

MCQ 01.09.2020 TO 30.09.2020

1. With reference to the Jal Jeevan Mission, consider the following statements.

1. Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) envisages supply of 100 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024.
2. Jal Jeevan Mission looks to create a jan andolan for water.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) envisages supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024.

**Statement 2 is correct:** JJM looks to create a jan andolan for water, thereby making it everyone's priority.



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- The Mission was announced in August 2019. The chief objective of the Mission is to provide piped water supply (Har Ghar Jal) to all rural households by 2024.
- It aims to create local infrastructure for rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household waste water for reuse in agriculture.
- The Jal Jeevan Mission is set to be based on various water conservation efforts like point recharge, desilting of minor irrigation tanks, use of greywater for agriculture and source sustainability.
- The Jal Jeevan Mission will converge with other Central and State Government Schemes to achieve its objectives of sustainable water supply management across the country.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1649990>

### 2. Which of the following temple is found in Hampi?

- A. Prasanna Virupaksha temple
- B. Jagannath Temple
- C. Lingaraja Temple
- D. Brihadeeshvara Temple

Answer: A

#### Explanation:

- **Option A is correct:** This famous temple can be found in the UNESCO World Heritage temple town of Hampi in Karnataka. The temple is dedicated to Lord Virupaksha, an avatar of Lord Shiva, and dates to the 7th century. One of its most significant elements is its nine-storey gopuram which is nearly 165 feet in height. Steeped in a legacy of tradition and surrounded by relics from ancient times, this temple is the jewel in one of India's most significant historical crowns.
- **Jagannath temple, Puri-** One of the oldest temples on this list, Jagannath Puri dates to the 12th century and is a temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu. Apart from being a spectacular architectural edifice and one of the char dhams of Hindu religion, it is also famous for the elaborate rath yatra it hosts every year.

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- **Lingaraja Temple-** Lingaraja Temple is one of the oldest temples in Bhubaneswar and one of the most sizeable temples in town too. The temple's main tower is 180 feet tall, and the origins of this ancient Indian temple date back to the 700th century.
- **Brihadeeshvara Temple, Thanjavur-** Another temple that's located in the south India state of Tamil Nadu, Brihadeeshvara is an icon of the Chola Dynasty. This temple is ancient too, built way back in the period spanning 1003-1010 AD. You will also find one of the largest Shiva lingas in India within this temple.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1649971>

### 3. With reference to GDP of India, consider the following statements?

1. The base year is 2011-12.
2. In India, GDP is calculated at factor cost.
3. Indian economy saw the steepest quarterly fall in GDP first time in four decades, post Covid outbreak.
4. The Central Statistical Organisation calculates the GDP data in India.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: D

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** In January 2015, the government moved to a new base year of 2011-12 from the earlier base year of 2004-05
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** In 2015, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) did away with GDP at factor cost and adopted the international practice of GDP at market price and the Gross Value Addition (GVA) measure to better estimate economic activity.

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- **Statement 3 is correct:** As India gradually becomes the global hotspot for COVID-19, the gross domestic product for the first quarter ended June of FY 2020-21, released on Monday, 31 August, dropped 23.9%, revealing the extent of damage the pandemic has caused to the country's economy.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** India's Central Statistical Office calculates the nation's gross domestic product (GDP).

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/indias-gdp-contracts-by-record-239-in-q1/article32489345.ece>

#### 4. With reference to National Recruitment Agency, consider the following statements.

1. National Recruitment Agency is registered under the Societies Registration Act,1860.
2. The validity of scores will be for a three-year period.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

Answer: C

#### **Explanation:**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided to set up a National Recruitment Agency (NRA). The proposed NRA will conduct a common preliminary examination for various recruitments in the central government.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** National Recruitment Agency will be a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act,1860.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Scores after the exam will be generated quickly, delivered online and be valid for a three-year period.
- Students can write the test multiple times as long as they are within the eligible age limit, with their best score being taken into account.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1649986>

5. Which of the following is the world's highest salt water lake

- A. Mirpal Tso
- B. Lake Rakshatal
- C. Pangong Lake
- D. Galwan Lake

Answer: C

**Explanation**

Situated at an altitude of almost 4,350m above sea level Pangong Lake is the world's highest saltwater lake. Pangong Tso or Pangong Lake is an endorheic lake in the Himalayas situated at an elevation of 4,225 m (13,862 ft). It is 134 km (83 mi) long and extends from Ladakh, India to the Tibetan Autonomous Region, China. Approximately 60% of the length of the lake lies within the Tibetan Autonomous Region. The lake is 5 km (3.1 mi) wide at its broadest point. All together it covers 604 km<sup>2</sup>. During winter the lake freezes completely, despite being saline water. It is not a part of the Indus River basin area and geographically a separate landlocked river basin.

The lake is in the process of being identified under the Ramsar Convention as a wetland of international importance. This will be the first trans-boundary wetland in South Asia under the convention.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/thwarted-aggressive-moves-at-pangong-tso-by-china-army/article32484526.ece>

6. With reference to the Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) in electricity, consider the following statements.

- 1. Sellers will be getting access state wise
- 2. Ministry of Power is the nodal Agency

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:** GTAM will benefit buyers of Renewable Energy through competitive prices and transparent and flexible procurement.
- Sellers will also be benefitted by getting access to **Pan India Market**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** is the implementing Ministry
- The Government of India's target of 175 GW RE Capacity by 2022 is driving accelerated renewable penetration pan-India. Green Term Ahead Market contracts will allow additional avenues to the RE generators for sale of renewable energy; enable Obligated entities to procure renewable power at competitive prices to meet their Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO); and provide a platform to environmentally conscious open access consumers and utilities to buy green power.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1650384>

7. **With reference to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), consider the following statements.**

1. Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is a part of SCO
2. India and Pakistan became members in 2015.
3. It's an Asian political, economic and military organisation aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: **A**

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### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:**

- Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
  1. Heads of State Council – The supreme SCO body which decides its internal functioning and its interaction with other States & international organisations, and considers international issues.
  2. Heads of Government Council – Approves the budget, considers and decides upon issues related economic spheres of interaction within SCO.
  3. Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs – Considers issues related to day-to-day activities.
  4. **Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)** – Established to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism.
  5. SCO Secretariat – Based in Beijing to provide informational, analytical & organisational support.

- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** India and Pakistan became **members in 2017**.

- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It's a **Eurasian** political, economic and military organisation aiming to maintain peace, security and stability in the region.

- SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation created in 2001
- Prior to the creation of SCO in 2001, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan were members of the **Shanghai Five**.
- Shanghai Five (1996) emerged from a series of border demarcation and demilitarization talks which the four former Soviet republics held with China to ensure stability along the borders.
- Following the accession of Uzbekistan to the organisation in 2001, the Shanghai Five was renamed the SCO.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rajnath-singh-leaves-for-russia-to-attend-sco-meet/article32502008.ece>

8. **Which of the following is India's first Multi-Wavelength Space Observatory?**

- A. AstroSat
- B. CartoSat
- C. AGILE

D. Chandra X-ray Observatory

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- **AstroSat is the first dedicated Indian astronomy mission** aimed at studying celestial sources in X-ray, optical and UV spectral bands simultaneously. The payloads cover the energy bands of Ultraviolet (Near and Far), limited optical and X-ray regime (0.3 keV to 100keV). One of the unique features of AstroSat mission is that it enables the simultaneous multi-wavelength observations of various astronomical objects with a single satellite.
- AstroSat with a lift-off mass of 1515 kg was launched on September 28, 2015 into a 650 km orbit inclined at an angle of 6 deg to the equator by PSLV-C30 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. The minimum useful life of the AstroSat mission is expected to be 5 years.
- As a landmark achievement in Space missions, Indian Astronomers have discovered one of the **farthest Star galaxies** in the universe.
- India's first Multi-Wavelength Space Observatory "AstroSat" has detected extreme-UV light from a galaxy located 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth. **The galaxy called AUDFs01** was discovered by a team of Astronomers led by Dr Kanak Saha from the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics(IUCAA) Pune.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1650396>

9. **The term Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR), sometimes seen in the news, is related to?**

- A. Recollected NPA's
- B. Mining Industry
- C. Telecom Industry
- D. Aviation Industry

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) is the usage and licensing fee that **telecom operators** are charged by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).



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- As per DoT, the charges are calculated based on all revenues earned by a telco – including non-telecom related sources such as deposit interests and asset sales. Telcos, on their part, insist that AGR should comprise only the revenues generated from telecom services.

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/agr-dues-have-to-be-paid-in-totalsc/article32500549.ece>

#### 10. “Indra” is a bilateral exercise between

- A. India and USA
- B. India and France
- C. India and Nepal
- D. India and Russia

Answer: **D**

#### Explanation:

- Exercise **INDRA** , a joint, **tri services exercise between India and Russia**
- INDRA series of exercise began in 2003. It was conducted as a single service exercise alternately between the two countries. However, the first joint Tri Services Exercise was conducted in 2017.
- Amid high operational alert by the Indian Navy in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) due to the ongoing standoff with China in Ladakh, India and Russia are scheduled to hold the bilateral naval exercise, Indra 2020, in the Andaman Sea, close to the strategic Strait of Malacca later this week.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-russia-to-hold-naval-drills-in-andaman-sea/article32496756.ece>

#### 11. Consider the following statements about Question Hour

- A starred question is distinguished by an asterisk and needs a written answer.
- Question Hour is not mentioned in the rules of procedure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

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

Answer: **D**

**Explanation:**

- The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is slotted for this. During this time, the members ask questions and the ministers usually give answers. The questions are of three kinds, namely, starred, unstarred and short notice.
- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** A starred question (distinguished by an asterisk) requires an **oral answer** and hence supplementary questions can follow.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** **Question Hour is mentioned** in the rules of procedure unlike Zero Hour  
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/lok-sabha-secretariat-releases-schedule-for-parliaments-monsoon-session/article32502425.ece>

12. Consider the following statements about The Merchandise Exports From India Scheme (MEIS).

1. MEIS schemes are applicable to SEZ units.
2. The rewards are given by way of duty credit scrips to exporters

**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:** SEIS and MEIS schemes are applicable to SEZ units.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The MEIS was launched as an incentive scheme for the export of goods. The rewards are given by way of duty credit scrips to exporters.

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- MEIS was introduced in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) for the period 2015-2020.
- The MEIS is notified by the DGFT (Directorate General of Foreign Trade) and implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- MEIS replaced the various export incentive schemes which gave different types of duty credit scrips namely, Focus Market Scheme (FMS), Focus Product Scheme (FPS), Vishesh Krishi Gramin Udyog Yojana (VKGUY), Market Linked Focus Product Scheme (MLFPS) and Agri Infrastructure incentive scheme  
<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/capping-meis-benefits-will-seriously-affect-traders-fieo/article32508182.ece>

### 13. Persian Gulf is surrounded by which of the following countries?

1. Bahrain
2. Iraq
3. UAE
4. Oman
5. Iran

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: **D**

#### Explanation:

Persian Gulf: The countries that surround the Persian Gulf are: **Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.**

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<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/saudi-arabia-grants-approval-for-uae-israel-flights-to-use-its-airspace/article32505485.ece>

## 14. Which among the following is/are correct regarding Mission Karmayogi

1. MHRD be the apex body to direct the reforms.
2. All central and state government employees will be covered in this.
3. Functional and behavioural competencies are also considered in training
4. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) will be created under the Mission to provide all kinds of technological support for the training programmes

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Prime Minister's Public Human Resource Council will be set up as the apex body to direct the reforms.

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- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The scheme will cover 46 lakh, Central government employees, at all levels, and involve an outlay of ₹510 crores over a five-year period, according to an official statement.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Apart from domain knowledge training, the scheme will focus on “functional and behavioural competencies” as well, and also includes a monitoring framework for performance evaluations.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) will be created under the Mission to provide all kinds of technological support for the training programmes. The aim is to provide set of skills to civil servants to serve in the direction to ensure ease of living life for people in general and also ease of doing business in the country.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1650633>

#### 15. Global Innovation Index is released by

- A. World Bank
- B. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
- C. World Intellectual Property Organization
- D. IMF

Answer: C

#### Explanation:

- The GII rankings are published every year by Cornell University, INSEAD and the UN World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and GII Knowledge Partners.
- It is based on 80 indicators ranging from intellectual property filing rates to mobile-application creation, education spending and scientific and technical publications.
- The GII is commonly used by corporate and government officials to compare countries by their level of innovation.
- It analyses the medical innovation landscape of the next decade, looking at how technological and non-technological medical innovation will transform the delivery of healthcare worldwide.



- It also explores the role and dynamics of medical innovation as it shapes the future of healthcare, and the potential influence this may have on economic growth.
- India has climbed 4 spots and has been ranked 48th by the World Intellectual Property Organization in the Global Innovation Index 2020 rankings.
- The WIPO had also accepted India as one of the leading innovation achievers of 2019 in the central and southern Asian region, as it has shown a consistent improvement in its innovation ranking for the last 5 years.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1650835>

16. **FASTag is valid for**

- A. 5 years
- B. 4 years
- C. 3 years
- D. 2 years

Answer: A

**Explanation:**

- The FASTag is a reloadable tag that allows automatic deduction of toll without having to stop for carrying out the cash transaction. The tag uses radio frequency identification (RFID) technology and is fixed on the windscreen of the vehicle once active.
- The tag is valid for **five years** and comes in **seven different colours** — violet, orange, yellow, green, pink, blue, black. Each colour is assigned to a particular category of vehicles.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1651054>

17. **With regard to Election Commission, consider the following statements.**

1. Election Commissioners have a fixed tenure of five years, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
2. Chief Election Commissioner shall be removed on grounds of 'Proven misbehaviour or incapacity'.

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: **B**

### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** They have a fixed tenure of **six years**, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court, Chief Election Commissioner, Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) may be Removed from office through a motion adopted by Parliament on grounds of ‘Proven misbehaviour or incapacity’.

. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1651088>

18. Which of the following countries is a part of QUAD grouping?

- A. Russia
- B. China
- C. Australia
- D. Pakistan

Answer: **C**

### Explanation:

- Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is **the informal strategic dialogue between India, USA, Japan and Australia** with a shared objective to ensure and support a “free, open and prosperous” Indo-Pacific region.
- The idea of Quad was first mooted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007. However, the idea couldn’t move ahead with Australia pulling out of it, apparently due to Chinese pressure.
- The group is seen as a regional counterweight to China and has only met at the Joint or Assistant Secretary level since 2017. The latest meeting is seen as an upgrade by at least three levels.

- The Ministers met to discuss cooperation on counter-terrorism, mentoring, assistance in disaster relief, airtime security, cooperation, development, finance and cybersecurity efforts etc.

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/gen-rawat-pushes-for-quad/article32519002.ece>

19. **Mediterranean Sea is connected to the Atlantic Ocean by the**

- A. Strait of Gibraltar
- B. Davis strait
- C. Dover strait
- D. Bering strait

Answer: A

**Explanation:**

- The Mediterranean Sea is a sea connected to the Atlantic Ocean, surrounded by the Mediterranean Basin and almost completely enclosed by land: on the north by Southern Europe and Anatolia, on the south by North Africa, and on the east by the Levant.
- The **Strait of Gibraltar** is a narrow strait that connects the Atlantic Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea and separates Gibraltar and Peninsular Spain in Europe from Morocco in Africa.
- The countries surrounding the Mediterranean in clockwise order are Spain, France, Monaco, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco; Malta and Cyprus are island countries in the sea. In addition, the Gaza Strip and the British Overseas Territories of Gibraltar and Akrotiri and Dhekelia have coastlines on the sea.

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/russia-will-hold-drills-in-mediterranean-turkey/article32518927.ece>

20. **Consider the following statements regarding Competition Commission of India**

1. The commission is a quasi-judicial body which gives opinions to statutory authorities and also deals with other cases.

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2. Competition Appellate Tribunal (COMPAT) is the adjudicating authority in case of further disputes.

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 Commission consists of one Chairperson and six Members as per the Competition Act who shall be appointed by the Central Government.
- **The commission is a quasi-judicial body** which gives opinions to statutory authorities and also deals with other cases. The Chairperson and other Members shall be whole-time Members.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: The Competition Act** was passed in 2002 and has been amended by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007. It follows the philosophy of modern competition laws. The Act prohibits anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position by enterprises and regulates combinations (acquisition, acquiring of control and M&A), which causes or likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India. **Government replaced Competition Appellate Tribunal (COMPAT) with the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) in 2017.**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1651042>

21. Which of the following countries are members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)?

- 1. Montenegro
- 2. Albania
- 3. Norway
- 4. Turkey

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5. North Macedonia

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: **D**

**Explanation:**

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), also called the North Atlantic Alliance, the Atlantic Alliance or the Western Alliance, is an international organisation for collective security established in 1949, in support of the North Atlantic Treaty signed in Washington, DC, on 4 April 1949. Its headquarters are located in Brussels, Belgium.
- At present, NATO has **30 members**. In 1949, there were 12 founding members of the Alliance: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States. The other member countries are: Greece and Turkey (1952), Germany (1955), Spain (1982), the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland (1999), Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia (2004), Albania and Croatia (2009), Montenegro (2017) and North Macedonia (2020).

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/turkey-greece-start-talks-to-reduce-risk-of-conflict-says-nato-chief/article32524657.ece>

22. With reference to river Gangetic Dolphins , consider the following statements:

1. The Gangetic river dolphins can only live in freshwater
2. Dolphins have been included in Schedule I of the Indian Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972
3. The Gangetic river dolphins were officially discovered in 1801

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



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

Answer: **D**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Gangetic river dolphins can **only live in freshwater**, are **blind** and catch their prey in a unique manner, using ultrasonic sound waves.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Dolphins have been included in **Schedule I** of the Indian Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972, in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), in Appendix II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and categorised as 'Endangered' on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Gangetic river dolphins were **officially discovered in 1801** and are one of the oldest creatures in the world along with some species of turtles, crocodiles and sharks, according to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

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

23. Which of the following recoveries depict a quick recoup of lost ground and gets back to the normal growth trend-line.
- A. U shaped recovery  
B. L shaped recovery  
C. W Shaped recovery  
D. V shaped recovery

Answer: **D**

**Explanation:**

- Economic recovery can take many forms, which is depicted using alphabetic notations. For example, a Z-shaped recovery, V-shaped recovery, U-shaped recovery, elongated U-shaped recovery, W-shaped recovery and L-shaped recovery.

- **V-shaped recovery:** It is the next-best scenario after Z-shaped recovery in which the economy quickly recoups lost ground and gets back to the normal growth trend-line.
- **U-shaped recovery:** It is a scenario in which the economy, after falling, struggles around a low growth rate for some time, before rising gradually to usual levels.
- **W-shaped recovery:** A W-shaped recovery is a dangerous creature. In this, growth falls and rises, but falls again before recovering, thus forming a W-like chart.
- **L-shaped recovery:** In this, the economy fails to regain the level of GDP even after years go by.
- **Z-shaped recovery:** The Z-shaped recovery is the most-optimistic scenario in which the economy quickly rises like a phoenix after a crash. It more than makes up for lost ground (think revenge-buying after the lockdowns are lifted) before settling back to the normal trend-line, thus forming a Z-shaped chart.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/economy-witnessing-sharp-v-shaped-recovery-need-to-re-orient-policy-matrix-dea/articleshow/77932797.cms>

24. Consider the following statements about Force Majeure

1. The term "Force Majeure" arose from the French law which was called Code Napoleon
2. An earthquake is an "Act of God".

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

Answer: C

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The term "Force Majeure" arose from the French law which was called **Code Napoleon** and now the Code Civil. Such law provides that if the debtor is prevented from performing his obligations as a result of force majeure, then there is no place for any damages.

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- **Statement 2 is correct:** An act of God describes an event outside of human control or activity. It's usually a natural disaster, such as a flood or an **earthquake**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/piped-gas-suppliers-may-gain-from-norms-on-force-majeure/article32526528.ece>

25. Which of the following national parks has one of the highest numbers of one horned rhinos?

- A. Periyar National Park
- B. Kaziranga National Park
- C. Anshi National Park
- D. Jim Corbett National Park

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

- It is the home of the **world's most one-horned rhinos**.
- It was declared a UNESCO **World Heritage Site** in 1985.
- It is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International.
- Much of the focus of conservation efforts in Kaziranga are focused on the 'big four' species—rhino, elephant, Royal Bengal tiger and Asiatic water buffalo.
- The 2018 census had yielded 2,413 rhinos

[thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/assam-approves-addition-of-3053-sq-km-areas-to-kaziranga-national-park/article32523409.ece](https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/assam-approves-addition-of-3053-sq-km-areas-to-kaziranga-national-park/article32523409.ece)

26. Consider the following statements about Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)

1. Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) is managed and implemented by the Ministry of Finance
2. A cartoonist of a registered newspaper is not allowed to accept foreign contribution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

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

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Since the Act is internal security legislation, despite being a law related to financial legislation, it falls into the **purview of Home Ministry** and not the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Foreign funding of voluntary organizations in India is regulated under FCRA act and is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **Statement 2 is correct: Prohibition to accept foreign contribution. —**
  - (1) No foreign contribution shall be accepted by any—
    - (a) candidate for election;
    - (b) correspondent, columnist, **cartoonist**, editor, owner, printer or publisher of a **registered newspaper**;
    - (c) Judge, Government servant or employee of any corporation or any other body controlled or owned by the Government;
    - (d) member of any Legislature;
    - (e) political party or office-bearer thereof;
    - (f) organisation of a political nature as may be specified under sub-section (1) of section 5 by the Central Government;
    - (g) association or company engaged in the production or broadcast of audio news or audio visual news or current affairs programmes through any electronic mode, or any other electronic form as defined in clause (r) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (21 of 2000) or any other mode of mass communication;
    - (h) correspondent or columnist, cartoonist, editor, owner of the association or company referred to in clause (g).

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/government-suspends-fcra-clearance-of-4-christian-groups/article32535766.ece>

**27. Consider the following statements about National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC)**

1. It was established to provide inexpensive, speedy and summary redressal of consumer disputes.
2. Consumer Protection Act cover 'goods' as well as 'services'.

**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:** It was established to provide **inexpensive, speedy and summary redressal of consumer disputes**. It is a quasi-judicial commission in India which was set up in 1988 under the Consumer Protection Act of 1986. The commission is headed by a sitting or retired judge of the Supreme Court of India.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The provisions of this Act cover 'goods' as well as 'services'.  
<https://epaper.thehindu.com/Home/ShareArticle?OrgId=G5K7O6JNT.1&imageview=0>

**28. Yakshagana is an art form found in**

- A. Karnataka
- B. Odisha
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Maharashtra

Answer: A

**Explanation:**

- Yakshagana is a traditional theatre form of **Karnataka**. It is a temple art form that depicts mythological stories and Puranas. It is performed with massive headgears, elaborate facial make-



up and vibrant costumes and ornaments. Usually recited in Kannada, it is also performed in Malayalam as well as Tulu (the dialect of south Karnataka)

<https://www.pressreader.com/india/the-hindu/20200907/281981789991396>

29. Which among the following is/are correct regarding Moplah Rebellion

1. The Moplah Rebellion or the Malabar Rebellion was an extended version of the Khilafat Movement in Kerala.
2. It started in the year 1923

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:**

- **Statement 1 is correct: Malabar Rebellion of 1921** was the culmination of a series of riots by Moplahs (Muslims of Malabar) in the 19th and early 20th centuries against the British and the Hindu landlords in Malabar (Northern Kerala).
- The resistance which started against the British colonial rule and the feudal system later ended in communal violence between Hindus and Muslims. The Moplah Rebellion or the Malabar Rebellion **was an extended version of the Khilafat Movement in Kerala in 1921.**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Malabar rebellion, also known as the Moplah rebellion, was an armed revolt staged by the Mappila Muslims of Kerala in 1921. The year 2021 will mark the 100th year anniversary of the Malabar/Moplah uprising of **1921.**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/moplah-rioters-not-freedom-fighters-report/article32537886.ece>

30. Which of the following are characteristics of Atma Nirbhar Bharat?

1. Self reliance
2. Import Substitution
3. Share in world trade
4. Quality good
5. Vibrant Democracy

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: **D**

**Explanation:**

- **Atma Nirbhar Bharat** Mission aims towards **cutting down import dependence** by focussing on **substitution** while improving safety compliance and **quality goods** to gain **global market share**.
- The Self-Reliance neither signifies any exclusionary or isolationist strategies but involves creation of a helping hand to the whole world.
- The Mission would be based on five pillars namely,
  - A. Economy
  - B. Infrastructure
  - C. System
  - D. Vibrant Demography**
  - E. Demand

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/mixed-messaging-the-hindu-editorial-on-india-as-an-investment-destination/article32537617.ece>

31. Consider the following statements about Scramjet engine technology.

1. A scramjet engine operates at subsonic speed.

2. Scramjet engine uses Oxygen from the atmospheric air

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

**Statement 1 is incorrect:** A scramjet engine is an improvement over the ramjet engine as it efficiently operates at **hypersonic** speeds and allows supersonic combustion. Thus it is known as Supersonic Combustion Ramjet, or Scramjet.

**Statement 2 is correct:** Scramjet engine uses Hydrogen as fuel and the **Oxygen from the atmospheric air**. This makes the system much lighter, more efficient and cost effective.

Scramjet Engine Technology

- As of now, satellites are launched into orbit by multi-staged satellite launch vehicles that can be used only once (expendable).
- These launch vehicles carry oxidiser along with the fuel for combustion to produce thrust.
- Nearly 70% of the propellant (fuel-oxidiser combination) carried by today's launch vehicles consists of oxidiser.
- Launch vehicles designed for one time use are expensive and their efficiency is low because they can carry only 2-4% of their lift-off mass to orbit. Thus, there is a worldwide effort to reduce the launch cost.
- Therefore, the next generation launch vehicles must use a propulsion system which can utilise the atmospheric oxygen during their flight through the atmosphere which will considerably reduce the total propellant required to place a satellite in orbit.
- Ramjet, Scramjet and Dual Mode Ramjet (DMRJ) are the three concepts of air-breathing engines which are being developed by various space agencies.

- A ramjet is a form of air-breathing jet engine that uses the vehicle's forward motion to compress incoming air for combustion without a rotating compressor.
- Fuel is injected in the combustion chamber where it mixes with the hot compressed air and ignites. A ramjet-powered vehicle requires assisted take-off like a rocket assist to accelerate it to a speed where it begins to produce thrust.
- Ramjets work most efficiently at supersonic speeds around Mach 3 (three times the speed of sound) and can operate up to speeds of Mach 6. However, the ramjet efficiency starts to drop when the vehicle reaches hypersonic speeds.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/drdo-successfully-tests-hypersonic-technology-demonstrator-vehicle/article32541422.ece>

32. The objective of the Kiran helpline is

- A. Mental Health
- B. Agriculture
- C. Weather change
- D. Child protection

Answer: A

**Explanation:**

- It is a toll-free helpline number to enable access to **mental health resources**.
- The “**Kiran**” mental health rehabilitation helpline number, 1800-599-0019, will provide callers support for early screening, first-aid, psychological support, distress management, mental well-being, preventing deviant behaviours and psychological crisis management.
- It targets to resolve issues of people across the country experiencing stress, anxiety, depression, panic attack, adjustment disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, suicidal thoughts, pandemic-induced psychological issues and mental health emergency.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/centre-launches-247-toll-free-mental-health-helpline/article32545325.ece>

33. Consider the following statements about Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)

1. It functions under Ministry of Earth Sciences.
2. It does not deal with seismology

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:** It was formed in 1875 and it functions **under Ministry of Earth Sciences.**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is national meteorological service of the country and chief government agency dealing in everything related to **meteorology, seismology and associated subjects.**
- **IMD**
- Undertake meteorological observations and provide current information and forecasting information for most favorable operation of weather-dependent activities such as irrigation, agriculture, aviation, shipping etc.
- Offer warning against severe weather phenomenon such as tropical cyclones, norwesters, dust storms, heat waves, cold waves, heavy rains, heavy snow, etc.
- Provide met-related statistics needed for agriculture, industries, water resources management, oil exploration, and any other strategically important activities for the country.
- Engage in research in meteorology and allied subjects.
- Detect and locate earthquakes and evaluate of seismicity in various parts of the country for developmental projects.

[https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/august-rainfall-highest-since-1926-  
imd/article32546214.ece](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/august-rainfall-highest-since-1926-imd/article32546214.ece)



34. **K V Kamath Committee, sometimes seen in the news, is related to**

- A. Defence indigenization
- B. Healthcare reforms
- C. Educational reforms
- D. Restructuring of loans

Answer: **D**

**Explanation:**

- The Reserve Bank of India (**RBI**) has set up a committee headed by **K.V. Kamath** on **restructuring of loans impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic**.
- The Committee is tasked to recommend parameters for one-time restructuring of corporate loans. The Committee will formulate sector-specific resolution plans for all accounts with total loan exposure of Rs.1,500 crore and above.
- A large number of firms that otherwise maintain a good track record are facing the challenge as their debt burden is becoming disproportionate, relative to their cash flow generation abilities.
- This can potentially impact their long-term viability and pose significant financial stability risks if it becomes widespread. It may also lead to an increase in Non-Performing Assets.

<https://www.pressreader.com/india/the-hindu/20200908/282226603129008>

35. **Which of the following organizations will prepare the multidimensional poverty index?**

- A. Ministry of Finance
- B. Ministry Of Human Resource Development
- C. NITI Aayog
- D. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Answer: **C**

**Explanation:**

- **NITI Aayog is at an advanced stage for preparation of a Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)** parameter dashboard to rank states and Union Territories, along with a State Reform Action Plan (SRAP).



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- The Aayog, which is the nodal agency for leveraging the monitoring mechanism of the Global MPI to drive reforms, has set up a coordination committee comprising members from different ministries and departments in this regard.
- The Global MPI is part of the government's decision to monitor the performance of the country on 29 select global indices.
- The objective of the Global Indices to Drive Reforms and Growth (GIRG) exercise is to fulfil the need to measure and monitor India's performance on various important social and economic parameters and enable the utilisation of these indices as tools for self-improvement, bring about reforms in policies, while improving last-mile implementation of government schemes
- Global MPI is an international measure of multidimensional poverty covering 107 developing countries. It was first developed in 2010 by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative and United Nations Development Programme for UNDP's Human Development Reports.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/business/niti-aayog-preparing-multidimensional-poverty-index-to-rank-states-uts-6587120/>

36. With reference to Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, consider the following statements.

1. NIA can seize property that are concerned with terrorism.
2. Government can designate individuals as terrorists if they promote terrorism.
3. It empowers only officers of the NIA — of the rank of Assistant Commissioner of Police or above, to investigate cases.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

**Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** If the investigation is conducted by an officer of the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the approval of the Director General of NIA would be required for seizure of such property.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It empowers the government to designate individuals as terrorists if the person commits or participates in acts of terrorism, prepares for terrorism, promotes terrorism or is otherwise involved in terrorism.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** It empowers the officers of the NIA — of the rank of **Inspector** or above, to investigate cases.
- In August, Parliament cleared the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2019 to designate individuals as terrorists on certain grounds provided in the Act.
- The Act empowers the Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA) to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property when the case is investigated by the said agency.
- The Act empowers the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases of terrorism in addition to those conducted by the DSP or ACP or above rank officer in the state. <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-demonisation-of-dissent/article32554852.ece>

**37. Which of the following are true regarding National Nutrition Survey?**

1. The survey records micronutrient deficiencies only
2. WHO is also a part of the first National Nutrition Survey
3. The first Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey was conducted in 2014

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: **D**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The survey recorded not only **micronutrient deficiencies but also details of non-communicable diseases** such as diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol and kidney function in children and adolescents.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The first-ever comprehensive National Nutrition Survey has been conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) to measure malnutrition.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect:** The first Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey was approved in 2016, and was conducted from 2016 to 2018, with the report being published in 2019.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/national-nutrition-guidelines-soon-irani/article32555049.ece>

38. **Where is Mullaperiyar dam located?**

- A. TamilNadu
- B. Karnataka
- C. Telengana
- D. Kerala

Answer: **D**

**Explanation:** The Mullaperiyar dam is located on the confluence of the Mullayar and Periyar rivers in **Kerala's** Idukki district. It is operated and maintained by the Tamil Nadu for meeting the drinking water and irrigation requirements of five of its southern districts.

- The Periyar River is the longest river in the state of Kerala with a length of 244 km.
- Periyar River originates from Sivagiri hills of Western Ghats and flows through the Periyar National Park.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tn-rubbishes-claims-on-disaster-for-mullaperiyar-dam/article32555767.ece>

39. With reference to Char Dham project, consider the following statements.

1. It builds and repairs bridges across important water bodies in India.
2. It also includes mitigation measures/ stabilisation of chronic landslide & sinking spots/zones

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is a programme taken up by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for connectivity improvement for **Char Dham** (Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunotri and Gangotri) in Uttarakhand. The project proposes the widening of single lane roads into double lanes by up to 10 metres, developing **highways** in Uttarakhand and thereby improving access to the Char Dham.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The projects also includes **mitigation measures/ stabilisation** of chronic landslide & sinking spots/zones as a standalone project or part of road widening projects to avoid landslide and safety of road users..

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/adhere-to-ministry-circular-on-roads-in-char-dham-sc-to-centre/article32554466.ece>

40. Consider the following statements regarding Asian Development Bank(ADB)

1. China holds the largest share in ADB.
2. It is headquartered in Shanghai

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

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D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: **D**

### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Japan holds the largest share in ADB with 15.677%, followed by U.S.A (15.567%), China (6.473%), and India (5.812%).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Asian Development Bank (ADB) was established in the year **1966**, with head office at **Manila (Philippines)**. It has 67 members from the Asia Pacific region. This bank was modeled on the lines of the World Bank.
- The aim of the ADB is social development by reducing poverty in the Asia Pacific with inclusive growth, sustainable growth, and regional integration.  
<https://m.economictimes.com/industry/transportation/roadways/adb-government-ink-usd-500-mn-loan-pact-for-delhi-meerut-highway/articleshow/78000252.cms>

### 41. Consider the following statements regarding Genetically Modified Crops in India

1. Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is responsible for appraisal of proposals relating to release of genetically engineered (GE) organisms and products into the environment including experimental field trials.
2. Bt cotton is the only Genetically Modified (GM) crop that is allowed in India

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: **C**

### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) functions in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). As per Rules, 1989, it is responsible for appraisal of activities involving large scale use of hazardous microorganisms and

recombinants in research and industrial production from the environmental angle. The committee is also responsible for appraisal of proposals relating to release of genetically engineered (GE) organisms and products into the environment including experimental field trials.

- Use of the unapproved GM variant can attract a jail term of 5 years and fine of Rs. 1 lakh under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Bt cotton is the only Genetically Modified (GM) crop that is allowed in India. It has alien genes from the soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) that allows the crop to develop a protein toxic to the common pest pink bollworm.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-twisted-trajectory-of-bt-cotton/article32566091.ece>

42. **Using antibodies from the blood of a recovered patient who had a disease, to treat those critically affected by the same disease- what is this method more commonly known as?**

- A. Convalescent Plasma Therapy
- B. Placebo Therapy
- C. Adlerian Therapy
- D. Biblio Therapy

Answer: A

**Explanation:**

- The **convalescent plasma therapy** aims at using **antibodies** from the blood of a **recovered patient** to treat those critically affected by the virus.
- The therapy can also be used to immunise those at a high risk of contracting the virus — such as health workers, families of patients and other high-risk contacts.
- For example, the blood of a patient who has recovered from Covid-19 contains antibodies with the specific ability of fighting novel coronavirus. The theory is that the recovered patient's antibodies, once ingested into somebody under treatment, will begin targeting and fighting the novel coronavirus in the second patient.
- A **placebo** a substance or other kind of treatment that looks just like a regular treatment or medicine, but is not. It's actually an inactive “look-alike” treatment or substance.



- **Biblio therapy** is the use of books as therapy in the treatment of mental or psychological disorders.
- **Adlerian therapy**, is an approach in which a therapist works with a client to identify obstacles and create effective strategies for working towards their goals.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/plasma-therapy-didnt-help-covid-19-patients-icmr/article32564888.ece>

43. **Bitcoin, ethereum, sometimes seen in news are related to?**

- A. Fake Currency
- B. Crypto-currency
- C. Newly found antibiotics
- D. Anti-caking agents

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

- A **crypto currency** is a **digital asset** designed to work as a medium of exchange that uses strong cryptography to secure financial transactions, control the creation of additional units, and verify the transfer of assets.
- A crypto currency is a **digital or virtual currency** that uses cryptography for security. It is difficult to counterfeit because of this security feature.
- Many crypto currencies are decentralized systems based on **block chain technology**, a distributed ledger enforced by a disparate network of computers.
- The first block chain-based crypto currency was **Bitcoin**, which still remains the most popular and most valuable, along with **Ethereum**

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/in-blockchain-voting-leave-out-the-general-election/article32565188.ece>

44. **Consider the following statements regarding PM-KISAN**

1. The scheme uses Direct Benefit Transfer
2. The scheme has characteristics of Universal Basic Income

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:** Under this scheme, all small and marginal farmers will be provided with income support of Rs.6,000 per year in three instalments which will be deposited **directly** to their bank accounts.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is the first **universal basic income-type** of scheme targeted towards farmers. Initially, the scheme was targeted at small and medium farmers, but with the declining growth in gross value added of the agricultural sector, it was extended to all farmers in May 2019.
- Nearly, 93% of non-beneficiary farmers had already applied for the scheme, depicting awareness and potential uptake.

**Objectives of PM-KISAN scheme**

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana is implemented as a central sector scheme by the Government of India. This scheme was introduced to augment the source of income of many small and marginal farmers. The main objectives of the PM-KISAN scheme are mentioned below:
  - To provide income support to all eligible land-holding farmers and their families.
  - PM-KISAN scheme also aims to supplement the financial needs of the farmers in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income.
  - The scheme is expected to increase the coverage of PM-KISAN to around 14.5 crore beneficiaries. It aims to cover around 2 crores more farmers with an estimated expenditure of Rs. 87,217.50 crores that will be funded by the Central Government for the year 2019-20.

thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/pm-kisan-scheme-malpractices-being-probed-minister/article32547346.ece

45. Consider the following statements about PM SVANidhi

1. Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises is the implementing agency.
2. Loans are provided with minimal collateral only.

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 Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi), for providing affordable loans to street vendors. Earlier, the Scheme was announced as a part of the Economic Stimulus-II under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- The scheme would benefit vendors, hawkers, thelewale and people involved in goods and services related to textiles, apparel, artisan products, barbers shops, laundry services etc. in different areas.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The vendors can avail a working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments within a year. The **loans would be without collateral**. It is for the first time that Microfinance Institutions, Non-Banking Financial Company, Self Help Groups have been allowed in a scheme for the urban poor due to their ground level presence and proximity to the urban poor including the street vendors.
- There will be **no penalty on early repayment of loan**. Early repayment (or resettlement) is a clearance of debt or loan before the scheduled time. Many banks and lenders charge penalties for repaying loans early.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-modi-stresses-on-use-of-earthen-pitchers-for-drinking-water/article32559500.ece>

46. Consider the following statements.

1. National Green Tribunal(NGT) is empowered to hear matters pertaining to issues coming under the ambit of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. The Tribunal is not bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure 1908, but shall be guided by principles of 'natural justice'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** the **NGT is not empowered** to hear matters pertaining to issues coming under the ambit of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, which is applicable in case of National Parks, Sanctuaries and Tiger Reserves.
- The NGT deals with civil cases under the seven laws related to the environment, these include:
  - The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974,
  - The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977,
  - The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980,
  - The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981,
  - The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986,
  - The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991 and
  - The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

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- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Tribunal has jurisdiction over all civil cases involving substantial question relating to environment (including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment).
- Being a statutory adjudicatory body like Courts, apart from original jurisdiction side on filing of an application, NGT also has appellate jurisdiction to hear appeal as a Court (Tribunal).
- The Tribunal is **not bound by** the procedure laid down under the **Code of Civil Procedure** 1908, but shall be guided by **principles of 'natural justice'**.  
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/frame-rules-for-disposal-of-cigarette-butts-ngt/article32576373.ece>

47. Consider the following statements about AMRUT mission.

1. The mission has a focus on Sewerage and septage management
2. AMRUT mission aims in covering around 500 cities

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

Answer: C

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct: The AMRUT Mission consists of the following major components:**
  - capacity building
  - reform implementation
  - water supply and management of sewerage and septage
  - Drainage of stormwater
  - Improvement in urban transport facilities
  - Development of green spaces and parks.

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- **Statement 2 is correct** :Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (**AMRUT**) aims in covering **around 500 cities** that are having a population of over one lakh with notified municipalities.
- Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) is the new form of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). But, the Centre will not appraise individual projects.
- The AMRUT Scheme focuses on establishing an infrastructure for ensuring adequate sewage networks and water supply in the urban areas through the implementation of the urban revival projects. The first state to submit State Annual Action Plan under the AMRUT scheme was Rajasthan.
- Various other schemes like Swachh Bharat Mission, Housing for All 2022 and the local state schemes related to water supply, sewerage and infrastructure can also be linked to the AMRUT scheme.
- The main objectives of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) are mentioned below:
  - To ensure a proper supply of water and a sewage connection in every household.
  - To develop green and well maintained open spaces and parks to increase the amenity value of the cities.
  - To reduce pollution by switching to public transport or through the construction of non-motorized transport facilities such as walking and cycling.
- Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) aims in covering around 500 cities that are having a population of over one lakh with notified municipalities.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1652949>

48. **‘E-gopala app, sometimes seen in the news, is related to?’**

- A. Information portal for farmers.
- B. Information portal for MSME’s
- C. Information portal for health professionals



D. Information portal for street dwellers

Answer: A

**Explanation:**

- e-Gopala App, is a comprehensive breed **improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers.**
- At present, no digital platform is available in the country for farmers managing livestock including buying and selling of disease free germplasm in all forms, availability of quality breeding services and guiding farmers for animal nutrition, treatment of animals using appropriate medicine.
- The e-Gopala app will provide solutions to farmers on all these aspects.
- The app is launched as **a part of PM- Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1652993>

49. Consider the following statements about the National Security Act

1. The NSA is a punitive detention law.
2. The NSA empowers the Centre or a State government to detain a person to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to national security.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

Answer: B

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The NSA is a preventive detention law.
- Preventive Detention involves the detainment (containment) of a person in order to keep him/her from committing future crimes and/or from escaping future prosecution.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The NSA empowers the **Centre or a State government** to detain a person to prevent him from acting in any manner prejudicial to national security.

- The government can also detain a person to prevent him from disrupting public order or for maintenance of supplies and services essential to the community.
- The maximum period for which one may be detained is 12 months. But the term can be extended if the government finds fresh evidence.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/in-uttar-pradesh-more-than-half-of-nsa-arrests-this-year-were-for-cow-slaughter-6591315/>

**50. The Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) has been signed between**

- A. India and USA
- B. India and UK
- C. India and Russia
- D. India and Japan

Answer: **D**

**Explanation:**

- **India and Japan** have signed a key agreement for reciprocal provision of supplies and services between their defence forces, which is expected to drive closer military cooperation and contribute to regional security.
- The Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA) between Japan's Self-Defense Forces and India's armed forces was signed by Japanese ambassador Satoshi Suzuki and defence secretary Ajay Kumar in New Delhi on Wednesday.
- The agreement establishes a framework such as the settlement procedures for the reciprocal provision of supplies and services between the Self-Defense Forces of Japan and the Indian armed forces

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/japan-s-pm-shinzo-abe-speaks-on-phone-with-narendra-modi-lists-elevation-of-global-partnership-between-the-two-countries-as-a-key-achievement/story-dgAYdfesU7Vtz2Miua6z7M.html>

51. Consider the following statements regarding Index of Industrial Production.

1. It is compiled and published quarterly by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
2. The eight core industries of India represent about 60% of the weight of items that are included in the IIP

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: **D**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** It is compiled and published **monthly** by the Central Statistical Organization (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The eight core industries of India represent about **40%** of the weight of items that are included in the IIP
- IIP is a composite indicator that measures the growth rate of industry groups classified under: Broad sectors, namely, Mining, Manufacturing, and Electricity.
- Use-based sectors, namely Basic Goods, Capital Goods, and Intermediate Goods.
- Base Year for IIP is 2011-2012.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/iip-shrinks-104-as-recovery-slows/article32583423.ece>

52. Consider the following statements about Arya Samaj

1. It was founded by Dayanand Saraswati in 1875
2. Arya Samaj was against Puranas.

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:** Arya Samaj is a Hindu reform movement that was founded by **Dayanand Saraswati in 1875 in Bombay**. The movement believes in the infallible authority of the Vedas.
- The Motto "Krinvanto Vishwam Aryam" which means "To Make the World Noble"
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Arya Samaj **attacked Puranas, polytheism, idolatry, child marriage, and domination of the priestly class.**
- Dayanand Saraswati also established Vedic schools for the education of girls and boys of all castes. The students of these schools were given free books, clothing, lodging and food, and were taught the Vedas and other ancient scriptures.
- They also worked for the protection of widows and other social work like providing victims to victims of natural or manmade calamities.
- Dayanand Saraswati wrote many books. His major contribution is **the Satyarth Prakash. Other books include the Sanskarvidhi, Rigved Bhashyam, etc.**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/swami-agnivesh-passes-away/article32583703.ece>

53. Which of the following temple is known as 'Yamanika Tirtha'?

- A. Sun Temple
- B. Puri Jagannath Temple
- C. Mahabodhi Temple
- D. Viroopaksha Temple

Answer: B

**Explanation:**

- **Jagannath Puri temple is called 'Yamanika Tirtha'** where, according to the Hindu beliefs, the power of 'Yama', the god of death has been nullified in Puri due to the presence of Lord Jagannath.

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- The Shree Jagannath Temple of Puri is an important Hindu temple dedicated to Jagannath, a form of Vishnu, in Puri in the state of Odisha on the eastern coast of India.
- The present temple was rebuilt from the 10th century onwards, on the site of an earlier temple, and begun by King Anantavarman Chodaganga Deva, first of the Eastern Ganga dynasty  
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/pandemic-to-delay-reopening-of-jagannath-temple/article32584336.ece>

### 54. Consider the following statements about PM-CARES.

1. Defence Minister is a part of the trust.
2. The fund accepts higher denominations only.

**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 Fund is a public charitable trust with **the Prime Minister as its Chairman. Other Members include Defence Minister, Home Minister and Finance Minister.**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Fund **enables micro-donations** as a result of which a large number of people will be able to contribute with the smallest of denominations.
- Contributions by companies towards the PM-CARES Fund will count towards mandatory Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-cares-fund-gets-fcra-exemption-without-meeting-pre-condition-of-cag-audit/article32584371.ece>

55. **Zoombombing, sometimes seen in news, refers to.**

- A. Precision bombing of a certain spot
- B. Intrusion into a conference call
- C. Biological warfare
- D. Automatic zooming of distant objects.

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

**Zoombombing** or Zoom raiding refers to the **unwanted, disruptive intrusion, generally by Internet trolls and hackers, into a video conference call.** In a typical Zoombombing incident, a teleconferencing session is hijacked by the insertion of material that are lewd, obscene, racist, or antisemitic in nature, typically resulting of the shutdown of the session.

<https://www.pressreader.com/india/the-hindu/20200912/283132841237406>

56. **Consider the following statements about the Deputy Speaker.**

1. The post of the Deputy Speaker is mentioned in the constitution.
2. The deputy speaker shall be from the opposition party only.

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:** **Article 93** of the Constitution provides for the election of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** It is by **convention** that position of Deputy Speaker is offered to opposition party in India.



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- Deputy Speaker act as the presiding officer in case of leave or absence caused by death or illness of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
- They hold office until either they cease to be a member of the Lok Sabha or they resign.
- They can be removed from office by a resolution passed in the Lok Sabha by an effective majority of its members.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/the-second-chair-the-hindu-editorial-on-lok-sabha-deputy-speaker/article32594798.ece>

#### 57. Where is Dibru-Saikhowa National Park located?

- A. Meghalaya
- B. Assam
- C. Sikkim
- D. Mizoram

Answer: **B**

#### Explanation:

- Dibru-Saikhowa National Park is a national park in **Assam**, India, located in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts.
- The park is bounded by the **Brahmaputra and Lohit Rivers** in the north and **Dibru river** in the south. It mainly consists of moist mixed semi-evergreen forests, moist mixed deciduous forests, canebrakes and grasslands. It is the largest salix swamp forest in north-eastern India, with a tropical monsoon climate with a hot and wet summer and cool and usually dry winter.
- **Biodiversity found- Tiger, Elephant, Leopard, Jungle Cat, Bears, Small Indian Civet, Squirrels, Gangetic Dolphin, Hoolock Gibbon, etc.**
- It is an identified Important Bird Area (IBA), notified by the Birdlife International.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/assam-baghjan-well-fire-tamed-110-days-after-blowout/article32592901.ece>

58. Consider the following statements regarding Ayushman Bharat(Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY))

- 1.It covers post-hospitalization expenses only
- 2.It addresses health issues of primary levels only

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: All kinds of diseases** are covered from day one of the Ayushman Bharat policy. The benefit cover includes both **pre and post hospitalization expenses**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The Ayushman Bharat programme was launched in 2018 to address health issues at all levels – **primary, secondary, and tertiary**. It has two components:
  - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), earlier known as the National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS)
  - Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs)
- Ayushman Bharat is an integrated approach comprising health insurance and primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare. The HWCs are aimed at improving access to cheap and quality healthcare services at the primary level. PM-JAY will cover the financial protection for availing healthcare services at the secondary and tertiary levels.
- The government-sponsored health insurance scheme will provide free coverage of up to **Rs 5 lakh per family per year** at any government or even empanelled private hospitals all over India for secondary and tertiary medical care facilities.
- It will be available for 74 crore beneficiary families and about 50 crore Indian citizens. Under the process, 80 percent of beneficiaries, based on the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) data in the rural and the urban areas, have been identified.

- **There is no restriction on the basis of family size, age or gender.**

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/reducing-indias-cancer-burden/article32594589.ece>

59. **The MANAK programme, sometimes seen in the news, is related to**

- A. Bring out innovative solutions from children for various problems.
- B. Create awareness about unhealthy foods.
- C. Create awareness about child molestation
- D. Stopping fake news in social media

Answer: **A**

**Explanation:**

- The Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge (**MANAK**) programme was launched by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in partnership with the National Innovation Foundation (NIF) in 2017.
- **Children with imaginative minds can come up with innovative solutions to problems in and around them.** Government efforts are triggering this imagination and broadening the base of the pyramid of innovation that encourages children to come up with solutions for day to day problems based on science and technology. Such ideas are being solicited by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), and meritorious ideas are rewarded with the award money of Rs 10,000 with option of showcasing it to district, state, and national level exhibition along with mentoring.
- Aiming to harness the power of bright minds spread across 6 lakhs school in the country, DST invites students from government and private schools to send original and innovative ideas having potential to solve common problems.
- These ideas go through a tough screening and mentoring process at the school level, district, and state level to be selected for the National level competitions.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1653754>

60. Consider the following statements about Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)

1. It is a statutory body.
2. This body can be called as an example of Gandhian Principle.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a **statutory** body established by an Act of Parliament (Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956)
- **Statement 2 is correct:** **Gandhi** found **khadi** as the necessary and most important corollary of the principle of **swadeshi** in its practical application to society. Khadi fulfils the kind of service envisaged in swadeshi.
- **DPSP – Gandhian Principles**
  - Article 40-Organise village panchayats and endow them with necessary powers and authority to enable them to function as units of self-government
  - **Article 43-Promote cottage industries** on an individual or co-operation basis in rural areas
  - Article 43B-Promote voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management of co-operative societies
  - Article 46-Promote the educational and economic interests of SCs, STs, and other weaker sections of the society and to protect them from social injustice and exploitation
  - Article 47-Prohibit the consumption of intoxicating drinks and drugs which are injurious to health
  - Article 48-Prohibit the slaughter of cows, calves and other milch and draught cattle and to improve their breeds

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1653768>

61. “Loya Jirga”, sometimes seen in news, is related to which country

- A. Afghanistan
- B. Myanmar
- C. India
- D. Bangladesh

Answer: A

**Explanation:**

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

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/the-cost-of-peace/article32604087.ece>

62. With reference to Rowlatt Satyagraha , consider the following statements.

1. It was in response to the Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act of 1919
2. Hunter Commission passed this act in the Imperial Legislative Council

**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:** Rowlatt Satyagraha was in response to the British government enacting the **Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act of 1919**, popularly known as the Rowlatt Act.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** This act was **passed** on the recommendations of **Sedition Committee** chaired by **Sir Sidney Rowlatt**.
- Hunter Commission was formed as a committee for the inquiry to investigate the Jallianwala Bagh shootings. The committee unanimously condemned Dyer's actions. However, the Hunter Committee did not impose any penal or disciplinary action against General Dyer.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/indias-great-silence-is-the-loudest-sound/article32604122.ece>

**63. Mahanadi river originates in which of the following states**

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Odisha
- C. Bihar
- D. Chattisgarh

Answer: **D**

**Explanation:**

- The river flows through the states of **Chhattisgarh and Odisha**. It **originates** from the highlands of **Chhattisgarh** through collection of an array of streams and reaches Bay of Bengal.
- Mahanadi is also known for the Hirakud Dam

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1654213>

**64. Consider the following statements about Subramanya Bharathi**

1. He has attended Indian National Congress sessions
2. Sudesa Geethangal is a work written by him

**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:** He has participated in **the Benaras Session (1905) and Surat Session (1907)** of the Indian National Congress. He attended the annual sessions of Indian National Congress and discussed national issues with extremist leaders like Bipin Chandra Pal, B.G. Tilak and V.V.S. Iyer.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** He published the sensational “**Sudesa Geethangal**” in 1908.
- C. Subramanya Bharathi was born on 11th December 1882, in Ettayapuram village of Tirunelveli District in **Tamil Nadu**.
- He was a **poet, freedom fighter and social reformer** from Tamil Nadu
- He had the **weekly newspaper named ‘India’** . It was the first paper in Tamil Nadu to publish political cartoons.
- He also published and edited journals like “**Vijaya**”.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/bharatiyar-the-charioteer-of-wisdom/article32603320.ece>

**65. What does the PRASAD scheme hope to achieve**

- A. Provide temple offerings(Prasad) through online booking
- B. Developing the pilgrim sites
- C. Providing employment opportunities to men ITI degree holders.
- D. Provide food to homeless people.

Answer: B

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#### Explanation:

- **Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD)** is a government scheme that focuses on **identifying and developing the pilgrim sites across the country** to enrich the religious tourism experience.
- It was launched by Union Ministry of Tourism. It hopes for integrated development of pilgrimage destinations in planned, prioritised and sustainable manner to provide complete religious tourism experience.
- Main objectives are Harnessing pilgrimage tourism for its direct and multiplier effect upon employment generation and economic development, Enhancing tourist attractiveness in sustainable manner by developing world class infrastructure in the religious destinations and promoting local art, culture, handicraft, cuisine, etc.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1654149>

#### 66. Consider the following statements regarding M.Visvesvaraya

1. He is considered as the father of Indian Economic Planning
2. His birthday is celebrated as Engineer's day in India

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:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya is known as the Father of Indian Economic Planning. The era of economic planning in India started with Visvesvaraya's ten-year Plan. Sir M. Visvesvaraya published a book titled "Planned Economy in India" in 1934 wherein he presented a draft to double the national income in a decade. He proposed to shift the labor from

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the agrarian set up to the industries thereby advocating for democratic capitalism (similar to the USA) with emphasis on industrialization.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** His birthday, 15 September, is celebrated as Engineers' Day in India, Sri Lanka and Tanzania in his memory.
- Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, more commonly known as Sir MV (15 September 1860 – 14 April 1962), was an Indian civil engineer and statesman and the **19th Diwan of Mysore**, serving from 1912 to 1919. He was the chief engineer responsible for the construction of the **Krishna Raja Sagara Dam** in Mysore. He designed and patented a system of **automatic weir floodgates in 1903**. He designed a flood protection system for the city of Hyderabad by Musi River. He played a key role in developing a system to protect the **Visakhapatnam port from sea erosion**.
- He received India's highest honour, **the Bharat Ratna**, in 1955. He was knighted as a Knight Commander of the British Indian Empire by King George V for his contributions to the public good. His birthday, 15 September, is celebrated as Engineers' Day in India, Sri Lanka and Tanzania in his memory.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1654674>

67. **Which of the following is a mission to address the issues of returnee migrant workers during Covid-19**

- A. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana
- B. Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan
- C. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana
- D. Ujala Yojana

Answer: **B**

#### **Explanation:**

- The **Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan (GKRA)** is a 125-day Abhiyan launched with a mission to address the issues of returnee **migrant workers and similarly affected rural population by Covid-19 pandemic** through a multi- pronged strategy of providing immediate employment & livelihood opportunities to the distressed, to saturate the villages with public infrastructure and

creation of livelihood assets to boost the income generation activities and enhance long term livelihood opportunities by giving focus on 25 works in 116 selected districts across 6 States with a resource envelope of Rs 50,000 crore.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1654680>

68. Consider the following statements about Interest Rate Derivatives

1. Derivative is a product whose value is derived from the value of one or more basic variables
2. It is a financial instrument with a value that increases and decreases based on movements in interest rates.

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:**

- **Statement 1 is correct: Derivative** is a product whose value is **derived from the value of one or more basic variables**. The basic variables are underlying assets, index or may be a reference rate and are known as Bases. The asset can be an equity, a currency, a commodity etc.
- **Statement 2 is correct: An interest-rate derivative** is a financial instrument with a **value that increases and decreases based on movements in interest rates**.
- Interest-rate derivatives are often used as hedges by institutional investors, banks, companies and individuals to protect themselves against changes in market interest rates, but they can also be used to increase or refine the holder's risk profile.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/rbi-issues-draft-on-rupee-ir-derivatives/article32615206.ece>

69. Consider the following statements regarding Essential Commodities Act, 1955

1. The list of items under the Act includes drugs, fertilisers, pulses and edible oils, and petroleum and petroleum products.
  2. State governments can add/remove items from the list
- 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:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The ECA was enacted in 1955. The act provides for the control of **production, supply, distribution, trade and commerce** in any farm good deemed “essential” and “in the interest of the general public”.The list of items under the Act includes **drugs, fertilisers, pulses and edible oils, and petroleum and petroleum products.**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** **The Centre** under the Act has the power **to include new commodities as and when the need arises, and can take them off** the list once the situation improves (in view of public interest).
- The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 was promulgated on June 5, 2020. It amends the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The Act empowers the central government to control the production, supply, distribution, trade, and commerce in certain commodities. The Ordinance seeks to increase competition in the agriculture sector and enhance farmers’ income. It aims to liberalise the regulatory system while protecting the interests of consumers  
<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/onion-export-ban-explained-6596646/>

70. With respect to Namami gange, consider the following objectives given below

1. Sewerage Treatment
2. Industrial Effluent Monitoring

3. River-Surface Cleaning
4. River-Front Development

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

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

Answer: D

**Explanation:**

The key achievements under Namami Gange programme are:-

1. **Creating Sewerage Treatment Capacity:-** 63 sewerage management projects under implementation in the States of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. 12 new sewerage management Projects Launched in these states. Work is under construction for creating Sewerage capacity of 1187.33 (MLD). Hybrid Annuity PPP Model based two projects has been initiated for Jagjeetpur, Haridwar and Ramanna, Varanasi.
2. **Creating River-Front Development:-** 28 River-Front Development projects and 33 Entry level Projects for construction, modernization and renovation of 182 Ghats and 118 crematoria has been initiated.
3. **River Surface Cleaning:-** River Surface cleaning for collection of floating solid waste from the surface of the Ghats and River and its disposal are afoot and pushed into service at 11 locations.
4. **Bio-Diversity Conservation:-** Several Bio-Diversity conservation projects are namely: Biodiversity Conservation and Ganga Rejuvenation, Fish and Fishery Conservation in Ganga River, Ganges River Dolphin Conservation Education Programme has been initiated. 5 Bio-Diversity center's at Dehradun, Narora, Allahabad, Varanasi and Barrackpore has been developed for restoration of identified priority species.
5. **Afforestation:-** Forestry interventions for Ganga through Wildlife Institute of India; Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute and Centre for Environment Education has been initiated. Forestry interventions for Ganga has been executed as per the Detailed Project Report



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prepared by Forest Research Institute, Dehradun for a period of 5 years (2016-2021) at project cost of Rs.2300 Crores. Work has been commenced in 7 districts of Uttarakhand for medicinal plants.

**6. Public Awareness:-** A series of activities such as events, workshops, seminars and conferences and numerous IEC activities were organized to make a strong pitch for public outreach and community participation in the programme. Various awareness activities through rallies, campaigns, exhibitions, shram daan, cleanliness drives, competitions, plantation drives and development and distribution of resource materials were organized and for wider publicity the mass mediums such as TV/Radio, print media advertisements, advertorials, featured articles and advertorials were published. Gange Theme song was released widely and played on digital media to enhance the visibility of the programme. NMCG ensured presence at Social Media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, You Tube etc.

**7. Industrial Effluent Monitoring:-** The number of Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) in April, 2019 are 1072. Regulation and enforcement through regular and surprise inspections of GPIs is carried out for compliance verification against stipulated environmental norms. The GPIs are also inspected on annual basis for compliance verification of the pollution norms and process modification, wherever required through third party technical institutes. First round of inspection of GPIs by the third-party technical institutes has been carried out in 2017. Second round of inspection of GPIs has been completed in 2018. Out of 961 GPIs inspected in 2018, 636 are complying, 110 are non-complying and 215 are self-closed. Action has been taken against 110 non-complying GPIs and are issued closure directions under Section 5 of the E(P) Act. Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Stations (OCEMS) connectivity established to CPCB server in 885 out of 1072 GPIs.

**8. Ganga Gram:-** Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MoDWS) identified 1674 Gram Panchayats situated on the bank of River Ganga in 5 State (Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal). Rs. 578 Crores has been released to Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MoDWS) for construction of toilets in 1674 Gram Panchayats of 5 Ganga Basin States. Out of the targeted 15, 27,105 units, MoDWS has completed construction of 8, 53,397 toilets. Consortium of 7 IITs has been engaged in the preparation of Ganga River basin

Plan and 65 villages has been adopted by 13 IITs to develop as model villages. UNDP has been engaged as the executing agency for rural sanitation programme and to develop Jharkhand as a model State at an estimated cost of Rs. 127 Crore.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1654463>

71. Consider the following statements about Person's with Disability Act, 2016

1. It has increased the existing types of disabilities.
2. An acid attack victim is also considered as a disability under this act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The types of disabilities have been increased from **existing 7 to 21** and the Central Government will have the power to add more types of disabilities.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The 21 disabilities are given below:-
  1. Blindness
  2. Low-vision
  3. Leprosy Cured persons
  4. Hearing Impairment (deaf and hard of hearing)
  5. Locomotor Disability
  6. Dwarfism
  7. Intellectual Disability
  8. Mental Illness
  9. Autism Spectrum Disorder
  10. Cerebral Palsy

11. Muscular Dystrophy
  12. Chronic Neurological conditions
  13. Specific Learning Disabilities
  14. Multiple Sclerosis
  15. Speech and Language disability
  16. Thalassemia
  17. Hemophilia
  18. Sickle Cell disease
  19. Multiple Disabilities including deafblindness
  20. **Acid Attack victim**
  21. Parkinson's disease
- The **Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's notification** proposing amendment of the Right of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, to de-criminalise “minor offences for improving business sentiment and unclogging court processes” has met with protests from the community of disabled persons  
<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/beyond-the-barriers-of-disability/article32624953.ece>

72. **India undertook Operation Sanjeevani for**

- A. Mauritius
- B. Maldives
- C. Bhutan
- D. Sri Lanka

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

- Indian Air Force (IAF) launched an 18-hour operation and airlifted 6.2 tonnes of essential medicines and hospital consumables with its C-130 transport aircraft and delivered it to the Maldives under **Operation Sanjeevani**.

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- Influenza vaccines and anti-viral drugs which are used in other countries to treat COVID-19 such as Lopinavir and Ritonavir have been delivered.
- In 2014, **Operation Neer** was launched by the Indian Government to supply clean drinking water to the Maldives.
- In 1988, Under **Operation Cactus** the Indian Armed Forces have helped the government of Maldives in the neutralization of the coup attempt.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/maldives-defends-ties-with-india/article32623408.ece>

### 73. Consider the following statements regarding Japanese Encephalitis

1. It is caused by flavi virus
2. The transmission is caused by Anopheles mosquito

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:** Japanese encephalitis is a disease caused by **flavi virus** that affects the membranes around the brain. Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) is also a major cause of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) in India.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The disease is transmitted to humans through bites from infected **Culex mosquitoes**.
- Most people infected with JE do not have symptoms or have only mild symptoms. However, a small percentage of infected people develop inflammation of the brain (encephalitis), with symptoms including sudden onset of headache, high fever, disorientation, coma, tremors and convulsions.

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- India's Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)- Vaccines included in the programme are for diseases including Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Polio, Hepatitis B, Pneumonia and Meningitis due to Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib), Measles, Rubella, **Japanese Encephalitis (JE)** and Rotavirus diarrhoea.
- Through this programme, the government provides several vaccines to infants, children and pregnant women.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/7-children-died-of-encephalitis-in-2020-yogi/article32624319.ece>

74. **The Bru tribe, recently seen in news, belongs to**

- A. Sikkim
- B. Meghalaya
- C. Mizoram
- D. Arunachal Pradesh

Answer: C

**Explanation:** The Brus, also referred to as the Reangs, are spread across the northeastern states of **Tripura, Assam, Manipur, and Mizoram**. In Tripura, they are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.

- **Ethnic violence** forced thousands of people from the Bru tribe **to leave their homes in Mizoram**. The displaced Bru people from Mizoram have been living in various camps in Tripura since 1997
- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/locals-of-same-tribe-oppose-bru-resettlement-in-tripura/article32621997.ece>

75. **Consider the following statements about MUDRA loans**

1. There are two types of loans only- Shishu and Kishor.
2. Loans are approved for agricultural, non- agricultural and activities allied to 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 is incorrect:** There are three types of loans under PMMY:
  - **Shishu** (up to Rs.50,000).
  - **Kishor** (from Rs.50,001 to Rs.5 lakh).
  - **Tarun** (from Rs.500,001 to Rs.10,00,000).
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: Agriculture is not a part of it.**
- Following is an illustrative list of the activities that can be covered under MUDRA loans:
  - 1) Transport Vehicle- Purchase of transport vehicles for transportation of goods and passengers such as auto rickshaws, small goods transport vehicles, 3 wheelers, e-rickshaws, taxis, etc. Tractors/Tractor Trolleys/Power Tillers used only for commercial purposes are also eligible for assistance under PMMY. Two Wheelers used for commercial purposes are also eligible for coverage under PMMY.
  - 2) Community, Social & Personal Service Activities- Salons, beauty parlours, gymnasium, boutiques, tailoring shops, dry cleaning, cycle and motorcycle repair shops, DTP and Photocopying Facilities, Medicine Shops, Courier Agents, etc.
  - 3) Food Products Sector- Activities such as papad making, achar making, jam/jelly making, agricultural produce preservation at rural level, sweet shops, small service food stalls and day to day catering / canteen services, cold chain vehicles, cold storages, ice making units, ice cream making units, biscuit, bread and bun making, etc.
  - 4) Textile Products Sector / Activity- Handloom, powerloom, khadi activity, chikan work, zari and zardozi work, traditional embroidery and hand work, traditional dyeing and printing, apparel design, knitting, cotton ginning, computerized embroidery, stitching and other textile non garment products such as bags, vehicle accessories, furnishing accessories, etc.



5) Business loans for Traders and Shopkeepers- Financial support for on lending to individuals for running their shops / trading & business activities / service enterprises and non-farm income generating activities with beneficiary loan size of up to 10 lakh per enterprise / borrower.

6) Equipment Finance Scheme for Micro Units- Setting up micro enterprises by purchasing necessary machinery / equipments with per beneficiary loan size of upto 10 lakh.

7) Activities allied to agriculture:'Activities allied to agriculture', e.g. pisciculture, bee keeping, poultry, livestock-rearing, grading, sorting, aggregation agro industries, diary, fishery, agri-clinics and agribusiness centres, food & agro-processing, etc.(excluding crop loans, land improvement such as canal, irrigation and wells) and services supporting these, which promote livelihood or are income generating shall be eligible

<https://indianexpress.com/article/business/banking-and-finance/mudra-loan-disbursals-npas-rise-in-tandem-at-psbs-over-last-3-years-6598922>

76. Consider the following statements about Wetlands

1. Montreux Record is associated with it.
2. Loktak Lake (Manipur) has been removed from the Montreux Record.

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:**

- A wetland is a distinct ecosystem that is flooded by water, either permanently or seasonally, where oxygen-free processes prevail. The primary factor that distinguishes wetlands from other land forms or water bodies is the characteristic vegetation of aquatic plants, adapted to the unique hydric soil

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- **Statement 1 is correct: The Montreux Record is a register of wetland sites** on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: Two wetlands of India are in Montreux Record, 1) Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) and 2) Loktak Lake (Manipur). Chilka lake (Odisha) was placed in the record but was later removed from it**  
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/wetlands-being-identified-in-rajasthan-to-protect-biodiversity/article32634387.ece>

77. Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK)

1. It is aimed for the betterment of minority community
2. Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is the implementing agency

**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:** Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) seeks to provide **better socio economic infrastructure facilities to the minority communities** particularly in the field of education, health & skill development which would further lead to lessening of the gap between the national average and the minority communities with regard to backwardness parameters.
- The erstwhile Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) has been restructured and renamed as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram for effective implementation since 2018.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: Ministry of Minority Affairs** is the implementing agency  
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1655693>

78. What does G4 countries, sometimes seen in news, aims to achieve

- A. Policy coordination between its members in order to achieve global economic stability
- B. Permanent seat in United Nations Security Council
- C. To tackle global problems by discussing big issues and planning what action to take
- D. None of the above

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

- There have been proposals suggesting the introduction of new permanent members in the UNSC. The candidates usually mentioned are **Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan**. They comprise the group of four countries known as the G4 nations, which mutually support one another's bids for permanent seats.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/a-push-for-reform-the-hindu-editorial-on-un-reforms/article32633648.ece>

79. Which among the following is/are correct regarding Poshan Abhiyaan

- 1. National Council on Nutrition (NCN) has been setup under this.
- 2. The targeted group is young children and adolescent girls only.
- 3. The target of the mission is to bring down stunting among children in the age group 0-6 years from 38.4% to 25% by 2022.
- 4. Swasth Bharat Preraks are a part of this.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below**

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

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The National Council on India's Nutrition Challenges- Set up under the Poshan Abhiyaan, the Council is also known as **National Council on Nutrition (NCN)**.  
The NCN is **headed** by the **Vice-Chairman of the NITI Aayog**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Poshan Abhiyaan targets to **reduce stunting, under nutrition, anaemia** (among **young children, women and adolescent girls**) and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** The Abhiyaan targets to reduce stunting, under nutrition, anaemia (among young children, women and adolescent girls) and reduce low birth weight by 2%, 2%, 3% and 2% per annum respectively.  
The **target** of the mission is to bring down **stunting** among children in the age group 0-6 years from **38.4% to 25% by 2022**.
- **Statement 4 is correct:** **Swasth Bharat Preraks** will be deployed one in each district for coordinating with district officials and enabling fast and efficient execution of the Abhiyan across the country. Swasth Bharat Preraks would function as catalyst for fast tracking the implementation of the Abhiyan.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1655613>

**80. Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA), sometimes seen in news is associated with**

- A. UK
- B. Russia
- C. Japan
- D. USA

Answer: **D**

**Explanation:**

There are 4 Foundational Agreements between the US and its Partners

**1) General Security Of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)**

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- GSOMIA allows intelligence sharing between militaries
- Signed by India in 2002.

### 2) Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)

- Have access to each other's designated military facilities for refueling and replenishment.
- Signed by India in 2016.

### 3) Communications and Information Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA)

- COMCASA(Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement) is the India specific version of CISMOA.
- Valid for 10 years, COMCASA aims to provide a legal framework for the transfer of highly sensitive communication security equipment from the US to India that will streamline and facilitate interoperability between their armed forces.
- Signed by India in 2018.

### 4) Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)

- BECA will allow India and US to share geospatial and satellite data with each other.
- India has not signed BECA yet.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/us-keen-on-finalising-geo-spatial-cooperation-at-22-dialogue-in-october/article32633882.ece>

### 81. With reference to National Commission on Farmers, consider the following statements.

1. It was chaired under M.S. Swaminathan in 2004.
  2. They recommended to give farmers a minimum support price at 50% profit above A2+FL cost
- 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 **National Commission on Farmers (NCF)**, with **MS Swaminathan** as its chairman, was formed in **2004** to come up with a system for sustainability in farming system and make it more profitable and cost competitive in farm commodities. And to recommend measures for credit and other marketing steps.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** They **recommended** to give farmers a minimum support price at 50% profit above the cost of production classified as **C2** by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- The CACP defines production costs of crops under three categories — **A2, A2+FL** (standing for family labour) and **C2**.
  - A2 is the actual paid-out expenses incurred by farmers — in cash and kind — on seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, hired labour, fuel, irrigation and other inputs from outside.
  - A2+FL includes A2 cost plus an imputed value of unpaid family labour.
  - C2 is the most comprehensive definition of production cost of crops as it also accounts for the rentals or interest loans, owned land and fixed capital assets over and above A2+FL.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/market-failure-the-hindu-editorial-on-agriculture-sector-reforms/article32644289.ece>

82. **With reference to the National Cyber Security Strategy 2020, consider the following statements.**

1. India was one of the first few countries to propound a futuristic National Cyber Security Policy
2. Proposed vision is to ensure a safe, secure, trusted, resilient and vibrant cyber space for our Nation's prosperity.
3. Industry 4.0 requires a robust Cyber Strategy

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



D. 1, 2 and 3 only

Answer: **D**

**Explanation:**

• **Statement 1 is correct:**

India was one of the first few countries to propound a futuristic **National Cyber Security Policy 2013(NCSP 2013)**. Since the adoption of **NCSP 2013**, the technologies, platforms, threats, services and aspirations have changed tremendously.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The transformational Digital India push as well as **Industry 4.0** is required to be supported by a robust cyberspace. However, Cyber intrusions and attacks have increased in scope and sophistication targeting sensitive personal and business data, and critical information infrastructure, with impact on national economy and security. The present cyber threat landscape poses significant challenges due to rapid technological developments such as Cloud Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, 5G, etc. **Statement 3 is correct:** **Vision** Proposed vision is to ensure a **safe, secure, trusted, resilient and vibrant cyber space for our Nation's prosperity**.

- Pillars of Strategy We are examining various facets of cyber security under the following pillars:
- Secure (The National Cyberspace)
  - Strengthen (Structures, People, Processes, Capabilities)
  - Synergise (Resources including Cooperation and Collaboration)

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/national-cybersecurity-strategy-to-be-issued-for-safe-cyber-space-doval/article32642371.ece>

83. Which of the following is India's first Blue Flag Certified Beach?

- Radhanagar Beach
- Golden Beach
- Chandrabhaga Beach
- Kappad Beach

Answer: **C**

**Explanation:**

- **The Chandrabhaga beach on the Konark coast of Odisha** has become the Asia's first beach to get the Blue Flag certification — the tag given to environment-friendly and clean beaches, equipped with amenities of international standards for tourists.
- The Blue Flag beach standards were established by **Copenhagen-based Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) in 1985**. In order to get the Blue Flag tag, a beach has to be plastic-free and be equipped with a waste management system.
- In a first, eight beaches of India recommended for the coveted “Blue Flag” International eco-label. The eight beaches are Shivrajpur in Gujarat, Ghoghla in Daman&Diu, Kasarkod and Padubidri beach in Karnataka, Kappad in Kerala, Rushikonda in Andhra Pradesh, Golden beach of Odisha and Radhanagar beach in Andaman and Nicobar.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1656392>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/odisha-beach-is-asias-first-to-get-blue-flag-tag/article24073494.ece>

**84. SAMARTH scheme seen in the news, is related to?**

- A. To felicitate sports champions
- B. Capacity building in textiles sector
- C. Scholarships for bright students
- D. Scheme for local artisans

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- The **Ministry of Textiles** is implementing the **Samarth-Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector**, a placement oriented programme targeting skill development of 10 lakh youth in the entire value chain of textiles, excluding Spinning & Weaving in the organized Sector. Some of the advanced features of SAMARTH scheme include Training of Trainers (ToT), Aadhar Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS), CCTV recording of training programme, dedicated call

centre with helpline number, mobile app based Management Information System (MIS) and on-line monitoring of the training process.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1656230>

85. **Taiwan Strait separates the island of Taiwan from**

- A. China
- B. Japan
- C. Philippines
- D. South Korea

Answer: A

**Explanation:**

- The **Taiwan Strait** is a 110-mile-wide channel that **separates mainland China from the island of Taiwan**.
- The strait is **also known as the Formosa Strait**

The strait is a busy shipping route, on which millions of tons of cargo are ferried each year. Fishing is another crucial economic activity that is carried out along the strait.



<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/china-sends-fighters-towards-taiwan/article32644085.ece>

86. **With reference to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), consider the following statements.**

1. The UNHCR was established due to the mass migration post Second World War in Europe.

2. Their work is mainly governed under the 1951 Refugee Convention.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

Answer: C

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The UNHCR was established in **1950** in the wake of the **mass displacements caused due to the Second World War in Europe.**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The **chief legal document** that governs the work of the UNHCR is the **1951 Refugee Convention.**
- **India is not party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol** and does not have a national refugee protection framework. However, it continues to grant asylum to a large number of refugees from neighbouring States and respects UNHCR's mandate for other nationals, mainly from Afghanistan and Myanmar.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/great-power-little-responsibility/article32655126.ece>

**87. “Trami”, an ancient tradition that was recently in news is practiced in?**

- A. Odisha
- B. Kashmir
- C. Assam
- D. Maharashtra

Answer: B

**Explanation:**

- The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, which is wreaking havoc the world over, has hit the **Kashmir Valley’s** centuries-old culinary tradition of ‘**trami**’ — **eating together** from one plate during weddings.

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- In 'trami', four guests join in simultaneously to have their portion of food from around a circular 2X2 ft decorated copper plate.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/pandemic-puts-on-hold-kashmiri-wedding-tradition-of-eating-together-from-one-plate/article32655494.ece>

#### 88. With reference to World Bank, consider the following statements?

1. The World Bank Group consists of five development institutions.
2. It also works with the private sector.
3. India joined the World Bank immediately post-independence.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

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

Answer: **D**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct: The World Bank Group consists of five development institutions.**
  - International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) provides loans, credits, and grants.
  - International Development Association (IDA) provides low- or no-interest loans to low-income countries.
  - The International Finance Corporation (IFC) provides investment, advice, and asset management to companies and governments.
  - The Multilateral Guarantee Agency (MIGA) insures lenders and investors against political risk such as war.
  - The International Centre for the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) settles investment-disputes between investors and countries.

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- **Statement 2 is correct:** The Bank Group works with country governments, **the private sector**, civil society organizations, regional development banks, think tanks, and other international institutions on issues ranging from climate change, conflict, and food security to education, agriculture, finance, and trade.
- **Statement 3 is incorrect: India was one of the forty-four original signatories** to the agreements reached at Bretton Woods that established the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/no-preference-for-make-in-india-in-world-bank-project-to-curb-covid/article32655167.ece>

**89. With reference to Financial Intelligence Unit- India, consider the following statements.**

1. It comes under the Finance Ministry
2. It aims to safeguard the country from money laundering, terrorism financing and other economic offences

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** FIU-IND is **an independent body** reporting **directly to the Economic Intelligence Council (EIC) headed by the Finance Minister.**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is responsible for coordinating and strengthening efforts of national and international intelligence, investigation and enforcement agencies in pursuing the global efforts against money laundering and related crimes.

It aims to provide quality financial intelligence for safeguarding the financial system from the abuses of **money laundering, terrorism financing and other economic offences**



<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/fincen-files-swiss-leaks-panama-papers-now-sars-bank-reports-that-alert-law-enforcement-agencies-6603949/>

90. To which dynasty does Ganapati Deva belong to?

- A. Kakatiya
- B. Chola
- C. Gupta
- D. Nanda

Answer: A

**Explanation:** The **Kakatiya** dynasty was a South Indian dynasty whose capital was Orugallu, now known as Warangal. It was eventually conquered by the Delhi Sultanate.

- The Malkapuram inscription of Visvesvara Sivacharya, the preceptor of Kakatiya rulers **Ganapati-deva** and Rudrama-devi, also connects the Kakatias to the solar dynasty (Sūryavaṃsa).
- He significantly expanded Kakatiya lands during the 1230s when he launched a series of attacks outside the dynasty's traditional Telangana region and thus brought under Kakatiya control the Telugu-speaking lowland delta areas around the Godavari and Krishna rivers. The outcome in the case of all three dynasties, says historian Richard Eaton, was that they "catalysed processes of supralocal identity formation and community building.
- Ganapati was keen to bolster the dynasty's economy. He encouraged merchants to trade abroad, abolishing all taxes except for a fixed duty and supporting those who risked their lives to travel afar. He created the **man-made Pakhal Lake**.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/an-ancient-temples-transition-over-years-of-neglect/article32654651.ece>

91. Consider the following statements.

1. Minimum Support Price(MSP) is fixed on the recommendation of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)
2. MSP is used to counter price volatility

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The MSP is fixed on the **recommendations** of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) of the Union government takes a final decision on the level of MSPs and other recommendations made by the CACP.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** MSP is used to **counter price volatility of agricultural commodities** due to the factors like variation in their supply, lack of market integration and information asymmetry.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/govt-announces-26-hike-for-wheat-msp-amid-farmers-protests/article32663652.ece>

92. “The two state solution”, which originated in the 1940’s, is related to

- A. India- Pakistan
- B. Israel- Palestine
- C. Iraq-Syria
- D. Sudan-South Sudan

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

- The “two state solution” is based on a **UN resolution of 1947** which proposed two states - one would be a state where Zionist **Jews** constituted a majority, the other where the **Palestinian Arabs** would be a majority of the population. The idea was however rejected by the Arabs.

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- The two-state solution to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict envisages an independent State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel, west of the Jordan River.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/india-and-the-abraham-accords/article32662790.ece>

93. **Kavkaz 2020, recently seen in news is a military exercise of**

- A. Russia
- B. Uzbekistan
- C. Kyrgyzstan
- D. Kazakhstan

Answer: A

**Explanation:**

- **Kavkaz-2020 Exercise-** It is a strategic command-post exercise, and also known as **Caucasus-2020**.
- The tri-service exercise is part of a four-year exercise cycle of the **Russian army**. Previous editions of the exercise were held in 2012 and 2016. Member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and Central Asian countries would be participating.
- India has withdrawn its participation from Kavkaz 2020, a multinational tri-services exercise in Russia, citing Covid-19 as the official reason.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/with-china-as-backdrop-new-delhis-moscow-watch/article32663538.ece>

94. **Consider the following statements about No- Confidence Motion**

1. There is no mention of a No-Confidence Motion in the Constitution of India.
2. If a “Motion of Thanks “fails in the Lok Sabha, it is considered as the defeat of the government.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** There is no mention of a No-Confidence Motion in the Constitution of India. **The procedure is laid down under Rule 198 of Rules of Procedure and conduct of the Lok Sabha**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** The address of the president, is discussed in both the Houses of Parliament on a motion called the ‘Motion of Thanks’. **The Motion of Thanks must be passed in the Lok Sabha** . It is one of the ways through which the Lok Sabha can also express a lack of confidence in the government.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rajya-sabha-suspends-8-opposition-mps/article32657429.ece>

**95. Who is known as the Indian Machiavelli**

- A. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- B. Subhas Chandra Bose
- C. Kautilya
- D. Raja Ram Mohan Roy

Answer: C

**Explanation:**

- **The great Mauryan scholar**, philosopher and politician **Chanakya** (a.k.a Kautilya) is called the ‘**Indian Machiavelli**’.
- Chanakya, also called Kautilya or Vishnugupta, (flourished 300 BCE), Hindu statesman and philosopher who wrote a classic treatise on polity, Artha-shastra (“The Science of Material Gain”), a compilation of almost everything that had been written in India up to his time regarding artha (property, economics, or material success).
- Niccolò Machiavelli was an Italian diplomat, statesman, historian, philosopher, writer, dramatist and poet of the Renaissance period. He’s most notably known for his magnum opus treatise “The

Prince” which establishes fundamentals for young princes to become effective leaders, statesman and kings their lives, a guidebook on how to be a influential king; crudely speaking. He is also often dubbed as the “King Maker”

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/interpreting-the-india-china-conversations/article32663536.ece>

96. With reference to the Air Quality Index(AQI), consider the following statements.

1. Carbon Dioxide is a pollutant under AQI
2. Airborne particles are one of the most dangerous pollutants for health

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect: Carbon Dioxide is not considered as a pollutant.** It is a green house gas. The calculated pollutants are
  - Ground-level ozone,
  - PM10,
  - PM2.5,
  - Carbon monoxide,
  - Sulfur dioxide,
  - Nitrogen dioxide,
  - Ammonia
- **Statement 2 is correct: Ground-level ozone and airborne particles** are the two pollutants that pose the greatest threat to human health in this country.

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- The Air Quality Index (AQI) is used for reporting daily air quality. It tells you how clean or polluted your air is, and what associated health effects might be a concern for you. The AQI focuses on health effects you may experience within a few hours or days after breathing polluted air.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/epca-chief-asks-punjab-haryana-to-act-against-stubble-burning/article32672708.ece>

97. With reference to the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), consider the following statements.

1. It is an executive body
2. The UIDAI is mandated to assign a 10-digit unique identification (UID) number
3. UIDAI is under the Finance Ministry

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: **D**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 and 3 are incorrect:**
- The Unique Identification Authority of India is a **statutory authority** established under the provisions of Aadhaar act 2016 by the Govt. of India **under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The UIDAI is mandated to assign a **12-digit** unique identification (UID) number (Aadhaar) to all the residents of India.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/making-the-language-of-the-law-comprehensible/article32672083.ece>



98. In which region is the language Dogri mostly spoken?

- A. Assam
- B. Jammu
- C. Meghalaya
- D. Rajasthan

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Dogri** is a **Northern Indo-Aryan language** spoken by about five million people in India, chiefly in the **Jammu region of Jammu and Kashmir**. It is also spoken in the state of **Himachal Pradesh, and in northern Punjab region**, other parts of Jammu and Kashmir, and elsewhere. Dogri is one of the 22 official languages of India

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/lok-sabha-passes-the-jk-official-languages-bill-2020/article32671667.ece>

99. With reference to Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), consider the following statements.

1. It comes under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
2. It deals with domestic drugs only.

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 Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) is under Directorate General of Health Services, **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**, Government of India

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**Statement 2 is incorrect:** Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, CDSCO is responsible for approval of New Drugs, Conduct of Clinical Trials, laying down the standards for Drugs, control over the **quality of imported Drugs** in the country and coordination of the activities of State Drug Control Organizations by providing expert advice with a view to bring about the uniformity in the enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/covid-19-vaccine-at-least-50-per-cent-efficacy-dgci-issues-new-guidelines/story-tff80MhcJNB8ANmRiaB3ZN.html>

100. **“Stress Testing”, a term recently seen in news refers to**

- A. A technique used to test the resilience of financial institutions
- B. A method used to identify a certain strand of virus
- C. A method used to find new oil wells
- D. A technique used in mineral extraction in tough surfaces.

Answer: A

**Explanation:**

- Stress testing is a **computer-simulated** technique to **analyze how banks and investment portfolios fare in drastic economic scenarios.**
- Stress testing helps gauge investment risk and the adequacy of assets, as well as to help evaluate internal processes and controls.
- Regulations require banks to carry out various stress-test scenarios and report on their internal procedures for managing capital and risk.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/sebi-mulls-stress-tests-swing-pricing-for-mfs/article32672116.ece>

101. **With reference to Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana, consider the following statements.**

1. It will help in building and growing new businesses
2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: C

### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 and 2 is correct**
- Pradhan Mantri YUVA Yojana (Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan) is a centrally sponsored Scheme on **entrepreneurship education and training** being implemented by the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Government of India.**
- The Scheme aims at creating an enabling ecosystem for Entrepreneurship development through Entrepreneurship education and training; Advocacy and easy access to entrepreneurship support network and Promoting social enterprises for inclusive growth.
- Specific objectives and deliverables
  - Educate and equip potential and early stage entrepreneurs
  - Connect entrepreneurs in enabling networks of peers, mentors, funds and business services
  - Support entrepreneurs through Entrepreneurship Hubs (E - Hubs)
  - Catalyze a culture shift to encourage entrepreneurship

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1658106>

102. **Consider the following statements regarding Paris Agreement.**

1. US has decided to withdraw from it.
2. The agreement reaffirms the obligations of developing countries

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:** Currently, 195 UNFCCC members have signed it. However, US President Donald Trump has announced his intention to **withdraw from the agreement by November 2020.**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** In accordance with the principle of “common but differentiated responsibility and respective capabilities” set out in the Convention, developed country Parties are to provide financial resources to assist developing country Parties in implementing the objectives of the UNFCCC. **The Paris Agreement reaffirms the obligations of developed countries, while for the first time also encouraging voluntary contributions by other Parties.** Developed country Parties should also continue to take the lead in mobilizing climate finance from a wide variety of sources, instruments and channels, noting the significant role of public funds, through a variety of actions, including supporting country-driven strategies, and taking into account the needs and priorities of developing country Parties. Such mobilization of climate finance should represent a progression beyond previous efforts.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/china-vows-to-go-carbon-neutral-by-2060/article32680241.ece>

103. Which of the following ministry has launched the Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh (BPKK)?

- A. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- B. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- C. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
- D. Ministry of Food Processing Industries

Answer: A

**Explanation:**

- At the request of the **Ministry of WCD** the Harvard Chan School of Public Health through its India Research Center and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation will document and evaluate

promising regional dietary practices and the messaging around them and develop a food atlas on regional agro-food systems.

- Bhartiya Poshan Krishi Kosh (B.P.K.K.), a web portal having information of India's crop diversity across all districts – for both current and historical crops has been developed. It aims to provide data informed agro ecological contexts required to produce traditional and locally available nutrition-rich crops. The B.P.K.K. is designed to indicate the nutritional value of all major food crops, vegetables and fruits grown in all states and UTs of India down up to a district level. The information is aimed to be useful for all age groups. There is a special focus on dietary charts for pregnant women based on regional preferences

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1658298>

104. Which of the following portals have been made recently to track missing and found children in India?

- A. ChildFind
- B. TrackKids
- C. FindChild
- D. TrackChild

Answer: D

**Explanation:**

- The **Ministry of Women and Child Development** has developed a **web portal “TrackChild”** to track the missing and found children. The TrackChild Portal is implemented with the help of various stakeholders including Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Railways, State Governments/UT Administrations, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards, National Legal Services Authority, etc. National Informatics Centre organises regular training programmes on Trackchild portal as per the requirement of the States/UTs.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1658312>

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105. With reference to the Consolidated Fund of India, consider the following statements.

1. National Investment Fund is parked here
2. Government can take money out of it without parliamentary approval during emergencies.

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: National Investment Fund** (money earned from disinvestment) is deposited in **Public Account of India**
- Besides the normal receipts and expenditure of Government which relate to the Consolidated Fund, certain other transactions enter Government Accounts, in respect of which Government acts more as a banker. Transactions relating to provident funds, small savings, other deposits, etc., are a few examples. The public monies thus received are kept in the Public Account set up under Article 266(2) of the Constitution and the connected disbursements are also made there from.
- Similarly, Receipt and disbursement in respect of certain transactions such as small savings, provident funds, reserve funds, deposits, suspense, remittances etc which do not form part of the Consolidated Fund of the state, are kept in the Public Account are not subject to vote by the State Legislature.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: The government needs parliamentary approval** to withdraw money from Consolidated fund. Contingency Fund of India helps govt meet emergency expenses  
<https://www.thehindu.com/business/centre-retained-11-lakh-cr-of-cess-receipts/article32680256.ece>



106. With reference to Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana(DDU-GKY)consider the following statements.

1. The scheme is not applicable in Left Wing Extremist(LWE) areas due to security concerns.
2. There is mandatory coverage for socially disadvantaged section

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** They are covered. Greater emphasis on projects for poor rural youth in Jammu and Kashmir (HIMAYAT), The North-East region and 27 **Left-Wing Extremist (LWE) districts** (ROSHINI)
- **Statement 2 is correct:** There is **Mandatory** coverage of **socially disadvantaged groups (SC/ST 50%; Minority 15%; Women 33%)**
- DDU-GKY follows a 3-tier implementation model. The DDU-GKY National Unit at MoRD functions as the policy-making, technical support and facilitation agency. The DDU-GKY State Missions provide implementation support; and the Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) implement the programme through skilling and placement projects.
- The Vision of DDU-GKY is to “Transform rural poor youth into an economically independent and globally relevant workforce”
- It aims to target youth, in the age group of 15–35 years.
- DDU-GKY is a part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), tasked with the dual objectives of adding diversity to the incomes of rural poor families and cater to the career aspirations of rural youth.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1658854>

107. Which of the following is the RBI's approach to enhance cyber security of Urban Cooperative Banks?

- A. GUARD
- B. THREAT
- C. SAFE
- D. PROTECT

Answer: A

**Explanation:**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has come out with a document to enhance cybersecurity of urban co-operative banks (UCBs).
- It plans to achieve its objective through a **five-pillared strategic approach GUARD**, viz. Governance Oversight, Utile Technology Investment, Appropriate Regulation and Supervision, Robust Collaboration and Developing necessary IT, cybersecurity skill sets.
- With concerted efforts and involvement of all stake holders, the vision document, with its 12 specific action points, aspires to involve more board oversight over cybersecurity; enable UCBs to better manage and secure IT assets; implement an offsite supervisory mechanism framework for UCBs on cybersecurity-related controls; develop a forum for UCBs so that they can share best practices and discuss practical issues and challenges; and implement a framework for providing awareness/training for all UCBs

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/rbi-releases-document-on-ucbs-cybersecurity/article32689275.ece>

108. "Uighur Muslims", recently seen in news belong to which country?

- A. Iran
- B. Syria
- C. China
- D. Yemen

Answer: C

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## Explanation:

- Uighurs are a Muslim minority community concentrated in the **China's northwestern Xinjiang province**.
- Uighur is a predominantly Turkic-speaking ethnic group.
- According to the United Nations experts and activists, at least 1 million Uighurs and members of other largely Muslim minority groups have been detained in camps in Xinjiang in a crackdown.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/380-detention-camps-in-xinjiang-report/article32688834.ece>

**109. With reference to E-SanjeevaniOPD, consider the following statements.**

1. It is a doctor to doctor telemedicine system
2. It is implemented under Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre (AB-HWCs) programme

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

Answer: **B**

## Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** E-Sanjeevani, is a **doctor to doctor** telemedicine system
- **eSanjeevaniOPD: enables patient-to-doctor tele-consultations.**
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is being implemented under the **Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre (AB-HWCs) programme.**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1658674>

110. The phrase “ Vasudaiva Kutumbakam” has been taken from ?

- A. Maha Upanishad
- B. Shiva Purana
- C. Mahabharata
- D. Ramayana

Answer: A

**Explanation**

- The **Maha Upanishad** is a Sanskrit text and is one of the minor Upanishads of Hinduism. The text is classified as a Vaishnava Upanishad.
- The Vaishnava Upanishad describes Vishnu as the highest being, and above Brahma. Both groups of texts, however, use reverential words of all Hindu gods, and assert them to be the same Atman-Brahman. The **Upanishad** presents a syncretism of Vaishnava and Vedanta ideas, and is notable for its teaching of "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**", or "**the world is one family**"

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/the-foreign-hand-the-hindu-editorial-on-fcra-amendments/article32689241.ece>

111. Consider the following statements about UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL)

1. The proceedings are administered by the International Court of Justice if there is any dispute.
2. India is not a member of UNCITRAL

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

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## Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The proceedings are administered by the **Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)**.
- When problems arise in designating arbitrators for an arbitration under UNCITRAL arbitration rules (e.g. because one of the parties refuses to designate an arbitrator, or when the designated arbitrators are unable to agree on designation of a third arbitrator), the PCA Secretary-General may be requested to serve as an appointing authority.
- The International Court of Justice (ICJ), sometimes known as the World Court, is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN). It settles disputes between states in accordance with international law and gives advisory opinions on international legal issues. The ICJ is the only international court that adjudicates general disputes between countries, with its rulings and opinions serving as primary sources of international law
- **Statement 2 is incorrect: India is a founding member of UNCITRAL.** India is only one of eight countries which have been a member of UNCITRAL since its inception.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/retrospective-taxation-the-vodafone-case-and-the-hague-court-ruling-6613799/>

## 112. Consider the following statements about Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay

1. He was a classical vocalist like Pandit Jasraj
2. Government has started Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana strives to provide continuous power supply to rural India to commemorate him.

**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:** He is a **fundamental political thinker**, the key element was humanism in his political thought. Pandit Upadhyay is one of those thinkers in India who exercised on ‘Swaraj of ideas’. Introduced the basic concept of Indian philosophy in political, social and cultural discourses
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana is a Government of India scheme designed to provide continuous power supply to **rural India**  
<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1659170>

113. “Fridays For Future(FFF)”, a movement recently seen in news is related to

- A. Protection from domestic abuse
- B. Protection of Muslim minority from persecution
- C. Climate Change
- D. Employment for youth

Answer: C

**Explanation:**

- It is a movement that began in Sweden in August 2018 by Greta Thunberg to protest against the lack of action on the climate crisis.
- The hashtags #FridaysForFuture and #Climatestrike became so popular that many students and adults began to protest outside of their Parliaments and local city halls all over the world.  
<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/fridays-for-future-holds-protest-outside-environment-ministry/article32699783.ece>

114. Which among the following is/are correct regarding JIMEX

- 1. It is between India and Japan
- 2. It is conducted biennially between the Indian Army and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force

Select the correct answer using the codes given below

- A. 1 only



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

Answer: A

### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is correct:** JIMEX is a Bilateral Maritime Exercise Between **Japan and India**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect :** It is conducted biennially between the **Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF)**

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1659154>

115. “Positive Pay System”, a term recently seen in news refers to ?

- A. Removing Merchant Discount Rate
- B. Reducing cheque fraud
- C. Paying for an article in a later day
- D. Receiving incentives for digital transaction

Answer: B

### Explanation:

- It is a **fraud detection tool adopted by banks to protect customers against forged, altered or counterfeit cheques.**
- It cross verifies all details of the issued cheque before funds are encashed by the beneficiary.
- It ensures that every high-value cheque valued at Rs 50,000 and above is crossed checked with details provided by the issuing party or the individual.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/positive-pay-system-for-cheque-payments-to-come-into-effect-from-january-1-2021-rbi/articleshow/78322892.cms>

116. Consider the following statements regarding Emissions Trading

1. Emissions trading is a central element of the Montreal protocol
2. It also has a profit motive.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: **B**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Emissions trading is a central element of the **Kyoto protocol** in the form of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).
- The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, also known simply as the Montreal Protocol, is an international treaty designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out the production of numerous substances that are responsible for ozone depletion.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Emissions trading is a market-based approach to controlling pollution. By creating tradable pollution permits **it attempts to add the profit motive as an incentive for good performance**, unlike traditional environmental regulation based solely on the threat of penalties.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-benefits-of-a-carbon-tax/article32709677.ece>

117. Which of the following countries borders “Nagorno-Karabakh”, a place recently seen in news?

- A. Azerbaijan
- B. Armenia
- C. Turkey
- D. Georgia

Answer: **A**

**Explanation:**

**Nagorno-Karabakh is a landlocked region inside Azerbaijan**, in the South Caucasus, within the mountainous range of Karabakh, lying between Lower Karabakh and Zangezur, and covering

the southeastern range of the Lesser Caucasus Mountains. The region is mostly mountainous and forested.



<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/clashes-erupt-between-armenia-azerbaijan/article32709444.ece>

118. “Right to Strike” is a?

- A. Fundamental Right
- B. Legal Right
- C. Constitutional Obligation
- D. Fundamental Duty

Answer: B

**Explanation:**

- In India, **right to protest** is a **fundamental right** under Article 19 of the Constitution of India. **But right to strike is not a fundamental right but a legal right** and with this right statutory restriction is attached in the industrial dispute Act, 1947.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/the-hindu-explains-what-does-the-new-industrial-relations-code-say-and-how-does-it-affect-the-right-to-strike/article32705599.ece>

119. Consider the following statements regarding tax buoyancy

1. It is calculated by dividing change in tax collection with GDP growth.
2. Tax buoyancy is a better indicator than tax elasticity to measure tax responsiveness

**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:** Tax buoyancy is calculated by **dividing change in tax collection with GDP growth.**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Tax elasticity refers to changes in tax revenue in response to changes in tax rate. Usually, **tax elasticity is considered a better indicator** to measure tax responsiveness. Since the changes are made in tax rates and that creates a difference in tax revenue, it is considered as a better indicator

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/growth-compulsions-fiscal-arithmetic/article32709726.ece>

120. **Consider the following statements made by Global Climate Risk Index 2020**

1. India is the 5<sup>th</sup> worst vulnerable country due to climate change
2. India has recorded the highest number of fatalities due to climate change

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:** As per the report **India is the fifth most vulnerable country** to climate change. India's rank has worsened from the 14th spot in 2017 to 5th in 2018 in the global vulnerability ladder

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- **Statement 2 is correct:** The report mentions that **India has also recorded the highest number of fatalities** due to climate change and the second-highest monetary losses from its impact in 2018.
  - The report is released by the Environment think tank, German watch
  - Japan is the worst-hit country in 2018
- <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-benefits-of-a-carbon-tax/article32709677.ece>

**121. Consider the following statements regarding Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)**

1. The RBI Governor has veto power
2. The government nominates three government civil servants out of the 6 membered MPC

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: **D**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The RBI Governor will chair the committee. **The governor, however, will not enjoy a veto power** to overrule the other panel members, but will have a **casting vote in case of a tie**.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** The three central government nominees of the MPC appointed by the search cum selection committee will hold office for a period of four years and will not be eligible for re-appointment. These three central government nominees in MPC are mandated to be persons of ability, integrity and standing, having knowledge and experience in the field of economics or banking or finance or monetary policy. RBI Act prohibits appointing any Member of Parliament or Legislature or public servant, or any employee / Board / committee member of RBI or anyone with a conflict of interest with RBI or anybody above the age of 70 to the MPC

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/mpc-meeting-scheduled-this-week-postponed-rbi-to-announce-fresh-dates/articleshow/78362092.cms>

122. In the Indian context, compensations that India seeks from the foreign defence equipment seller for the purchase of military equipment from them is called as

- A. Compensation investment
- B. Return of purchase
- C. Defence Offset
- D. Defence Buyback

Answer: C

**Explanation:**

- Defence Offsets are a **portion of a contracted price with a foreign supplier that must be re-invested in the Indian defence sector**, or against which the government can purchase technology. Under offset clause, foreign companies are required to invest part of their deal value in the country and meant to improve the domestic defence manufacturing.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rajnath-singh-unveils-new-defence-acquisition-procedure/article32715556.ece>

123. Consider the following statements regarding Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

1. The focus is on both medium and long term debt financing facility
2. Farmer Producer Organizations are a part of this

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:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The scheme shall provide a **medium - long term** debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets through interest subvention and financial support.



- The duration of the Scheme shall be from FY2020 to FY2029 (10 years).
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Farmer Producer Organizations: In case of FPOs the credit guarantee may be availed from the facility **created under FPO promotion scheme.**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/farm-bills-farmer-protests-parliament-rajya-lok-sabha-6618353/>

**124. Consider the following statements regarding “Production Linked Incentive” scheme for electronics manufacturing**

- 1) It’s a scheme by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**)
- 2) It focuses on both small scale and large scale manufacturing.

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:**

**Statement 1 is correct :** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (**MeitY**) introduced **PLI or Production Linked Incentive Scheme, as a part of the National Policy on Electronics.**

The scheme will give incentives between 4-6% to the electronic companies, provided that they manufacture mobile phones and other electronic and nanoelectronic components-- transistors, diodes, thyristors, resistors, capacitors, microelectromechanical systems in India.

In order to position India as a global hub for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) and push further the vision of the National Policy on Electronics (NPE) 2019, three schemes namely the Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI), Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECES) and Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters Scheme (EMC 2.0) have been notified.

**Statement 2 is incorrect:** Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing notified vide Gazette Notification No.CG-DL-E-01042020-218990 dated April 01, 2020 offers a production linked incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in mobile phone manufacturing and specified electronic components, including Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) units. The Scheme would tremendously boost the electronics manufacturing landscape and establish India at the global level in electronics sector.

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/apple-vendors-may-invest-900-mn-under-pli-plan/article32719502.ece>

125. **What does Doctrine of Colourable Legislation refer to?**

- A. Question of competency of the legislation while enacting a law
- B. Question of competency of the judiciary while analysing a law
- C. Question of competency of executive in implementing a law
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

**Explanation:**

- **The doctrine of colourable legislation refers to the question of competency of the legislature while enacting a provision of law.**
- The doctrine of colourable legislation is based on the maxim that what cannot be done directly cannot also be done indirectly. The doctrine becomes applicable when a legislature seeks to do something in an indirect manner when it cannot do it directly. Thus, it refers to the competency of the legislature to enact a particular law.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/an-expert-explains-farm-acts-and-federalism-6622769/>

126. With reference to the “Crime in India” report 2019, consider the following statements.

1. NCRB releases the “Crime in India” report.
2. The recently published report mentions that crimes against women have increased but crimes against Scheduled Castes has decreased.

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:** NCRB is under the Ministry of Home Affairs to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
- **NCRB brings out the annual comprehensive statistics of crime across the country (‘Crime in India’ report)**
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Crimes against women increased 7.3 per cent from 2018 to 2019, and crimes against Scheduled Castes also went up 7.3 per cent in the same period, according to the annual National Crime Record Bureau’s “Crime in India” 2019 report released on Tuesday.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/ncrb-data-7-rise-in-crimes-against-women-6636529/>

127. Consider the following statements about Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights)

**Rules**

1. A properly done medical examination comes before applying a certificate of identity
2. A transgender person is one whose gender does not match the gender assigned at birth

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only

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

Answer: **B**

#### Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** The Central government **put to an end the requirement of a medical examination** for trans persons applying for a certificate of identity in its latest rules framed under the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.
- **Statement 2 is correct:**
  - The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019:
  - It defines a **transgender person as one whose gender does not match the gender assigned at birth.**
  - It prohibits any kind of discrimination against a transgender person, including denial of service or unfair treatment in relation to education, employment, healthcare, access to, or enjoyment of goods, facilities, opportunities available to the public.
  - A transgender person may write an application to the District Magistrate for a certificate of identity, indicating the gender as ‘transgender’.
  - National Council for Transgender persons (NCT) would be established to advise the central government as well as monitor the impact of policies, legislation and projects with respect to transgender persons.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/transgender-rules-issued-no-medical-exam-needed-to-declare-desired-sex-6636480/>

128. **“Green Strategic Partnership” between Indian and Denmark has the features of**

1. Defence ties
2. Creation of jobs
3. Political Cooperation
4. Green Growth

Select the correct answer using the code given below :

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

Answer: **D**

**Explanation:**

The Green Strategic Partnership is a mutually beneficial arrangement to **advance political cooperation**, expand **economic relations and green growth**, **create jobs and strengthen cooperation** on addressing global challenges and opportunities; with focus on an ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-denmark-launch-green-strategic-partnership/article32726691.ece>

129. **The Monetary Policy Committee has a**
- A. Flexible Inflation targeting
  - B. Rigid Inflation targeting
  - C. Mixture of flexible and rigid inflation targeting
  - D. None of the above

Answer: **A**

**Explanation:**

- **India adopted a flexible inflation targeting framework** as a formal legal mandate of the RBI in March 2016. The preamble to the RBI Act, as well as relevant sections in the Act were amended to enable this change. The frame- work entailed many details such as on the rate of inflation to be targeted, the band, the measure, the composition of the Monetary Policy Committee and the objective. One of these sections require that the rate of inflation to be targeted needs to be reviewed every five years. In March 2021, the central government along with the RBI is required to review the target.

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- The Agreement mandated RBI to bring down inflation to 6% by January 2016 and to 4% with a band of +/- 2 percent for all subsequent years.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/monetary-policy-committee-what-delay-in-rbi-panel-meet-means-6637220/>

130. **With reference to the Kasturi Rangam Committee, consider the following statements.**

1. A complete ban on mining, quarrying and sand mining in Ecologically Sensitive Areas
2. The Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP) designated the entire hill range as an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA).
3. Highly polluting industries should not be allowed

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

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

Answer: C

#### **Explanation**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** A complete ban on mining, quarrying and sand mining in ESA was recommended. Current mining areas in the ESA should be phased out within the next five years, or at the time of expiry of mining lease, whichever is earlier.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** Instead of the total area of Western Ghats, **only 37%** (i.e. 60,000 sq. km.) of the total area be brought under ESA under Kasturirangan report. **Statement 2 is from Gadgil report**
- **Statement 3 is correct:** **Red industries** i.e. which are highly polluting **be strictly banned** in these areas.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/ngt-concerned-as-6-states-want-6k-sqkm-to-be-taken-off-western-ghats-eco-zone-6636663/>