDP
- An economic recession signifies a shrinkage in the GDP for two or more consecutive quarters, while an economic slowdown is when the GDP continues to grow but in a slower rate than the previous period in question. A slowdown is a pointer towards recession and usually precedes one but does not necessarily lead to recession.
- Recession means that the country is producing and earning less than what it did before. Consumers tend to spend less as people lose confidence in the growth of the economy. Less spending means that there's decrease in demand, which, in turn leads to a dip in production. Such events also lead to lay-offs and job loss and mark a spike in unemployment.
- Slowdown, on the other hand, means that production and earnings of the economy is not growing at the same pace as before.
- Deflation- It is a persistent fall in the general price level of goods and services
- Disinflation- It is a fall in the rate of inflation over a period of time

54. Which of the following countries share their borders with the Aral Sea?

1. Turkmenistan
2. Uzbekistan
3. Kazakhstan
4. Kyrgyzstan

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3 only

Ans:(b)

Explanation:



55. Which among the following countries are separated by the Strait of Gibraltar:

- (a) Portugal and Morocco
- (b) Spain and Algeria
- (c) Portugal and Algeria
- (d) Spain and Morocco

Ans: (d)



Explanation: The Strait of Gibraltar is a narrow strait that connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea and separates Gibraltar (belongs to UK) and Peninsular Spain in Europe from Morocco in Africa.

56. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1) Birsa Munda, wanted to reform his tribal society and also eliminate outside forces like the dikus and the Europeans, who tried to control the tribe.
- 2) He was against Christian Missionaries, but supported Hindu landlords and Vaishnavites.
- 3) Many Tribals were incorporated in Plantations and mining of Assam and Jharkhand.

Select the correct answer-

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

Answer- D

Explanation

- Birsa was deeply influenced by many of the ideas he came in touch with in his growing-up years. His **movement was aimed at reforming tribal society**.
- He urged the Mundas to give up drinking liquor, clean their village, and stop believing in witchcraft and sorcery.
- But **Birsa also turned against missionaries and Hindu landlords**. He saw them as outside forces that were ruining the Munda way of life. **Hence, Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- From the late nineteenth century, tea plantations started coming up and mining became an important industry.
- **Tribals were recruited in large numbers to work the tea plantations of Assam and the coal mines of Jharkhand.**
- They were recruited through contractors who paid them miserably low wages, and prevented them from returning home. **Statement 1 and 3 are correct.**

57. Consider the following regarding Fly Ash:

1. Fly ash is a very dense powder produced during coal burning.
2. Fly ash in the air slowly settles on leaves and crops in fields in areas near to thermal power plants and lowers the plant yield.
3. Fly ash can be used in reclamation of wastelands.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Statement 1 is incorrect:

- Fly Ash is produced whenever combustion of solid material takes place.
- Fly ash is one such residue which rises with the gases into the atmosphere.
- Fly ash is a very fine powder and tends to travel far in the air. The ash which does not rise is termed as bottom ash.

Statement 2 is correct:

- If fly ash is not captured and disposed off properly, it can pollute air and water considerably.
- It causes respiratory problems.
- Fly ash in the air slowly settles on leaves and crops in fields in areas near to thermal power plants and lowers the plant yield.

Statement 3 is correct:

- Cement can be replaced by fly ash, thus, reducing the cost of construction, making roads, etc.
- Fly ash bricks are light in weight and offer high strength and durability. Fly ash is a better fill material for road embankments and in concrete roads.

- Fly ash can be used in reclamation of wastelands. Abandoned mines can be filled up with fly ash. Fly ash can increase the crop yield and it also enhances the water holding capacity of the land .

58. Consider the following about Forest Rights Act, 2006

1. For the first time the Forest Rights Act recognizes and secures Community Rights in addition to their individual rights.
2. As per the Act, the Gram Sabha has been designated as the competent authority for initiating the process of determining the nature and extent of individual or community forest rights.

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

Forest Rights Act, 2006

- The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.
- Forest Rights Act, 2006 provides for the restitution of deprived forest rights across India.
- The Act is providing scope of integrating conservation and livelihood rights of the people.

FRA is tool

- To empower and strengthen the local self-governance
- To address the livelihood security of the people
- To address the issues of Conservation and management of the Natural Resources and conservation governance of India.
- For the first time Forest Rights Act recognizes and secures

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- Community Rights in addition to their individual rights
- Right to protect, regenerate or conserve or manage any community forest resource which the communities have been traditionally protecting and conserving for sustainable use.
- Right to intellectual property and traditional knowledge related to biodiversity and cultural diversity
- Rights of displaced communities & Rights over developmental activities

Salient Features

- Nodal Agency for the implementation is Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA).
- This Act is applicable for Tribal and Other Traditional Forest Dwelling Communities.
- The Act provides for recognition of forest rights of other traditional forest dwellers provided they have for at least three generations prior to 13.12.2005 primarily resided in and have depended on the forests for bonafide livelihood needs.
- The maximum limit of the recognizing rights on forest land is 4 ha.
- National Parks and Sanctuaries have been included along with Reserve Forest, Protected Forests for the recognition of Rights.
- The Act recognizes the right of ownership access to collect, use, and dispose of minor forest produce by tribals.
- Minor forest produce includes all non-timber forest produce of plant origin.
- The rights conferred under the Act shall be heritable but not alienable or transferable.
- As per the Act, the Gram Sabha has been designated as the competent authority for initiating the process of determining the nature and extent of individual or community forest rights.

Hence both the statements are correct.

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

- 1) 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 depending upon its nutrient content.

- 2) The scheme is being implemented by the Department of Fertilizers, 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 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

- Under the NBS Policy, the Government announces a **fixed rate of subsidy** by taking into account all **relevant factors including international prices, exchange rate**, inventory level and **prevailing Maximum Retail Prices** of P&K fertilizers
- 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)

60. Arrange the following islands in sequence from South to North

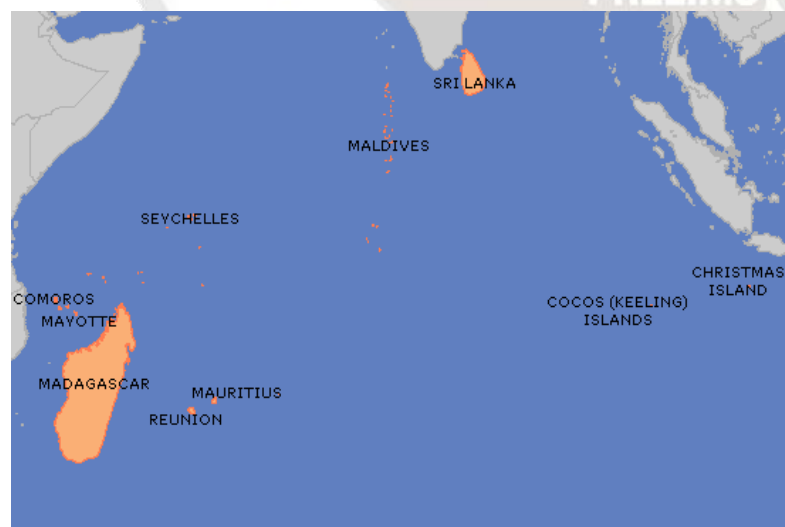
- (1) Maldives
- (2) Reunion
- (3) Seychelles
- (4) Mauritius

Select the answer from the code given below

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

Answer : A

EXPLANATION



61. SDG Gender Index is released by?

- a) The group of 30 under 30
- b) Equal Measures 2030
- c) WHO
- d) World Bank

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The 2019 edition of SDG Gender Index has been released.
- **Developed by Equal Measures 2030, a joint effort of regional and global organisations including African Women's Development and Communication Network, Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation etc.**
- It accounts for 14 out of 17 SDGs (sustainable development goals) that cover aspects such as poverty, health, education, literacy, political representation and equality at the workplace.
- India is ranked **95th** among **129 countries**.

Note:

The SDG Gender index is different from the Global gender gap Index which is released by the World Economic Forum.

62. Which of the following countries in Africa open out to Red sea?

- 1. Eritrea
- 2. Nigeria
- 3. Ethiopia
- 4. Sudan

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Ans: C

Explanation

Ø Ethiopia is a landlocked country

Ø Nigeria is located on the western coast of Africa. It does not open out to red sea



63. It is a South American country. It borders Peru to the north and Bolivia to the northeast. The Andes Mountains are located on the eastern border and the Pacific Ocean to the west of this country. The arid Atacama Desert is located in this country. It is the world's southernmost country that is geographically on the mainland. The above description refers to which of the following countries?

- a) Ecuador
- b) Brazil
- c) Argentina
- d) Chile

Ans : D

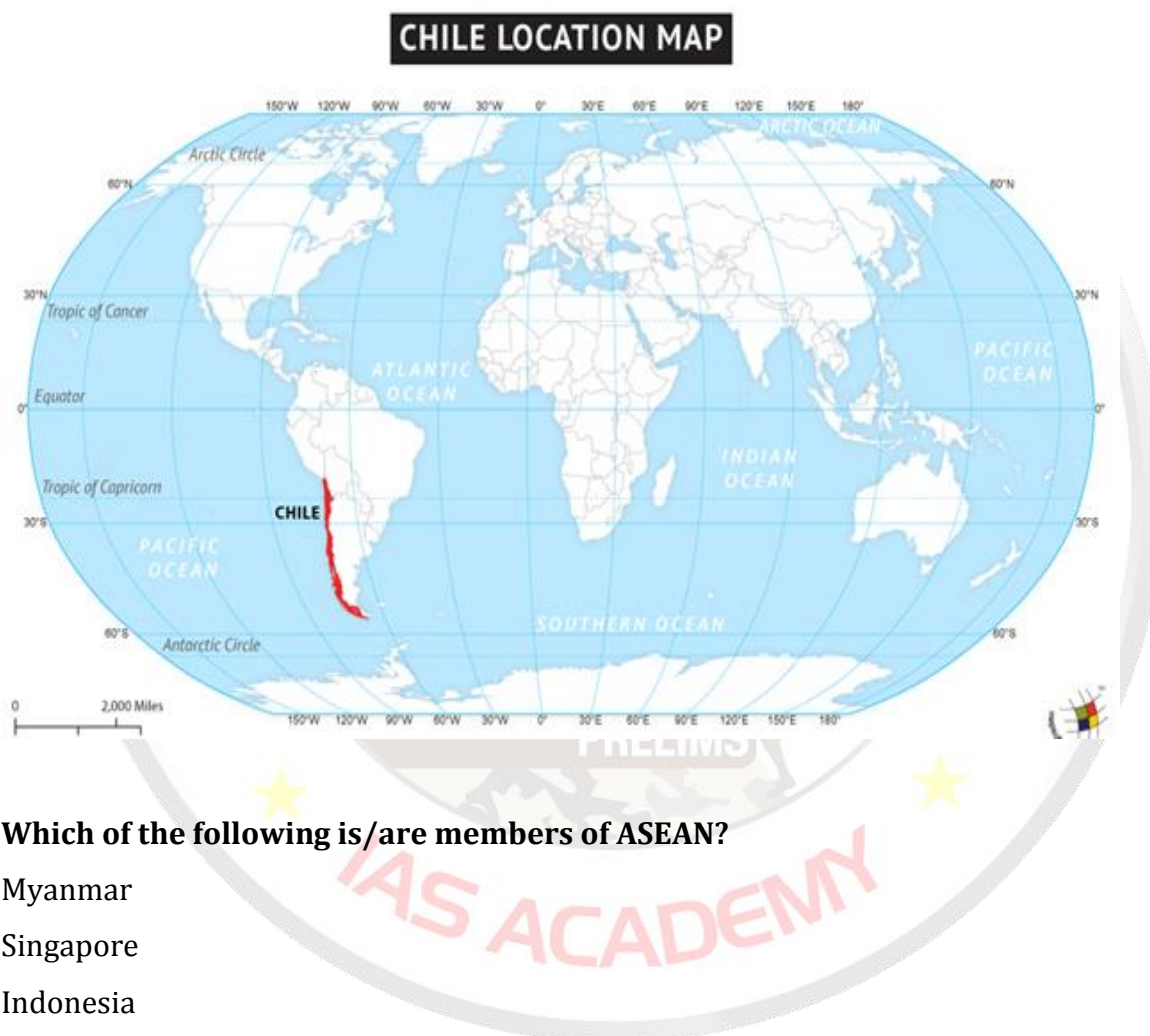
Explanation

- **Chile is a South American country** occupying a long, narrow strip of land between the **Andes mountains to the east** and the Pacific Ocean to the west. It borders **Peru to the north, Bolivia to the northeast**, Argentina to the east, and the Drake Passage in the far south.
- The **arid Atacama Desert in northern Chile** contains great mineral wealth, principally copper and lithium.

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- The relatively small central area dominates in terms of population and agricultural resources, and is the **cultural and political center from which Chile expanded** in the late 19th century when it incorporated its northern and southern regions.
- Southern Chile is **rich in forests and grazing lands**, and features a string of volcanoes and lakes. It is the **world's southernmost country that is geographically on the mainland**.



64. Which of the following is/are members of ASEAN?

- 1) Myanmar
- 2) Singapore
- 3) Indonesia
- 4) India

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

- c) 1,2 and 3 only
- d) All the above

Answer: C

Explanation:

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations is a regional organization which was established to promote political and social stability amid rising tensions among the Asia-Pacific's post-colonial states.
- The motto of ASEAN is "One Vision, One Identity, One Community".
- ASEAN Secretariat – Indonesia, Jakarta.

Member Nations

- Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia are members of ASEAN.
- India is not a member of ASEAN.

65. Which of the following is/are the criteria for declaring a wetland as a Ramsar site.

1. If it regularly supports 40,000 or more water birds.
2. If it regularly supports 3% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of water bird.
3. If it is an important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path.

Select the correct answer using the codes given.

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

Answer:C

Explanation:

About Ramsar Convention:

International treaty for “the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands”. It is also known as the Convention on Wetlands. It is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran. The Convention was signed on 2nd of February, 1971. The 2nd of February each year is World Wetlands Day.

What is wetland?

The Convention uses a broad definition of wetlands. It includes all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatland, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, mangroves and other coastal areas, coral reefs, and all human-made sites such as fish ponds, rice paddies, reservoirs and salt pans.

Criteria for Identification of Wetlands under Ramsar Convention:

- If it contains a representative, rare, or unique example of a natural or near-natural wetland type.
- if it supports vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species; or threatened ecological communities.
- If it supports populations of plant and/or animal species important for maintaining the biological diversity of a particular biogeographic region.
- If it supports plant and/or animal species at a critical stage in their life cycles, or provides refuge during adverse conditions.
- If it regularly supports 20,000 or more water birds. **Statement 1 is incorrect**
- If it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of water birds. **Statement 2 is incorrect.**
- If it supports a significant proportion of indigenous fish subspecies
- If it is an important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path. **Statement 3 is correct.**
- If it is an important source of food and water resource, increased possibilities for recreation and ecotourism, etc.

66. It is a salt water lake. The colour of the lake water recently turned pink due to a large presence of the salt-loving 'Haloarchaea' microbes. The lake has been recently declared as a Ramsar site.

The above description refers to which of the following lakes?

- a) Pulicat lake
- b) Chilika lake
- c) Lonar Lake
- d) None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation:

Lonar lake is a salt water lake, the colour of which recently turned pink due to a large presence of the salt-loving 'Haloarchaea' microbes.

Why in the news?

- India has 41 wetlands, the highest in South Asia, with two more added to the list of recognised sites of international importance under the treaty of Ramsar Convention.
- The **Lonar lake in Maharashtra and Sur Sarovar**, also known as Keetham lake, in Agra, have been added to the list of recognised Ramsar sites.

67. Which of the following statements is *incorrect* regarding the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India?

- a) PVTGs reside in 18 States and one Union Territory
- b) A stagnant or declining population is one of the criteria for determining PVTG status
- c) There are 95 PVTGs officially notified in the country so far
- d) Irular and Katkari tribes are included in the list of PVTGs

Answer : C

Explanation

PVTGs

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- 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 (PVTGs).
- PVTGs have some basic characteristics -they are **mostly homogenous, with a small population** (stagnant or declining population), **relatively physically isolated**, social institutes cast in a simple mould, absence of written language, relatively simple technology and a **slower rate of change** etc.
- **Option C is incorrect: 75 tribal groups have been categorized by Ministry of Home Affairs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)s. PVTGs reside in 18 States and UT of A&N Islands.**

Population

- PVTGs are scattered in different geographical areas of the country. According to the 2001 census, the **PVTGs population is approximately 27,68,322**.
- The PVTG of **Sahariyas has the highest population** of 4,50,217, while the PVTGs of Sentinelets and Andamanese has a very small population of 39 and 43, respectively

Social conditions and declining population

- The cultural practices, systems, self governance and livelihood practices of PVTGs have a lot of variations, depending on the group and locality.
- These tribal groups are **widely different culturally**. The level of inequalities in social and economical conditions is very high amongst PVTGs. Their problems are also very different from group to group.
- The **growth of PVTGs' population is either stagnating or declining**, compared to the general population growth, particularly in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands where the declining rate is very high.

<https://vikaspedia.in/social-welfare/scheduled-tribes-welfare/primitive-vulnerable-tribal-groups>

For the list of PVTG, Kindly refer the link below:

<https://tribal.nic.in/DivisionsFiles/ListofPVTGs191212.pdf>

68. Consider the following statements

- 1) Additional Judges of the high court are appointed by the President under Article 224 of the Constitution.
- 2) No person appointed as an additional Judge of a High Court shall hold office after attaining the age of sixty-two years.

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:

Article 224- Appointment of additional and acting Judges.

- If by reason of any temporary increase in the business of High Court or by reason of arrears of work therein, it appears to the President that the number of the Judges of that Court should be for the time being increased, the **President may appoint** duly qualified persons to be additional Judges of the Court for such period not exceeding two years as he may specific.
- When any Judge of a High Court other than the Chief Justice is by reason of absence or for any other reason unable to perform the duties of his office or is appointed to act temporarily as Chief Justice, the President may appoint a duly qualified person to act as a Judge of that Court until the permanent Judge has resumed his duties.
- **No person appointed as an additional or acting Judge of a High Court shall hold office after attaining the age of sixty-two years.**

Hence **both the statements are correct.**

69. Which of the following are tributaries of river Indus?

1. Shyok
2. Subansiri

3. Zanskar

4. Barakar

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

a) 2 and 3 only

b) 1, 2 and 3 only

c) 1, 3 and 4 only

d) 1 and 3 only

Ans: D

Explanation

- The **Indus River** originates near the **Mansarovar Lake** in the Tibetan plateau, on the northern slopes of the Kailash Mountain Range
- Starting off in the **Tibetan highland of western China** near Lake Mansarovar in Tibet Autonomous Region, the Indus river flows through the **Ladakh district of Jammu and Kashmir**.
- Subsequently, the river gets into Pakistan through the Northern Areas, running across the North in a southward route down the whole span of Pakistan, to join the Arabian Sea close to the port city of Karachi situated in Sindh. The **Indus River is 3,180 kilometers (1,976 miles) long**

The Indus River has the following tributaries

Ø Astor River

Ø Nagar River

Ø **Dras River**

Ø Balram River

Ø Ghizar River

Ø Gar River

Ø Gumal River

Ø Gilgit River

Ø Kurram River

- Ø Kabul River
- Ø Shigar River
- Ø **Panjnad River** (Created by the joining of the rivers Chenab, Beas, Jhelum, Ravi, and Sutlej)
- Ø Sohan River
- Ø **Shyok River**
- Ø **Zaskar River**
- Ø Tanubal River
 - v **Barakar is a tributary of Damodar River**
 - v **Subansiri is a tributary of Brahmaputra**

70. Consider the following statements regarding the e - NAM (National Agriculture Market)

1. It is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.
2. Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) is the lead agency for implementing e-NAM under the aegis of 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

Ans: C

Explanation

- National Agriculture Market (eNAM) is a **pan-India electronic trading portal** which **networks the existing APMC mandis** to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities
- It is an **online trading platform for agriculture produce** aiming to help farmers, traders, and buyers with online trading and getting a better price by smooth marketing

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- It was launched by the Centre in 2015 and the government had to extend it in a phased manner across the 585 mandis of the country by December 31, 2019
- **Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)** is the lead agency for implementing eNAM under the aegis of **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**

Advantages

- For the farmers, **NAM promises more options for sale**. It would increase his access to markets through **warehouse-based sales** and thus obviate the need to transport his produce to the mandi
 - For the local trader in the mandi / market, NAM offers the **opportunity to access a larger national market** for secondary trading
 - v Union Agriculture Minister recently launched new features of **e-NAM platform**. They are important steps in our fight against COVID-19
 - v They will **strengthen agriculture marketing & reduce the need for cultivators** to physically come to the mandis to sell their produce
- The newly launched software modules are namely
- **Warehouse based trading module in e-NAM** software to facilitate trade from warehouses based on e-NWR.
 - **FPO trading module in e-NAM** whereby FPOs can trade their produce from their collection center without bringing the produce to APMC
 - **Enhanced version of logistic module** has been released whereby aggregators of transport logistic platform have on boarded which helps **users to avail trackable transport facilities** for transporting their produce

71. Which of the following statements about Harega desh jeetega campaign is/are correct?

- (a) Campaign to eliminate TB by the year 2025 against the global target of 2030
- (b) Campaign aimed at reducing child mortality due to pneumonia

- (c) Campaign aimed at bringing beneficiaries of PMAY (urban) into the fold of other central schemes
- (d) Campaign to encourage the birth and education of girl children

Answer: A

Explanation:

- **Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare** has launched a new campaign to end TB called the Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign along with the National TB Prevalence Survey.
- Multi-stakeholder and community participation will form the pivot of the countrywide campaign.
- The three strong pillars of the new program includes:
 - (i) clinical approach,**
 - (ii) public health component**
 - (iii) active community participation.**
- The new TB campaign aims to improve and expand the reach of TB care services across the country, by 2022.
- This includes preventive and promotive approaches, and proposes potentially transformative interventions such as engagement with private sector health care providers, inter-ministerial partnerships, corporate sector engagement, latent TB infection management, and community engagement.
- **This Campaign aims to eliminate TB by the year 2025 against the global target of 2030**
- **Option B refers to SAANS campaign.**
- **Option C refers to the Angikaar campaign.**
- **Option D refers to Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.**

Why in the news?

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare while digitally addressing the 33rd Stop TB Partnership Board meet, revealed how India's preparation for containing the COVID-19 Pandemic can be repurposed to eradicate TB by 2025.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1673854>

72. In the context of 'Swachh Bharat Mission(SBM)', Consider the following statements.

1. The aim of Swachh Bharat Mission is to achieve a clean and Open Defecation Free (ODF) India by 2nd October, 2019.
2. In the first step ,a gram panchayat declares a village to be ODF.
3. ODF plus status will at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating and/or urinating in the open, AND all community and public toilets are functional and well maintained.

Select the correct answer using the given codes.

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

Answer:D

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct.

- Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) is a nation-wide campaign in India run by the Government of India.
- The mission aims to achieve an "open-defecation free" (ODF) India by 2 October 2019, the 150th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi.

Statement 2 is correct.

The process of declaring ODF status is as follows,

- Once every household in the village has resolved to end the practice of open defecation and have constructed the necessary infrastructure for the same, a resolution is passed in the gram sabha to declare the village ODF.
- To keep track of the declaration, verification is carried out for the village by the state governments within 90 days of the declaration. At this stage, verification is done for each household in the village.

- ODF sustainability verification, which primarily focuses on toilet usage is also conducted after a period of 270 days.
- SBM ODF Plus protocol focuses on sustaining community/ public toilet usage by ensuring their functionality, cleanliness and maintenance.

ODF Definition

- "ODF is the termination of faecal-oral transmission, defined by
 - a) no visible faeces found in the environment/village; and
 - b) every household as well as public/community institutions using safe technology option for disposal of faeces
- A city / ward can be notified/declared as ODF city/ ODF ward if, at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating in the open.

ODF +

- A city / ward / work circle¹ can be notified/declared as SBM ODF+ city/ SBM ODF+ ward/SBM ODF+ work circle if, at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating and/or urinating in the open, and all community and public toilets are functional and well maintained. Hence **Statement 3 is correct.**

ODF ++

- A city / ward / work circle¹ can be notified/ declared as SBM ODF++ city/ SBM ODF++ ward/ SBM ODF++ work circle if, at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating and/ or urinating in the open, all community and public toilets are functional and well maintained, And faecal sludge/septage and sewage is safely managed and treated, with no discharging and/or dumping of untreated faecal sludge/septage and sewage in drains, water bodies or open areas.

Why in the news?

- Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti is celebrating 'World Toilet Day' on November 19, 2020 under 'Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen (SBMG)' for promoting awareness on access to Safe Sanitation and felicitating districts/states for making significant contribution towards Swachhata.

73. With reference to the MGNREGA scheme in India, consider the following statements:

1. Ministry of Agriculture is monitoring the entire implementation of the scheme
2. Consumer Price Index-Combined (CPI-C) is used for MGNREGA wage revisions

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 Rural Development (MRD)**, is monitoring the entire implementation of this scheme in association with state governments.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The wages are revised according to the Consumer Price Index-Agricultural Labourers (CPI-AL).
- The Labour Bureau has recently begun work to update the consumer price indices for agricultural labourers (CPI-AL) which determines MGNREGA wage revisions.

74. Certificate of Origin sometimes seen in news is related to which of the following?

- a) Geographical Indication (GI)
- b) Trade
- c) National Register of Citizens
- d) National Population Register

Ans-B

Explanation:

- A certificate of origin (CO) is a document declaring in which country a **commodity or good** was manufactured.

- The certificate of origin **contains information regarding the product, its destination, and the country of export.**
- India has 15 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs)/ Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) with various partner countries under which Indian exporters avail reduced import tariffs in the destination country.
- In order to avail this benefit, the exporters must provide a preferential Certificate of Origin..
- Required by many treaty agreements for cross-border trade, the CO is an important form because it can **help determine whether certain goods are eligible for import, or whether goods are subject to duties.**

Hence Option B is correct.

75. 'INSTEX', recently in the news is related to which of the following?

- a) A trade mechanism established by some European countries to circumvent US sanctions against trade with Iran.
- b) Currency swap agreement between India and Japan
- c) A mechanism on exchange of goods and services recently adopted by the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- d) Policy to encourage Indian textile industry to cater to the domestic and international markets efficiently

Answer: A

Explanation:

- A trade mechanism '**Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges (INSTEX)**' that was established by France, Germany and the United Kingdom to allow European entities to maintain trade with Iran.
- The mechanism has been designed to circumvent U.S. sanctions against trade with Iran by avoiding the use of the dollar.
- The United States imposed sanctions, after it withdrew from the **Iran nuclear deal**, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in 2018

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA):

JCPOA is also known as the "Iran deal" or "Iran nuclear deal". The deal was made in July 2015. It is an agreement on Iran's nuclear program made between Iran, the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States—plus Germany) and the European Union. JCPOA **limits Iran's uranium enrichment programme** until 2030 and contains monitoring and transparency measures that will remain in place long after that date.

76. The Miyawaki method recently seen in news is related to,

- a) Dense plantation of very young seedlings
- b) Growing of plants without soil
- c) Dripping of water directly to the roots
- d) Climate controlled growth of plants

Answer: A

Explanation:

Miyawaki Method

Miyawaki is a Japanese technique of growing dense plantations in a short time. This method originated in Japan and is now increasingly adopted in other parts of the world. It is named after the Japanese botanist and plant ecologist Akira Miyawaki. This method includes planting trees, only native species, as close as possible in the same area. The approach ensures that plant growth is 10 times faster and the resulting plantation is 30 times denser than usual.

Miyawaki Process:

- The native trees of the region are identified and divided into four layers namely shrub, sub-tree, tree, and canopy.
- The quality of soil is analysed water retention capacity, and nutrients in it, is mixed with it.
- A mound is built with the soil and the seeds are planted at a very high density of three to five saplings per square meter.

- The ground should be covered with a thick layer of mulch. These trees lack some qualities of natural forests, such as medicinal properties and the ability to bring rain.
- Such fast-growing plantations can be used for wood lots, recreational uses like bird watching, bushwalking, and wildflower appreciation.

Statement b refers to Hydroponics Method

- It is a method of growing plants without soil in which plants get their nutrients from a mineral solution.
- The method is suitable for growing greens and herbs as they don't have deep roots. Tomatoes and strawberries are other popular items.

Statement c refers to Drip Irrigation

- It is a type of micro-irrigation system that has the potential to save water and nutrients by allowing water to drip slowly to the roots of plants, either from above the soil surface or buried below the surface.

Statement d refers to GreenHouse and PolyHouse Method

- **Green houses** are climate controlled with cooling and heating system. It is mainly used to grow exotic vegetables, off-season growing of vegetables, floriculture, planting material acclimatization and plant breeding and varieties improvement under adverse agro-climatic conditions.
- Poly house is a less sophisticated version of green house with naturally ventilated climate controlled as against the fully climate controlled greenhouses.

77. Consider the following statements about Asia Pacific Economic Organisation(APEC)

- 1) It is a regional economic forum established to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific.
- 2) India is a member of APEC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only

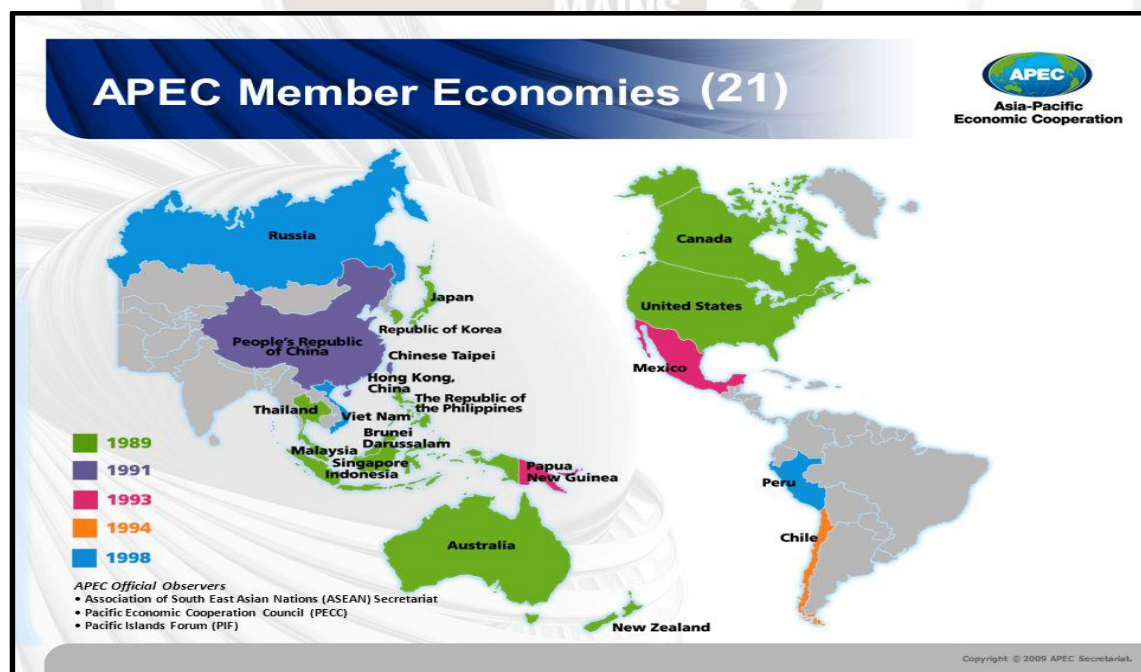
- c) Both 1 and 2
d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct.

- The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific. It operates as a **cooperative, multilateral economic and trade forum.**
- It is the only international intergovernmental grouping in the world committed to reducing barriers to trade and investment without requiring its members to enter into legally binding obligations.
- APEC achieves its goals by promoting dialogue and arriving at decisions on a consensus basis, giving equal weight to the views of all members.
- APEC's aim is to create greater prosperity for the people of the region by promoting balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure growth and by accelerating regional economic integration.

Statement 2 is incorrect: India is not a member of APEC.



78. Which of the following industries are mandated to get Environmental Impact Assessment?

1. Pulp, paper and newsprint
2. Synthetic Rubber
3. River Valley Projects
4. Cement
5. Nuclear Power projects

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

Environmental Impact Assessment is a tool designed to identify and predict the impact of a project on the bio-geophysical environment and on man's health and well-being, to interpret and communicate information about the impact, to analyze site and process alternatives and provide solutions to sift out, or abate/mitigate the negative consequences on man and the environment. EIA was made mandatory in 1994 under the Environmental Protection Act of 1986 with the following four objectives:

- Predict environmental impact of projects;
- Find ways and means to reduce adverse impacts;
- Shape the projects to suit local environment; and
- Present the predictions and options to the decision-makers.

Few industries that are mandated to get EIA include:

- Pulp, paper and newsprint
- Synthetic Rubber
- River Valley Projects

- Cement
- Nuclear Power projects
- Mining of minerals including Opencast/Underground mining
- Leather/skin/hide processing industry
- Air ports
- Highways, railways, transport terminals, mass rapid transport systems etc..

Benefits of EIA:

- EIA links environment with development for environmentally safe and sustainable development.
- EIA provides a cost effective method to eliminate or minimize the adverse impact of developmental projects.
- EIA enables the decision makers to analyse the effect of developmental activities on the environment well before the developmental project is implemented.
- EIA encourages the adaptation of mitigation strategies in the developmental plan.

79. The term 'biological carbon pump' is related to which of the following?

- a) Transformation of CO₂ into organic carbon and its sinking into deep ocean
- b) Forests absorbing carbon from the atmosphere
- c) Process of obtaining carbon by thermally decomposing acetylene gas
- d) Cultivating plants with high CO₂ absorption

Answer: A

Explanation:

What is the biological carbon pump?

- Just like plants on land, the microscopic marine phytoplankton take up carbon dioxide [CO₂] and water [H₂O] from their surrounding and use energy from sunlight to turn it into glucose [C₆H₁₂] and oxygen [O₂].
- The glucose powers the metabolism of the plankton cells, and can be turned into other organic compounds.

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- If enough nutrients are available the plankton will grow and multiply.
- Phytoplankton are the 'grass of the sea' - at the bottom of the marine food chain. Respiration by animals, bacteria and plants 'remineralised' the organic carbon - turning it back into carbon dioxide and water.
- When plants and animals die their remains sink into deeper water as detritus and decompose, releasing carbon dioxide and nutrients back into the water.
- This is why nutrients such as nitrate are scarce in surface water, but found in much higher concentrations in the deep ocean.
- The transformation of carbon dioxide and nutrients into organic carbon, its sinking into the deep ocean, and its decomposition at depth, is known as the **biological carbon pump**.

The 'biological carbon pump' (BCP) contributes to the ocean's role in taking up and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Without the BCP the atmospheric concentration of CO₂ would be much higher.

Statement c refers to Acetylene Black Process

This process obtains carbon black by thermally decomposing acetylene gas. It provides carbon black with higher structures and higher crystallinity, and is mainly used for electric conductive agents.

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

- 1) Nameri National Park – Assam
- 2) Kaziranga National Park – Assam
- 3) Singalila National Park – Himachal Pradesh

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Singalila National Park is a national park of India located on the Singalila Ridge at an altitude of more than 7000 feet above sea level, in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal.

81. Consider the following statements about Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)

- 1) IRNSS is an independent regional navigation satellite system being developed by India.
- 2) It is designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India only.
- 3) All the satellites in IRNSS are located in the geostationary orbit.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation

Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS): NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation)

- **Statement 1 is correct:** IRNSS is an **independent regional navigation satellite system** being developed by India
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is designed to provide **accurate position information service to users in India as well as the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary**, which is its primary service area.
- An **Extended Service Area** lies between primary service area and area enclosed by the rectangle from Latitude 30 deg south to 50 deg North, Longitude 30 deg East to 130 deg East
- IRNSS will provide two types of services, namely **Standard Positioning Service (SPS)** which is provided to all the users and **Restricted Service (RS)**, which is an **encrypted service provided only to the authorised users**.

- The IRNSS System is expected to provide a **position accuracy of better than 20 m** in the primary service area.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** IRNSS is a **constellation of seven satellites in space**. Out of these, **three are located in the geostationary orbit** over the Indian Ocean and the other **four in geosynchronous orbits**, with the desired inclination and equatorial crossings in two different planes.

Geosynchronous Orbit

- About 35,786 kilometers above the Earth's surface, satellites are in geostationary orbit. At any inclination, a **geosynchronous orbit synchronizes with the rotation of the Earth**. More specifically, the time it takes for the Earth to rotate on its axis is 23 hours, 56 minutes and 4.09 seconds, which is the same as a satellite in a geosynchronous orbit

Geostationary Orbits

- While geosynchronous satellites can have any inclination, the key difference to geostationary orbit is the fact that **they lie on the same plane as the equator**.
- Geostationary orbits fall in the same category as geosynchronous orbits, but it's parked over the equator. This one special quality **makes it unique from geosynchronous orbits**.

Some applications of IRNSS are

- Terrestrial, Aerial and Marine Navigation
- Disaster Management
- **Vehicle tracking and fleet management**
- **Integration with mobile phones**
- Precise Timing
- Mapping and Geodetic data capture
- Terrestrial navigation aid for hikers and travellers
- **Visual and voice navigation for drivers**

Why in the news?

- The **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)** has been accepted as a component of the **World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS)** for operation in the **Indian Ocean Region** by the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**.
- This will enable merchant vessels to use IRNSS for **obtaining position information** similar to GPS and GLONASS to assist in the **navigation of ships in ocean waters** within the area covered by 50°N latitude, 55°E longitude, 5°S latitude and 110°E longitude (approximately up to 1500 km from Indian boundary).

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1674483>

<https://www.isro.gov.in/irnss-programme>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/definition/irnss>

82. Under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, diversion of forest land for public utility facilities managed by the Government, such as schools & dispensaries is to be recommended by:

- (a) Gram Sabhas
- (b) Divisional Forest Officer
- (c) District Collector
- (d) Zilla parishad

Answer (a)

(Excerpt taken from the act) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the Central Government shall provide for diversion of forest land for the following facilities managed by the Government which involve felling of trees not exceeding seventy-five trees per hectare, namely:-

- (a) schools;
- (b) dispensary or hospital;
- (c) anganwadis;
- (d) fair price shops;
- (e) electric and telecommunication lines;

- (f) tanks and other minor water bodies;
- (g) drinking water supply and water pipelines;
- (h) water or rain water harvesting structures;
- (i) minor irrigation canals;
- (j) non-conventional source of energy;
- (k) skill up-gradation or vocational training centers;
- (l) roads; and
- (m) community centers:

Provided that such diversion of forest land shall be allowed only if, -

- (i) the forest land to be diverted for the purposes mentioned in this subsection is less than one hectare in each case; and
- (ii) **the clearance of such developmental projects shall be subject to the condition that the same is recommended by the Gram Sabha.**

Hence option a is correct.

83. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) Scheme. Consider the following statements with respect to the scheme:

1. It provides for installation of solar pumps and grid connected solar and other renewable power plants.
2. It provides 100% central financial assistance for Solarisation of Grid Connected Agriculture Pumps.

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: (b)

Statement 2 is incorrect: Centre gives only 30 % assistance for component B and C.

PM KUSUM scheme

- **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** has launched the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) Scheme for farmers for installation of **solar pumps and grid connected solar and other renewable power plants** in the country. Hence, **Statement 1 is correct.**
- The scheme aims to add solar and other renewable capacity of 25,750 MW by 2022 with total central financial support of Rs. 34,422 Crore including service charges to the implementing agencies.

Scheme Components

The Scheme consists of three components:

- Component A:** 10,000 MW of **Decentralized Ground Mounted Grid Connected Renewable Power Plants** of individual plant size up to 2 MW. (by individual farmers/ group of farmers/ cooperatives/ panchayats/ Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO)/Water User associations (WUA) on barren/fallow land)
- Component B:** Installation of 17.50 lakh **standalone Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps** of individual pump capacity up to 7.5 HP for replacement of existing diesel Agriculture pumps / irrigation systems in off-grid areas, where grid supply is not available. Pumps of capacity higher than 7.5 HP can also be installed, however, the financial support will be limited to 7.5 HP capacity.
- Component C:** **Solarisation of 10 Lakh Grid-connected Agriculture Pumps** of individual pump capacity up to 7.5 HP. The farmer will be able to use the generated solar power to meet the irrigation needs and the excess solar power will be sold to DISCOMs at a pre-fixed tariff.

Central Financial Assistance (CFA)/ State Government Support:

- Component A:** Procurement Based Incentive (PBI) @ 40 paise/kWh or Rs. 6.60 lakhs/MW/year, whichever is less, will be provided for the first five years **by MNRE to DISCOMs**, for buying the power from farmers/developers.

ii. **Component B & C:**

CFA of **30% of the benchmark cost or the tender cost**, whichever is lower. **State Government** subsidy **30%**; Remaining **40% by the farmer**.

In **North Eastern States, Sikkim, J&K, Himachal, Uttarakhand, Lakshadweep and A&N Islands**, CFA of **50%**, State Government subsidy **30%**, Remaining **20% by the farmer**.

Scheme benefits

- The scheme will open a stable and continuous source of income to the rural landowners for a period of 25 years by utilisation of their dry/uncultivable land.
- Further, in case cultivated fields are chosen for setting up solar power projects, the farmers could continue to grow crops as the solar panels are to be set up above a minimum height.
- The proposed scheme would ensure that sufficient local solar/ other renewable energy based power is available for feeding rural load centres and agriculture pump-set loads, which require power mostly during the day time.
- As these power plants will be located closer to the agriculture loads or to electrical substations in a decentralized manner, it will result in **reduced Transmission losses** for STUs and Discoms.
- Moreover, the scheme will also help the Discoms to achieve the RPO (Renewable Purchase Obligation) target
- The solar pumps will save the expenditure incurred on diesel for running diesel pumps and provide the farmers a reliable source of irrigation through solar pumps apart from preventing harmful pollution from running diesel pumps.
- In light of the long waiting list for electric grid connection, this scheme will benefit 17.5 lakh farmers over a period of four years, without adding to the grid load.

<https://vikaspedia.in/energy/policy-support/renewable-energy-1/solar-energy/scheme-for-farmers-for-solar-pumps-and-power-plant>

<https://mnre.gov.in/pm-kusum-scheme>

84. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. In this context, which of the following has been assigned the role of overseeing the implementation of SDGs in India?

- a) National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)
- b) NITI Aayog
- c) Sustainable Development Cell (SDC)
- d) Bureau of energy efficiency

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were **adopted in September 2015 as a part of the resolution**, 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'
- India is committed to **achieve the 17 SDGs and the 169 associated targets, which comprehensively cover social, economic and environmental dimensions of development** and focus on ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions
- At the Central Government level, **NITI Aayog has been assigned the role of overseeing the implementation of SDGs in the country**
- To spread awareness about the Goals, bring together stakeholders and build capacities for the realization of SDGs, **NITI Aayog has organized several national and regional level consultations**

85. Consider the following statements regarding the Anticipatory bail

1. As opposed to Ordinary bail, which is granted to a person who is under arrest, in anticipatory bail a person is directed to be released on bail even before a arrest is made
2. According to provision of Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc), only the Sessions Court and High Court can grant anticipatory bail

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

Ans: C

Explanation

- Recently, the Supreme Court recently ruled that **no time restriction should ordinarily be fixed for anticipatory bail** and that it can continue even until the end of the trial.
- As opposed to Ordinary bail, which is granted to a person who is under arrest, **In anticipatory bail a person is directed to be released on bail even before a arrest is made.**
- **Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc) lays down the law on anticipatory bail.** Sub-section (1) of the provision reads: "When any person has reason to believe that he may be arrested on an accusation of having committed a **"non-bailable offence"**, he may **apply to the High Court or the Court of Session** for a direction under this section and that Court may, if it thinks fit, direct that in the event of such arrest, he shall be released on bail."
- The protection granted under **Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc)** "should not invariably be limited to a fixed period", a 5-judge Constitution bench, deciding a reference made to it following **"conflicting views" of some other benches of the court**
- The provision empowers **only the Sessions Court and High Court to grant anticipatory bail**

86. The SIMBEX series of exercises is between Indian Navy and which of the following country?

- a) South Korea
- b) Seychelles

- c) Singapore
- d) Indonesia

Solutions:

Answer: C

Explanation: Indian Navy is scheduled to host the 27th edition of India - Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20 from November 23 in Andaman Sea.

- The SIMBEX series of exercises between Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy, being conducted annually since 1994, are aimed at enhancing mutual inter-operability and imbibing best practices from each other.
- The 2020 edition of SIMBEX will witness participation by Indian Navy ships including destroyer Rana with integral Chetak helicopter and indigenously built corvettes Kamorta and Karmuk.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1674904>

87. Consider the following statements, regarding G-20 .

1. The G20 is an informal group of 19 countries and the European Union
2. India is set to host the G-20 summit in 2023, the 75th year of Independence.

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.

- The G20 is an informal group of **19 countries and the European Union**, with representatives of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

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- The G20 membership comprises a mix of the world's largest advanced and emerging economies, representing about two-thirds of the world's population, 85% of global gross domestic product, 80% of global investment and over 75% of global trade.

The objectives of the G20 are:

- Policy coordination between its members in order to achieve global economic stability, sustainable growth;
- To promote financial regulations that reduce risks and prevent future financial crises; and
- To create a new international financial architecture.

India is set to host the G-20 summit in **2023, instead of 2022 — the 75th year of Independence**. Indonesia will assume G-20 presidency in 2022 after a swap with India, Indonesian the change of plan was agreed considering that Indonesia would also chair the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2023.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-to-host-g20-summit-in-2023-groupings-declaration/article33156506.ece#:~:text=On%20India%20now%20hosting%20the,Indonesian%20presidencies%2C%20the%20source%20said.>

88.Exercise SITMEX-20 is between which of these following countries?

- a) India, Singapore and Malaysia
- b) India, Sri Lanka and Malaysia
- c) India, Singapore and Thailand
- d) India, U.S and Japan

Answer: C

Explanation: Indian Navy (IN) Ships including indigenously built ASW corvette Kamorta and missile corvette Karmuk participated in the **2nd edition of India, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX-20**.

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- The first edition of SITMEX, hosted by Indian Navy, was conducted off Port Blair in September 2019.
- The SITMEX series of exercises are conducted to enhance mutual inter-operability and imbibing best practices between IN, Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN).
- The 2020 edition of the exercise is being hosted by RSN.
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/indian-navy-participates-in-two-day-trilateral-exercise-sitmex-20-in-andaman-sea/article33154462.ece>

89. Consider the following statements, regarding India's Deep Sea Mission

1. The mission will focus on deep-sea mining, ocean climate change advisory services, underwater vehicles and underwater robotics related technologies.
2. It is being led by Department of Fisheries, Government 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: A

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct

In a major development, India is set to launch an ambitious "Deep Ocean Mission" which would explore minerals, energy and marine diversity in the underwater world a big portion of which remains unexplored

- The mission, which is expected to cost over ₹4,000 crore, will give a boost to efforts to explore India's vast Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf.
- The mission will also involve developing technologies for different deep ocean initiatives.
- The mission will focus on deep-sea mining, ocean climate change advisory services, underwater vehicles and underwater robotics related technologies.

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- Studying climate change, marine biodiversity and survey for compounds like hydrocarbons and minerals are part of the deep ocean mission.

Statement 2 is incorrect

- The multi-disciplinary work will be piloted by the **Ministry of Earth Science** and other government departments like the Defence Research and Development Organisation, Department of Biotechnology, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) will be stakeholders in this mission.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-to-launch-deep-sea-mission-in-3-4-months-moes-official/article33154559.ece#:~:text=India%20will%20soon%20launch%20an,Ministry%20of%20Earth%20Sciences%20said.>

90. Luxembourg recently seen in news borders which of the following countries

1. Belgium
2. France
3. Netherlands
4. Germany

Select the correct answer using the following codes

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

Answer: C

Explanation: Luxembourg is an European country, landlocked by Belgium, France and Germany.



<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1674160>

91. With reference to Cloud burst, consider the following statements:

1. Any rainfall over 10 mm per hour over a small area is defined as cloud burst.
2. Cloudbursts can happen only in the mountains or high altitudes.
3. It takes place only during monsoon season.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. None of the above

Correct Answer : None of the above Explanation : D

• **Statement 1 is not correct:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD) labels rainfall over 100 mm per hour as cloudburst. Usually small areas anywhere between 20-80 square kilometre are affected.

• **Statement 2 is not correct:** A cloudburst can occur anytime and at any place which is affected by convective weather systems. Surrounded by oceans on three sides, peninsular India is a favoured location for the genesis of convective weather systems. In a short span of time, if the right combinations of atmospheric conditions like instability, moisture content

and triggering mechanisms are available, cloudbursts are possible. It is not necessary that cloudbursts happen only in the mountains or high altitudes as the weather systems have compatibility and criticality in space and time.

•**Statement 3 is not correct:** Cloudburst can occur not only in the monsoon seasons but also during March to May which is known for severe convective weather activities

92. Consider the following statements regarding the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)

1. NDRF is a specialised force constituted "for the purpose of specialist response to a threatening disaster situation or disaster".
2. The Environment Act, 1986 has the statutory provisions for the constitution of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

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: A

Explanation:

Statement 1 is correct. The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is a disaster response agency under National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) created by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. It is a specialised force constituted "for the purpose of specialist response to a threatening disaster situation or disaster".

Statement 2 is incorrect.

The Disaster Management Act, 2005 has made the statutory provisions for constitution of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) for the purpose of specialized response to natural and man-made disasters.

Unique Features of the force

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- The only dedicated disaster response force of the world.
- The only agency with comprehensive response capabilities having multi-disciplinary and multi-skilled, high-tech, stand alone nature.
- Experienced paramilitary personnel specially trained and equipped for disaster response.
- Capabilities for undertaking disaster response, prevention, mitigation and capacity building.

Role and Mandate of NDRF

- Specialized response during disasters
- Proactive deployment during impending disaster situations
- Acquire and continually upgrade its own training and skills
- Liaison, Reconnaissance, Rehearsals and Mock Drills
- Impart basic and operational level training to State Response Forces (Police, Civil Defence and Home Guards)

Vis-à-vis Community-

- All NDRF Bns are actively engaged in various:
- Community Capacity Building Programme
- Public Awareness Campaign

93. Consider the following regarding cyclones and anticyclones.

1. Cyclones have low pressure conditions at their eye, whereas anticyclones have high pressure conditions.
2. Anticyclone moves in anti-clockwise direction in the northern hemisphere.

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: A

Explanation:

Table 10.2 : Pattern of Wind Direction in Cyclones and Anticyclones

Pressure System	Pressure Condition at the Centre	Pattern of Wind Direction	
		Northern Hemisphere	Southern Hemisphere
Cyclone	Low	Anticlockwise	Clockwise
Anticyclone	High	Clockwise	Anticlockwise

94. Bhutan does not share a border with which of the following Indian states?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Assam
- c) Sikkim
- d) Manipur

Answer: D

Explanation:

Bhutan shares borders with the Indian states of Arunachal Pradesh in its east, Sikkim in the west and Assam and West Bengal in the south.



95. Consider the following pairs regarding the local names of shifting cultivation across the world

LIST-I

- 1. Milpa
- 2. Jhumming
- 3. Ladang

LIST-II

- A. Malaysia
- B. Mexico
- C. Brazil

4. Roca

D. India

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|----|---|---|---|---|
| a) | B | D | A | C |
| b) | C | D | B | A |
| c) | A | D | B | C |
| d) | B | D | C | A |

Ans : A

Explanation

Shifting cultivation is **known by different names in different parts of the world**

- ☐ Jhum - North-East India
- ☐ Milpa - Mexico
- ☐ Roca - Brazil.
- ☐ Ladang - Malaysia
- Shifting cultivation is practised in the **thickly forested areas of Amazon basin, tropical Africa, parts of Southeast Asia and Northeast India.**
- These are the **areas of heavy rainfall and quick regeneration of vegetation.**
- A plot of land is cleared by felling the trees and burning them. The ashes are then mixed with the soil and **crops like maize, yam, potatoes and cassava are grown.**
- **After the soil loses its fertility, the land is abandoned** and the cultivator moves to a new plot.
- Shifting cultivation is **also known as 'slash and burn' agriculture.**

96. Consider the following statements regarding extra tropical cyclones:

- 1.They are formed along the polar front.
- 2.They can originate over both land and sea.
- 3.They move from west to east.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : D

Explanation :

The systems developing in the mid and high latitude, beyond the tropics are called the middle latitude or extra tropical cyclones. The passage of front causes abrupt changes in the weather conditions over the area in the middle and high latitudes. Extra tropical cyclones form along the polar front.

The extra tropical cyclone differs from the tropical cyclone in number of ways.

- The extra tropical cyclones have a clear frontal system which is not present in the tropical cyclones.

- They cover a larger area and can originate over the land and sea. Whereas the tropical cyclones originate only over the seas and on reaching the land they dissipate.

- The extra tropical cyclone affects a much larger area as compared to the tropical cyclone. The wind velocity in a tropical cyclone is much higher and it is more destructive.

- The extra tropical cyclones move from west to east but tropical cyclones move from east to west.

97. Consider the following statements about Mega food parks

- 1) The primary objective of the Scheme is to provide modern infrastructure facilities for the food processing along the value chain from farm to market.
- 2) Functioning of Mega Food Parks is closely monitored by 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

- The Mega Food Parks scheme aims to provide a **mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers** and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure **maximization of value addition, minimization of wastages** and improving farmers' income
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The primary objective of the Scheme is to **provide modern infrastructure facilities for the food processing** along the value chain from farm to market with a **cluster based approach** based on a hub and spokes model
- It includes creation of infrastructure for **primary processing and storage near the farm** in the form of **Primary Processing Centres (PPCs)** and **Collection Centres (CCs)** and common facilities and enabling infrastructure like roads, electricity, water, ETP facilities etc. at **Central Processing Centre (CPC)**
 - These PPCs and CCs act as **aggregation and storage points** to feed raw material to the food processing units located in the CPC
- Food Processing being capital incentive activity, **common facilities are created at CPC** to be used by the processing units on hire basis. This helps in **reducing the cost of individual units** significantly and makes them more viable
- The scheme envisages a **one-time capital grant of 50% of the project cost** (excluding land cost) subject to a maximum of Rs 50 crore in **general areas** and **75% of the project cost** (excluding land cost) subject to a ceiling of Rs. 50 crore in **difficult and hilly areas** i.e. North East Region including Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) and notified areas of the states
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Functioning of Mega Food Parks is closely monitored by the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries** (not Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare) through a well-established mechanism that includes **detailed scrutiny of the periodical**

progress reports of the project by the Programme Management Agency (PMA). The Mega Food Park project is **implemented by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** which is a **Body Corporate** registered under the Companies Act

Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)

- SPV is an entity which is formed for a **single, well-defined and narrow purpose**
- Also called a special purpose entity (SPE), it is a **subsidiary created by a parent company** to **isolate financial risk**. Its legal status as a separate company makes its obligations secure even if the parent company goes bankrupt

Why in the news?

Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj virtually inaugurated Mega Food Park (MFP) at Phagwara in Kapurthala district of Punjab recently.

98. Which among the following countries are members of both SAARC and BIMSTEC?

- a) Thailand and Myanmar
- b) Pakistan and Srilanka
- c) Myanmar and Bhutan
- d) Bhutan and Bangladesh

Answer: D

Explanation:

- The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is a **regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union** consists of 8 member states-- **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Maldives**.
<http://saarc-sec.org/about-saarc>
- The **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.

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- This sub-regional organization came into being on 6 June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.
- It constitutes seven Member States: five deriving from South Asia, including **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka**, and two from Southeast Asia, including Myanmar and Thailand.

https://bimstec.org/?page_id=189

99. Which of the following is/are applications of Gold nano particles?

- 1) Used to convert the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide into methane
- 2) Used for drug delivery in biological and medical applications
- 3) Used as contrast agents in the diagnosis of heart diseases
- 4) Used to desalinate seawater to produce drinking water

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

Gold Nano Particles:

- Gold nanoparticles (AuNPs) are small gold particles with a diameter of 1 to 100 nm which, once dispersed in water, are also known as colloidal gold.

Applications of Gold nano particles:

- Used to convert the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide into methane
- Used for drug delivery in biological and medical applications
- Used as contrast agents in the diagnosis of heart diseases
- Used to desalinate seawater to produce drinking water
- Used as biolabels

- biosensor applications

Hence all are applications of Gold Nano Particles.

100. Which of the following conditions/phenomena influences the Indian Monsoon?

1. The differential heating and cooling of land and water
2. Intense heating of the Tibetan plateau during summer
3. The presence of the low-pressure area to the east of Madagascar
4. Presence of the tropical easterly jet stream over the Indian peninsula during summer.

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 : C

Explanation

To understand the mechanism of the monsoons, the following facts are important

- **The differential heating and cooling** of land and water **creates low pressure on the landmass of India** while the seas around experience comparatively high pressure.
- The **shift of the position of Inter Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) in summer**, over the Ganga plain (this is the equatorial trough normally positioned about 5°N of the equator. It is also known as the monsoon trough during the monsoon season).
- The **presence of the high-pressure area (not low pressure area) east of Madagascar**, approximately at 20°S over the Indian Ocean. The intensity and position of this high-pressure area affects the Indian Monsoon.
- The **Tibetan plateau gets intensely heated during summer**, which results in strong vertical air currents and the formation of low pressure over the plateau at about 9 km above sea level.

- The movement of the westerly jet stream to the north of the Himalayas and the **presence of the tropical easterly jet stream over the Indian peninsula during summer.**
- The formation of Tropical easterly jet stream results in the **reversal of upper air circulation patterns [High pressure switches to low pressure]** and leads to the quick onset of monsoons.

101. The 'Anti-dumping duty' refers to

- (a) A tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value
- (b) An import tax imposed on certain goods in order to counter export subsidies
- (c) A tax imposed on imports and exports of goods on valorem basis.
- (d) None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation:

Option A is correct: An anti-dumping duty is a protectionist tariff that a domestic government imposes on foreign imports that it believes are priced below fair market value. Dumping is a process where a company exports a product at a price lower than the price it normally charges on its own home market.

Option B is incorrect: Countervailing Duties (CVDs) are tariffs levied on imported goods to offset subsidies made to producers of these goods in the exporting country. CVDs are meant to level the playing field between domestic producers of a product and foreign producers of the same product who can afford to sell it at a lower price because of the subsidy they receive from their government

Option C is incorrect: Customs Duty is a tax imposed on imports and exports of goods. Description: The rates of customs duties are either specific or on ad valorem basis, that is, it is based on the value of goods

Why in the news?

The textile and clothing sec-tor has urged the Centre to **remove anti dumping duty (ADD) on viscose fibre** and address problems related to inverted duty structure in Man Made Fibre (MMF) segment for the industry to benefit from the recently announced Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme.

102. With reference to the Inverted duty structure, consider the following statements.

1. It is a situation where import duty on raw materials is low compared to the import duty on finished goods
2. Government uses such a tax regime to boost the competitiveness of domestic industries against imported finished goods.

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:** Inverted duty structure is a situation where import duty on finished goods is low compared to the import duty on raw materials that are used in the production of such finished goods.
- For example, suppose the tariff on the import of tyres is 10% and the tariff on the imports of natural rubber which is used in the production of tyres is 20%; this is a case of inverted duty structure.
- When the import duty on raw materials is high, it will be more difficult to produce the concerned good domestically at a competitive price. Several industries depend on imported raw materials and components.
- High tax on the raw materials compels them to raise prices. On the other hand, foreign

finished goods will be coming at a reduced price because of low tax advantage. In conclusion, manufactured goods by the domestic industry become uncompetitive against imported finished goods. **Hence, statement 2 is incorrect.**

- The disadvantage of the inverted duty structure increases with the increased use of imported raw materials. An inverted duty structure discourages domestic value addition.

Why in the news?

The textile and clothing sector has urged the Centre to **remove anti dumping duty (ADD) on viscose fibre** and **address problems related to inverted duty structure** in Man Made Fibre (MMF) segment for the industry to benefit from the recently announced Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme.

103. Consider the following statements about PRAGATI(Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation) Scheme.

1. It is a multi-purpose and multi-modal platform that is aimed at addressing common man's grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes directly by the Prime Minister.
2. It is a three-tier system comprising of the Prime Minister office, Chief Secretaries of the States and the Local Government Officials.

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: A

Explanation:

PRAGATI, a multimodal platform launched by Prime Minister in 2015 for addressing grievances, monitoring and **reviewing** important programmes. This is the ultimate aim of the initiative.

The PRAGATI platform uniquely bundles **three latest technologies**: Digital data management, video-conferencing and geo-spatial technology.

So, Statement 1 is correct.

Key Features of the Pragati Initiative:

- Prime Minister will hold a monthly programme where he will interact with the Government of India Secretaries, and Chief Secretaries through Video-conferencing enabled by data and geo-informatics visuals;
- **It is a three-tier system (PMO, Union Government Secretaries, and Chief Secretaries of the States). There is no involvement of local government officials in the programme.**

So, the statement 2 is incorrect.

- Issues to be flagged before the PM are picked up from the available database regarding Public Grievances, on-going Programmes and pending Projects.
- The system will ride on, strengthen and re-engineer the data bases of the CPGRAMS for grievances, Project Monitoring Group (PMG) and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. PRAGATI provides an interface and platform for all these three aspects.
- It will take into consideration various correspondences to PM's office by the common people or from high dignitaries of States and/or developers of public projects.

Why in the news?

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi chairs thirty-third interaction through PRAGATI – the ICT based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, involving Central and State governments.

104. Consider the following statements related to Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance (UMANG)

- 1) It provides a single platform for all Indian citizens to access pan India e-Government services ranging from central to local government bodies and other citizen centric services.
- 2) It is a Digital India initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

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:

- Umang App provides a **single platform for all Indian citizens to access pan India e-Government services** ranging from central to local government bodies and other citizen centric services.
- It is a unified, secure, multi-channel, multi-platform, multi-lingual, multi-service mobile app.
- It is a **Digital India initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** (MeitY) launched in 2017.

Features:

- It provides seamless integration with popular customer centric services like Aadhaar and Digilocker.
- It provides a unified approach where one can install one application to avail multiple government services.
- It can be accessed on multiple channels like mobile application, web, and SMS which can be accessed through smartphones, tablets and desktops.
- It has a rich multimedia interface with a focus on maximizing usability and enriching user experience.

105. Consider the following statements with respect to National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF)

1. It is a fund managed collectively by Central Government and state government
2. Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) audit the accounts of NDRF

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:

National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) was renamed as National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) with the enactment of the Disaster Management Act in 2005. It is defined in Section 46 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005

Statement 1 is incorrect: It is a fund **managed by the Central Government** (not collectively by central and state government) for meeting the expenses for emergency response, relief and rehabilitation due to any threatening disaster situation or disaster.

Key features of NDRF

- Located in the "Public Accounts" of Government of India under "Reserve Funds not bearing interest"
- Department of Agriculture and Cooperation under Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) monitors relief activities for calamities associated with drought, hailstorms, pest attacks and cold wave /frost while rest of the natural calamities are monitored by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
- Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) audits the accounts of NDRF. So, **statement 2 is correct.**

Sources of Financing NDRF

- Financed through the levy of a cess on certain items, chargeable to excise and customs duty, and approved annually through the Finance Bill
- The requirement for funds beyond what is available under the NDRF is met through general budgetary resources
- Currently, a National Calamity Contingency Duty (NCCD) is levied to finance the NDRF and additional budgetary support is provided as and when necessary

- A provision also exists in the DM Act to encourage any person or institution to make a contribution to the NDRF.

106. Which of the following statements is incorrect?

- a) A voluntary license is an arrangement whereby a patent holder may allow others to manufacture, import, and/or distribute its patented drug.
- b) Compulsory licenses are authorizations given to a third-party to make, use or sell a particular product or use a particular process which has been patented, without the need of the permission of the patent owner.
- c) Compulsory licensing is recognised at both national as well as international levels, with express mention in both (Indian) Patent Act, 1970 and TRIPS Agreement.
- d) India has never used the provision of compulsory licensing so far.

Answer: D

Explanation:

What is voluntary licensing?

- A voluntary license is an arrangement whereby a **patent holder may allow others** to manufacture, import, and/or distribute its patented drug.

What is compulsory licensing?

- **Compulsory licenses** are **authorizations given to a third-party** to make, use or sell a particular product or use a particular process which has been patented, **without the need of the permission of the patent owner.**
- This concept is recognised at both national as well as international levels, with express mention in both **(Indian) Patent Act, 1970** and **TRIPS Agreement**. There are certain pre-requisite conditions which need to be fulfilled if a compulsory license is to be granted in favour of someone.
- Section 92 of the Indian Patent Act enables grant of compulsory licensing in circumstances of national emergency or extreme urgency.

Did India ever use compulsory licencing?

- India has used compulsory licensing only **once in 2012 for Sorafenib**, an anticancer drug. **(Hence option D is incorrect)**

Is this the same as tearing up the patent?

- The patent owner still has **rights over the patent**, including a right to be paid compensation for copies of the products made under the compulsory licence.

Does there have to be an emergency?

- The TRIPS Agreement does not specifically list the reasons that might be used to justify compulsory licensing. However, the Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health confirms that **countries are free to determine the grounds for granting compulsory licences**, and to determine what constitutes a national emergency.

Prerequisites for issuing Compulsory license under TRIPS agreement

- Normally the person or company applying for a licence has to have tried, within a reasonable period of time, to **negotiate a voluntary licence** with the patent holder on reasonable commercial terms. Only if that fails can a compulsory licence be issued, and - even when a compulsory licence has been issued, the patent owner has to receive adequate remuneration taking into account the economic value of the authorization.
- Compulsory licensing must meet certain additional requirements: the **scope and duration of the licence** must be limited to the purpose for which it was granted, it cannot be given exclusively to licensees (e.g. the patent-holder can continue to produce), and it should be subject to legal review.
- Only when there is a national emergency or other circumstances of extreme urgency the first step of negotiating a voluntary licence can be bypassed in order to save time.

Who can use the option to grant a compulsory licence?

- The option is available to **all members** for the purpose of local manufacturing or import.

Amended TRIPS agreement

- TRIPS Agreement has been amended to provide for an additional type of compulsory licensing. This change follows a decision at the 2001 Doha Ministerial Conference when

Ministers recognized that countries unable to manufacture pharmaceuticals should be able to obtain cheaper copies produced under compulsory licences elsewhere if necessary.

- The idea is that if such a country needs to turn to the option of compulsory licensing to produce needed affordable pharmaceuticals, producers overseas can step up and supply that need, even if a compulsory licence is needed in that country.
- It's therefore a **compulsory licence specially for production in one country**, for export, to **meet the public health needs of one or more other countries**.

Which products are covered by this mechanism?

- According to the Amended TRIPS Agreement, the mechanism **covers pharmaceutical products**, including medicines, vaccines and diagnostics, needed to fight an epidemic.

107. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is mandated with the responsibility of export promotion for which of the following products?

1. Dairy Products
2. Herbal and Medicinal Plants
3. Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic Beverages

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: D

Explanation

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was established by the Government of India under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act 1985. The Authority replaced the Processed Food Export

Promotion Council (PFEPC) APEDA, under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industries** promotes export of agricultural and processed food products from India.

APEDA is mandated with the responsibility of export promotion and development of the following scheduled products

- Fruits, Vegetables and their Products
- Meat and Meat Products
- Poultry and Poultry Products
- Dairy Products
- Confectionery, Biscuits and Bakery Products
- Honey, Jaggery and Sugar Products
- Cocoa and its products, chocolates of all kinds
- Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic Beverages
- Cereal and Cereal Products
- Groundnuts, Peanuts and Walnuts
- Pickles, Papads and Chutneys
- Guar Gum
- Floriculture and Floriculture Products
- Herbal and Medicinal Plants

Other Functions:

- Fixing of standards and specifications for the scheduled products for the purpose of exports;
- Carrying out inspection of meat and meat products in slaughterhouses, processing plants, storage premises, conveyances or other places where such products are kept or handled for the purpose of ensuring the quality of such products;
- Improving of packaging of the Scheduled products;
- Improving of **marketing of the Scheduled products outside India;**
- Collection of statistics from the owners of factories or establishments engaged in the production, processing, packaging, marketing or export of the scheduled products or from

such other persons as may be prescribed on any matter relating to the scheduled products and publication of the statistics so collected or of any portions thereof or extracts therefrom;

Why in the news?

APEDA holds Virtual Buyer Seller Meet with Germany recently.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1676056>

108. Which of the following is/are the major focus areas of UNDP India's country programme for 2018-2022 ?

1. Inclusive growth
2. Environment and energy
3. Strengthening systems and institutions
4. Science and Astronomy

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: B

Explanation

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) works in almost 170 countries and territories, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion, while protecting the planet.
- It helps countries to develop strong policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, institutional capabilities and build resilience so they can sustain their progress.
- In order to achieve its mandate, UNDP relies entirely on voluntary contributions from UN Member States, multilateral organizations, private sector and other sources.

UNDP and India UNDP has worked in India since 1951 in almost all areas of human development, from systems and institutional strengthening to inclusive growth and sustainable livelihoods, as well as sustainable energy, environment and resilience.

- **In 1952, the Government of India and UNDP entered into a basic agreement to govern UNDP's assistance to the Special Agreement on the Technical Assistance between UN organizations and the Government of India.**
- UNDP has supported India for the last five decades, both at the federal and provincial levels, in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support
- **With over 30 projects on the ground in almost every state, today UNDP India works to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by transforming traditional models to do development differently.**

UNDP India's country programme for 2018-2022

- The Country Programme (2018-2022) is formulated in close consultation with the Government and guided by both the current and new UNDP strategic plans
- The **Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India is the designated nodal department** which approves and signs the Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) with UNDP.
- The **programme is nationally executed and implemented by a range of partners including government ministries, state governments, district authorities, civil society organizations, NGOs and other UN agencies.**

UNDP India's country programme for 2018-2022 has three major focus areas:

- **Inclusive growth**
- **Environment and energy**
- **Strengthening systems and institutions**
- Science and Astronomy is not among the major focus areas of this programme

These are supported by a framework of renewed partnerships and blended finance solutions, a pool of financial and technical resources for greater impact and scale and South-South expertise.

Why in the news?

- UNDP and Invest India have launched the SDG Investor Map for India, laying out 18 Investment Opportunities Areas (IOAs) in six critical SDG enabling sectors, that can help India push the needle forward on Sustainable Development.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1675985>

109. Consider the following pairs of states and their predominant tribal groups

List I

- 1) Juangas -
- 2) Moran -
- 3) Saharia -
- 4) Toda -
- 5) Bodo -

List II

- Odisha
- Assam
- Rajasthan
- Kerala
- Assam

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

According to **Article 366(25)** of the Constitution, Scheduled Tribes are those communities who are scheduled in accordance with Article 342 of the Constitution. **Article 342** of the Constitution says that: **The Scheduled Tribes are the tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups within these tribes and tribal communities which have been declared as such by the President through a public notification.**

Major Tribes in India:

1. **Jammu and Kashmir:** Gaddi, Garra, Mon, Purigpa, Sippi, Bakarwal, Balti.
2. **Himachal Pradesh:** Gaddis, Gujjars, Khas, Lamba, Pangwala, Lahaulas, Swangla.
3. **Uttarakhand:** Bhotias, Buksa, Khas, Jannsari, Raji, Tharu.
4. **Uttar Pradesh:** Jaunsari, Kol, Raji, Tharu, Bhotia.
5. **Rajasthan:** Bhils, Damaria, Dhanka, Meenas, **Sahariya**, Patelia.
6. **Gujarat:** Paradhi, Patelia, Barda, Bamcha, Bhil, Charan, Dhodia, Gamta.
7. **Maharashtra:** Katkari, Khond, Rathawa, Warlis, Bhaina, Bhunjia, Dhodia.
8. **Goa:** Siddi, Varli, Dhodia, Dubia, Naikda.
9. **Karnataka:** Adiyani, Barda, Gond, Bhil, Iruliga, Koraga, Yerava and Patelia.
10. **Kerala:** Adiyani, Arandan, Kurumbas, Malai arayan, Moplahs, Uralis.
11. **Tamil Nadu:** Adiyani, Aranadan, Irular, Kadar, Kanikar, Kotas, **Todas**.
12. **Madhya Pradesh:** Baigas, Bhils, Bharia, Saharia, Birhors, Gonds, Katkari, Kharia, Khond, Kol, Murias.
13. **Chhattisgarh:** Agariya, Bhaina, Bhattra, Biar, Khond, Mawasi, Nagasia.
14. **Andhra Pradesh:** Andh, Sadhu Andh, Bhagata, Bhil, Chenchus, Gadabas, Gond, Goundu, Jatapus, Kammara, Kattunayakan, Kolawar, Kolam, Konda, Manna Dhora, Pardhan, Rona, Savaras, Nakkala, Dhulia, Thoti, Sugalis.
15. **Odisha:** Gadaba, Ghara, Kharia, Matya, Oraons, Santhals, Rajuar, **Juangas**
16. **Jharkhand:** Gonds, Kharia, Mundas, Santhals, Savar, Birhors, Bhumij.
17. **Bihar:** Asur, Baiga, Birhor, Birjia, Chero, Gond, Parhaiya, Santhals, Savar.
18. **West Bengal:** Asur, Khond, Hajong, Ho, Parhaiya, Rabha, Santhals, Savar.
19. **Sikkim:** Bhutia, Khas, Lepchas.
20. **Arunachal Pradesh:** Sherdukpen, Singpho, Apatanis, Abor, Dafla, Galong, Momba.
21. **Assam:** Chakma, Chutiya, **Bodo**, Dimasa, Hajong, Garos, Khasis, Gangte, **Moran**
22. **Manipur:** Aimol, Angami, Chiru, Kuki, Maram, Monsang, Paite, Purum, Thadou.
23. **Meghalaya:** Jaintias Khasis, Lakher, Pawai, Raba, Chakma, Garos, Hajong.
24. **Mizoram:** Khasi, Kuki, Lakher, Pawai, Raba, Synteng, Chakma, Dimasa.

25. **Nagaland:** Mikir, Nagas, Sema, Angami, Garo, Kachari, Kuki.
26. **Tripura:** Chakma, Halam, Khasia, Lushai, Mizel, Namte, Bhil, Bhutia, Chaimal.
27. **Andaman and Nicobar:** Oraons, Onges, Shompens, Sentinelese.
28. **North-East:** Singpho, Wancho, Abhors, Chang, Galaong, Mishimi.

110. Consider the following statements with reference to 'Warli Paintings'.

1. Geometrical figures like triangle, circle and square are used to represent human figures.
2. For painting only white pigment is used, which is made of a mixture of gum and rice powder.

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.

- **Maharashtra** is known for its **Warli folk paintings**.
- Warli is the name of the largest tribe found on the northern outskirts of Mumbai, in Western India.
- Women are mainly engaged in the creation of these paintings.
- These paintings do not depict mythological characters or images of deities, but depict social life.
- Images of human beings and animals, along with scenes from daily life are created in a loose rhythmic pattern.
- These tribal paintings of Maharashtra are traditionally done in the homes of the Warlis.

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- Painted white on mud walls, they are pretty close to prehistoric cave paintings in execution and usually depict scenes of human figures engaged in activities like hunting, dancing, sowing and harvesting.
- Geometrical figures like triangle, circle and square are used to represent human figures.
- For painting only white pigment is used, which is made of a mixture of gum and rice powder.

Why in the news?

Lok Virasat- a festival of films on folk art and painting is about to start.

<https://knowindia.gov.in/culture-and-heritage/folk-and-tribal-art/warli-folkpainting.php>

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1676133>

111. Arrange the following industries in the increasing order of their weightage in Index of Eight core industries.

1. Cement
2. Electricity
3. Refinery products
4. Coal
5. Fertilizers

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: A

Explanation:

- The monthly **Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI)** is a production volume index.

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- 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 Central Statistics Office.**
- The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- These industries are likely to impact on general economic activities as well as industrial activities.
- ICI measures collective and individual performance of production in selected eight core industries viz. Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Petroleum Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity. Components covered in these eight industries for the purpose of compilation of index are as follows:
- **Coal** – Coal Production excluding Coking coal. **(weight: 10.33 per cent)**
- **Crude Oil** – Total Crude Oil Production. **(weight: 8.98 per cent)**
- **Natural Gas** – Total Natural Gas Production. **(weight: 6.88 per cent)**
- **Refinery Products** – Total Refinery Production (in terms of Crude Throughput). **(weight: 28.04 per cent)**
- **Fertilizer** – Urea, Ammonium Sulphate (A/S), Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN), Ammonium chloride (A/C), Diammonium Phosphate (DAP), Complex Grade Fertilizer and Single superphosphate (SSP). **(weight: 2.63 per cent)**
- **Steel** – Production of Alloy and Non-Alloy Steel only. **(weight: 17.92 per cent)**
- **Cement** – Production of Large Plants and Mini Plants. **(weight: 5.37 per cent)**
- **Electricity** – Actual Electricity Generation of Thermal, Nuclear, Hydro, imports from Bhutan. **(weight: 19.85 per cent)**

The Index is compiled and released by **Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA), Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.**

112. Consider the following statements with respect to the National Clean Air Programme

1. It aims to achieve a national-level target of 80-90% reduction of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ concentration between 2017 and 2024
2. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is executing this nation-wide programme

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: A

Explanation

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

- Launched in January 2019, it is the **first ever effort in the country to frame a national framework for air quality management with a time-bound reduction target.**
- **The plan includes 102 non-attainment cities**, across 23 states and Union territories, which were identified by **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** on the basis of their ambient air quality data between 2011 and 2015
- Non-attainment cities are those which have been **consistently showing poorer air quality than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.** These include Delhi, Varanasi, Bhopal, Kolkata, Noida, Muzaffarpur, and Mumbai

Key features

- **Target:** Achieve a national-level target of **20-30% reduction** (80-90 %) of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ concentration by between 2017 and 2024.
- **Implementation:** **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) will execute this nation-wide programme** in consonance with the section 162 (b) of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act.

- As part of the programme, **the Centre also plans to scale up the air quality monitoring network across India.** At least 4,000 monitors are needed across the country, instead of the existing 101 real-time air quality (AQ) monitors, according to an analysis.
- The plan proposes a **three-tier system**, including **real-time physical data collection, data archiving, and an action trigger system** in all 102 cities, besides extensive plantation plans, research on clean-technologies, landscaping of major arterial roads, and stringent industrial standards.
- It also proposes **state-level plans of e-mobility** in the two-wheeler sector, rapid augmentation of charging infrastructure, **stringent implementation of BS-VI norms**, boosting public transportation system, and adoption of third-party audits for polluting industries.

113. Which among the following statement is *incorrect* regarding the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)?

- a) It is constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 by respective states and it is the primary fund available with state governments for responses to notified disasters
- b) Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal ministry for overseeing the operation of the SDRF and monitors compliance with prescribed processes
- c) The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) is entirely borne by the state government without any centre's contribution
- d) Every year, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) audits the account of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)

Answer: C

Explanation

- Constituted under **the Disaster Management Act, 2005 by respective states** and it is the primary fund available with state governments for responses to **notified disasters**.
- **Composition:** The Central government **contributes 75 per cent towards the SDRF allocation for general category states** and UTs, and over **90 per cent for special category**

states/UTs, which includes northeastern states, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand)

• For SDRF, the Centre releases funds in two equal installments as per the **recommendation of the Finance Commission.**

• **Support from the National Disaster Response Fund:** It supplements the SDRF of a state, in case of a disaster of severe nature, provided adequate funds are not available in the SDRF

• **The disasters covered under the SDRF include** cyclones, droughts, tsunamis, hailstorms, landslides, avalanches and pest attacks among others

Features of SDRF

- The **aggregate size of the SDRF for each state, for each year, is as per the recommendations of the Finance Commission**
- The share of GoI to the SDRF is treated as a '**grant in aid**'. The **financing of relief measures out of SDRF are decided by the State Executive Committee (SEC) constituted under Section 20 of the DM Act.**
- SEC is responsible for the **overall administration of the SDRF**. However, the administrative expenses of SEC are borne by the State Government from its normal budgetary provisions and not from the SDRF or NDRF
- The norms regarding the amount to be incurred on each approved item of expenditure (type of disaster) are **fixed by the Ministry of Home Affairs** with the concurrence of Ministry of Finance. Any excess expenditure has to be borne out of the budget of the state government
- **Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal ministry for overseeing** the operation of the SDRF and monitors compliance with prescribed processes.
- **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) audit the SDRF every year**

114. Consider the following statements about State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020 report

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- 1) It is a joint report issued annually by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, UNICEF, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization.
- 2) It presents the latest estimates on food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition at the global and regional levels.

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:

About the State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020 report

- It is a joint report issued **annually** by the **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, UNICEF, the World Food Programme and the World Health Organization.**
- It presents the latest estimates on food insecurity, hunger and malnutrition at the global and regional levels.

Highlights of 2020 report

- The 2020 edition continues to signal that significant challenges remain in the fight against **food insecurity and malnutrition** in all its forms.
- A new feature of SOFI 2020 is a detailed analysis of the **“cost and affordability of healthy diets around the world”**.
- The report urges the transformation of food systems to reduce the cost of nutritious foods and increase the affordability of healthy diets.
 - Almost **690 million people** around the world **went hungry in 2019**.
 - High costs and low affordability also mean billions cannot eat healthily or nutritiously.

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- As progress in fighting hunger stalls, the COVID-19 pandemic is intensifying the vulnerabilities and inadequacies of global food systems.
- While it is too early to assess the full impact of the lockdowns and other containment measures, at least **another 83 million to 132 million** people may go **hungry in 2020**.
- If recent trends continue, the **Zero Hunger target** of the Sustainable Development Goals will not be achieved by 2030.

115. Which of the countries do not share a border with Vietnam ?

- a) Thailand
- b) China
- c) Laos
- d) Cambodia

Answer: A

Explanation:



116. Intensified Mission Indradhanush 2.0 provides vaccination for which of the following diseases?

1. Tetanus
2. Meningitis
3. Rabies
4. Measles

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer : B

Explanation

Mission Indradhanush 2.0 is the government's flagship scheme which is **aimed at immunizing children under the age of 2 years and pregnant women.**

The program aims to escalate efforts to achieve the goal of attaining **90% national immunization coverage across India.**

The Intensified Mission Indradhanush immunization drive will consist of four rounds of immunization. The program will be completed by March 2020.

Mission Indradhanush 2.0 Highlights:

- Immunization activity will be in 4 rounds
- Enhanced immunization session with flexible timing, mobile session & mobilization by other departments
- Enhanced focus on left outs, dropouts, and resistant families & hard to reach areas
- Focus on urban, underserved population and tribal areas
- Intensified Mission Indradhanush to be conducted till March 2020

The IMI covers vaccines for

Diphtheria
Whooping Cough
Tetanus
Poliomyelitis
Tuberculosis
Measles

Meningitis and

Hepatitis B

Vaccines for Japanese encephalitis and hemophilus influenza are also being provided in selected areas

117. The term 'common but differentiated responsibilities' is related to

- a) UNFCCC
- b) British Exit from EU
- c) BRICS
- d) ASEAN

Answer: A

Explanation:

Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) is a principle within the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** that acknowledges the different capabilities and differing responsibilities of individual countries in addressing **climate change**.

118. Consider the following statements regarding India's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) as part of the Paris Agreement.

1. Reduce emissions intensity of the country's GDP by 33 to 35 percent by 2030 with respect to 2005 level.
2. Increase the share of non-fossil fuels-based electricity to 40 per cent by 2030.

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

- Countries across the globe adopted an historic international climate agreement at the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris in December 2015.
- In anticipation of this moment, countries publicly outlined what post-2020 climate actions they intended to take under the new international agreement, known as their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).
- In its INDC, India has pledged to improve the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33 to 35 per cent by 2030 below 2005 levels.
- It has also pledged to increase the share of non-fossil fuels-based electricity to 40 per cent by 2030.
- It has agreed to enhance its forest cover which will absorb 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂, the main gas responsible for global warming) by 2030.
- **Hence both statement 1 and statement 2 are correct.**

119. Consider the following statements regarding the Intergovernmental panel on climate change (IPCC)

1. IPCC aims to provide governments at all levels with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies
2. It is an initiative of World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
3. IPCC identifies the strength of scientific agreement in different areas and indicates where further research is needed.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: C

Explanation

- Created in **1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, the IPCC aims to provide **governments at all levels with scientific information that they can use to develop climate policies**.
- The IPCC provides **regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change**, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.
- The IPCC is an **organization of governments that are members of the United Nations or WMO**. The IPCC currently has 195 members. Thousands of people from all over the world contribute to the work of the IPCC.
- For the assessment reports, IPCC scientists volunteer their time to assess the thousands of scientific papers published each year to provide a comprehensive summary of what is known about the drivers of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and how adaptation and mitigation can reduce those risks.
- An open and transparent review by experts and governments around the world is an essential part of the IPCC process, **to ensure an objective and complete assessment** and to reflect a diverse range of views and expertise.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Through its assessments, the **IPCC identifies the strength of scientific agreement** in different areas and indicates where further research is needed. **The IPCC does not conduct its own research.**

120. Which of the following countries does not border Israel?

- a) Syria
- b) Lebanon
- c) Jordan
- d) Iraq

Answer: D

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Explanation:

