

INSIGHTS IAS REVISION QUESTIONS FOR UPSC PRELIMS – 2019

This document is the compilation of **100 questions** that are part of **InsightsIAS'** famous REVISION initiative for **UPSC Civil Services Examination – 2019** (which has become most anticipated annual affair by lakhs of IAS aspirants across the country). These questions are carefully framed so as to give aspirants tough challenge to test their knowledge and at the same time improve skills such as intelligent guessing, elimination, reasoning, deduction etc – which are much needed to sail through tough Civil Services Preliminary Examination conducted by UPSC.

These questions are based on this **Revision Timetable** which is posted on our website (www.insightsonindia.com). Every year thousands of candidates follow our revision timetable – which is made for SERIOUS aspirants who would like to intensively revise everything that's important before the exam.

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Wish you all the best!

Team InsightsIAS

Solutions – (Day 5)

1. Consider the following statements regarding Outer Space Treaty

1. It bars states party to the treaty from placing weapons of mass destruction in orbit of Earth, installing them on the Moon or any other celestial body, or otherwise stationing them in outer space.
2. The treaty also states that the exploration of outer space shall be done to benefit all countries and shall be free for exploration and use by all the States.
3. India is not party to it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: D

Outer Space Treaty is a legal entity and came in **1966** as a legal document towards the General Assembly. The Treaty was opened for signature by the three depository Governments (the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) in January 1967, and it entered into force in October 1967.

- The Outer Space Treaty represents the basic legal framework of international space law. Among its principles, it bars states party to the treaty from placing weapons of mass destruction in orbit of Earth, installing them on the Moon or any other celestial body, or otherwise stationing them in outer space.
- It exclusively limits the use of the Moon and other celestial bodies to peaceful purposes and expressly prohibits their use for testing weapons of any kind, conducting military man oeuvres, or establishing military bases, installations, and fortifications (Article IV).
- However, the Treaty does not prohibit the placement of conventional weapons in orbit. The treaty also states that the exploration of outer space shall be done to benefit all countries and shall be free for exploration and use by all the States.
- **India is party to Outer Space Treaty.**

2. The term 'Asian premium' is often seen in news. It is used in the context of

- (a) The special premium amount charged by World Bank especially for ASEAN countries.
- (b) Asian Premium is extra charge being collected by OPEC countries from Asian countries when selling oil in comparison to western countries.
- (c) The extra premium charged by Asian Development Bank to non-Asian members.
- (d) None of the statements (a), (b), (c) are correct.

Solution: B

- **Asian Premium** is *extra charge* being collected by **OPEC countries** from Asian countries when selling oil in comparison to western countries.
- The discriminatory Asian Premium is mainly used by OPEC countries to subsidised western buyers at cost of Asian buyers

3. Consider the following statements regarding 'Financial Stability and Development Council' (FSDC):

1. Members of FSDC include the heads of regulatory bodies like SEBI, RBI, PFRDA etc.
2. FSDC address inter-regulatory coordination issues and thus spur financial sector development.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: C

- The Chairman of the FSDC is the Finance Minister of India and its members include the heads of the financial sector regulatory authorities (i.e, SEBI, IRDA, RBI, PFRDA and FMC) , Finance Secretary and/or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (Ministry of Finance), Secretary, (Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance) and the Chief Economic Adviser.
- To strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism for maintaining financial stability and enhancing inter-regulatory coordination, Indian Government has setup an apex-level Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), vide its notification dated 30th December, 2010. The first meeting of the Council was held on 31st December, 2010.

4. Consider the following statements

1. Once a particular area is declared as a market area under APMC act it falls under the jurisdiction of a market committee, no person or agency is allowed to freely carry on wholesale marketing activities.
2. Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), which is implemented on the request of State Governments for procurement of perishable and horticultural commodities in the event of fall in market prices.
3. Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) fixes minimum support prices for around 24 commodities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: D

Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) is a **statutory market** committee constituted by a State Government in respect of trade in certain notified agricultural or horticultural or livestock products, under the Agricultural Produce Market Committee Act issued by that state government.

- Once a particular area is declared as a market area and falls under the jurisdiction of a Market Committee, no person or agency is allowed to freely carry on wholesale marketing activities. APMC Acts provide that first sale in the notified agricultural commodities produced in the region such as cereals, pulses, edible oilseed, fruits and vegetables and even chicken, goat, sheep, sugar, fish etc., can be conducted only under the aegis of the APMC, through its licensed commission agents, and subject to payment of various taxes and fee. The producers of agricultural products are thus forced to do their first sale in these markets.
- The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). However MSP is price fixed by Cabinet committee on Economic Affairs to protect the producer – farmers – against excessive fall in price during bumper production years.
- Minimum support prices are currently announced for 24 commodities including seven cereals (paddy, wheat, barley, jowar, bajra, maize and ragi); five pulses (gram, arhar/tur, moong, urad and lentil); eight oilseeds (groundnut, rapeseed/mustard, toria, soyabean, sunflower seed, sesamum, safflower seed and nigerseed); copra, raw cotton, raw jute and virginia flu cured (VFC) tobacco.

Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) is a price support mechanism implemented on the request of State Governments for procurement of perishable and horticultural commodities in the event of a fall in market prices. The Scheme is implemented when there is at least 10% increase in production or 10% decrease in the ruling rates over the previous normal year.

5. Reserve bank of India (RBI) can print hard currency to meet fiscal deficit at exceptional circumstances. Why RBI doesn't take such kind of measure ?

- (a) RBI has to oblige the norms of International Monetary Fund, while meeting deficit.

- (b) There is no provision in Reserve Bank of India Act, 1935 to print currency to meet deficit.
- (c) Printing of hard currency to meet deficit may cause hyperinflation.
- (d) RBI has to take permission from President to print currencies, which is cumbersome process.

Solution: C

- Printing money just for meeting a deficit creates over flow of money into the market creating hyperinflation. So, RBI usually don't take such measure.

6. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding green revolution ?

1. High yielding variety (HYV) seeds were used to improve productivity
2. It primarily benefitted the wheat growing regions.
3. India nearly achieved self-sufficiency in food grains production

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Solution: B

7. Which of these is the final authority to approve a merger of the State bank of India with its subsidiaries ?

- (a) Bank Board Bureau
- (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (c) Union Cabinet
- (d) Parliament of India

Solution: D

The Union Cabinet has recently approved the merger of SBI and five of its associate/subsidiary banks. However, this will have to be approved by the Parliament.

- For this purpose, the Cabinet has also approved the introduction of a Bill in Parliament to repeal the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959 and the State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956.
- Parliament has approved the bill to merge six subsidiary banks with the State Bank of India NSE -1.61 % (SBI) with the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday clearing the State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017.

8. Consider the following statements

1. International Sea Bed Authority is a non-governmental body largely involved in research and exploration of marine mineral resources.
2. India's Deep Ocean Mission aims to develop capabilities to exploit resources in Arctic and Antarctic region.
3. Polymetallic nodules are generally found in deep ocean bed and have strategic importance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: C

International Seabed Authority (ISA) is a **UN body** set up to regulate the exploration and exploitation of marine non-living resources of oceans in international waters.

- The '**Deep Ocean Mission**' plan will enable India to develop capabilities to exploit resources in the **Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB)**.
- India has been allotted 75,000 square kilometres in the Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB) by UN International Sea Bed Authority for exploration of polymetallic nodules. CIOB reserves contain deposits of metals like iron, manganese, nickel and cobalt.
- **Polymetallic nodules** (also known as manganese nodules) are potato-shaped, largely porous nodules found in abundance carpeting the sea floor of world oceans in deep sea. Besides manganese and iron, they contain nickel, copper, cobalt, lead, molybdenum, cadmium, vanadium, titanium, of which nickel, cobalt and copper are considered to be of economic and strategic importance.

9. Consider the following statements

1. Hubble Space Telescope was launched by NASA in 1970's and it has capability to observe space from x-ray to ultraviolet rays of electromagnetic spectra.
2. James Webb Telescope will be the successor to the Hubble space telescope.
3. Astrosat is India's first dedicated multi wavelength space observatory launched on GSLV in 2015.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

- (c) 2 only
- (d) 2 and 3 only

Solution: C

The **Hubble Space Telescope** is a **large telescope** in space. **NASA** launched Hubble in **1990**. It was built by the United States space agency NASA, with contributions from the European Space Agency.

The **James Webb Space Telescope** is a space telescope that will be the **successor** to the Hubble Space Telescope. The JWST will provide greatly improved resolution and sensitivity over the Hubble, and will enable a broad range of investigations across the fields of astronomy and cosmology.

Astrosat is **India's** first dedicated **multi-wavelength space observatory**. It was launched on a **PSLV-XL** on 28 September 2015. With the success of this satellite **ISRO** has proposed to launch **AstroSat-2** as a successor for Astrosat when nears its five-year life span.

10. Consider the following statements

1. Champion Sectors are identified by the Group of Secretaries for promoting their development and achieving their potential in their respective sectors.
2. Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion would spearhead the initiative for the Champion Sectors in manufacturing.
3. Department of Commerce would coordinate the proposed initiative for the Champion Sectors in Services.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: A

- The Group of Secretaries in their recommendations to the Prime Minister, had identified ten Champion Sectors, including seven manufacturing related sectors and three services sectors, for promoting their development and achieving their potential.
- It was subsequently decided that **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion**, the nodal department for '**Make in India**', would spearhead the initiative for the Champion Sectors in **manufacturing** and **Department of Commerce** would coordinate the proposed initiative for the Champion Sectors in **Services**.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=176883>

11. Consider the following statements

1. Food Corporation of India (FCI) decides the issue price of food grains in India
2. Agmark is legally enforced in India by the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act (amended 1986).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: B

A **buffer stock** is created by the government to distribute food grains in the deficit areas and among the poorer strata of society at a price lower than the market price also known as Issue Price.

- **FCI** procures the food grains. It does not decide the issue price. **CACP only recommends prices to the CCEA**. It is the CCEA which finally decides the issue price.

Agmark is certification mark that assures conformity to set of standards approved by Government agency **Directorate of Marketing and Inspection**.

- It is legally enforced by **Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act of 1937** (and ammended in 1986).
- The present AGMARK standards cover quality guidelines for 205 different commodities spanning variety of cereals, pulses, vegetable oils, essential oils, fruits & vegetables, and semi-processed products like vermicelli.

12. Consider the following pairs:

<i>Hill range</i>	<i>State</i>
1. Bodi Hills	: Karnataka
2. Lushai Hills	: Tripura
3. Abor Hills	: Arunachal Pradesh
4. Gawilgarh Hills	: Maharashtra

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

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

- c) 3 and 4 only
- d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Solution: C

- Bodi Hill is located in Tamil Nadu. Lushai Hill is located in Mizoram.

13. Consider the following statements

1. PSBloansin59minutes.com will enable in principle approval for MSME loans up to Rs. 1 crore within 59 minutes from RBI and 5 Public Sector Banks (PSBs).
2. Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance and National Informatics Centre (NIC) has jointly developed a mobile app called Jan Dhan Darshak as a part of financial inclusion (FI) initiative.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: B

- PSBloansin59minutes.com will enable in principle approval for MSME loans up to Rs. 1 crore within 59 minutes from SIDBI and 5 Public Sector Banks (PSBs).
- Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance and National Informatics Centre (NIC) has jointly developed a mobile app called Jan Dhan Darshak as a part of financial inclusion (FI) initiative.

14. Consider the following statements

1. Ramanujacharya chief proponent of advaita subschool of Vedānta.
2. Behdienkhlam festival is celebrated by Apatani tribes of Arunachal Pradesh
3. Gujarat is the first state in India to grant religious minority status to Jews

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- (a) 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) None

Solution: D

Ramanujacharya the chief proponent of **Vishishtadvaita** subschool of **Vedānta**.

Behdienkhlam, one of the most colourful festivals of the State, was recently celebrated in the **Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya**.

Gujarat is the third state in India to grant **religious minority status** to **Jews** after **West Bengal** and **Maharashtra**.

15. Consider the following statements

1. National Register of Citizens was introduced to identify illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and recognize the Indian citizens in
2. Assam is the only state having the arrangement of National Register of Citizens.
3. It was first prepared in 1971, in the wake of Bangladesh liberation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: C

What is **National Register of Citizens (NRC)**?

- The NRC was introduced to identify illegal immigrants from **Bangladesh** and recognise the Indian citizens in Assam. It was first prepared in 1951 and Assam is the only state having this arrangement.

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/12/13/national-register-of-citizens-nrc/>

16. Consider the following statements regarding North-Eastern Council

1. It was established under the provisions of States Reorganization Act of 1956.
2. It is a statutory body with Governors and Chief Ministers of all the eight North Eastern States as its Member.
3. North Eastern Council functions directly under Ministry of Home Affairs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: B

A **North-Eastern Council** was created by a separate Act of Parliament—the North-Eastern Council Act of 1971

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179941>

17. Consider the following statements regarding Panel of Vice-Chairpersons of Rajya Sabha

1. The Vice-Chairpersons are elected by members of the house
2. Any one of them can preside over the house when the office of the chairman or the deputy chairman is vacant.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: D

- Under the **Rules of Rajya Sabha**, the **Chairman nominates** from amongst the members a **panel of vice-chair persons**. Any one of them can preside over the House in the **absence of the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman**.
- It must be emphasized here that a member of the panel of vice-chairpersons **cannot preside** over the House, **when** the **office** of the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman is **vacant**. During such time, the Chairman's duties are to be performed by such member of the House as the **president may appoint** for the purpose

18. Consider the following statements

1. Data generated by NASA's 'MODIS' and 'VIIRS' satellites is utilized by Forest Survey of India to detect forest fires in real time.
2. Northern White species of rhinoceroses has been rendered "functionally extinct" following the death recently of its only surviving male.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: C

Since several years ago, satellites have been used to detect fires. The **Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) sensor** onboard NASA's Terra and Aqua satellites has been used to scan the Earth's surface for fires on a daily basis for almost 15 years.

Since 2012, the **Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS)** onboard the **Suomi NPP satellite** has contributed to this effort by producing **higher resolution images** of the **Earth's surface**.

Sudan (Northern White Rhino), who was 45, lived in Kenya. He was put to sleep on Monday after age-related complications worsened significantly. His death leaves only two females – his daughter and granddaughter – of the subspecies alive in the world.

19. 'Index of eight core industries' is released by

- (a) Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- (b) Central Statistics Office
- (c) National Sample Survey Organization
- (d) Department of Heavy Industries

Solution: A

The Index is compiled and released by **Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA), Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP)**, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

20. With reference to 'National Achievement Survey (NAS)', consider the following statements

1. It was conducted for the Classes 3, 5 and 8 in private unaided schools,
2. The survey tools used multiple test booklets with 45 questions in Classes III and V related to language, mathematics and 60 questions in Class VIII in Mathematics, Language, Sciences and Social Sciences.
3. It is the largest ever national assessment survey in the country.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: B

The **National Achievement Survey (NAS)** is the largest ever national assessment survey in the country and is amongst the largest in the world, was conducted throughout the country today.

- The NAS is a transparent and credible exercise done under third party verification. It was conducted for the Classes 3, 5 and 8 in government and government aided schools.
- The survey tools used multiple test booklets with 45 questions in Classes III and V related to language, mathematics and 60 questions in Class VIII in Mathematics, Language, Sciences and Social Sciences.

The competency based test questions developed reflected the Learning Outcomes developed by the NCERT which were recently incorporated in the Right to Education Act (RTE) by the Government of India. Along with the test items, questionnaires pertaining to students, teachers and schools were also used.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=173462>

21. Nutrient based subsidy scheme covers which of the following fertilizers ?

1. Potash
2. Phosphates
3. Urea

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Solution: A

- **Urea** is kept out of **Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme**.
- **Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS)** programme for fertilizer was initiated in the year 2010. Under the scheme, a fixed amount of subsidy decided on an annual basis is provided on each grade of subsidized Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers, except for Urea, based on the nutrient content present in them.

22. Which of the following best describes 'Bank Rate'?

- (a) It is the rate at which banks lend to their best customers based on the previous balance sheet record.
- (b) It is the rate at which central bank lends money to the commercial banks.
- (c) It is the rate at which bank penalizes the customers if they not paid interest regularly
- (d) None of the statements (a), (b) and (c) are correct.

Solution: B

- **Bank rates** influence lending rates of commercial banks. Higher bank rate will translate to higher lending rates by the banks.

23. Consider the following statements regarding “Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPP) in India”:

1. All envisaged and launched UMPPs are coal based power plants.
2. UMPP’s have higher fuel efficiency and lower greenhouse gas emissions than conventional coal power plants.
3. Power Finance Corporation (PFC) is the nodal implementing agency for UMPPs.

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

Solution: D

- **Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPP)** are a series of ambitious power stations planned by the Government of India. This would entail the creation of an additional capacity of at least 100,000 MW by 2022.
- Ultra Mega Power projects, each with a capacity of 4000 MW or above, are being developed with the aim of bridging this gap. Supercritical technology – A coal combustion technology that allows higher efficiencies than older, “subcritical” generation technology.
- Power Finance Corporation (PFC) is the nodal implementing agency for UMPPs.

24. Which of the following can be the reasons which supports the need for phasing out of subsidies in agriculture ?

1. Subsidies would increase fiscal deficit.
2. Subsidies encourage wasteful use of energy.
3. Fertilizer subsidy has resulted in impaired micronutrients in the soil at many places.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Solution: D

- All the statements are correct.

25. 'Shangri-La Dialogue' is often seen in news, is related to

- (a) Asia's premier defence summit, a unique meeting of ministers and delegates from over 50 countries.
- (b) Two-day summit meeting held between North Korean Chairman Kim Jong-un and U.S. President Donald Trump
- (c) Summit by governors of central Banks of G-20 Nations about global financial stability
- (d) First summit between Putin and Donald Trump held in 2018

Solution: A

- The *IISS Shangri-La Dialogue* is **Asia's premier defence summit**. It's a unique meeting where ministers debate the region's most pressing security challenges, engage in important bilateral talks and come up with fresh solutions together.

(Day-6)

26. What would happen if phytoplankton of an ocean is completely destroyed for some reason?

1. The ocean as a carbon sink would be adversely affected.
2. The food chains in the ocean would be adversely affected.
3. The density of ocean water would drastically decrease.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Solution: A

- Phytoplanktons are food factories of the ocean, it fixes atmospheric carbon dioxide in large quantities (Carbon Sink) and produce food. So, if phytoplanktons

are removed completely removed it leads to catastrophic failure of ocean ecosystem.

- It doesn't influence the density of ocean water.

27. Which of the following is/are the probable reasons for food chains being short ?

1. Loss of energy is progressively high for higher trophic levels.
2. Species at higher levels tend to be more discrete in their food habits.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: D

- Loss of energy is uniform throughout the trophic levels i.e, **10% law**. That is the reason for food chains being short.
- Species at higher levels are more discrete in food habits, but it is not the reason for the short food chain.

28. Which of the following factors have affected the regional distribution of species on the Earth?

1. Frequent glaciations.
2. Inclination of earth.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Solution: C

- Both have affected the distribution since it affects temperature (glaciation) and tilt (Insolation).

29. Consider the following statements regarding 'Benthic Zone' of an ocean ecosystem:

1. It is the region extending between high tide and low tide levels.

2. This is the most productive zone in ocean due to high nutrient supply.
3. Most of the organisms found here are luminescent.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: A

- Benthic zone is the lower most zone of aquatic ecosystem and it is highly unproductive due to lack of sunlight.

30. Consider the following pairs:

<i>Sacred Groves</i>	:	<i>Region</i>
1. Than	:	Assam
2. Kavus	:	Kerala
3. Gamkhap	:	Odisha

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

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

Solution: B

- Gamkhap are the sacred forests found in Manipur.

31. Consider the following statements regarding food chain in ecosystem:

1. In an aquatic ecosystem, more energy flows through grazing food chain than detritus food chain.
2. In a terrestrial ecosystem larger fraction of energy flow through detritus food chain than grazing food chain.
3. Only 10% of energy is lost in energy flow across different trophic levels.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: A

In an aquatic ecosystem, grazing food chain is the major conduit for energy flow. As against this, in a terrestrial ecosystem, a much larger fraction of energy flows through the detritus food chain than through the grazing food chain.

- When energy is passed in an ecosystem from one trophic level to the next, only ten percent of the energy will be passed. Around 90% of energy will be lost.

32. Ecological Succession is generally characterized by

1. Increased productivity
2. Decreased niche development
3. Increased complexity of food webs

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Solution: B

- Increased niche development is the characteristic feature of Ecological succession.

33. Which among the following organisms are involved in nitrogen cycle?

1. Rhizobium
2. Nitrobacter
3. Nitrosomonas
4. Azotobacter

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Solution: D

- All the above organisms involved in nitrogen cycle.

34. The National Green Tribunal can hear cases related to which of the following Acts?

1. The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
2. The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
3. The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
4. Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Solution: A

- NGT has not been vested with powers to hear any matter relating to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and various laws enacted by States relating to forests, tree preservation etc.

<http://www.conservationindia.org/resources/ngt>

35. Which of the following best describes an Indicator species ?

- (a) It is a species whose presence, absence or abundance reflects a specific environmental condition.
- (b) It is a species that has a disproportionately large effect on the communities in which it occurs.
- (c) It is a species non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause harm.
- (d) It is a species which is introduced to reduce the level of pollution in an ecosystem

Solution: A

- Example – Lichens: Quality of air can be determined based on its presence.

36. An ecological pyramid is a diagrammatic presentation to describe trophic levels. How does the knowledge of ecological pyramid can help us in conservation of an ecosystem?

1. It helps us to identify bio-accumulation.
2. It helps us to identify bio-magnification.
3. It helps us to recognize an invasive

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Solution: B

- Ecological pyramid doesn't give evidence on introduction of new species.

37. The relationship between Water Buffalo and Cattle Egret is an example of

- (a) Commensalism
- (b) Parasitism
- (c) Mutualism
- (d) Amensalism

Solution: A

Commensalism is a relationship between two organisms where one receives a benefit or benefits from the other and the other is not affected by it.

- In other words, one is benefited and the other is neither benefited nor harmed.
- Other ex: Anemonefishes or clownfishes – These live amid the tentacles of the anemones which protects them from predators. Predators are poisoned by the nematocysts of the anemones

38. Halophytes plants are important in the context of increasing salinization of land especially due sea level rise because of climate change and global warming. Recently, world's first 'Genetic Garden of Halophytes' was established in

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Odisha

Solution: B

- The world's first Genetic Garden of Halophytes (naturally occurring salt-tolerant plants) was inaugurated at the coastal town of Vedaranyam in Tamil Nadu

39. Which of the following constitutional articles/schedules have bearing upon environment and wildlife?

1. Article 21
2. Article 48 A
3. Article 51 A
4. 10th Schedule
5. 12th Schedule

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Solution: D

- All have bearing on environment. Art 21, 48A, 51A – Right to Life and Liberty, DPSP and Fundamental duties and local governance (12th Schedule).
- The 10th Schedule of Indian Constitution that is popularly referred to as the ‘Anti-Defection Law’. It doesn’t have any bearing upon environment.

40. Which one of the following is the correct sequence of ecosystems in the order of decreasing productivity?

- (a) Oceans, lakes, grasslands, mangroves
- (b) Mangroves, oceans, grasslands, lakes
- (c) Mangroves, grasslands, lakes, oceans
- (d) Oceans, mangroves, lakes, grasslands

Solution: C

- **Mangroves** are one of the **high productive regions** in the world whereas **ocean** has **least productivity**.

41. The ‘Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index’ is published by

- (a) UN World Tourism Organisation
- (b) International Air Transport Association
- (c) World Economic Forum
- (d) Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

Solution: C

- The **WEF** publishes the ‘**Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report**’. India has improved its position from 65th to **40th** position in this index in four years.

42. Consider the following statements

1. Freeze-for-Freeze is a proposal made by China and Russia to defuse escalating tensions on the Korean Peninsula.
2. G77 is a coalition of 134 developing nations founded at the first General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) Conference.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: A

- After summit talks in Moscow Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin made the so-called “freeze-for-freeze” proposal in an effort to defuse escalating tensions on the Korean Peninsula.
- However, The United States has rejected a joint proposal from China and Russia that the US and South Korea suspend joint military exercises in exchange for North Korea halting nuclear and missile tests

The **Group of 77 (G-77)** was established on 15 June **1964** by seventy-seven **developing** countries signatories of the “Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Developing Countries” issued at the end of the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (**UNCTAD**) in Geneva. There were 77 founding members of the organization, but by November 2013 the organization had since expanded to 134 member countries (including China).

43. Consider the following statements

1. Darjeeling Tea was the first Indian product to get the geographical indication tag.
2. Madhya Pradesh has highest number of GI tags.
3. Geographical Indication tag can be given to handicrafts and agricultural products
4. A registered GI shall be valid for 10 years and can be renewed on payment of renewal fee.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: C

- Karnataka has highest number of GI tags

<http://ipindia.nic.in/the-registration-process-gi.htm>

44. The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of Concessional Financing Scheme (CFS) to

- (a) Provide extra financial cushion to companies engaged in making products for the differently abled
- (b) Encourage exploration of hydrocarbons in the sedimentary basins of India
- (c) Support Indian entities bidding for strategically important infrastructure projects abroad.
- (d) None of the statements given above (a), (b) and (c) are correct

Solution: C

Under the CFS, the Govt. of India has been supporting Indian Entities bidding for strategically important infrastructure projects abroad since 2015-16.

Concessional Financing Scheme (CFS)

- The scheme envisages GoI to provide counter guarantee and interest equalization of 2 % to EXIM Bank to offer concessional finance to any foreign Govt. or foreign Govt. owned or controlled entity if any Indian entity, succeeds in getting contract for the execution of a project.
- Under the Scheme, EXIM Bank extends credit at a rate not exceeding LIBOR (avg. of six months) + 100 bps. The repayment of the loan is guaranteed by the foreign govt.
- Under the CFS, the GoI supports Indian Entities bidding for strategically important infrastructure projects abroad since 2015-16.
- Since the objectives of the Scheme continue to be relevant, it is proposed to extend the Scheme for another five years from 2018 to 2023.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181368>

45. Consider the following statements

1. India has signed Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) with Russia in 2016.
2. Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) has signed between US and India in 2018 and is valid for next 50 years.
3. COMCASA allows India to procure transfer specialised equipment for encrypted communications for US origin military platforms.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: A

- India has signed Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) with United States in 2016.
- **COMCASA** is an India-specific version of the Communication and Information on Security Memorandum of Agreement (CISMOA). It comes into force immediately, and is valid for a period 10 years.
- COMCASA allows India to procure transfer specialised equipment for encrypted communications for US origin military platforms like the C-17, C-130 and P-8Is. Currently, these platforms use commercially available communication systems.

46. With reference to 'UN's Global Compact on Migration', consider the following statements

1. It is the first-ever UN global agreement on a common approach to international migration in all its dimensions.
2. It is legally binding in nature
3. India is one of the signatories of it.

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

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

Solution: B

The **Global Compact for Migration** is the **first-ever UN global agreement** on a common approach to international migration in all its dimensions.

- The global compact is **non-legally binding**.

- It is grounded in values of state sovereignty, responsibility-sharing, non-discrimination, and human rights, and recognizes that a cooperative approach is needed to optimize the overall benefits of migration, while addressing its risks and challenges for individuals and communities in countries of origin, transit and destination.

India is signatory to it.

47. Which of the following countries share borders with Indian Ocean.

1. Ethiopia
2. Jordan
3. Israel
4. Kuwait

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Solution: A

- The Gulf of Aqaba borders Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

48. Corporate social responsibility can significantly contribute towards societal well-being. In this context, which of the following statements are correct?

1. Every company having net worth of Rs. 500 crore or more, or turnover of Rs. 1000 crore or more during any financial year shall constitute a Corporate Social Responsibility Committee.
2. Failing to constitute the committee leads to cancellation of corporate license to do business.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

Solution: A

- Failing to constitute the committee will not lead to cancellation of corporate license to do business.

49. Which of the following statements are correct regarding 'Aadhaar'?

1. It can be issued only for Indian citizen.
2. It is primarily issued for ensuring good governance and for efficient, transparent, and targeted delivery of subsidies

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: B

- **Aadhaar card** is issued to **residents of India**, should not be necessarily citizens of India who have been staying in India for 182 days or more in last 1 year from on the date of application. So even a person is foreign nationals and has been staying in India for more than 6 months can apply for Aadhaar card.
- Aadhaar is primarily issued for ensuring good governance and for efficient, transparent, and targeted delivery of subsidies, benefits and services to individuals residing in India.

50. Consider the following pairs:

<i>Harvest Festivals</i>	<i>State/Region</i>
1. Wangala	: Mizoram
2. Lohri	: Punjab
3. Nuakhai	: Odisha

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Solution: C

- **Lohri** is a renowned harvest festival in **Punjab** that showcases traditional dance and songs
- **Wangala** is the merriment of 100 drums played by **Garos tribes** of northeast India. This is one of the popular harvest festivals of India marking the onset of winter. Wangala is celebrated in **Meghalaya** and **Assam**

- **Nuakhai** is an age old harvest celebration in **Odisha**.

Day-7

51. In which of the following regions in India coral reefs are found ?

1. Rann of Kutch
2. Gulf of Mannar
3. Sundarbans
4. Lakshadweep

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Solution: D

- Corals are not located in Sunderban region due to the high influx of freshwater. Coral needs sea water of optimum salinity, which is diluted by the influx of fresh water from Ganga and Brahmaputra in Sunderbans.

52. The Living Planet Report is brought out by

- (a) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- (b) World Wildlife Fund
- (c) Conservation International
- (d) Birdlife International

Solution: B

- The Living Planet Report is published every two years by the World Wide Fund for Nature since 1998. It is based on the Living Planet Index and ecological footprint calculations.
- The Living Planet Report is the world's leading, science-based analysis on the health of our only planet and the impact of human activity.

53. Three of the following criteria have contributed to the recognition of Western Ghats, Sri Lanka and Indo Burma regions as hotspots of biodiversity

1. Species richness
2. Vegetation density
3. Endemism
4. Ethno-botanical importance
5. Threat perception
6. Adaption of flora and fauna to warm and humid conditions

Which three of the above are correct criteria for recognizing biodiversity hotspots ?

- (a) 1, 2 and 6 only
- (b) 2, 4 and 6 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 5 only
- (d) 3, 4 and 6 only

Solution: C

- Vegetation density, botanical importance, adaptation of flora and fauna are **not considered** while recognizing hot spots of biodiversity.

54. Which of the following can be threats to the biodiversity of a geographical area ?

1. Global warming
2. Fragmentation of habitat
3. Invasion of alien species
4. Promotion of vegetarianism

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Solution: A

- Promotion of vegetarianism doesn't threaten biodiversity of geographical area.

55. Which among the following regions in India is/are biodiversity hotspots ?

1. Eastern Ghats
2. Eastern Himalayas
3. Nicobar Islands

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Solution: C

There are 4 biodiversity hotspots in India:

1. **Himalaya:** Includes the entire Indian Himalayan region (and that falling in Pakistan, Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, China and Myanmar)
2. **Indo-Burma:** Includes entire North-eastern India, except Assam and Andaman group of Islands (and Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and southern China)
3. **Sundalands:** Includes Nicobar group of Islands (and Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Philippines)
4. **Western Ghats and Sri Lanka:** Includes entire Western Ghats (and Sri Lanka)

56. Consider the following statements:

1. Biodiversity is normally greater in the lower latitudes as compared to the higher latitudes.
2. Along the mountain gradients, biodiversity is normally greater in the lower altitudes as compared to the higher altitudes.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: C

- Biodiversity normally varies with latitude and altitude. Lower latitude and altitude has relatively higher biodiversity.

57. With reference to acidification of ocean, consider the following statements:

1. It largely occurs due to the high absorption of nitrogenous based acidic compounds.
2. Productivity of corals may increase due to increase in nitrogenous nutrients.
3. Introduction of sea grasses can reduce the impact of acidification.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: C

- **Acidification of ocean** mainly occurs due to the carbon compounds, nitrogenous compounds contribute fraction to ocean acidification.
- **Productivity of corals** may increase due to the availability of nitrogenous compounds and sea grass has ability to control ocean acidification.

58. With reference to 'decomposition', which of the following statements is/are correct ?

1. Humus is highly susceptible to microbial action and undergo decomposition at fast rate.
2. Decomposition is slower if detritus is rich in nitrogen.
3. Low temperature and lack of oxygen supply inhibit the decomposition.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Solution: B

- **Humus** is less susceptible to microbial action and act as a reservoir of nutrients.

59. Which of the following statements is/are correct about a biosphere reserve ?

1. A biosphere reserve focuses on protection of a single species rather than the entire ecosystem.

2. Gujarat has no biosphere reserve.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Solution: D

- Biosphere reserve focuses on conservation of whole biome rather than a species. Great Rann of Kutch biosphere is located in Gujarat.

60. Which of the following activities can lead to desertification ?

1. Overgrazing
2. Mining activities
3. Unscientific irrigation of arid lands
4. Uncontrolled exploitation of groundwater

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Solution: D

- All the above activities leads to desertification.

61. Which of the following are the favorable conditions for coral reef formations ?

1. Shallow continental shelf
2. High sediments in the water
3. Areas where fresh waters from rivers enter oceans
4. Mean annual temperatures should be between 22 – 29 degree C.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Solution: D

- High fresh water influx and sediments are unfavorable conditions for coral reef formations

62. Which of the following habitats can be considered as 'Ecotone' ?

1. Lagoons
2. Mangroves
3. River Bank
4. Estuary

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Solution: C

- All the above mentioned habitats are Ecotones.

63. Which of the following best describes 'Edge Effect' ?

- (a) It refers to the changes in population or community structure that occur at the boundary of two habitats
- (b) It refers to the changes in species composition at boundary between a terrestrial and aquatic habitat.
- (c) It refers to the reduction in species variety at the edge of the Earth's polar areas.
- (d) It refers to the near extinction of a particular species owing to balances in a food web

Solution: A

- Option A best suits the definition of edge effect,
- however option B restricts itself to aquatic and terrestrial.

64. With reference to ecosystem service, which of the following are the examples of regulating services ?

1. Carbon sequestration
2. Hydrological cycle
3. Ensuring genetic diversity

4. Provision of natural medicines

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Solution: A

- Provision of natural medicines doesn't constitute regulating services of ecosystem.

65. Which of the following adaptations is/are found in desert animals ?

1. Long legs for avoiding excessive heat from sand
2. Nocturnal in habit
3. Aestivation during summer months.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Solution: B

- All the above are the adaptations of desert animals.

66. Which of the following states have tropical wet evergreen forests ?

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Haryana
3. Gujarat
4. Karnataka

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Solution: C

- Haryana and Gujarat doesn't include tropical evergreen forests.

67. Consider the following statements

1. Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) is the world's first multilateral disarmament agreement to provide for the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction within a fixed time frame.
2. The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is an intergovernmental organisation and the implementing body for the Chemical Weapons Convention.
3. The OPCW had been awarded Nobel Peace Prize in 2013 for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: D

History was made on 29 April **1997** with the entry into force of the **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)**—the world's first multilateral disarmament agreement to provide for the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction within a fixed time frame.

The **Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)** is the **implementing body** for the Chemical Weapons Convention, which entered into force on 29 April 1997.

The OPCW, with its 193 Member States, oversees the global endeavor to permanently and verifiably eliminate chemical weapons.

The **2013 Nobel Prize for Peace** was awarded to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on 10 December 2013 for '**its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons**'.

68. Consider the following statements:

1. The Kuiper Belt is a disk-shaped region past the orbit of Neptune extending roughly from 30 to 50 AU from the Sun containing many small icy bodies.
2. Ceres is a dwarf planet present in the asteroid belt.
3. OSIRIS-REx is ESA's asteroid study and sample-return mission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: C

- The **Kuiper Belt** is a disk-shaped region past the orbit of **Neptune** extending roughly from 30 to 50 AU from the Sun containing **many small icy bodies**. It is now considered to be the **source of the short-period comets**.
- **Ceres** is a **dwarf planet** in the asteroid belt.
- **OSIRIS-REx** is a **NASA's** asteroid study and sample-return mission

69. Consider the following statements

1. Billion Tree Tsunami is launched by Pakistan as a response to the challenge of global warming.
2. Bonn Challenge is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested land into restoration by 2020 and 350 million by 2030.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: C

The **Billion Tree Tsunami** was launched in **2014**, by the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK), Pakistan, as a response to the challenge of global warming. Pakistan's Billion Tree Tsunami restores 350,000 hectares of forests and degraded land to surpass its Bonn Challenge commitment.

The **Bonn Challenge** is a global effort to restore 150 million hectares of the world's degraded and deforested lands by 2020.

- The 2020 target was launched at a high level event in Bonn in 2011 organised by the Government of Germany and IUCN, and was later endorsed and extended to 2030 by the New York Declaration on Forests of the 2014 UN Climate Summit.
- To date, 56 governments, private associations and companies have pledged over 168 million hectares to the Challenge.

70. Consider the following statements:

1. Atal Tinkering Labs are dedicated works spaces where postgraduate students learn innovation skills and develop ideas that will go on to transform India.
2. The labs are powered to acquaint students with state-of-the-art equipment such as 3D printers, robotics & electronics development tools, IoT & sensors etc.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: b)

- The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) under Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) of India.
- The **Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and rules 1945** have entrusted various responsibilities to central & state regulators for regulation of drugs & cosmetics.
- The regulation of manufacture, sale and distribution of Drugs is primarily the concern of the State authorities while the Central Authorities are responsible for approval of New Drugs, Clinical Trials in the country, laying down the standards for Drugs, control over the quality of imported Drugs, coordination of the activities of State Drug Control Organisations and providing expert advice with a view of bring about the uniformity in the enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Source: <https://cdsco.gov.in/opencms/opencms/en/About-us/Functions/>

71. Consider the following statements:

1. The highest point of Andaman and Nicobar islands, the Saddle Peak is located in North Andaman Island.
2. Andaman and Nicobar Islands have highest number of PVTGs.
3. Coco Channel separates Andaman & Nicobar Islands from Indonesia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: A

Saddle Peak or Saddle Hill is located on North Andaman Island in India's Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- At 731 m, it is the **highest point** of the archipelago in the **Bay of Bengal**. It is surrounded by Saddle Peak National Park.
- It is located near Diglipur, a town in North Andaman Island.

Orissa have maximum number of **PVTGs** (13).

Coco Channel separates an **Andaman & Nicobar Islands** from **Myanmar**.

72. Consider the following statements

1. Somalia is a member state of Indian Ocean Rim Association
2. Socotra Archipelago is part of Somalia and located near Gulf of Aden.
3. Katchatheevu Island was ceded to Sri Lanka in 2004.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- (a) 3 only
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) None

Solution: B

Somalia is a member of **Indian Ocean Rim Association**

Socotra, also called Soqotra, located between the Guardafui Channel and the Arabian Sea, is the largest of four islands of the Socotra archipelago. The territory is located near major shipping routes and is officially part of Yemen, and had long been a subdivision of the Aden Governorate.

In 1974, **Katchatheevu** was ceded to Sri Lanka by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi through the Indo-Sri Lankan Maritime agreement to settle the maritime boundary in the Palk Strait with her counterpart Srimavo Bandaranaike.

Though ceded to Sri Lanka, the agreement, which did not specify fishing rights, allowed Indian fishermen to fish around Katchatheevu and to dry their nets on the island.

73. With reference to Nipah virus, consider the following statements:

1. It can be transmitted to humans from animals or contaminated foods or directly from human-to-human.
2. Fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family are the natural host of Nipah virus.
3. There is no treatment or vaccine available for either people or animals.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: D

Key Facts of Nipah Virus:

- **Nipah virus** infection in humans causes a range of clinical presentations, from asymptomatic infection (subclinical) to acute respiratory infection and fatal encephalitis.
- The case fatality rate is estimated at 40% to 75%. This rate can vary by outbreak depending on local capabilities for epidemiological surveillance and clinical management.
- Nipah virus can be transmitted to humans from animals (such as bats or pigs), or **contaminated foods** and can also be transmitted directly from human-to-human.
- **Fruit bats** of the Pteropodidae family are the **natural host** of Nipah virus.
- There is no treatment or vaccine available for either people or animals. The primary treatment for humans is supportive care.
- The 2018 annual review of the WHO R&D Blueprint list of priority diseases indicates that there is an urgent need for accelerated research and development for the Nipah virus.

74. Consider the following statements

1. Laos is a land locked country which shares border with China and Myanmar.
2. Mekong originates in the plateaus of Tibet.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: C

Lao PDR shares a 505 km border with China to the north, 435 km of border with Cambodia to the south, 2,069 km of border with Vietnam to the east, 1,835 km of border with Thailand to the west, and a 236 km border with Myanmar to the northwest.

It flows through many countries: China, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and finally Vietnam. The Mekong begins in the Lasagongma Spring which is in the plateaus of Tibet, disputed part of China, and flows about 2,703 miles (4,350 km) south-east to the South China Sea.

75. Two State Solution, often in news, is regard to

- (a) Political solution between Israel and Palestine.
- (b) Political solution mediated by US between North Korea and South Korea.
- (c) UN proposed solution for resolving conflict India and Pakistan on Kashmir
- (d) Political solution between Iraq and Iran.

Solution: A

- **Two state resolution** is proposed by **UN** for resolving conflicts between **Israel and Palestine**.

(Day-8)

76. Consider the following statements

1. Under Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, States can send a list of wild animals to the Centre requesting it to declare them vermin for selective slaughter.
2. Central Government can declare any wild animal as vermin species.
3. Till now, no animal has been declared as vermin species.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: D

- The **Central Government may by notification**, declare any wild animal other than those specified in **Schedule I** and **part 11 of Schedule H** of **Wildlife Protection Act 1972** to be vermin by listing it in **Schedule V**.
- Animals like the common crow, fruit bats, mice and rats have been listed as vermin in Schedule V of WPA.

77. Which of the following mission is **not** included in India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) ?

- (a) National Solar Mission
- (b) National Soil Mission
- (c) National Water Mission
- (d) National Mission on Sustainable Habitat

Solution: B

- National Soil Mission is not the part of NAPCC.

78. With reference to Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol, consider the following statements:

1. The CDM allows emission-reduction projects in developing countries to earn certified emission reduction (CER) credits.
2. Such CERs cannot be traded and sold and used by industrialized countries to meet a part of their emission reduction targets.
3. It is one of the main source of income for the UNFCCC Adaptation Fund.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are **incorrect** ?

- (a) 2 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) None

Solution: A

- **Carbon Credits** can be traded in the **carbon market**. It is one of the core feature of **UNFCCC**.

79. Consider the following statements regarding National Biodiversity Authority.

1. It was set up to implement the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
2. It has been conferred the status of an autonomous body.
3. It performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory function for Government of India on issues pertaining biodiversity and its conservation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: B

- It was setup to implement National Biodiversity Act, 2002.

80. Consider the following statements regarding UN-REDD Programme

1. It is a collaborative programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, UNDP and UNEP.
2. The incentives received from REDD to developing countries would be passed on to the local communities involved in the protection and management of the forest.
3. It includes incentives for positive elements of conservation and sustainable management of forest.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: D

- All the statements are correct regarding REDD

<https://www.un-redd.org/>

81. Consider the following pairs:

<i>International Conventions</i>	<i>Hazardous Material</i>
1. Stockholm Convention	: Control on trans boundary movement of hazardous material
2. Basel Convention	: Aims to eliminate or restrict the production and use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs).
3. Rotterdam Convention	: Covers Pesticides and Industrial Chemicals

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

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

Solution: C

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is an international environmental treaty, signed in **2001** and effective from May **2004**, that aims to eliminate or restrict the production and use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

The **Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal**, usually known as the Basel Convention, is an international treaty that was designed to reduce the movements of hazardous waste between nations, and specifically to prevent transfer of hazardous waste from developed to developing countries.

The **Rotterdam Convention** (formally, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade) is a multilateral treaty to promote shared responsibilities in relation to importation of hazardous chemicals.

82. Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is constituted under the aegis of

- (a) The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- (b) The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- (c) The Water (Prevention and Control of pollution) Act, 1974
- (d) The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980

Solution: A

Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC), is the apex body constituted under the 'Rules for the Manufacture, Use /Import /Export and Storage of Hazardous Microorganisms / Genetically Engineering Organisms or Cells, 1989'

notified under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**, is mandatory prior to commercial use of genetically modified organisms and products derived therefrom.

83. Consider the following statements regarding 'Eco Mark' label:

1. It is a voluntary labelling scheme for easily identifying environment friendly products.
2. It is administered by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

Solution: C

Eco-mark is a voluntary labelling scheme for easily identifying environment friendly products. The Eco-mark scheme defines as an environmentally friendly product, any product which is made, used or disposed of in a way that significantly reduces the harm it would otherwise cause the environment.

The scheme is one of India's earliest efforts in environmental standards, launched in **1991**, even before the 1992 Rio Summit in which India participated. The scheme was launched by the **Ministry of Environment and Forests**, and is administered by the **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)**, which also administers the Indian Standards Institute (**ISI**) mark quality label, a requirement for any product to gain the Eco-mark label.

84. Consider the following statements regarding protected areas:

1. No alteration of boundaries of a sanctuary/national park shall be made except on recommendation of Union cabinet.
2. Activities like agriculture, mining is prohibited in national park.

Which of the following statements is/are correct ?

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

Solution: B

- Alteration of National park boundaries is decided by **National Wildlife Board** not Union Cabinet.

85. Which of the following belong to the category of primary air pollutants ?

1. Sulphur dioxide
2. Ozone
3. Carbon monoxide
4. Nitric oxide
5. Fine dust particles
6. Formaldehyde

Select the correct using the code given below:

- (a) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (b) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 only
- (d) 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only

Solution: A

- Ozone and Formaldehyde are not primary pollutant.

86. Consider the following statements regarding 'Biodiversity Finance Initiative' (BIOFIN) ?

1. It aims to address the challenges of financing biodiversity initiatives in a comprehensive manner.
2. It was launched by IUCN and WWF.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: A

BIOFIN is managed by the **UNDP Ecosystems and Biodiversity Programme**, in partnership with the European Union and the Governments of Germany and Switzerland, who support the initiative.

<http://www.biodiversityfinance.net/india>

87. Consider the following biosphere reserves:

1. Nokrek
2. Great Nicobar
3. Gulf of Mannar
4. Simlipal

Which of the above are not included in the world network by UNESCO ?

- (a) 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (c) 1, 3 and 4
- (d) None

Solution: D

- All the above have been included in world network of UNESCO's biosphere reserve.

88. Consider the following statements regarding Botanical Survey of India (BSI).

1. BSI is the apex research organisation of the Government of India for carrying out taxonomic and floristic studies on cultivated plant resources of the country.
2. BSI was established in 1890 with the objectives of exploring the plant resources of the country and identifying plant species with economic virtue.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: C

- **BSI** was established in **1890** with the objectives of exploring the plant resources of the country and identifying plant species with economic virtue.
- BSI is the apex research organisation of the Government of India for carrying out taxonomic and floristic studies on cultivated plant resources of the country.

89. The formation of ozone hole in the Antarctic region has been a cause of concern. What could be the reason for the formation of this hole ?

- (a) Presence of prominent tropo-spheric turbulence and inflow of chlorofluorocarbons.

- (b) Presence of prominent polar front and stratospheric clouds and inflow of chlorofluorocarbons.
- (c) Absence of polar front and stratospheric clouds and inflow of methane and chlorofluorocarbons.
- (d) Increased temperature at polar region due to global warming

Solution: B

- **Polar Stratospheric Clouds** or nacreous clouds contain water, nitric acid and/or sulfuric acid.
- They are formed mainly during the event of polar vortex in winter; more intense at south pole.
- The Cl-catalyzed ozone depletion is dramatically enhanced in the presence of polar stratospheric clouds (PSCs).

90. Consider the following statements

1. Central Pollution Control Board was established under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
2. Global Environment Facility was established in the World Bank to assist in the protection of the global environment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: B

The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** of India is a **statutory** organisation under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (Mo.E.F.C)**. It was established in **1974** under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**.

The **Global Environment Facility** was established in October 1992 as a \$1 billion pilot program in the **World Bank** to assist in the protection of the global environment and to promote environmentally sustainable development.

- Since then, the GEF has provided over \$17.9 billion in grants and mobilized an additional \$93.2 billion in co-financing for more than 4500 projects in 170 countries.
- Today, the **GEF is an international partnership of 183 countries**, international institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector that addresses global environmental issues.

- The World Bank serves as the GEF Trustee, administering the GEF Trust Fund (contributions by donors).

91. Consider the following statements regarding Paris Climate Agreement:

1. It aims to limit the global temperature increase well below 2°C above preindustrial levels.
2. Every five years, member countries need to submit updated nationally determined contributions.
3. China has pulled out of Paris climate agreement.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: A

- Recently, **United States** had **pulled out of** the Paris Climate Agreement.

[http://www.arthapedia.in/index.php?title=Paris Agreement on Climate Change](http://www.arthapedia.in/index.php?title=Paris_Agreement_on_Climate_Change)

92. Identify the national park based on following features:

1. It is a part of world's 'hottest hotspots' of biological diversity.
2. It is home to unique, threatened and endangered species like the lion-tailed macaques
3. Rivers Tunga, Bhadra and Netravati, originate from the heart of this National Park.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below.

- (a) Kudremukh National Park
- (b) Bandipur National Park
- (c) Mudumalai National Park
- (d) Silent Valley National Park

Solution: A

The Kudremukh National Park is the second largest Wildlife Protected Area (600.32 km²) belonging to a tropical wet evergreen type of forest in the Western Ghats. Kudremukh National Park is located in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi District and Chikkamagaluru districts of the State of Karnataka.

93. Consider the following statements

1. Core or critical tiger habitat is mentioned only in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. Critical wildlife habitats (CWH) are defined under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, as the “areas of national parks and sanctuaries which are required to be kept as inviolate for the purposes of wildlife conservation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both
- d) None

Solution: C

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=69806>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/new-critical-wildlife-habitat-guidelines-may-protect-forest-dwellers-rights-better/article1991329.ece>

94. Bio-ethanol can be derived through the process of bio-refining from

1. Corn
2. Rice straw
3. Coconut
4. Sea weeds
5. Water hyacinth

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Solution: A

- Bio-ethanol can be derived from all the sources mentioned above.

95. Which of the following organisations has “Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)” as the counter terrorism wing ?

- (a) North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

- (b) Quadrilateral Grouping
- (c) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
- (d) Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO)

Solution: C

SCO comprises of two regional bodies – SCO Secretariat and SCO-RATS (Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure).

- **SCO-RATS** is a **permanent body of the SCO** and is intended to facilitate coordination and interaction between competent authorities of the SCO Member States in the **fight against terrorism, extremism and separatism**. The main functions of SCO-RATS are coordination and information sharing.
- **India became a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation** on 09 June **2017** with the support of all the SCO Member States.
- Since becoming a member India has been **participating** in the activities of **SCO-RATS**.

96. Consider the following statements

1. Exercise Maitree is a joint military exercise between Indian Army and Royal Bhutan Army.
2. Barak 8 is a short range surface to air missile jointly developed by India and Israel.

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

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

Solution: C

Exercise Maitree is a joint military exercise between Indian Army and Royal Thai Army (THAILAND)

BARAK Missile System :

Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM) and Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MR-SAM) are jointly developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), India and M/s Israel Aerospace Industry (IAI), Israel and as per literature available in Internet, M/s IAI, Israel refers this missile as Barak-8 missile system (upgraded version of BARAK Missile System).

97. Which of the following areas are the potential sites to re-introduce Cheetahs in India.

1. Kuno Wildlife Sanctuary
2. Nauradehi sanctuary
3. Buxa Tiger Reserve

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Solution: B

Currently, wildlife experts have identified three regions which have the potential to support cheetah populations. The **Nauradehi** and **Kuno-Palpur Wildlife Sanctuaries** in **Madhya Pradesh** and the **Shahgarh Landscape** in **Rajasthan** have been declared potentially suitable for the reintroduction of the cheetah.

98. Consider the following statements

1. Kerala has highest number of elephants followed by Karnataka and Assam.
2. Elephant is a National Heritage Animal and categorized as least concern under IUCN List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

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

Solution: D

- **Karnataka** has **highest number of elephants** followed by **Assam** and **Kerala**.
- Elephant is listed as **endangered species** under IUCN List.

99. Badakhshan region of Afghanistan, recently in the news, share border with which of the following countries.

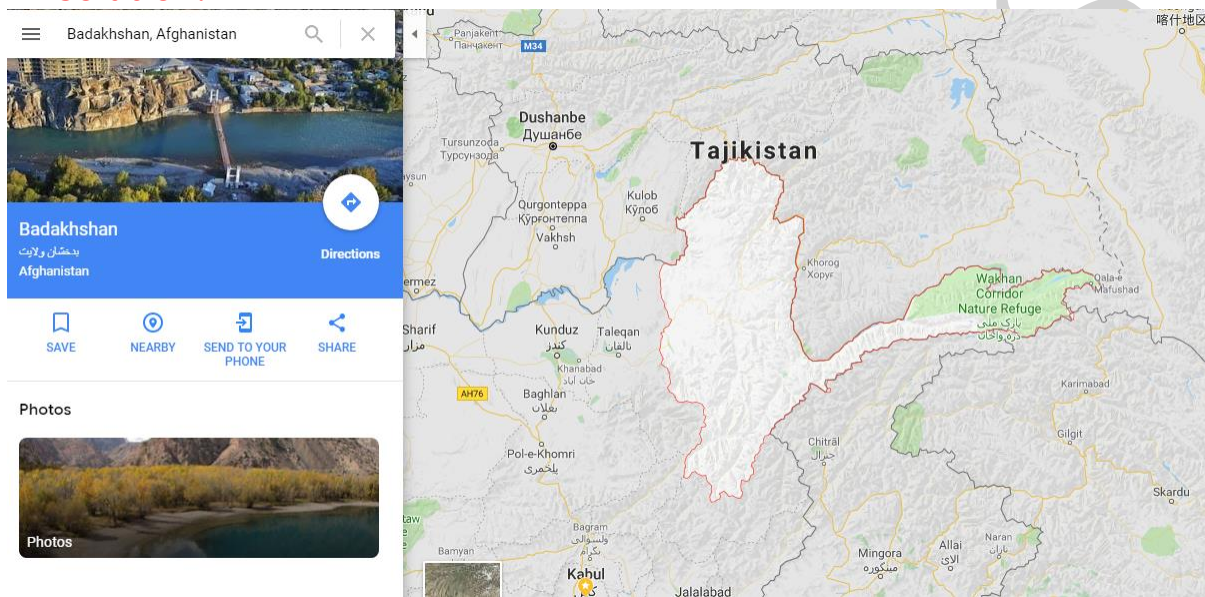
1. China
2. India

3. Pakistan
4. Tajikistan

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Solution: D



<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/at-least-30-killed-in-afghanistan-goldmine-collapse/article25925264.ece>

100. World's largest 3D printed artificial reef, recently in news, is installed in

- (a) Mauritius
- (b) Maldives
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Kiribati Islands

Solution: B

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/sci-tech/world-s-largest-3d-printed-reef-installed-in-maldives-to-help-save-corals-1.4056977>

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