# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL. NO.</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>PAGE NO.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I. ECONOMY</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>II. ECOLOGY &amp; ENVIRONMENT</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>III. GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND PROGRAMMES</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IV. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>V. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VI. POLITY</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VII. HISTORY, ART &amp; CULTURE</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>VIII. STATES</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>IX. DEFENCE &amp; SECURITY</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>X. REPORTS &amp; INDICES</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>XI. MAPS/ PLACES</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>XII. Miscellaneous</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I. ECONOMY

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding India’s GDP growth and Unemployment rate

1. India’s quarterly GDP growth slumped to five-year low of 3.83% in the last quarter of financial Year 2019.
2. The unemployment rate in the country rose to a 45-year high of 1% in 2017-18.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: B
- India’s quarterly GDP growth slumped to five-year low of 5.83% in the last quarter of Financial Year 2019. India’s GDP grew at 5.8% in the January-March 2019 quarter, dragging down the full year growth to a fiveyear low of 6.8%.
- The unemployment rate in the country rose to a 45-year high of 6.1% in 2017-18, as per official data released on the first day of the second term of the Modi government.

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Generalized System of Preferences

1. It is designed to promote economic development by allowing duty free entry for thousands of products from 120 designated beneficiary countries/territories.
2. In 2018, around $6.3 billion of Indian merchandise exports to the U.S. were covered by GSP.
3. Recently, U.S. President issued a proclamation ending the trade benefits to India effective June 5, 2019.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: D
All the statements are correct.

A day after a group of journalists was told that India’s access to preferential trade terms under the U.S.’s Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) was on its way out, U.S. President Donald Trump issued a proclamation ending the trade benefits effective June 5.

"I have determined that India has not assured the United States that India will provide equitable and reasonable access to its markets. Accordingly, it is appropriate to terminate India’s designation as a beneficiary developing country effective June 5, 2019," Mr. Trump’s proclamation read.
The GSP is a programme that seeks to aid developing countries by giving some of their products non-reciprocal, duty-free access to U.S. markets. In 2018, some $6.3 billion of Indian merchandise exports to the U.S. were covered by GSP, according to the Congressional Research Service.

In News: Trump ends concessions for Indian exports under GSP

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)

1. NBFC is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 engaged in the business of loans and advances, acquisition of shares/stocks/bonds/debentures/securities issued by Government.
2. NBFC can accept demand deposits
3. NBFC do not form part of the payment and settlement system.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: D

NBFCs are doing functions similar to banks.

What is difference between banks & NBFCs?

NBFCs lend and make investments and hence their activities are akin to that of banks; however there are a few differences as given below:

- NBFC cannot accept demand deposits;
- NBFCs do not form part of the payment and settlement system and cannot issue cheques drawn on itself;
- deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation is not available to depositors of NBFCs, unlike in case of banks.


In News: Keeping close watch on NBFCs, says Shaktikanta Das

(Q) Consider the following statements

1. Repo is an instrument for borrowing funds by selling securities with an agreement to repurchase the securities on a mutually agreed future date at an agreed price which includes interest for the funds borrowed.
2. Reverse repo is an instrument for lending funds by purchasing securities with an agreement to resell the securities on a mutually agreed future date at an agreed price which includes interest for the funds lent.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
Solution: C

Repurchase Options or in short Repo, is a money market instrument, which enables collateralised short term borrowing and lending through sale/purchase operations in debt instruments. This is an instrument used by the Central Bank and banking institutions to manage their daily / short term liquidity.

Legal Definition

- A legal definition of 'repo' and 'reverse repo' was inserted as sub-sections (c) and (d) of section 45 U of Chapter III D of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934, vide The Reserve Bank of India (Amendment) Act, 2006 (w.e.f. 9.1.2007). Thus,
- “repo” means an instrument for borrowing funds by selling securities with an agreement to repurchase the securities on a mutually agreed future date at an agreed price which includes interest for the funds borrowed;
- “reverse repo” means an instrument for lending funds by purchasing securities with an agreement to resell the securities on a mutually agreed future date at an agreed price which includes interest for the funds lent.

In News: SBI to offer home loan linked to repo rate

(Q) Consider the following statements about Securities and Exchange Board of India.
1. SEBI is a statutory body under the provisions of Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.
2. It is a quasi-legislative, quasi-executive and quasi-judicial body.
3. There is an appeal process against a SEBI order to create accountability and the first appeal lies directly to the Supreme Court.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the regulator for the securities market in India. It was established in 1988 and given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992.
- If an entity wants to appeal against a SEBI order, it approaches Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT), which is a three-member bench. A second appeal lies directly to the Supreme Court.

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

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding the powers and functions of Securities and Exchange Board of India.
1. Registering and regulating the working of venture capital funds and collective investment schemes, including mutual funds.
2. Promoting investors' education and training of intermediaries of securities markets.
3. Promoting insider trading in securities.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution: c)**

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** and the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to facilitate seamless sharing of data and information for carrying out scrutiny, inspection, investigation and prosecution.

The Preamble of the Securities and Exchange Board of India describes the basic functions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India as “…to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate the securities market and for matters connected there with or incidental there to”.

Statement 3 – prohibiting insider trading in securities.

Source: [https://www.sebi.gov.in/powers-and-functions.html](https://www.sebi.gov.in/powers-and-functions.html)

(Q) Reciprocal trade agreements (RTAs) include:

1. Preferential arrangements  
2. Free trade agreements  
3. Customs unions  
4. Common markets

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution: d)**

Commerce Minister emphasizes on reciprocal market access for Indian goods.

- Countries use bilateral/regional trade agreements to increase market access and expand trade in foreign markets. These agreements are called **reciprocal trade agreements (RTAs)** because members grant special advantages to each other.

- RTAs include many types of agreements, such as preferential arrangements, free trade agreements, customs unions, and common markets, in which members agree to open their markets to each other’s exports by lowering trade barriers.

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Consumer Price Index (CPI).

1. RBI uses CPI-combined as the sole inflation measure for the purpose of monetary policy.  
2. CPI inflation has decreased steadily in the last 5 years.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** is a measure that examines the weighted average of **prices of a basket of consumer goods and services**, such as transportation, food and medical care. It is calculated by taking price changes for each item in the predetermined basket of goods and averaging them.

- Changes in the CPI are used to assess price changes associated with the cost of living; the CPI is one of the most frequently used statistics for identifying periods of inflation or deflation.

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **started using CPI-combined as the sole inflation measure for the purpose of monetary policy**. As per the agreement on Monetary Policy Framework between the Government and the RBI dated February 20, 2015 the sole of objective of RBI is price stability and a target is set for inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index-Combined.

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Economic capital framework.

1. The economic capital framework reflects the capital that an institution requires or needs to hold as a counter against unforeseen risks or events or losses in the future.

2. An expert panel on RBI's economic capital framework headed by Ex-RBI governor Bimal Jalan was formed to address the issue of RBI reserves.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)
RBI had constituted a panel on economic capital framework. It was headed by Ex-RBI governor Bimal Jalan.

- The expert panel on RBI's economic capital framework was formed to address the issue of RBI reserves—one of the sticking points between the central bank and the government.
- Economic capital framework refers to the risk capital required by the central bank while taking into account different risks. The economic capital framework reflects the capital that an institution requires or needs to hold as a counter against unforeseen risks or events or losses in the future.

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.

1. India has approved the ratification of the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting.
2. The Convention is an outcome of the OECD / G20 BEPS Project to tackle base erosion and profit shifting.
3. The Convention will ensure that profits are taxed where substantive economic activities generating the profits are carried out and where value is created.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the ratification of the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (MLI).

The Convention will modify India's treaties in order to curb revenue loss through treaty abuse and base erosion and profit shifting strategies by ensuring that profits are taxed where substantive economic activities generating the profits are carried out and where value is created.

The Multilateral Convention is an outcome of the OECD / G20 Project to tackle Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (the "BEPS Project") i.e., tax planning strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules to artificially shift profits to low or no-tax locations where there is little or no economic activity, resulting in little or no tax being paid.


(Q) ‘Project Sashakt’, has been launched is,

a) Personality development programme through social (or community) service
b) Comprehensive medical care facilities to Central Government employees and their family members.
c) One-time cash incentive to pregnant women for institutional/home births through skilled assistance.
d) A scheme that aims to strengthen the credit capacity, credit culture and credit portfolio of public sector banks.
Project Sashakt aims to strengthen the credit capacity, credit culture and credit portfolio of public sector banks.

(Q) Consider the following statements.
1. A cess is levied on the tax payable and not on the taxable income.
2. A cess can be levied on only direct tax.
3. Unlike a tax, a cess is levied to meet a specific purpose.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1, 2
   b) 2, 3
   c) 1, 3
   d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

A cess is levied on the tax payable and not on the taxable income. In a sense, for the taxpayer, it is equivalent to a surcharge on tax.

A cess can be levied on both direct and indirect taxes.

Unlike a tax, a cess is levied to meet a specific purpose; its proceeds cannot be spent on any kind of government expenditure. Recent examples of cess are: infrastructure cess on motor vehicles, clean environment cess, Krishi Kalyan cess (for the improvement of agriculture and welfare of farmers), and education cess. To make the point clear, the proceeds from the education cess cannot be used for cleaning the environment and vice versa.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-forgotten-funds/article28078252.ece

(Q) Consider the following statements.
1. Direct taxes on income are compulsory transfers of private incomes (both individual and firm) to the government to meet collective aims.
2. The proceeds of all taxes and cesses are credited in the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI).
3. While the tax proceeds are shared with the States and Union Territories according to the guidelines by the Finance Commission, the cess proceeds need not be shared with them.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1, 2
   b) 2, 3
   c) 1, 3
   d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

Direct taxes on income are compulsory transfers of private incomes (both individual and firm) to the government to meet collective aims such as the expansion of schooling infrastructure, an increase in health facilities, or an improvement of transportation infrastructure.
From the point of view of the government, the proceeds of all taxes and cesses are credited in the **Consolidated Fund of India (CFI)**, an account of the Government of India. It constitutes all receipts, expenditures, borrowing and lending of the government. The CFI details are published annually as a part of the Union Budget documents. And the **approval of Parliament is necessary** to withdraw funds from the CFI. While the tax proceeds are shared with the States and Union Territories according to the guidelines by the **Finance Commission**, the cess proceeds need not be shared with them.

To meet specific socioeconomic goals, a **cess is preferred over a tax** because it is relatively **easier to introduce, modify, and abolish**.

(Q) Consider the following statements

1. “Repo” means an instrument for borrowing funds by selling securities with an agreement to repurchase the securities on a mutually agreed future date at an agreed price which includes interest for the funds borrowed.
2. Recently the repo rate fell below 6% for the first time since 2010.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

**Repurchase Options** or in short **Repo**, is a money market instrument, which enables collateralised short-term borrowing and lending through sale/purchase operations in debt instruments. This is an instrument used by the Central Bank and banking institutions to **manage their daily / short term liquidity**.

“Repo” means an instrument for borrowing funds by selling securities with an agreement to repurchase the securities on a mutually agreed future date at an agreed price which includes interest for the funds borrowed.

RBI had decided to cut the repo rate in the policy by 25 basis points to 5.75%. The repo rate fell below 6% for the first time since 2010.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Libra, which was recently in news.

1. It is the new cryptocurrency launched by Google.  
2. Libra is built on blockchain Technology used by bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies.  
3. Cryptocurrencies ensure anonymity of the users and security of the transactions.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

**Facebook** has announced a **digital currency** called **Libra** that will roll out for use in 2020 and allow the platform’s billions of users across the globe to make financial transactions online.
It is a digital asset built by Facebook and powered by a new Facebook-created version of blockchain, the encrypted technology used by bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies.

Cryptocurrencies enable transfer of money between parties, without going through a banking system. These digital payment systems are based on cryptographic proof of the chain of transactions, deriving their name, Cryptocurrency. These employ cryptographic algorithms and functions to ensure anonymity (privacy) of the users (who are identified by an alphanumeric public key), security of the transactions and integrity of the payment systems.

II. GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding National Green Tribunal (NGT)

1. It can impose fine up to 5 lakhs on individuals, institutions and state agencies.
2. NGT is established under Environment Protection Act, 1986.
3. It is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: C

- The National Green Tribunal has been established on 18.10.2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. It is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed a penalty of ₹25 lakh each on the States of Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal for not taking adequate steps to curb pollution in the river Ganga.

http://www.greentribunal.gov.in/

(Q) White Stem Borer, sometime seen in the news, normally attack which crop?

(a) Sugarcane
(b) Wheat
(c) Coffee
(d) Paddy

Solution: C

- **Coffee white stem borer**, Xylotrechus quadripes, is a serious **pest of arabica coffee** causing a yield loss up to 40 per cent in all coffee growing areas of India.
- It is a **blackish brown coloured beetle** measuring about 2 cm in size with three pairs of white stripes running obliquely across the wings. Alternate host plants of this beetle include rose sandal wood, teak etc.

Consider the following statements with reference to Asiatic Lion.

1. For the first time, the entire genome of Asiatic lion has been sequenced by scientists from CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology.
2. At present the only home of Asiatic lion is Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary with over 1000 animals present in the Gir forests.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

For the first time, the entire genome of Asiatic lion has been sequenced by scientists from CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad.

The objective is to understand the species at DNA level and study if there are any specific problems with regard to adaptability to environment or behaviour vis-à-vis other big cats.

About Asiatic Lion:

- IUCN Red List Status: Endangered
- At present the only home of Asiatic lion is Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat.
- The population of the endangered Asiatic lion is very low — only 523 animals are present in the Gir forests.

Source: [https://www.wwfindia.org/about_wwf/priority_species/threatened_species/asiatic_lion/](https://www.wwfindia.org/about_wwf/priority_species/threatened_species/asiatic_lion/)

Consider the following statements regarding Herbivore Census in Gir forest.

1. The Forest Department of Gujarat conducts an Herbivore Census in Gir forest once-in-five-years.
2. The Herbivore Census covers ungulates such as spotted deer, blue bulls and sambars.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Every summer, the Forest Department of Gujarat conducts a Herbivore Census in Gir forest. This year’s exercise, is of particular significance because it is the last Herbivore Census ahead of next year’s Lion Census, which is a once-in-five-years exercise.

The Herbivore Census covers ungulates such as spotted deer, blue bulls (nilgais), sambars, Indian gazelles (chinkaras), four-horned antelopes (choshinga) and wild boars, as well as Indian langurs and peafowl.

Wild ungulates and langurs are the main prey of Asiatic lions.

Source: [https://www.wwfindia.org/about_wwf/priority_species/threatened_species/asiatic_lion/](https://www.wwfindia.org/about_wwf/priority_species/threatened_species/asiatic_lion/)
Why it’s done in summer

- During summer, foliage is reduced to a minimum in dry and deciduous tropical forests, which affords the best visibility for conducting a census.
- Also, wild animals concentrate around water points, which in Gir include 450 artificial ones filled by the Forest Department.

Source: https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/herbivore-census-gir-asiatic-lion-5726060/

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Cyclones.

1. Cyclones are sustained by very strong low-pressure areas at their core.
2. Very few cyclones originate in the Arabian Sea, but they are relatively strong compared to those emerging in the Bay of Bengal.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

Cyclones are sustained by very strong low-pressure areas at their core. Winds in surrounding areas are forced to rush towards these low-pressure areas.

Though cyclones are common in the June, very few of them originate in the Arabian Sea. Most of them are found in the Bay of Bengal. In the last 120 years for which records are available, just about 14% of all cyclonic storms, and 23% of severe cyclones, around India have occurred in the Arabian Sea. Arabian Sea cyclones are also relatively weak compared to those emerging in the Bay of Bengal.

(Q) One Health Concept, recently seen in news means

a) Strategies to prevent Non-communicable diseases
b) Providing health insurance to all the individuals
c) Inter-connectivity among human health, animal health, and the environment
d) Prioritising human health over animal health

Solution: c)

The World Organization of Animal Health, commonly known as OIE (an abbreviation of its French title), summarises the One Health concept as “human health and animal health are interdependent and bound to the health of the ecosystems in which they exist”.

The philosophy of One Health recognises inter-connectivity among human health, the health of animals, and the environment.

Source: https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/an-expert-explains-why-healthy-animals-mean-healthy-humans-and-how-to-meet-that-goal-5783537/
(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Kelps

1. Kelps are large brown algae seaweeds that can survive freezing temperatures and long periods of darkness, and even grow under sea ice.

2. Kelp forests help protect coastlines by decreasing the power of waves during storms and reducing coastal erosion.

3. It is an important source of potash and iodine.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

Kelps are large brown algae seaweeds that make up the order Laminariales. There are about 30 different genera.

- Kelps have adapted to the severe conditions. These cool water species have special strategies to survive freezing temperatures and long periods of darkness, and even grow under sea ice.
- In regions with cold, nutrient-rich water, they can attain some of the highest rates of primary production of any natural ecosystem on Earth.
- Kelp forests also help protect coastlines by decreasing the power of waves during storms and reducing coastal erosion.
- Kelp forests throughout the world play an important role in coastal economies, supporting a broad range of tourism, recreational and commercial activities.
- Kelp is a coveted food source in many countries, full of potassium, iron, calcium, fibre and iodine.

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

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding the “One Planet One City Challenge”

1. It’s a friendly competition, organized by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) to mobilize cities to deliver on the Paris Agreement.

2. The logo of WWF is a Red Panda.

3. Pune was selected as a National Winner in 2017-2018 edition of WWF’s “One Planet City Challenge (OPCC)”.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

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

Solution: a)

The black-and white panda (a Giant Panda) is the logo of World Wide Fund for Nature. Panaji, Pune, and Rajkot were the three Indian cities which were selected as national finalists in 2017-2018 edition of WWF’s One Planet City Challenge (OPCC).
However, Rajkot emerged as the National Winner in 2017-2018 edition of WWF’s One Planet City Challenge (OPCC).

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Cyclones.

1. The severe cyclone frequency in the north Indian Ocean has increased during the past decade.
2. The Bay of Bengal is comparatively less prone to cyclonic storms than the Arabian Sea.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

The severe cyclone frequency in the north Indian Ocean (i.e., the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea) has registered about a three-fold increase during the past decades. As compared to the previous decades, when about one severe cyclone was expected to form every year during the intense cyclonic period — May, October and November — the number has now gone up to about three per year.

The Arabian Sea is comparatively less prone to cyclonic storms than the Bay of Bengal. Almost 50 per cent of the storms do not sustain over its waters since the west-central and north Arabian Sea have a colder sea temperature than other adjacent regions. This cold sea surface temperature is not favourable for the development and sustenance of cyclonic storms.

Source: https://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/climate-change/is-the-arabian-sea-no-longer-pacific--65173

(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. Bt cotton is a genetically modified pest resistant plant cotton variety, which produces an insecticide to bollworm.
2. In India, it is the responsibility of the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) under Department of Science & Technology to assess the safety of a genetically modified plant, and decide whether it is fit for cultivation.
3. Sale, storage, transportation and usage of unapproved GM seeds is a punishable offence under the Rules of Environmental Protection Act.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Bt cotton is a genetically modified organism (GMO) or genetically modified pest resistant plant cotton variety, which produces an insecticide to bollworm.

In India, it is the responsibility of the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) under the Environment Ministry to assess the safety of a genetically modified plant, and decide whether it is fit for cultivation.
Legally, sale, storage, transportation and usage of unapproved GM seeds is a punishable offence under the **Rules of Environmental Protection Act**. Also, sale of unapproved seeds can attract action under the **Seed Act of 1966** and the **Cotton Act of 1957**.

**(Q)** Consider the following statements regarding Forest landscape restoration (FLR).

1. Forest landscape restoration (FLR) is the ongoing process of regaining ecological functionality and enhancing human well-being across deforested or degraded forest landscapes.
2. FLR also includes planting new trees, agro-forestry, and managing natural regeneration.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution: c)**

**Forest landscape restoration (FLR)** is the ongoing process of regaining ecological functionality and enhancing human well-being across deforested or degraded forest landscapes. FLR is more than just planting trees – it is restoring a whole landscape to meet present and future needs and to offer multiple benefits and land uses over time.

FLR manifests through different processes such as: new tree plantings, managed natural regeneration, agroforestry, or improved land management to accommodate a mosaic of land uses, including agriculture, protected wildlife reserves, managed plantations, riverside plantings and more.

Source: [https://www.iucn.org/theme/forests/our-work/forest-landscape-restoration](https://www.iucn.org/theme/forests/our-work/forest-landscape-restoration)

**(Q)** Consider the following statements regarding Bonn Challenge.

1. The Bonn Challenge is the only global effort to bring world’s deforested and degraded land into restoration.
2. It was launched in 2011 by the Government of Germany and UNEP.
3. India has joined the Bonn Challenge pledge to bring into restoration its degraded and deforested land by the year 2020.

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

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

**Solution: a)**

The **Bonn Challenge** is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of **deforested and degraded land** into **restoration** by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030.

The 2020 target was launched at a high level event in Bonn in 2011 organised by the Government of Germany and IUCN, and was later endorsed and extended to 2030 by the New York Declaration on Forests of the 2014 UN Climate Summit.
The Bonn Challenge is not a new global commitment but rather a practical means of realizing many existing international commitments, including the **CBD Aichi Target 15**, the **UNFCCC REDD+ goal**, and the **Rio+20 land degradation neutrality goal**.

At the UNFCC Conference of the Parties (COP) 2015 in Paris, India also joined the voluntary Bonn Challenge pledge to bring into restoration 13 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by the year 2020, and additional 8 million hectares by 2030. India’s pledge is one of the largest in Asia.

Source: [http://www.bonnchallenge.org/content/challenge](http://www.bonnchallenge.org/content/challenge)

(Q) Consider the following statements about Royal Bengal tiger.

1. It is found in India, Nepal, Bhutan, China and Myanmar.
2. It is least in number among all tiger subspecies in the wild.
3. The mangroves of the Sundarbans shared between Bangladesh and India are the only mangrove forests where tigers are found.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution: c)**

The **Bengal tiger** is found primarily in India with smaller populations in Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, China and Myanmar. It is the most numerous of all tiger subspecies with more than 2,500 left in the wild. The creation of India’s tiger reserves in the 1970s helped to stabilize numbers, but **poaching** to meet a growing demand from Asia in recent years has once again put the Bengal tiger at risk. The **mangroves of the Sundarbans**—shared between Bangladesh and India—are the **only mangrove forests where tigers are found**. The Sundarbans are increasingly threatened by sea level rise as a result of climate change.


(Q) Chelonian is an order of reptile that includes

1. Turtles
2. Terrapins
3. Tortoises

Select the correct answer code:

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

**Solution: d)**

**Impressive tortoise** discovered in Arunachal. A tortoise considered beautiful enough to be named ‘impressed’ has been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh.
This is the **first record of the tortoise in India**, taking the count to **five** and the non-marine chelonian count to 29. **Chelonian** is an **order of reptile** that includes *turtles*, *terrapins* and *tortoises*.

There are only two species of tortoises under the **Manouria genus**. India was known to be the home of only the **Asian Forest Tortoise** (*Manouria emys*) until the discovery of the **Impressed Tortoise**.


**Q** Consider the following statements regarding Asian forest tortoise.

1. The Asian forest tortoise is the largest tortoise in mainland Asia.
2. They are not found in India.
3. It has been categorised as Critically Endangered by IUCN.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution: c)**

The **Asian forest tortoise** also known as the **Asian brown tortoise**, is a species of tortoise **endemic** to **Southeast Asia**. The Asian forest tortoise is the largest tortoise in mainland Asia. It has been categorised as **Critically Endangered** by IUCN.
III. GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND PROGRAMMES

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding National Defence Fund

1. It was set up to take charge of voluntary donations in cash and kind received for promotion of the national defence effort, and to decide on their utilization.

2. The Fund is administered by an Executive Committee, with Defence Minister as Chairperson, and Finance & Home Ministers as Members.

3. The fund is entirely dependent on voluntary contributions from the public and does not get any budgetary support.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: C
The National Defence Fund was set up to take charge of voluntary donations in cash and kind received for promotion of the national defence effort, and to decide on their utilisation.

- The Fund is used for the welfare of the members of the Armed Forces (including Para Military Forces) and their dependents. The Fund is administered by an Executive Committee, with PM as Chairperson, and Defence, Finance and Home Ministers as Members.

- Finance Minister is the Treasurer of the Fund and the Joint Secretary, PMO dealing with the subject is Secretary of the Executive Committee. Accounts of the Fund are kept with the Reserve Bank of India.

- The fund is entirely dependent on voluntary contributions from the public and does not get any budgetary support.

- The fund accepts online contributions. Such contributions can be made through the website i.e. ndf.gov.in, pmindia.gov.in and http://www.onlinesbi.com website of State Bank of India. Collection account number is 11084239799 with State Bank of India, Institutional Division, 4th Floor, Parliament Street, New Delhi. The fund has also been allotted a Permanent Account Number (PAN) AAAGN0009F.

https://ndf.gov.in/aboutndf.php

In News: Scholarship for wards of defence personnel hiked.

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding The Indian Medical Association (IMA)

1. It is a national voluntary organisation of Doctors of Modern Scientific System of Medicine in India.

2. Establishment and maintenance of uniform standards for undergraduate medical education is one of the function of Indian Medical Association

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
Solution: A

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) is a national voluntary organisation of Doctors of Modern Scientific System of Medicine in India, which looks after the interest of doctors as well as the wellbeing of the community at large.

- It was established in 1928 as the All India Medical Association, renamed “Indian Medical Association” in 1930. It is a society registered under The Societies Act of India.
- Establishment and maintenance of uniform standards for undergraduate medical education is one of the function of Medical Council of India.

In News: IMA constitutes fact-finding mission to look into Payal Tadvi’s death

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)

1. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme having central sector component under Ayushman Bharat Mission anchored in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).
2. To ensure that nobody is left out (especially women, children and elderly) there will be no cap on family size and age in the scheme.
3. Beneficiary owning a refrigerator and landline phone are excluded from the scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: B


In News: Delhi’s health scheme 10 times bigger than Ayushman Bharat

(Q) Consider the following statements about Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman (AYDMS)

1. Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has instituted a new award called Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman (AYDMS) from year 2019.
2. It is to recognise the contribution of media in spreading the message of Yoga.
3. International Day of Yoga is celebrated annually on 21 June since its inception in 2014.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

- Ministry of I&B has instituted the First Antarashtriya Yoga Diwas Media Samman (AYDMS) from 2019 to mark the contribution of media in spreading the message of Yoga.
- International Day of Yoga is celebrated annually on 21 June since its inception in 2015.


(Q) Consider the following statements regarding e-cigarettes

1. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has recommended 'complete' ban on e-cigarettes.
2. e-cigarettes do not fall within the ambit of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA)

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has **recommended ‘complete’ ban** on Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS), including e-cigarettes.

As e-cigarettes contain **nicotine** and not tobacco, they **do not fall** within the ambit of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA), which mandates stringent health warnings on the packaging and advertisements of **tobacco products**.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN).

1. It is a direct income support scheme at the rate of Rs. 6,000 per year to small and marginal farmers.
2. Institutional land holders are excluded from PM-KISAN.
3. The responsibility of identifying the eligible beneficiary farmers lies with the Central Governments.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)
The Central Government recently decided to extend the benefit of ₹6,000 per year under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme to all 14.5 crore farmers in the country, irrespective of the size of their landholding.

- Those excluded from the PM-KISAN include institutional land holders, farmer families holding constitutional posts, serving or retired officers and employees of State or Central government as well as Public Sector Undertakings and Government Autonomous bodies. Professionals like doctors, engineers and lawyers as well as retired pensioners with a monthly pension of over ₹10,000 and those who paid income tax in the last assessment year are also not eligible for the benefits.

- The ₹75,000 crore scheme was announced in the interim budget in in February 2019, under which the Central Government decided to provide ₹6,000 per year, in three equal installments, to an estimated 12.5 crore small and marginal farmers holding land up to 2 hectares.

- The revised scheme will further cover two crore more farmers with an estimated expenditure of ₹87,217.50 crore in the 2019-20 fiscal year.

- The responsibility of identifying the eligible beneficiary farmers and uploading their data on PM-KISAN portal lies entirely with the State Governments.


(Q) Consider the following statements about Bharat Stage norms.

1. These norms are applicable to all highly polluting four-wheelers and construction equipment vehicles and not to two wheelers and three wheelers as they are less polluting.
2. The Government of India has decided to skip the BS – V norms, and to implement the BS – VI norms with effect from 1st April 2022.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

Bharat Stage norms are the automotive emission norms which the automotive manufacturers have to comply to sell their vehicles in India. These norms are applicable to all two wheelers, three wheelers, four wheelers and construction equipment vehicles.

To curb growing menace of air pollution through the vehicles emission, the Government of India has decided to leapfrog from the exiting BS – IV norms to the BS-VI, thereby skipping the BS – V norms, and to implement the BS – VI norms with effect from 1st April 2020. Only those vehicles will be sold and registered in India from 1st April 2020 onwards, which comply to these norms. The norms are stringent and at par with global standards.

(Q) Which of the following are the factors in the determination of Minimum Support Prices (MSP).

1. Cost of production (CoP)  
2. Price trend in the domestic and international markets  
3. Inter-crop price parity
Select the correct code:

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

Solution: d)

Cost of production (CoP) is one of the important factors in the determination of MSP of mandated crops. Besides cost, the Commission for ‘Agricultural Costs and Prices’ (CACP), considers other important factors such as demand and supply, price trend in the domestic and international markets, inter-crop price parity, terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors and the likely impact of MSPs on consumers, in addition to ensuring rational utilization of natural resources like land and water.

Thus, pricing policy is rooted not in ‘cost plus’ approach, though cost is an important determinant of MSP.

(Q) Government announces minimum support prices (MSPs) based on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) for which of the following crops?

1. Raw cotton  
2. Ragi  
3. Copra  
4. Groundnut  
5. Paddy  
6. Soyabean

Select the correct code:

a) All except 1  
b) All except 3  
c) All except 6  
d) All of the above

Solution: d)

Government announces minimum support prices (MSPs) for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), after considering the views of State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments concerned and other relevant factors.

The mandated crops are

1. 14 crops of the kharif season viz. paddy, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, arhar, moong, urad, groundnut-in-shell, soyabean, sunflower, sesamum, nigerseed and cotton;
2. 6 rabi crops viz. wheat, barley, gram, masur(lentil), rapeseed/mustard and safflower and
3. two other commercial crops viz. jute and copra.

In addition, the MSPs of toria and de-husked coconut are fixed on the basis of the MSPs of rapeseed/mustard and copra, respectively.


(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

1. NCDs are of short duration and are the result of a combination of genetic, physiological, environmental and behaviours factors.
2. National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) was launched in 2010, in order to prevent and control the major NCDs.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), also known as chronic diseases, tend to be of long duration and are the result of a combination of genetic, physiological, environmental and behaviours factors.

- The main types of NCDs are cardiovascular diseases (like heart attacks and stroke), cancers, chronic respiratory diseases (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and asthma) and diabetes.
- National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) was launched in 2010 in 100 districts across 21 States, in order to prevent and control the major NCDs.
- The main focus of the programme is on health promotion, early diagnosis, management and referral of cases, besides strengthening the infrastructure and capacity building.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

1. In 1950, the Government of India initiated to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category called PVTGs.
2. Among the 75 listed PVTG’s the highest number are found in Odisha.
3. PVTG community are entitled to the habitat rights under Forest Rights Act, 2006.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The Chhattisgarh government is processing habitat rights for Abujh Marias, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG). Since AbujhMarias is a PVTG community, they are entitled to the habitat rights under FRA.

- The FRA has a provision that says, “In view of the differential vulnerability of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PTGs) among the forest dwellers, the District Level Committee should play a pro-active role in ensuring that all PTGs receive habitat rights in consultation with the concerned PTGs’ traditional institutions of these groups, after filing claims before the gram sabha”.
- Habitat is defined under the act as, “the area comprising the customary habitat and such other habitats in reserved forests and protected forests of primitive tribal groups and pre-agricultural communities and other forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes.”
- PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. In 1975, the Government of India initiated to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category called PVTGs and declared 52 such
groups, while in 1993 an additional 23 groups were added to the category, making it a total of 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes, spread over 18 states and one Union Territory (A&N Islands) in the country (2011 census).

- Among the 75 listed PVTG’s the highest number are found in Odisha (13), followed by Andhra Pradesh (12).
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the Scheme of “Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)” exclusively for them.

(Q) The criteria followed for determination of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) are

1. A pre-agriculture level of technology
2. Declining population
3. Extremely low literacy
4. Subsistence level of economy

Select the correct code:

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

Solution: d)
The criteria followed for determination of PVTGs are as under:

1. A pre-agriculture level of technology.
2. A stagnant or declining population.
3. Extremely low literacy.
4. A subsistence level of economy.

(Q) Consider the following statements about National Rural Drinking Water Programme.

1. National Rural Drinking Water Programme is a centrally sponsored scheme aimed at providing every person in rural India with adequate, safe water for drinking, cooking and other domestic basic needs in a “sustainable manner”.
2. NRDWP is continued co-terminus with the 14th Finance Commission cycle.
3. National Water Quality Sub-Mission is the Sub-programme under NRDWP.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)
National Rural Drinking Water Programme is a centrally sponsored scheme aimed at providing every person in rural India with “adequate, safe water” for drinking, cooking and other domestic basic needs in a “sustainable manner”.

The scheme provides financial and technical assistance to state governments to install rural drinking water connections.

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had accorded its approval for continuation and restructuring of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) is to be continued co-terminus with the 14th Finance Commission cycle till March 2020.

A new Sub-programme under NRDWP viz. National Water Quality Sub-Mission (NWQSM) which has been started by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation in February 2017 will address the urgent need for providing clean drinking water in about 28000 Arsenic & Fluoride affected habitations (already identified).


(Q) Consider the following statements about Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana.

1. It is to provide quality medicines free of cost to the BPL families through special kendra’s known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra.
2. Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementing agency of PMBJP.
3. It aims to create awareness about generic medicines through education and publicity.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

‘Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana’ is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. Of India, to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through special kendra’s known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra.

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.

Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementing agency of PMBJP. BPPI (Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India) has been established under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India, with the support of all the CPSUs.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE SCHEME:

1. Ensure access to quality medicines.
2. Extend coverage of quality generic medicines so as to reduce the out of pocket expenditure on medicines and thereby redefine the unit cost of treatment per person.
3. Create awareness about generic medicines through education and publicity so that quality is not synonymous with only high price.
4. A public programme involving Government, PSUs, Private Sector, NGO, Societies, Co-operative Bodies and other Institutions.
5. Create demand for generic medicines by improving access to better healthcare through low treatment cost and easy availability wherever needed in all therapeutic categories.
(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. The Jal Shakti Abhiyan aims at making water conservation and promotion of irrigation efficiency a public campaign through asset creation and communication campaigns.
2. In India the districts of Rajasthan, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh are more water-stressed compared to West Bengal, Odisha, Bihar and Jharkhand.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The Centre is set to initiate the Jal Shakti Abhiyan to ramp up rainwater harvesting and conservation efforts in 255 water-stressed districts from July 1, in line with the government's promise to focus on water.

The Jal Shakti Abhiyan would aim to accelerate water harvesting, conservation and borewell recharge activities already being carried out under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme and the Integrated Watershed Management Programme of the Rural Development Ministry, along with existing water body restoration and afforestation schemes being undertaken by the Jal Shakti and Environment Ministries.

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in India.

1. Primary Health Centre (PHCs) also referred to as public health centres, are state-owned rural health care facilities.
2. PHCs focus only on regular medical treatments and not on Infant immunization and Pregnancy related care which is dealt by District hospitals.
3. Bhore Committee had recommended for the development of Primary Health Centres in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

Primary Health Centre (PHCs), sometimes referred to as public health centres, are state-owned rural health care facilities in India. They are essentially single-physician clinics usually with facilities for minor surgeries, too. They are part of the government-funded public health system in India and are the most basic units of this system.

Apart from the regular medical treatments, PHCs in India have some special focuses.

- Infant immunization programs
- Anti-epidemic programs
- Birth control programs
- Pregnancy and related care
- Emergencies

Several States remain laggards when it comes to creating a primary health care system with well-equipped PHCs as the unit. This was first recommended in 1946 by the Bhore Committee.

Source: [https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/scoring-on-health/article28159373.ece](https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/scoring-on-health/article28159373.ece)

(Q) The schemes covered under Gram Swaraj Abhiyaan are:

1. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana
2. Ayushman Bharat Yojana
3. Saubhagya
4. Mission Indradhanush

Select the correct code:

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

Solution: b)

Gram Swaraj Abhiyaan is a campaign that was organised on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti during the period 14th April to 05th May, 2018.
The objective of the campaign is to promote social harmony, spread awareness about pro-poor initiatives of government, reach out to poor households to enroll them as also to obtain their feedback on various welfare programmes.

The identified schemes are as follows.

- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana
- Saubhagya
- Ujala scheme
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana
- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and
- Mission Indradhanush.


(Q) Consider the following statements regarding summer solstice.

1. It occurs when one of the Earth’s poles has its maximum tilt toward the Sun.
2. It happens once in a year when the Sun reaches its highest position in the sky and is the day with the longest period of daylight.
3. At the summer solstice, the Sun travels the shortest path through the sky and that day therefore has the most daylight.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

- The **summer solstice** occurs when **one of the Earth’s poles** has its **maximum tilt toward the Sun**. It happens **twice yearly, once in each hemisphere** (Northern and Southern). For that hemisphere, the summer solstice is when the Sun reaches its highest position in the sky and is the day with the longest period of daylight.
- The summer solstice occurs during **summer**. This is the **June solstice** in the **Northern Hemisphere** and the **December solstice** in the **Southern Hemisphere**.
- At the summer solstice, the **Sun travels the longest path through the sky**, and that day therefore has the **most daylight**.
IV. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Nipah Fever

1. Nipah virus is a zoonotic virus and can also be transmitted through contaminated food or directly between people.
2. In infected people, it causes a range of illnesses from asymptomatic (subclinical) infection to acute respiratory illness and fatal encephalitis.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 or 2

Solution: C
- Nipah virus is a zoonotic virus (it is transmitted from animals to humans) and can also be transmitted through contaminated food or directly between people. In infected people, it causes a range of illnesses from asymptomatic (subclinical) infection to acute respiratory illness and fatal encephalitis. The virus can also cause severe disease in animals such as pigs, resulting in significant economic losses for farmers.
- Although Nipah virus has caused only a few known outbreaks in Asia, it infects a wide range of animals and causes severe disease and death in people, making it a public health concern.

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

In News: Report of Nipah fever in Kochi unfounded, says Collector

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Human Embryonic Stem Cells

1. Stem cells are cells that have the potential to develop into some or many different cell types in the body, depending on whether they are multipotent or pluripotent.
2. Once a stem cell line is established from a cell in the body, it is essentially immortal, no matter how it was derived.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: C


In News: Patients turn litigants as new rules stall therapy
(Q) Consider the following statements regarding 5G Technology.

1. 5G is the next generation cellular technology that will provide faster and more reliable communication with high latency.
2. The Indian government has launched a three-year programme that started in 2018 to advance innovation and research in 5G.
3. Once 5G becomes commercial, users will be required to change their current devices in favour of 5G-enabled ones.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

5G is the next generation cellular technology that will provide faster and more reliable communication with ultra-low latency. Latency is the amount of time data takes to travel between its source and destination.

- With 5G, the peak network data speeds are expected to be in the range of 2-20 Gigabit per second (Gbps). This is in contrast to 4G link speeds in averaging 6-7 Megabit per second (Mbps) in India as compared to 25 Mbps in advanced countries.
- With 5G technology, consumers will be able to download data heavy content such as 8K movies and games with better graphics in just a few seconds. But once 5G becomes commercial, users will be required to change their current devices in favour of 5G-enabled ones.
- 5G is expected to form the backbone of emerging technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT) and machine to machine communications, thereby supporting a much larger range of applications and services, including driverless vehicles, tele-surgery and real time data analytics. The ultra low latency offered by 5G makes the technology desirable for such use cases.

Source: https://www.thehindu.com/business/how-will-a-5g-network-power-the-future/article27698653.ece

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Acute encephalitis syndrome (AES).

1. Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) is the major cause of AES in India.
2. The disease outbreak is usually reported during monsoons.
3. AES affects central nervous system and most commonly affects old age population.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Bihar has recorded 188 cases of acute encephalitis syndrome, with 45 deaths, since January. AES affects central nervous system, mostly in children and young adults. It starts with high fever, then hampers neurological functions causing mental disorientation, seizure, confusion, delirium, coma. The disease
outbreak is usually reported during monsoons (June-October). But the incidence is also reported during April-June in Bihar.

It can be **caused by virus, bacteria, fungi, and a range of agents**. Japanese encephalitis (JE) virus is the most common cause of AES in India.


(Q) Consider the following statements regarding West Nile River Virus

1. The virus was first found in a woman in the West Nile district of Uganda in 1937.
2. West Nile Virus (WNV) is a member of the flavivirus genus and belongs to the family Flaviviridae.
3. The virus is maintained in nature in a cycle involving transmission between birds and mosquitoes.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

West Nile Virus (WNV) was first isolated in a woman in the West Nile district of Uganda in 1937.

**West Nile Virus (WNV)** can cause **neurological disease and death** in people. WNV is commonly found in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, North America and West Asia. WNV is maintained in nature in a cycle involving transmission between birds and mosquitoes. Humans, horses and other mammals can be infected.

➢ West Nile Virus (WNV) is a member of the flavivirus genus and belongs to the **Japanese encephalitis** antigenic complex of the family Flaviviridae.

➢ Human infection is most often the result of bites from **infected mosquitoes**.

➢ The virus may also be transmitted through contact with other **infected animals**, their blood, or other tissues.

➢ To date, **no human-to-human transmission** of WNV through **casual contact** has been documented, and no transmission of WNV to health care workers has been reported when standard infection control precautions have been put in place.

➢ Transmission of WNV to laboratory workers has been reported.

➢ The virus can cause severe disease and death in horses.

➢ Vaccines are available for use in horses but not yet available for people.

➢ Birds are the natural hosts of West Nile virus.

Source: [https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/west-nile-virus](https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/west-nile-virus)

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Data Localization.

1. Data Localization means storing data within the borders of a specific country where only the Government has access to the data.
2. BN Srikrishna committee recommended for Data Localization.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Data localization is the act of storing data on any device that is physically present within the borders of a specific country where the data was generated.

Recommendations by the RBI, the committee of experts led by Justice BN Srikrishna, the draft ecommerce policy and the draft report of the cloud policy panel show signs of data localisation.

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Interactive voice response (IVR) system.

1. Interactive voice response (IVR) is a technology that allows a computer to interact with humans by accepting a combination of voice telephone input and touch-tone keypad selection.
2. IVR systems can be used for mobile purchases, banking payments and services, retail orders, utilities, travel information and weather conditions.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

Interactive Voice Response (IVR) is an automated telephony system that interacts with callers, gathers information and routes calls to the appropriate recipients. An IVR system (IVRS) accepts a combination of voice telephone input and touch-tone keypad selection and provides the appropriate responses in the form of voice, fax, callback, email and other contact methods.

IVR systems can be used for mobile purchases, banking payments and services, retail orders, utilities, travel information and weather conditions.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a Complaint Management System (CMS) — an online portal to facilitate bank customer grievance redressal processes. CMS will be accessible on desktops as well as on mobile devices. The RBI also plans to introduce a dedicated Interactive Voice Response (IVR) System for tracking the status of complaints.

Source: https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/rbi-launches-cms-for-filing-online-complaints-against-banks-nbfcs/articleshow/69931505.cms

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Anthrax.

1. Anthrax is an infectious zoonotic disease occurring naturally among herbivorous animals through contaminated soil and feed.
2. Anthrax does not spread directly from one infected animal or person to another and is spread by spores.
3. Recently India has developed a new vaccine against anthrax.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2  

b) 2, 3

c) 1, 3  

d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

DRDO, JNU scientists have developed a **new vaccine against anthrax**. It is claimed to be superior over existing vaccines as it can generate immune response to anthrax toxin as well as its spores rather than the toxin alone.

- **Anthrax** is a disease caused by *Bacillus anthracis*, a germ that lives in soil.
- It affects animals such as cattle, sheep, and goats more often than people.
- Anthrax does not spread directly from one infected animal or person to another; it is spread by spores. These spores can be transported by clothing or shoes.

Source: [https://www.nhp.gov.in/disease/anthrax](https://www.nhp.gov.in/disease/anthrax)

---

**INSIGHTS IAS - INTEGRATED PRELIMS CUM MAINS TEST SERIES – IPM 2020**

**Features:**

- The one of its kind initiative by InsightsIAS i.e. Integrated Prelims cum Mains (IPM) Test Series for civil services examination 2020 will help any aspirant do an integrated preparation with expert feedback and strict discipline.
- In this IPM test series we have 46 Mains Tests (Sectional 20, Full Length 16 and Essay 10). In prelims we have 51 Tests (General Studies 41, CSAT – 10).
- **Both prelims and mains syllabus is integrated** in such a way that there will be no conflict while preparing for each test. Whatever you read in the intervening period between two tests, the same will be testes in prelims and mains. As there is no ambiguity viz a viz syllabus, this method of preparation gives you peace of mind with respect to following one timetable for both prelims and mains entire year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prelims tests – 51</th>
<th>Mains tests – 46</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>General studies – 41</strong></td>
<td><strong>Essay – 10</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject wise test – 28</td>
<td>Sectional tests– 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revision test – 6</td>
<td>Full length – 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full length test -- 7</td>
<td>CSAT – 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CSAT – 10</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sectional tests – 6</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Full length tests – 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Full length tests – 4</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For ONLINE Subscription, Visit: [www.insightsactivelearn.com](http://www.insightsactivelearn.com)

For OFFLINE, Visit: [https://offline.insightsactivelearn.com/subscribe](https://offline.insightsactivelearn.com/subscribe)

DELHI Centre  
Phone: 7483163074, 7303318519
Insights IAS,  
57/12, 3rd floor, Above Kumar Book Centre, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi- 110060

BENGALURU Centre  
Phone: 7483163074, 9449259488
InsightsIAS,  
Nanda Ashirwad complex, 3rd floor, Above Villiage hyper market, Chandra Layout Main road, Dwarakanagar, Attiguppe - 560072

FOR QUERIES, Mail us to: support@insightsias.com

---

www.insightsactivelearn.com  
www.insightsonindia.com
V. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Global Entrepreneurship Summit

1. The Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) 2019 is being hosted by the governments of the United States of America and the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
2. It is the first edition of the event to be held in the European Union.
3. 8th annual Global Entrepreneurship Summit was held in United States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: B

The ninth edition of the Global Entrepreneurship Summit is all set to roll out in The Hague on Tuesday (June 4), with a number of entrepreneurs from across the world, including 27 from India, gathering to share their insights and showcase their ideas on a world stage.

- The Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) 2019 is being hosted by the governments of the United States of America and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and is the first edition of the event to be held in the European Union.
- 8th annual Global Entrepreneurship Summit was held in India.

In News: Global Entrepreneurship Summit 2019 to have 27 Indian entrants

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

1. It was established with the signing of the SAARC Charter in Dhaka on 8 December 1985.
2. Decisions of SAARC at all levels are to be taken on the basis of unanimity.
3. SAARC comprises of Afghanistan, Maldives and Mauritius.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: B

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established with the signing of the SAARC Charter in Dhaka on 8 December 1985. SAARC comprises of eight Member States: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Secretariat of the Association was set up in Kathmandu on 17 January 1987.
• Decisions at all levels are to be taken on the basis of unanimity; and bilateral and contentious issues are excluded from the deliberations of the Association.

http://saarc-sec.org/about-saarc

In News: The immediate neighbourhood – SAARC still has the potential to become a platform for South Asian interests and shared growth

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

1. It is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.
2. It is a sub-regional organization came into being on 6 June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.
3. The BIMSTEC region is home to around 1.5 billion people which constitute around 22% of the global population

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

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

In News: The immediate neighbourhood – SAARC still has the potential to become a platform for South Asian interests and shared growth

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Organisation of Islamic Cooperation

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: C
• The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is the second largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations with a membership of 57 states spread over four continents. The Organization is the collective voice of the Muslim world. It endeavors to safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony among various people of the world.
The Organization was established upon a decision of the historical summit which took place in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on 12th Rajab 1389 Hijra (25 September 1969) following the criminal arson of Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem.

https://www.oic-oci.org/page/?p_id=52&p_ref=26&lan=en

In News: Sri Lanka situation ‘extremely worrying’, say OIC envoys

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)
   1. Shanghai Cooperation Organization is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance.
   2. The SCO is widely regarded as the “alliance of the East”, due to its growing centrality in Asia-Pacific, and has been the primary security pillar of the region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
   (a) 1 only
   (b) 2 only
   (c) Both 1 and 2
   (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: C

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is an intergovernmental organization founded in Shanghai on 15 June 2001 by six countries, People's Republic of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

The main objectives of the SCO are to (i) strengthen relations among member states; (ii) promote cooperation in political affairs, economics and trade, scientific-technical, cultural, and educational spheres as well as in energy, transportation, tourism, and environmental protection; (iv) safeguard regional peace, security, and stability; and (v) create a democratic, equitable international political and economic order.

In News: Modi-Khan meeting unlikely in Bishkek

(Q) Consider the following statements
   1. India has highest population in South Asia followed by Pakistan
   2. India is the only country which shares border with maximum number of countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
   (a) 1 only
   (b) 2 only
   (c) Both 1 and 2
   (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: C

Both the statements are correct.

In News: South Asia is top priority: Jaishankar
(Q) Consider the following statements about United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)

1. It was established in 1990 by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to accelerate progress on meeting women needs worldwide.

2. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals reality for women and girls and stands behind women’s equal participation in all aspects of life.

3. Recently Sushma Swaraj was appointed as Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women for Resource Management, Sustainability and Partnerships.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) recently appointed Indian-origin Anita Bhatia as Deputy Executive Director of United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) for Resource Management, Sustainability and Partnerships.

UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women’s equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities:

1. Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems
2. Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy
3. All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence
4. Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action

UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality, and in all deliberations and agreements linked to the 2030 Agenda. The entity works to position gender equality as fundamental to the Sustainable Development Goals, and a more inclusive world.


(Q) Recently which country adopted the “National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031”?

a) China
b) India
c) UAE
d) Japan

Solution: c)
• The UAE Cabinet adopted the National Strategy for Wellbeing 2031 during its meeting at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi.

• One of the most important initiatives is the development of the first ‘National Wellbeing Observatory’ to support the policymaking process.


(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Arctic Council.

1. The Arctic Council is the leading intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, Arctic indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues.

2. The Ottawa Declaration lists the member countries of the Arctic Council.

3. Recently India was elected as an observer to intergovernmental forum Arctic Council for the first time.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

At 11th Arctic Council ministerial meeting held at Rovaniemi in Finland, India was re-elected as an observer to intergovernmental forum Arctic Council.

• The Arctic Council is the leading intergovernmental forum promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, Arctic indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues, in particular on issues of sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic. This article contains a backgrounder on the Arctic Council and its work.

• The Ottawa Declaration lists the following countries as Members of the Arctic Council: Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States.

• It is Not a treaty-based international organization but rather an international forum that operates on the basis of consensus.

• The decisions, recommendations or guidelines of the Arctic Council are non-enforceable and strictly the prerogative of the individual state.

• Its mandate explicitly excludes military security.

(Q) Which country recently recognised forests as living entities?

a) Honduras
b) El Salvador
c) Costa Rica
d) Nicaragua

Solution: b)

El Salvador has, in a historic move, recognised forests as living entities. Its citizens, will now be required to preserve forests.
El Salvador has lost about 85 per cent of its native forests since the 1960s, while Earth has lost about 80 per cent of its native forests.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS),
1. KPCS was launched in 2013.
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. It was established in 2003.

(Q) Bishkek Declaration, recently in news is related to
a) G20 Summit
b) Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
c) India, Brazil and South Africa (IBSA) Forum
d) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)

Solution: d)
India and other members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and called on the international community to promote cooperation in combatting the menace.

According to the Bishkek Declaration of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation’s Heads of State Council, the member states stressed that acts of terrorism and extremism cannot be justified.
Source: [https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/a-different-tent/article27957817.ece](https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/a-different-tent/article27957817.ece)

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA).
1. It is an intergovernmental agency that is organized under the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
2. It assists member countries in maintaining and further developing safe, environmentally friendly and economical use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The **Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA)** is an **intergovernmental** agency that facilitates co-operation among countries with advanced nuclear technology infrastructures to seek excellence in nuclear safety, technology, science, environment and law. The NEA, which is under the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), is headquartered in **Paris**, France.

The NEA's Mission Statement, as reflected in its Strategic Plan, is:

"To assist its member countries in maintaining and further developing, through international co-operation, the scientific, technological and legal bases required for a safe, environmentally sound and economical use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It strives to provide authoritative assessments and to forge common understandings on key issues as input to government decisions on nuclear energy policy and to broader OECD analyses in areas such as energy and the sustainable development of low-carbon economies.”

Source: [https://www.oecd-nea.org/general/about/](https://www.oecd-nea.org/general/about/)

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

1. Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation founded in 2001 in Shanghai.
2. All Central Asian countries are the members of SCO.
3. Bishkek Declaration was finalised in the 19th SCO summit.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation**, also known as the **Shanghai Pact**, is a **Eurasian political, economic, and military organisation** which was founded in **2001** in Shanghai.

- The SCO comprises eight member states, namely the Republic of India, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People’s Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- The SCO counts four observer states, namely the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Belarus, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Mongolia.
- The SCO has six dialogue partners, namely the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, the Republic of Turkey, and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.
- **19th** Shanghai Cooperation Organisation’s (SCO’s) Heads of State summit was recently held in **Bishkek**, Kyrgyzstan. The **Bishkek Declaration** was finalised in the summit.

Source: [http://eng.sectsco.org/about_sco/](http://eng.sectsco.org/about_sco/)
(Q) Windrush Scheme, recently seen in news is related to which country
a) Russia
b) China
c) Japan
d) United Kingdom

Solution: d)
UK Home Secretary has issued another personal apology for the Windrush scandal, involving migrants being wrongly denied their British citizenship rights, as a latest official update revealed that hundreds more Indians were caught up in the row.
The Windrush Scheme enables Commonwealth citizens, their children, and some other long term residents of the UK to obtain documentation confirming their status free of charge.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).
1. It is the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons.
2. It was passed in 1974 after India conducted its first nuclear test.
3. The treaty automatically prohibits the development, testing, production, stockpiling, transfer and use of nuclear weapons for all the UN member countries.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
a) 1 only
b) 1, 2
c) 1, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: a)
The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), or the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty, is the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons, with the goal of leading towards their total elimination. It was passed on 7 July 2017.
For those nations that are party to it, the treaty prohibits the development, testing, production, stockpiling, stationing, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as assistance and encouragement to the prohibited activities.

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).
1. It is a multilateral treaty that regulates the international trade in conventional weapons.
2. The treaty was negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations (UN).
3. It regulates the domestic sale or use of weapons in any country.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)
The treaty does not regulate the domestic sale or use of weapons in any country. It also recognizes the legitimacy of the arms trade to enable states to provide for their own security.

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP).

1. It is the first regional non-government agreement to promote and enhance cooperation against piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.
2. Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has been designated as the focal point within India for ReCAAP.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)
The ReCAAP is the first regional Government-to-Government agreement to deal with piracy and armed robbery at sea in Asia.

Union Government has designated Indian Coast Guard (ICG) as the focal point within India for ReCAAP. Information sharing, capacity building and mutual legal assistance are the three pillars of co-operation under the ReCAAP agreement.

Source: http://www.recaap.org/about_ReCAAP-ISC

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

1. SIPRI is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.
2. The Institute cooperates closely with several intergovernmental organizations like the United Nations and the European Union.
3. Trends in International Arms Transfers 2018 Report was released by SIPRI.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only  
b) 1, 2  
c) 2, 3  
d) 1, 2, 3
SIPRI is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament. Established in 1966, SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public. Based in Stockholm, SIPRI is regularly ranked among the most respected think tanks worldwide.

- SIPRI was established on the basis of a decision by the Swedish Parliament and receives a substantial part of its funding in the form of an annual grant from the Swedish Government.
- Located in Stockholm, Sweden, SIPRI offers a unique platform for researchers from different countries to work in close cooperation.
- SIPRI maintains contacts with other research centres and individual researchers throughout the world. The Institute also cooperates closely with several intergovernmental organizations, notably the United Nations and the European Union, and regularly receives parliamentary, scientific and government delegations as well as visiting researchers.

Source: https://www.sipri.org/about

(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. WHO launched a global campaign urging governments to adopt ‘AWaRe online tool’ to reduce the spread of antimicrobial resistance.
2. It classifies antibiotics into three groups – Access, Watch and Reserve – and specifies which antibiotics to use for which infections.
3. The new campaign aims to decrease the proportion of global consumption of antibiotics in the Access group to at least 60%.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

WHO launched a global campaign urging governments to adopt a tool to reduce the spread of antimicrobial resistance, adverse events and costs.

- The **AWaRe tool** was developed by the **WHO Essential Medicines List** to contain rising resistance and make antibiotic use safer and more effective. It classifies antibiotics into three groups – Access, Watch and Reserve – and specifies which antibiotics to use for the most common and serious infections, which ones should be available at all times in the healthcare system, and those that must be used sparingly or preserved and used only as a last resort.

- The new campaign aims to increase the proportion of global consumption of antibiotics in the Access group to at least 60%, and to reduce use of the antibiotics most at risk of resistance from the Watch and Reserve groups. Using Access antibiotics lowers the risk of resistance because they are ‘narrow-spectrum’ antibiotics (that target a specific microorganism rather than several). They are also less costly because they are available in generic formulations.

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

1. FATF was established by the G-7 Summit that was held in Paris in 1989.
2. FATF is an inter-governmental body.
3. If country is placed in grey list of FATF, it would become easier to tap international loans from different financial institutions.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was established in July 1989 by a Group of Seven (G-7) Summit in Paris, initially to examine and develop measures to combat money laundering. It is an inter-governmental body.

- In October 2001, the FATF expanded its mandate to incorporate efforts to combat terrorist financing, in addition to money laundering.
- Since its inception, the FATF has operated under a fixed life-span, requiring a specific decision by its Ministers to continue. The current mandate of the FATF (2012-2020) was adopted at a Ministerial meeting in April 2012.
- The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- Starting with its own members, the FATF monitors countries' progress in implementing the FATF Recommendations; reviews money laundering and terrorist financing techniques and counter-measures; and, promotes the adoption and implementation of the FATF Recommendations globally.
- If country is placed in grey list of FATF, it would become harder to tap international loans from different financial institutions.
VI. POLITY

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Directorate of Enforcement (ED)

1. It is a multi-disciplinary organization mandated with the task of enforcing the provisions of two special fiscal laws – Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).

2. The origin of this Directorate goes back to 1st May, 1956, when an ‘Enforcement Unit’ was formed, in Department of Economic Affairs.

3. At present, ED works under administrative control of Ministry of Home Affairs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: B

Directorate of Enforcement is a multi-disciplinary Organization mandated with the task of enforcing the provisions of two special fiscal laws – Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) and Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA).

- Besides directly recruiting personnel, the Directorate also draws officers from different Investigating Agencies, viz., Customs & Central Excise, Income Tax, Police, etc. on deputation. On 11th March, 2011, after the approval of Government the Directorate underwent a massive restructuring becoming a force of 2067 Officers/Staff from 758, simultaneously raising number of its offices from 21 to 49 across India. However, process is still underway to have a full contingent of work force and to have all the 49 offices functional.

- The origin of this Directorate goes back to 1st May, 1956, when an ‘Enforcement Unit’ was formed, in Department of Economic Affairs, for handling Exchange Control Laws violations under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1947 (FERA ’47).

- It works under Ministry of Finance.

In News: ED summons Praful on Air India’s route sharing deal with 3 airlines.

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)

1. National Company Law Tribunal is a quasi-judicial body in India that adjudicates issues relating to Indian companies.

2. Decisions of the tribunal may be appealed to the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal, the decisions of which may further be appealed to the Supreme Court of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
Solution: C
Both the statements are correct.

In News: NCLT rejects proposal of former EPJL promoters

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding India Meteorological Department
1. It was established in 1975.
2. It is a principal government agency in all matters relating to meteorology, seismology and allied subjects.
3. It detects and locate earthquakes and it evaluates seismicity in different parts of the country for development projects.

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

Solution: B
- It is established in 1875

http://www.imd.gov.in/pages/about_mandate.php

In News: Heat wave to continue for a couple of days: IMD

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding National Register of Citizens of India (NRC)
1. The National Register of Citizens is a register containing names of all genuine Indian citizens residing in Assam.
2. The register was first prepared after the 1951, Census of India.
3. The purpose of NRC update is to identify illegal migrants residing in North eastern state who entered Indian territories after midnight on 24 March 1971.

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

Solution: D
All the statements given above is/are correct.


In News: NRC: Bengal man in jail for 2 years
Consider the following statements regarding Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)

1. Central Administrative Tribunal which adjudicates service matters, can exercise the same jurisdiction and powers, as a High Court, in respect of its contempt proceedings.
2. Under Article 323A, parliament is empowered to establish administrative tribunals for the adjudication of disputes and complaints with respect to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services.
3. There are 17 Benches and 21 Circuit Benches in the Central Administrative Tribunal all over India.

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

Solution: D
• The Delhi High Court has held that the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), which adjudicates service matters, can exercise the same jurisdiction and powers, as a High Court, in respect of its contempt proceedings.
• A Bench of Justice Manmohan and Justice Sangita Dhingra Sehgal noted that the Supreme Court in its 2001 judgment has held that Section 17 of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985, confers jurisdiction on the CAT to punish for its contempt.
• The Central Administrative Tribunal had been established under Article 323 – A of the Constitution for adjudication of disputes and complaints with respect to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or other authorities under the control of the Government.
• There are 17 Benches and 21 Circuit Benches in the Central Administrative Tribunal all over India. In addition to the Ministries and Departments of Central Government, the Government of India has notified about 214 organizations under section 14 (2) of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 to bring them within the jurisdiction of the Central Administrative Tribunal, from time to time. In addition the Central Administrative Tribunal, Principal Bench is dealing with the matters of Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

In News: CAT can exercise same powers as HC

Consider the following statements regarding National Security Adviser (NSA)

1. All NSAs appointed since the inception of the post in 1998 belong to the either Indian Foreign Service or to the Indian Police Service, and serve at the discretion of the Prime Minister of India.
2. The post was created on 19 November 1998 by the Government of I. K. Gujral.
3. Recently, NSA got a Cabinet status in the table of precedence.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 2 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 3 only
Solution: C

The government reappointed retired Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Ajit Doval as National Security Adviser (NSA), according him a Cabinet rank. He becomes the first NSA to get Cabinet status in the table of precedence. In his previous stint as an NSA, he had the stature of a Minister of State (MoS).

In News: Ajit Doval reappointed NSA with Cabinet rank

(Q) Consider the following statements

1. The Intellectual Property Appellate Board is a quasi-judicial body.
2. The jurisdiction of the Copyright Board of India extends beyond India also
3. Indian government approved its first Intellectual Property Rights Policy in May 2016

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: C

- The Intellectual Property Appellate Board, a quasi-judicial body, was constituted in September 1958. The jurisdiction of the Copyright Board extends to the whole of India. The Board is entrusted with the task of adjudication of disputes pertaining to copyright registration, assignment of copyright, grant of licenses in respect of works withheld from public, unpublished Indian works, production and publication of translations and works for certain specified purposes. It also hears cases in other miscellaneous matters instituted before it under the Copyright Act, 1957.

- The Copyright (Amendment) Act, 2012 which came into force w.e.f. June 21, 2015 provides for a full time IPAB Under Section 11 with Chairman and two other members, with its headquarters in Delhi. The new full time IPAB is expected to be reconstituted shortly.

http://copyright.gov.in/frmIPAB.aspx

In News: Ilaiyaraaja wins copyright battle.

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding The University Grants Commission of India (UGC India)

1. It is a statutory body set up by the Indian Union government in accordance to the UGC Act 1956.
2. It provides recognition to universities in India, and disbursements of funds to such recognised universities and colleges.
3. Higher Education Commission of India is about to replace UGC.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 1 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Solution: D
All the statements given above are correct.
In News: UGC gives 6 months to fill all faculty vacancies.

(Q) Which of the following are the missions and objectives of Prasar Bharati Corporation.

1. To uphold the unity and integrity of the country and the values enshrined in the Constitution.
2. To safeguard citizens’ rights to be informed on all matters of public interest by presenting a fair and balanced flow of information.
3. To promote social justice, safeguarding the rights of working classes, minorities and tribal communities.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1, 2 and 3
(b) 1 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) None

Solution: A
http://prasarbharati.gov.in/Mission.php
In News – Prasar Bharati will retain its autonomy: Javadekar

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Anti-Defection Law

1. It was introduced by the 52nd Amendment in 1985 during tenure of Rajiv Gandhi.
2. A party could be merged into another if at least one-thirds of its party legislators voted for the merger and anti-defection doesn’t apply in this case.
3. If a member has been elected as “Independent”, he / she would be disqualified if joined a political party.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?
(a) 2 and 3 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) None

Solution: D
All the statements given above are correct.
In News: Speaker endorses merger of 12 Cong. MLAs with ruling TRS
Consider the following statements regarding National Testing Agency (NTA)

1. It has been established as a premier, specialist, autonomous and self-sustained testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for admission/fellowship in higher educational institutions.

2. The National Testing Agency is entrusted to address all such issues using best in every field, from test preparation, to test delivery and to test marking.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: C

National Testing Agency (NTA) has been established as a premier, specialist, autonomous and self-sustained testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for admission/fellowship in higher educational institutions.

- To assess competence of candidates for admissions and recruitment has always been a challenge in terms of matching with research based international standards, efficiency, transparency and error free delivery. The National Testing Agency is entrusted to address all such issues using best in every field, from test preparation, to test delivery and to test marking.

https://nta.ac.in/about

In News: Entrance-based courses an alternative for DU hopefuls

Consider the following statements regarding 103rd constitutional Amendment

1. The amendment changed two fundamental rights, Article 15 & 16 and provide for the advancement of the “economically weaker sections” of the society.

2. 10% EWS reservation quota is given to all sections of the society.

3. The states can set their own income cut-off to decide who constitutes EWS and even exceed the income criteria set by the centre.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: C

- 10% EWS reservation quota is given only for the General Category candidates. Other category candidates already have reservation benefits – OBC (27%), SC (15%), and ST (7.5%).

In News: EWS: only 3,235 apply for admissions
(Q) Which of the following criteria/s a must satisfy to qualify as a Special Category Status 

1. Economic and infrastructural backwardness
2. Hilly and difficult terrain
3. High Population Density
4. Non-viable nature of state finances

Select the correct answer using the code given below
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 4 only

Solution: D

Criteria to give status of Special Category States;
- The state which is facing the problem of resources crunch
- Low per capita income
- Non-viable nature of state finances
- Economic and infrastructural backwardness
- Presence of sizeable tribal population
- Hilly and difficult terrain
- Strategic location along international borders
- Low population density

In News: A.P. BJP chief rules out special status for State.

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding NITI Ayog

1. NITI Aayog was formed via a resolution of the Parliament.
2. Team India Hub and the Knowledge & Innovation Hub are the creation of NITI Ayog
3. To focus on technology up gradation and capacity building for implementation of programmes and initiatives is one of the function of it.

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

Solution: C

NITI Aayog was formed via a resolution of the Cabinet
- The National Institution for Transforming India, also called NITI Aayog, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on January 1, 2015. NITI Aayog is the premier policy ‘Think Tank’ of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs. While designing strategic and long
term policies and programmes for the Government of India, NITI Aayog also provides relevant technical advice to the Centre and States.

- The Government of India, in keeping with its reform agenda, constituted the NITI Aayog to replace the Planning Commission instituted in 1950. This was done in order to better serve the needs and aspirations of the people of India. An important evolutionary change from the past, NITI Aayog acts as the quintessential platform of the Government of India to bring States to act together in national interest, and thereby fosters Cooperative Federalism.

https://niti.gov.in/content/functions; In News: Mamata to skip NITI Aayog meeting

(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. Supreme Court has declared Right to decent environment including pollution free water as part of Article 21.
2. Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication of any dispute with respect to the use, distribution and control of waters of any inter-state river and river valley.
3. Development of inter-state rivers, water supplies, irrigation and canals come under the Union List.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

Right to decent environment including pollution free water and air and protection against hazardous industries is part of Article 21.

While water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments and storage fall in the State List, issues like development of inter-state rivers come under the Union List.

(Q) Consider the following statements about pro-tem speaker

1. Speaker of the previous Lok Sabha appoints the pro-tem speaker immediately before the first meeting of the newly elected house.
2. The office of the pro-tem speaker is in co-existence with the speaker of Lok Sabha.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

The speaker of the Lok Sabha/legislative assembly vacates the office immediately before the first meeting of the newly elected house.

- Hence President/governor appoints the pro-tem speaker to preside over the sittings of the house.
• Usually the senior most member is elected as the pro-tem speaker.
• The president/governor will administer the oath of the office for the pro-tem speaker.
• When the house elects the new speaker the office of the pro-tem speaker ceases to exist. Hence the office of the pro-tem speaker is a temporary one which will be in existence for few days.

(Q) Consider the following statements about pro-tem speaker

1. Article 180 (1) of the Constitution gives the Governor the power to appoint a pro-tem Speaker.
2. Powers of the Speaker pro-tem are not co-extensive with the powers of elected Speaker.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

Article 180 (1) of the Constitution gives the Governor the power to appoint a pro-tem Speaker. The Article says that if the chair of the Speaker falls vacant and there is no Deputy Speaker to fill the position, the duties of the office shall be performed “by such member of the Assembly as the Governor may appoint for the purpose”.

• The powers of a pro-tem Speaker are wide. The Bombay High Court in its 1994 judgement in the Surendra Vasant Sirsat case holds that a pro-tem is Speaker of the House “for all purposes with all powers, privileges and immunities” until the Speaker is elected.

• The Odisha High Court also agreed in the Godavaris Misra versus Nandakisore Das, Speaker, Orissa Legislative Assembly case when it said the “powers of the Speaker pro-tem are co-extensive with the powers of elected Speaker”.

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

1. The term Leader of the House has been defined in the Constitution of India.
2. Leader of the House, in the Lok Sabha is the prime Minister by default, if he is a Member of that House.
3. The Leader of the Lok Sabha never sits in the Business advisory Committee.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)
The term Leader of the House has been defined in Rules of Procedure of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.
Leader of the House, according to Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha means the prime Minister, if he is a Member of the House or a Minister who is a Member of the House and is nominated by the Prime Minister to function as the Leader of the House.

The Prime Minister is invariably the Leader of the Lok Sabha.

The Leader of the Lok Sabha, viz., Prime Minister, never sits in the Business advisory Committee; he or she is represented by the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs in the Business Advisory Committee. The Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha is generally a member of the Business Advisory Committee (BAC). In the event, he is not a member of the BAC, he is invited to attend its meetings.

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Leader of the Opposition in either House of the Parliament of India.

1. The position of Leader of the Opposition received statutory recognition through the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977
2. When no party in the Lok Sabha secures required seats to form an opposition party and to designate a Leader of opposition, the matter is then decided by the President of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

The Leader of the Opposition is the politician who leads the official opposition in either House of the Parliament of India. To claim the status of “official opposition” in either house a party has to secure 55 seats (10%) of the seats in the Lok Sabha and likewise 25 (10%) of the seats in the Rajya Sabha.

It received statutory recognition through the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977 which defines the term “Leader of the Opposition” as that member of the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha who, for the time being, is the Leader of that House of the Party in Opposition to the Government having the greatest numerical strength and recognised, as such, by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha or the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

As per the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977 by which the post has got official and statutory status, the majority required is decided by the heads of the houses, that is speaker and chairman as the case may be.

Source:  
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leader_of_the_Opposition_(India) ;  
https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/qualifying-for-leader-of-the-opposition/article27957618.ece

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Governor’s rule in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

1. Since J&K has a separate Constitution, Governor’s rule is first imposed under Section 92 of J&K Constitution for six months after an approval by the President.
2. During the Governors rule, State Assembly is either suspended or dissolved.
3. If the Constitutional machinery is not restored before the expiry of six months of Governor’s rule, the Governor’s rule can be extended for 6 months with the approval of the President.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1, 3  
   b) 2, 3  
   c) 1, 2  
   d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)
Since J&K has a separate Constitution, Governor’s rule is first imposed under Section 92 for six months after an approval by the President. During the Governor’s rule, State Assembly is either suspended or dissolved. In case the Assembly is not dissolved within six months, President’s rule under Article 356 is extended to the State.

**Governor’s rule** is mentioned under **Article 370** section 92 – ‘Provisions in case of failure of constitutional machinery in the State.’

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding National Company Law Tribunal.

1. National Company Law Tribunal was constituted by the Supreme Court based on the recommendation of the Justice Eradi committee.  
2. The Tribunal is the adjudicating authority for insolvency resolution process of companies and limited liability partnerships under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.  
3. Decisions of the tribunal may be appealed to Supreme Court of India.

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

Solution: c)
The **National Company Law Tribunal** is a **quasi-judicial body** in India that adjudicates issues relating to Indian companies. The tribunal was established under the **Companies Act 2013** and was constituted on 1 June 2016 by the government of India and is based on the recommendation of the **Justice Eradi committee** on law relating to insolvency and winding up of companies.

The National Company Law Tribunal is the **adjudicating authority for insolvency resolution process** of companies and limited liability partnerships under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016**.

Decisions of the tribunal may be appealed to the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal, the decisions of which may further be **appealed to the Supreme Court** of India on a point of law. The Supreme Court of India has upheld the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code in its entirety.


(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) can take suo motu cognisance and issue notices to central ministries, states and Union Territories on the issue of public health infrastructure in the country.  
2. Right to live with human dignity is part of Right to Life and it is the Constitutional duty of the Central/State Governments to ensure that Right to Life is guaranteed.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The **National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** recently issued notices to the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry (MoHFW), and all States and Union Territories, over what it termed was the “deplorable public health infrastructure in the country”.

- The NHRC took suo motu cognisance of several media reports on recent deaths across the country due to “deficiencies and inadequacies in the healthcare system”.
- “The Commission has reminded the Central/State Governments of their constitutional duty under Article 21 of the Constitution under which Right to Life is guaranteed.
- Quoting the Supreme Court of India, the Commission has observed that **right to live with human dignity** is part of Right to Life.


(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. It is the primary duty of the State under Article 47 of the Constitution to raise the level of nutrition and standard of living of its people.
2. Article 47 also makes provision for Prohibition of consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of other drugs which are injurious to health.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

**Article 47**: Duty of the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health. The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health.

(Q) Consider the following statements about NITI Aayog.

1. NITI Aayog is a constitutional body which makes strategic and long-term policies and programmes for the Government of India.
2. Team India Hub and the Knowledge and Innovation Hub are part of NITI Aayog.
3. Team India Hub builds NITI's think-tank capabilities.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution: b)**

The National Institution for Transforming India, also called **NITI Aayog**, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on January 1, 2015. It's an extra-constitutional, non-statutory and advisory body. NITI Aayog is the premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs.

At the core of NITI Aayog's creation are two hubs – **Team India Hub** and the **Knowledge and Innovation Hub**. The Team India Hub leads the engagement of states with the Central government, while the Knowledge and Innovation Hub builds NITI's think-tank capabilities.

Source: [https://niti.gov.in/content/overview](https://niti.gov.in/content/overview)

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Speaker of Lok Sabha.

1. The Speaker of Lok Sabha leave the office just after dissolution of the assembly.  
2. Business Advisory Committee and Rules Committee work directly under the Chairmanship of the Speaker.  
3. In the case Speaker decides some bill as a money bill, this decision cannot be challenged.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution: c)**

The Speaker of Lok Sabha does not leave the office just after dissolution of the assembly. He continues to be in the office till the newly formed assembly takes its first meeting and elects the new Speaker.

Committees like the **Business Advisory Committee**, the **General Purposes Committee** and the **Rules Committee** work directly under her Chairmanship.

The Speaker decides weather a bill brought to the house is a **money bill or not**. In the case Speaker decides some bill as a money bill, this **decision cannot be challenged**.
VII. HISTORY, ART & CULTURE

(Q) Consider the following statements about Samadhi Buddha Statue.

1. It is the statue of sitting Buddha in dhyana position located in Amaravathi.
2. The Buddha depicted in the position of the Dhyana Mudra, is the posture of meditation associated with his first Enlightenment.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena has gifted Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi a Samadhi Buddha statue.

The **Samadhi Buddha** is a famous statue situated at Mahamevnāwa Park in Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka. The Buddha is depicted in the position of the **Dhyana Mudra**, the posture of meditation associated with his **first Enlightenment**. This statue is 7 feet 3 inches in height and carved from dolomite marble.

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Ekambaranathar temple.

1. It is a Hindu temple dedicated to the deity Vishnu.
2. It is located in the town of Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu.
3. The temple architecture is of Dravidian style.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

14th century idol found inside temple tank in Kancheepuram.

**Ekambareswarar Temple** (Ekambaranathar Temple) is a Hindu temple dedicated to the deity **Shiva**, located in the town of **Kanchipuram** in Tamil Nadu. It is significant to the Hindu sect of **Saivism**. The temple also houses Nilathingal Thundam Perumal temple, a Divyadesam, the 108 temples revered in the Vaishnava canon Nalayira Divya Prabhandam.

**Architecture type:** Dravidian architecture

**Creator:** Pallava, Chola kings

(Q) *Diwan-i-Khas* in Red Fort is a

a) Hall of Private Audiences  
b) A garden  
c) Palace of Colour  
d) Pearl Mosque

**Solution: a)**

ASI carries out restoration of Mughal era parts of Red Fort. Flooring of red sandstone and jaali work was done as part of the renovations. Paintings and marble surfaces of *Diwanikhas* and *Zafar Mahal* were treated scientifically and *Moti Masjid, Sawan and Bhadon pavilions* and *Hira Mahal* were treated with clay.

In the future, cleaning of *Rang Mahal, Khaas Mahal* and *Mumtaz Mahal* has been proposed.

The *Diwan-i-Khas* or *Hall of Private Audiences*, was a chamber in the *Red Fort* of Delhi built in 1571 as a location for receptions. It was the location where the Mughal Emperor *Akbar* received courtiers and state guests. It was also known as the *Shah Mahal*.

VIII. STATES

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Polavaram project.

1. Polavaram Project, is an under construction multi-purpose project on the Krishna River in Andhra Pradesh.
2. The project has been accorded national project status by the Union Government.
3. The reservoir covers the Papikonda National Park.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

Polavaram Project, is an **under construction** multi-purpose **National project** on the **Godavari River** in the West Godavari District and East Godavari District in **Andhra Pradesh**. The project has been accorded national project status by the Union Government of India. The **back water** spreads into parts of **Chhattisgarh** and **Odisha** States. It gives major boost to tourism sector in Godavari Districts as the reservoir covers the famous **Papikonda National Park**.

(Q) Consider the following statements about Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation project.

1. It is a multi-purpose irrigation project on the Godavari River in Telangana.
2. This is world's largest multi-stage lift irrigation project.
3. The Kaleshwaram project is an off-shoot of the original Pranahitha-Chevella Lift Irrigation Scheme.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

The **world's largest irrigation and drinking water system**—Kaleshwaram Multipurpose Lift Irrigation Project—was recently inaugurated.

Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project is a multi-purpose irrigation project on the **Godavari River** in Kaleshwaram, Telangana.

Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project starts at the **confluence point** of **Pranahita River** and **Godavari River**. The Kaleshwaram project is an **off-shoot** of the original **Pranahitha-Chevella Lift Irrigation Scheme** taken up by the Congress government in 2007 when Andhra Pradesh was not divided.
(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. The Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM) has granted Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Kolhapuris, the ethnic leather chappal.
2. These leather chappals are hand-crafted and made only in Maharashtra.
3. The GI tag is valid for a period of 5 years following which it can be renewed.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: d)
Kolhapuri chappal gets GI boost.

- The approval for GI tag was jointly received by Karnataka and Maharashtra recently for making these chappals. There is a perception that these artisans are from Maharashtra alone, but a large number of them are from Karnataka, and have been making these chappals for centuries.
- These leather chappals are hand-crafted and tanned using vegetable dyes. The art of making them is passed down one generation to another.
- The tag is valid for a period of 10 years following which it can be renewed.
IX. DEFENCE & SECURITY

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding S-400 Triumf missile

1. India had committed to purchase S-400 Triumf long range missile defence shield from Russia.
2. India got waiver from U.S. sanctions and can go ahead with its purchase of the S-400 Triumf missile shield from Russia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: A
- India should not assume it will get a waiver from U.S. sanctions if it goes ahead with its purchase of the S-400 Triumf missile shield from Russia, Washington made it clear on Thursday.
- The purchase could also hamper the future of IndoU.S. defence relationship, an official said. India had committed last October to purchasing a Russian S-400 Triumf longrange missile defence shield for about $5 billion.
- The deal has run the risk of attracting sanctions from the U.S. under a 2017 law — the Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA).

In News: U.S. reiterates threat of sanctions over Triumf deal.

(Q) Consider the following statements

1. Operation Blue Star was the codename of an Indian military action carried out in 1984 to remove militant religious leaders in Punjab.
2. Operation Cactus is the code name of intervention of Indian armed forces to trounce the attempted coup of Maldivian group led by Abdullah Luthufi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: C
Both the statements are correct.

In News: Operation Blue Star: Sikh body demands apology
Consider the following statements regarding Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

1. BRO contributes to the Socio-Economic Development of the Border States.
3. The BRO works in close association with the Indian Army in cases of natural disasters.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

Functioning under the control of the Ministry of Defence since 2015, the BRO is engaged in road construction to provide connectivity to difficult and inaccessible regions in the border areas of the country.

- Most of the development in the North Eastern states of India can be attributed to the relentless work done by the BRO.
- The highly-skilled BRO personnel undertook and successfully completed construction of the Delaram-Zaranj Highway in Afghanistan in 2008. The Farkhor and Ayni air bases of Tajikistan were also restored and repaired by the BRO.
- The BRO works in close association with the Indian Army in cases of natural disasters.

Role of the BRO

In Peace:

- Develop & Maintain the Operational Road Infrastructure of General Staff in the Border Areas.
- Contribute to the Socio-Economic Development of the Border States.

In War:

- To Develop & Maintain Roads to Keep Line of Control through in Original Sectors and Re-Deployed Sectors.
- To Execute Addl Tasks as laid down by the Govt Contributing to the War Effort.


(Q) Operation Sunrise, recently in news is related to

a) Humanitarian tasks in Manipur/Nagaland  
b) Humanitarian assistance aimed to supply relief packages to Bangladesh for migrant Rohingya Muslims.  
c) Joint operation carried out by both Indian and Myanmar armies to wipe out the insurgent camps.  
d) Joint offensive launched by Indian security forces to flush out militants and terrorists in Kashmir.

Solution: c)

Named Operation Sunrise, the strategy is aimed at hitting militant groups that are impacting both India and Myanmar.
It was carried out by the **armies of India and Myanmar**.

In the operation, Other than NSCN (K), the groups hit were Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO), the the United Liberation Front of Assam, and the National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB).

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Strategic Partnership Model in Defence in India.

1. Strategic Partnership Model aims to revitalise defence industrial ecosystem and progressively build indigenous capabilities in the private sector to design, develop and manufacture complex weapon systems for the future needs of the Armed Forces.
2. Strategic partnership Model was first proposed by the Dhirendra Singh Committee.
3. Under the Model, only domestic private firms are involved and not the foreign firms in defence manufacturing in the country.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

**Strategic Partnership Model** aims to revitalise defence industrial ecosystem and progressively build indigenous capabilities in the private sector to design, develop and manufacture complex weapon systems for the future needs of the Armed Forces. It has been adopted by the government under its Make in India programme to increase the participation of domestic private firms as well as foreign firms in defence manufacturing in the country. The Strategic partnership Model was first proposed by the Dhirendra Singh Committee in July, 2015.

The Navy issued an 'Expression of Interest' for shortlisting potential strategic partners for the construction of six P75(I) submarines costing nearly ₹45,000 crore. This is the second project being undertaken under the latest Strategic Partnership (SP) Model, with the first being the procurement of 111 naval utility helicopters (NUH).

X. REPORTS & INDICES

(Q) The report on ‘Benchmarking India’s Payment Systems’ is released by
(a) Reserve Bank of India
(b) National Payment Corporation of India
(c) Ministry of Finance
(d) Indian Banks Association

Solution: A

The Reserve Bank of India today released a report on “Benchmarking India’s Payment Systems” which provides a comparative position of the payment system ecosystem in India relative to comparable payment systems and usage trends in other major countries.

• It may be recalled that in the First Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2019-20 announced on April 4, 2019 [Para 12(viii)], it was stated that “Benchmarking India’s Payment Systems is necessary to gauge India’s progress vis-à-vis payment systems and instruments in major countries and give further impetus to the planned efforts for deepening the digitisation of payments. A report containing the findings of such an exercise will be placed on the RBI website by the end of May 2019.”

• The Reserve Bank has undertaken an exercise of benchmarking India’s Payment Systems vis-à-vis payment systems in a mix of advanced economies, Asian economies and the BRICS nations.


In News: RBI study moots boost to acceptance infra for digital payments

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding “Healthy States, Progressive India” Report.
1. It is a comprehensive Health Index report released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
2. The report ranks states and Union territories innovatively on their year-on-year incremental change in health outcomes, as well as, their overall performance.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)


The report has been developed by NITI Aayog, with technical assistance from the World Bank, and in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

The report ranks states and Union territories innovatively on their year-on-year incremental change in health outcomes, as well as, their overall performance. The Round II report focuses on measuring and highlighting the overall performance and incremental improvement over a two year period (2016-17 and 2017-18) in the
States and UTs. The report is an annual systematic performance tool to measure the performance of the States and UTs.

Among the Larger States, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh & Maharashtra ranked on top in terms of overall performance, while Haryana, Rajasthan and Jharkhand are the top three ranking States in terms of annual incremental performance.


(Q) Global Findex Database, sometime in news, is brought out by

a) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
b) Organisation for Economic Development
c) International Monetary Fund.
d) World Bank

Solution: d)
The Global Findex database is the world’s most comprehensive data set on how adults save, borrow, make payments, and manage risk. World Bank launched this initiative with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the database has been published every three years since 2011.
XI. MAPS/PLACES

(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Kartarpur corridor.

1. The corridor will link Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur in Punjab in India with Gurdwara Darbar Sahib at Kartarpur in Pakistan.
2. The Kartarpur gurdwara is located in Pakistan’s Narowal district across the Jhelum River.
3. The corridor will be thrown open to pilgrims in November, 2019 to mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: C

The Kartarpur gurdwara is located in Pakistan’s Narowal district across the Ravi River. The construction of the Kartarpur corridor on the Indian side will be completed by September 30, said Punjab PWD Minister Vijay Inder Singla on Saturday.

- The corridor will link Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur in Punjab in India with Gurdwara Darbar Sahib at Kartarpur in Pakistan.
- “The construction of the passage will be accomplished by September 30, well in time before the 550th Parkash Parb (birth anniversary) celebrations of Sikhism founder Guru Nanak Dev,” said Mr. Singla.
- The corridor will facilitate passage to the historic gurdwara in Kartarpur, the final resting place of Guru Nanak Dev. The Kartarpur gurdwara is located in Pakistan’s Narowal district across the Ravi, about four kilometres from the Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Punjab in India.
- Pakistan will build the corridor up to the Indian border from the gurdwara in Kartarpur.

(Q) Which of the following countries forms part of infamous Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle

1. Iran
2. Iraq
3. Pakistan
4. Myanmar

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Solution: A
• The Golden Crescent is the name given to one of Asia's two principal areas of illicit opium production (with the other being the Golden Triangle), located at the crossroads of Central, South, and Western Asia. This space overlaps three nations, Afghanistan, Iran, and Pakistan, whose mountainous peripheries define the crescent.

In News: Amarinder seeks Modi's help for formulation of a national policy to tackle drug menace in the country.

(Q) Consider the following pairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glacier</th>
<th>Located in</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Siachen</td>
<td>Jammu and Kashmir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Pindari</td>
<td>Himachal Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Rathong</td>
<td>Sikkim</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

Solution: B

• Pindari Glacier Trek is an easy trek in the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand.

In News: Will fulfil your requirements, Rajnath tells jawans in Siachen
(Q) Decolonising the Chagos archipelago, an issue sometime seen in the news is conflict between

(a) U.S and Maldives
(b) U.S and U.K
(c) U.K and Maldives
(d) U.K and Mauritius

Solution: D

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) voted by a huge majority (116 out of 193 members) to demand that the U.K. "withdraw its colonial administration" within six months over the Chagos archipelago in the Indian Ocean in favour of Mauritius.

The archipelago is better known for hosting the U.S. military base at Diego Garcia. The non-binding vote was a rebuke to the U.K. Coercive measures. For several decades the Chagos archipelago has been the cause of a dispute between Mauritius and the U.K., over the decision in 1965 to separate Diego Garcia from the rest of the archipelago for setting up the military base, in collaboration with the U.S. Mauritius, a British colony, achieved independence in 1968 but the U.K. refused to return the Chagos archipelago, claiming sovereignty over the islands.

In News: Decolonising the Chagos archipelago

(Q) Consider the following statements.

1. It is a strait between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.
2. It provides the only sea passage from the Persian Gulf to the open ocean.
3. Almost 20% of total global oil production passes through the strait.

The above statements refer to

a) Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb
b) Dardenleez Strait
c) Strait of Hormuz
d) Gibraltar Strait

Solution: c)

Strait of Hormuz is a strait between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. It provides the only sea passage from the Persian Gulf to the open ocean and is one of the world’s most strategically important choke points.

(Q) Serengeti National Park is located in

a) Tanzania  b) Kenya
  c) South Africa  d) Somalia

Solution: a)

Since 1974, the population of herbivorous in Gir forest has been on the rise. In 2013, the population of ungulates was estimated to be 1,26,893 or 76.49 animals per square kilometres. That translates to 8000 kg of biomass available to carnivorous, very close to the levels in Serengeti National Park in Tanzania.
(Q) The countries bordering Kyrgyzstan are
1. Kazakhstan
2. China
3. Afghanistan
4. Uzbekistan

Select the correct code:

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

Solution: b)

Kyrgyzstan is a **landlocked** country with mountainous terrain. It is bordered by Kazakhstan to the north, Uzbekistan to the west and southwest, Tajikistan to the southwest and China to the east. Its capital and largest city is Bishkek.

(Q) Israel has borders with
1. Lebanon
2. Syria
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Egypt
5. Jordan

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)
Consider the following statements about Nagzira wildlife sanctuary.

1. It is located in Maharashtra.
2. There are no Tigers present in the Nagzira wildlife sanctuary.
3. Nagzira Lake in the sanctuary is the artificial lake which acts as the main source of water for the wildlife.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: d)

Nagzira wildlife sanctuary is located between Bhandara-Gondia district of Maharashtra. Wild animals to spot are the tiger, panther, bison, sambar, nilgai, chital, wild boar, sloth bear and wild dog.

The Nagzira Lake, once the main source of water for the wildlife at Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve in Bhandara district, is almost 60% dry this summer, forcing wild animals and birds to depend on artificial water bodies.

Consider the following statements regarding Vembanad Lake.

1. It is the longest lake in India located in Tamil Nadu.
2. The Nehru Trophy Boat Race is conducted in a portion of the lake.
3. Government of India has identified the Vembanad wetland under National Wetlands Conservation Programme.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

Vembanad is the longest lake in India, and the second largest lake in the state of Kerala. It is known as Vembanadu Lake in Alappuzha, Punnamada Lake in Kuttanad and Kochi Lake in Kochi.

Government of India has identified the Vembanad wetland under National Wetlands Conservation Programme.
(Q) Consider the following statements regarding Seven Summits Challenge

1. Seven Summits are the highest mountains of each of the seven continents.
2. Aconcagua is one of the highest Mountains located in South America.
3. Denali Mountains are located in Alaska.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: D

The Seven Summits are the highest mountains of each of the seven continents. Climbing to the summit of all of them is regarded as a mountaineering challenge, first achieved on 30 April 1985 by Richard Bass. The Seven Summits achievement has become noted as an exploration and mountaineering accomplishment.

In news: Ongole mountaineer gearing up to conquer Mount Kosciuszko in August

(Q) Prestigious 2019 Scripps National Spelling Bee is held in

(a) United Kingdom
(b) United States
(c) Brazil
(d) Germany

Solution: B

Reaffirming the dominance of Indian-Americans, a record seven Indian-origin students were among eight who jointly won the prestigious 2019 Scripps National Spelling Bee, taking home more than $50,000 in cash and prizes in an "unprecedented" competition.
In News: Spelling Bee ends in historic tie

(Q) ‘Survival International’ sometimes in news is a movement that advocates the rights of
a) Refugees
b) Leprosy patients
c) Tribal people
d) Trafficked human beings

Solution: c)

About SI: “We are Survival, the global movement for tribal peoples’ rights. We’re the only organization that champions tribal peoples around the world. We help them defend their lives, protect their lands and determine their own futures.”

Source: https://www.survivalinternational.org/info