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I. ECONOMY

(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. Headline inflation is a measure of the total inflation within an economy, excluding commodities such as food and energy prices.
2. The RBI Act was amended in 2016 for an inflation targeting framework, that had set a target for the RBI of 4% consumer price (CPI) index-based inflation, with a deviation of 2% on both sides, for five years.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Headline inflation is a measure of the total inflation within an economy, including commodities such as food and energy prices (e.g., oil and gas), which tend to be much more volatile and prone to inflationary spikes. On the other hand, “core inflation” (also non-food-manufacturing or underlying inflation) is calculated from a consumer price index minus the volatile food and energy components. Headline inflation may not present an accurate picture of an economy's inflationary trend since sector-specific inflationary spikes are unlikely to persist.

A flexible inflation targeting framework aided by low oil prices and food supply management has helped keep the headline inflation low in the last five years.

The RBI Act was amended in 2016 for an inflation targeting framework, that had set a target for the RBI of 4% consumer price (CPI) index-based inflation, with a deviation of 2% on both sides, for five years.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/low-oil-price-food-supply-kept-inflation-low/article28230054.ece

(Q) Consider the following statements about National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA).

1. The Authority’s main function is to ensure that traders are not realizing unfair profit by charging high price from consumers in the name of GST.
2. NAA is headed by the Ministry of Finance.
3. The GST law also provides for the creation of a Consumer Welfare Fund wherein undue benefits made by businesses under the GST law have to be deposited, in case it cannot be passed on to the identified recipient.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)
The National Anti-Profiteering Authority (NAA) has been constituted under Section 171 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.

- The Authority's main function is to ensure that traders are not realizing unfair profit by charging high price from consumers in the name of GST.
- The Authority's core function is to ensure that the benefits of the reduction is GST rates on goods and services made by GST Council and proportional change in the Input tax credit passed on to the ultimate consumers and recipient respectively by way of reduction in the prices by the suppliers.
- The National Anti-Profiteering Authority shall be headed by a senior officer of the level of a Secretary to the Government of India and shall have four technical members from the Centre and/or the States.
- In the event the National Anti-profiteering Authority confirms the necessity of applying anti-profiteering measures, it has the power to order the business concerned to reduce its prices or return the undue benefit availed along with interest to the recipient of the goods or services.
- If the undue benefit cannot be passed on to the recipient, it can be ordered to be deposited in the Consumer Welfare Fund.
- In extreme cases the National Anti-profiteering Authority can impose a penalty on the defaulting business entity and even order the cancellation of its registration under GST.

Source: http://www.naa.gov.in/page.php?id=about-naa

(Q) Consider the following statements:

1. The four-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBI was constituted by the Central Government for the first time in 2016.
2. The implementation of a flexible inflation targeting framework by the MPC has a statutory basis.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

As per the provisions of the RBI Act, out of the six Members of Monetary Policy Committee, three Members will be from the RBI and the other three Members of MPC will be appointed by the Central Government. In exercise of the powers conferred by section 45ZB of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Central Government accordingly constituted, through a Gazette Notification dated 29th Sept 2016, the Monetary Policy Committee of RBI.

(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. The average growth rate of India's GDP at current US$ terms, between 2014 to 2018 was lower than that of China.
2. India's growth of real GDP has been high with average rate of 7.5% in the last 5 years.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. India stood ahead of China in terms of honey production in 2017-18.
2. Beekeeping Development Committee under the Chairmanship of Bibek Debroy is setup to identify ways of advancing beekeeping in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only  

b) 2 only  

c) Both  

d) None

Solution: b)

The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister set up a Beekeeping Development Committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Bibek Debroy.

- BDC was constituted with the objective of identifying ways of advancing beekeeping in India, that can help in improving agricultural productivity, enhancing employment generation, augmenting nutritional security and sustaining biodiversity.

As per Food and Agricultural Organization database, in 2017-18, India ranked eighth in the world in terms of honey production (64.9 thousand tonnes) while China stood first with a production level of 551 thousand tonnes.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS).

1. The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS), an organ of the World Bank is the primary global standard setter for the prudential regulation of banks and provides a forum for regular cooperation on banking supervisory matters.
2. Basel III is an internationally agreed set of measures developed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision in response to the financial crisis of 2007-09.
3. Basel III introduced liberal capital requirements in comparison to Basel I and Basel II.
Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: c)

The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) is a committee of banking supervisory authorities that was established by the central bank governors of the Group of Ten countries in 1974. The committee expanded its membership in 2009 and then again in 2014. In 2019, the BCBS comprise of 45 members from 28 Jurisdictions, consisting of Central Banks and authorities with responsibility of banking regulation.

- The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) is the primary global standard setter for the prudential regulation of banks and provides a forum for regular cooperation on banking supervisory matters.
- Basel III is an internationally agreed set of measures developed by the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision in response to the financial crisis of 2007-09. The measures aim to strengthen the regulation, supervision and risk management of banks.
- Like all Basel Committee standards, Basel III standards are minimum requirements which apply to internationally active banks.
- Basel III introduced tighter capital requirements in comparison to Basel I and Basel II.

Source: https://www.bis.org/bcbs/basel3.htm

(Q) Consider the following statements about Utkarsh 2022.

1. It is a three-year roadmap to improve regulation and supervision of the RBI.
2. It was finalised by the Ministry of Finance in consultation with the RBI Board.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board, finalised a three-year roadmap to improve regulation and supervision, among other functions of the central bank.

This medium-term strategy — named Utkarsh 2022 — is in line with the global central banks' plan to strengthen the regulatory and supervisory mechanism.

An internal committee was formed, which was anchored by outgoing Deputy Governor Viral Acharya, to identify issues that needed to be addressed over the next three years.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/business/rbi-board-finalises-utkarsh-2022/article28323698.ece
(Q) Consider the following statements about RBI Board.

1. The RBI Board is a body comprising officials from both the central bank and the Government of India.
2. The Board recommends to the government the design, form and material of bank notes and also when and where they can serve as legal tender.
3. The Central government cannot supersede the RBI Board and issue directions to the central bank.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The **RBI Board** is a body comprising officials from the central bank and the **Government of India**, including officials nominated by the government. According to the RBI, the "general superintendence and direction of the affairs and business of the RBI is entrusted to the Central Board" and the Board exercises all powers and does all acts and things that are exercised by the RBI. The Board is also to recommend to the government the design, form and material of bank notes and also when and where they can serve as legal tender.

- The Board consists of official directors, who include the Governor and up to four Deputy Governors, non-official directors, who include up to ten directors from various fields and two government officials, and one director from each of four local boards of the RBI.
- **Section 7 of the RBI Act** basically empowers the government to supersede the RBI Board and issue directions to the central bank if they are considered to be “necessary in public interest”.


(Q) Tapan Ray Committee, recently seen in news is related to.

a) To spell out revival plans for Telecom sector.
c) Review regulatory guidelines applicable to core investment companies (CICs).
d) None of the above

Solution: c)

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has formed a committee headed by **Tapan Ray** to **review regulatory guidelines and supervisory framework** applicable to **core investment companies (CICs)**.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Corporate bonds.

1. Corporate bonds are debt securities issued only by private corporations.
2. Corporate bond does not have an ownership interest in the issuing company, unlike when one purchases the company’s equity stock.
3. In India, financing of infrastructure projects such as roads, ports, and airports is higher through corporate bond market compared to bank loans and Government finance.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Corporate bonds are debt securities issued by private and public corporations. Companies issue corporate bonds to raise money for a variety of purposes, such as building a new plant, purchasing equipment, or growing the business. When one buys a corporate bond, one lends money to the "issuer," the company that issued the bond. In exchange, the company promises to return the money, also known as "principal," on a specified maturity date. Until that date, the company usually pays you a stated rate of interest, generally semiannually. Corporate bond does not have an ownership interest in the issuing company, unlike when one purchases the company's equity stock.

In India, given the absence of a well functioning corporate bond market, the burden of financing infrastructure projects such as roads, ports, and airports is more on banks and the general government. This, in turn, puts lenders such as the banks under pressure as reflected in the ballooning of bad loans.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Core Investment Companies (CICs).

1. Core Investment Companies are non-banking financial companies which carry on the business of acquisition of shares and securities.
2. Core Investment Companies can accept public funds.
3. All Core Investment Companies must be registered with RBI.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The Reserve Bank has constituted a working group that will review the regulatory and supervisory framework for core investment companies. The six-member working group is to be headed by Tapan Ray.

- CICs are non-banking financial companies with asset size of ₹100 crore and above which carry on the business of acquisition of shares and securities, subject to certain conditions.
- CICs, which are allowed to accept public funds, hold not less than 90% of their net assets in the form of investment in equity shares, preference shares, bonds, debentures, debt or loans in group companies.
- CICs having asset size of below Rs 100 crore are exempted from registration and regulation from the RBI, except if they wish to make overseas investments in the financial sector.
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(Q) Consider the following statements regarding National Policy on Biofuels – 2018.

1. Policy expands the scope of raw material for ethanol production by allowing use of Sugarcane Juice, Sugar Beet, Sweet Sorghum and Starch containing materials like Corn.
2. The policy bans the use of food grains for production of ethanol, to ensure food security.
3. The Policy encourages biodiesel production from non-edible oilseeds and Used Cooking Oil.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The Union Cabinet has approved National Policy on Biofuels – 2018 in order to promote biofuels in the country.

- The Policy categorises biofuels as “Basic Biofuels” viz. First Generation (1G) bioethanol & biodiesel and "Advanced Biofuels" – Second Generation (2G) ethanol, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to drop-in fuels, Third Generation (3G) biofuels, bio-CNG etc. to enable extension of appropriate financial and fiscal incentives under each category.
- The Policy expands the scope of raw material for ethanol production by allowing use of Sugarcane Juice, Sugar containing materials like Sugar Beet, Sweet Sorghum, Starch containing materials like Corn, Cassava, Damaged food grains like wheat, broken rice, Rotten Potatoes, unfit for human consumption for ethanol production.
- Farmers are at a risk of not getting appropriate price for their produce during the surplus production phase. Taking this into account, the Policy allows use of surplus food grains for production of ethanol for blending with petrol with the approval of National Biofuel Coordination Committee.
- With a thrust on Advanced Biofuels, the Policy indicates a viability gap funding scheme for 2G ethanol Bio refineries of Rs.5000 crore in 6 years in addition to additional tax incentives, higher purchase price as compared to 1G biofuels.
- The Policy encourages setting up of supply chain mechanisms for biodiesel production from non-edible oilseeds, Used Cooking Oil, short gestation crops.
- Roles and responsibilities of all the concerned Ministries/Departments with respect to biofuels has been captured in the Policy document to synergise efforts.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Special Rhino Protection Force (SRPF).

1. The SRPF is basically a tiger protection force named after the rhino since the threat of poaching is more for the one-horned herbivore.
2. It is an initiative of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
3. The force would be used for Kaziranga National Park, Orang National Park and Manas National Park.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2  

b) 2, 3

c) 1, 3  

d) 1, 2, 3
**Solution: d)**
SRPF was raised for better protection of rhinos. The SRPF is basically a tiger protection force named after the rhino since the threat of poaching is more for the one-horned herbivore. The force would be exclusively used for **Kaziranga National Park, Orang National Park** and **Manas National Park**. The Assam government would be paying the salaries of the SRPF members and the amount would be reimbursed by the National Tiger Conservation Authority. The process of setting up the special force was started in 2015.

The squad, raised in collaboration between the central and state governments, is an initiative of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).


(Q) Consider the following statements about Biodiversity loss.

1. Biodiversity loss describes the decline in the number, genetic variability, and variety of species, and the biological communities in a given area.
2. A loss in biodiversity can make plants and animals more vulnerable to pests and diseases.
3. Biodiversity loss is always anthropogenic.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution: c)**

**Biodiversity loss** describes the decline in the number, genetic variability, and variety of species, and the biological communities in a given area. This loss in the variety of life can lead to a breakdown in the functioning of the ecosystem where decline has happened.

- An area’s biodiversity increases and decreases with natural cycles. Seasonal changes, such as the onset of spring, create opportunities for feeding and breeding, increasing biodiversity as the populations of many species rise.
- In contrast, the onset of winter temporarily decreases an area’s biodiversity, as warm-adapted insects die and migrating animals leave.
- In addition, the seasonal rise and fall of plant and invertebrate populations (such as insects and plankton), which serve as food for other forms of life, also determine an area’s biodiversity.


(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. The Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS), from Sultanganj to Kahalganj on the Ganga in Bihar is the only dolphin sanctuary in the country.
2. Gangetic river dolphin is India’s national aquatic animal.
3. The Gangetic river dolphin is found only in the Ganges River and their tributaries in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 2 only  
b) 1, 2  
c) 2, 3  
d) 1, 2, 3
Solution: b)
The **Ganges river dolphin** is primarily found in the **Ganges** and **Brahmaputra Rivers** and their tributaries in **Bangladesh**, **India** and **Nepal**.

- The **Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS)**, from Sultanganj to Kahalgaanj on the Ganga in **Bihar** is the only dolphin sanctuary in the country.
- The **Ganges river dolphin** has been recognized by the government of India as its **National Aquatic Animal** and is the official animal of the city of **Guwahati**.


(Q) MOSAiC mission, recently seen in news is related to

a) Study of Arctic Climate.
b) Study outer corona of Sun.
c) First solar power spacecraft to orbit Jupiter.
d) None of the above

Solution: a)
The **MOSAiC mission** stands for Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate.


(Q) Consider the following statements about National Policy on Biofuels – 2018

1. The Policy expands the scope of raw material for ethanol production.
2. The Policy allows use of surplus food grains for production of ethanol with the approval of Gram Sabha.
3. The Policy encourages setting up of supply chain mechanisms for biodiesel production.
4. The policy encourages import of third Generation (3G) biofuels.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)
The Policy categorises biofuels as "**Basic Biofuels**" viz. First Generation (1G) bioethanol & biodiesel and "Advanced Biofuels" – Second Generation (2G) ethanol, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to drop-in fuels, Third Generation (3G) biofuels, bio-CNG etc. to enable extension of appropriate financial and fiscal incentives under each category.

- The Policy expands the scope of raw material for ethanol production by allowing use of Sugarcane Juice, Sugar containing materials like Sugar Beet, Sweet Sorghum, Starch containing materials like Corn, Cassava, Damaged food grains like wheat, broken rice, Rotten Potatoes, unfit for human consumption for ethanol production.
• Farmers are at a risk of not getting appropriate price for their produce during the surplus production phase. Taking this into account, the Policy allows use of surplus food grains for production of ethanol for blending with petrol with the approval of National Biofuel Coordination Committee.

• The Policy encourages setting up of supply chain mechanisms for biodiesel production from non-edible oilseeds, Used Cooking Oil, short gestation crops.

**Expected Benefits:**

• Reduce Import Dependency: One crore lit of E10 saves Rs.28 crore of forex at current rates.


**(Q)** Plan Bee, sometimes seen in news is related to

a) Prevent speeding trains from hitting elephants crossing tracks  
b) Distribution of honeybee colonies & beehives  
c) Provide loans for setting up honey processing units.  
d) None of the above

**Solution: a)**

The **Indian Railways** has come up with an initiative called “Plan Bee” to prevent speeding trains from hitting elephants crossing tracks. The plan involves setting up of devices near tracks, which emit the ‘buzzing’ sound of swarming bees, considered as a natural nemesis of elephants.

III. GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND BODIES

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Nirbhaya Fund for safety of women.

1. The Nirbhaya Fund was announced in Union Budget 2013 with an initial corpus of ₹1,000 crore.
2. The key schemes under which the States have been allocated money include Emergency Response Support System, Central Victim Compensation Fund and Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children.
3. Mizoram has emerged as the top state in terms of utilisation of money across various schemes under the Nirbhaya Fund.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)
The Rs 1,000 crore Nirbhaya Fund was announced in Union Budget 2013.
The key schemes under which the States have been allocated money include Emergency Response Support System, Central Victim Compensation Fund, Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children, One Stop Scheme, Mahila Police Volunteer, and Universalisation of Women Helpline Scheme.
The top five States ranked in terms of utilisation of money across various schemes under the Nirbhaya Fund were Chandigarh (59.83%), Mizoram (56.32%), Uttarakhand (51.68%), Andhra Pradesh (43.23%) and Nagaland (38.17%).
Source: https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/only-20-of-nirbhaya-fund-has-been-used-by-states-until-2018/article28230097.ece

(Q) Consider the following statements about Common Services Centers (CSCs).

1. They are the access points for delivery of essential public utility services, social welfare schemes, healthcare, financial, education and agriculture services to villages in India.
2. Based on the assessment of CSC scheme, the Government launched the CSC 2.0 scheme in 2015 to expand the outreach of CSCs to all Gram Panchayats across the country.
3. It is implemented under the aegis of Ministry of Rural Development.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Common Services Centers (CSCs) are a strategic cornerstone of the Digital India programme. They are the access points for delivery of various electronic services to villages in India. They are the access points for delivery of essential public utility services, social welfare schemes, healthcare, financial, education and agriculture services, apart from host of B2C services to citizens in rural and remote areas of the country.

- The CSC project, which forms a strategic component of the National eGovernance Plan was approved by the Government in May 2006, as part of its commitment in the National Common Minimum Programme to introduce e-governance on a massive scale.
- It is also one of the approved projects under the Integrated Mission Mode Projects of the National eGovernance Plan.
- It is implemented under the aegis of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- Based on the assessment of CSC scheme, the Government launched the CSC 2.0 scheme in 2015 to expand the outreach of CSCs to all Gram Panchayats across the country.

Source: https://meity.gov.in/content/common-services-centers-0

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding EQUIP programme.

1. EQUIP is an acronym for Economic Quality Upgradation and Improvement Programme.
2. It is the initiative of Ministry of Finance to bridge the gap between policy and implementation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

The Higher Education Department of the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development has finalized and released a 5-year Vision Plan titled as Education Quality Upgradation and Inclusion Programme (EQUIP). EQUIP was crafted by ten committees led by experts within the government.

EQUIP is meant to bridge the gap between policy and implementation. The project is made to bring transformation in the higher education system in the upcoming 5 years.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM).

1. It aims to deliver integrated project-based infrastructure in the rural areas, which will also include development of economic activities and skill development.
2. The preferred mode of delivery is through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) while using various scheme funds for financing.
3. Substantial part of the works identified for development is focused on provision of basic and economic amenities like 24/7 Water Supply to all households, Solid and Liquid Waste Management facilities at the household and Skill development to promote Small and Medium Scale Enterprises.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

The **Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM)** is a unique programme, designed to deliver catalytic interventions to rural areas on the threshold of growth.

The Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) scheme was launched by Government of India in 2016 to deliver integrated project-based infrastructure in the rural areas, which will also include development of economic activities and skill development. The preferred mode of delivery is through Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) while using various scheme funds for financing.

Substantial part of the works identified for development in the clusters is focused on provision of basic and economic amenities. Provision of basic amenities in a cluster typically comprise; provision of 24/7 Water Supply to all households, Solid and Liquid Waste Management facilities at the household and cluster level, provision of Inter and Intra village roads within the cluster, adequate Street Lights and Public Transport facilities using green technologies. Provision of Economic Amenities in a cluster comprise various thematic areas in the sectors of Agri Services and Processing, Tourism, and Skill development to promote Small and Medium Scale Enterprises.


(Q) Consider the following statements regarding STRIDE Scheme.

1. Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India’s Developing Economy’ (STRIDE) will boost research culture in India and provide support to research projects that are socially relevant.
2. Collaborations between universities, government, voluntary organizations and industries is encouraged under this scheme.
3. The scheme is launched by University Grants Commission (UGC).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

UGC announced new Initiative – **Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India’s Developing Economy (STRIDE)** to boost research culture in India.

- STRIDE will provide support to research projects that are socially relevant, locally need-based, nationally important and globally significant.
- STRIDE shall support research capacity building as well as basic, applied and transformational action research that can contribute to national prioritiers with focus on inclusive human development.
- STRIDE shall support creation, development and integration of new ideas, concepts and practices for public good and strengthening civil society.
• Collaborations between universities, government, voluntary organizations and industries is encouraged under this scheme.

STRIDE Objectives:

1. To identify young talent, strengthen research culture, build capacity, promote innovation and support trans-disciplinary research for India’s developing economy and national development.
2. To fund multi institutional network high-impact research projects in humanities and human sciences.


(Q) Which of the following are the water conservation interventions under the newly launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan.

1. Water conservation and rainwater harvesting
2. Renovation of traditional and other water bodies
3. More Bore well for rural areas
4. Intensive afforestation

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: b)

Five important water conservation interventions under Jal Shakti Abhiyan. These will be:

1. water conservation and rainwater harvesting,
2. renovation of traditional and other water bodies/tanks,
3. reuse, bore well recharge structures,
4. watershed development and
5. intensive afforestation.

These water conservation efforts will also be supplemented with special interventions including the development of Block and District Water Conservation Plans, promotion of efficient water use for irrigation and better choice of crops through Krishi Vigyan Kendras.


(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Go Tribal campaign.

1. Go Tribal campaign was launched by Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED in association with Google India.
2. Go Tribal campaign aims to create awareness and promote tribal arts and crafts as well as aid in socio-economic welfare of Indian tribes.
3. TRIFED is an organization under Ministry of Tribal Affairs and is engaged in marketing development of tribal products including tribal art and craft under the brand name “TRIBES INDIA”.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Go Tribal campaign, was launched by Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India) in association with Amazon Global.

- The collaboration aims to create awareness and promote tribal arts and crafts as well as aid in socio-economic welfare of over 700 Indian tribes.
- TRIFED is an organization under Ministry of Tribal Affairs and is engaged in marketing development of tribal products including tribal art and craft under the brand name “TRIBES INDIA”.


(Q) Which of the following are the components under ‘Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM)’ Scheme.

1. installation of grid-connected solar power plants in the rural areas.
2. installation of standalone off-grid solar water pumps to fulfil irrigation needs of farmers not connected to grid.
3. solarisation of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps to make farmers independent of grid supply and also enable them to sell surplus solar power generated to DISCOM and get extra income.

Select the correct code:

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

Solution: d)

The KUSUM scheme has three components:

(i) installation of grid-connected solar power plants each of Capacity up to 2 MW in the rural areas;
(ii) installation of standalone off-grid solar water pumps to fulfil irrigation needs of farmers not connected to grid; and
(iii) solarisation of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps to make farmers independent of grid supply and also enable them to sell surplus solar power generated to DISCOM and get extra income.

(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. Cooperative Sector Exports Promotion Forum (CSEPF) has been set up in National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) which will work with states and union territories in the area of export.
2. Agriculture Export Policy 2018 aims at doubling the agriculture export and integrating Indian farmers and agriculture products with global value chains.
3. India is organising its 5th International Cooperatives Trade Fair (IICTF) in 2019.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Cooperative Sector Exports Promotion Forum (CSEPF) has been set up in National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) which will work with 20 states and union territories in the area of export.

Cooperative Sector Exports Promotion Forum (CSEPF) aims to achieve the target of doubling farm exports to USD 60 billion by 2022.

Aligning with the Agriculture Export Policy 2018 which aims at doubling the agriculture export and integrating Indian farmers and agriculture products with global value chains, The First Ever India International Cooperatives Trade Fair (IICTF) is going to be held at PragatiMaidan, New Delhi from 11th till 13th October, 2019


(Q) Consider the following statements about Aspirational Districts Programme.

1. Aspirational District Programme aims to rapidly transform the districts that have shown relatively lesser progress in key social areas and have emerged as pockets of under-development.
3. There are no districts of North-Eastern states identified as Aspirational Districts.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

DoNER Secretary chairs meeting of Nodal officers of Aspirational districts of North Eastern region.

Launched in January 2018, the ‘Transformation of Aspirational Districts’ programme aims to quickly and effectively transform some of the most underdeveloped districts of the country.

- The broad contours of the programme are Convergence (of Central & State Schemes), Collaboration (of Central, State level ‘Prabhari’ Officers & District Collectors), and Competition among districts driven by a Mass Movement or a Jan Andolan.
- Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Water Resources, Financial Inclusion & Skill Development, and Basic Infrastructure are this programme's core areas of focus.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs).

1. With a vision to ‘Cultivate one Million children in India as Neoteric Innovators’, Atal Innovation Mission, an initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development, is establishing Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs) in schools across India.
2. Schools managed by Government, local body and private trusts can set up ATL.
3. Atal Innovation Mission will provide financial support through grant-in-aid to Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs).
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

With a vision to ‘Cultivate one Million children in India as Neoteric Innovators’, Atal Innovation Mission, an initiative of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), Government Of India, is establishing Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs) in schools across India.

- ATL is a work space where young minds can give shape to their ideas through hands on do-it-yourself mode; and learn innovation skills. Young children will get a chance to work with tools and equipment to understand the concepts of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).
- AIM will provide grant-in-aid that includes a one-time establishment cost of Rs. 10 lakh and operational expenses of Rs. 10 lakh for a maximum period of 5 years to each ATL.
- **Schools (minimum Grade VI – X)** managed by Government, local body or private trusts/society to set up ATL.

Source: [https://niti.gov.in/content/atal-tinkering-laboratories](https://niti.gov.in/content/atal-tinkering-laboratories)

(Q) Consider the following statements about Safe City projects.

1. In order to provide security for children and to prevent child trafficking, Ministry of Women and Child Development started Safe City projects.
2. The projects are funded under Nirbhaya Fund scheme.
3. It involves Improving Street Lighting in identified Hot Spot areas.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

In order to instil sense of security in women in **metro cities**, Government has identified eight cities for implementation of **Safe City projects** in first phase at a cost of Rs.2,919 crore. The cities are Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow & Mumbai. The projects are funded under **Nirbhaya Fund scheme**. The projects have been prepared jointly by Municipal bodies and City Police and reflect integrated action for safety of women. Safe City projects involves creation of on-ground assets, resources & behaviour change programs for safety of women. The projects will supplement existing assets and meet citizen demands for **safe eco-system for women** in these cities. It involves **improving Street Lighting** in identified Hot Spot areas.

Consider the following statements about Safe City Implementation Monitoring (SCIM) portal.

1. In order to facilitate States to monitor and manage the Safe City projects and avoid duplication on ground, an online Safe City Implementation Monitoring (SCIM) portal has been developed by Ministry of Home Affairs.
2. SCIM will facilitate online tracking of deployment of assets and infrastructure created under the Safe City projects.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

In order to facilitate States to monitor and manage the Safe City projects and avoid duplication on ground, an online Safe City Implementation Monitoring (SCIM) portal has been developed by MHA. SCIM will facilitate online tracking of deployment of assets and infrastructure created under the Safe City projects. SCIM facilitates an evidence based online monitoring system. Details on assets and infrastructure are captured along with latitude and longitude using GPS for greater transparency. SCIM also creates a digital repository of assets, infrastructure and social outreach programs, as well as best practices achieved in each City.

Source: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=188692

Consider the following statements about National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR).

1. The NCPOR has established a high-altitude research station named ‘Himansh’ in Himalaya.
2. NCPOR functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
3. NCPOR does not have the permission to do research in the Arctic region and the Antarctica continent.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)

- The NCPOR under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has undertaken studies in the Western Himalaya in Chandra basin in Lahaul-Spiti (Himachal Pradesh) since 2013.
- The NCPOR has established a high-altitude research station named ‘Himansh’ in Himalaya at 4,000 metres altitude at Sutri Dhaka, a remote location in Lahaul-Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh.
- The NCPOR has also been doing research in the Arctic region and the Antarctica continent.
Consider the following statements about One Stop Centre (OSC) scheme.

1. One Stop Centres are being established across the country to provide integrated support and assistance under one roof to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces.
2. The OSC will support only women above 18 years of age affected by violence, whereas those below 18 years are supported by National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).
3. The Scheme is funded through Nirbhaya Fund.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2  

b) 1 only  

c) 2, 3  

d) 1, 3

**Solution: d)**

The Government of India is implementing **One Stop Centre (OSC) scheme** for setting up One Stop Centre since 1st April 2015 to support women affected by violence.

- Popularly known as **Sakhi**, Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) has formulated this **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**.
- It is a sub-scheme of **Umbrella Scheme** for National Mission for Empowerment of women including **Indira Gandhi Matritav Sahyaog Yojana**.
- Under the scheme, One Stop Centres are being established across the country to provide integrated support and assistance under one roof to women affected by violence, both in private and public spaces in phased manner.
- **Target group**: The OSC will support **all women including girls below 18 years of age** affected by violence, irrespective of caste, class, religion, region, sexual orientation or marital status.
- The Scheme will be funded through **Nirbhaya Fund**. The **Central** Government will provide **100% financial assistance** to the State Government /UT Administrations under the Scheme.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Van Dhan Scheme.

1. The Van Dhan Scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED to improve tribal incomes through value addition of tribal products.
2. Van Dhan Vikas Kendras are established for providing skill upgradation and capacity building training.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only  

b) 2 only  

c) Both  

d) None

**Solution: c)**
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 grassroot 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.

Under **Van Dhan**, 10 Self Help Groups of 30 Tribal gatherers is constituted. The establishment of “**Van Dhan Vikas Kendra**” is for providing skill upgradation and capacity building training and setting up of primary processing and value addition facility. They are then trained and provided with working capital to add value to the products, which they collect from the jungle.


(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (AH&D) regulate the prices of milk in the country.
2. The preservation of cattle is a matter on which the legislature of the States has exclusive powers to legislate.
3. State Governments are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and for prosecuting the criminals through the machinery of their law Enforcement agencies.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

**Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (AH&D)** does not regulate the prices of milk in the country. Prices are decided by the Cooperative and Private dairies based on cost of production. Since milk is a highly perishable product, this department does not have any proposal to fix MSP for milk in the country.

- Under the distribution of legislative powers between the Union of India and States under Article 246(3) of the Constitution, the preservation of cattle is a matter on which the legislature of the States has exclusive powers to legislate. Therefore, it is up to the States to enact laws on slaughter of cows.
- As per article 48 of Indian Constitution the state shall endeavour to organize agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall in particular take steps for preserving improving the breed, and prohibiting the slaughter, of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle.
- Several States have enacted laws banning cow slaughter and provision of penalizing the accused person has been provided in the State act. Further, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects under the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and therefore, the State Governments are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, registration and investigation of crime and for prosecuting the criminals through the machinery of their law Enforcement agencies, as also for protecting the life and property of the citizens.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana.

1. It is the scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices free of cost to all Senior citizens.
2. Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), a PSU under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is the sole Implementing Agency.
3. As far as possible, 30% of the beneficiaries in each district shall be women.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The Scheme aims at providing Senior Citizens, belonging to BPL category and suffering from any of the age-related disability/infirmity Low vision, Hearing impairment, Loss of teeth and Locomotor disability, with such assisted-living devices which can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions, overcoming the disability/infirmity manifested.

- Under the scheme, free of cost distribution of the devices, commensurate with the extent of disability/infirmity that is manifested among the eligible senior citizens will take place.
- As far as possible, 30% of the beneficiaries in each district shall be women.
- The Scheme is being implemented through the “Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO)”, a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of SJ&E, as the sole Implementing Agency.


(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. Scheme of Fund for Upgradation and Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) will facilitate cluster-based development to make the traditional industries more productive, profitable and capable for generating sustained employment opportunities.
2. SFURTI focuses on Bamboo, Honey and Khadi clusters.
3. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) aims to address critical gaps in value chain, including infrastructure, modernization, production, post-harvest management, and quality control.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

The Government aims to set up more Common Facility Centres (CFCs) under the ‘Scheme of Fund for Upgradation and Regeneration of Traditional Industries’ (SFURTI). This will facilitate cluster-based development to make the traditional industries more productive, profitable and capable for generating
sustained employment opportunities. The focused sectors are Bamboo, Honey and Khadi clusters. SFURTI envisions setting up of 100 new clusters during 2019-20 to enable 50,000 artisans to join the economic value chain.

Through a focused Scheme – the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) – the Department of Fisheries will establish a robust fisheries management framework. This will address critical gaps in strengthening the value chain, including infrastructure, modernization, traceability, production, productivity, post-harvest management, and quality control.


(Q) Consider the following statements about DASTAK campaign.

1. It is a large-scale campaign started by Bihar Government to eradicate deadly Acute Encephalitis Syndrome and Japanese Encephalitis disease.
2. The campaign aims to create awareness about the communicable diseases as well as Acute Encephalitis Syndrome and Japanese Encephalitis.
3. The campaign has been supported by World Health Organisation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

In Uttar Pradesh, a large-scale campaign to eradicate deadly Acute Encephalitis Syndrome and Japanese Encephalitis disease was launched.

- Under this state-wide campaign teams will go door to door in every village of the 75 districts of the state to create awareness about the communicable diseases as well as JE and AES.
- In this massive campaign, many departments of the state especially health, rural development, primary education will work together to spread awareness about the diseases through mass media communication and will ensure availability of clean drinking water, initiate sanitation drive, ensure vaccination and early treatment so that disease should be nipped in the bud.
- Similar campaign launched last year also has improved the health conditions and the government claimed that fatality rate due to AES and JE dripped.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Start up Village Entrepreneurship Program.

1. Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Program is a sub component of Start-up India Programme.
2. Any Rural poor who is willing to be entrepreneurial and self-reliant is eligible to be part of this programme.
3. Highly vulnerable beneficiaries under MGNREGA, marginalized sections, women, SC and ST communities and rural artisans will be given specific preference in selection.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The Start up Village Entrepreneurship Program is a sub component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development. SVEP aims to support entrepreneurs in rural areas to set up local enterprises.

The long term vision of the SVEP is to provide support for start-up to 1 crore village enterprises and provide direct employment to 2 crore people. The SVEP shall help the rural poor come out of poverty by helping them set up enterprises and provide support till the enterprises stabilize. The programmatic intervention will address all three missing ecosystems – Knowledge, advisory and finance ecosystems.

Any Rural poor who is willing to be entrepreneurial and self reliant is eligible to be part of this programme. Highly vulnerable beneficiaries under MGNREGA, marginalized sections, women, SC and ST communities and rural artisans will be given specific preference in selection, as part of this programme.

The NRLM SHG's and federations are a critical pre-requisite for the implementation of the SVEP project.

Source: http://vikaspedia.in/social-welfare/entrepreneurship/start-up-village-entrepreneurship-programme-national-rural-livelihood-mission

(Q) Consider the following statements about New Space India Limited (NSIL).

1. New Space India Limited, a public sector enterprise, is the first commercial entity of ISRO.
2. NSIL is incorporated for commercially utilising research and development (R&D) activities carried out by ISRO in area of space.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) new commercial arm called New Space India Limited (NSIL) was officially inaugurated in Bengaluru.

- On 6 March 2019, the Department of Space (DoS) registered its second commercial entity called NSIL in ISRO. The first commercial venture of DoS was Antrix Corporation Limited, which was set up in September 1992 to market products and services of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- The NSIL was incorporated for commercially utilising research and development (R&D) activities carried out by ISRO in area of space.
Consider the following statements about Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act.

1. Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) is an act of the Parliament of India that grant special powers to the Indian Armed Forces the power to maintain public order in disturbed areas.

2. Only the Central Government can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.

3. The Act is not applied to Jammu and Kashmir, which has its own law approved by the State Assembly.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), 1958 is an act of the Parliament of India that grant special powers to the Indian Armed Forces the power to maintain public order in "disturbed areas".

Powers given to armed forces:

- They have the authority to prohibit a gathering of five or more persons in an area, can use force or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law.

- If reasonable suspicion exists, the army can also arrest a person without a warrant; enter or search premises without a warrant; and ban the possession of firearms.

- Any person arrested or taken into custody may be handed over to the officer in charge of the nearest police station along with a report detailing the circumstances that led to the arrest.

What is a "disturbed area" and who has the power to declare it?

- A disturbed area is one which is declared by notification under Section 3 of the AFSPA. An area can be disturbed due to differences or disputes between members of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.

- The Central Government, or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area. A suitable notification would have to be made in the Official Gazette. As per Section 3, it can be invoked in places where “the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary”.

At present AFSPA is in force in Assam, Nagaland, Manipur excluding Imphal municipal council area, Changlang, Longding and Tirap districts of Arunachal Pradesh. An Act passed in 1990 was applied to Jammu and Kashmir and has been in force since.


(Q) Consider the following statements about ‘Operation Thirst’.

1. Operation Thirst is launched to stop selling of unauthorised Packaged Drinking Water (PDW).

2. It was launched by Railway Protection Force (RPF).
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)
As many as 1,371 people were arrested and over 69,294 bottles were seized by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) under ‘Operation Thirst’, an all India drive to crackdown the selling of unauthorised Packaged Drinking Water (PDW).

According to RPF, the operation was launched in all major railway stations across the country to curb the menace of unauthorized PDW in the premises of railway stations.

The bottles were seized under the sections of 144 and 153 of the Railway Act.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme.

1. Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme has been extended to fisheries and animal husbandry farmers to help them meet their working capital needs.
2. For the farmers, the loans taken under Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme can be repaid after harvest.
3. Interest subvention is available for farmers only in case of prompt repayment.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The Government of India has extended the facility of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to fisheries and animal husbandry farmers to help them meet their working capital needs. The KCC facility will help fisheries and animal husbandry farmers to meet their short-term credit requirements of rearing of animals, poultry birds, fish, shrimp, other aquatic organisms and capture of fish.

Under KCC facility, Interest subvention is available for farmers @ 2% per annum at the time of disbursal of loan and additional interest subvention @ 3 % per annum in case of prompt repayment as Prompt Repayment Incentive.

One of the advantages of the KCC Scheme to the farmers is the Repayment only after harvest.

Source: http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=191094
(Q) Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban seeks to address the housing requirement of urban poor through which of the following programme verticals?

1. Slum rehabilitation with participation of private developers.
2. Promotion of Affordable Housing for weaker section through grants.
3. Subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house construction /enhancement.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Programme launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MoHUPA), in Mission mode envisions provision of Housing for All by 2022, when the Nation completes 75 years of its Independence.

The Mission seeks to address the housing requirement of urban poor including slum dwellers through following programme verticals:

1. Slum rehabilitation of Slum Dwellers with participation of private developers using land as a resource.
2. Promotion of Affordable Housing for weaker section through credit linked subsidy.
3. Affordable Housing in Partnership with Public & Private sectors.
4. Subsidy for beneficiary-led individual house construction /enhancement.


(Q) Blue-flame revolution sometimes seen in news is related to

a) Deep sea fishing  
b) India’s ambitions for Blue-Water Economy  
c) Providing clean cooking fuel  
d) Developing Tidal Energy Plants

Solution: c)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hails Ujjwala scheme saying that a ‘Blue Flame Revolution’ is under-way.


(Q) Consider the following functions of Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC).

1. Promotion of development of small agribusiness through Venture Capital Assistance (VCA) scheme.
2. Helping formation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

The Government established **Small Farmers’ Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC)** as a **Society** in **1994** to facilitate agri-business ventures by catalyzing private investment through Venture Capital Assistance (VCA) Scheme in close association with financial institutions. The setting up of State level SFAC as counterpart agency of Central SFAC for agribusiness projects was part of the Scheme.

The main functions of SFAC are:

(i) Promotion of development of small agribusiness through VCA scheme;
(ii) Helping formation and growth of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) / Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs);
(iii) Improving availability of working capital and development of business activities of FPOs/FPCs through Equity Grant and Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme;

(Q) Consider the following statements about Internet Saathi programme.

1. Internet Saathi programme is a digital literacy initiative of Google India and Tata Trusts, aimed at empowering women all over India.
2. Women who are BPL card holders are provided free smart phones.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

**Internet Saathi programme**, a **digital literacy initiative** of **Google India and Tata Trusts**, aimed at empowering women in rural India. The programme aims to train Saathis in villages that can in turn help educate other women from their village in the use of the internet.

Women trained under this initiative have started their own micro-business such as stitching, honeybee farming, and beauty parlours. Many under programme are also driving awareness for issues like girl child education, menstrual hygiene and more within their communities.


(Q) “Find the Incredible You” campaign is launched by?

a) Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment.  
b) Minister of Human Resource Development.  
c) Minister of Tribal Affairs.  
d) Ministry of Tourism
Solution: d)
The Incredible India “Find the Incredible You” campaign released globally by the Ministry of Tourism during 2018-19 has been declared winner of the PATA (Pacific Asia Travel Association) Gold Award 2019 in the “Marketing – Primary Government Destination” category.

To take the Campaigns to the next level, the 'Incredible India 2.0' Campaign was launched in September 2017, which marks a shift from generic promotions undertaken across the world to market specific promotional plans and content creation. The campaign focuses on digital and social media and the promotion of Niche Tourism products of the country.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna.

1. The Employee’s State Insurance (ESI) has approved this scheme for Insured Persons (IP) covered under the Employees’ State Insurance Act, 1948.
2. This scheme is a relief payable in cash directly to the Bank Account in case of unemployment and while insured persons search for new job.
3. Those who opt for voluntary retirement are also eligible.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

- The ESI Corporation has approved ‘ATAL BIMIT VYAKTI KALYAN YOJNA’ for Insured Persons (IP) covered under the Employees’ State Insurance Act, 1948. This scheme is a relief payable in cash directly to the Bank Account in case of unemployment and while they search for new engagement. Beneficiary insured workers will be paid money, from their own contribution towards ESI scheme, in cash through bank account transfer.
- The contingency of the unemployment should not have been as a result of any punishment for misconduct or superannuation or voluntary retirement.


(Q) Consider the following statements about National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK).

1. NCSK was constituted as a non-statutory body.
2. It takes suo-moto notice of matters relating to non-implementation of programmes or schemes in respect of Safai Karamcharis.
3. It monitors the implementation of The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

The **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK)** was constituted on 12th August, 1994 as a statutory body by an Act of Parliament viz. 'National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993', for a period of three years i.e. up to 31st March, 1997. As per sub-section (4) of Section 1 of the Act, it was to cease to exist after 31.3.1997. However, validity of the Act was extended up to March, 2002, and then up to February, 2004 vide Amendment Acts passed in 1997 and 2001 respectively.

- With the lapsing of the “The National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993” w.e.f. 29.2.2004, the Commission is acting as a **Non-Statutory body** of the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** whose tenure is extended from time to time through **Government Resolutions**.

**Functions:**

- Recommend to the Central Government specific programmes of action towards elimination of inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities for Safai Karamcharis.
- Study and evaluate the implementation of the programmes and schemes relating to the social and economic rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharis; and scavengers, in particular.
- Investigate specific grievances and take suo-motu notice of matters relating to non-implementation of:
  1. programmes or schemes in respect of any group of Safai Karamcharis
  2. decisions, guidelines or instructions, aimed at mitigating the hardships of Safai Karamcharis
  3. measures for the social and economic upliftment of Safai Karamcharis
  4. the provisions of any law in its application to Safai Karamcharis; and take up such matters with the concerned authorities or with the Central or State Governments
- To study and monitor the working conditions, including those relating to health, safety and wages of Safai Karamcharis working under various kinds of employers including Government, Municipalities and Panchayats, and to make recommendations in this regard.
- Make reports to the Central or State Governments on any matter concerning Safai Karamcharis, taking into account any difficulties or disabilities being encountered by Safai Karamcharis
- Any other matter which may be referred to it by the Central Government.

However, with the enactment of “The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013”, the mandate and scope of the Commission has also been enlarged. The Commission shall perform the following functions, namely:-

(i) To monitor the implementation of the Act.
(ii) To enquire into complaints regarding contravention of the provisions of the Act, and to convey its findings to the concerned authorities with recommendations requiring further action.
(iii) To advise the Central and the State Governments for effective implementation of the provisions of the Act.
(iv) To take *suo motu* notice of matter relating to non-implementation of the Act.

Source: [http://ncsk.nic.in/about-us/about-ncsk](http://ncsk.nic.in/about-us/about-ncsk)
IV. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding PUNCH mission.

1. European Space Agency’s PUNCH mission will image regions beyond the Sun’s outer corona.
2. The mission will track the solar wind and also the coronal mass ejections – which are huge masses of plasma that get thrown out of the Sun’s atmosphere.
3. India’s planned satellite Aditya-L1 will also study the Sun’s corona.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

NASA has selected Texas-based Southwest Research Institute to lead its PUNCH mission which will image the Sun. This is a landmark mission that will image regions beyond the Sun’s outer corona. Dipankar Banerjee, solar physicist from Indian Institute of Astrophysics is also a Co-Investigator of the PUNCH mission. PUNCH, which stands for “Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere,” is focused on understanding the transition of particles from the Sun’s outer corona to the solar wind that fills interplanetary space.

India is planning to send up its own satellite Aditya-L1, a mission to study the Sun’s corona.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/indian-scientist-to-be-co-i-for-nasas-punch-mission/article28228527.ece

(Q) Consider the following statements about Superconductivity.

1. Superconductivity is a state in which a material shows very high electrical resistance.
2. Superconducting materials can save huge amounts of energy, and be used to make highly efficient electrical appliances.
3. Superconductivity is possible only at high temperatures.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: c)

IISc researchers have reported superconductivity at room temperature. Their finding, now under review, will be a breakthrough if verified. Superconductivity is a phenomenon that, so far, has been possible only at extremely low temperatures, in the range of 100°C below zero. The search for a material that exhibits superconductivity at room temperature, or at least manageable low temperatures, has been going on for decades, without success.

Superconductivity is a state in which a material shows absolutely zero electrical resistance. While resistance is a property that restricts the flow of electricity, superconductivity allows unhindered flow.
Because of zero resistance, superconducting materials can save huge amounts of energy, and be used to make highly efficient electrical appliances.

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Arogyapacha, which was in news recently.

1. Indian Scientists have decoded the genetic make-up of Arogyapacha, which is a highly potent medicinal plant.
2. The plant is endemic to Mizo hills.
3. The plant is known for its traditional use by the Kani tribal community to combat fatigue.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)
Scientists from the University of Kerala have decoded the genetic make-up of Arogyapacha (Trichopus zeylanicus), a highly potent medicinal plant endemic to the Agasthya hills.

This ‘miracle plant’ is known for its traditional use by the Kani tribal community to combat fatigue. Studies have also proved its varied spectrum of pharmacological properties such as anti-oxidant, aphrodisiac, antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, immunomodulatory, anti-tumour, anti-ulcer, anti-hyperlipidemic, hepatoprotective and anti-diabetic.

(Q) Lunar Evacuation System Assembly (LESA), recently seen in news is related to

a) Commercial lunar lander of NASA
b) Successor to Chandrayaan-2
c) Polar rover to scout for water
d) Rescue an injured astronaut on the lunar surface

Solution: d)
Developed by the European Space Agency (ESA), LESA is a pyramid-like structure whose purpose is to rescue an astronaut should he or she suffer an injury on the lunar surface.

LESA can be operated by a single astronaut to rescue a fallen colleague. It enables an astronaut to lift their crewmate onto a mobile stretcher in less than 10 minutes, before carrying them to the safety of a nearby pressurised lander.

Source: https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-what-is-lunar-evacuation-system-5798182/

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

1. Nipah virus (NiV) is a zoonotic virus and can also be transmitted through contaminated food or directly between people.
2. Monkeys are the natural host of Nipah virus.
3. Human infections range from asymptomatic to acute respiratory infection and fatal encephalitis, involving inflammation of the brain.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

Nipah virus (NiV) is a zoonotic virus (it is transmitted from animals to humans) and can also be transmitted through contaminated food or directly between people.

- Human infections range from asymptomatic (no symptoms) to acute respiratory infection and fatal encephalitis, involving inflammation of the brain, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).
- The Nipah virus was first recognised in 1999 during an outbreak among pig farmers in Malaysia. It was also recognised in Bangladesh in 2001, and nearly annual outbreaks have occurred in that country since. The disease has also been identified periodically in India. Last year, the virus killed 17 people in Kerala.
- Fruit bats of the Pteropodidae family are the natural host of Nipah virus.


(Q) Consider the following statements about ASCENT fuel.

1. It is a safer rocket fuel with reduced toxicity levels.
2. It gives shorter launch processing times, resulting in lower costs.
3. ISRO is using ASCENT fuel in its Chandrayaan 2 mission.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

ASCENT green fuel:

- It is a safer rocket fuel.
- Unlike the traditional fuel used in satellites, which is hydrazine, which is extremely toxic to humans as well as the environment, the new alternative called ASCENT (Advanced Spacecraft Energetic Nontoxic Propellant), formerly called AF-M315E, is a hydroxyl ammonium nitrate fuel/oxidiser blend.
- First developed by the US Air Force and now launched as part of a NASA-led collaboration, ASCENT is described as a fuel with significantly reduced toxicity levels compared to hydrazine, and potentially shorter launch processing times, resulting in lower costs.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Formalin in Fish.

1. The amount of formalin in fish decreases overtime during storage and can be removed completely.
2. Less than 10 p.p.m. of Formaldehyde is permitted for use in foods as per Food Safety and Standards Regulations 2011.
3. Formalin is used to artificially improve the sensory attributes i.e. appearance

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

Formalin is a toxic, colourless solution that is derived by dissolving formaldehyde gas in water.
- It is a cancer-inducing chemical used to preserve fish and is used as a disinfectant.
- Formaldehyde is not permitted for use in foods as per Food Safety and Standards Regulations 2011. The amount of formalin in fish decreases overtime during storage but cannot be removed completely.

The motive of using formalin on fish (either as a dip or through ice laced/or made with formalin as an ingredient) is:
1. to extend the storage life of fresh or chilled fish
2. to artificially improve the sensory attributes i.e. appearance, so as to give a facade of fresh fish.

Source: http://vikaspedia.in/health/health-campaigns/beware-of-adulteration/formalin-in-fish

(Q) Consider the following statements about Food Fortification.

1. Fortification is the practice of deliberately increasing the content of an essential micronutrient, i.e. vitamins and minerals in a food.
2. In India there is no regulation on fortification of foods.
3. It does not alter the characteristics of the food—the taste, the feel, the look.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

Department of Food & Public Distribution has approved the "Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme on Fortification of Rice & its distribution through Public Distribution System".
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has formulated a comprehensive regulation on fortification of foods namely ‘Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2016’. These regulations set the standards for food fortification and encourage the production, manufacture, distribution, sale and consumption of fortified foods.
- Fortification is a safe method of improving nutrition among people. The addition of micronutrients to food does not pose a health risk to people. The quantity added is so small and so well regulated as per prescribed standards that likelihood of an overdose of nutrients is unlikely.
- It does not alter the characteristics of the food—the taste, the feel, the look.

Source: http://vikaspedia.in/health/nutrition/fortification-of-food
(Q) Consider the following statements about Project Manav.

1. Project Manav is a new human atlas initiative launched to create a unified database of molecular network of all the tissues in the human body and to derive a holistic picture of working of the human body.
2. The project has been launched by the Department of Biotechnology.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

A new human atlas initiative has been launched to create a unified database of molecular network of all the tissues in the human body and to derive a holistic picture of working of the human body. The project named Manav has been launched by the Department of Biotechnology and Persistent Systems, a biotechnology company.

This mega project will collate and integrate molecular information on human tissues and organs that currently lie hidden in research articles in an unstructured and disorganised form. The project would utilise large biological community, both students and scientists, for extracting and adding the information from scientific literature at the level of cells and organs.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Dragonfly mission, recently seen in news.

1. It is a NASA mission that aims to send a nuclear-powered drone to far side of the Moon.
2. Dragonfly mission is a part of NASA’s New Frontiers program, which includes a series of space exploration missions, which are being conducted with the purpose of researching several of the Solar System bodies, including the dwarf planet Pluto.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

NASA has planned to return to Saturn’s moon Titan with a nuclear-powered drone, Dragonfly. Dragonfly aims to search for signs of microbial alien life on Saturn’s moon Titan, while navigating its earth-like gravity and aerodynamics in the process.

Dragonfly mission is a part of NASA’s New Frontiers program, which includes a series of space exploration missions, which are being conducted with the purpose of researching several of the Solar System bodies, including the dwarf planet Pluto.
(Q) Consider the following statements about Fly Ash.

1. Fly ash is the end product of combustion during the process of power generation in the coal based thermal power plants.
2. At present less than 50% of the Fly ash is utilised.
3. Fly ash can be used in combination with other alkaline materials to transform sewage sludge into organic fertilizer or biofuel.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Fly ash, the end product of combustion during the process of power generation in the coal based thermal power plants, is a proven resource material for many applications of construction industries and currently is being utilized in manufacturing of Portland Cement, bricks/blocks/tiles manufacturing, road embankment construction and low-lying area development, etc.

- At present, 63% of the fly ash is being utilised and target is for 100% utilisation of the fly ash. There is need for education and awareness generation.
- Fly ash contains heavy metals from coal, a large amount of PM 2.5 and black carbon (BC).
- Fly ash, in view of its alkalinity and water absorption capacity, may be used in combination with other alkaline materials to transform sewage sludge into organic fertilizer or biofuel.

What is Coal Fly Ash?

One of the by-products of burning coal

Good structural qualities

Contains heavy metals, volatile organic compounds, and radioactive solids

Currently, not considered hazardous by EPA (subject to change)

(Q) Consider the following statements about Gandhipedia.

1. A “Gandhipedia” is being developed in order to sensitis society, particularly the youth, about Gandhian values.
2. Gandhipedia is being developed by Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)
The ‘Gandhipedia’ is being developed as a social media portal that will contain original works related to the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi.

- Gandhipedia is being developed by the National Council for Science Museums (NCSM) to sensitise the youth and the society at large about Gandhian values.
- The portal will function on artificial intelligence (AI) and machine running. It will be a repository of knowledge on Mahatama Gandhi.
- The Sabarmati Ashram Preservation and Memorial Trust has been maintaining the Gandhi Heritage Portal (www.gandhiheritageportal.org) which is also a repository of knowledge on Mahatma Gandhi.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Chandipura virus.

1. Chandipura virus is known to cause inflammation of the brain, progress rapidly from an influenza-like illness to coma and death.
2. The majority of infected patients are children aged below 14.
3. The virus spreads mainly through the bite of sand flies.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

Named after the town in Maharashtra where the discovery was made and isolated, Chandipura virus is known to cause inflammation of the brain, progress rapidly from an influenza-like illness to coma and death.

- The majority of infected patients are children aged below 14.
- The virus spreads mainly through the bite of sand flies, and sometimes through mosquitoes. Animal studies show that the virus affects neurons and causes neurodegeneration. Sand flies, which are found in mud and in cracks of sand houses, mostly breed during monsoon and pre-monsoon months which is when the cases are generally reported.
- The likely vector (or carrier) of the virus is the female phlebotomine sandfly. The virus was detected in sandflies in Senegal, Nigeria as well as in India.
- There is no specific medicine for its treatment. However with timely detection, hospitalisation and symptomatic treatment is given to the patient, which could help save lives. Prevention is the best method to suppress CHPV infection.


(Q) Ploonet, sometimes in news refer to

a) A moon that becomes a planet.  
b) Device to rescue astronauts on the surface of Moon.  
c) Mission to perform a flyby study of the Pluto system  
d) None of the Above
Solution: a)

Ploonet is the new word the scientific community has come up with to describe a moon that becomes a planet. A moon can become a planet if it leaves the orbit of its parent planet and takes up residence in a stable orbit around its star.

At this point, this orbiting rock is neither a moon nor a planet, hence the term, ploonet.
V. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding G20 Forum and G20 Summit.

1. 2019 G20 Summit was the first G20 summit to be hosted by Japan.
2. Pakistan is not a member of G20 Forum.
3. G20 summits focus only on macroeconomy and trade.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The 2019 G20 Osaka summit was the fourteenth meeting of the G20, a forum of 19 countries and the EU that together represent most of the world economy. It was the first G20 summit to be hosted by Japan.

The 19 countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Republic of South Africa, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America.

The recent G20 summits have focused not only on macroeconomy and trade, but also on a wide range of global issues which have an immense impact on the global economy, such as development, climate change and energy, health, counter-terrorism, as well as migration and refugees.

Source: [https://g20.org/en/summit/about/](https://g20.org/en/summit/about/)

(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. Summit of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors was created as a response to the financial crisis of 2008.
2. India has hosted G20 summits twice since its inception.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

The Summit of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, who prepare the leaders’ summit and implement their decisions, was created as a response to the financial crisis of 2007–2008.

- Since 2011, when France chaired and hosted the G20, the summits have been held only once a year.
• Japan hosted the 2019 Summit. The 2020 Summit will be in Saudi Arabia and 2022 in India.

(Q) Consider the following statements with reference to E-2020 initiative.

1. E-2020 is the initiative supported by WHO where countries were identified by WHO in 2016 as having the potential to become malaria-free by 2020.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

Four countries from Asia — China, Iran, Malaysia and Timor-Leste — and one from Central America — El Salvador — reported no indigenous cases of malaria in 2018, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The countries were part of the global health body's E-2020 initiative, launched in 2016, working in 21 countries, spanning five regions, to scale up efforts to achieve malaria elimination by 2020.

Creating a malaria-free world is a bold and important public health and sustainable development goal. It is also the vision of the Global technical strategy for malaria 2016-2030, which calls for the elimination of malaria in at least 10 countries by the year 2020.

Source: https://www.who.int/malaria/media/e-2020-initiative-qa/en/

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

2. The recommendations developed by FATF are recognised as the international standard for combating of money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
3. A country is blacklisted if it is non-cooperative in the global fight against money laundering and terrorist financing.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 on the initiative of the G7. It is a “policy-making body” which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in various areas. The FATF Secretariat is housed at the OECD headquarters in Paris.
• The FATF has developed a series of Recommendations that are recognised as the international standard for combating of money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
• The FATF blacklist or OECD blacklist has been issued by the Financial Action Task Force since 2000 and lists countries which it judges to be non-cooperative in the global fight against money laundering and terrorist financing, calling them “Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories” (NCCTs).
• Once a country is blacklisted, FATF calls on other countries to apply enhanced due diligence and counter measures, increasing the cost of doing business with the country and in some cases severing it altogether.

Source: https://www.fatf-gafi.org/about/

(Q) ‘Zero Chance Campaign’ recently seen in news is launched by which country.
   a) Japan
   b) South Korea
   c) Russia
   d) Australia

Solution: d)
The Australian government is launching a campaign ‘Zero Chance’ to raise awareness among people trying to enter the country illegally by boats.
"The message of Zero Chance is simple. Anyone who tries to come illegally to Australia by boat has zero chance of success”. “They will be turned back from Australia if they attempt to come illegally by boat”.

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding UN Security Council.
   1. Each year, the General Assembly elects five non-permanent members out of a total of 10, for a two-year term.
   2. India has been a non-permanent member of the Security Council seven times previously with the most recent being the 2011–12 term.
   3. India’s candidature for a non-permanent seat in the Security Council for the 2021-22 term has been supported by Pakistan and China.

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

Solution: d)
India’s candidature for a non-permanent seat in the Security Council for the 2021-22 term has been endorsed unanimously by the Asia Pacific group, which comprises 55 countries, including Pakistan.

• Each year, the General Assembly elects five non-permanent members out of a total of 10, for a two-year term.

**Distribution of seats:** These 10 seats are distributed among the regions thus: five for African and Asian countries; one for Eastern European countries; two for Latin American and Caribbean countries; two for Western European and other countries.

(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. India recently set up an Indo-Pacific division in the Ministry of Defence.
2. The Indo-Pacific division will integrate the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), ASEAN region and the Quad.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution: b)**

India recently set up an Indo-Pacific division in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The division will integrate the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), ASEAN region and the Quad to the Indo-Pacific table.


(Q) Consider the following Ethnic communities with significant population across the world.

1. Rohingya: Myanmar
2. Hmong: Thailand
3. Bedouin: China
4. Bidoon: Australia

Which of the above are correctly matched?

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

**Solution: b)**

- Myanmar/Bangladesh: Rohingya.
- Thailand: Yao, Hmong, Karen and Sea Gypsies.
- Syria: Kurds.
- Kuwait: Bedouin tribes.
- Iraq: Bidoon and Faili Kurds.

Source: [https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-where-are-the-worlds-stateless-people-5800506/](https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-where-are-the-worlds-stateless-people-5800506/)
(Q) Consider the following statements about G20 Summit and G20 Group.

1. The G20 Summit is formally known as the “Summit of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors”.
2. The group has no permanent staff of its own, so every year a G20 country takes on the presidency.
3. Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China and India are the members of G20.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The **G20 Summit** is formally known as the “**Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy**”.

- Full membership of the G20: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.
- The group has no permanent staff of its own, so every year in December, a G20 country from a rotating region takes on the presidency.
- That country is then responsible for organising the next summit, as well as smaller meetings for the coming year.

Source: [https://g20.org/en/summit/about/](https://g20.org/en/summit/about/)

(Q) Which of the following statement is incorrect about Indus Water Treaty.

a) The treaty was signed in 1960 by then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and then Pakistan President Ayub Khan.

b) The three western rivers (Jhelum, Chenab and Indus) were allocated to Pakistan while India was given control over the three eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas and Sutlej).

c) It was brokered by the UNSC.

d) A Permanent Indus Commission was set up as a bilateral commission to implement and manage the Treaty.

Solution: c)

It was brokered by the **World Bank**. The Treaty also provides arbitration mechanism to solve disputes amicably.

(Q) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) work towards

1. Making agriculture more productive
2. Help to eliminate malnutrition
3. Reduce rural poverty
4. Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises
Select the correct code:
   a) 1, 2, 3
   b) 2, 3, 4
   c) 1, 2, 4
   d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Solution: d)

FAO work towards:

1. Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
2. Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable
3. Reduce rural poverty
4. Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
5. Increase the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crises


(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. Recently a sister-city agreement has been inked between Kobe in Japan and Ahmedabad in Gujarat.
2. Sister cities are a form of legal or social agreement between cities in geographically and politically distinct areas to promote cultural and commercial ties.
3. India has no sister-city agreement with China and Pakistan.

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

Solution: c)

• India’s Ahmedabad and Japan’s Kobe will now be sister cities.

The concept of sister cities or twin towns is a legal and social agreement between towns, cities, counties, oblasts, prefectures, provinces, regions, states between two separate countries to promote cultural and commercial ties.

• The plan was conceived after the end of World War II to promote peaceful coexistence and to encourage trade and tourism.
• In diplomacy, this concept is seen as a way to enhance strategic ties between two nations, both cultural as well as economic.
• India has signed sister city agreements with many countries including China, US, Australia, Russia, Canada, Mauritius, Germany, Hungary, South Korea, Bangladesh, Lithuania, Portugal, Belarus and Jordan.
(Q) Consider the following statements about International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

1. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) is a multilateral treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly.
2. The covenant commits its parties to respect the civil and political rights of individuals including rights to due process and a fair trial.
3. The ICCPR is part of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
4. India, Pakistan and China have ratified the Covenant.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) is a multilateral treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. The covenant commits its parties to respect the civil and political rights of individuals, including the right to life, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, electoral rights and rights to due process and a fair trial.

- The ICCPR is part of the International Bill of Human Rights, along with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).
- The ICCPR is monitored by the United Nations Human Rights Committee.
- China has signed the Covenant but not ratified it.


(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. Recently India voted on a United Nations General Assembly resolution to end trade in goods used for capital punishment and torture.
2. In India, capital punishment is a statutory provision and the acts of torture are punishable under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

India has abstained from voting on a United Nations General Assembly resolution aimed at examining options to end trade in goods used for capital punishment and torture. India said it is “unacceptable” to place death penalty on par with torture.

- The General Assembly adopted the resolution ‘Towards torture-free trade: examining the feasibility, scope and parameters for possible common international standards’.
India stated that incorporating capital punishment into the scope of this resolution “raises concerns that it may be an attempt to place it on par with torture.”

India stressed that it remains firmly committed to prevent torture and other such punishment. India added that where capital punishment is statutorily provided for, due process of law is followed.

In India, capital punishment is a statutory provision, but is used in the rarest of rare cases. Also, acts of torture are punishable under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code.


(Q) Consider the following statements regarding WHO guidelines on self-care interventions for health.

1. Self-care is the ability of individuals, families and communities to promote health, prevent disease, maintain health, and cope with illness and disability with or without the support of a health-care provider.
2. The guidelines focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights.
3. Self-care is the replacement to high-quality health services and are shortcut to achieving universal health coverage.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched its first guidelines on self-care interventions for health in response to an estimate that by 2035 the world will face a shortage of nearly 13 million healthcare workers and the fact that currently at least 400 million people worldwide lack access to the most essential health services.

In its first volume, the guidelines focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Some of the interventions include self-sampling for human papillomavirus (HPV) and sexually transmitted infections, self-injectable contraceptives, home-based ovulation predictor kits, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) self-testing and self-management of medical abortion.

These guidelines look at the scientific evidence for health benefits of certain interventions that can be done outside the conventional sector, although sometimes with the support of a health-care provider. They do not replace high-quality health services nor are they a shortcut to achieving universal health coverage.


(Q) Consider the following statements about International Whaling Commission (IWC).

1. The International Whaling Commission (IWC) is an international body set up by the terms of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW) for the orderly development of the whaling industry.
2. In 1982 the IWC adopted a moratorium on commercial whaling where all the member nations have agreed to it.
3. Indian Ocean Whale Sanctuary and the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary are the only two sanctuaries where the International Whaling Commission (IWC) has banned all types of commercial whaling.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution: c)**

The **International Whaling Commission (IWC)** is an international body set up by the terms of the **International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW)** which was signed in Washington, D.C., United States, on December 2, 1946 to "provide for the proper conservation of whale stocks and thus make possible the orderly development of the whaling industry".

- In 1982 the IWC adopted a moratorium on commercial whaling. Currently, Japan, Canada, and a number of other nations oppose this moratorium.
- In 1994, it created the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary surrounding the continent of Antarctica. Here, the IWC has banned all types of commercial whaling.
- Only two such sanctuaries have been designated by IWC till date. Another is Indian Ocean Whale Sanctuary by the tiny island nation of the Seychelles.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS).

1. KPCS was launched in 2010.  
2. India is the founding member of KPCS and is the current chair of the scheme.  
3. The Kimberley Process (KP) is a commitment to remove conflict diamonds from the global supply chain.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution: b)**

The **Kimberley Process (KP)** is a commitment to remove conflict diamonds from the global supply chain. Today, participants actively prevent 99.8% of the worldwide trade.

Uniting governments, civil society and the wider industry, the Kimberley Process (KP) defines conflict diamonds as: ‘rough diamonds used to finance wars against governments’ – around the world.

The Kimberley Process (KP) is a multilateral trade regime established in 2003 with the goal of preventing the flow of conflict diamonds. The core of this regime is the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) under which States implement safeguards on shipments of rough diamonds and certify them as “conflict free”.

Consider the following statements regarding National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2020, that was passed by the US Senate.

1. The legislation will bring India on par with Washington’s North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies.
2. The legislation provides for increased US-India defence cooperation in the Indian Ocean in areas of humanitarian assistance, counterterrorism, counter-piracy, and maritime security.
3. The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is the name for each of a series of United States federal laws specifying the annual budget and expenditures of the U.S. Department of Defense.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

The US Senate has passed a legislative provision that brings India on par with Washington’s North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies and countries such as Israel and South Korea for increasing defence cooperation.

- The legislative provision provides for increased US-India defence cooperation in the Indian Ocean in areas of humanitarian assistance, counterterrorism, counter-piracy, and maritime security.
- The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) is the name for each of a series of United States federal laws specifying the annual budget and expenditures of the U.S. Department of Defense. The first NDAA was passed in 1961.
- The US has already recognized India as a “major defence partner” in 2016.

Consider the following statements regarding United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

1. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions from UN Member States.
2. India has increased its contribution to the UNRWA core budget in 2019 compared to 2016 contribution.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

India pledges to contribute USD 5 million in 2019 to UN Palestine refugee agency. India has increased its annual financial contribution fourfold to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) core budget, from USD 1.25 million in 2016 to USD 5 million in 2018.

- UNRWA is a United Nations agency established by the General Assembly in 1949 and mandated to provide assistance and protection to some 5.4 million Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA across its five fields of operation. Its mission is to help Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria,
West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip achieve their full human development potential.

- The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) is funded almost entirely by voluntary contributions from UN Member States. UNRWA also receives some funding from the Regular Budget of the United Nations, which is used mostly for international staffing costs.
- The Agency’s services encompass education, health care, relief and social services, camp infrastructure and improvement, microfinance and emergency assistance, including in times of armed conflict.

(Q) Consider the following statements about International Court of Justice (ICJ).

1. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial body of the UN.
2. The International Court of Justice is composed of 15 judges elected to five-year terms of office by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.
3. Judges are not eligible for re-election.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial body of the UN. Established in 1946 to replace the Permanent Court of International Justice, the ICJ mainly operates under the statute of its predecessor, which is included in the UN Charter.

- It has two primary functions: to settle legal disputes submitted by States in accordance with established international laws, and to act as an advisory board on issues submitted to it by authorized international organizations.

Members of the Court:

- The International Court of Justice is composed of 15 judges elected to nine-year terms of office by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. These organs vote simultaneously but separately. In order to be elected, a candidate must receive an absolute majority of the votes in both bodies. In order to ensure a measure of continuity, one third of the Court is elected every three years. Judges are eligible for re-election.

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding the Judges of International Court of Justice (ICJ).

1. Like other organs of international organizations, the Court is composed of representatives of governments.
2. No Member of the Court can be dismissed unless, in the unanimous opinion of the other Members, he/she no longer fulfils the required conditions.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

- Once elected, a Member of the Court is a delegate **neither of the government of his own country nor of that of any other State**. Unlike most other organs of international organizations, the Court is **not composed of representatives of governments**. Members of the Court are independent judges whose first task, before taking up their duties, is to make a solemn declaration in open court that they will **exercise their powers impartially and conscientiously**.

- In order to guarantee his or her independence, no Member of the Court can be dismissed unless, in the unanimous opinion of the other Members, he/she no longer fulfils the required conditions. This has in fact never happened.
VI. POLITY

(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. Article 341 of the Constitution provides certain privileges and concessions to the members of Scheduled Castes.
2. President alone is vested with the power to include or exclude any entry in the Scheduled Castes (SC) list.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: c)

Article 341 of the Constitution provides certain privileges and concessions to the members of Scheduled Castes.

- Under the provision of Article 341, first list of SCs in relation to a states/UT is to be issued by a notified Order of the President after consulting concerned state Government.
- But the clause (2) of Article 341 envisages that, any subsequent inclusion in or exclusion from the list of Scheduled Castes can be effected through an Act of Parliament.

The Uttar Pradesh government's latest attempt to extend the benefits available to Scheduled Castes to 17 castes that are now under the Other Backward Classes (OBC) list. It is fairly well-known that Parliament alone is vested with the power to include or exclude any entry in the SC list under Article 341 of the Constitution.

Statement 3: Reservation is there only in the Lok Sabha.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/quota-politics/article28313308.ece

(Q) Consider the following statements about North Eastern Council.

1. NEC established by an Act of Parliament is the nodal agency for the economic and social development of the North Eastern Region.
2. Minister of Development of NER is the ex-officio Chairman of North Eastern Council.
3. Initially Sikkim was not the part of North Eastern Council and was added to the council in the year 2002.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)
North Eastern Council (NEC) was constituted as a statutory advisory body under the NEC Act 1971 and came into being on the 7th November, 1972 at Shillong. The eight States of Northeast India viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim, are members of the council, with their respective Chief Ministers and Governors representing them.

Sikkim was added to the council in the year 2002.

In June 2018, the chairmanship of NEC was transferred by Union Cabinet to Home Minister from Minister of Development of NER.

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

(Q) Article 371(A) of the Constitution provides special status to which of the following state:
   a) Assam
   b) Jammu and Kashmir
   c) Nagaland
   d) Maharashtra

Solution: c)

371A: Special provision with respect to the State of Nagaland.

(Q) Consider the following statements.
   1. The Foreigners’ Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies meant to furnish opinion on the question as to whether a person is or is not a foreigner.
   2. Only those states with International border can constitute Foreigners’ Tribunals.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 only
   c) Both
   d) None

Solution: a)

The Foreigners’ Tribunals — 100 existing and 200 more to be functional by September 1 — are quasi-judicial bodies meant to “furnish opinion on the question as to whether a person is or is not a foreigner within the meaning of Foreigners Act, 1946”.

- In 1964, the Centre passed the Foreigners’ (Tribunals) Order under provisions of Section 3 of the Act.
- The FTs get two kinds of cases: those against whom a “reference” has been made by border police, and those whose names in the electoral rolls have a D (Doubtful) against them.
- The MHA has amended the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964,

Changes proposed as per the amendment:

- It has empowered district magistrates in all States and Union Territories to set up tribunals to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not.
- The amended Foreigners (Tribunal) Order, 2019 also empowers individuals to approach the Tribunals.
- The amended order also allows District Magistrates to refer individuals who haven’t filed claims against their exclusion from NRC to the Tribunals to decide if they are foreigners or not.
(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. The Indian Constitution has explicit provision regarding right to food.
2. The National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 legally entitles upto 75% of the total population to receive subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System.
3. The NFSA is being implemented in all the States/UTs except Jammu and Kashmir.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: d)

Though the Indian Constitution does not have any explicit provision regarding right to food, the fundamental right to life enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution may be interpreted to include right to live with human dignity, which may include the right to food and other basic necessities. About two thirds of the population therefore is covered under the Act to receive highly subsidized foodgrains.

- The Act legally entitles upto 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System.
- The Act is being implemented in all the States/UTs.

Source: https://dfpd.gov.in/nfsa-act.htm

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.

1. The Act has a special focus on the nutritional support to women and children.
2. In case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains, the beneficiaries will receive food security allowance.
3. The pregnant women and lactating mothers, during pregnancy and six months after the child birth will also be entitled to receive maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 8,000.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

- The Act also has a special focus on the nutritional support to women and children. Besides meal to pregnant women and lactating mothers during pregnancy and six months after the child birth, such women will also be entitled to receive maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000.
- Children upto 14 years of age will be entitled to nutritious meals as per the prescribed nutritional standards.
• In case of non-supply of entitled foodgrains or meals, the beneficiaries will receive food security allowance.
• The Act also contains provisions for setting up of grievance redressal mechanism at the District and State levels.
• Separate provisions have also been made in the Act for ensuring transparency and accountability.

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding provisions under Article 370 of the Indian Constitution that gives autonomous status to the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

1. Parliament needs the state government’s concurrence for applying all laws.
2. The Centre can declare National, State and Financial Emergency in the state.
3. The Jurisdiction of the Parliament of India in relation to Jammu and Kashmir is confined only to the matters enumerated in the Union List.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: d)

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

• All the provisions of the Constitution which are applicable to other states are not applicable to J&K.
• According to this article, except for defence, foreign affairs, finance and communications, Parliament needs the state government’s concurrence for applying all other laws. Thus the state’s residents live under a separate set of laws, including those related to citizenship, ownership of property, and fundamental rights, as compared to other Indians.
• Under Article 370, the Centre has no power to declare financial emergency under Article 360 in the state. It can declare emergency in the state only in case of war or external aggression. The Union government can therefore not declare emergency on grounds of internal disturbance or imminent danger unless it is made at the request or with the concurrence of the state government.
• The Jurisdiction of the Parliament of India in relation to Jammu and Kashmir is confined to the matters enumerated in the Union List, and also the concurrent list. There is no State list for the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Inner Line Permit (ILP).

1. Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an official travel document issued by the Government of India to allow inward travel of an Indian citizen into a protected area for a limited period.
2. Inner Line Permit (ILP) can be obtained by both Indian citizens and foreigners.
3. Currently, the Inner Line Permit is operational in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Inner Line Permit (ILP) is an official travel document required by Indian citizens residing outside certain "protected" states while entering them. The ILP is issued by the Government of India and is obligatory for all those who reside outside the protected states. With the ILP, the government aims to regulate movement to certain areas located near the international border of India.

- ILP's origin dates back to the **Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulations, 1873**, which protected the British Crown's interest in tea, oil and elephant trade.
- It prohibited "British subjects" or Indians from entering into these protected areas.
- After Independence, in 1950, the word "British subjects" was replaced by Citizens of India and the focus of the ban on free movement was explained as a bid to protect tribal cultures in north-eastern India.
- Currently, the Inner Line Permit is operational in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland.
- All the foreigners are required to have the Protection Area Permit or PAP for entering into the state.

(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. Whenever there is an issue on the resignation of Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), only the Speaker has the discretion to decide whether the resignations were voluntary or genuine.
2. Since Independence, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha has been a member of the ruling party.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution: a)**

**Statement 1:** The Constitution is clear on this. Only the Speaker has the discretion to decide whether the resignations were voluntary or genuine. No other constitutional authority can decide this.

**Statement 2:** Invariably Speaker come from ruling parties (Somnath Chatterjee being the Speaker in UPA-I was an exception).


(Q) Consider the following statements about Leader of Opposition.

1. Leader of Opposition is the leader of the largest party that has not less than one-tenth of the total strength of the house.
2. Leader of Opposition plays a crucial role in bringing bipartisanship and neutrality to the appointments in institutions of accountability and transparency.
3. There was no Leader of Opposition in the first Lok Sabha.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 3
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 2
d) 1, 2, 3
Solution: d)
The Leader of Opposition is leader of the largest party that has not less than one-tenth of the total strength of the house.

- It is a statutory post defined in the Salaries and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977.
- LoP plays a crucial role in bringing bipartisanship and neutrality to the appointments in institutions of accountability and transparency – CVC, CBI, CIC, Lokpal etc.
- India did not have a Leader of Opposition till 1969. In the first three Lok Sabha elections, the Congress-led by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had an overarching influence. Nehru's Congress won 1951-52, 1957 and 1962 Lok Sabha elections with an overwhelming majority and the main Opposition parties consistently failed to win 10 per cent of the seats.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/qualifying-for-leader-of-the-opposition/article27957618.ece

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Privilege motion.

1. It can be moved only in the Lok Sabha.
2. Any notice should be relating to an incident of recent occurrence.
3. The Speaker is the first level of scrutiny of a privilege motion.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)
Parliamentary privileges are certain rights and immunities enjoyed by members of Parliament, individually and collectively, so that they can “effectively discharge their functions”. When any of these rights and immunities are disregarded, the offence is called a breach of privilege and is punishable under law of Parliament.

- A notice is moved in the form of a motion by any member of either House against those being held guilty of breach of privilege.
- A member may, with the consent of the Speaker or the Chairperson, raise a question involving a breach of privilege either of a member or of the House or of a committee thereof. The rules however mandate that any notice should be relating to an incident of recent occurrence and should need the intervention of the House.
- The Speaker/RS chairperson is the first level of scrutiny of a privilege motion. The Speaker/Chair can decide on the privilege motion himself or herself or refer it to the privileges committee of Parliament.
(Q) Consider the following statements about Ambubachi Mela.

1. Ambubachi Mela is an annual Hindu mela held at Kamakshi Temple in Tamil Nadu.
2. Ambubachi Mela promote awareness on menstrual hygiene.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution: b)**

**Ambubachi Mela** is a four-day fair to mark the annual menstruation of the goddess at **Kamakhya temple** in Guwahati.

Kamakhya is one of 51 shaktipeeths or seat of Shakti followers, each representing a body part of the Sati, Lord Shiva’s companion. The temple’s sanctum sanctorum houses the yoni — female genital — symbolised by a rock.

The ritualistic fair celebrating the goddess’ period is one of the reasons why the taboo associated with menstruation is less in Assam compared with other parts of India. The attainment of womanhood of girls in Assam is celebrated with a ritual called ‘Tuloni Biya’, meaning small wedding. Ambubachi Mela is also an occasion to promote awareness on menstrual hygiene.


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(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Singhey Khababs Sindhu Festival.

1. It is a festival of India held every year at Leh, in Ladakh District of Jammu & Kashmir.
2. It is celebrated on the bank of Indus River.
3. It is celebrated to endorse the Indus River as a symbol of the communal harmony and unity of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution: d)**

In Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir, tourist’s promotional festival – **Ladakh Singhey Khababs Sindhu Festivals** is celebrated on the bank of Indus River at Leh.

- The festival presents the Indus River as a symbol of the multi-dimensional cultural identity of India that got its name from the Indus River.
- Folk songs and dances are performed and local handicrafts and ethnic foods are being exhibited before the tourists during the festival.
(Q) Consider the following statements.
1. He was given the title Lion of Punjab.
2. He was known for his just and secular rule.
3. He turned Harimandir Sahib at Amritsar into the Golden Temple by covering it with gold.

The above statements are related to which personality?

a) Banda Singh Bahadur  
b) Amarinder Singh  
c) Maharaja Kharak Singh  
d) Ranjit Singh

Solution: d)
A statue of Ranjit Singh, who ruled Punjab for almost four decades (1801-39), was recently inaugurated in Lahore.

- He was given the title Lion of Punjab (Sher-e-Punjab) because he stemmed the tide of Afghan invaders in Lahore, which remained his capital until his death.
- During his regime, Punjab was a land of six rivers, the sixth being the Indus.
- The maharaja was known for his just and secular rule; both Hindus and Muslims were given powerful positions in his darbar.
- He turned Harimandir Sahib at Amritsar into the Golden Temple by covering it with gold.

(Q) Which of the following are the Theme Based Circuits under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
1. Sufi Circuit  
2. Tribal Circuit  
3. Tirthankar Circuit  
4. Heritage Circuit  
5. Rural Circuit

Select the correct answer codes:

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

Solution: d)
Theme Based Circuits:
- Buddhist  
- Coastal  
- Desert  
- Eco
- Heritage
- Himalayan
- Krishna
- North East
- Ramayana
- Rural
- Spiritual
- Sufi
- Tirthankar
- Tribal
- Wildlife


(Q) “Chundan vallam”, recently seen in news is a
   a) Kerala snake boats
   b) A 10-day long festival celebrated in Kerala
   c) Tribal art form of Kerala
   d) None of the above

Solution: a)

- The **Champions Boat League (CBL)** has been conceived by tourism officials in Kerala on the model of the Indian Premier League (IPL) to transform the state's legendary and historically-significant ‘vallamkali’ (snake boat races) into a world-class sporting event.

- **Chundan vallam ('beaked boat'),** known outside Kerala as **Kerala snake boats**, are one of the icons of Kerala culture used in the Vallamkali boat race.

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Jaipur city.

1. Pink City Jaipur was recently declared as UNESCO world heritage site.
2. The historic walled city of Jaipur was founded under the patronage of Sawai Jai Singh II.
3. During late medieval period, Jaipur City was exceptional in trade in South Asia.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

India gets its 38th **UNESCO World HERITAGE SITE** as **Pink City Jaipur**.

- The historic walled city of Jaipur in Rajasthan, was **founded in 1727 AD** under the patronage of **Sawai Jai Singh II**. It serves as the capital city of the culturally-rich state of Rajasthan.
• Jaipur City is an exceptional example of a late medieval trade town in South Asia and defined new concepts for a thriving trade and commercial hub. In addition, the city is associated with living traditions in the form of crafts that have national and international recognition.


(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. President of the Servants of the People Society.
2. Participated in the non-cooperation movement and the Salt Satyagraha.
3. Promoted the White Revolution
4. Signed Tashkent Declaration with Pakistan

The above statements are related to

a) Indira Gandhi
b) Charan Singh
c) Jawaharlal Nehru
d) Lal Bahadur Shastri

Solution: d)

Lal Bahadur Shastri became a life member of the Servants of the People Society (Lok Sevak Mandal), founded by Lala Lajpat Rai. There he started to work for the upliftment of backward classes, and later he became the President of that Society.

• He participated in the non-cooperation movement and the Salt Satyagraha.
• He promoted the White Revolution, a national campaign to increase milk production. He also promoted the Green Revolution, to increase the food production in India.
• In 1964, he signed an agreement with the Sri Lankan Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike, in concern with the status of Indian Tamils in Ceylon. This agreement is known as Srimavo-Shastri Pact.
• He signed Tashkent Declaration on 10 January, 1966 with the Pakistan President, Muhammad Ayub Khan to end the 1965 war.
VIII. STATES

(Q) Consider the following statements about ‘Jal Hi Jeevan Hai’ Scheme.

1. It is the crop diversification scheme of the Odisha government.
2. The scheme aims to ensure purchase of produce through MSP and also give farmer input support.
3. Restoration of ground water table is one of the objectives of the scheme.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The farmers of northern districts of Haryana have shown a keen interest in crop diversification scheme called ‘Jal Hi Jeevan Hai’ of the Haryana government which promotes to diversify paddy area into maize, arhar dal (pigeon pea) and soybean.

Objectives of the scheme:

1. To reduce the area of water guzzling crops in Haryana
2. Induction of technological innovation for establishing alternate crops for sustainable agriculture.
3. To introduce Resource conservation,
4. To restore ground water table
5. To control soil fatigue because of rice-wheat cycle and introduce soil conservative and micronutrients balanced crop for the soil.
6. To shift the farmer from paddy wheat cycle and give more profitable crop options to the farmers
7. Ensure purchase of produce of this diversified area through MSP and also give farmer input support and cover his risk by insuring them completely under PMFBY


(Q) Consider the following statements about Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN).

1. It is an initiative of the Union Government to prepare a master list of all indigenous inhabitants of the Nagaland.
2. Its objective is to prevent people from acquiring fake indigenous inhabitants’ certificates.
3. RIIN will be the first official master list of Nagaland’s indigenous inhabitants.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 1 only
c) 2, 3
d) 1, 3
Solution: c)
The Nagaland government is initiating an exercise to prepare a master list of all indigenous inhabitants of the State. This list, called the Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN), is seen as a localised version of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) of Assam.

The RIIN will be the first official master list of Nagaland’s indigenous inhabitants. Its objective is to prevent people from acquiring fake indigenous inhabitants’ certificates.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/nagaland-census-nagaland-want-to-draw-up-a-list-of-all-indigenous-inhabitants-how-will-the-process-evolve/article28306085.ece

(Q) Consider the following statements about Resilient Kerala Program.

1. The Government of India, the Government of Kerala and the World Bank signed a Loan Agreement for the Resilient Kerala Program to enhance the State’s resilience against the impacts of natural disasters and climate change.
2. The Program represents the Second ‘State Partnership’ of the World Bank in India.
3. State partnership is a key pillar of the World Bank’s new Country Partnership Framework for India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)
The Government of India, the Government of Kerala and the World Bank signed a Loan Agreement of USD 250 million for the First Resilient Kerala Program to enhance the State’s resilience against the impacts of natural disasters and climate change.

The Program, which represents the First ‘State Partnership’ of the World Bank in India, is the First of two Development Policy Operations aiming to mainstream disaster and climate resilience into critical infrastructure and services.

State partnership is a key pillar of the World Bank’s new Country Partnership Framework for India. Through such partnerships, the Bank will support select States striving to bring about systemic improvements in the way development initiatives are planned and executed.

Source: http://pib.nic.in/newssite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=190970

(Q) Consider the following statements about “Tamil yeoman”

1. Tamil yeoman is the butterfly species endemic to Western Ghats which has been declared the state butterfly of Tamil Nadu.
2. Tamil Nadu became the first state in the country to declare a state butterfly.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Tamil yeoman (Cirrochroa thais) butterfly species **endemic to Western Ghats** has been declared the state butterfly of Tamil Nadu.

For the first time Tamil Nadu has declared its **state butterfly** and only **fifth** in the country to do so. Maharashtra was the **first** to declare **Blue Mormon** as its **state butterfly**, followed by Uttarakhand (Common peacock), Karnataka (Southern bird wings) and Kerala (Malabar banded peacock).

IX. DEFENCE & SECURITY

(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. Indian Navy launched ‘Operation Sankalp’ in Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman to reassure safe passage of Indian flagged vessels transiting through area.
2. Operation Sunrise was carried out by the armies of India and Bangladesh aimed at hitting militant groups that are impacting both the countries.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

Indian Navy launched Operation Sankalp in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman to reassure Indian flagged vessels transiting through the area following the recent maritime incidents in the region.

Operation Sunrise: India-Myanmar target insurgent groups camp in North East. The strategy is aimed at hitting militant groups that are impacting both India and Myanmar.

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

1. Abu Dhabi hosted first ISA’s joint security exercise ISALEX19.
2. International Security Alliance is an international working group to confront organised, transnational and extremist crimes.
3. All the Gulf countries are the members of International Security Alliance.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

Abu Dhabi hosted first ISA’s joint security exercise ISALEX19.

• Representatives of 50 law enforcement agencies of the International Security Alliance took part in the first joint security exercise in Abu Dhabi.

• The participants include representatives from tactical teams, rapid intervention units, communications, civil defence, and explosive ordnance disposal, teams.

• The International Security Alliance, launched in 2017 in Abu Dhabi, is an international working group to confront organised, transnational and extremist crimes.

• The alliance now comprises nine countries, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco, France, Italy, Spain, Senegal, Singapore, and the Slovak Republic.


www.insightsactivelearn.com 65 www.insightsonindia.com
Consider the following statements about Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO).

1. ITSSO is an online module available to law enforcement agencies at National, State and District levels.
2. It allows the state to undertake real-time monitoring and management for completion of investigation in rape cases in 6 months.
3. ITSSO leverages the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) which is a nationwide network enabling sharing of information between Police Stations, State officers and security agencies.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO) is meant for Law Enforcement Agencies in the country.

- The Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO) is an online module available to law enforcement agencies at all levels - National, State, District and Police Station that allows State to undertake real-time monitoring and management for completion of investigation in rape cases in 2 months.
- It leverages the existing CCTNS data base, which covers nearly 15000 police stations in the country.
- ITSSO would greatly strengthen States ability for analytics and prognosis for timely investigation and prosecution in rape cases.
- ITSSO is one of such measures developed by MHA towards Smart Policing.


Strum Ataka, recently seen in news is a

a) Island in Caribbean Sea
b) X-ray space telescope
c) Drone helicopter
d) Anti-tank missile

Solution: d)

India has signed a deal with Russia for acquiring Strum Ataka anti-tank missile for its fleet of Mi-35 attack choppers of Indian Air Force (IAF).

(Q) Consider the following statements about Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act.

1. Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) is an act of the Parliament of India that grant special powers to the Indian Armed Forces the power to maintain public order in disturbed areas.
2. Only the Central Government can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area.
3. The Act is not applied to Jammu and Kashmir, which has its own law approved by the State Assembly.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), 1958 is an act of the Parliament of India that grant special powers to the Indian Armed Forces the power to maintain public order in "disturbed areas".

Powers given to armed forces:

- They have the authority to prohibit a gathering of five or more persons in an area, can use force or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law.
- If reasonable suspicion exists, the army can also arrest a person without a warrant; enter or search premises without a warrant; and ban the possession of firearms.
- Any person arrested or taken into custody may be handed over to the officer in charge of the nearest police station along with a report detailing the circumstances that led to the arrest.

What is a "disturbed area" and who has the power to declare it?

- A disturbed area is one which is declared by notification under Section 3 of the AFSPA. An area can be disturbed due to differences or disputes between members of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.
- The Central Government, or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area. A suitable notification would have to be made in the Official Gazette. As per Section 3, it can be invoked in places where "the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary".
- At present AFSPA is in force in Assam, Nagaland, Manipur excluding Imphal municipal council area, Changlang, Longding and Tirap districts of Arunachal Pradesh. An Act passed in 1990 was applied to Jammu and Kashmir and has been in force since.

Source:  

(Q) ASRAAM, recently seen in news is related to

a) Short Range Air-to-Air Missile
b) Software for digitization of Archaeological museums
c) Next Generation Sequencing (NSG) facility
d) Powerful X-ray space telescope.
Solution: a)
The Indian Air Force (IAF) is looking to adopt a new European visual range air to air missile across its fighter fleet.

- The Advanced Short-Range Air-to-Air Missile (ASRAAM) of European missile-maker MBDA has been approved for fitting on Jaguar jets and the IAF was looking to integrating it on the Su-30MKIs and the Indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) as well.
- ASRAAM is widely used as a Within Visual Range (WVR) air dominance missile with a range of over 25km.

X. REPORTS & INDICES

(Q) Financial Stability Report (FSR), recently in news is released by
a) World Bank
b) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
c) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
d) None of the Above

Solution: d)
The bi-annual Fiscal Stability Report released by RBI discusses issues relating to the development and regulation of the financial sector.
Source: https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/editorial/financial-stability-report-halfway-house/article28275077.ece

(Q) Consider the following statements about Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

1. It is released by Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).
2. It is the first global biodiversity assessment since 2005.
3. According to the report, more than 80% of amphibian species and marine mammals are threatened.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)
Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services by Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) has been released. It is the First global biodiversity assessment since 2005.

- According to the report, the threatened list includes more than 40% of amphibian species, almost 33% of reef-forming corals, and more than a third of all marine mammals.


(Q) Consider the following statements.

2. National Nutrition Mission aims to reduce stunting by 2% a year, bringing down the proportion of stunted children in the population to 25% by 2022.
3. The highest levels of stunted and underweight children are found in Jharkand, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)


The government’s National Nutrition Mission (renamed as Poshan Abhiyan) aims to reduce stunting (a measure of malnutrition that is defined as height that is significantly below the norm for age) by 2% a year, bringing down the proportion of stunted children in the population to 25% by 2022.

The key to ending the tragedy of child nutrition lies with a handful of State governments: the highest levels of stunted and underweight children are found in Jharkhand, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-malaise-of-malnutrition/article28335228.ece

(Q) “State of the Education Report for India: Children with Disabilities”, report has been released by

a) NITI Ayog  
b) Pratham  
c) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
d) UNESCO

Solution: d)

The 2019 “State of the Education Report for India: Children with Disabilities” has been released by the UNESCO.

The report highlights accomplishments and challenges with regards to the right to education of children with disabilities (CWDs).

(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. The highest number and high endemism of orchid species are found in Western Ghats.  
2. Botanical Survey of India conducts census of orchids of India.  
3. Trade of wild orchid is banned globally.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)
The Botanical Survey of India has come up with the first comprehensive census of orchids of India putting the total number of orchid species or taxa to 1,256.

- A State-wise distribution of orchid species point out that the Himalayas, North-East parts of the country and Western Ghats are the hot-spots of the beautiful plant species.
- The highest number of orchid species is recorded from Arunachal Pradesh with 612 species, followed by Sikkim 560 species and West Bengal; Darjeeling Himalayas have also high species concentration, with 479 species.
- While north-east India rank at the top in species concentration, the Western Ghats have high endemism of orchids.
- Among the 10 bio geographic zones of India, the Himalayan zone is the richest in terms of orchid species followed by Northeast, Western Ghats, Deccan plateau and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- Entire orchid family is listed under appendix II of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) and hence any trade of wild orchid is banned globally.


(Q) “Working on a Warmer Planet: The Impact of Heat Stress on Labour Productivity and Decent Work” report is released by

a) UN Environment
b) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
c) International Labour Organisation (ILO)
d) World Economic Forum

Solution: c)

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) released its report 'Working on a Warmer Planet: The Impact of Heat Stress on Labour Productivity and Decent Work', which said that by 2030, the equivalent of more than two per cent of total working hours worldwide is projected to be lost every year, either because it is too hot to work or because workers have to work at a slower pace.


(Q) 2019 World Press Freedom Index is released by

a) World Economic Forum
b) International Federation of Journalists
c) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
d) None of the above

Solution: d)

2019 World Press Freedom Index compiled by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), covering 180 countries and territories.

Source: [https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/sword-against-pen/article28524117.ece](https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/sword-against-pen/article28524117.ece)
Consider the following statements about Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS).

1. PLFS is a regular employment-unemployment survey launched by Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.
2. PLFS measures employment every three months in urban areas and once a year in both rural and urban areas.
3. According to the latest edition of PLFS, unemployment rate (UR) in both rural and urban India is at its highest since 1972.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

The latest edition of Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) has been released. The unemployment rate (UR) in both rural and urban India is at its highest since 1972.

Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation launched a new regular employment-unemployment survey, namely, Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) during April, 2017 with certain changes in survey methodology, data collection mechanism and sampling design vis-à-vis the earlier quinquennial (once in every five years) Employment and Unemployment surveys of NSSO.

PLFS was launched with the objective of measuring employment every three months in urban areas and once a year in both rural and urban areas.

XI. MAPS/ PLACES

(Q) Antigua and Barbuda are located between
a) Caribbean Sea and Pacific Ocean
b) Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean
c) Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean
d) None of the above

Solution: c)
Antigua and Barbuda is a country in the West Indies lying between the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

(Q) Lampedusa Island, recently seen in news is located in
a) Mediterranean Sea
b) Red Sea
c) Black Sea
d) Caspian Sea

Solution: a)
Lampedusa is the largest island of the Italian Pelagie Islands in the Mediterranean Sea.

(Q) Bara Shigri, Samudra Tapu and Gepang Gath glaciers are located in
a) Sikkim
b) Jammu and Kashmir
c) Himachal Pradesh
d) Uttarakhand

Solution: c)
Samudra Tapu is one of the largest glaciers in Chandra basin of district Lahaul and Spiti, Himachal Pradesh.
Bara Shigri glacier is located in the state of Himachal Pradesh.
Six Himalayan glaciers monitored by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) have been retreating in the range of 13 to 33 millimetres per year. A total of six glaciers — Sutri Dhaka, Batal, Bara Shigri, Samudra Tapu, Gepang Gath and Kunzum — are monitored for mass, energy and hydrological balance.
(Q) Which of the following rivers flows through Kaziranga National Park.

1. Brahmaputra
2. Diphlu
3. Dharla
4. Mora Diphlu
5. Rangpo

Select the correct code:

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

Solution: c)

Kaziranga is crisscrossed by four main rivers — Brahmaputra, Diphlu, Mora Diphlu and Mora Dhansiri and has numerous small water bodies.
XII. Miscellaneous

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Cholera.

1. Cholera is an acute diarrhoeal infection caused by bacterium Vibrio cholerae.
2. Cholera transmission is closely linked to inadequate access to clean water and sanitation facilities.
3. There are no reports of Cholera outbreak in India in the last 5 years.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b) Cholera is an intestinal infection which is caused when a person consumes contaminated food or water. It is generally caused by the bacterium Vibrio cholerae. It has a short incubation period, from one day to five days. The cholera bacteria are generally seen in water or food sources, that have been contaminated by faeces from a person infected with cholera. Cholera is usually seen in places with inadequate water treatment, poor sanitation and inadequate hygiene.

- The cholera bacterium may also live in the environment in salty rivers and coastal waters.
- Odisha’s Ganjam district had reported an outbreak of the disease on April 14, 2017.

Source: https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/cholera