Insights QUIZ

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I. ECONOMY

(Q) Recently which of the following committee was constituted by RBI to address the issues related to the transfer of surplus funds from RBI to government?

a) Urjit Patel Committee  
b) Y. Venugopal Reddy Committee  
c) Bimal Jalan Committee  
d) L K Jha Committee

Solution: c)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) constituted an expert committee headed by former governor Bimal Jalan to review its economic capital framework, and whether the central bank needs to hold as much reserves as it currently does. The expert committee would examine if the central bank’s reserves were adequate, going by the global standards, and if in excess, how much money could be transferred to the government.


(Q) GAFA tax recently seen in news is related to

a) Tax on new start-ups with annual turn-over of more than 1 crore  
b) Tax on Renewable energy products  
c) Tax on large technology and internet companies  
d) None of the above

Solution: c)

French finance minister Bruno Le Maire announced the introduction of a GAFA tax—named after Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon—on large technology and internet companies in France from 1 January 2019. The French proposal is set to target only those profitable companies that have heavy annual global revenue.

The rationale behind devising a separate framework to tax online service providers is this: existing tax norms that are framed envisaging brick and mortar business models are not suitable to regulate online services. This is because the digital economy is characterized by a unique system of value creation resulting from a combination of factors such as sales functions, algorithms and personal information of users. What distinguishes technology companies from traditional businesses is user participation in creating value, which, in turn, translates into revenue. Although using consumer data to improve businesses is not exclusive to the digital economy, the unique ability of digital businesses lies in their power to analyse big data collected via constant user interaction and data mining.

Source: [https://www.livemint.com/Politics/Zag39IyZPanr0mNFR0VFbL/France-to-introduce-tax-on-global-internet-technology-firms.html](https://www.livemint.com/Politics/Zag39IyZPanr0mNFR0VFbL/France-to-introduce-tax-on-global-internet-technology-firms.html)

(Q) Consider the following statements about Public Credit Registry.

1. A public credit registry is an information repository that collates all loan information of both individuals and corporate borrowers.
2. M. Deosthalee committee had recommended to set up Public Credit Registry.
3. India is the first country to setup a Public Credit Registry.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2  

b) 2 only  

c) 1, 3  

d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: a)

A public credit registry is an information repository that collates all loan information of individuals and corporate borrowers. A credit repository helps banks distinguish between a bad and a good borrower and accordingly offer attractive interest rates to good borrowers and higher interest rates to bad borrowers.

- The move is based on the recommendations of a committee, headed by Y.M. Deosthalee. PCR will address issues such as information asymmetry, improve access to credit and strengthen the credit culture among consumers.
- It can also address the bad loan problem staring at banks, as corporate debtors will not be able to borrow across banks without disclosing existing debt. A PCR may also help raise India's rank in the global ease of doing business index.
- The committee suggested the registry should capture all loan information and borrowers be able to access their own history. Data is to be made available to stakeholders such as banks, on a need-to-know basis.
- PCR in other countries now include other transactional data such as payments to utilities like power and telecom for retail consumers and trade credit data for businesses. Regularity in making payments to utilities and trade creditors provides an indication of the credit quality of such customers.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/business/why-is-a-public-credit-registry-important/article24849543.ece

(Q) Consider the following statements about Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), recently seen in news.

1. GSP involves reduced/zero tariffs of eligible products exported by beneficiary countries to the markets of GSP providing country.
2. GSP is the exclusive S. trade program designed to promote economic growth in the developing world.
3. Recently US decided to withdraw India’s Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) benefits.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2  

b) 1, 3  

c) 2, 3  

d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: b)

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) is a preferential tariff system extended by developed countries to developing countries (also known as preference receiving countries or beneficiary countries). It is a preferential arrangement in the sense that it allows concessional low/zero tariff imports from developing countries.
Developed countries including the US, EU, UK, Japan etc., gives GSPs to imports from developing countries. GSP involves reduced/zero tariffs of eligible products exported by beneficiary countries to the markets of GSP providing countries.

The US has a strong GSP regime for developing countries since its launch in 1976, by the Trade Act of 1974. In the past, thousands of products were imported from nearly 120 designated beneficiary countries and territories.

The Trump administration’s decision to withdraw India’s Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) benefits adversely affects the broader strategic relationship with India.

Source: https://www.indianeconomy.net/splclassroom/generalized-system/preferences-gsp-significance-india-us-trade/ (Q)

RBI’s Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework is applicable to
1. Commercial banks
2. Co-operative banks
3. Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

RBI’s Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework is a set of guidelines for banks that are weak in terms of identified indicators including – poor asset quality, insufficient capital and insufficient profit or losses.

- The PCA is an early intervention package or resolution guideline by the RBI when a bank turns weak in terms of the identified indicators.

- The Reserve Bank has specified certain regulatory trigger points, as a part of prompt corrective action (PCA) Framework, in terms of three parameters, i.e. capital to risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR), net non-performing assets (NPA) and Return on Assets (RoA), for initiation of certain structured and discretionary actions in respect of banks hitting such trigger points.

- The PCA framework is applicable only to commercial banks and not extended to co-operative banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and FMIs.

Source: https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/PublicationReport/Pdfs/PCAFR060514_4.pdf (Q) Consider the following statements about Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI).

1. It is an indicator of economic health for only manufacturing sector.
2. PMI figure denotes expansion or contraction in business activity.
3. Central banks use the index to help make decisions on interest rates.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 1, 3
c) 2, 3
d) 1, 2, 3
PMI or a Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) is an indicator of business activity — both in the manufacturing and services sectors. It is a survey-based measure that asks the respondents about changes in their perception of some key business variables from the month before. It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a composite index is constructed.

- A figure above 50 denotes expansion in business activity. Anything below 50 denotes contraction.
- The PMI is usually released at the start of the month, much before most of the official data on industrial output, manufacturing and GDP growth becomes available.
- It is, therefore, considered a good leading indicator of economic activity.
- Economists consider the manufacturing growth measured by the PMI as a good indicator of industrial output, for which official statistics are released later.
- Central banks of many countries also use the index to help make decisions on interest rates.

Source: [https://www.investopedia.com/terms/p/pmi.asp](https://www.investopedia.com/terms/p/pmi.asp)

(Q) Consider the following statements about Fugitive Economic Offender.

1. A person is declared a Fugitive Economic Offender by a ‘Special Court’ set up under the Prevention of Money-laundering Act (PMLA), 2002
2. The property of a fugitive economic offender, including benami property, can be confiscated once he is declared so by the Special Court.
3. Properties abroad are not liable for confiscation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 3
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 2
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

A fugitive economic offender is an individual who has committed some specified offence(s) involving an amount of one hundred crore rupees or more and has absconded from India or refused to come back to India to avoid or face criminal prosecution in India.

The property of a fugitive economic offender, resulting from the proceeds of crime, including benami property, can be confiscated once he is declared so by the Court. Properties abroad are also liable for confiscation. Further, he would be disentitled from defending any civil claim. An Administrator will be appointed to manage and dispose of the confiscated property.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Advance Pricing Agreement (APA)

1. It is an ahead-of-time agreement between a taxpayer and a tax authority on an appropriate transfer pricing methodology.
2. It is only Unilateral in nature, that involves only the taxpayer and the tax authority of the country where the taxpayer is located.
3. In India, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) signs the APA with the taxpayer.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only  b) 1, 2  c) 1, 3  d) 2, 3
Solution: a)

An advance pricing agreement (APA) is an ahead-of-time agreement between a taxpayer and a tax authority on an appropriate transfer pricing methodology. An APA provides certainty with respect to the tax outcome of the tax payer's international transactions.

An APA can be one of the three types – unilateral, bilateral and multilateral.

1. A Unilateral APA is an APA that involves only the taxpayer and the tax authority of the country where the taxpayer is located.
2. Bilateral APA (BAPA) is an APA that involves the tax payer, associated enterprise (AE) of the taxpayer in the foreign country, tax authority of the country where the taxpayer is located and the foreign tax authority.
3. Multilateral APA (MAPA) is an APA that involves the taxpayer, two or more AEs of the taxpayer in different foreign countries, tax authority of the country where the taxpayer is located and the tax authorities of AEs.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) entered into 14 Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (UAPA) and 2 Bilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (BAPA) during the month of March, 2018.


(Q) Promotion of Digital Transactions including Digital Payments, is the responsibility of

a) RBI  
b) Ministry of Finance  
c) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)  
d) Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)

Solution: d)

- The Digital India programme is a flagship programme of the Government of India with a vision to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. "Faceless, Paperless, Cashless" is one of professed role of Digital India. Promotion of digital payments has been accorded highest priority by the Government of India to bring each and every segment of our country under the formal fold of digital payment services. The Vision is to provide facility of seamless digital payment to all citizens of India in a convenient, easy, affordable, quick and secured manner.

- Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) has been entrusted with the responsibility of leading this initiative on “Promotion of Digital Transactions including Digital Payments”. MeitY is working on various strategies, ideation with multiple stakeholders including Banks, Central Ministries/Departments and States, to create an ecosystem to enable digital payments across the country.

- MeitY is working on strengthening of Digital Payment infrastructure and creating awareness through promotions of digital payments with all the stakeholders to achieve Government’s vision of making citizens of this country digitally empowered.

Source: [https://meity.gov.in/digidhan](https://meity.gov.in/digidhan)

(Q) Who among the following are not eligible to set up small finance banks in India?

1. Resident individuals with 5 years of experience in banking and finance.
2. Existing Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) owned by residents.
3. Companies owned and controlled by NRIs.

Select the correct code:

a) 1 only  
b) 2, 3  
c) 1, 3  
d) 1, 2
The **small finance bank** will primarily undertake basic banking activities of acceptance of deposits and lending to unserved and underserved sections including small business units, small and marginal farmers, micro and small industries and unorganised sector entities.

Resident individuals/professionals with **10 years of experience** in banking and finance and companies and societies owned and controlled by residents will be eligible to set up small finance banks. Existing Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs), and Local Area Banks (LABs) that are owned and controlled by residents can also opt for conversion into small finance banks.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Small Farmers’ Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC)

1. SFAC has pioneered the formation of Farmer Producer Organizations/Farmer Producer Companies.
2. It offers Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme to FPCs to improve availability of working capital.
3. It implements e-Nam

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2  

b) 1, 3  

c) 2, 3  

d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

SFAC is an exclusive Society focused on **increasing incomes of small and marginal farmers** through **aggregation and development of agribusiness**.

- SFAC has pioneered the formation and growth of Farmer Producer Organizations/Farmer Producer Companies.
- SFAC offers Schemes like **Equity Grant and Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme to FPCs** to improve availability of working capital and development of business activities.
- SFAC is also implementing the **National Agriculture Market Electronic Trading (e-Nam)** platform.

**Source**: [http://sfacindia.com/](http://sfacindia.com/)

(Q) Consider the following statements about Unified Payments Interface (UPI).

1. It converts multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application of any participating bank, merging several banking features, seamless fund routing & merchant payments into one hood.
2. It was launched by RBI.
3. Money can be transferred through mobile devices round the clock 24*7 except on public holidays.
4. It may also be used for Utility Bill Payments, Over the Counter Payments and Barcode based payments.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2, 4  

b) 1, 4  

c) 2, 4  

d) 1, 3, 4
Solution: b)

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is a payment system launched by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). It facilitates the fund transfer between two bank accounts through a smartphone. It converts multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application (of any participating bank), merging several banking features, seamless fund routing & merchant payments into one hood.

The unique feature of UPI is that it immediate money transfer through mobile devices round the clock 24*7 and 365 days. Also, a single mobile application may be used for accessing different bank accounts. It may also be used for Utility Bill Payments, Over the Counter Payments and Barcode (Scan and Pay) based payments.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Initial Coin Offerings (ICO)

1. ICOs are a type of crowdfunding tool conducted entirely on the blockchain.
2. There is no regulator for this kind of crowd sourcing in India.
3. ICO can be purchased with fiat or virtual currency.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 1, 3
c) 2, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

ICOs are a type of crowdfunding or crowd investing tool conducted entirely on the blockchain. Unlike an IPO, which is governed by SEBI regulations, there is no regulator for this kind of crowd sourcing in India. In an ICO, a quantity of cryptocurrency is sold in the form of “tokens” (“coins”) to speculators or investors, in exchange for legal tender or other cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin or Ethereum.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Initial_coin_offering
II. GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT

(Q) Which of the following are Critically Endangered birds/animals found in India?

1. Great Indian Bustard
2. Clouded leopard
3. Pondicherry shark
4. Lion-tailed macaque

Select the correct code:

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

Solution: b)

- Since 2008, Clouded leopard is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.
- The lion-tailed macaque is listed as endangered in IUCN red list.

(Q) Blue Flag Certification is awarded to

a) Countries having Nuclear Submarine
b) Quality export of Fisheries products
c) Beaches with high environmental and quality standards
d) Wastewater treatment plants across the Ganga Basin

Solution: c)

Blue Flag certification — the tag given to environment-friendly and clean beaches, equipped with amenities of international standards for tourists. The Chandrabhaga beach on the Konark coast of Odisha is the first in Asia to get the Blue Flag certification.

- The Blue Flag is a certification by the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) that a beach, marina, or sustainable boating tourism operator meets its stringent standards.
- FEE is a not-for-profit non-governmental organization consisting of 65 organisations in 60 member countries.
- FEE's Blue Flag criteria include standards for quality, safety, environmental education and information, the provision of services and general environmental management criteria.
- The Blue Flag is sought for beaches, harbours, and sustainable boating tourism operators as an indication of their high environmental and quality standards.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Mobilise Your City (MYC) programme

1. The MYC aims to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions related to urban transport
2. India and France have signed an implementation agreement on “MOBILISE YOUR CITY” (MYC)
3. It was launched at 24th Conference of Parties (COP24) meeting in Katowice, Poland.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 1, 3
c) 2, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: a)

Mobilise Your City (MYC) was launched at 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) meeting in December, 2015. India and France have signed an implementation agreement on “MOBILISE YOUR CITY” (MYC).

- The MYC aims to reduce the Green House Gas (GHG) emissions related to urban transport by implementing urban mobility plans at local level and to help India at national level to improve their sustainable transport policy.

Source: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183321

(Q) Consider the following statements about Indian Rhino Vision 2020

1. It was launched by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in partnership with WWF-India.
2. The vision is to attain a population of 1000 wild rhinos in Assam.
3. The programme involves wild-to-wild translocation of Rhinos.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

a) 1, 3
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 2
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (IRV 2020) programme launched by the Assam Forest Department in partnership with WWF-India, the International Rhino Foundation and US Fish & Wildlife Service in 2005.

- The programme aims at increasing the number and range of rhinos in Assam through wild-to-wild translocations from Kaziranga National Park and Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary to potential Protected Areas including Manas National Park, Burachapori Wildlife Sanctuary, Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary, and Dibru-Saikhowa National Park.

- The vision is to attain a population of 3000 wild rhinos in Assam, distributed over seven of its Protected Areas by 2020.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS).

1. Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) are declared as per the provisions of Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
2. Areas with High endemism and presence of keystone species can be declared as Biodiversity Heritage Sites.
3. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) will notify areas of biodiversity importance as Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 3
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 2
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

• “Biodiversity Heritage Sites” (BHS) are well defined areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems – terrestrial, coastal and inland waters and, marine having rich biodiversity comprising of any one or more of the following components: richness of wild as well as domesticated species or intra-specific categories, high endemism, presence of rare and threatened species, keystone species, species of evolutionary significance, wild ancestors of domestic/cultivated species or their varieties, past pre-eminence of biological components represented by fossil beds and having significant cultural, ethical or aesthetic values and are important for the maintenance of cultural diversity, with or without a long history of human association with them.

• Under Section 37 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (BDA) the State Government in consultation with local bodies may notify in the official gazette, areas of biodiversity importance as Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS).

Source: http://nbaindia.org/uploaded/ut/Final%20BHS%20guidelines%20approved%20in%20the%2019th%20Authority.pdf

(Q) Consider the following statements about Neelakurinji.

1. It is a shrub that is found only in the shola forests of the Western Ghats.
2. Neelakurinji blossoms during September-October every year.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

• Kurinji or Neelakurinji (Strobilanthes kunthianus) is a shrub that is found in the shola forests of the Western Ghats in South India.

• Nilgiri Hills, which literally means the blue mountains, got their name from the purplish blue flowers of Neelakurinji that blossoms only once in 12 years.
• Besides the Western Ghats, Neelakurinji is also seen in the Shevroyes in the Eastern Ghats, Anamalai hills Idukki district and Agali hills in Palakad in Kerala and Sanduru hills of Bellary district in Karnataka.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strobilanthes_kunthianus

(Q) Air pollution control device WAYU (Wind Augmentation Purifying Unit) is developed by

a) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
b) CSIR - National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI)
c) Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore
d) Both b and c

Solution: b)

WAYU is developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) as a part of Technology Development Project being funded by Department of Science and Technology.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Methanol

1. Methanol can be used as transportation fuel and not as cooking fuel.
2. Methanol is a clean-burning fuel that produces zero smog-causing emissions and can improve air quality and related human health issues.
3. It can be produced from renewable sources also.
4. As a high-octane vehicle fuel, methanol offers excellent acceleration and power.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: a)

➢ Methanol can be used as an energy producing fuel, transportation fuel and cooking fuel, cutting down India’s oil import bill by an estimated 20% over the next few years. Unlike CNG, using methanol as a transportation fuel would require minimal alteration in the vehicles.

➢ Methanol is a clean-burning fuel that produces fewer smog-causing emissions — such as sulphur oxides (SOx), nitrogen oxides (NOx) and particulate matter — and can improve air quality and related human health issues.

➢ Methanol is most commonly produced on a commercial scale from natural gas. It can also be produced from renewable sources such as biomass and recycled carbon dioxide.

➢ As a high-octane vehicle fuel, methanol offers excellent acceleration and power. It also improves vehicle efficiency.

Source: http://vikaspedia.in/energy/energy-basics/methanol-economy-in-india
(Q) Consider the following statements with respect to ‘Hope Spots’.

1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep islands are the first in India to make it to the list of global hope spots.
2. A hope spot is an area of an ocean that needs special protection because of its wildlife and significant underwater habitats.
3. They are declared by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 3
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 2
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep islands have recently been named as the new “hope spots” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Mission Blue, an organization involved in the study of oceans.

➢ A hope spot is an area of an ocean that needs special protection because of its wildlife and significant underwater habitats.
➢ The two group of islands, considered extremely rich in marine biodiversity, are the first places in India to have been added in the list of global ‘hope spots’.


(Q) Which of the following are the salient features of Bio-Medical Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2018.

1. Bio-medical waste generators will have to phase out chlorinated plastic bags and gloves.
2. Bar coding and global positioning system for handling of bio-medical waste.
3. Pre-treatment of laboratory waste, microbiological waste, blood samples, and blood bags through disinfection or sterilization.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 1, 3
c) 2, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016 Rules have been amended to improve compliance and strengthen the implementation of environmentally sound management of biomedical waste in India.

Salient features of Bio-Medical Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2018 are as follows:

➢ Bio-medical waste generators including hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, dispensaries, veterinary institutions, animal houses, pathological laboratories, blood banks, health care facilities, and clinical establishments will have to phase out chlorinated plastic bags (excluding blood bags) and gloves by March 27, 2019.
➢ All healthcare facilities shall make available the annual report on its website within a period of two years from the date of publication of the Bio-Medical Waste Management (Amendment) Rules, 2018.

➢ Operators of common bio-medical waste treatment and disposal facilities shall establish **bar coding and global positioning system for handling of bio-medical waste** in accordance with guidelines issued by the **Central Pollution Control Board** by March 27, 2019.

➢ The State Pollution Control Boards/ Pollution Control Committees have to compile, review and analyze the information received and send this information to the Central Pollution Control Board in a new Form, which seeks detailed information regarding district-wise bio-medical waste generation, information on Health Care Facilities having captive treatment facilities, information on common bio-medical waste treatment and disposal facilities.

➢ Every occupier, i.e. a person having administrative control over the institution and the premises generating biomedical waste shall pre-treat the laboratory waste, microbiological waste, blood samples, and blood bags through disinfection or sterilization on-site in the manner as prescribed by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** or **guidelines on safe management of wastes from health care activities** and **WHO Blue Book 2014** and then sent to the Common bio-medical waste treatment facility for final disposal.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Global Cooling Coalition

1. The Cool Coalition aims to accelerate action on the transition to clean and efficient cooling.
2. It was launched at Katowice Climate Change Conference.
3. The Cool Coalition is led by UN Environment alone.

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

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

**Solution: c)**

➢ As global temperatures rise and the growing energy demands of air conditioning threaten to emit more greenhouse gases, over 20 leaders recently committed to a new global effort on clean and efficient cooling.

➢ Launched at the **First Global Conference on Synergies between the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement**, the **Cool Coalition** aims to inspire ambition and accelerate action on the transition to clean and efficient cooling.

➢ The coalition includes **ministers of environment** from Chile and Rwanda and Foreign Affairs from Denmark as well as the heads of Danish engineering firm Danfoss and ENGIE, and the leaders of civil society, research, academia and intergovernmental institutions.

➢ The Cool Coalition is a global effort led by **UN Environment**, the **Climate and Clean Air Coalition**, the **Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program**, and Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL).

➢ The Cool Coalition is a unified front that links action across the **Kigali Amendment, Paris Agreement** and **Sustainable Development Goals**.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Brow antlered deer.

1. It is found in Keibul Lamjao National Park.
2. Its conservation status is Endangered on IUCN Red List.
3. It faces threats of diseases from the livestock, inbreeding depression and poaching.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 1, 3
c) 2, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

Sangai, Brow antlered deer, Dancing Deer:

- **Status**: State animal of Manipur, Schedule-1 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, **Endangered** on IUCN Red List.

- The brow-antlered deer is found in **Keibul Lamjao National Park** in Manipur. It is largely seen over the **floating biomass**, locally called "**phumdi**" in the South Eastern part of **Loktak Lake** inside the park. Phumdi is the most important and unique part of Sangai’s habitat.

- Sangai faces threat from steadily degenerating habitat of phumdi as a result of continuous inundation and flooding caused due to artificial reservoir. Water quality of the reservoir is degrading due to pollution and stoppage of nutrient supply. There is also invasion of non-native plants like Paragrass.

- Sangai also faces threats of diseases from the livestock, inbreeding depression and poaching.

Source: [https://www.wwfindia.org/about_wwf/priority_species/threatened_species/brow_antlered_deer/](https://www.wwfindia.org/about_wwf/priority_species/threatened_species/brow_antlered_deer/)
III. GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND PROGRAMMES

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

1. It is a multi-modal platform that is aimed at addressing common man’s grievances.
2. The PRAGATI platform uses video-conferencing and geo-spatial technology.
3. It is a three-tier system which consists of PMO, Union Government Secretaries, and Chief Secretaries of the States.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2  
b) 2, 3  
c) 1, 3  
d) 1, 2, 3  

Solution: d)

It is a multi-purpose and multi-modal platform that is aimed at addressing common man’s grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.

- The PRAGATI platform uniquely bundles three latest technologies: Digital data management, video-conferencing and geo-spatial technology.
- It is a three-tier system (PMO, Union Government Secretaries, and Chief Secretaries of the States)

Source: [http://vikaspedia.in/e-governance/digital-india/pragati-platform](http://vikaspedia.in/e-governance/digital-india/pragati-platform)

(Q) Consider the following statements about the scheme Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN).

1. The Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) has been registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, as a Society.
2. It provides financial assistance to all patients, who are suffering from major life-threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at any of the super speciality Hospitals or other Government hospitals.
3. The financial assistance to such patients is released in the form of ‘one-time grant’.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2  
b) 2, 3  
c) 1, 3  
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

The Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN) has been set up vide Resolution No. F-7-2/96-Fin-II dated 13/1/1997 and registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, as a Society.
The RAN was set up to provide financial assistance to patients, living below poverty line and who are suffering from major life-threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at any of the super speciality Hospitals/Institutes or other Government hospitals. The financial assistance to such patients is released in the form of 'one-time grant', which is released to the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital in which the treatment has been/is being received.

Source: [http://www.pib.nic.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1524808](http://www.pib.nic.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1524808)

(Q) Consider the following statements about Systematic Voters’ Education and Electoral Participation program.

1. It is the flagship program of the NITI Ayog for voter education and promoting voter literacy in India.
2. SVEEP is designed according to the socio-economic, cultural and demographic profile of the state.

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

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

Solution: b)

Systematic Voters’ Education and Electoral Participation program, better known as SVEEP, is the flagship program of the Election Commission of India for voter education, spreading voter awareness and promoting voter literacy in India.

SVEEP is designed according to the socio-economic, cultural and demographic profile of the state as well as the history of electoral participation in previous rounds of elections and learning thereof.

Source: [https://eci.gov.in/sveep/](https://eci.gov.in/sveep/)

(Q) Consider the following statements about Indian Bridge Management System:

1. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has inventorized bridges/structures under Indian Bridge Management System (IBMS).
2. IBMS is the second largest platform in the world owned by a single owner.
3. Socio-Economic Bridge Rating Number is given which will decide the importance of the structure in relation to its contribution to daily socio-economic activity of the area in its vicinity.

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

a) 1, 2
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has inventorized 1,72,517 bridges/structures under Indian Bridge Management System (IBMS). IBMS is the largest platform in the world owned by a single owner, with database that could exceed 1,50,000 bridge structures.
In addition to the structural rating, the bridges are also being assigned **Socio-Economic Bridge Rating Number** which will decide the importance of the structure in relation to its contribution to daily socio-economic activity of the area in its vicinity.


**Q** Consider the following statements about ‘Virtual ID’ for Aadhaar

1. The Virtual ID is a random 12-digit number.
2. The ID can be generated as many times as possible.
3. One’s Aadhaar number can be derived from the Virtual ID generated.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution: b)**

- The Virtual ID is a **random 16-digit number**.
- The ID can be generated as **many times** as possible.
- The older ID gets automatically cancelled once a fresh one is generated.
- Users can go to the UIDAI website to generate their virtual ID which will be valid for a defined period of time, or till the user decides to change it.
- The **ID, along with the biometrics** of the user, would give any authorised agency, like a mobile company, **limited details** like name, address and photograph, which are **enough for any verification**.
- **Agencies** that undertake authentication would not be allowed to generate the **Virtual ID** on behalf of the user.
- UIDAI also introduced the concept of ‘**limited KYC**’, which will provide need-based or limited details of a user to an authorised agency providing a particular service.
- One’s **Aadhaar number cannot be derived from the Virtual ID** that is generated.

Source: [https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/uidais-new-virtual-id-for-aadhaar-10-key-points/articleshow/62445484.cms](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/uidais-new-virtual-id-for-aadhaar-10-key-points/articleshow/62445484.cms)

**Q** Consider the following statements about the funds managed by National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF).

1. Master Fund - A fund focused on anchoring and investing in reputed third-party managers with a strong track record across diversified sectors within infrastructure services and allied sectors.
2. Fund of Funds - A fund focused on creating scalable sectoral platforms in core infrastructure and in collaboration with strong and reputed operating and financial partners.
3. Strategic Fund - A fund focused on investing in strategic assets and projects with longer term horizon across various stages of development.

Which of the above are statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only  

b) 2 only 

c) 3 only  

d) All of the above
Solution: c)
- The government had set up the ₹40,000 crore NIIF in 2015 as an investment vehicle for funding commercially viable greenfield, brownfield and stalled infrastructure projects.
- NIIF currently manages three funds each with its distinctive investment mandate. The funds are registered as Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

The three funds are:
1. **Master Fund**: A fund focused on creating scalable sectoral platforms in core infrastructure and in collaboration with strong and reputed operating and financial partners.
2. **Fund of Funds**: A fund focused on anchoring and investing in credible and reputed third party managers with a strong track record across diversified sectors within infrastructure services and allied sectors.
3. **Strategic Investment Fund**: A fund focused on investing in strategic assets and projects with longer term horizon across various stages of development.

Source: [https://niifindia.in/](https://niifindia.in/)

(Q) Consider the following statements about Universal Health Coverage (UHC)
1. It means free coverage for all possible health interventions, regardless of the cost.
2. UHC includes population-based services such as public health campaigns and controlling mosquito breeding grounds.
3. Achieving UHC is one of the key targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)
UHC means that all individuals and communities receive the health services they need without suffering financial hardship. It includes the full spectrum of essential, quality health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care.

**Achieving UHC** is one of the targets the nations of the world set when adopting the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015.

There are many things that are not included in the scope of UHC:
- **UHC does not mean free coverage** for all possible health interventions, regardless of the cost, as no country can provide all services free of charge on a sustainable basis.
- UHC is not just about health financing. It **encompasses all components of the health system**: health service delivery systems, the health workforce, health facilities and communications networks, health technologies, information systems, quality assurance mechanisms, and governance and legislation.
- UHC is not only about ensuring a minimum package of health services, but also about ensuring a **progressive expansion of coverage** of health services and financial protection as more resources become available.
- UHC is not only about individual treatment services, but also includes **population-based services** such as public health campaigns, adding fluoride to water, controlling mosquito breeding grounds, and so on.
(Q) Consider the following statements about Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN).

1. GIAN is for developing India’s top-ranked institutions like IIT’s, IIIT’s, NIT’s, IISCs, AIIMS into Globally top-ranking institutions through improvement in their academic and infrastructure quality.
2. It is a program of Ministry of Human Resource and Development.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) in Higher Education was launched in 2015. It is a program of Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MoHRD).

Aim: GIAN aims at tapping the talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs to engage with the institutes of higher education in India to augment the country’s existing academic resources, accelerate the pace of quality reforms, and further strengthen India’s scientific and technological capabilities.

Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) is for developing India's top-ranked institutions like IIT's, IIIT's, NIT's, IISCs, AIIMS into Globally top-ranking institutions through improvement in their academic and infrastructure quality.

Source: [http://www.gian.iitkgp.ac.in/](http://www.gian.iitkgp.ac.in/)

(Q) Consider the following statements about Bharatmala Pariyojana

1. Bharatmala Project is the largest highways construction project in the country.
2. It includes development of Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors and Feeder Routes, National Corridor Efficiency Improvement, Border and International connectivity roads, Coastal and Port connectivity roads and Green-field expressways.
3. One of the shortfalls is the missing focus on connectivity in North East.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Bharatmala Project is the second largest highways construction project in the country since NHDP, under which almost 50,000 km or highway roads were targeted across the country.

- It includes development of Economic Corridors, Inter Corridors and Feeder Routes, National Corridor Efficiency Improvement, Border and International connectivity roads, Coastal and Port connectivity roads and Green-field expressways.
Highlights:

- Improvement in efficiency of existing corridors through development of Multimodal Logistics Parks and elimination of choke point
- Enhance focus on improving connectivity in North East and leveraging synergies with Inland Waterways
- Emphasis on use of technology & scientific planning for Project Preparation and Asset Monitoring
- Delegation of powers to expedite project delivery – Phase I to complete by 2022
- Improving connectivity in the North East

(Q) UNNATI programme is aimed at

a) Elimination of Tuberculosis (TB) by 2025 in India
b) Fostering growth through promotion of AI
c) Capacity building on Nanosatellites development
d) None of the above

Solution: c)
The Indian Space Research Organisation’s (ISRO) capacity-building programme on nanosatellite development, UNNATI, was inaugurated recently.


(Q) Consider the following statements about SWAYAM Platform.

1. It is to take the best teaching learning resources to all.
2. Courses delivered through SWAYAM are available free of cost.
3. It does not cater to out-of-school education.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: a)
SWAYAM is a programme initiated by Government of India and designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of Education Policy viz., access, equity and quality. The objective of this effort is to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged.

- All the courses are interactive, prepared by the best teachers in the country and are available, free of cost to the residents in India.
- SWAYAM seeks to bridge the digital divide for students who have hitherto remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the mainstream of the knowledge economy.
- In order to ensure best quality content are produced and delivered, nine National Coordinators have been appointed. In that IGNOU is for out of the school students.

Source: [https://swayam.gov.in/About](https://swayam.gov.in/About)
(Q) Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM).

1. The unorganised workers whose monthly income is Rs 15,000/ per month or less are eligible for the scheme.
2. If the subscriber dies, the spouse of the beneficiary shall be entitled to receive 100% pension received by the beneficiary as family pension.
3. Family pension is applicable only to spouse.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) was rolled out by the Ministry of Labour and Employment

The unorganised workers mostly engaged as home based workers, street vendors, mid-day meal workers, head loaders, brick kiln workers, cobblers, rag pickers, domestic workers, washer men, rickshaw pullers, landless labourers, own account workers, agricultural workers, construction workers, beedi workers, handloom workers, leather workers, audio-visual workers and similar other occupations whose monthly income is Rs 15,000/ per month or less and belong to the entry age group of 18-40 years are eligible for the scheme. They should not be covered under New Pension Scheme (NPS), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) scheme or Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). Further, he/she should not be an income tax payer.

Following are the salient Features of PM-SYM:

- **Minimum Assured Pension**: Each subscriber under the PM-SYM, shall receive minimum assured pension of Rs 3000/- per month after attaining the age of 60 years.

- **Family Pension**: During the receipt of pension, if the subscriber dies, the spouse of the beneficiary shall be entitled to receive 50% of the pension received by the beneficiary as family pension. Family pension is applicable only to spouse.

- If a beneficiary has given regular contribution and died due to any cause (before age of 60 years), his/her spouse will be entitled to join and continue the scheme subsequently by payment of regular contribution or exit the scheme as per provisions of exit and withdrawal.


(Q) Consider the following statements about National Mineral Policy 2019.

1. Encourages the private sector to take up exploration.
2. It proposes to grant status of industry to mining activity.
3. The policy introduced the concept of Inter-Generational Equity that deals with the well-being not only of the present generation but also of the generations to come.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 3
d) 1, 2, 3
Solution: d)
The Union Cabinet has approved **National Mineral Policy 2019**.

The National Mineral Policy 2019 includes provisions which will give boost to mining sector such as

- introduction of Right of First Refusal for RP/PL holders,
- encouraging the private sector to take up exploration,
- auctioning in virgin areas for composite RP cum PL cum ML on revenue share basis,
- encouragement of merger and acquisition of mining entities and
- transfer of mining leases and creation of dedicated mineral corridors to boost private sector mining areas.

The 2019 Policy proposes to **grant status of INDUSTRY to mining activity** to boost financing of mining for **private sector** and for acquisitions of mineral assets in other countries by private sector

- It also mentions that **Long-term import-export policy** for mineral will help private sector in better planning and stability in business
- The Policy also mentions rationalize **reserved areas** given to PSUs **which have not been used** and to put these areas to **auction**, which will give more opportunity to private sector for participation
- The Policy also mentions to make efforts to **harmonize taxes, levies & royalty** with world benchmarks to help private sector

NMP 2019 aims to **attract private investment** through incentives while the efforts would be made to maintain a database of mineral resources and tenements under mining tenement systems. The new policy focuses on use coastal waterways and inland shipping for evacuation and transportation of minerals and encourages dedicated mineral corridors to facilitate the transportation of minerals. The utilization of the district mineral fund for equitable development of project affected persons and areas. NMP 2019 proposes a long-term export-import policy for the mineral sector to provide stability and as an incentive for investing in large scale commercial mining activity.

The 2019 Policy also introduces the **concept of Inter-Generational Equity** that deals with the **well-being** not only of the **present generation** but also of the **generations to come** and also proposes to constitute an inter-ministerial body to institutionalize the mechanism for ensuring sustainable development in mining.

Source: [http://www.pib.nic.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1566734](http://www.pib.nic.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1566734)

(Q) Consider the following statements about Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)

1. It facilitates research collaboration between Indian research groups with research groups in the leading universities of the world in areas that are at the cutting edge of science.
2. It is an initiative of Ministry of Science and Technology.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only  

b) 2 only  

c) Both  

d) None

Solution: a)

Union **Minister of Human Resource Development** launches the web portal of the **Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC)**.

Under this Scheme, 600 joint research proposals will be awarded for 2 years to facilitate strong research collaboration between Indian research groups with the best in class faculty and renowned research groups in the leading universities of the world, in areas that are at the cutting edge of science or with direct social relevance to the mankind, specifically India.

Consider the following statements about eSamvad portal, sometimes seen in news.

a) A platform for NGOs and Civil Societies to interact with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

b) India’s first Government-to-Business (G2B) portal which aims at transforming and developing a conducive business environment in the country.

c) It is a government services portal to inform the citizens about various government services under various ministries and government entities.

d) A platform for NGOs and Civil Societies to interact with the Ministry of Women & Child Development.

Solution: d)
eSamvad is an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development to provide a platform for NGOs and civil society to interact with the Ministry on relevant subjects.

Source: http://vikaspedia.in/social-welfare/ngo-voluntary-sector-1/esamvad

Consider the following statements about National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) Project.

1. It will be implemented in all the 31 States/UTs with Legislatures.

2. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) is the ‘Nodal Ministry’ for its implementation.

3. Himachal Pradesh is the first Digital Legislature of the country.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 2, 3

c) 1, 3

d) 1, 2

Solution: c)
National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) Project aims to bring all the legislatures of the country together, in one platform thereby creating a massive data depository without having the complexity of multiple applications.

➢ It is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) comes under the Digital India Programme.

➢ Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA) is the ‘Nodal Ministry’ for its implementation in all the 31 States/UTs with Legislatures.

➢ The funding for e-Vidhan is provided by the MoPA and technical support by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

➢ The funding of NeVA is through Central Sponsored Scheme i.e. 60:40; and 90:10 for North East & hilly States and 100% for UTs.

Himachal Pradesh is the first Digital Legislature of the country.

Source: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=186569
Consider the following statements about Van Dhan Scheme.

1. The Van Dhan Scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED.
2. It seeks to improve tribal incomes through value addition of tribal products.
3. Under the scheme, SHGs having about 30 members each form Van Dhan Vikas ‘Samuh’.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 1, 3
c) 2, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

The Van Dhan Scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED. It was launched on 14th April, 2018 and seeks to improve tribal incomes through value addition of tribal products.

➢ The scheme will be implemented through Ministry of Tribal Affairs as Nodal Department at the Central Level and TRIFED as Nodal Agency at the National Level. At State level, the State Nodal Agency for MFPs and the District collectors are envisaged to play a pivot role in scheme implementation at grassroots level. Locally the Kendras are proposed to be managed by a Managing Committee (an SHG) consisting of representatives of Van Dhan SHGs in the cluster.

➢ At unit level, aggregation of produce would be done by SHGs having about 30 members each forming Van Dhan Vikas ‘Samuh’. The SHGs would also undertake primary value addition of the MFPs using equipment such as small cutting and sieving tools, decorticator, dryer, packaging tool etc based on MFPs available in the area.

Source: http://vikaspedia.in/social-welfare/scheduled-tribes-welfare/van-dhan-scheme

Paisa – Portal for Affordable Credit & Interest Subvention Access, a centralized electronic platform for processing interest subvention on bank loans is for

a) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)
b) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)
c) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana
d) Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana (Gramin)

Solution: b)

A centralized electronic platform for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) named "PAiSA – Portal for Affordable Credit and Interest Subvention Access", was launched recently.

Source: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=185954

Consider the following statements about Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO).

1. It functions under the Department of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
2. It is a statutory authority, established to look after safety requirements in manufacture, storage, transport and use of explosives and petroleum.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) formerly Department of Explosives, with its Head Office at Nagpur had completed its hundred years on 9th September 1998. This Organisation comes under, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Government of India.

➢ As a statutory authority, PESO is entrusted with the responsibilities under the Explosives Act, 1884; Petroleum Act, 1934; Inflammable Substances Act, 1952, Environment (Protection Act), 1986.

➢ PESO is the nodal Organization to look after safety requirements in manufacture, storage, transport and use of explosives and petroleum.


(Q) With reference to Digi Yatra, which of the following statement is correct?

a) A mobile application where user can enter road quality-related information and to report any accident or pothole on highway.
b) A mobile application where users can purchase FASTag tag.
c) Biometric based digital processing of passengers at airports.
d) None of the above

Solution: c)

The Ministry of Civil Aviation has released the Policy on biometric based digital processing of passengers at Airports called "Digi Yatra". DigiYatra envisages a connected ecosystem enhancing the seamless travel experience for the passengers and simultaneously improving the security.

Source: [http://vikaspedia.in/e-governance/online-citizen-services/government-to-citizen-services-g2c/transport-related-services/digi-yatra-policy](http://vikaspedia.in/e-governance/online-citizen-services/government-to-citizen-services-g2c/transport-related-services/digi-yatra-policy)

(Q) Consider the following statements about Pravasi Bhartiya Divas.

1. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated every year to strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India.
2. Selected overseas Indians are also honored with Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award.
3. The first chapter of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was held in 2000.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

a) 1, 2
b) 1, 3
c) 2 only
d) 2, 3
Solution: b)

➢ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) is celebrated once in every two years (celebrated yearly till 2015) to strengthen the engagement of the overseas Indian community with the Government of India and reconnect them with their roots. During the Convention, selected overseas Indians are also honored with the prestigious Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award to recognize their contributions to various fields both in India and abroad.

➢ The 15th annual Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) was held in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. The first chapter of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas was held in 2003 to recognise the contributions of NRIs in academic and professional fields across the world.

Source: http://pbdindia.gov.in/en/about-us

(Q) Consider the following statements about Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO).

1. It is a statutory body, and is one of the largest social security organizations in India in terms of volume of financial transactions undertaken and number of covered beneficiaries.
2. It works under the overall aegis of the Ministry of Finance.
3. It administers a compulsory contributory Provident Fund Scheme, Pension Scheme and Insurance Scheme.

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

a) 1, 2
b) 1, 3
c) 2, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: b)

The Employees’ Provident Fund Organisation, a statutory body, is one of the largest social security organizations in India in terms of volume of financial transactions undertaken and number of covered beneficiaries.

➢ It works under the overall aegis of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

➢ The main functions of the EPFO: Administers a compulsory contributory Provident Fund Scheme, Pension Scheme and Insurance Scheme.

Source: https://www.epfindia.gov.in/site_en/index.php

(Q) Consider the following statements about Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs).

1. REC is a market-based mechanism which will help the states meet their regulatory requirements such as Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPOs) by overcoming the geographical constraints on existing renewable potential in different states.
2. Each REC represents the environmental benefits of 1MWh of renewable energy generation.
3. When one purchase RECs, renewable energy is generated on their behalf.

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

a) 1, 2
b) 1, 3
c) 2, 3
d) 1, 2, 3
Solution: d)

In a bid to promote renewable energy market in India, the Indian government has framed policies under the **Electricity Act, 2003** and the **National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)** to increase the total renewable power generation capacity in the country.

**Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)**, also known as **green energy certificates** or **tradable renewable certificates** are proof that energy has been generated from renewable sources such as solar or wind power. Each REC represents the environmental benefits of **1MWh** of renewable energy generation. When you purchase RECs, renewable energy is generated on your behalf.

Renewable Energy Certificates (REC) is a policy instrument to catalyze the development of renewable energy. It is a **market-based mechanism** which will **help the states** meet their regulatory requirements (such as Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPOs)) by overcoming the geographical constraints on existing renewable potential in different states.

Source: [https://recregistryindia.nic.in/index.php/publics/AboutREC](https://recregistryindia.nic.in/index.php/publics/AboutREC)

(Q) Consider the following statements about National Biopharma Mission.

1. This is the first ever Industry-Academia mission to accelerate biopharmaceutical development in India.
2. It is implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).
3. The program will focus on the development of new vaccines, bio-therapeutics, diagnostics and medical devices.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2  
b) 2, 3  
c) 1, 3  
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

The program named **Innovate in India (I3)** i.e. the **National Biopharma Mission** is an industry- academia collaborative mission of **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** in collaboration with **World Bank** for accelerating discovery research to early development of Biopharmaceuticals and to be implemented by **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)**.

The aim of the mission is to enable and nurture an ecosystem for preparing India’s technological and product development capabilities in biopharmaceutical to a level that will be globally competitive over the next decade, and transform the health standards of India’s population through affordable product development. The program will specifically focus on the development of new vaccines, bio-therapeutics, diagnostics and medical devices to address the rising burden of diseases in the country.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.

1. It aims to enable higher educational institutions to work with the people of rural India in identifying development challenges and evolving appropriate solutions for accelerating sustainable growth.
2. Funded by the World Bank and the Indian Government on a 50:50 basis.
3. Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur is the National Coordinating Institute to implement the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is inspired by the vision of transformational change in rural development processes by leveraging knowledge institutions to help build the architecture of an Inclusive India.

➢ The Mission of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is to enable higher educational institutions to work with the people of rural India in identifying development challenges and evolving appropriate solutions for accelerating sustainable growth. It also aims to create a virtuous cycle between society and an inclusive academic system by providing knowledge and practices for emerging professions and to upgrade the capabilities of both the public and the private sectors in responding to the development needs of rural India.

➢ Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur is the National Coordinating Institute to implement the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) programme.

Source: http://unnatbharatabhiyan.gov.in/introduction

(Q) Consider the following statements about Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL).

1. Ministry of AYUSH established Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) in collaboration with Council for Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).
2. TKDL consisting of more than 2.90 lakh medicinal formulations of Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha are available in English and other regional languages.
3. Objective of the library is to protect the ancient and traditional knowledge of the country from exploitation through biopiracy and unethical patents.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 1, 3
c) 2, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: b)

The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) is an Indian digital knowledge repository of the traditional knowledge, especially about medicinal plants and formulations used in Indian systems of medicine.

➢ Set up in 2001, as a collaboration between the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the MINISTRY OF AYUSH.

➢ Objective of the library is to protect the ancient and traditional knowledge of the country from exploitation through biopiracy and unethical patents, by documenting it electronically and classifying it as per international patent classification systems.

➢ Apart from that, the non-patent database serves to foster modern research based on traditional knowledge, as it simplifies access to this vast knowledge of remedies or practices.
The TKDL contains documentation of publicly available traditional knowledge (TK) that:

➢ relates to Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Yoga
➢ is in digitized format
➢ is available in five languages: English, German, French, Japanese and Spanish.

Source: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=148831
IV. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(Q) Consider the following statements about Hyper Spectral Imaging Satellite (HysIS).

1. The primary goal of HysIS is to study the earth’s surface in the visible, near infrared and shortwave infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum.
2. GSLV MK.II was used to launch HysIS satellite.
3. India is the first country to launch such a satellite.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

HysIS, the primary satellite of PSLV-C43 mission, weighing about 380 kg, is an earth observation satellite configured around ISRO's Mini Satellite-2 (IMS-2) bus. The primary goal of HysIS is to study the earth’s surface in the visible, near infrared and shortwave infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum.

- Data from the satellite will be used for a wide range of applications including agriculture, forestry, soil/geological environments, coastal zones and inland waters, etc.
- It is India’s first hyperspectral imaging satellite for advanced earth observation developed indigenously by ISRO. Globally, very few space agencies have such a satellite, so India is not first to launch it.


(Q) Consider the following statements about EMISAT Satellite

1. It is India’s first electronic surveillance satellite.
2. It is fully developed by ISRO.
3. It is modelled after a famous Israeli spy satellite called SARAL.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched the country’s first electronic surveillance satellite, EMISAT.

- It was launched on-board PSLV-C45.
- EMISAT is an advanced electronic intelligence (ELINT) satellite jointly developed by ISRO-DRDO. It is meant for electromagnetic spectrum measurements.
- It is modelled after a famous Israeli spy satellite called SARAL (Satellite with ARgos and ALtika).
The main capability of EMISAT is in **signal intelligence** — intercepting signals broadcasted by communication systems, radars, and other electronic systems.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Black Holes

1. Most Black holes are formed from the remnants of a large star that dies in a supernova explosion.
2. Black holes were predicted by Einstein’s theory of general relativity.
3. Scientists can directly observe black holes with telescopes that detect x-rays, light, or other forms of electromagnetic radiation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution: a)**

The idea of an object in space so massive and dense that light could not escape it has been around for centuries. Most famously, black holes were predicted by **Einstein's theory of general relativity**, which showed that when a massive star dies, it leaves behind a small, dense remnant core.

Scientists can’t directly observe black holes with telescopes that detect x-rays, light, or other forms of electromagnetic radiation. We can, however, infer the presence of black holes and study them by detecting their effect on other matter nearby. If a black hole passes through a cloud of interstellar matter, for example, it will draw matter inward in a process known as accretion. A similar process can occur if a normal star passes close to a black hole. In this case, the black hole can tear the star apart as it pulls it toward itself. As the attracted matter accelerates and heats up, it emits x-rays that radiate into space. Recent discoveries offer some tantalizing evidence that black holes have a dramatic influence on the neighborhoods around them – emitting powerful gamma ray bursts, devouring nearby stars, and spurring the growth of new stars in some areas while stalling it in others.

Most black holes form from the remnants of a large star that dies in a supernova explosion.

Source: [https://science.nasa.gov/astrophysics/focus-areas/black-holes](https://science.nasa.gov/astrophysics/focus-areas/black-holes)

(Q) Consider the following statements about Nipah virus infection.

1. Nipah virus is a zoonotic virus and can be transmitted through contaminated food.
2. There are no known outbreaks of Nipah virus in Asia.
3. There are currently no drugs or vaccines specific for Nipah virus.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

**Solution: c)**
Nipah virus is a zoonotic virus (it is transmitted from animals to humans) and can also be transmitted through contaminated food or directly between people. In infected people, it causes a range of illnesses from asymptomatic (subclinical) infection to acute respiratory illness and fatal encephalitis. The virus can also cause severe disease in animals such as pigs, resulting in significant economic losses for farmers.

Although Nipah virus has caused only a few known outbreaks in Asia, it infects a wide range of animals and causes severe disease and death in people, making it a public health concern.

There are currently no drugs or vaccines specific for Nipah virus infection although WHO has identified Nipah as a priority disease for the WHO Research and Development Blueprint.

Source: https://www.who.int/csr/disease/nipah/en/

(Q) Consider the following statements about social humanoid robot named Sophia.

1. Sophia became the first non-human to be given citizenship in Saudi Arabia.
2. Sophia was named the United Nations Development Programme’s first ever Innovation Champion.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

Sophia is a social humanoid robot developed by Hong Kong based company Hanson Robotics. In October 2017, Sophia became the first robot to receive citizenship of any country. In November 2017, Sophia was named the United Nations Development Programme’s first ever Innovation Champion, and is the first non-human to be given any United Nations title.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sophia_(robot)

(Q) Consider the following statements about Earth BioGenome Project (EBP).

1. It is an initiative that aims to sequence and catalog the genomes of all of Earth’s eukaryotic species.
2. The initiative would produce an open DNA database of biological information that provides a platform for scientific research and supports environmental and conservation initiatives.
3. It was launched by U.S National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

International biologists have launched Earth BioGenome Project (EBP), an initiative that aims to sequence and catalog the genomes of all of Earth’s currently described eukaryotic species over a period of ten years. The initiative would produce an open DNA database of biological information that provides a platform for scientific research and supports environmental and conservation initiatives.
Consider the following statements about Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV-III).

1. GSLV Mk III is a three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle developed by ISRO.
2. It is designed to carry 10 tons of satellites to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
3. The GSLV Mk III will be the launch vehicle for Gaganyaan.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2  
b) 2, 3  
c) 1, 3  
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

GSLV Mk III is a three-stage heavy lift launch vehicle developed by ISRO. The vehicle has two solid strap-ons, a core liquid booster and a cryogenic upper stage.

- GSLV Mk III is designed to carry 4 ton class of satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) or about 10 tons to Low Earth Orbit (LEO), which is about twice the capability of GSLV Mk II.
- The powerful cryogenic stage of GSLV Mk III enables it to place heavy payloads into Low Earth Orbits of 600 km altitude.
- GSLV Mk III uses two S200 solid rocket boosters to provide the huge amount of thrust required for lift off.
- The L110 liquid stage is powered by two Vikas engines designed and developed at the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre.
- On 15 August 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in his Independence Day speech an Indian foray into human spaceflight in 2022 with the aim of sending a crewed spacecraft called Gaganyaan to low Earth orbit. The GSLV Mk III will be the launch vehicle for this mission.

Source: https://www.isro.gov.in/launchers/gslv-mk-iii

Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) is the mission of

a) ISRO  
b) NASA  
c) Russian Space Agency  
d) China National Space Administration (CNSA)

Solution: b)

NASA’s Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite, TESS, has discovered its first Earth-sized exoplanet. The planet, named HD 21749c, is the smallest world outside our solar system that TESS has identified yet. The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) is a NASA mission that will look for planets orbiting the brightest stars in Earth's sky.
(Q) Consider the following statements about Bhuvan, a web mapping service.

1. It allows users to explore a 2D/3D representation of the surface of the Earth.
2. Bhuvan also provides timely disaster support services.
3. It is developed by Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2  
b) 1, 3  
c) 2, 3  
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: a)

Bhuvan is a web mapping service which allows users to explore a 2D/3D representation of the surface of the Earth. Apart from visualization, Bhuvan provides timely disaster support services (domestic and international). Bhuvan is developed by ISRO.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bhuvan

(Q) NASA’s Voyager 2 probe now has exited the heliosphere. In this context, consider the following statements about Heliosphere.

1. The heliosphere is a bubble around the sun created by the outward flow of the solar wind from the sun.
2. One special property of Heliosphere is that it is not influenced by the dynamic properties of the sun.
3. The heliopause marks the end of the heliosphere.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

NASA’s Voyager 2 probe now has exited the heliosphere – the protective bubble of particles and magnetic fields created by the Sun.

➢ The heliosphere is a bubble around the sun created by the outward flow of the solar wind from the sun and the opposing inward flow of the interstellar wind.

➢ That heliosphere is the region influenced by the dynamic properties of the sun that are carried in the solar wind—such as magnetic fields, energetic particles and solar wind plasma.

➢ The heliopause marks the end of the heliosphere and the beginning of interstellar space.

(Q) Hongyun project recently seen in news is related to

a) Provide broadband internet connectivity to users around the world, especially in the underserved regions.
b) China’s first permanently-crewed space station.
c) China’s mission to moon to explore the dark side of the Moon.
d) Development of digital economy by using Blockchain technology.

Solution: a)

China has launched its first communication satellite to provide broadband internet services worldwide. The satellite is the first in the Hongyun project planned by China Aerospace Science and Industry Corp (CASIC).

The Hongyun project, started in September 2016, aims to build a space-based communications network to provide broadband internet connectivity to users around the world, especially those in the underserved regions.

When the Hongyun project is complete, it will cover the whole world and offer round-the-clock communication services to users in polar regions, who now have difficulties accessing telecommunication and internet services.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/china-launches-first-satellite-for-space-based-broadband-project/article25806057.ece
V. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

(Q) Consider the following statements about International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)

1. IRRI is known for its work in developing rice varieties that contributed to the Green Revolution in the 1960s.
2. It aims reduce poverty and hunger, improve the health of rice farmers and consumers.
3. It is the largest non-profit agricultural research center in Asia.
4. Recently the 6th International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), South Asia Regional Center (ISARC) was dedicated to the nation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)
The Prime Minister dedicated the 6th International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), South Asia Regional Center (ISARC) to the nation. The Institute is built at the campus of National Seed Research and Training Center (NSRTC) in Varanasi.

- The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is an international agricultural research and training organization known for its work in developing rice varieties that contributed to the Green Revolution in the 1960s.

Aim: The Institute, established in 1960 aims to reduce poverty and hunger, improve the health of rice farmers and consumers, and ensure environmental sustainability of rice farming.

- It is also the largest non-profit agricultural research center in Asia.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Rice_Research_Institute

(Q) Consider the following statements about International Solar Alliance (ISA).

1. The Paris Declaration establishes ISA as an alliance dedicated to the promotion of solar energy among its member countries.
2. The alliance is a treaty-based inter-governmental organization.
3. The membership is extended to all members of UN.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)
The Paris Declaration establishes ISA as an alliance dedicated to the promotion of solar energy among its member countries. The ISA's major objectives include global deployment of over 1,000 GW of solar generation capacity and mobilisation of investment of over US$ 1000 billion into solar energy by 2030.

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an alliance of more than 122 countries initiated by India, most of them being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, now extended to all members of UN.
- The alliance is a treaty-based inter-governmental organization. Countries that do not fall within the Tropics can join the alliance and enjoy all benefits as other members, with the exception of voting rights.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
2. It helps developing countries in transition modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

FAO is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Serving both developed and developing countries, FAO acts as a neutral forum where all nations meet as equals to negotiate arguments and debate policy.

- FAO is also a source of knowledge and information, and helps developing countries in transition modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices, ensuring good nutrition and food security for all.
- The State of the World’s Forests reports on the status of forests, recent major policy and institutional developments and key issues concerning the forest sector. It makes current, reliable and policy-relevant information widely available to facilitate informed discussion and decision-making with regard to the world’s forests.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Food_and_Agriculture_Organization

(Q) Consider the following statements about Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

1. SIPRI is a United Nations organisation dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.
2. According to a report by SIPRI, India was the largest importer of major arms in 2014-18.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only  
b) 2 only 
c) Both 
d) None
Solution: d)

SIPRI is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament. Established in 1966, SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public.

Source: [https://www.sipri.org/about](https://www.sipri.org/about)

(Q) Consider the following statements about India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development.

1. India has signed an agreement for setting up the India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development (IAIARD) in Malawi.
2. IAIARD will be a Pan-African Institute.
3. India has developed similar institutes in other African countries.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 3
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 2
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)
India has signed an agreement with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Consultancy Service (NABCONS) for setting up the **India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development (IAIARD)** in **Malawi**, a landlocked country in **southeastern Africa**.

- IAIARD will be a **Pan-African Institute** wherein trainees from Malawi and other African countries will be trained to develop their human resources and build their capacity.
- This will be the first of its kind institute developed in an African country by India. This will further strengthen the bilateral relations between India and Malawi and that of India’s relations with the African Union.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Agreement on Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between Pakistan and India

1. Both India and Pakistan exchange their list of nuclear installations biennially
2. The agreement was signed on December 31, 1950.
3. The agreement is also referred to as the Non-Nuclear Aggression Agreement.

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

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

**Solution: a)**

- The exchange is done each year on January 1, under the **Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities**, also referred to as the **Non-Nuclear Aggression Agreement**.
- The agreement, which was signed on December 31, **1988**, and entered into force on January 27, **1991**, provides that the two countries **inform each other of nuclear installations and facilities** to be covered under the pact on the first of January of every calendar year.


(Q) Which of the following is named as World Capital of Architecture for 2020?

a) Paris  
b) Melbourne  
c) Rio de Janeiro  
d) Greece

**Solution: c)**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has announced that the Brazilian city of **Rio de Janeiro** will be the **World Capital of Architecture** for **2020**.
• Having defeated Paris and Melbourne, Rio will be the first city to receive the title under a program launched together by UNESCO and the International Union of Architects (UIA). The city will host the World Congress of UIA, in July 2020, an event that occurs every three years.

• According to UNESCO, the World Capital of Architecture is intended to become an international forum for debates about pressing global challenges from the perspectives of culture, cultural heritage, urban planning and architecture.


(Q) Asia reassurance initiative act (ARIA) recently seen in news has been signed into law by which country

a) Russia  
b) Japan  
c) US  
d) China

Solution: c)

• U.S. President Donald J. Trump has signed into law the Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA), which has already been passed by the U.S. Senate.

• The ARIA Act, specifically, calls for America’s increased engagement in the Indo-Pacific region and strengthened support, including arms sales, for U.S. allies in the region.

• The act develops a long-term strategic vision and a comprehensive, multifaceted, and principled United States policy for the Indo-Pacific region.

(Q) Consider the following statements about International Labour Organisation (ILO).

1. ILO is the only tripartite U.N. agency since 1919, that brings together governments, employers and workers of its member States.
2. India has ratified more than half of the ILO conventions.
3. ILO is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2019.
4. Future of Work initiative was launched by ILO.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

ILO is the only tripartite U.N. agency, since 1919 that brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States, to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.

• India being a founding member has played an active role in every field of the organization. India has ratified 47 out of 189 ILO conventions during the century.

• ILO is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2019.

• In order to understand and to respond effectively to new challenges, ILO launched a “Future of Work initiative” in order to advance its mandate for social justice.
(Q) Consider the following statements about Group of 77 (G77)

1. It is a coalition of 77 developing nations, designed to promote its members’ economic interests and create an enhanced joint negotiating capacity in the United Nations.
2. China does not consider itself to be a member of G77.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

- The **Group of 77 (G77)** at the United Nations is a coalition of 134 developing nations, designed to promote its members’ collective economic interests and create an enhanced joint negotiating capacity in the United Nations.
- G77 was formed on 15 June **1964** by the “Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Countries” issued at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).
- Since China participates in the G77 but does not consider itself to be a member, all official statements are issued in the name of The Group of 77 and China.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Group_of_77

(Q) Consider the following statements about Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

1. The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the second largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations.
2. India was granted the Observer status in OIC in 2018.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

The **Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)** is the second largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations with a membership of 57 states spread over four continents. The Organization is the collective voice of the Muslim world. It endeavors to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world.

India has pushed for the OIC to accept India as a member, arguing that about **11%** of all Muslims worldwide live in India. Pakistan opposes India’s entry into the OIC.

Source: https://www.oic-oci.org/page/?p_id=52&p_ref=26&lan=en
(Q) Consider the following statements about International Maritime Organization (IMO).

1. It is independent to United Nations.
2. It is the global standard-setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping.
3. India was re-elected as Member to the Council of the International Maritime Organization for two years (2018-19).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 1, 3
c) 2, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

The International Maritime Organization – is the United Nations specialized agency with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution by ships.

The IMO's primary purpose is to develop and maintain a comprehensive regulatory framework for shipping and its remit today includes safety, environmental concerns, legal matters, technical co-operation, maritime security and the efficiency of shipping.

India was re-elected as Member of International Maritime Council for two years (2018-19)

Source: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=174057

(Q) Consider the following statements about United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

1. It is the regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region, established in 2000.
2. It is the largest United Nations body serving the Asia-Pacific region.
3. India is the founder member of UNESCAP.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is the regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region.

➢ It is made up of 53 Member States and 9 Associate Members.
➢ ESCAP is the most comprehensive of the United Nations five regional commissions, and the largest United Nations body serving the Asia-Pacific region.
➢ Established in 1947 with its headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, ESCAP works to overcome some of the region's greatest challenges by providing results-oriented projects, technical assistance and capacity building to member States.

➢ India, founder member of UNESCAP, has been closely involved and played a prominent role in its deliberations from its initial years.
(Q) Consider the following statements about WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC)

1. It is the first global health treaty negotiated under the auspices of the World Health Organization.
2. It is an evidence-based treaty that reaffirms the right of all people to the highest standard of health.
3. It involves the demand reduction strategies as well as supply reduction issues for tobacco.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2  
b) 1, 3  
c) 2, 3  
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

The WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) is the first global health treaty negotiated under the auspices of the World Health Organization. This convention is an evidence-based treaty that reaffirms the right of all people to the highest standard of health. It represents a paradigm shift in developing a regulatory strategy to address addictive substances; in contrast to previous drug control treaties, the WHO FCTC asserts the importance of demand reduction strategies as well as supply reduction issues.

The WHO FCTC was developed in response to the globalization of the tobacco epidemic.

Source: https://www.who.int/tobacco/framework/background/en/

(Q) Consider the following statements about Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

1. OPEC is a group of all the oil-producing nations.
2. The mission of OPEC is to unify the petroleum policies of its Member Countries and ensure regular supply of petroleum to consumers.
3. Iran, Iraq, United Arab Emirates and Qatar are the members of OPEC.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a group of oil-producing nations that was first established in Baghdad, Iraq, in 1961.

- Currently, the Organization has a total of 14 Member Countries. The current OPEC members are the following: Algeria, Angola, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, the Republic of the Congo, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela.
- Indonesia is a former member, and Qatar is no longer the member of OPEC from 1 January 2019.
➢ Russia is the oil exporting countries, while it is **not a member of OPEC**.


**(Q)** Consider the following statements about The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).

1. It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Power.
2. The World Sustainable Development Summit is the annual flagship event of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution: b)**

The **Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)** is a leading think tank dedicated to conducting research for **sustainable development of India** and the **Global South**. TERI was established in **1974** as an information centre on energy issues. However, over the following decades, it made a mark as a research institute, whose policy and technology solutions transformed people’s lives and the environment.

The **World Sustainable Development Summit 2019** was held in New Delhi. It is organized by The Energy and Resources Institute – TERI.

Source: [https://www.teriin.org/mission-and-goals](https://www.teriin.org/mission-and-goals)

**(Q)** Consider the following statements about Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific (RCAP) Congress.

1. It offers cities & regions from Asia-Pacific a variety of innovative solutions that build resilience to climate change at the subnational level.
2. It is convened by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and co-hosted by the World Mayors Council on Climate Change and the City of Bonn.
3. 4th Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific 2019 Congress was held in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2  
b) 1, 3  
c) 2, 3  
d) 1, 2, 3

**Solution: d)**

The **4th Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific 2019 Congress** was organised by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and hosted by South Delhi Municipal Corporation on 15th to 17th of April 2019 in New Delhi, India.

**About Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific:**

- It is the **annual** global platform for **urban resilience and climate change adaptation**.
- It is convened by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and co-hosted by the World Mayors Council on Climate Change and the City of Bonn.
- It was launched in **2010** with the goal of forging partnerships and dialogues that matter.
➢ The Asia-Pacific Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation – Resilient Cities Asia Pacific Congress (RCAP) is a response to heightened demand from the Asia Pacific Region, which encouraged ICLEI to expand the congress series to include Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific, bringing the event and the focus to the Asia-Pacific region, catering to the situation, challenges and opportunities of local governments specifically in this region.

Source: http://resilientcitiesasiapacific.iclei.org/

(Q) Consider the following statements about International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)

1. It is an international non-profit organization that undertakes scientific research for development.
2. It is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.
3. Its approach is through partnerships and with an Inclusive Market Oriented Development.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2  
b) 2, 3  
c) 1, 3  
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) is an international organization which conducts agricultural research for rural development, headquartered in Patancheru (Hyderabad) with several regional centers (Bamako (Mali), Nairobi (Kenya)) and research stations (Niamey (Niger), Kano (Nigeria), Lilongwe (Malawi), Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Bulawayo (Zimbabwe)).

Since its inception, host country India has granted a special status to ICRISAT as a UN Organization operating in the Indian Territory making it eligible for special immunities and tax privileges.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Smart Food initiative (SFI).

1. Smart Food initiative is founded by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
2. It is an initiative which will initially focus on popularizing millets and sorghum.
3. It aims to build food systems where the food is good for the planet and good for the smallholder farmer.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2  
b) 2, 3  
c) 1, 3  
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: b)

➢ The Smart Food initiative is founded by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid-Tropics (ICRISAT) and aims to build food systems where the food is good for you (highly nutritious), good for the planet and good for the smallholder farmer.
➢ It is an initiative which will initially focus on **popularizing millets and sorghum**.


(Q) Consider the following statements about World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF).

1. The WCCF enables the policy makers of member cities to share research and intelligence, while exploring the vital role of culture in prosperity.
2. New Delhi became the first Indian city to be a member of World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

➢ Mumbai became the first Indian city to be a member of World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF), a platform for cities to share their culture.

➢ The WCCF enables the policy makers of member cities to share research and intelligence, while exploring the vital role of culture in prosperity.

➢ Through its leadership exchange program, the city's policy makers will be able to share ideas, technology, challenges and access cultures and arts.

➢ The forum, which began in 2012 with eight members, is a network of more than 32 key cities today, including London, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Cape Town, Dakar, Edinburgh, Lisbon, San Francisco, Shanghai, Singapore, Toronto and many others.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD).

1. It is an inter-governmental security forum held annually by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS).
2. It was started by Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).
3. India participated in the 2018 Shangri-La Dialogue.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2  
b) 2, 3  
c) 1, 3  
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

➢ The **IISS Asia Security Summit**: The Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD) is a "Track One" inter-governmental security forum held annually by an independent think tank, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) which is attended by defense ministers, permanent heads of ministries and military
chiefs of 28 Asia-Pacific states. The forum gets its name from the Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore where it has been held since 2002.

➢ Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the keynote address at the 2018 Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD) in Singapore, the first time an Indian prime minister spoke at the SLD since its inaugural edition in 2002. The SLD has, over the years, evolved into a key strategic gathering of the Asia-Pacific region.


(Q) Consider the following statements about United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

1. UNMISS is a United Nations peacekeeping mission for South Sudan established by United Nations Security Council Resolution.
2. Its mandate is to support the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in developing its capacity to provide security, to establish rule of law, and to strengthen the security and justice sectors.
3. At present there are no Indian peacekeepers serving with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)
4. South Sudan became independent in 2011.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

A total of 150 Indian peacekeepers serving with the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) have received medals of honour for their dedicated service and sacrifice.

The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) is the United Nations peacekeeping mission for the independent South Sudan, which became independent on 9 July 2011. UNMISS was established on 8 July 2011 by United Nations Security Council Resolution 1996 (2011).

The UNMISS Mandate includes:

(i) Support for peace consolidation and thereby fostering longer-term state building and economic development.

(ii) Support the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in exercising its responsibilities for conflict prevention, mitigation and resolution and protect civilians.

(iii) Support the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in developing its capacity to provide security, to establish rule of law, and to strengthen the security and justice sectors.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Mission_in_South_Sudan

(Q) Global Commission on Future of Work is the initiative of

- a) World Bank
- b) United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- c) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- d) International Labour Organization (ILO)


**Solution: d)**

The formation of ILO Global Commission on the Future of Work marks the second stage in the ILO Future of Work Initiative.

- Its job is to undertake an in-depth examination of the future of work that can provide the **analytical basis for the delivery of social justice in the 21st century**.
- Its job also includes identifying the key challenges facing the world of work and making practical recommendations about how these may be addressed in the future.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

1. It comprises of eight Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal.
2. It came into being through the Bangkok Declaration.
3. It is headquartered in Kathmandu, Nepal
4. In 2018, the 4th BIMSTEC Summit concluded in Kathmandu

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution: a)**

The **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)** is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity. This sub-regional organization came into being on 6 June **1997** through the **Bangkok Declaration**.

- The BIMSTEC member states—Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan.
- In **2018**, the **4th BIMSTEC Summit** concluded in Kathmandu.
VI. POLITY

(Q) Consider the following statements about Electoral Bonds.

1. Political party registered under the Representation of People’s act, 1951 and securing not less than ten percent of the votes polled in the preceding election is entitled to receive the electoral bonds.
2. Electoral Bonds can be purchased by only citizen of India.
3. If the Electoral Bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period, no payment is made to any Political Party.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)
The government had brought in electoral bond scheme as an alternative to cash donations made to political parties as part of its efforts to bring transparency in political funding.

- The electoral bonds will be valid for 15 calendar days from the date of issue and no payment will be made to any payee political party if the bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period.
- The electoral bond deposited by an eligible political party in its account shall be credited on the same day.
- As per provisions of the scheme, electoral bonds may be purchased by a person, who is a citizen of India or entities incorporated or established in India.
- Registered political parties that have secured not less than 1 per cent of the votes polled in the last election of the Lok Sabha or legislative assembly will be eligible to receive electoral bonds.
- The SBI is the only authorised bank to issue such bonds. A person can buy electoral bonds, either single or jointly, with other individuals.


(Q) Consider the following statements about National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

1. It is constituted under the Companies Act, 2013 for hearing appeals only against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal.
2. The decisions of NCLAT are final and there are no further appeals.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both
d) None
Solution: d)

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013 for hearing appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT), with effect from 1st June, 2016.

- NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).
- NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.
- NCLAT is also the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

The decisions of NCLAT may be appealed to the Supreme Court of India.

Source: https://nclat.nic.in/?page_id=113

(Q) Consider the following statements about Article 370 of the Indian Constitution.

1. Article 370 of the Indian Constitution is a ‘temporary provision’ which grants special autonomous status to Jammu & Kashmir.
2. Parliament needs the state government’s concurrence for applying all laws in the state.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: b)

Statement 1 – Article 370 of the Indian Constitution is a ‘temporary provision’ which grants special autonomous status to Jammu & Kashmir.

Statement 2 – According to this article, except for defence, foreign affairs, finance and communications, Parliament needs the state government’s concurrence for applying all other laws.

Statement 3 – Part IV (Directive Principles of the State Policy) and Part IVA (Fundamental Duties) of the Constitution are not applicable to Jammu & Kashmir.

Statement 4 – The power to make laws related to preventive detention in Jammu and Kashmir belong to the Legislature of J & K and not the Indian Parliament. Thus, no preventive detention law made in India extends to Jammu & Kashmir.

(Q) Which of the following bodies are headed by the Prime Minister of India?

1. Department of Atomic Energy
2. National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)
3. Department of Space
4. National Security Council (NSC)
5. Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)
Select the correct code:

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

Solution: b)

The prime minister is usually always in charge/head of:

2. Appointments Committee of the Cabinet
3. Cabinet Committee on Security
4. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
5. NITI Aayog
6. Department of Atomic Energy
7. Department of Space
8. Nuclear Command Authority

The National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) consists of a group of eminent national security experts outside of the government. Members are usually senior retired officials, civilian as well as military, academics and distinguished members of civil society drawn from and having expertise in Internal and External Security, Foreign Affairs, Defence, Science & Technology and Economic Affairs. The National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) has been reconstituted with P S Raghavan, former Ambassador to Russia, as its head.

The National Security Council (NSC) of India is an executive government agency tasked with advising the Prime Minister’s Office on matters of national security and strategic interest.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Director of CBI.

1. The Central Government will appoint the Director of CBI on the recommendation of a three-member committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India.
2. The CBI Director is an Indian Police Service officer with a rank of Director General of Police.
3. The Director of CBI has been provided security of two-year tenure in office.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

The CBI is headed by a Director, an IPS (Indian Police Service) officer with a rank of Director General of Police. The Director of CBI has been provided security of two-year tenure in office by the CVC Act, 2003.

The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act (2013) amended the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act (1946) and made the following changes with respect to the composition of the CBI:
• The Central Government shall appoint the Director of CBI on the recommendation of a three-member committee consisting of the Prime Minister as Chairperson, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India or Judge of the Supreme Court nominated by him.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Bureau_of_Investigation#CBI_Directors_(1963%E2%80%93present)

(Q) Consider the following statements about VVPAT machines.

1. VVPAT allows the voters to verify that their votes are cast as intended.
2. VVPAT will be used in all the polling stations with the EVM in 2019 Indian general election.
3. It shows the printed paper slip having the name, serial number and election symbol of the chosen candidate for seven seconds to the voter.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)
(Q) The Citizenship Bill seeks to grant citizenship to Chakma and Hajong refugees. In this context, consider the following statements.

1. The Supreme Court directed the Centre to grant citizenship to Chakma and Hajongs.
2. Chakmas and Hajongs who are predominantly Hindus were originally residents of Chittagong Hill Tracts in the erstwhile East Pakistan.
3. They have been living in India for over 50 years.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The Citizenship Bill 2019 seeks to grant citizenship to six minority communities — Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis, and Christians — without valid documents from Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan after six years of stay in India. Locals are concerned as this bill seeks to grant citizenship to Chakma and Hajong refugees.

In 2015, the Supreme Court directed the Centre to grant citizenship to Chakma and Hajongs who had migrated from Bangladesh in 1964-69.

Chakmas and Hajongs were originally residents of Chittagong Hill Tracts in the erstwhile East Pakistan. They left their homeland when it was submerged by the Kaptai dam project in the 1960s.

Chakmas are predominantly Buddhists, while Hajongs are Hindus. They are found in northeast India, West Bengal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.

Source: [https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/who-are-chakmas/article19682129.ece](https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/who-are-chakmas/article19682129.ece)

(Q) Consider the following statements about Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM).

1. It is a permanent, non-constitutional body constituted to give advice on economic and related issues to the Prime Minister.
2. It functions under the Ministry of Finance.
3. It addresses issues of macroeconomic importance either suo-motu or on reference from the Prime Minister.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: b)

Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) is a non-constitutional, non-statutory, non-permanent and independent body constituted to give advice on economic and related issues to the Government of India, specifically to the Prime Minister.

➢ The terms of reference of EAC-PM include analyzing any issue, economic or otherwise, referred to it by the Prime Minister and advising him thereon, addressing issues of macroeconomic importance and
presenting views thereon to the Prime Minister. These could be either *suo-motu* or on reference from the Prime Minister or anyone else.

➢ Prime Minister Narendra Modi had reconstituted Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) in September 2017. Earlier PM Manmohan Singh had EAC headed by former RBI Governor C Rangarajan.

Source: [https://www.livemint.com/Politics/Y1lkOykxBtaJZ8piANx740/Narendra-Modi-revives-Economic-Advisory-Council-with-Bibek-D.html](https://www.livemint.com/Politics/Y1lkOykxBtaJZ8piANx740/Narendra-Modi-revives-Economic-Advisory-Council-with-Bibek-D.html)

(Q) A voter having his/her name in the electoral roll and no voter id, can produce which of the following documents for casting their vote?

1. Passport
2. MNREGA job card
3. PAN card
4. Pension document with photograph
5. Service identity card with photograph issued to employees of Private and Public Limited Companies.

Select the correct code:

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

Solution: c)

The Election Commission of India has directed that all electors in all constituencies who have been issued Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) have to produce the Electors Photo Identity Card for their identification at the polling station before casting their votes. Those electors who are not able to produce the EPIC shall produce one of the following alternative photo identity documents for establishing their identity. The list of eleven documents is:

1. Passport,
2. Driving License,
3. Service Identity Cards with photograph issued to employees by Central/State Govt./PSUs/Public Limited Companies,
4. Passbooks with photograph issued by Bank/Post Office,
5. PAN Card,
6. Smart Card issued by RGI under NPR,
7. MNREGA Job Card,
8. Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour,
9. Pension document with photograph,
10. Official identity cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs, and
11. Aadhaar Card.

(Q) What are the possible actions an Election Commission can take against candidates and political parties?

1. Election Commission cannot bar candidates or leaders from campaigning for specified periods.
2. The EC monitors the adherence of political parties and candidates to the ‘Model Code of Conduct’.
3. It can postpone elections to any constituency, cancel an election already notified, but cannot abrogate or annul an election already held.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

a) 1, 2  

b) 2 only  

c) 1, 3  

d) 3 only

Solution: c)

What are the possible actions EC can take against candidates and parties?

➢ The EC monitors the adherence of political parties and candidates to the ‘Model Code of Conduct’.
➢ If the violations are also offences under election law and the criminal law of the land, the EC has the power to recommend registration of cases against the offenders.
➢ However, for some violations — such as canvassing for votes during a period when electioneering is barred, making official announcements while the MCC is in force, and making appeal to voters on sectarian grounds — the EC has the power to advise or censure candidates, in addition to directing registration of cases.
➢ In some cases, as recent incidents would show, the EC may bar candidates or leaders from campaigning for specified periods.
➢ Asking individuals to leave a constituency or barring entry into certain areas are other powers that the EC may exercise. These powers are not necessarily traceable to any provision in law, but are generally considered inherent because of the sweeping and plenary nature of the EC’s responsibility under the Constitution to ensure free and fair elections.
➢ Its powers extend to postponing elections to any constituency, cancelling an election already notified, and even to abrogate or annul an election already held.

(Q) Consider the following statements with respect to powers of Election Commission.

1. Election Commission can disqualify candidates who commit electoral malpractices.
2. The Constitution empowers the Election Commission to decide whether a candidate has incurred disqualification by holding an office of profit.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only  

b) 2 only  

c) Both  

d) None

Solution: b)
What are the limitations of the EC’s powers?

➢ The EC does not have the power to disqualify candidates who commit electoral malpractices. At best, it may direct the registration of a case.

➢ The EC also does not have the power to deregister any political party. However, the Constitution empowers the EC to decide whether a candidate has incurred disqualification by holding an office of profit under the appropriate government, or has been declared an insolvent, or acquired the citizenship of a foreign state.

➢ When a question arises whether a candidate has incurred any of these disqualifications, the President of India or Governor has to refer it to the EC. The poll panel’s decision on this is binding.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

1. The Act defines a child as any person below sixteen years of age.
2. The act protects children from sexual harassment and pornography.
3. The act provides for speedy trial of offences through special courts.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 1, 3
c) 2, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 deals with sexual offences against persons below 18 years of age, who are deemed as children. The Act for the first time, defines “penetrative sexual assault”, “sexual assault” and “sexual harassment”. The offence is considered graver if it is committed by a police officer, public servant, any member of the staff at a remand home, protection or observation home, jail, hospital or educational institution, or by a member of the armed or security forces.

The Act has come into force on the 14th of November, 2012, along with the rules framed thereunder. The Act is a comprehensive law to provide for the protection of children from the offences of sexual assault, sexual harassment and pornography, while safeguarding the interests of the child at every stage of the judicial process by incorporating child-friendly mechanisms for reporting, recording of evidence, investigation and speedy trial of offences through appointment of Special Public Prosecutors and designated Special Courts. The Act incorporates child friendly procedures for reporting, recording, investigation and trial offences. The Act provides for stringent punishments which have been graded as per the gravity of offence.

Source: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=113750
VII. HISTORY, ART & CULTURE

(Q) Which of the following have got Geographical Indication (GI) tag?

1. Kandhamal Haldi.
2. Coorg Arabica coffee.
3. Sirsi Supari.
5. Kadaknath chicken meat.

Select the correct code:

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

Solution: d)

• **Kandhamal Haldi** a variety of turmeric indigenous to southern Odisha.
• **Coorg Arabica coffee**: grown specifically in the region of Kodagu district in Karnataka.
• **Sirsi Supari of Karnataka**– Sirsi Supari is the first product from the Arecanut sector to get a GI tag.
• The **Marayur Jaggery** largely produced in the regions of Marayur and Kanthallur grama panchayats of Kerala.
• **Kadaknath chicken** meat from Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Project Navlekha.

1. The project is to make online content relevant for more Indian users especially in local languages.
2. The project aims to bring 135,000 local language publishers online by making web hosting smooth and simple.
3. It is the initiative of Ministry of Communication and Information Technology.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 1, 3
c) 2, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: a)

• **Google** has unveiled **Project Navlekha** to make online content relevant for more Indian users especially in local languages.
• The project aims to bring 135,000 local language publishers online by making web hosting smooth and simple.

(Q) Recently Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai was declared as a World Heritage Property by UNESCO. Consider the following statements

1. This makes Mumbai city the third city in India after Delhi and Ahmedabad to be inscribed on the World Heritage List.
2. India stands second largest in number after China in terms of number of World Heritage properties in ASPAC (Asia and Pacific) region.
3. UNESCO's World Heritage mission helps States Parties safeguard World Heritage properties by providing technical assistance and professional training.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2  
b) 1, 3  
c) 2, 3  
d) 1, 2, 3  

Solution: c)

India has been successful in securing the inscription of the "Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles of Mumbai" on UNESCO's World Heritage List. This makes Mumbai city the second city in India after Ahmedabad to be inscribed on the World Heritage List. India stands second largest in number after China in terms of number of World Heritage properties in ASPAC (Asia and Pacific) region.

VIII. STATES

(Q) Consider the following pairs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GI Product</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Shahi Litchi</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Kadaknath chicken meat</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Etikoppaka toys</td>
<td>Telangana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Adilabad dokra</td>
<td>Telangana</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select the correct code:

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

Solution: c)
- Shahi Litchi – Bihar
- Kadaknath chicken meat – Madhya Pradesh
- Etikoppaka toys – Andhra Pradesh
- Adilabad dokra – Telangana

(Q) Renukaji Dam Multipurpose Project will be constructed on the river?

a) Godavari  
b) Krishna  
c) Son  
d) Yamuna

Solution: d)

Renukaji Multi-Purpose Project:
- Three storage projects are proposed to be constructed on the river Yamuna and two of its tributaries – Tons and Giri in the hilly regions of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh of Upper Yamuna Basin.
- These include Lakhwar project on river Yamuna in Uttarakhand, Kishau on river Tons in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and Renukaji on river Giri in Himachal Pradesh.


(Q) Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary, recently in news is located in?

a) Meghalaya  
b) Assam  
c) Uttar Pradesh  
d) Uttarakhand
Solution: d)

With the number of tigers steadily on the rise at Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttarakhand, the authorities feel upgrading it to a tiger reserve is necessary for the conservation of tigers at the facility. Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary is situated close to the Nandhaur river in Kumaon region of the State.

(Q) Which state recently declared Pakke Hornbill Festival as ‘state festival’
   a) Nagaland
   b) Assam
   c) Manipur
   d) Arunachal Pradesh

Solution: d)
The government of Arunachal Pradesh declared the Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF)—the state's only conservation festival, as a “state festival”.

(Q) Sikkim was awarded Future Policy Gold Award for its achievement in
   a) Best state for women in the workplace.
   b) Its per capita GDP growing in double digits since 2004-05.
   c) 100 per cent organic state.
   d) India’s first open defecation free state.

Solution: c)
Sikkim has won the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation’s (FAO) Future Policy Gold Award for its achievement in becoming the world's first totally organic agriculture state.
IX. DEFENCE & SECURITY

(Q) Operation Samudra Maitri, often seen in news is related to
(a) Indian Army launched Operation to rescue people in flood-hit Kerala.
(b) India’s Army-led rescue and relief mission in quake-hit Nepal.
(c) Relief effort launched by India to assist the victims of the 2018 earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia.
(d) Operation by the Indian Navy to evacuate Indian citizens from Yemen who were stranded by Cyclone Mekenu.

Solution: c)

Operation Samudra Maitri is the relief effort launched by India to assist the victims of the 2018 Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia.

Source: https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/30461/Operation_Samudra_Maitri_Indias_Assistance_to_Earthquake_and_Tsunami_affected_areas_in_Indonesia

(Q) Which of the following is the Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency in India
a) National Counter Terrorism Centre
b) Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)
c) National Investigation Agency (NIA)
d) Counter Terrorism and Counter Radicalization Division, MHA

Solution: c)

• Presently, NIA is functioning as the Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency in India.

Source: http://www.nia.gov.in/about-us.htm

(Q) Consider the following statements about Joint maritime surveillance system, recently seen in news.
1. ISRO and European Space Agency have signed an agreement to set up a joint maritime surveillance system in India.
2. They will put up a constellation of low-Earth orbiting satellites that will identify and track movement of ships only in the Indian Ocean region.
3. It provides for a maritime surveillance centre to be set up in India.
Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

a) 1, 2
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 3
d) 1, 2, 3
Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Paris based National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) of France have signed an agreement to set up a joint maritime surveillance system in India.

The two nations will explore putting up a constellation of low-Earth orbiting satellites that will identify and track movement of ships globally and in particular those moving in the Indian Ocean region where France has its Reunion Islands.

It provides for a maritime surveillance centre to be set up in India.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/isro-french-space-agency-seal-agreement-on-maritime-security/article26449883.ece

(Q) Consider the following statements about Nirbhay Missile.

1. Nirbhay is a long range, all-weather, subsonic cruise missile designed and developed in India.
2. The missile can be launched from multiple platforms and is capable of carrying conventional and nuclear warheads.
3. Recently Nirbhay Missile was inducted into service by Indian Army and Indian Airforce.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 3
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 2
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

Nirbhay is a long range, all-weather, subsonic cruise missile designed and developed in India by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

The missile can be launched from multiple platforms and is capable of carrying conventional and nuclear warheads. It is currently under development and undergoing flight trials.


(Q) Which of the following statements is correct with respect to Peace Mission 2018.

a) United Nations Mission to promote peace in West Asia.
b) Counter terrorism initiative of United States.
c) Space mission of Russian Federal Space Agency to control space wars.
d) Counter terrorism operations in urban scenario under the framework of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Solution: d)

Exercise Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Peace Mission 2018, the latest in ‘Peace Mission’ series formally started on 24 August 2018 at Chebarkul, Russia. The ceremony was conducted in Chebarkul, Russia with military contingents of the all eight SCO member nations participating in this exercise.

The exercise will provide an opportunity to the armed forces of SCO nations to train in counter terrorism operations in urban scenario in a multinational and joint environment.

Source: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183039
X. REPORTS & INDICES

(Q) Consider the following statements about Agricultural Census in India.

1. It is conducted every ten years in India.
2. It collects data on structure of operational holdings by different size classes and social groups.
3. It is carried out as a Central Sector Scheme.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Agricultural Census is conducted every five years in India. It is the largest countrywide statistical operation undertaken by Ministry of Agriculture, for collection of data on structure of operational holdings by different size classes and social groups.

- The first Agricultural Census in the country was conducted with reference year 1970-71.
- Agricultural Census is carried out as a Central Sector Scheme under which 100% financial assistance is provided to States/Union Territories.


(Q) Asian Development Outlook is an annual publication produced by

a) International Monetary Fund
b) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
c) World Bank
d) Asian Development Bank

Solution: d)

- The Asian Development Outlook is an annual publication produced by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). It offers economic analysis and forecasts, as well as an examination of social development issues, for most countries in Asia.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Special 301 Report.

1. It is prepared annually by the World Bank.
2. The Report includes a list of “Priority Foreign Countries”, “Priority Watch List” and a “Watch List” countries which are judged on the basis of intellectual property laws.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only
b) 2 only
c) Both
d) None
**Solution: b)**

The **Special 301 Report** is prepared annually by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) that identifies trade barriers to United States companies and products due to the intellectual property laws, such as copyright, patents and trademarks, in other countries.

The annual Special 301 Report includes a **list of "Priority Foreign Countries"**, that are judged to have **inadequate intellectual property laws**; these countries may be subject to sanctions. In addition, the report contains a "Priority Watch List" and a "Watch List", containing countries whose intellectual property regimes are deemed of concern.

In its 2018 report, the USTR said that India remains on the Priority Watch List "for lack of sufficient measurable improvements to its IP framework.


**(Q)** Consider the following statements about National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).

1. It is launched by Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).
2. Only Central Universities and Government colleges are ranked under NIRF.
3. Ranking of institutions will be done once in 3 years.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2  

b) 1, 3  

c) 1 only  

d) 1, 2, 3

**Solution: c)**

NIRF 2019 rankings have been released.

The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) has been launched by Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India on 29th September, **2015**. This framework outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country.

As decided by the Ministry of HRD, **Ranking of institutions of Higher Education** will be an annual exercise. This year, educational institutions across the country were ranked in nine categories –overall, universities, engineering, colleges, management, pharmacy, medical, architecture and law.


**(Q)** Global Risks Report is released by

a) World Bank  

b) UNDP  

c) World Meteorological Organization  

d) World Economic Forum

**Solution: d)**

- The **Global Risks Report 2019** has been released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

Global Environment Outlook report is released by

a) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
b) World Economic Forum (WEF)
c) World Wide Fund for Nature
d) UN Environment

Solution: d)

Global Environment Outlook report has been released. The report is the sixth and is the UN's most comprehensive report on the state of the global environment since the fifth edition in 2012.

The Global Environment Outlook (GEO) is often referred to as UN Environment's flagship environmental assessment.

Source: https://www.unenvironment.org/resources/global-environment-outlook-6

Consider the following statements about Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP).

1. It is the initiative of World Economic Forum (WEF).
2. Financial stability assessment and financial development assessment are the major components of FSAP.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The Financial Sector Assessment Program (FSAP) is a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of a country's financial sector.

FSAP assessments are the joint responsibility of the IMF and World Bank in developing economies and emerging markets and of the IMF alone in advanced economies.

The FSAP includes two major components: a financial stability assessment, which is the responsibility of the IMF, and a financial development assessment, the responsibility of the World Bank. To date, more than three-quarters of the institutions' member countries have undergone assessments.

Source: https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/Sheets/2016/08/01/14/Financial-Sector-Assessment-Program

Consider the following statements about Global Hunger Index.

1. It is released by Food and Agriculture Organization.
2. India is among the countries that have “serious levels of hunger”.
3. It ranks countries based on four key indicators — undernourishment, child mortality, child wasting and child stunting.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2  b) 2, 3
c) 1, 3  d) 1, 2, 3
Solution: b)
The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a tool that measures and tracks hunger globally, by region, and by country. Created in 2006, the GHI was initially published by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Welthungerhilfe. In 2007, the Irish NGO Concern Worldwide also became a co-publisher. In 2018, the GHI was a joint project of Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide, with IFPRI stepping aside from its involvement in the report.

- India has been ranked at the 103rd position among 119 countries on the 2018 Global Hunger Index.
- India is among the 45 countries that have "serious levels of hunger".
- In 2017, India was ranked at the 100th position.
- The GHI ranks countries based on four key indicators — undernourishment, child mortality, child wasting and child stunting.


(Q) The World Bank uses which of the following indicators to compute Human Capital Index (HCI)?

1. Quality-adjusted learning
2. Life expectancy
3. Rate of stunting for children under age 5

Select the correct code:

a) 1, 2
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)
The World Bank released Human Capital Index (HCI) as part of the World Development Report 2019. The HCI has been constructed for 157 countries. It claims to seek to measure the amount of human capital that a child born today can expect to attain by age 18. The HCI index values are contended to convey the productivity of the next generation of workers, compared to a benchmark of complete standard education and full health.

The HCI has three components:

(i) Survival, as measured by under-5 mortality rates;

(ii) Expected years of Quality-Adjusted School which combines information on the quantity and quality of education (quality is measured by harmonizing test scores from major international student achievement testing programs and quantity from number of years of school that a child can expect to obtain by age 18 given the prevailing pattern of enrolment rates across grades in respective countries); and

(iii) Health environment using two proxies of (a) adult survival rates and (b) the rate of stunting for children under age 5.

UNDP constructs Human Development Index (HDI) for several years. The HCI uses survival rates and stunting rate instead of life expectancy as measure of health, and quality-adjusted learning instead of merely years of schooling as measure of education. HCI also excludes per capita income whereas the HDI uses it.
Two significant changes from HDI are exclusion of income component and introduction of quality adjustment in learning. Exclusion of income element and introduction of quality adjustment makes HCI far less representative of Human Capital Development than the Index claims it to be.


(Q) Consider the following statements about 2019 Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI).

1. It is published by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. Its aim is to put political and social pressure on those countries which have, up to now, failed to take ambitious actions on climate protection.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) is an annual publication by Germanwatch, New Climate Institute and Climate Action Network Europe.

- The Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) is an instrument covering 58 countries and supposed to enhance transparency in international climate politics.
- Its aim is to encourage political and social pressure on those countries which have, up to now, failed to take ambitious actions on climate protection as well as to highlight countries with best-practice climate policies.
- India ranks 11th in this year's CCPI, improving its standing by three places compared to the previous edition. Most notably India improved its performance in the Renewable Energy category, joining the group of medium performers.


(Q) World Investment Report, sometimes seen in news is released by?

a) World Bank  
b) World Trade Organisation (WTO)  
c) World Economic Forum (WEF)  
d) UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

Solution: d)

The World Investment Report has been published by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) annually since 1991. Each year’s Report covers the latest trends in foreign direct investment around the World and analyses in depth one selected topic related to foreign direct investment and development.

XI. MAPS/ PLACES

(Q) Rhi-Tiddim Road Project, sometimes seen in news is developed by India in which country?
   a) Bangladesh
   b) Bhutan
   c) Afghanistan
   d) Myanmar

Solution: d)


(Q) The countries bordering Venezuela are

1. Brazil
2. Suriname
3. Colombia
4. Guyana

Select the correct code:
   a) 1, 2, 3
   b) 1, 2, 3, 4
   c) 1, 3, 4
   d) 1, 3

Solution: c)
(Q) Mangdechhu hydropower project, recently seen in news is to be setup in which country?
   a) Nepal  
   b) Bhutan  
   c) Bangladesh  
   d) Myanmar

Solution: b)

India is expected to commission a 720-megawatt Mangdechhu hydropower project in Bhutan. India is a major stake holder in Mangdechhu project as it is one of the ten Hydroprojects planned by Bhutan to generate 10,000MW hydropower by 2020 with support from the Government of India. 


(Q) The Black Sea is bordered by which of the following countries?
   1. Ukraine
   2. Turkey
   3. Greece
   4. Georgia

Select the correct code:
   a) 1, 2, 4  
   b) 1, 3, 4  
   c) 1, 2, 3  
   d) 2, 3, 4

Solution: a)
(Q) Bura Chapor Wildlife Sanctuary is located in

a) Arunachal Pradesh
b) Meghalaya
c) Tripura
d) Assam

Solution: d)

Bura Chapor Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected area located in the state of Assam.

Indian Rhino Vision 2020 aims at increasing the number and range of rhinos in Assam through wild-to-wild translocations from Kaziranga National Park and Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary to potential Protected Areas including Manas National Park, Bura Chapor Wildlife Sanctuary, Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary, and Dibru-Saikhowa National Park.
XII. Miscellaneous

(Q) Consider the following statements about rare disease.
1. Rare disease is the one which occurs rarely during extreme weather conditions.
2. Most rare diseases are genetic in nature.
3. The most common rare diseases recorded in India are Lysosomal storage disorders such as Pompe disease, Hirschsprung disease and Gaucher’s disease.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

A rare disease, also referred to as an orphan disease, is any disease that affects a small percentage of the population.

- Most rare diseases are genetic, and are present throughout a person’s entire life, even if symptoms do not immediately appear.
- The most common rare diseases recorded in India are Haemophilia, Thalassemia, sickle-cell anaemia and primary immuno deficiency in children, auto-immune diseases, Lysosomal storage disorders such as Pompe disease, Hirschsprung disease, Gaucher’s disease, Cystic Fibrosis, Hemangiomas and certain forms of muscular dystrophies.

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rare_disease](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rare_disease)

(Q) Consider the following statements about e-cigarettes.
1. Stringent health warnings on the 85% of the packaging of e-cigarettes is mandatory in India.
2. In India, e-cigarettes are regulated under Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

➢ The Commerce Ministry has asked the Health Ministry to frame a law banning manufacture and sale of e-cigarettes in the country as in the absence of a domestic legislation, it would not be possible to put a blanket ban on its imports.
➢ As e-cigarettes contain nicotine and not tobacco, they do not fall within the ambit of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA).
Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA), which mandates stringent health warnings on the packaging and advertisements of tobacco products.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/Smoking-e-cigarettes-is-injurious-to-health/article17041292.ece

(Q) “Order of the Holy Apostle Andrew the First” award, recently in news is awarded by which country?

a) Saudi Arabia
b) United Arab Emirates (UAE)
c) South Korea
d) Russia

Solution: d)

Russia’s highest civilian award – the “Order of the Holy Apostle Andrew the First,” will be awarded to PM Narendra Modi for his work on bilateral ties.

Eligibility: The Order of the Holy Apostle Andrew the First is awarded to prominent government and public figures, prominent representatives of science, culture, art and various sectors of the economy for “exceptional services that contribute to the prosperity, greatness and glory of Russia”.