



# INSIGHTSIAS

SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

## RTM

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# I. POLITY

1. With reference to Inner Line Permit (ILP), Consider the following statements
1. Inner Line Permit (ILP) is a document that allows an Indian citizen to visit or stay in a state that is protected under the ILP system
  2. Currently, the Inner Line Permit is operational in Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland
  3. An ILP is issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs

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

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

**Ans: (b)**

Explanation: Here Directive Word is Incorrect!!

Inner Line Permit is a document that allows an Indian citizen to visit or stay in a state that is protected under the ILP system.

- The ILP is obligatory for all those who reside outside the protected states.
- Currently, the Inner Line Permit is operational in Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland.
- It can be issued for travel purposes solely.
- An ILP is issued by the state government concerned
- ILP's origin dates back to the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulations, 1873- It prohibited "British subjects" or Indians from entering into these protected areas.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/02/inner-line-permit-ilp/>

2. Which of the following is/are borrowed features of Indian Constitution from Australia?
1. Concurrent list
  2. Freedom of trade, commerce and intercourse
  3. Joint-sitting of the two Houses of Parliament
  4. Vesting of residuary powers in the Centre

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Ans: (a)**

## Australia

- Concurrent list
- Freedom of trade, commerce and intercourse
- Joint-sitting of the two Houses of Parliament

## Canada

- Federation with a strong Centre
- Vesting of residuary powers in the Centre
- Appointment of state governors by the Centre
- Advisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court

## Ireland

- Directive Principles of State Policy
- Nomination of members to Rajya Sabha
- Method of election of the president

**Japan:** Procedure Established by law

**Soviet Union (USSR)**

- Fundamental duties
- Ideal of justice (social, economic and political) in the Preamble

**South Africa**

- Procedure for amendment in the Indian Constitution
- Election of members of Rajya Sabha

**Germany (Weimar):** Suspension of Fundamental Rights during emergency

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/02/australias-points-based-visa-policy/>

3. Which of the following schedule of the Constitution of India provides for allocation of seats to the States and Union Territories in Rajya Sabha?

- (a) I Schedule
- (b) II Schedule
- (c) III Schedule
- (d) IV Schedule

**Ans: (d)**

- The Fourth Schedule to the Constitution provides for allocation of seats to the States and Union Territories in Rajya Sabha.
- The allocation of seats is made on the basis of the population of each State.
- Consequent on the reorganization of States and formation of new States, the number of elected seats in the Rajya Sabha allotted to States and Union Territories has changed from time to time since 1952.

Refer: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/for-rajya-sabha-reforms-mps-seek-more-time-to-speak-assistants/story-sqaD2kvlLkKM6pbuLDXmUI.html>

4. With reference to State Legislative Assembly and its procedure's, Consider the following statements:

1. Always senior most MLA is usually appointed a Pro-Tem Speaker
2. President appoints the pro-tem speaker to preside over the sittings of the house
3. Before a Minister enters upon his office, Governor administer oaths of office to members of assembly as mentioned in the Second Schedule

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 Only
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 2 Only
- (d) None of the above

**Ans: (d)**

- By established conventions, the senior most MLA is usually appointed a Pro-Tem Speaker, though there has been a departure in the past
- President/governor appoints the pro-tem speaker to preside over the sittings of the house (here question referring only to State Legislative Assembly)
- Article 164(3) says: "Before a Minister enters upon his office, the Governor shall administer to him the oaths of office and of secrecy according to the forms set out for the purpose in the Third Schedule."
- The Third Schedule requires the taker of the oath to either "swear in the name of God" or to "solemnly affirm" to "bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution..."

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/03/administration-of-oath-in-legislature/>

5. With reference to Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2019, consider the following statements
1. Under bill, definition of 'children' and 'parents', 'maintenance' and 'welfare' has been expanded
  2. Ceiling of Rs 20,000/- as maintenance amount has been removed
  3. Appointment of Nodal Police Officers for Senior Citizens in every Police Station and District level Special Police Unit for Senior Citizens has been included

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (c)**

Explanation: Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, 2019

- Definition of 'children' and 'parents', 'maintenance' and 'welfare' has been expanded.
- Ceiling of Rs 10,000/- as maintenance amount has been removed.
- Registration of Senior Citizens Care Homes/Homecare Service Agencies etc. have been included.
- Appointment of Nodal Police Officers for Senior Citizens in every Police Station and District level Special Police Unit for Senior Citizens has been included.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/05/maintenance-and-welfare-of-parents-and-senior-citizens-bill-2019/>

6. Consider following statements

1. Parliamentary committees draw their authority from Article 105 and Article 118
2. Speaker of Lok Sabha acts as the chairman of Business Advisory committee of Lok Sabha
3. Committee on Welfare of SCs and STs is a Parliamentary committees

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 2
- (d) All of the above

**Ans: (d)**

- Parliamentary committees draw their authority from Article 105 (on privileges of Parliament members) and Article 118 (on Parliament's authority to make rules for regulating its procedure and conduct of business).

Business Advisory Committee

- The committee of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha consist of 15 and 11 members respectively. The speaker of Lok Sabha acts as the chairman of committee of Lok Sabha and the Chairman of Rajya Sabha is the ex-officio chairman of the committee of Rajya Sabha
- The function of the Committee is to recommend to the government to bring forward particular subjects for discussion in the House and recommend allocation of time for such discussions.

Committee on Welfare of SCs and STs

- The committee consists of 30 members that include 20 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 members from the Rajya Sabha. The main function of the Committee is to consider all matters concerning the welfare of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, falling within the purview of the union government and the union territories

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/06/parliamentary-standing-committees/>

7. In which of the following cases, it was held that privacy was **not** a fundamental right?
- (a) MP Sharma Case, 1954
  - (b) Kharak Singh Case, 1962
  - (c) K.S. Puttaswamy Case, 2018
  - (d) Both a & b

**Ans: (d)**

- In 2012, Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retired) filed a petition in the Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of Aadhaar on the grounds that it violates the right to privacy. During the hearings, the Central government opposed the classification of privacy as a fundamental right. The government's opposition to the right relied on two early decisions—MP Sharma vs Satish Chandra in 1954, and Kharak Singh vs State of Uttar Pradesh in 1962—which had held that privacy was not a fundamental right.
- In M.P Sharma, the bench held that the drafters of the Constitution did not intend to subject the power of search and seizure to a fundamental right of privacy. They argued that the Indian Constitution does not include any language similar to the Fourth Amendment of the US Constitution, and therefore, questioned the existence of a protected right to privacy. The Supreme Court made clear that M.P Sharma did not decide other questions, such as “whether a constitutional right to privacy is protected by other provisions contained in the fundamental rights including among them, the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21.”
- In Kharak Singh, the decision invalidated a Police Regulation that provided for nightly domiciliary visits, calling them an “unauthorized intrusion into a person's home and a violation of ordered liberty.” However, it also upheld other clauses of the Regulation on the ground that the right of privacy was not guaranteed under the Constitution, and hence Article 21 of the Indian Constitution (the right to life and personal liberty) had no application. Justice Subbarao's dissenting opinion clarified that, although the right to privacy was not expressly recognized as a fundamental right, it was an essential ingredient of personal liberty under Article 21.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/07/data-protection-bill/>

8. Right to Reputation come under the scope of a part of
- (a) Article 19
  - (b) Article 20
  - (c) Article 21
  - (d) Article 22

**Ans: (c)**

Reputation is an important part of one's life. It is one of the finer graces of human civilization that makes life worth living.

- The Supreme Court referring to D.F. Marion v. Minnie Davis [xiii] in Smt. Kiran Bedi v. Committee of Inquiry [xiv] held that “good reputation was an element of personal security and was protected by the Constitution, equally with the right to the enjoyment of life, liberty, and property. The court affirmed that the right to enjoyment of life, liberty, and property. The court affirmed that the right to enjoyment of private reputation was of ancient origin and was necessary to human society.”
- It has been held that the right equally covers the reputation of a person during and after his death. Thus, any wrong action of the state or agencies that sullies the reputation of a virtuous person would certainly come under the scope of Art. 21.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/07/data-protection-bill/>

9. The 'means-test and creamy layer' first finds expression in the Supreme Court's landmark judgment in
- Indra Sawhney Case
  - M Nagaraj Case
  - Jarnail Singh case
  - K S Puttaswamy Case

**Ans: (a)**

- The 'means-test and creamy layer' first finds expression in the Supreme Court's landmark judgment in Indra Sawhney versus Union of India, delivered by a nine-judge Bench on November 16, 1992.
- 'Creamy layer' are "some members of a backward class who are highly advanced socially as well as economically and educationally."

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/09/creamy-layer-principle-in-sc-st-quota-for-promotion/>

10. "The State is not bound to make reservation for the SCs and STs in promotions. But, if it seeks to do so, it must collect quantifiable data on three facets — the backwardness of the class; the inadequacy of the representation of that class in public employment; and the general efficiency of service as mandated by Article 335 would not be affected" – Above Supreme Court's landmark judgment, finds expression in the
- Indra Sawhney Case
  - M Nagaraj Case
  - Jarnail Singh case
  - K S Puttaswamy Case

**Ans: (b)**

- In M Nagaraj Case, The court upheld the constitutional validity of the 77th, 81st, 82nd, and 85th Amendments. It, however, ruled that if the state "wish(ed) to exercise their discretion and make
- Provision (for reservation in promotions for SCs/STs
- The State has to collect quantifiable data showing backwardness of the class and inadequacy of representation of that class in public employment in addition to compliance of Article 335
- Also, "even if the State has compelling reasons... (it) will have to see that its reservation provision does not... breach the ceiling-limit of 50% or obliterate the creamy layer or extend the reservation indefinitely".

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/09/creamy-layer-principle-in-sc-st-quota-for-promotion/>

11. Consider the following statements
- Due to need for completion of National Irrigation Projects to tackle emerging water crisis, Recently Union government transferred 'water' to Concurrent List from State List
  - India Water Impact Summit 2019, organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)
  - Water 4 Change is a new initiative launched by Ministry of Jal Shakti

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 2 only
- 1 and 3
- 1, 2 and 3
- 1 and 2

**Ans: (a)**

Recently, the government clarified that it is not intended to bring 'water' in the Concurrent List from the State List.

- Jal Shakti Minister was replying on the calling attention on the need for completion of National Irrigation Projects to tackle emerging water crisis and to transfer 'water' to Concurrent List from State List.
- The India Water Impact Summit is an annual event where stakeholders get together to discuss, debate and develop model solutions for some of the biggest water related problems in the country.
- India Water Impact Summit jointly organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga)
- The Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (CWRDM), operating under the Government of Kerala has launched the "Water 4 Change". Under the project, six prominent institutions from Netherlands will perform a long-term research and field level action on urban water management systems along with Indian scientists.

Refer: <http://newsonair.com/News?title=Not-intended-to-bring-%e2%80%98water%e2%80%99-in-Concurrent-List%3a-Govt&id=375915>

12. Citizenship has been enshrined in which of the following parts of the Indian constitution?

- (a) Part I
- (b) Part II
- (c) Part III
- (d) Part IV

**Ans: (b)**

- The laws in India are governed by the Constitution of India. Citizenship Article 5 to 11 deal with the Citizenship of India. The draft regarding the citizenship was created and destroyed multiple times, before incorporating the final draft in the Constitution as Part II, it was amended over 100 times.

## Parts of Indian constitution

- Preamble
- Part I– Union and its Territory
- Part II– Citizenship.
- Part III– Fundamental Rights.
- Part IV – Directive Principles of State Policy.
- Part IVA – Fundamental Duties.
- Part V– The Union.
- Part VI– The States.
- Part VII – States in the B part of the First schedule (Repealed).
- Part VIII– The Union Territories
- Part IX– The Panchayats.
- Part IXA– The Municipalities.
- Part IXB – The Co-operative Societies.
- Part X – The scheduled and Tribal Areas
- Part XI – Relations between the Union and the States.
- Part XII– Finance, Property, Contracts and Suits
- Part XIII – Trade and Commerce within the territory of India
- Part XIV– Services under the Union, the States.
- Part XIVA – Tribunals.
- Part XV – Elections
- Part XVI– Special Provisions Relating to certain Classes.
- Part XVII– Languages
- Part XVIII – Emergency Provisions
- Part XIX – Miscellaneous
- Part XX – Amendment of the Constitution
- Part XXI – Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions
- Part XXII – Short title, date of commencement, Authoritative text in Hindi and Repeals

13. Recently Land boundary agreement has been in news for sometimes is primarily related to
- Agreement between India and Bangladesh to exchange enclaves and simplify their international border
  - Agreement between India and Pakistan to exchange enclaves and simplify their international border
  - Agreement between India and china to exchange enclaves and simplify their international border
  - Agreement between India and Sri Lanka to exchange enclaves and simplify their international border

**Ans: (a)**

- The prime ministers of India and Bangladesh signed the Land Boundary Agreement in 1974 to exchange enclaves and simplify their international border. A revised version of the agreement was adopted by the two countries on 7 May 2015, when the Parliament of India passed the 100th Amendment to the Indian Constitution.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/11/land-boundary-agreement-lba/>

14. Consider the following statements

- Article 334 has laid down provisions for reserving the seats for SCs and STs and nomination of Anglo-Indians to Lok Sabha and state Assemblies
- President of India is authorised to nominate two members of the Anglo Indian community to Rajya Sabha

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans: (a)**

- Article 334 has laid down provisions for reserving the seats for SCs and STs and nomination of Anglo-Indians to Lok Sabha and state Assemblies, which shall cease to be in effect on the 25 January 2020, if not extended further.
- Under article 331; the President of India is authorised to nominate 2 members of the Anglo Indian community if know member of this community is elected among the 543 members for the Lok Sabha.
- In the same way the governor of the state is authorised to nominate 1 Anglo Indian in the lower house of the State Legislature (in case of under representation).
- According to the 10th schedule of the Constitution, any Anglo-Indian member can take the membership of any party within 6 months of the nomination. After the membership; they are bound to the party whip and they have to work in the house according to the party's agenda.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/12/anglo-indians-in-lok-sabha-and-assemblies/>

15. Consider the following statements with respect to sixth schedule of Indian constitution

- Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India allows for the formation of Autonomous District Councils
- The President is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts
- Under Article 244, it deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- 1 and 3
- 3 only
- 1 and 2
- 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (a)**

- The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India allows for the formation of Autonomous District Councils to administer areas which have been given autonomy within their respective states
- Under Article 244, it deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- Passed by the Constituent Assembly in 1949, it seeks to safeguard the rights of tribal population through the formation of Autonomous District Councils (ADC).
- The governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts.
- If there are different tribes in an autonomous district, the governor can divide the district into several autonomous regions.
- Composition: Each autonomous district has a district council consisting of 30 members, of whom four are nominated by the governor and the remaining 26 are elected on the basis of adult franchise.
- Term: The elected members hold office for a term of five years (unless the council is dissolved earlier) and nominated members hold office during the pleasure of the governor.
- Each autonomous region also has a separate regional council.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/12/6th-schedule-of-the-constitution-2/>

16. Constitution (125<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Bill, 2019 is primarily related to
- (a) To extend reservation of seats in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for SCs and STs by another ten years.
  - (b) To Include Union Territory of Ladakh Under 6th Schedule of Constitution Of India
  - (c) Except certain areas of North East from CAB, 2019
  - (d) To increase the financial and executive powers of the 10 Autonomous Councils in the Sixth Schedule areas of the northeastern region

**Ans: (d)**

- 125<sup>th</sup> amendment bill: It seeks to increase the financial and executive powers of the 10 Autonomous Councils in the Sixth Schedule areas of the northeastern region.
- The Lok Sabha yesterday passed the Constitution (126<sup>th</sup> Amendment) Bill, 2019 with bipartisan support. All 355 members in the House voted in favour of the Bill when it was put to division. The amendment seeks to extend reservation of seats in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for SCs and STs by another ten years.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/12/6th-schedule-of-the-constitution-2/>

17. The Constitution has assigned a dual role to the office of a governor in the Indian federal system. He is the constitutional head of the state as well as the representative of the Centre.
1. For peace and for ensuring social and economic advancement of the different sections of the population in Sikkim state.
  2. Establishment of a separate development board for Hyderabad-Karnataka region in Karnataka state.
  3. During an emergency, the governor can take over the entire work of the executive, and the governor administers the state in the name of the president.

Which of the above provisions supports the governor as the representative of the center?

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

**Ans: (a)**

The governor has certain special responsibilities to discharge according to the directions issued by the President. In this regard, the governor though has to consult the council of ministers led by the chief minister, acts finally on his discretion. They are as follows:

- Maharashtra—Establishment of separate development boards for Vidarbha and Marathwada.
- Gujarat—Establishment of separate development boards for Saurashtra and Kutch.
- Nagaland—With respect to law and order in the state for so long as the internal disturbance in the Naga Hills–Tuensang Area continues.
- Assam—With respect to the administration of tribal areas.
- Manipur—Regarding the administration of the hill areas in the state.
- Sikkim—For peace and for ensuring social and economic advancement of the different sections of the population.
- Arunachal Pradesh—With respect to law and order in the state.
- Karnataka – Establishment of a separate development board for Hyderabad-Karnataka region.

Thus, the Constitution has assigned a dual role to the office of a governor in the Indian federal system. He is the constitutional head of the state as well as the representative of the Centre (i.e., President).

During such an emergency, the president can take over the entire work of the executive, and the governor administers the state in the name of the president. The Legislative Assembly can be dissolved or may remain in suspended animation. The parliament makes laws on the 66 subjects of the state list.

**18.** Consider the following statements

1. Some members of the legislative assemblies in Sikkim and Nagaland are elected indirectly.
2. The governor can nominate one member from the Anglo-Indian community, if the community is not adequately represented in the council.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (a)**

- The legislative assembly consists of representatives directly elected by the people on the basis of universal adult franchise. Its maximum strength is fixed at 500 and minimum strength at 60.
- However, in case of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Goa, the minimum number is fixed at 30 and in case of Mizoram and Nagaland, it is 40 and 46 respectively. Further, some members of the legislative assemblies in Sikkim and Nagaland are also elected indirectly.
- The governor can nominate one member from the Anglo-Indian community, if the community is not adequately represented in the assembly. Originally, this provision was to operate for ten years (ie, upto 1960). But this duration has been extended continuously since then by 10 years each time. Now, under the 95th Amendment Act of 2009, this is to last until 2020.

**19.** Constitution has defined the territorial limits of the legislative powers vested in the Centre and the states. Which of the below statement is **not** true in regard to it?

- (a) A state legislature can make laws for the whole or any part of the state.
- (b) The laws made by a state legislature are not applicable outside the state, except when there is a sufficient nexus between the state and the object.
- (c) Parliament can make laws for the whole or any part of the territory of India.
- (d) Neither parliament nor state legislature can make 'extra-territorial legislation'.

**Ans: (d)**

Explanation: Here Directive word is not True!!

#### Territorial Extent of Central and State Legislation

- The Constitution defines the territorial limits of the legislative powers vested in the Centre and the states in the following way:
- The Parliament can make laws for the whole or any part of the territory of India. The territory of India includes the states, the union territories, and any other area for the time being included in the territory of India.
- A state legislature can make laws for the whole or any part of the state. The laws made by a state legislature are not applicable outside the state, except when there is a sufficient nexus between the state and the object.
- The Parliament alone can make 'extra-territorial legislation'. Thus, the laws of the Parliament are also applicable to the Indian citizens and their property in any part of the world.

20. Consider the below statements about Integrated Judicial System in India and choose the **incorrect** statement?

- (a) Judges of a state High Court are appointed by the President in consultation with CJI and Governor of the state.
- (b) They can be transferred and removed only by the President.
- (c) President can establish a common High Court for 2 or more states.
- (d) Single system of courts enforces both the Central laws as well as the state laws.

**Ans: (c)**

Explanation: Here Directive word is INCORRECT!!

- The Constitution of India established an integrated judicial system with the Supreme Court at the top and the state high courts below it. This single system of courts enforces both the Central laws as well as the state laws. This is done to eliminate diversities in the remedial procedure.
- The judges of a state high court are appointed by the president in consultation with the Chief Justice of India and the governor of the state. They can also be transferred and removed by the president.
- The Parliament (not President) can establish a common high court for two or more states.
- For example, Maharashtra and Goa or Punjab and Haryana have a common high court.

21. Consider the following statements in accordance to Duration of panchayats :

1. Every panchayat shall continue for 5 years from the date of its 1st meeting
2. It can be dissolved earlier in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Constitution
3. In case, it is dissolved earlier, elections must take place within 6 months of its dissolution

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

**Ans: (b)**

Explanation: Duration of panchayats

- Every panchayat shall continue for 5 yrs from the date of its 1st meeting.
- It can be dissolved earlier in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the state legislature (not Constitution)
- In case, it is dissolved earlier, elections must take place within 6 months of its dissolution

22. Which one of the following statements with respect to Local Government in India, is correct?
- (a) 33% of the seats in local bodies are reserved for women.
  - (b) According to the Indian Constitution, the local government is not an independent tier in the Federal system
  - (c) The grants-in-aid to Panchayats are from consolidated fund of India.
  - (d) The state election commission may endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government.

**Ans: (a)**

- Statement 2 is wrong – the local government is an independent tier in the Federal system
- Statement 3 is wrong – the grants in aid to Panchayats are from consolidated fund of State.
- Statement 4 is wrong – the state legislature may endow the Panchayats with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government. Such a scheme may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats at the appropriate level with respect to (a) the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice; (b) the implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice as maybe entrusted to them, including those in relation to the 29 matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule.

23. In which of the following article, constitution provides that “the State shall within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want.”?
- (a) Article 41
  - (b) Article 42
  - (c) Article 44
  - (d) Article 47

**Ans: (a)**

- The Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined within our constitution makes it compulsory for the executive to follow those principles in the smooth running of the state affairs. Making disabled friendly buildings, regulating the traffic, and providing separate lanes for the disabled people will certainly help address the issues.
- Article 38 of the constitution states that the state shall constantly endeavor and strive to secure social order and justice –social, economic and political. This provision is an extension of the promises made in the preamble to the constitution. By not providing ways and means of securing social justice towards the disabled people, the state would be neglecting one of the main provisions or principles which are fundamental in the governance of the country.
- Article 41 provides that the state shall take steps to within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want.
- Apart from providing reservation in higher education and public employment, it is also a fundamental principle to provide public assistance to disabled .Adequate physical infrastructure in government buildings, public transport, etc. is the need of the hour.
- Article 47 of DPSP provides the concept of improving public health. The welfare of the disabled leads to the safeguarding of this provision by the state.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/14/accessible-india-campaign-2/>

24. Consider following statements

1. Parliamentary privileges are certain rights and immunities enjoyed by members of Parliament, individually and collectively
2. The Speaker and RS chairperson is the first level of scrutiny of a privilege motion in the house

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (a)**

- Parliamentary privileges are certain rights and immunities enjoyed by members of Parliament, individually and collectively, so that they can “effectively discharge their functions”.
- When any of these rights and immunities are disregarded, the offence is called a breach of privilege and is punishable under law of Parliament.
- A notice is moved in the form of a motion by any member of either House against those being held guilty of breach of privilege. Each House also claims the right to punish as contempt actions which, while not breach of any specific privilege, are offences against its authority and dignity.
- The Speaker or RS chairperson is the first level of scrutiny of a privilege motion in their respective house. The Speaker/Chair can decide on the privilege motion himself or herself or refer it to the privileges committee of Parliament. If the Speaker/Chair gives consent under Rule 222, the member concerned is given an opportunity to make a short statement

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/17/what-is-a-privilege-motion-2/>

**25.** With reference to Committee of Privilege, consider the following statements

1. Both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have their Committee on Privileges
2. The members are elected from the house by the Speaker / Chairman
3. The functions of this committee are semi-judicial in nature and recommendation are binding

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (a)**

Explanation: Committee of Privileges

- Both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have their Committee on Privileges. The Lok Sabha committee has
- 15 members, while the Rajya Sabha committee has 10 members. The members are nominated by the Speaker / Chairman as the case may be. The functions of this committee are semi-judicial in nature including examination of breach of privileges of the House. The committee recommends appropriate action.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/17/what-is-a-privilege-motion-2/>

**26.** With reference to Comptroller and Auditor General of India, consider the following statements

1. Article 148 of the Constitution of India provides for an independent office to the CAG of India
2. The CAG is ranked 8th and enjoys the same status as a judge of Supreme Court of India in Indian order of precedence
3. The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India is appointed by the President of India following a recommendation by the Prime Minister
4. The CAG can be removed only on an address from both houses of parliament on the ground of proved misbehavior or incapacity

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 1, 3 and 4
- (c) 3 and 4
- (d) All of the above

**Ans: (b)**

- The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India is an authority, established by Article 148 of the Constitution of India, which audits all receipts and expenditure of the Government of India and the state governments, including those of bodies and authorities substantially financed by the government.
- The CAG is also the external auditor of Government-owned corporations and conducts supplementary audit of government companies, i.e., any non-banking/ non-insurance company in which Union Government has an equity share of at least 51 per cent or subsidiary companies of existing government companies.
- The reports of the CAG are taken into consideration by the Public Accounts Committees (PACs) and Committees on Public Undertakings (COPUs), which are special committees in the Parliament of India and the state legislatures.
- The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India is appointed by the President of India following a recommendation by the Prime Minister. On appointment, he/she has to make an oath or affirmation before the President of India.
- The CAG is ranked 9th and enjoys the same status as a judge of Supreme Court of India in Indian order of precedence.
- The CAG can be removed only on an address from both houses of parliament on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity. The CAG vacates the office on attaining the age of 65 years even without completing the 6 years term by impeachment also.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/18/pradhan-mantri-ujwala-yojana-pmuy-3/>

27. Which of the following article of Indian Constitution mandates that all minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice?
- (a) Article 27
  - (b) Article 28
  - (c) Article 29
  - (d) Article 30

**Ans: (d)**

- Article 29 protects the interests of the minorities by making a provision that any citizen / section of citizens having a distinct language, script or culture have the right to conserve the same
- Article 30 mandates that all minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

28. Consider the following statements
1. Article 81 of the Constitution defines the composition of the House of the People or Lok Sabha
  2. The maximum strength of the House envisaged by the Constitution is now 545
  3. Following the Constitution 84th Amendment Act, the total number of existing seats as allocated to various States in the Lok Sabha on the basis of the 1971 census, shall remain unaltered till the first census to be taken after the year 2026

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (a)**

Article 81 of the Constitution defines the composition of the House of the People or Lok Sabha.

- It states that the House shall not consist of more than 550 elected members of whom not more than 20 will represent UTs.

Under Article 331, the President can nominate up to two Anglo-Indians if he/she feels the community is inadequately represented in the House.

- The Lok Sabha at present consists of 545 members. Of these, 530 members are directly elected from the States and 13 from Union Territories, while two are nominated by the President to represent the Anglo-Indian community.
- The total elective membership of the Lok Sabha is distributed among States in such a way that the ratio between the number of seats allotted to each State and population of the State is, as far as practicable, the same for all States.
- Following the Constitution 84th Amendment Act, the total number of existing seats as allocated to various States in the Lok Sabha on the basis of the 1971 census, shall remain unaltered till the first census to be taken after the year 2026

The term of the Lok Sabha, unless dissolved earlier, is five years from the date appointed for its first meeting. However, while a proclamation of emergency is in operation, this period may be extended by Parliament by law for a period not exceeding one year at a time, and not extending in any case, beyond a period of six months after the proclamation has ceased to operate.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/19/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-19-december-2019/>

- 29.** Impeachment of the president of India was borrowed from
- (a) USA
  - (b) Canada
  - (c) Ireland
  - (d) South Africa

**Ans: (a)**

List of Borrowed Features of Indian Constitution from USA:

- Impeachment of the president
- Functions of president and vice-president
- Removal of Supreme Court and High court judges
- Fundamental Rights
- Judicial review
- Independence of judiciary
- Preamble of the constitution

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/19/how-a-us-president-can-be-impeached-3/>

- 30.** GST Council is a joint forum for the Centre and the States. It consists of which of the following members?
1. Union Finance Minister
  2. RBI governor
  3. The Union Minister of State, in-charge of Revenue of finance
  4. The Minister In-charge of finance or taxation or any other Minister nominated by each State Government

Select the correct answer using the code below

- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 1, 3 and 4
- (c) 1 and 4
- (d) All of the above

**Ans: (b)**

As per Article 279A of the amended Constitution, the GST Council will be a joint forum of the Center and the States. This Council shall consist of the following members namely: –

- The Union Finance Minister will be the Chairperson
- As a member, the Union Minister of State will be in charge of Revenue of Finance
- The Minister in charge of finance or taxation or any other Minister nominated by each State government, as members.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/20/138911/>

- 31.** Recently GST council has decided to impose a single rate of 28% tax on which of the following commodity?
- (a) Lottery tickets
  - (b) Air Conditioners
  - (c) IPL tickets
  - (d) Both A and C

**Ans: (a)**

- First time since the introduction of one tax for all over the country, the Goods and Services Tax or GST Council headed by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman broke the tradition of taking decisions through consensus on Wednesday.
- In its 38th meeting, the move to fix a uniform rate on the lottery tickets across the country failed to generate a consensus and had to be put to vote.
- For a long time, the council had been discussing fixing rates for lotteries in the country. Today the council took up a proposal to fix a uniform 28 per cent tax rate on lottery effective March 1, 2020, all over the country.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/20/138911/>

- 32.** Consider the following statements with reference to National Population Register(NPR)
1. NPR is a database containing a list of all usual residents of the country
  2. A usual resident for the purposes of NPR is a person who has resided in a place for 12 months or more, and intends to reside there for another 12 months or more
  3. While the census is legally backed by the Census Act, 1948, the NPR is a mechanism outlined in a set of rules framed under the Citizenship Act, 1955
  4. The NPR is the first step towards establishing the NRIC

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 1, 3 and 4
- (c) 2, 3 and 4
- (d) All of the above

**Ans: (b)**

What is the National Population Register (NPR)?

- The NPR is a database containing a list of all usual residents of the country. Its objective is to have a comprehensive identity database of people residing in the country.
- It is generated through house-to-house enumeration during the “house-listing” phase of the census, which is held once in 10 years. The last census was in 2011, and the next will be done in 2021 (and will be conducted through a mobile phone application, according to the Home Minister, Amit Shah).
- A usual resident for the purposes of NPR is a person who has resided in a place for six months or more, and intends to reside there for another six months or more

What is the legal basis for NPR?

- While the census is legally backed by the Census Act, 1948, the NPR is a mechanism outlined in a set of rules framed under the Citizenship Act, 1955.

- Section 14A was inserted in the Citizenship Act, 1955, in 2004, providing for the compulsory registration of every citizen of India and the issue of a “national identity card” to him or her. It also said the Central government may maintain a “National Register of Indian Citizens”.
- The Registrar General India shall act as the “National Registration Authority” (and will function as the Registrar General of Citizen Registration). Incidentally, the Registrar General is also the country’s Census Commissioner.
- The NPR is the first step towards establishing the NRIC.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/21/national-population-register-npr-3/>

- 33.** Which of the following article of the Constitution of India deals with official language or language of state?
- Article 345
  - Article 245
  - Article 332
  - Article 331

**Ans: (a)**

- Article 345 of the Constitution deals with Official language or languages of a state. Article 345 empowers state legislature to adopt ‘any one or more of the languages in use in the State or Hindi as the language or languages to be used for all or any of the official purposes’ of the concerned State

- 34.** It gives power to a District Magistrate, a sub- divisional Magistrate or any other Executive Magistrate on behalf of the State Government to issue an order to an individual or the general public in a particular place or area to “abstain from a certain act” or “to take certain order with respect to certain property in his possession or under his management”. The passage refers to
- Section 144 CrPC
  - Section 125 IPC
  - Section 144 IPC
  - Section 125 CrPC

**Ans: (a)**

“Section 144 CrPC” was recently widely invoked by police forces across the country in order to contain the massive public protests against the recently passed Citizenship Amendment Act.

- It gives power to a District Magistrate, a sub- divisional Magistrate or any other Executive Magistrate on behalf of the State Government to issue an order to an individual or the general public in a particular place or area to “abstain from a certain act” or “to take certain order with respect to certain property in his possession or under his management”.
- This order can be passed against a particular individual or general public. The order can be passed even ex-parte.
- As held by the Supreme Court, mere apprehension of danger is not a sufficient ground to curb citizens’ rights by invoking Section 144 CrPC.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/23/section-144-crpc/>

- 35.** Which of the following is the significance of the 103<sup>rd</sup> constitutional amendment act?
- Reservation for Economically weaker sections
  - Establishment of GST Council
  - Constitutional status to National Commission for Backward Classes
  - Ratification of land boundary agreement between India and Bangladesh

**Ans: (a)**

100<sup>th</sup> CAA: 2015

- Exchange of certain enclave territories with Bangladesh and conferment of citizenship rights to residents of enclave's consequent to signing of Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) Treaty between India and Bangladesh.

101<sup>st</sup> CAA: 2017

- Introduced the Goods and Services Tax.

102<sup>nd</sup> CAA: 2018

- Constitutional status to National Commission for Backward Classes

103<sup>rd</sup> CAA: 2019

- A maximum of 10% Reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWSs) of citizens of classes other than the classes mentioned in clauses (4) and (5) of Article 15, i.e. Classes other than socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Inserted Clause [6] under Article 15 as well as Inserted Clause [6] under Article 16.

104<sup>th</sup> CAA: 2019

- To extend the reservation of seats for SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha and states assemblies from Seventy years to Eighty years.

**36.** Constitution of India incorporates provisions guaranteeing everyone's right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. In which of the following article?

- (a) Article 21
- (b) Article 35
- (c) Article 42
- (d) Article 48

**Ans: (a)**

- The Constitution incorporates provisions guaranteeing everyone's right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. Article 21 of the Constitution guarantees protection of life and personal liberty to every citizen.
- The Supreme Court has held that the right to live with human dignity, enshrined in Article 21, derives from the directive principles of state policy and therefore includes protection of health. Further, it has also been held that the right to health is integral to the right to life and the government has a constitutional obligation to provide health facilities.
- Failure of a government hospital to provide a patient timely medical treatment results in violation of the patient's right to life. Similarly, the Court has upheld the state's obligation to maintain health services.
- Public interest petitions have been filed under Article 21 in response to violations of the right to health. They have been filed to provide special treatment to children in jail; on pollution hazards; against hazardous drugs; against inhuman conditions in after-care homes; on the health rights of mentally ill patients; on the rights of patients in cataract surgery camps ; for immediate medical aid to injured persons; on conditions in tuberculosis hospitals; on occupational health hazards; on the regulation of blood banks and availability of blood products; on passive smoking in public places; and in an appeal filed by a person with HIV on the rights of HIV/AIDS patients.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/24/mental-disorders-high-in-south-india/>

**37.** Who is/are considered as illegal immigrants with reference to Citizenship Act, 1955?

1. Citizens of other countries who entered India without valid travel documents
2. Immigrants, who remained in the country beyond the period permitted by their travel documents

Select the correct answer using the code below

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

**Ans: (c)**

- The Citizenship Act, 1955 regulates who may acquire Indian citizenship and on what grounds. A person may become an Indian citizen if they are born in India or have Indian parentage or have resided in the country for a period of time, etc. However, illegal migrants are prohibited from acquiring Indian citizenship.
- An illegal migrant is a foreigner who:
  - (i) enters the country without valid travel documents, like a passport and visa, or
  - (ii) enters with valid documents, but stays beyond the permitted time period

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/24/detention-centres-for-illegal-migrants/>

- 38.** Which of the following statements is **not** correct regarding “National Anti-Profiteering Authority (NAA)”
- (a) NAA is the institutional mechanism under GST law to check the unfair profit-making activities by the trading community
  - (b) NAA is a statutory body
  - (c) The orders of the NAA can be appealed against only in the high court
  - (d) It falls under the aegis of MoC&I

**Ans: (d)**

The National Anti-Profiteering Authority (NAA) has been constituted under Section 171 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 to ensure that the reduction in rate of tax or the benefit of input tax credit is passed on to the recipient by way of commensurate reduction in prices. Further, the following steps have been taken by the NAA to ensure that customers get the full benefit of tax cuts:

- Holding regular meetings with the Zonal Screening Committees and the Chief Commissioners of Central Tax to stress upon consumer awareness programmes;
- Launching a helpline to resolve the queries of citizens regarding registration of complaints against profiteering.
- Receiving complaints through email and NAA portal.
- Working with consumer welfare organizations in order to facilitate outreach activities.

It falls under the aegis of Ministry of Finance

- NAA comprises of Chairman, four Technical members, a Standing Committee, Screening Committees in every State and the Directorate General of Safeguards in the Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC).
- The orders of the NAA can be appealed against only in the high court.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/01/09/national-anti-profiteering-authority-naa/>

- 39.** Who will chair the Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth?
- (a) Prime minister
  - (b) Finance minister
  - (c) Home minister
  - (d) Cabinet secretary

**Ans: (a)**

- The newly-formed Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth (CCIG) held its first meeting on Monday as the government looks to boost spending to bring back a sputtering economy on track. Sources said Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the meeting of the CCIG.

40. For which of the following Committees, Speaker of Lok Sabha acts as Chairman?

1. Rules Committee
2. Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions
3. Business Advisory Committee
4. General Purposes Committee

Select the correct answer using the code below

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

**Ans: (b)**

- Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions-Chairman is Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha. Hence the Answer is B.

41. Consider the following statements

1. Article 136 provides a unique power to the Supreme Court, to do "complete justice" between the parties
2. Under Article 142, the Constitution of India gives power to the Supreme Court to grant special permission or leave to an aggrieved party to appeal against an order passed in any of the lower courts or tribunals in India

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (d)**

- Under Article 136, the Constitution of India gives power to the Supreme Court to grant special permission or leave to an aggrieved party to appeal against an order passed in any of the lower courts or tribunals in India
- In granting five acres of land in Ayodhya, but outside the disputed area, to Muslim parties, the Supreme Court used extraordinary powers granted to it by Article 142 of the Constitution.
- The Supreme Court, implicitly referring to the demolition of the Babri Masjid at the disputed site, said that it was invoking Article 142 "to ensure that a wrong committed must be remedied".
- Article 142(1) states that "The Supreme Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it, and any decree so passed or order so made shall be enforceable throughout the territory of India in such manner as may be prescribed by or under any law made by Parliament and, until provision in that behalf is so made, in such manner as the President may by order prescribe".
- The provision that vests sweeping powers in the Supreme Court for the end of ensuring "complete justice" has been used generally in cases that involve human rights and environmental protection.
- This was the first time that the court invoked this power in a case involving a civil dispute over an immovable property, involving private parties. It said that while the court's power under Article 142 "is not limitless", it "embodies both the notion of justice, equity and good conscience as well as a supplementary power to the court to effect complete justice".

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/27/grounds-for-divorce-under-hindu-law/>

42. Consider the following statements with respect to Cabinet Committee

1. They are extra-constitutional bodies, which are provided by the GOIs Transaction of Business Rules, 1961

2. They are set up by the Speaker or chairmen
3. Composition of cabinet committee includes only cabinet ministers

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (a)**

- They are extra-constitutional bodies, which are provided by the Governments of India Transaction of Business Rules, 1961.
- They are set up by the Prime Minister according to the exigencies of the time and requirements of the situation.
- Composition– They usually include only Cabinet Ministers. However, the non-cabinet Ministers are not debarred from their membership. They not only include the Ministers in charge of subjects covered by them but also include other senior Ministers. Their membership varies from three to eight.
- Under the Transaction of Business Rules, the Government has reconstituted Cabinet Committees. These include – Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, Cabinet Committee on Accommodation, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs, Cabinet Committee on Security, Cabinet Committee on Investment and Growth and Cabinet Committee on Employment and Skill Development.

- 43.** This committee examines and reports to the House whether the powers to make regulations, rules, sub-rules and bye-laws delegated by the Parliament or conferred by the Constitution to the Executive are being properly exercised by it. In both the Houses, the committee consists of 15 members. It was constituted in 1953.

The above given passage refers to which of the following parliamentary committee?

- (a) Committee on Subordinate Legislation
- (b) Committee on Rules
- (c) Committee on Papers Laid on the Table
- (d) Committee on Petitions

**Ans: (a)**

Committee on Subordinate Legislation

- The Committee consists of 15 members nominated by the Speaker. A Minister is not nominated to this Committee. The Committee scrutinizes and reports to the House whether the powers to make regulations, rules, sub-rules, by-laws etc. conferred by the Constitution or delegated by Parliament are being properly exercised by the executive within the scope of such delegation.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/30/parliamentary-standing-committees-2/>

- 44.** Consider the following statements regarding Renaming of states in India.
1. The procedure of renaming of the state can be initiated by either the Parliament or the State Legislator.
  2. Article 3 lays down that a bill to alter the name of any state can be introduced in the Parliament, only with the prior recommendation of the President.
  3. After recommending the bill to alter the name of any state to the Parliament, the President has to refer the same to the state legislature concerned for expressing its views within a specified period.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (c)**

- The procedure of renaming of the state can be initiated by either the Parliament or the State Legislator and the procedure is as follows:
- The renaming of a state requires Parliamentary approval under Article 3 and 4 of the Constitution.
- A bill for renaming a state may be introduced in the Parliament on the recommendation of the President.
- Before the introduction of the bill, the President shall send the bill to the respective state assembly for expressing their views within a stipulated time. The views of the state assembly are not binding, neither on the President nor on the Parliament.
- On the expiry of the period, the bill will be sent to the Parliament for deliberation. The bill in order to take the force of a law must be passed by a simple majority.
- The bill is sent for approval to the President. After the approval of the said bill, the bill becomes a law and the name of the state stands modified.

**45.** The mutual delegation of executive power between centre and states cannot occur

- (a) From Centre to State through President
- (b) From State to Centre through Governor
- (c) From Centre to State through Parliament
- (d) From State to Centre through State legislature

**Ans: (d)**

- President may, with the consent of the state government, entrust to that government any of the executive functions of the Centre. Conversely, the governor of a state may, with the consent of the Central government, entrust to that government any of the executive functions of the state.
- Constitution also makes a provision for the entrustment of the executive functions of the Centre to a state without the consent of that state. But, in this case, the delegation is by the Parliament and not by the president. Notably, the same thing cannot be done by the state legislature.

**46.** Constitution confers executive power of a subject in the Concurrent list to

- (a) Union Government
- (b) State Governments
- (c) President
- (d) All of the above

**Ans: (b)**

- In respect of matters on which both the Parliament and the state legislatures have power of legislation (i.e., the subjects enumerated in the Concurrent List), the executive power rests with the states except when a Constitutional provision or a parliamentary law specifically confers it on the Centre.

## II. GOVT. SCHEMES & INSTITUTIONS

1. National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was constituted under
- (a) Companies Act, 2013
  - (b) Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016
  - (c) Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992
  - (d) Competition Act, 2002

**Ans: (a)**

- National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013.

Functions:

- It hears appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT), with effect from 1st June, 2016.
- It is the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).
- It is the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.
- It is the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/03/national-company-law-appellate-tribunal-nclat/>

2. Consider the following statements with respect to National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self Employed Persons:
1. It is a pension scheme for the vyaparis with annual turnover not exceeding Rs 2 crore
  2. It is an mandatory and contributory pension scheme
  3. It has a provision for minimum assured pension of Rs 3,000/- monthly on attaining the age of 60 years
  4. Beneficiary is required to have an Aadhaar card and a saving bank/ Jan-dhan Account passbook only

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (d)**

- It is a pension scheme for the Vyaparis (shopkeepers/retail traders and self-employed persons) with annual turnover not exceeding Rs 1.5 crore.
- It is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme.
- The enrolment under the scheme is free of cost for the beneficiaries.
- The enrolment is based upon self-certification.
- It has a provision for minimum assured pension of Rs 3,000/- monthly on attaining the age of 60 years.
- The Central Government shall give 50 % share of the monthly contribution and remaining 50% contribution shall be made by the beneficiary.
- Beneficiary is required to have an Aadhaar card and a saving bank/ Jan-dhan Account passbook only.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/03/national-pension-scheme-for-traders-and-self-employed-persons-2/>

3. Consider the following statements regarding Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)
1. Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP), a sub component of the Gramin Aajivika Mission, seeks to improve the present status of women in Agriculture
  2. Program is being implemented by DAY-NRLM in partnership with State Rural Livelihood Missions
  3. There is no separate funding available for MKSP
- (a) 1 and 3 Only  
(b) 2 only  
(c) 2 and 3 Only  
(d) 1,2 3

**Ans: (b)**

- In line with the provisions of National Policy for Farmers (NPF) (2007), the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Rural Development is already implementing a programme exclusively for women farmers namely, Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP), which is a sub-component of Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- The primary objective of MKSP is to empower women by enhancing their participation in agriculture and to create sustainable livelihood opportunities for them.
- Funding support to the tune of up to 60% (90% for North Eastern States) for such projects is provided by the Government of India.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/04/mahila-kisan-sashaktikaran-pariyojana-2/>

4. Recently Independent Directors Databank has been in news for sometimes, which has been launched by
- (a) MCA  
(b) MHA  
(c) NITI  
(d) RBI

**Ans: (a)**

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs has launched the Independent Directors Databank in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 and the rules made thereunder.
- Independent directors databank: Developed and maintained by the Indian Institute for Corporate Affairs (IICA) under Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/04/independent-directors-databank/>

5. Consider following statements
1. Eat Right movement is the part of National Nutrition Movement
  2. FSSAI is headed by a non-executive Chairperson, appointed by the Central Government
  3. FSSAI has prescribed a limit for Total Polar Compounds (TPC) at 25% in cooking oil
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2 Only  
(b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 3 Only  
(d) 1 and 3

**Ans: (b)**

- Eat Right Movement: It was launched by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- The movement aims to cut down salt/sugar and oil consumption by 30% in three years.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been established under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 which consolidates various acts & orders that have hitherto handled food related issues in various Ministries and Departments.

- It was created for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption.
- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the Administrative Ministry for the implementation of FSSAI.
- The Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) are appointed by Government of India.
- The Chairperson is in the rank of Secretary to Government of India.
- FSSAI has prescribed a limit for Total Polar Compounds (TPC) at 25% in cooking oil to avoid the harmful effects of reused cooking oil.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/05/eat-right-movement-campaign-2/>

6. Consider the following statements:

1. Drug Technical Advisory Body (DTAB) is a statutory body, constituted under section 5 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act
2. Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) is the highest decision-making body under the Union health ministry on technical matters
3. Director General of Health Services (DGHS) is the ex-officio chairman of DTAB

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (c)**

- The Drug Technical Advisory Body (DTAB), the country's highest drug advisory body, had approved the proposal to include nebulizers, blood pressure monitoring devices, digital thermometers and glucometers under the purview of the Drug Law.
- Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) is the highest decision-making body under the Union health ministry on technical matters.
- Director General of Health Services (DGHS) is the ex-officio chairman of this statutory body which is constituted by the ministry under section 5 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/05/centre-stops-online-sale-of-medicines/>

7. Consider the following statements:

1. Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) is the first regulatory body set up by the Government of India.
2. One of the tasks of PNGRB is to ensure competitive markets for gas.
3. Appeals against the decisions of PNGRB go before the Appellate Tribunals for Electricity.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Ans: (b)**

- The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) was constituted under The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006 (NO. 19 OF 2006) notified via Gazette Notification dated 31st March, 2006.
- The Act provide for the establishment of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board to protect the interests of consumers and entities engaged in specified activities relating to petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas and to promote competitive markets and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- Further as enshrined in the act, the board has also been mandated to regulate the refining, processing, storage, transportation, distribution, marketing and sale of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas excluding production of crude oil and natural gas so as and to ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas in all parts of the country.

8. In India, implementation of Intergenerational Equity was introduced as an important feature in which of the following?

- (a) National Mineral Policy 2019
- (b) National policy on city gas distribution
- (c) The Food Safety and Standard Regulations, 2011
- (d) Sustainable Sand Mining Management Guidelines, 2016

**Ans: (a)**

- The National Mineral Policy 2019 lays a foundation for the systematic implementation of intergenerational equity in India with reference to natural resources including minerals. It is strongly rooted in the Constitution. However, the question is whether it will be implemented and implemented quickly.
- Intergenerational equity in economic, psychological, and sociological contexts, is the concept or idea of fairness or justice between generations. The concept can be applied to fairness in dynamics between children, youth, adults and seniors, in terms of treatment and interactions.

9. Consider the following statements

1. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana falls under Ministry of Renewable Energy
2. Under the scheme, an adult woman member of a below poverty line family identified through the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) is given a deposit-free LPG connection with financial assistance of Rs 1,600 per connection by the Centre
3. Eligible households will be identified in consultation with state governments and Union territories

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 2
- (d) All of the above

**Ans: (b)**

- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is a scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for providing LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.

Who is eligible?

- Under the scheme, an adult woman member of a below poverty line family identified through the Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC) is given a deposit-free LPG connection with financial assistance of Rs 1,600 per connection by the Centre.
- Identification of households: Eligible households will be identified in consultation with state governments and Union territories. The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Key objectives of the scheme are:

- Empowering women and protecting their health.

- Reducing the serious health hazards associated with cooking based on fossil fuel.
- Reducing the number of deaths in India due to unclean cooking fuel.
- Preventing young children from significant number of acute respiratory illnesses caused due to indoor air pollution by burning the fossil fuel.
- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/08/28/pradhan-mantri-ujjwala-yojana-pmuy/>

10. Consider the following statements wrt Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana:

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme
2. Under the scheme, Expenditure for implementation of the scheme will be met from the Senior Citizens Welfare Fund
3. As far as possible, 50% of the beneficiaries in each district shall be women

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (a)**

Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana:

- Coverage: Senior Citizens, belonging to BPL category and suffering from any of the age-related disability/infirmity Low vision, Hearing impairment, Loss of teeth and locomotor disability.
- Funding: This is a Central Sector Scheme, fully funded by the Central Government. The expenditure for implementation of the scheme will be met from the “Senior Citizens’ Welfare Fund“.

Other key facts:

- In case of multiple disabilities/infirmities manifested in the same person, the assistive devices will be given in respect of each disability/impairment.
- Beneficiaries in each district will be identified by the State Governments/UT Administrations through a Committee chaired by the Deputy Commissioner/District Collector.
- As far as possible, 30% of the beneficiaries in each district shall be women.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/11/pib-facts-rashtriya-vayoshri-yojana/>

11. Consider the following statements

1. National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is based on the Directive Principles, contained in Article 42 of the Indian Constitution
2. India is a signatory to the single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961
3. Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is the nodal drug law enforcement and intelligence agency of India

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (c)**

- The National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is based on the Directive Principles, contained in Article 47 of the Indian Constitution, which direct the State to endeavor to bring about prohibition of the consumption, except for medicinal purposes, of intoxicating drugs injurious to health.
- The government’s policy on the subject which flows from this constitutional provision is also guided by the international conventions on the subject.

- India is a signatory to the single Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Conventions on Psychotropic Substances, 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988.
- The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 which came into effect from the 14th November, 1985 made an express provision for constituting a Central Authority for the purpose of exercising the powers and functions of the Central Government under the Act.
- The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) is the nodal drug law enforcement and intelligence agency of India responsible for fighting drug trafficking and the abuse of illegal substances

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/11/data-on-extent-and-pattern-of-substance-use/>

**12.** Consider the following statements with respect to Skills Build Platform:

1. Directorate General of Recruiting (DGR), under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) launched of SkillsBuild platform in collaboration with IBM
2. The digital platform will provide a personal assessment of the cognitive capabilities and personality via MyInnerGenius to the students

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (b)**

- Directorate General of Training (DGT), under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), today announced the launch of SkillsBuild platform in collaboration with IBM. As part of the programme, a two-year advanced diploma in IT, networking and cloud computing, co-created and designed by IBM, will be offered at the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) & National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs).
- The digital platform will provide a personal assessment of the cognitive capabilities and personality via MyInnerGenius to the students. They will then learn foundational knowledge about digital technologies, as well as professional skills such as resume-writing, problem solving and communication. Students will also receive recommendations on role-based education for specific jobs that include technical and professional learning.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/11/skills-build-platform-2/>

**13.** Consider the following statements Atal Bhujal Yojana:

1. It is a World Bank approved, Rs.6000 crore scheme
2. Funding pattern is 60:40 between Government of India and World Bank
3. It is a central sector scheme of the Ministry of Jal Shakti

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (a)**

Atal Bhujal Yojana:

- It is a Rs.6000 crore World Bank approved Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The funding pattern is 50:50 between Government of India and World Bank.
- Aims to improve ground water management in priority areas in the country through community participation.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/13/pib-atal-bhujal-yojana/>

14. Recently Disha Bill, 2019 has been in passed, which is primarily related to
- Children Education
  - Women safety
  - Public Health Care
  - Strengthening Women Policing

**Ans: (b)**

The Andhra Pradesh Disha Bill, 2019

- The bill provides for awarding death sentence for offences of rape and gangrape and expediting trials of such cases to within 21 days
- As per the Bill, the Andhra Pradesh government will establish, operate and maintain a register in electronic form, to be called the 'Women & Children Offenders Registry'. This registry will be made public and will be available to law enforcement agencies.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/14/disha-bill/>

15. Consider the following statements with respect to Accessible India Campaign (AIC)
- Accessible India Campaign (AIC) is the nationwide flagship campaign of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Law and Justice
  - The aim of the Campaign is to make a barrier free and conducive environment for Divyangjans all over the country
  - The campaign is based on the principles of the Social Model of Disability, that disability is caused by the way society is organised, and not the person's limitations and impairments
- 1 and 3
  - 1 and 2
  - 2 and 3
  - All of the above

**Ans: (c)**

- Accessible India Campaign (AIC) is the nationwide flagship campaign of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- The aim of the Campaign is to make a barrier free and conducive environment for Divyangjans all over the country.
- It was launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3rd December, 2015.
- The campaign is based on the principles of the Social Model of Disability, that disability is caused by the way society is organised, and not the person's limitations and impairments.
- The physical, social, structural and attitudinal barriers prevent People with Disabilities from participating equally in the socio-cultural and economic activities.
- A barrier-free environment facilitates equal participation in all the activities and promotes an independent and dignified way of life.
- The campaign has the vision to build an inclusive society in which equal opportunities are provided for the growth and development of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) so that they can lead productive, safe and dignified lives.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/14/accessible-india-campaign-2/>

16. Consider following statements with respect to National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority:
- National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is a government regulatory agency that controls the prices of pharmaceutical drugs in India
  - It as an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (a)**

- National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) was constituted vide Government of India Resolution dated 29th August, 1997 as an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers as an independent Regulator for pricing of drugs and to ensure availability and accessibility of medicines at affordable prices.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/14/drug-prices-control-order/>

**17.** National ganga council is chaired by

- (a) Prime Minister
- (b) Union Minister of Jal Shakti
- (c) Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (d) Union Cabinet secretary

**Ans: (a)**

- Prime Minister chairs first meeting of National Ganga Council
- The Council has been given overall responsibility for superintendence of pollution prevention and rejuvenation of River Ganga Basin, including Ganga and its tributaries. The first meeting of the Council was aimed at reinforcing the importance of a 'Ganga-centric' approach in all departments of the concerned states as well as relevant Central Ministries.

**18.** Consider the following statements

1. Mothers Absolute Affection is a nationwide programme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development to promote breastfeeding
2. Vatsalya – Maatri Amrit Kosh, a National Human Milk Bank and Lactation Counselling Centre is established in collaboration with the Swedish government

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

**Ans: (d)**

- MAA – “Mothers Absolute Affection”: A nationwide programme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to promote breastfeeding.
- “Vatsalya – Maatri Amrit Kosh” is established in collaboration with the Norwegian government, Oslo University and Norway India Partnership Initiative (NIPI).

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/16/pib-breast-milk-banks/>

**19.** Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

1. It is a Maternity Benefit Programme that is implemented in all the districts of the country in accordance with the provision of the National Food Security Act, 2013
2. Under the scheme, cash benefit of Rs. 5,000 provided in lump sum on fulfilling the conditionality
3. It falls under the aegis of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Which of the given above statements is/are **not** correct?

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

**Ans: (b)**

Explanation: Here Directive Word is Not Correct!!

- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), a flagship scheme of the Government for pregnant women and lactating mothers has achieved a significant milestone by crossing one crore beneficiaries
- It falls under the aegis of Ministry of Women and Child Development
- They receive a cash benefit of Rs. 5,000 in three installments on fulfilling the respective conditionality, early registration of pregnancy, ante-natal check-up and registration of the birth of the child and completion of first cycle of vaccination for the first living child of the family.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/16/pradhan-mantri-matru-vandana-yojana-pmmvy-2/>

**20.** Recently Jaga Mission has been in news for sometimes is primarily related to

- (a) Slum Rehabilitation Project
- (b) ISROs upcoming space mission
- (c) National mission on Climate refugees
- (d) Building schools in tribal area

**Ans: (a)**

- Under the Mission, Odisha's Housing and Urban Development Department, in collaboration with Tata Trusts, is "transforming slums into liveable habitat with all necessary civic infrastructure and services at par with the better off areas within the same urban local body (ULB)".

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/16/odisha-jaga-mission/>

**21.** Consider the following statements about Government Instant Messaging System (GIMS)

1. It was designed and developed by C-DAC
2. It is an Indian equivalent of popular messaging platforms, such as WhatsApp and Telegram, for secure internal use
3. It is being packaged for employees of Central and state government departments and organisations for intra and inter organisation communications

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (b)**

- Designed and developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- It is being packaged for employees of Central and state government departments and organisations for intra and inter organisation communications.
- It is an Indian equivalent of popular messaging platforms, such as WhatsApp and Telegram, for secure internal use.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/16/government-instant-messaging-system-gims/>

22. Recently Sustainable development cell has been in news for sometimes, it's primary purpose is to
- Reforming prisoners
  - Reducing fake encounter
  - Strengthening policing
  - None of the above

**Ans: (d)**

- The Ministry of Coal has decided to establish a 'Sustainable Development Cell' in order to promote environmentally sustainable coal mining in the country and address environmental concerns during the decommissioning or closure of mines.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/16/sustainable-development-cell-for-environmental-mitigation-measures/>

23. Which of the following is/are the stated objectives of Aroma Mission?
- Popularization of superior varieties and agro-technologies, and assessment of their suitability for specific climatic regions
  - Organisation of various skill development activities to empower farmers and promote entrepreneurship
  - Promotion of cultivation and processing of aromatic crops, enhancing area under selected aromatic crops through enabling interventions including setting up of distillation units

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- 1 and 2
- 3 only
- 1 and 3
- 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (d)**

CSIR Aroma Mission

- The CSIR Aroma Mission is envisaged to bring transformative change in the aroma sector through desired interventions. It is aimed at development of superior aroma crop varieties and their agro-technologies and assessment of their suitability for the large scale cultivation in specific agro-climatic regions;

Objective

- Popularization of superior varieties and agro-technologies, and assessment of their suitability for specific climatic regions.
- Promotion of cultivation and processing of aromatic crops, enhancing area under selected aromatic crops through enabling interventions including setting up of distillation units.
- Value-addition to aromatic crops (process development and chemical/biological transformations for the production of high-value aroma chemicals and products).
- Organisation of various skill development activities to empower farmers and promote entrepreneurship.
- Dissemination of mission activities and achievements using appropriate interfaces (graphical and digital).

Refer: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1556479>

24. Consider the following statements
- ALIMCO is under the aegis of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)

2. 'Divyang Sarathi' is a mobile application to provide all relevant information pertaining to the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)
3. Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana is scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category

Select the correct answer using the code below

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) All of the above

**Ans: (d)**

- ALIMCO: It is a Miniratna category – II CPSU under the aegis of DEPwD, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt of India.
- ALIMCO provides Aids, Appliances and Components to around 02 Lakhs Disabled Persons (PwDs) in the country every year and is the largest Manufacturer of Aids and Appliances for Pwds in entire South Asia.
- Divyang Sarathi: This mobile application aims at providing all relevant information pertaining to the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities ( DEPwD ), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, including its various acts, rules, regulations and guidelines, schemes, information about the various outreach institutions, employment opportunities, and the disability market in an accessible format.
- The mobile application 'Divyang Sarathi' is compliant with the principles of UNCRPD for Universal Access and the provisions of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. The Act mandates that all information to be made available in an accessible form. The application is also an integral part of the ICT component of the Accessible India Campaign.

Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana

- It is scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category. This is a Central Sector Scheme, fully funded by the Central Government.
- The expenditure for implementation of the scheme will be met from the "Senior Citizens' Welfare Fund". The Scheme will be implemented through the sole implementing agency – Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), a PSU under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

**25.** Recently committees headed by former apex court judge Justice K T Thomas and senior advocate Fali Nariman has been in news for sometimes is primarily related to

- (a) Data Protection Bill
- (b) Citizenship Amendment Bill
- (c) Social Security Code
- (d) Destruction of Public & Private Properties

**Ans: (d)**

- 2007: The court took suo motu cognizance of "various instances where there was large scale destruction of public and private properties in the name of agitations, bandhs, hartals and the like", and set up two Committees headed by former apex court judge Justice K T Thomas and senior advocate Fali Nariman to suggest changes to the law.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/17/prevention-of-damage-to-public-property-act/>

**26.** Recently AMRUT mission has been in news for sometimes, it falls under

- (a) NITI
- (b) Ministry of Culture
- (c) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- (d) Ministry of Rural Development

**Ans: (c)**

AMRUT mission

- The scheme was launched in 2015 with the focus to establish infrastructure that could ensure adequate robust sewage networks and water supply for urban transformation by implementing urban revival projects.
- It falls under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/18/amrut-mission/>

**27.** Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is a scheme of

- (a) MoP&NG
- (b) MNRE
- (c) MoRD
- (d) MoP

**Ans: (a)**

- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is a scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for providing LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/18/pradhan-mantri-ujjwala-yojana-pmuy-3/>

**28.** With reference to National Broadband Mission (NBM), Consider the following statements

1. The mission will facilitate universal and equitable access to broadband services across the country, especially in rural and remote areas
2. Mission involves the development of a Broadband Readiness Index
3. The mission will envisage stakeholder investment of Rs 7 lakh crore including Rs 90,000 crore from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF)

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (c)**

National Broadband Mission (NBM)

- The mission will facilitate universal and equitable access to broadband services across the country, especially in rural and remote areas.
- The mission also envisages increasing fiberisation of towers to 70% from 30% at present.
- The mission will envisage stakeholder investment of \$100 billion (Rs 7 lakh crore) including Rs 70,000 crore from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) in the coming years.
- The mission also involves the development of a Broadband Readiness Index to measure the availability of digital communication infrastructure and foster conducive policy ecosystem within a state/UT.
- It will also strive for the creation of a digital fibre map of the communications network and infrastructure, including optical fibre cables and towers across the country.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/18/national-broadband-mission-nbm/>

**29.** The Essential Commodities Act is an act of Parliament of India which was established to ensure the delivery of certain commodities or products, the supply of which if obstructed owing to hoarding or black marketing would affect the normal life of the people. This includes

1. Pulses and edible oils
2. Fertilisers

3. Naphtha
4. khandsari and sugar
5. Onions and Potato

Select the correct answer using the code below

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 1 and 5
- (c) 1, 4 and 5
- (d) All of the above

**Ans: (d)**

- The Essential Commodities Act (ECA) was enacted by the Central Government in 1955 to control and regulate trade and prices of commodities declared essential under the Act.
- The Act empowers the Central and state governments concurrently to control production, supply and distribution of certain commodities in view of rising prices. The measures that can be taken under the provision of the Act include, among others, licensing, distribution and imposing stock limits.
- The governments also have the power to fix price limits, and selling the particular commodities above the limit will attract penalties. Black marketing of essential commodities was a major problem in the past and this has now been controlled to a large extent. The Drug Price Control Order (DPCO) and such other orders have been issued under the powers of the ECA

Seven major commodities are covered under the act. Some of them are:

- Petroleum and its products, including petrol, diesel, kerosene, Naphtha, solvents etc
- Food stuff, including edible oil and seeds, vanaspati, pulses, sugarcane and its products like, khandsari and sugar, rice paddy
- Jute and textiles
- Drugs- prices of essential drugs are still controlled by the DPCO
- Fertilisers- the Fertiliser Control Order prescribes restrictions on transfer and stock of fertilizers apart from prices
- In 2014, Govt brings onions, potatoes under Essential Commodities Act, to undertake de-hoarding operations and to control the prices of onions and potatoes.

Refer: <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=106033>

- 30.** With reference to Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), consider the following statements
1. The Ministry of Rural Development along with state governments is responsible for the implementation of PMGSY
  2. The objective of the PMGSY is to provide good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected Habitations. A habitation which was earlier provided all-weather connectivity would not be eligible even if the present condition of the road is bad
  3. The unit for this Programme is a Habitation and not a Revenue village or a Panchayat
  4. PMGSY does not permit repairs to Black-topped or Cement Roads, even if the surface condition is bad

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (d)**

Government launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana on 25th December, 2000 to provide all-weather access to unconnected habitations. The Ministry of Rural Development along with state governments is responsible for the implementation of PMGSY.

- The spirit and the objective of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is to provide good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected Habitations. A habitation which was earlier

provided all-weather connectivity would not be eligible even if the present condition of the road is bad.

- The unit for this Programme is a Habitation and not a Revenue village or a Panchayat. A Habitation is a cluster of population, living in an area, the location of which does not change over time. Desam, Dhanis, Tolas, Majras, Hamlets etc. are commonly used terminology to describe the Habitations.
- An Unconnected Habitation is one with a population of designated size located at a distance of at least 500 metres or more (1.5 km of path distance in case of Hills) from an All-weather road or a connected Habitation.
- The population, as recorded in the Census 2001, shall be the basis for determining the population size of the Habitation. The population of all Habitations within a radius of 500 metres (1.5 km. of path distance in case of Hills) may be clubbed together for the purpose of determining the population size. This cluster approach would enable provision of connectivity to a larger number of Habitations, particularly in the Hill / mountainous areas.
- The primary focus of the PMGSY is to provide All-weather road connectivity to the eligible unconnected Habitations. An All-weather road is one which is negotiable in all seasons of the year. This implies that the road-bed is drained effectively (by adequate cross-drainage structures such as culverts, minor bridges and causeways), but this does not necessarily imply that it should be paved or surfaced or black-topped. Interruptions to traffic as per permitted frequency and duration may be allowed.
- PMGSY does not permit repairs to Black-topped or Cement Roads, even if the surface condition is bad.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/19/pradhan-mantri-gram-sadak-yojana-iii-pmgsy-iii-2/>

31. Recently *Silver Line project* has been in news for sometimes is primarily related to
- (a) Semi high-speed trains
  - (b) High Speed trains
  - (c) Inter-city trains
  - (d) Rapid transit trains

**Ans: (a)**

Silver Line project

- It involves laying of semi high-speed trains between the two corners of the state of Kerala.
- It is 532- km long. The corridor will be built away from the existing line between Thiruvananthapuram and Thrissur.
- It aims to connect major districts and towns with semi high-speed trains that will run on their own tracks.
- The Kerala Rail Development Corporation (K-Rail), a joint venture between the Ministry of Railways and the Kerala government to execute projects on a cost-sharing basis, will be the nodal agency.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/19/silver-line-project/>

32. Who is the implementing agency for FASTag?
- (a) Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL)
  - (b) National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI)
  - (c) Respective state governments
  - (d) Both A & B

**Ans: (d)**

- FASTag is an electronic toll collection system in India, operated by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI). It employs Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for

making toll payments directly from the prepaid or savings account linked to it or directly toll owner.

- Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL) (a company incorporated by National Highways Authority of India) and National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) are implementing this program with help from Toll Plaza Concessionaires, FASTag Issuer Agencies and Toll Transaction Acquirer (select banks)

**33.** Consider the following statements

1. Future Skills programme aims to reskill 2 million professionals and students in the industry over a period of 5 years
2. TalentNext is an initiative of Infosys, which aims to enhance the quality of engineering education by preparing faculty and academic leaders to train students

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (a)**

- NASSCOM Future Skills was launched on 19th February 2018 in the presence of senior industry leaders and government officials.
- The programme aims to reskill 2 million professionals and potential employees & students in the industry over a period of 5 years.
- To do this, FutureSkills portal uses the technology of the future, to create a space where a learner can access content on all the skills of the future.
- A learner can seamlessly access free and paid content, assessments, virtual labs and get certified on the skills of their choice.
- Wipro has partnered with NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Services Companies) to launch a skilling platform called 'Future Skills' for 10,000 students from over 20 engineering colleges in India.
- This is a part of Wipro's Corporate Social Responsibility programme, TalentNext.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/21/future-skills/>

**34.** Recently *Nagpur Resolution* has been in news for sometimes is primarily related to

- (a) Improving Public Service Delivery and Role of Governments
- (b) Formation of the state of Maharashtra from contiguous Marathi-speaking areas
- (c) Adoption of Non-cooperation movement
- (d) None of the above

**Ans: (a)**

The 'Nagpur Resolution – A holistic approach for empowering citizens' has been adopted at the end of the Regional Conference on 'Improving Public Service Delivery – Role of Governments', held recently in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

- The Nagpur Pact was concluded between Indian political leaders on 28 September 1953. It led to the creation of the state of Maharashtra from contiguous Marathi-speaking areas of the then Bombay State, Madhya Pradesh State and Hyderabad state.
- People within the Congress were concerned about the proposals for pass the Non Cooperation Movement. They feared that the movement might lead to popular violence. In the months between September and December there was an intense tussle within the Congress. It was finally at the Congress session at Nagpur in December 1920, a compromise was worked out and the Non-Cooperation programme was adopted.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/23/nagpur-resolution-a-holistic-approach-for-empowering-citizens/>

35. Consider the following statements

1. Hunar Haats are organised by Ministry of tribal affairs
2. Hunar Haat is an exhibition of handicrafts and traditional products made by artisans from the Minority communities

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (b)**

- Hunar Haats are organised by Ministry of Minority Affairs under USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills & Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development) scheme.
- Hunar Haat is an exhibition of handicrafts and traditional products made by artisans from the Minority communities.

Refer: Facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/23/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-23-december-2019/>

36. With reference to Swadesh Darshan scheme, consider the following statements

1. It is a scheme of Ministry of Culture
2. The is a central sector scheme
3. The entire scheme is based on theme-based tourism

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (b)**

Swadesh Darshan scheme

- Tourism Ministry launched the scheme in 2015.
- 100% centrally funded for the project components undertaken for public funding.
- To leverage the voluntary funding available for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives of Central Public Sector Undertakings and corporate sector.
- Under the Scheme 15 circuits have been identified for development namely Himalayan Circuit, North East Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Buddhist Circuit and Coastal Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Tirthankar Circuit and Sufi Circuit.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/25/swadesh-darshan-scheme-5/>

37. Consider the following statements with respect to Atal Bhujal Yojana (AJY)

1. It is a Rs.6000 crore World Bank approved Centrally Sponsored Scheme
2. SJY aims to improve ground water management in priority areas in the country through community participation
3. The priority areas identified under the scheme fall in the states of Gujarat, Punjab, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (c)**

Atal Bhujal Yojana:

- It is a Rs.6000 crore World Bank approved Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The funding pattern is 50:50 between Government of India and World Bank.
- Aims to improve ground water management in priority areas in the country through community participation.
- The priority areas identified under the scheme fall in the states of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/25/atal-bhujal-yojana-ajy/>

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

1. It is an initiative by NITI Aayog
2. JJM which aims at providing Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household by 2024 at an expected cost of Rs 3.6 lakh crore will cover over 81% rural households.
3. For the implementation of JJM, National Jal Jeevan Mission at the Central level, State Water and Sanitation Mission (SWSM) at State level and District Water and Sanitation Mission (DWSM) at district level are the institutional arrangement has been proposed

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (b)**

Jal Jeevan Mission (Ministry of Jal Shakti)

- The chief objective of the Mission is to provide piped water supply (Har Ghar Jal) to all rural and urban households by 2024.
- It also aims to create local infrastructure for rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household waste water for reuse in agriculture.
- The Mission will converge with other Central and State Government Schemes to achieve its objectives of sustainable water supply management across the country.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/26/jal-jeevan-mission-2/>

**39.** Recently Eat Right India movement has been in news for sometimes, is launched by

- (a) National Institution for Transforming India
- (b) Ministry of Consumer affairs
- (c) National Institute of Nutrition
- (d) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

**Ans: (d)**

- Eat Right India' movement: Launched by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- Aim: to usher in a 'new food culture' by nudging businesses and consumers to adopt safe, healthy and sustainable food practices and habits

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/27/what-is-eat-right-mela/>

40. Recently a document which food and beverages giant PepsiCo India cited to support its charges against Gujarat potato farmers earlier this year is being revised by the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority (PPV&FRA). In the context of this, consider the following statements
1. The Intellectual Property Right granted under PPV & FR Act, 2001 is a dual right i.e one is for the variety and the other is for the denomination assigned to it by the breeder
  2. Rights granted under this Act are not heritable and assignable and only registration of a plant variety confers the right
  3. Farmers are entitled to save, sow, re-sow or sell their farm produce including seed of a registered variety in an unbranded manner

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (a)**

The PPV&FR Act, 2001 was enacted to grant intellectual property rights to plant breeders, researchers and farmers who have developed any new or extant plant varieties.

- The Intellectual Property Right granted under PPV & FR Act, 2001 is a dual right – one is for the variety and the other is for the denomination assigned to it by the breeder.
- The rights granted under this Act are heritable and assignable and only registration of a plant variety confers the right.
- Essentially Derived Varieties (EDV) can also be registered under this Act and it may be new or extant. Farmers are entitled to save, use, sow, re-sow, exchange or sell their farm produce including seed of a registered variety in an unbranded manner.
- Farmers' varieties are eligible for registration and farmers are totally exempted from payment of any fee in any proceedings under this Act.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/27/protection-of-plant-varieties-and-farmers-rights-authority-ppvfr/>

41. Consider the following statements regarding NITI aayog
1. It was established in 2015, to replace the Planning Commission
  2. Its governing council consist of all chief ministers of state and Lt Governors
  3. Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital (SATH) is an initiative of NITI

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (d)**

National Institution for Transforming India is a policy think tank of the Government of India, established with the aim to achieve sustainable development goals with cooperative federalism by fostering the involvement of State Governments of India in the economic policy-making process using a bottom-up approach.

- It was established in 2015, by the NDA government, to replace the Planning Commission which followed a top-down model.
- The NITI Aayog council comprises all the state Chief Ministers, along with the Chief Ministers of Delhi and Puducherry, the Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar, and a vice chairman nominated by the Prime Minister.
- In addition, temporary members are selected from leading universities and research institutions. These members include a chief executive officer, four ex-official members and two part-time members.

NITI's various initiatives

- Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital (SATH)
- Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat
- Development Support Services to States (DSSS)
- Public-Private Partnership in Health
- Aspirational District Programme (ADP)
- Atal Innovation Mission

**42.** Which of the following scheme is/are not falls under the definition of core of the core of the centrally sponsored schemes?

1. National River Conservation Plan
2. MGNREGA
3. National Social Assistance Program
4. Umbrella Scheme for SC

Select the correct answer using the code below

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

**Ans: (a)**

- Core of the Core Schemes Focus of CSSs should be on schemes that comprise the National Development Agenda where the Centre and States will work together in the spirit of Team India.

Name of the Core of the Core Schemes:

1. National Social Assistance Programme
2. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme
3. Umbrella Scheme for Development of Scheduled Castes
4. Umbrella Scheme for Development of Scheduled Tribes
5. Umbrella Programme for Development of Minorities
6. Umbrella Scheme for Development of Backward Classes, Differently Abled and other Vulnerable Groups

**43.** Consider the following statements

1. Ration cards are issued by state governments to households that are eligible to purchase subsidized food grain from the Public Distribution System
2. Priority ration cards are issued to households that meet the eligibility criteria set by their state government.
3. Under one nation one card scheme, migrant citizen will be allowed to buy maximum of 50% of the family quota

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (d)**

Ration cards are an official document issued by state governments in India to households that are eligible to purchase subsidized food grain from the Public Distribution System (under the National Food Security Act). They also serve as a common form of identification for many Indians.

- Under the National Food Security Act, all state governments in India have to identify households that are eligible for purchasing subsidized food grain from the Public Distribution System and provide them with ration cards. There are two types of ration cards under NFSA:
- Priority ration card – priority ration cards are issued to households that meet the eligibility criteria set by their state government. Each priority household is entitled to 5 kilograms of food grain per member.
- Antyodaya (AAY) ration cards are issued to “poorest of poor” households. Each AAY household is entitled to 35 kilograms of food grain.
- One Nation One Ration Card (RC) will ensure all beneficiaries especially migrants can access PDS across the nation from any PDS shop of their own choice.
- Ration card Aadhar linkage is must to access the scheme
- A migrant will be allowed to buy maximum of 50% of the family quota.
- Benefits: no poor person is deprived of getting subsidised foodgrains under the food security scheme when they shift from one place to another. It also aims to remove the chance of anyone holding more than one ration card to avail benefits from different states.
- Significance: This will provide freedom to the beneficiaries as they will not be tied to any one PDS shop and reduce their dependence on shop owners and curtail instances of corruption.

44. Recently Rakesh Mohan committee and the Bibek Debroy panel has been in news for sometimes, is primarily related to
- (a) Restructuring of debt ridden Air India
  - (b) Economic Capital Framework of RBI
  - (c) Financial Decentralisation
  - (d) Reforms in Indian Railways

**Ans: (d)**

Bibek Debroy panel

**Improving Finances**  
Must focus on remunerative freight segment and e-commerce segment

**Leasing of parcel vans** in trains through auction of carrying capacity/private parcel trains and concessioning of train services

Must encourage **on-board catering** through food chains & local restaurants on **payment of modest license fee**

**Separate activities** such as running of hospitals, schools, catering, security, real estate devpt, manufacturing of locomotives, coaches & wagons, **from core function of running trains**

**Security**  
State govts should be persuaded to bear entire cost of GRP and GMs/DRMs should have

**Accounting Reforms** | Set up responsive, transparent accounting and costing system

**Rationalizing Staff** | Amalgamate existing service into single unified railway service, OR second option is to create two sets of services to deal with technical and non-technical aspects

**Schools**  
Educational needs of children of railway employees could be met by **subsidizing their education in alternative schools, including KVs and private schools**

**Hospitals**  
➤ Give GMs/DRMs & employees **choice** to opt for services such as **medical tests, pre-employment exam, safe water & food supply** at stations either through Indian Railway Medical Services or private empanelled practitioners  
➤ For preventive & curative healthcare, choice may be **extended to CGHS framework; subsidized healthcare in**

**Reforms report by an eight-member panel, headed by economist Bibek Debroy**

**Committee set up in Sept 2014 when Sadananda Gowda was rail mantri**

**Gowda felt Railway Board had become unwieldy**

Rakesh Mohan Committee Recommendations

- The committee is headed by Rakesh Mohan who was the Chief Economic Advisor to the prime minister of India
- End of the Railway Board and its replacement by an Indian Railways Executive Board (IREB) comprising members from the government, railways, private sector and academia.
- Privatisation of all railway production units manufacturing electric and diesel locos, coaches, wheel and axle workshops.

- End of railway budget
- Privatisation of maintenance work such as station sanitation, maintenance of railway tracks and railway buildings, electrical maintenance, maintenance of wagon cleaning, water supply to passengers, bed-roll supply in the trains, etc, and several day to day activities which are being done by regular railway employees in vital and non-vital services.
- The committee has also recommended that Indian Railways should end all concessions and social services provided to the public, such as concessions given to seasonal ticket-holders, senior citizens, those physically handicapped, students, children, artists, freedom fighters, etc. It has also suggested to stop issuing passes to retired railway employees.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/28/indian-railway-management-service-irms/>

**45.** With reference to Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY), Consider the following statements

1. It is a Pension Scheme exclusively for the senior citizens aged 60 years and above
2. The scheme is exempted from Service Tax/ GST
3. The Scheme is being implemented through PFRDA
4. In the Budget 2018-19, the maximum limit under PMVVY was doubled to ₹15 lakh per senior citizen

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (a)**

- The government has made Aadhaar mandatory for subscribers of the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY), a pension scheme for senior citizens.
- Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) is a Pension Scheme announced by the Government of India exclusively for the senior citizens aged 60 years and above
- In the Budget 2018-19, the maximum limit under PMVVY was doubled to ₹15 lakh per senior citizen
- The scheme, which envisages an assured rate of return of 8% annually, is being implemented through LIC
- The scheme is exempted from Service Tax/ GST.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/28/pradhan-mantri-vaya-vandan-yojana-pmvvy/>

**46.** With reference to PM – KISAN scheme, Consider the following statements:

1. It is an initiative by the GoI in which all small and marginal farmers will get up to ₹6,000 per year as minimum income support.
2. ₹6,000 per year will be paid to each eligible farmer in lump sum and will be deposited directly to their bank accounts.
3. It falls under the aegis of Union MoL&E.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (b)**

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi is an initiative by the government of India in which all small and marginal farmers will get up to ₹6,000 per year as minimum income support.

- ₹6,000 per year will be paid to each eligible farmer in three instalments and will be deposited directly to their bank accounts
- It falls under the aegis of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/01/01/pm-kisan-scheme-5/>

**47.** Consider the following statements about National Infrastructure Pipeline:

1. National Infrastructure Pipeline will ensure that infrastructure projects are adequately prepared and launched.
2. Regulation and monitoring will be under the sole prerogative of Ministry of Finance
3. Central government and state governments have an equal share of 50% each in the NIP

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (a)**

- It is estimated that India would need to spend \$4.5 trillion on infrastructure by 2030 to sustain its growth rate. The endeavour of the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP), is to make this happen in an efficient manner.
- Funding: The central government and state governments would have an equal share of 39% each in the NIP. The private sector, on the other hand, would have 22% share which the government expects to increase to 30% by 2025.
- National Infrastructure Pipeline will ensure that infrastructure projects are adequately prepared and launched.
- Each Ministry/ Department would be responsible for the monitoring of projects so as to ensure their timely and within-cost implementation.
- It will help in stepping-up annual infrastructure investment to achieve the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$5 trillion by 2024-25.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/01/01/national-infrastructure-pipeline-2/>

### III. ECONOMY

1. Consider the following statements

1. Bharat Bond ETF is the India's first corporate bond exchange traded fund
2. Bharat Bond will have a fixed maturity of three and ten years and will trade on the stock exchanges
3. For Bharat Bond, index will be constructed by an independent index provider, National Stock Exchange

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (c)**

Explanation: Key features of Bharat Bond ETF:

- It is a basket of bonds issued by central public sector enterprises/undertakings or any other government organization bonds.
- It will have a fixed maturity of three and ten years and will trade on the stock exchanges.
- It will invest in a portfolio of bonds of state-run companies and other government entities.
- It will track an underlying index on risk replication basis, matching credit quality and average maturity of the index.
- The index will be constructed by an independent index provider, National Stock Exchange.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/05/bharat-bond-etf/>

2. Which of the following is the correct criteria was used to define Fugitive Economic Offender under FEO Act?

- (a) Economic offences involving at least Rs. 1500 crore or more
- (b) Economic offences involving at least Rs. 1000 crore or more
- (c) Economic offences involving at least Rs. 500 crore or more
- (d) Economic offences involving at least Rs. 100 crore or more

**Ans: (d)**

- A person can be named an offender under the law if there is an arrest warrant against him or her for involvement in economic offences involving at least 100 crore or more and has fled from India to escape legal action.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/06/fugitive-economic-offender-2/>

3. Consider the following statements about small finance banks

1. Can accept deposits, but only up to 1 lakh per individual customer
2. Allowed to issue ATM or debit cards
3. Can provide remittance services but not credit services

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (b)**

- Payment Banks Vs Small Finance Banks

## GOING FURTHER AFIELD

While some services offered by payments banks and small finance banks will be similar, there are some key differences. Here is a look at what they will offer.

PAYMENTS BANK	SMALL FINANCE BANK
• Can accept deposits, but only up to ₹1 lakh per individual customer	• Allowed to take deposits of any amount
• Can't lend in any form	• Can lend but the focus will be on small lending
• Can open small savings accounts	• Can finance small business units, small and marginal farmers, micro and small industries and unorganised sector entities
• Can provide remittance services	• Can provide remittances as well as credit cards
• Allowed to issue automated teller machine (ATM) or debit cards	• Allowed to issue ATM or debit cards
• Not allowed to issue credit cards	• Has to ensure that 50% of loan portfolio constitutes advances of up to ₹25 lakh
• Can distribute products such as mutual funds, insurance and third-party loans	• Can distribute financial products such as mutual funds, insurance and pension

Source: RBI website

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/06/rbi-guidelines-for-payments-banks-sfb-licence/>

4. With reference to National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), consider the following statements
1. It is India's first sovereign wealth fund
  2. Objective behind creating this fund was to maximize economic impact mainly through infrastructure investment in commercially viable projects, both Greenfield and Brownfield
  3. NIIF manages three funds: Master Fund, Fund of Funds and Strategic Fund

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 2
- (d) All of the above

**Ans: (d)**

- National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) is India's first sovereign wealth fund that was set up by the Government of India in February 2015.
- The objective behind creating this fund was to maximize economic impact mainly through infrastructure investment in commercially viable projects, both Greenfield and Brownfield.
- NIIF manages three funds: Master Fund, Fund of Funds and Strategic Fund. The funds were set up to make infrastructure investments in India by raising capital from domestic and international institutional investors.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/06/national-investment-and-infrastructure-fund-niif/>

5. The Reserve Bank of India's recent directives relating to 'Storage of Payment System Data', popularly known as data diktat, command the payment system providers that
1. They shall ensure that entire data relating to payment systems operated by them are stored in a system only in India
  2. They shall ensure that the systems are owned and operated by public sector enterprises

3. They shall submit the consolidated system audit report to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India by the end of the calendar year

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (a)**

The Reserve Banks directive related to Storage of Payment System Data provides that:

- All system providers shall ensure that the entire data relating to payment systems operated by them are stored in a system only in India. This data should include the full end-to-end transaction details / information collected / carried / processed as part of the message / payment instruction. For the foreign leg of the transaction, if any, the data can also be stored in the foreign country, if required.
- System providers shall ensure compliance of (i) above within a period of six months and report compliance of the same to the Reserve Bank latest by October 15, 2018.
- System providers shall submit the System Audit Report (SAR) on completion of the requirement at (i) above. The audit should be conducted by CERT-IN empaneled auditors certifying completion of activity at (i) above. The SAR duly approved by the Board of the system providers should be submitted to the Reserve Bank not later than December 31, 2018.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/07/data-protection-bill/>

6. Which of the following is/are services provided by International Financial Services Centres (IFSC)?
  1. Fund-raising services for individuals, corporations and governments
  2. Risk management operations such as insurance and reinsurance
  3. Cross border insolvency
  4. Risk management operations such as insurance and reinsurance

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 2, 3 and 4
- (c) 1, 2 and 4
- (d) All of the above

**Ans: (c)**

What are the services an IFSC can provide?

- Fund-raising services for individuals, corporations and governments.
- Asset management and global portfolio diversification undertaken by pension funds, insurance companies and mutual funds.
- Wealth management.
- Global tax management and cross-border tax liability optimization, which provides a business opportunity for financial intermediaries, accountants and law firms.
- Global and regional corporate treasury management operations that involve fund-raising, liquidity investment and management and asset-liability matching.
- Risk management operations such as insurance and reinsurance.
- Merger and acquisition activities among trans-national corporations.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/09/international-financial-services-centres-authority-bill-2019/>

7. With reference to Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in India, consider the following statements
  1. The developer submits the proposal for establishment of SEZ to the concerned State Government

2. The Board of Approval has been constituted by the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred under the SEZ Act
3. The functioning of the SEZs is governed by a three tier administrative set up

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (d)**

THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONES ACT, 2005 to provide for the establishment, development and management of the Special Economic Zones for the promotion of exports and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The main objectives of the SEZ Act are:

- generation of additional economic activity
- promotion of exports of goods and services
- promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources
- creation of employment opportunities
- development of infrastructure facilities

The SEZ Act 2005 envisages key role for the State Governments in Export Promotion and creation of related infrastructure. A Single Window SEZ approval mechanism has been provided through a 19 member inter-ministerial SEZ Board of Approval (BoA). The applications duly recommended by the respective State Governments/UT Administration are considered by this BoA periodically. All decisions of the Board of approvals are with consensus.

Approval mechanism

- The developer submits the proposal for establishment of SEZ to the concerned State Government. The State Government has to forward the proposal with its recommendation within 45 days from the date of receipt of such proposal to the Board of Approval. The applicant also has the option to submit the proposal directly to the Board of Approval.
- The Board of Approval has been constituted by the Central Government in exercise of the powers conferred under the SEZ Act. All the decisions are taken in the Board of Approval by consensus.

Administrative set up

- The functioning of the SEZs is governed by a three tier administrative set up. The Board of Approval is the apex body and is headed by the Secretary, Department of Commerce. The Approval Committee at the Zone level deals with approval of units in the SEZs and other related issues. Each Zone is headed by a Development Commissioner, who is ex-officio chairperson of the Approval Committee.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/09/international-financial-services-centres-authority-bill-2019/>

8. Consider the following statements about the Bharat 22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF).
1. The fund has been launched in pursuance of getting both domestic and Foreign Direct Investment in the better performing PSUs.
  2. The fund will be managed by the Reserve Bank of India.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) None of the above

**Ans: (d)**

- The government has announced the first Further Fund Offer (FFO) of Bharat 22 Exchange Traded Fund (ETF). This is in pursuance of its disinvestment policy targeting an initial amount of Rs.6000 crore.
- Bharat 22 consists of 22 stocks of CPSE's, PSB's & strategic holding of SUUTI. Bharat 22 is a well-Diversified portfolio with 6 sectors (Basic Materials, Energy, Finance, FMCG, and Industrials & Utilities).
- The Bharat 22 Index will be rebalanced annually. ICICI Prudential AMC will be the ETF Manager and Asia Index Private Limited (JV BSE and S& P Global) will be the Index Provider.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/05/bharat-bond-etf/>

**9.** Consider the following statements with respect to Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme

1. Partial Credit Guarantee Scheme Offered by GoI to only Public Sector Banks
2. Scheme was announced to address temporary liquidity/cash flow mismatch issues of otherwise solvent NBFCs/HFCs
3. Under the scheme, the power has been delegated to the RBI to extend the validity of the Scheme by up to three months taking into account its progress

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (d)**

- The Union Cabinet approved a partial credit guarantee scheme for public sector banks (PSBs) to purchase high-rated pooled assets from financially sound NBFCs and housing finance companies.
- PSBs can purchase high-rated pooled assets from financially sound Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)/Housing Finance Companies (HFCs), with the amount of overall guarantee provided by government till the first loss of up to 10 per cent of fair value of assets being purchased by banks or Rs 10,000 crore, whichever is lower.
- Power has been delegated to the Finance Minister to extend the validity of the Scheme by up to three months taking into account its progress

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/12/partial-credit-guarantee-scheme/>

**10.** Consider the following statements

1. Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvITs) enables direct investment of small amounts of money from possible investors in infrastructure to earn a small portion of the income as return.
2. InvITs work like mutual funds or real estate investment trusts (REITs) in features
3. Recently cabinet authorizes NHA to set up Infrastructure Investment Trust as per InvIT Guidelines issued by RBI

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (d)**

- An Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvITs) is like a mutual fund, which enables direct investment of small amounts of money from possible individual/institutional investors in infrastructure to earn a small portion of the income as return.
- InvITs work like mutual funds or real estate investment trusts (REITs) in features. InvITs can be treated as the modified version of REITs designed to suit the specific circumstances of the infrastructure sector.

- Sebi notified the Sebi (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014 on September 26, 2014, providing for registration and regulation of InvITs in India. The objective of InvITs is to facilitate investment in the infrastructure sector.
- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will set up the Infrastructure Investment Trust(s) (InvIT) as per InvIT Guidelines issued by SEBI.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/12/infrastructure-investment-trust/>

**11.** Consider the following statements with respect to National Financial Reporting Authority:

1. The NFRA is to be an independent regulator overseeing the auditing profession, and its creation was first recommended by the Standing Committee on Finance in its 21st report
2. NFRA would cover all listed companies and large unlisted companies but smaller unlisted companies would continue to be audited by the ICAI

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (c)**

- The Union Cabinet on March 1 approved the creation of a National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), a big step forward in regulating the financial audit of large companies.
- The NFRA is to be an independent regulator overseeing the auditing profession, and its creation was first recommended by the Standing Committee on Finance in its 21st report.
- The Cabinet also approved the creation of the posts within the regulator — that of a chairman, three full-time members, and one secretary — though no decision has yet been taken on who will fill these posts.
- NFRA would cover all listed companies and large unlisted companies, the benchmark size for which would be set down in the rules. Smaller unlisted companies would continue to be audited by the ICAI. Adding to that centre could also refer other entities for investigation “where public interest would be involved.”

Refer: Facts For Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/13/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-13december-2019/>

**12.** Consider the following statements

1. NEFT is an electronic funds transfer system maintained by National Payment Corporation of India
2. NEFT enables bank customers in India to transfer funds between any two NEFT-enabled bank accounts on a one-to-one basis
3. Unlike Real-time gross settlement (RTGS), fund transfers through the NEFT system occur in real-time basis

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (d)**

NEFT is an electronic funds transfer system maintained by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- Started in November 2005, the setup was established and maintained by Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT).
- NEFT enables bank customers in India to transfer funds between any two NEFT-enabled bank accounts on a one-to-one basis.
- It is done via electronic messages.

- Unlike Real-time gross settlement (RTGS), fund transfers through the NEFT system do not occur in real-time basis.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/17/national-electronic-funds-transfer-neft/>

**13.** Consider the following statements with respect to National Payments Corporation of India

1. NPCI is a statutory body
2. Services provided by NPCI include National Common Mobility Card, Immediate Payment Service, National Automated Clearing House and National Electronic Toll Collection

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (b)**

The National Payments Corporation of India is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.

- Founded in 2008, the NPCI is a not-for-profit organisation registered under section 8 of the Companies Act 2013, established by Reserve Bank of India & IBA.
- The organisation is owned by a consortium of major banks, and has been promoted by the country's central bank, the Reserve Bank of India.
- The NPCI was incorporated in December 2008 and the Certificate of Commencement of Business was issued in April 2009.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2017/07/29/insights-daily-current-affairs-29-july-2017/>

**14.** With reference to Special Economic Zone (SEZ), consider the following statements

1. A Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is an area within a country where there are different trade and business laws from the remaining regions of the country
2. Most number of SEZs in India is in the state of Karnataka
3. Recently, Ministry of Commerce and Industry has notified setting up of Tripura's first ever Special Economic Zone (SEZ)

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 2
- (d) All of the above

**Ans: (a)**

A Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is an area within a country where there are different trade and business laws from the remaining regions of the country.

Main objectives of establishing SEZs are:

1. Generation of additional economic activity
2. Promotion of exports of both goods and services
3. Generation of employment opportunities
4. Promotion of investment from foreign as well as domestic players
5. Development of infrastructure facilities
6. Most number of SEZs in India is in the state of Tamil Nadu. Second is Telangana and Maharashtra comes in the third place.
7. And, recently the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has notified setting up of Tripura's first ever Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/20/tripura-gets-its-first-sez/>

15. Recently 'Operation Twist' has been in news for sometimes is primarily related to
- Banking operation
  - Primary Health Care
  - Education Reforms
  - Army Operations

**Ans: (a)**

- RBI to carry out US-style 'Operation Twist' to bring down interest rates.
- 'Operation Twist' is when the central bank uses the proceeds from sale of short-term securities to buy long-term government debt papers, leading to easing of interest rates on the long term papers.

Refer: Facts For Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/20/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-20-december-2019/>

16. Consider the following statements:

- The Reserve Bank of India manages and services Government of India Securities but not any State Government Securities.
- Treasury bills are issued by the Government of India and there are no treasury bills issued by the State Governments.
- Treasury bills offer are issued at a discount from the par value.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 3 Only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (c)**

A Government Security (G-Sec) is a tradable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments. It acknowledges the Government's debt obligation. Such securities are short term (usually called treasury bills, with original maturities of less than one year) or long term (usually called Government bonds or dated securities with original maturity of one year or more).

- G-Secs are issued through auctions conducted by RBI.
- Floation of State Government Loans (State Development Loans): As per the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the RBI may, by agreement with any State Government undertake the management of the public debt of that State.
- Accordingly, the RBI has entered into agreements with 29 State Governments and one Union Territory (UT of Puducherry) for management of their public debt.
- In India, the Central Government issues both, treasury bills and bonds or dated securities while the State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities, which are called the State Development Loans (SDLs). Treasury Bills (T-bills) Treasury bills or T-bills, which are money market instruments, are short term debt instruments issued by the Government of India and are presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91 day, 182 day and 3.64 day.

Treasury bills are zero coupon securities and pay no interest. They are issued at a discount and redeemed at the face value at maturity

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/24/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-24-december-2019/>

17. Which of the following is the RBI's Qualitative instrument of credit control?

- (a) Open Market Operations
- (b) Bank Rate Policy
- (c) Cash Reserve Ratio
- (d) Moral Suasion

**Ans: (d)**

The quantitative measures of credit control are:

- 1. Bank Rate Policy:
- 2. Open Market Operations:
- 3. Cash Reserve Ratio
- 4. Statutory Liquidity Ratio

The qualitative measures of credit control are:

- 1. Consumer Credit Regulation
- 2. RBI guidelines to the banks.
- 3. Rationing of credit
- 4. Moral Suasion
- 5. Direct Action by the RBI

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/24/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-24-december-2019/>

18. Recently Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) has been in news for sometimes, is an initiative of

- (a) OPEC
- (b) G4
- (c) IMF
- (d) None of the above

**Ans: (d)**

- Base Erosion and Profit Shifting Project (or BEPS Project) is an OECD/G20 project to set up an international framework to combat tax avoidance by multinational enterprises ("MNEs") using base erosion and profit shifting tools

19. Consider the following statements about Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (DICGC)

- 1. Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India
- 2. Currently, A maximum of ₹1,00,000 is insured for each user for both principal and interest amount
- 3. DICGC insures all bank deposits by individual except deposits of Central/State governments

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (d)**

- Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India.

It was established on 15 July 1978 under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961 for the purpose of providing insurance of deposits and guaranteeing of credit facilities.

DICGC insures all bank deposits, such as saving, fixed, current, recurring deposit for up to the limit of Rs. 100,000 of each deposits in a bank, except the following types of deposits.

1. Deposits of foreign Governments;
2. Deposits of Central/State Governments;
3. Inter-bank deposits
4. Deposits of the State Land Development Banks with the State co-operative banks;
5. Any amount due on account of and deposit received outside India
6. Any amount which has been specifically exempted by the corporation with the previous approval of the RBI.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/30/what-is-deposit-insurance-2/>

20. Recently eBkry portal is launched, it is an initiative of

- (a) MoF
- (b) RBI
- (c) MHRD
- (d) MoC&I

**Ans: (a)**

- Union Finance Ministry has recently launched the eBkry e-auction portal.
- Obj: To enable online auction by banks of attached assets transparently and cleanly for the improved realization of value.

Refer: Facts For Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/30/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-30-december-2019/>

21. Which one of the following best describes the term “Merchant Discount Rate” sometimes seen in news?

- (a) The incentive given by a bank to a merchant for accepting payments through debit cards pertaining to that bank.
- (b) The amount paid back by banks to their customers when they use debit cards for financial transactions for purchasing goods or services.
- (c) The charge to a merchant by a bank for accepting payments from his customers through the bank’s debit cards.
- (d) The incentive given by the Government to merchants for promoting digital payments by their customers through Point of Sale (PoS) machines and debit cards.

**Ans: (c)**

“Merchant Discount Rate”

- It is a fee charged from a merchant by a bank for accepting payments from customers through credit and debit cards in their establishments.
- MDR compensates the card issuing bank, the lender which puts the PoS terminal and payment gateways such as Mastercard or Visa for their services.
- MDR charges are usually shared in pre-agreed proportion between the bank and a merchant and is expressed in percentage of transaction amount
- From January onwards, all companies with a turnover of Rs 50 crore or more need to provide the facility of payment through RuPay Debit card and UPI QR code to their customers, under which no MDR fee will be charged from customers as well as merchants

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/01/01/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-01-january-2020/>

## IV. GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT

1. Consider the following statements

1. Operation Clean Art to crackdown illegal trade in mongoose hair
2. Operation Clean Art was first conceived by WWF-India
3. Mongoose is listed in schedule II Part 1 of the WPA, 1972

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (a)**

- Operation Clean Art was the first pan India operation to crack down on the smuggling of mongoose hair in the country.
- It was conceived by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)
- It is a statutory body established by the Government of India under the MoEFCC to combat organised wildlife crime.
- The Wild Life Amendment Act, 2006 provisions came in to force on 4 September 2006.
- It became operational in the year 2008



Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/02/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-02-december-2019/>

2. Consider the following statements

1. Chandrabhaga beach of Odisha is Asia's first to get 'Blue Flag' tag
2. Blue Flag Programme for beaches and marinas is run by the international, non-governmental, non-profit organization – FEE
3. MoEFCC has made mandatory for all beaches in the country to get 'Blue Flag' Certification

Which of the given above statements is/are **not** correct?

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

**Ans: (c)**

Explanation: Here directive word is not correct!!

- The MoEFCC has embarked upon a programme for 'Blue Flag' Certification for select beaches in the country.
- Chandrabhaga beach of Odisha's Konark coast was the first to complete the tag certification process will be the first in Asia to get the Blue Flag certification.
- The Blue Flag Programme for beaches and marinas is run by the international, non-governmental, non-profit organisation FEE (the Foundation for Environmental Education).

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/03/blue-flag-programme/>

3. Which of the following is/are primarily refers to Shamlat land?

- (a) The land left out of cultivation for a definite period of time to restore its fertility
- (b) Any land which is left fallow (uncultivated) for more than five years
- (c) The physical extent of land on which crops are sown and harvested
- (d) Land does not come under habitation and cultivation

**Ans: (d)**

- Shamlat land is the one which does not come under habitation and cultivation and is considered as Jumla Mushtarka (consolidation of land holdings for common use) in official parlance.

The land-use categories as maintained in the Land Revenue Records are as follows :

- Barren and Wastelands : The land which may be classified as a wasteland such as barren hilly terrains, desert lands, ravines, etc. normally cannot be brought under cultivation with the available technology
- Culturable Waste-Land: Any land which is left fallow (uncultivated) for more than five years is included in this category. It can be brought under cultivation after improving it through reclamation practices
- Net Area Sown: The physical extent of land on which crops are sown and harvested is known as net sown area
- Fallow Land: The land left out of cultivation for a definite period of time to restore its fertility

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/04/punjab-to-create-land-banks-in-rural-areas/>

4. With reference to Global Carbon Project, consider the following statements

1. GCP is a Global Research Project of Future Earth and a research partner of the world meteorological organization
2. The project is primarily funded by Global Environment facility
3. Its projects include global budgets for three dominant greenhouse gases — CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, and nitrous oxide

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (a)**

Global Carbon Project

- It is a Global Research Project of Future Earth and a research partner of the World Climate Research Programme.
- Formed in 2001 to help the international science community to establish a common, mutually agreed knowledge base that supports policy debate and action to slow the rate of increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

- Its projects include global budgets for three dominant greenhouse gases — CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, and nitrous oxide — and complementary efforts in urban, regional, cumulative, and negative emissions.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/05/global-carbon-project-2/>

5. Which of the following organization has started an initiative for the identification and the dynamic conservation of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage systems (GIAHS) in 2002.

- (a) UNDP
- (b) UNEP
- (c) FAO
- (d) Wetland International

**Ans: (c)**

- In order to safeguard and support the world's agri-cultural heritage systems, FAO started an initiative for the identification and the dynamic conservation of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage systems (GIAHS) in 2002.
- There are three regions of India, which has been recognised as the Global Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) cities in India: Koraput, Odisha State; Kashmir Valley, Pampore region; and Kuttanad below-sea-level farming system.

6. Recently Adaptation fund has been in news for sometimes is established under

- (a) Kyoto Protocol of UNFCCC
- (b) Montreal Protocol
- (c) Cancun Protocol of UNFCCC
- (d) None of the above

**Ans: (a)**

What is Adaptation fund?

- Established under the Kyoto Protocol of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- It finances projects and programmes that help vulnerable communities in developing countries adapt to climate change.
- Initiatives are based on country needs, views and priorities.
- The Montreal Protocol, finalized in 1987, is a global agreement to protect the stratospheric ozone layer by phasing out the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS).

The Cancun Agreements were a set of significant decisions by the international community to address the long-term challenge of climate change collectively and comprehensively over time, and to take concrete action immediately to speed up the global response to it. Among the highlights, Parties agreed:

- to commit to a maximum temperature rise of 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and to consider lowering that maximum to 1.5 degrees in the near future.
- to make fully operational by 2012 a technology mechanism to boost the innovation, development and spread of new climate-friendly technologies;
- to establish a Green Climate Fund to provide financing to projects, programmes, policies and other activities in developing countries via thematic funding windows;
- on the Cancun Adaptation Framework, which included setting up an Adaptation Committee to promote the implementation of stronger, cohesive action on adaptation.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/07/adaptation-fund/>

7. Which of the following statements is/are **not** correct regarding working of National Human Rights Commission?

1. NHRC has got the right to punish the people found guilty of violation of Human Rights.
2. The recommendations of NHRC are binding on the Government.

Select the correct answer using the below code:

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

**Ans: (c)**

Explanation: Incorrect options have been asked!!

The commission may take any of the following steps during or after the completion of an inquiry –

- it may recommend payment of compensation to victims, to concerned government or authority;
- it may recommend to initiate proceedings for prosecution or any other action against the guilty public servant, to the concerned government or authority;
- it may recommend to the concerned government or authority for the grant of immediate interim relief to the victim;
- it may approach the Supreme Court or the concerned high court for the necessary directions, orders or writs.

Role of the Commission –

- The functions of the commission are mainly recommendatory.
- It cannot punish the violators of human rights, nor to award any relief including monetary relief to the victim.
- Its recommendations are not binding on the concerned government or authority.
- But, it should be informed about the action taken on its recommendations within one month.
- The National Commission has limited powers with respect to the violation of human rights by the members of the armed forces.
- In this sphere, the commission may make its recommendations.
- The Central Government should inform the commission of the action taken on the recommendations within three months.
- The National Commission submit its annual or special reports to the Central government and to the State Government concerned.
- The State Commission submits it to the State Government.

Refer: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/nhrc-team-grills-8-cops-involved-in-shootout/articleshow/72463631.cms>

8. Which of the following states was the first to establish the institution of Lokayukta?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Kerala

**Ans: (a)**

- Maharashtra established the system of Lokayukta in 1971 through 'The Lokayukta and Upa-Lokayuktas Act', and the institutions of the Lokayukta and Uplokayukta came into existence on October 25, 1972

9. The expression 'district judge' in the Constitution of India, does **not** include

- (a) Tribunal judge
- (b) Chief judge of a small cause court
- (c) Session judge
- (d) Chief Presidency magistrate

**Ans: (a)**

- The expression 'district judge' includes judge of a city civil court, additional district judge, joint district judge, assistant district judge, chief judge of a small cause court, chief presidency magistrate, additional chief presidency magistrate, sessions judge, additional sessions judge and assistant sessions judge.
- The expression 'judicial service' means a service consisting exclusively of persons intended to fill the post of district judge and other civil judicial posts inferior to the post of district judge.

10. Green good deeds campaign has been launched by

- (a) UN secretariat
- (b) UNEP
- (c) UNFCC
- (d) None of the above

**Ans: (d)**

- The campaign has been launched by the Environment Ministry.
- Aim: To sensitise the people and students, in particular, about climate change and global warming. The objective of the campaign is to restore and return the clean and green environment to the next generation.

11. With reference to Rare Earth Metals, Consider the following statements

1. The rare earth elements are all metals
2. Scandium is found in most rare earth element deposits and is sometimes classified as a rare earth element
3. In India, monazite is the principal source of rare earths and thorium

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (d)**

- The rare earth elements are all metals, and the group is often referred to as the "rare earth metals." These metals have many similar properties, and that often causes them to be found together in geologic deposits. They are also referred to as "rare earth oxides" because many of them are typically sold as oxide compounds.
- Scandium, a silvery-white metal, is a non-lanthanide rare earth. It is used in many popular consumer products, such as televisions and fluorescent or energy-saving lamps. In industry, the primary use of scandium is to strengthen metal compounds. The only concentrated sources of scandium currently known are in rare minerals such as thortveitite, euxenite, and gadolinite from Scandinavia and Madagascar.
- India's current rare earths production industry is far below its potential. The country holds almost 35 percent of the world's total beach sand mineral deposits, which are significant sources of rare earths
- In India, monazite is the principal source of rare earths and thorium.

**Table – 1: Resources of Monazite**

(In million tonnes)

State	Resources*
<b>All India</b>	<b>11.935</b>
Andhra Pradesh	3.72
Gujarat	0.003
Jharkhand	0.22
Kerala	1.90
Maharashtra	0.002
Odisha	2.41
Tamil Nadu	2.46
West Bengal	1.22

*Source: Department of Atomic Energy, Mumbai.*

*\*Inclusive of indicated, inferred and speculative categories.*

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/13/rare-earth-elements/>

**12.** Consider the following statements

1. IUCN is an international organization working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
2. IUCN has observer and consultative status at the United Nations
3. IUCN was involved in establishing the World Wide Fund for Nature and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (d)**

- IUCN was established in 1948. It was previously called the International Union for the Protection of Nature (1948–1956) and the World Conservation Union (1990–2008). It is an international organization working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
- IUCN’s mission is to “influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable”.
- IUCN has observer and consultative status at the United Nations and plays a role in the implementation of several international conventions on nature conservation and biodiversity.
- It was involved in establishing the World Wide Fund for Nature and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/13/iucn-red-list-of-threatened-species-3/>

13. With reference to International Geological Congress (IGC), Consider the following statements

1. India is the only Asian country to host the event twice
2. Geological Survey of India is the nodal agency for organizing the event

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (c)**

International Geological Congress (IGC)

- Popularly described as the Olympics of Geosciences.
- It is a global geoscientific events held once in four years and participated by around 5000-6000 geoscientists from all across the world.
- India is the only Asian country to host the event twice. In 1964, India had hosted it for the first time, which was the 22nd IGC.
- Geological Survey of India is the nodal agency for organizing the event

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/14/international-geological-congress/>

14. For the first time, Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) was defined under

- (a) Kyoto Protocol
- (b) Montreal Protocol
- (c) Cancun Summit
- (d) Paris Summit

**Ans: (a)**

- The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) refers to a market mechanism for achieving greenhouse gas emissions reduction and is defined in Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol – an international treaty for emissions reductions.

15. Which of the following is/ are endangered according to IUCN?

1. Dolphin
2. Tiger
3. Asian elephant

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Ans: (d)**

- All of the given options are categorised as 'Endangered' on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/17/project-dolphin/>

16. Which of the following is the largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world?

- (a) China
- (b) USA
- (c) India
- (d) Russia

**Ans: (a)**

- China was the largest emitter of carbon dioxide; the country accounted for around 27.5 percent of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that year

17. These are large, terrestrial birds that belong to several species, including some of the largest flying birds. These lives in arid climates, comes in two distinct species as recognised by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, one residing in North Africa (*Chlamydotis undulata*) and the other in Asia (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*). Also its population extends from northeast Asia, across central Asia, the Middle East, and the Arabian Peninsula to reach the Sinai desert.

The above passage referring to which of the following bird species?

- (a) Great Indian bustard
- (b) Houbara bustard
- (c) White-bellied bustard
- (d) Little brown bustard

**Ans: (b)**

- Pakistan has issued special permits to the Emir of Qatar and nine other members of the royal family to hunt the houbara bustard, an internationally protected bird species.
- The houbara bustard, which lives in arid climates, comes in two distinct species as recognised by the IUCN, one residing in North Africa (*Chlamydotis undulata*) and the other in Asia (*Chlamydotis macqueenii*).

Refer: Facts For Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/19/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-19-december-2019/>

18. Recently EChO Network has been in news for sometimes is primarily related to
- (a) A new training program improve digital literacy
  - (b) Network of Employers for the development of global science
  - (c) Interdisciplinary Training Program in ecology and environment
  - (d) None of the above

**Ans: (c)**

- Indian Government has launched a network to encourage cross-disciplinary leadership- Called EChO Network.
- Aim: To identify gaps in knowledge regarding environment and then train postdoctoral leaders in research and outreach on these topics, incorporating current public and private efforts.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/21/echo-network/>

19. Recently LULUCF has been mentioned in media repeatedly is primarily related to
- (a) Forestry and other land use
  - (b) Interplanetary space object
  - (c) Crypto currency
  - (d) Endangered Tribal language

**Ans: (a)**

- Land use, land-use change, and forestry (LULUCF), also referred to as Forestry and other land use (FOLU), is defined by the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat as a “greenhouse gas inventory sector that covers emissions and removals of greenhouse gases resulting from

direct human-induced land use such as settlements and commercial uses, land-use change, and forestry activities

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/21/european-green-deal/>

20. Consider the following statements

1. Winter Solstice occurs when one of the Earth's poles has its maximum tilt away from the Sun
2. The seasonal significance of the winter solstice is in the reversal of the gradual lengthening of nights and shortening of days
3. At the winter solstice the Sun travels the shortest path through the sky, and that day therefore has the least daylight and the longest night

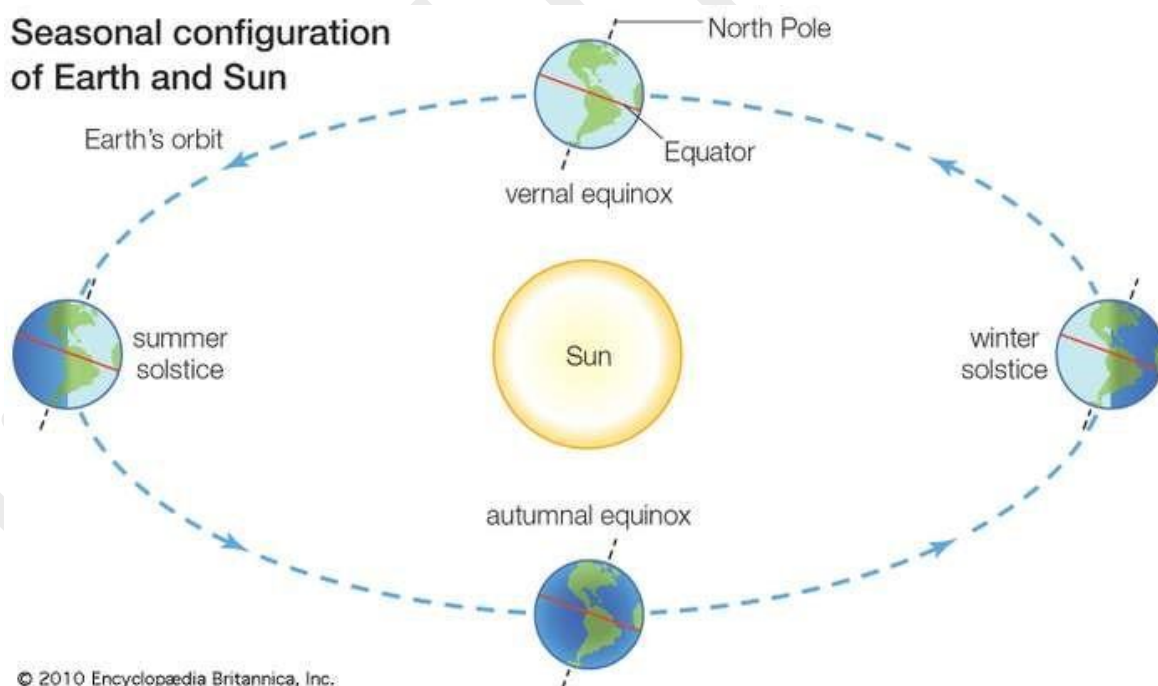
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (d)**

- The winter solstice occurs when one of the Earth's poles has its maximum tilt away from the Sun.
- It happens twice yearly, once in each hemisphere (Northern and Southern). For that hemisphere, the winter solstice is the day with the shortest period of daylight and longest night of the year, when the Sun is at its lowest daily maximum elevation in the sky. At the pole, there is continuous darkness or twilight around the winter solstice. Its opposite is the summer solstice.
- The seasonal significance of the winter solstice is in the reversal of the gradual lengthening of nights and shortening of days.

### Seasonal configuration of Earth and Sun



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Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/23/winter-solstice-2019/>

21. Consider the following statements

1. Ecoclubs are launched under the scheme of National clean air program
2. National green corps (NGC) is the youth wing of Armed Forces with its Headquarters at New Delhi

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (d)**

- National Green Corps is a programme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests of Government of India covering around 1,20,000 schools in India with NGC School Eco Clubs. Environmental activity in schools in India is promoted through the National Green Corps.
- Launched under the Environment Education Awareness and Training (EEAT), the National Green Corps (NGC) popularly known as “a programme of Ecoclubs” is a nationwide initiative of the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India (now Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change).

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/24/national-green-corps-ecoclub/>

**22.** Recently GOI decided to accede to the Hong Kong International Convention for safe and environmentally sound recycling of Ships, 2009. The convention adopted under the aegis of

- (a) International sea bed authority
- (b) International maritime organisation
- (c) World shipping council
- (d) International transport forum

**Ans: (b)**

The Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009 (the Hong Kong Convention), was adopted at a diplomatic conference held in Hong Kong, China in 2009.

- It was adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 2009.
- The Convention is aimed at ensuring that ships, when being recycled after reaching the end of their operational lives, do not pose any unnecessary risks to human health, safety and to the environment.
- It also addresses concerns raised about the working and environmental conditions at many of the world’s ship recycling locations.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/26/recycling-of-ships-act/>

**23.** Consider the following statements

1. Procacra picticaudata is endemic to the Western Ghat
2. Procacra picticaudata species categorised as vulnerable under IUCN Red list

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (d)**

- The Tibetan gazelle Procacra picticaudata is endemic to the Tibetan plateau, and given its wide distribution across Tibet, Ladakh, and parts of Sikkim, the species was of little conservation concern until recently.
- IUCN Status- Near Threatened.
- Their fur lacks an undercoat, consisting of long guard hairs only, and is notably thicker in winter.

24. Which of the following is the apex body for approval of activities involving large scale use of hazardous microorganisms and recombinants in research and industrial production from the environmental angle?
- (a) GEAC
  - (b) FSSAI
  - (c) CSIR
  - (d) BRAI

**Ans: (a)**

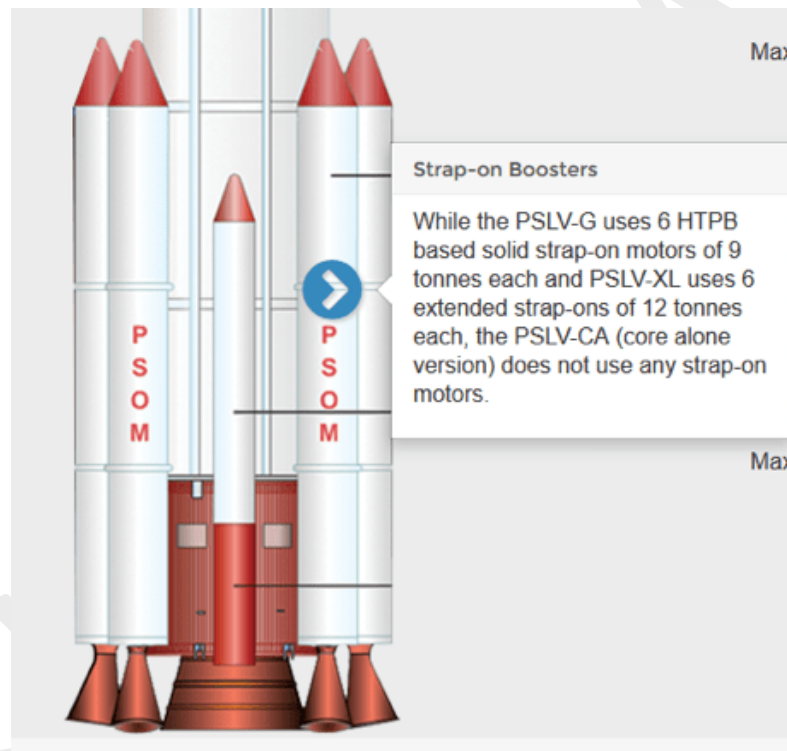
- The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) functions in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). As per Rules, 1989, it is responsible for appraisal of activities involving large scale use of hazardous microorganisms and recombinants in research and industrial production from the environmental angle. The committee is also responsible for appraisal of proposals relating to release of genetically engineered (GE) organisms and products into the environment including experimental field trials.
- GEAC is chaired by the Special Secretary/Additional Secretary of MoEF&CC and co-chaired by a representative from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT). Presently, it has 24 members and meets every month to review the applications in the areas indicated above.

## V. SCIENCE & TECH

1. Which of the following is/are the most significant aspect of strap-on motors in a rocket?
- Provide additional thrust to the rocket at launch
  - They helps to guide the rocket in atmosphere
  - These are attitude control device and used for spacecraft attitude control
  - It helps to improve the thrust capacity during dissenting phase

**Ans: (a)**

- Strap-on boosters are rocket motors that are mounted around the first stage of a launch vehicle to provide extra thrust at lift-off and during the first few minutes of ascent
- Strap-on boosters burn out while the first stage is still firing, separate, and fall back to Earth. For this reason, they are sometimes referred as a half stage or zero stage.



Refer: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/isro-team-takes-possession-of-pslv-casing-found-in-puducherry/article30149216.ece>

2. With reference to Rota Virus, consider the following statements
- It is a genus of double-stranded RNA viruses in the family Reoviridae
  - The virus is transmitted by the faecal-oral route
  - There are nine species of the genus, in that Rotavirus A, the most common species, causes more than 90% of rotavirus infections in humans

Which of the given above statements is/are **not** correct?

- 1 and 3
- 3 Only
- 1 Only
- None of the above

**Ans: (d)**

Explanation: Here The Directive Word is Not Correct!!

- Rotavirus is a genus of double-stranded RNA viruses in the family Reoviridae. Rotaviruses are the most common cause of diarrhoeal disease among infants and young children.
- Nearly every child in the world is infected with a rotavirus at least once by the age of five.
- Immunity develops with each infection, so subsequent infections are less severe; adults are rarely affected.
- There are nine species of the genus, referred to as A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H and I. Rotavirus A, the most common species, causes more than 90% of rotavirus infections in humans.
- The virus is transmitted by the faecal-oral route.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/04/rotavirus-2/>

3. Recently CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (CSIR-IICT), Hyderabad has announced that the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) test facility at the institute has passed the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) inspection with no observations. In the context of Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) test, which of the following is/are the primary significance of this test facility?
- (a) To observe magnetic fields around atomic nuclei
  - (b) To understand the nuclear fusion process
  - (c) To observe and identify molecular structures
  - (d) Both A and C

**Ans: (d)**

- NMR is a spectroscopic technique to observe local magnetic fields around atomic nuclei.
- The sample is placed in a magnetic field and the NMR signal is produced by excitation of the nuclei sample with radio waves into nuclear magnetic resonance, which is detected with sensitive radio receivers.
- The NMR spectroscopy is an important technique for structural characterization of pharmaceutical and other chemical molecules.
- The technique is used in quality control and research for determining the content and purity of a sample as well as its molecular structure.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/04/csir-iict-nuclear-magnetic-resonance-test-facility/>

4. Torrefaction technology has been in news for sometimes in news is primarily related to
- (a) Cyber security protection against malware attack
  - (b) Lie Detection test used by forensic department
  - (c) Thermal process used to produce high-grade solid biofuels from various streams of woody biomass
  - (d) Solution for Coal burning in India

**Ans: (c)**

Torrefaction technology

- It is a thermal process used to produce high-grade solid biofuels from various streams of woody biomass or agro residues.
- The end product is a stable, homogeneous, high quality solid biofuel with far greater energy density and calorific value than the original feedstock, providing significant benefits in logistics, handling and storage, as well as opening up a wide range of potential uses.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/04/torrefaction-to-reduce-stubble-burning/>

5. Recently Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA) has been in news for sometimes is
- (a) It is a byproduct of the sugar industry
  - (b) It is the primary raw material for making alcoholic beverages

- (c) It has a neutral smell and taste and typically contains over 95 per cent alcohol by volume  
(d) All of the above

**Ans: (d)**

Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA)

- It is a byproduct of the sugar industry.
- Formed from molasses that are a residue of sugarcane processing.
- It is the primary raw material for making alcoholic beverages.

Features:

- It is colourless food-grade alcohol that does not have any impurities.
- It has a neutral smell and taste and typically contains over 95 per cent alcohol by volume.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/05/extra-neutral-alcohol-ena/>

6. Asteroid Impact and Deflection Assessment (AIDA) mission is a proposed pair of space probes is planned under the operator of
- (a) NASA  
(b) ISRO  
(c) ESA  
(d) JAXA

**Ans: (c)**

- The Asteroid Impact and Deflection Assessment (AIDA) mission is a proposed pair of space probes which will study and demonstrate the kinetic effects of crashing an impactor spacecraft into an asteroid moon.
- The mission is intended to test and validate impact models of whether a spacecraft could successfully deflect an asteroid on a collision course with Earth.
- The original plan called for a European spacecraft, the Asteroid Impact Mission (AIM), to operate in synergy with a large NASA impactor called Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) and observe the immediate effects of the impact.
- AIM was cancelled in 2016 when Germany was unable to fund its portion, and after some backlash within ESA, AIM was replaced in 2018 with a smaller spacecraft called Hera that will launch five years after DART to orbit and study the crater on the asteroid.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/06/hera-mission-2/>

7. With reference to communication technologies, what is/are the difference / differences between LTE (Long-Term Evolution) and VoLTE (Voice over Long-Term Evolution)?
1. LTE is commonly marketed as 3G and VoLTE is commonly marketed as advanced 3G.
  2. LTE is data-only technology and VoLTE is voice-only technology.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

**Ans: (d)**

- LTE stands for 'Long Term Evolution' and VoLTE stands for 'Voice over Long Term Evolution'.
- VoLTE is a technology update to the LTE protocol used by mobile phone networks.
- Under LTE, the infrastructure of telecom players only allows transmission of data while voice calls are routed to their older 2G or 3G networks. This is why, under LTE, you cannot access

your 4G data services while on a call. This leads to problems such as slow internet speeds and poor voice clarity

- LTE is a mobile network and transmits only data; while VoLTE is software and transmits both voice and data.

8. Recently Head on Generation (HOG) technology has been in news for sometimes is primarily related to

- (a) Modernization of Railways
- (b) Renewable Energy
- (c) Climate Change
- (d) Public Health Care

**Ans: (a)**

- To tackle the dual menace of air and noise pollution, the Head on Generation (HOG) technology is being implemented in the trains of Indian Railways. The HOG technology works with an improvised converter has been developed, which is fitted in Electric locomotives which can replace the diesel generators.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/07/odishas-kalia-to-be-merged-with-pm-kisan/>

9. With reference to Indian Neutrino Observatory (INO), consider the following statements

1. The observatory is to be built jointly with the Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Science and Technology
2. Locals fear that the excavation and blasts needed to bore the tunnel in the mountains will endanger the biodiversity of the Western Ghats
3. The Kolar Gold Field mines housed one of the earliest laboratories to study and detect neutrinos in India

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 2
- (d) All of the above

**Ans: (d)**

- In December 2017, the Cabinet Committee on Security cleared the India-based Neutrino Observatory project, to be built at an investment of Rs 1,500 crore. It is the latest in a series of neutrino detectors, neutrino factories and experiments being set up worldwide to promote research in particle physics.

What is a neutrino?

- Neutrinos are the smallest particles that form the universe.

Who else has a neutrino facility?

- Underground: SNO, Canada, Kamioka in Japan and Gran Sasso, Italy.
- Underwater: Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, Antarctica. Antares – under Mediterranean sea off coast of Toulon, France.

Who is in-charge of the project?

- The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research is the nodal institution. The observatory is to be built jointly with the Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Science and Technology.

What's special about locating the INO in the South?

- A project report says most of the neutrino detectors are at latitudes over 35 deg. It is possible to push such a detector down to almost 8 deg latitude in South India, within proximity to the Equator.

- This permits neutrino astronomy searches covering the whole celestial sky and study of solar neutrinos passing through the Earth's core

Why are the locals opposing it?

- Locals fear that the excavation and blasts needed to bore the tunnel in the mountains will endanger the biodiversity of the Western Ghats. Some of the concerns voiced range from radiation, structural damage to the mountain to emission of hazardous chemicals
- The Kolar Gold Field mines housed one of the earliest laboratories to study and detect neutrinos. It was located at a depth of 2,000 m. The first atmospheric neutrinos were detected here in 1965. The laboratory was shut following the closure of the mines.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/07/neutrino-project-2/>

10. Recently FrogPhone has been in news for sometimes is primarily related to

- (a) Device to find endangered frogs
- (b) New device to detect rain
- (c) Solar-powered remote survey device
- (d) None of the above

**Ans: (c)**

- It is the world's first solar-powered remote survey device that can be installed at any frog pond and which receives a 3G or 4G cellular network.
- These devices also allow for monitoring of local frog populations more frequently than before, which is important because these populations are recognised as indicators of environmental health.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/09/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-09-december-2019/>

11. Consider the following statements with respect to Indian National Satellite System

1. INSAT is the largest domestic communication system in the Asia Pacific Region
2. It is a joint venture of the Department of Space, Department of Telecommunications, India Meteorological Department, All India Radio and Doordarshan
3. INSAT satellites are monitored and controlled by Master Control Facilities that exist in Hassan and Bhopal.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (d)**

The Indian National Satellite (INSAT) system is one of the largest domestic communication satellite systems in Asia-Pacific region with nine operational communication satellites placed in Geo-stationary orbit.

- Commissioned in 1983, INSAT is the largest domestic communication system in the Asia Pacific Region. It is a joint venture of the Department of Space, Department of Telecommunications, India Meteorological Department, All India Radio and Doordarshan.
- The overall coordination and management of INSAT system rests with the Secretary-level INSAT Coordination Committee.
- The satellites are monitored and controlled by Master Control Facilities that exist in Hassan and Bhopal.
- The INSAT system serves many important sectors of the Indian economy. Foremost amongst them is Telecommunications sector wherein INSAT is providing Mobile Satellite Service besides providing VSAT services. Today, more than 25,000 Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSATs) are in operation.

- In addition to this, social development through exclusive channels for training and developmental education has become possible through INSAT. And, a Telemedicine network to take super specially medical services to the remote and rural population has become a reality. The network now covers 152 hospitals—120 remote rural hospitals and 32 super specialty hospitals in major cities. The launch of EDUSAT, India's first thematic satellite dedicated exclusively for educational services, has provided further fillip to the educational services offered by the INSAT system.
- INSAT system is also providing meteorological services through Very High Resolution Radiometer and CCD cameras on some of its spacecraft. This apart, cyclone monitoring through meteorological imaging and issue of warnings on impending cyclones through disaster warning receivers have been operationalised. For this, 350 receivers have been installed along the east and west coasts of India.

Refer: <https://archive.india.gov.in/sectors/science/index.php?id=16>

**12.** Consider the following statements

1. A geostationary satellite is an earth-orbiting satellite, placed at an altitude of approximately 35,800 km directly over the equator
2. A geosynchronous satellite is a satellite in geosynchronous orbit, with an orbital period the same as the Earth's rotation period
3. Geosynchronous satellite revolves in the same direction the earth rotates ie west to east

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (a)**

- A geosynchronous satellite is a satellite in geosynchronous orbit, with an orbital period the same as the Earth's rotation period. Such a satellite returns to the same position in the sky after each sidereal day, and over the course of a day traces out a path in the sky that is typically some form of analemma.
- A special case of geosynchronous satellite is the geostationary satellite, which has a geostationary orbit
- A geostationary satellite is an earth-orbiting satellite, placed at an altitude of approximately 35,800 kilometers (22,300 miles) directly over the equator, that revolves in the same direction the earth rotates (west to east).
- A geostationary satellite is in orbit around the Earth at an altitude where it orbits at the same rate as the Earth turns. An observer at any place where the satellite is visible will always see it in exactly the same spot in the sky, unlike stars and planets that move continuously.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/12/risat-2br1-2/>

**13.** It is a radar imaging earth observation satellite. It provides services in the field of agriculture, forestry and disaster management. Its mission life is 5 years. It is

- (a) RISAT
- (b) MICROSAT
- (c) INSAT
- (d) CARTOSAT

**Ans: (a)**

- India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, in its fiftieth flight (PSLV-C48), has successfully launched RISAT-2BR1 along with nine commercial satellites from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/12/risat-2br1-2/>

# India's first indigenous radar satellite RISAT-1

**STAR SENSOR**

**SOLAR PANEL**

**RADAR ANTENNA**

**WHAT IS A RADAR SATELLITE?**

*Optical remote sensing satellites rely on sunlight being reflected back into space from the ground. They do not work in darkness and their view can be obstructed by clouds.*

*Radar satellites send out radio signals and record the echoes that return. They can image the ground even at night and are unaffected by cloud cover.*

**SYNTHETIC APERTURE CONCEPT**

(Top) A cloudy area as seen from Optical Remote Sensor  
(Below) A cloudy area as seen from Synthetic Aperture Radar

**DIFFERENT OPERATING MODES**

<b>1 MRS MODE</b> MRS is a medium resolution mode with 25 metres resolution	<b>2 CRS MODE</b> CRS is a coarse resolution mode with 50 metres resolution	<b>3 FRS MODE</b> FRS covers two fine resolution modes with resolutions from 3 metres to 12 metres	<b>4 SPOTLIGHT MODE</b> Spotlight mode provides one-metre resolution
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14. Consider the following statements

1. GSLV was developed to launch the heavier INSAT class of geosynchronous satellites into orbit
2. The PSLV has 4 stages that alternate between solid and liquid fuels while the GSLV has three stages with the only the first stage having solid fuel

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (c)**

- India has two operational launchers- Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).
- GSLV was developed to launch the heavier INSAT class of geosynchronous satellites into orbit.
- The PSLV has 4 stages that alternate between solid and liquid fuels while the GSLV has three stages with the only the first stage having solid fuel.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/12/risat-2br1-2/>

15. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

1. NAVIC – India
2. QZSS – China
3. GLONASS – EU
4. BeiDou – Russia

Select the correct answer using the code below

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

**Ans: (a)**

- Galileo is the global navigation satellite system (GNSS) that went live in 2016, created by the European Union (EU) through the European GNSS Agency (GSA)
- QZSS is a Japanese satellite positioning system
- GLONASS is Russia's version of GPS (Global Positioning System)
- BeiDou Navigation Satellite System is a Chinese satellite navigation system

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/12/navic-3/>

**16.** Recently Global High-Resolution Atmospheric Forecasting System has been in news for sometimes is launched by

- (a) IBM
- (b) Google
- (c) Amazon
- (d) SpaceX

**Ans: (a)**

- IBM GRAF, as the forecast system is called, can generate forecasts at a resolution of 3 kilometres.

Refer: Facts For Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/13/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-13december-2019/>

**17.** Recently Planck constant has been in news for sometimes, it is of fundamental importance in

1. Quantum mechanics
2. Metrology
3. Meteorology

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) All of the above

**Ans: (d)**

- The Planck constant is a physical constant that is the quantum of electromagnetic action, which relates the energy carried by a photon to its frequency.
- A photon's energy is equal to its frequency multiplied by the Planck constant.
- The Planck constant is of fundamental importance in quantum mechanics, and in metrology it is the basis for the definition of the kilogram.
- Quantum mechanics is a fundamental theory in physics which describes nature at the smallest – including atomic and subatomic – scales
- Metrology is the science of measurement. It establishes a common understanding of units, crucial in linking human activities. Modern metrology has its roots in the French Revolution's political motivation to standardize units in France, when a length standard taken from a natural source was proposed
- Meteorology is the scientific study of the atmosphere that focuses on weather processes and forecasting. Meteorological phenomena are observable weather events which illuminate and are explained by the science of meteorology. Those events are bound by the variables that exist in Earth's atmosphere. They are temperature, pressure, water vapor, and the gradients and interactions of each variable, and how they change in time.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/14/new-definition-of-kilogram-2/>

18. Recently *Trakea* has been in news for sometimes is primarily related to

- (a) Unique barcoding software
- (b) Malware found in android device
- (c) New Crypto currency
- (d) None of the above

**Ans: (a)**

Trakea

- It is a unique barcoding software adopted by Haryana Police. Haryana Police claims it is the country's first police force to have introduced this unique barcoding for forensic reports.

Refer: Facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/14/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-14-december-2019/>

19. Recently Mattu Gulla has been in news for sometimes is primarily related to

- (a) Brinjal variety from Karnataka
- (b) Invasive species found in water
- (c) New medicine plant found in Western Ghats
- (d) Its extract is widely used in cosmetics

**Ans: (a)**

- Efforts by a set of growers — assisted by Nabard financially, and a private university in the form of marketing interventions — have helped boost the prospects of 'Mattu Gulla' (a brinjal variety) with geographical indication (GI) tag in Udupi district of Karnataka.
- 'Mattu Gulla' had got the GI tag in 2011-12. Scientific studies had shown that the taste and aroma that Mattu Gulla are unique. Even if the seeds are taken from Mattu and planted elsewhere in other villages in the district, the brinjal will not get the same taste or aroma. It can be grown only in Mattu village. That is why it is recognised for GI tag.
- Sambar prepared from 'Mattu Gulla' is a must during the Paryaya festival in Udupi. (Paryaya is a biennial religious event marking the transfer of worship and management of Udupi Sri Krishna temple from one seer to another seer of the eight maths.)

Refer: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/gi-tag-and-nomarketing-interventionno-branding-boost-demand-fornoprosects-ofno-mattu-gulla-brinjal/article23740477.ece>

20. With reference to Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle, Consider the following statements

1. Fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs) are powered by hydrogen and Nitrogen
2. They produce no tailpipe emissions and only emit water vapor and warm air
3. The most common type of fuel cell for vehicle applications is the polymer electrolyte membrane (PEM) fuel cell

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (b)**

- Fuel cell electric vehicles (FCEVs) are powered by hydrogen. They are more efficient than conventional internal combustion engine vehicles and produce no tailpipe emissions—they only emit water vapor and warm air. FCEVs and the hydrogen infrastructure to fuel them are in the early stages of implementation.
- FCEVs use a propulsion system similar to that of electric vehicles, where energy stored as hydrogen is converted to electricity by the fuel cell. Unlike conventional internal combustion

engine vehicles, they produce no harmful tailpipe emissions. Other benefits include increasing U.S. energy security and strengthening the economy.

- FCEVs are fueled with pure hydrogen gas stored in a tank on the vehicle. Similar to conventional internal combustion engine vehicles, they can fuel in less than 5 minutes and have a driving range over 300 miles. FCEVs are equipped with other advanced technologies to increase efficiency, such as regenerative braking systems, which capture the energy lost during braking and store it in a battery. Major automobile manufacturers are offering a limited but growing number of production FCEVs to the public in certain markets, in sync with what the developing infrastructure can support

How Fuel Cells Work

- The most common type of fuel cell for vehicle applications is the polymer electrolyte membrane (PEM) fuel cell. In a PEM fuel cell, an electrolyte membrane is sandwiched between a positive electrode (cathode) and a negative electrode (anode). Hydrogen is introduced to the anode, and oxygen (from air) is introduced to the cathode. The hydrogen molecules break apart into protons and electrons due to an electrochemical reaction in the fuel cell catalyst. Protons then travel through the membrane to the cathode.
- The electrons are forced to travel through an external circuit to perform work (providing power to the electric car) then recombine with the protons on the cathode side, where the protons, electrons, and oxygen molecules combine to form water

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/17/fuel-cell-electric-vehicles-fcev/>

**21.** With reference to Biosimilar medicine, Consider the following statements

1. Recently MoH&FW prequalifies first biosimilar medicine– trastuzumab– to increase access to life-saving breast cancer treatment
2. A biosimilar medicine is a highly similar version of a reference Generic medicine

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (d)**

WHO prequalifies first biosimilar medicine– trastuzumab– to increase worldwide access to life-saving breast cancer treatment.

- A biosimilar medicine is a highly similar version of a reference biological medicine. The reference biological medicine is the first brand to market.
- The processes that produce biological medicines are naturally variable. No two batches of a biological medicine, including biosimilar medicines, are ever exactly the same (even from the same manufacturer). Biosimilar medicines can be used to treat the same diseases, in the same way, as the reference biological medicines.

Are biosimilar medicines different from generic medicines?

- The key difference is: a generic medicine has exactly the same active ingredients as the original chemical medicine and biosimilar medicine is highly similar to the reference biological medicine.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/19/biosimilar-medicine/>

**22.** Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- (a) Water hyacinth can be used to produce carbon dots
- (b) Entropy explains, why heat flows from hotter bodies to cooler bodies and not either way
- (c) The great Indian mathematician, Ramanujan works/theory can be used in signal processing and black hole physics
- (d) All of the above

**Ans: (d)**

1. In an extraordinary waste-to-wealth feat, researchers from Assam have used the commonly found invasive plant water hyacinth to produce carbon nanoparticles. These extremely tiny (less than 10 nanometre) particles can be used for detecting a commonly used herbicide — pretilachlor.
2. Entropy is the loss of energy available to do work. Another form of the second law of thermodynamics states that the total entropy of a system either increases or remains constant; it never decreases. Entropy is zero in a reversible process; it increases in an irreversible process and it explains why heat flows from a hot body to a cold body and not the other way around.
3. Due to the remarkable originality and power of Ramanujan's genius, the ideas he created a century ago are now finding applications in diverse contexts like signal processing, black hole physics

Refer: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/ramanujans-legacy-used-in-signal-processing-black-hole-physics/article30367891.ece>

**23.** Recently BRUIE has been in news for sometimes is primarily related to

- (a) Man hole cleaning Robot
- (b) Robot for under water exploration
- (c) Humanoid Robot
- (d) Industrial Robot

**Ans: (b)**

- This rover is called the Buoyant Rover for Under-Ice Exploration, or BRUIE.
- It is an autonomous underwater vehicle prototype by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. The prototype began underwater testing in 2012 and it is meant to eventually explore the interior of water worlds in the Solar System, such as Europa or Enceladus

**24.** Consider the following statements regarding Bt-Brinjal

1. Bt-Brinjal created by inserting a crystal protein gene (Cry1Ac) from the soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis*
2. It was developed by Mahyco in collaboration with the Dharward University of Agricultural sciences
3. Genetic Engineering Approvals Committee, a body under the Ministry of Science and technology is responsible for approval of genetically engineered products in India

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (c)**

What\_Is\_Bt-Brinjal

- It was developed by Mahyco (Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Company) in collaboration with the Dharward University of Agricultural sciences and the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. But the initiative was blocked in 2010.
- Currently, the Genetic Engineering Approvals Committee, a body under the Ministry of Environment and Forests (India) is responsible for approval of genetically engineered products in India.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/28/illegal-cultivation-of-bt-brinjal/>

## WHAT IS Bt-Brinjal?

- Bt Brinjal is a transgenic brinjal created by inserting a gene cry1Ac from the soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* into brinjal.
- This is said to give the brinjal plant resistance against lepidopteran insects like the brinjal fruit and shoot borer *Leucinodes orbonalis* and fruit borer *Helicoverpa armigera*.

25. Recently Carbon Dots has been in news for sometimes as an emerging technology. In this context which of the following is/are the most significant applications of carbon dots?

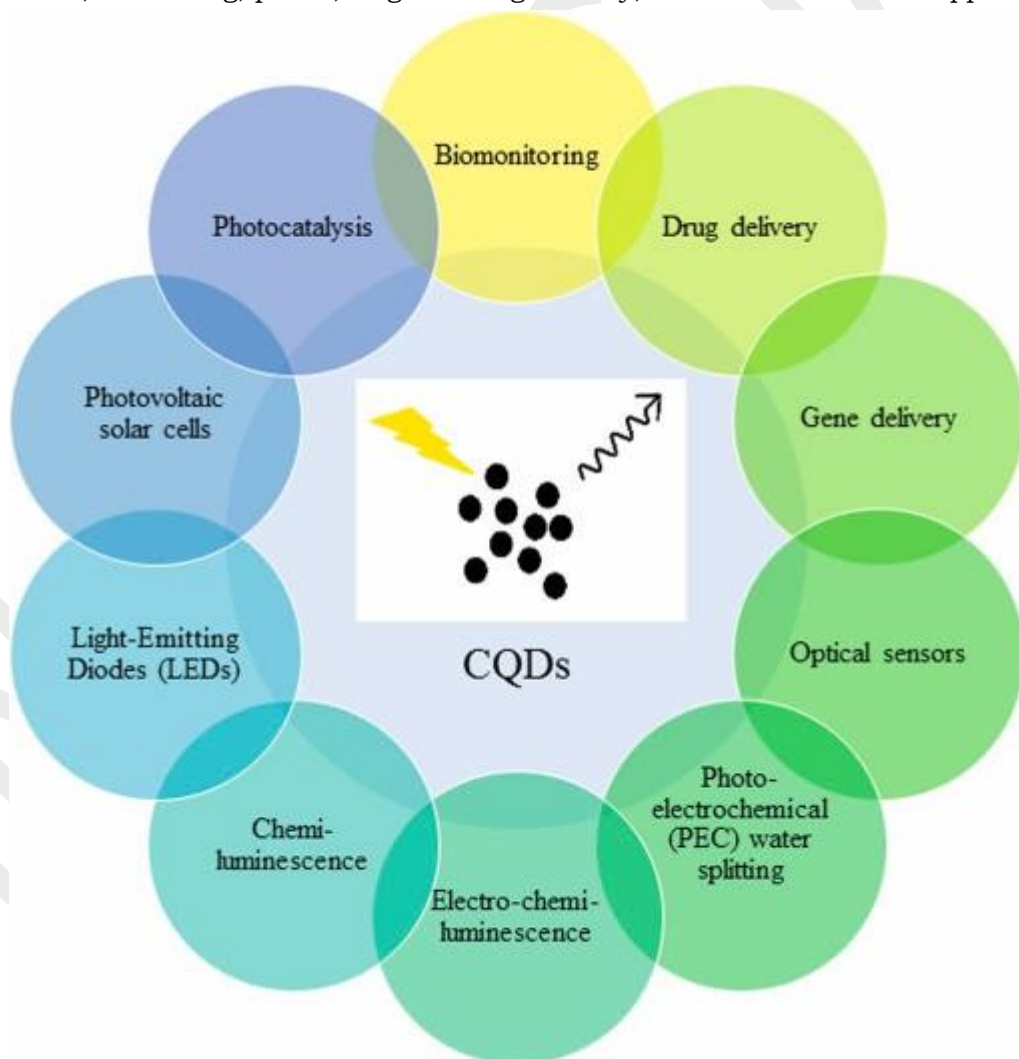
1. Cellular Imaging
2. Bio Sensing
3. Targeted drug delivery
4. Photo thermal Therapy
5. Light emitting diodes

Select the correct answer using the code below

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 5
- (b) 1, 2 and 3
- (c) 1, 2, 4 and 5
- (d) All of the above

**Ans: (d)**

- Carbon dots are a carbonaceous nanomaterial that were discovered accidentally and are now drawing significant attention as a new quantum-sized fluorescent nanoparticle.
- Carbon dots are biocompatible, non-toxic, photostable, and easily functionalized with good photoluminescence and water solubility.
- Due to these unique properties, they are used broadly in live cell imaging, catalysis, electronics, biosensing, power, targeted drug delivery, and other biomedical applications



26. Recently SnowEx has been in news for sometimes, this program initiated and funded by

- (a) NASA
- (b) JAXA
- (c) ISRO
- (d) ESA

**Ans: (a)**

SnowEx

- It is a five year program initiated and funded by NASA.
- Objective: To address the most important gaps in snow remote sensing knowledge and thus lay the groundwork for a future snow satellite mission.
- It focuses on airborne campaigns and field work, and on comparing the various sensing technologies, from the mature to the more experimental, in globally-representative types of snow.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/28/snowex/>

## VI. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & ORGANISATIONS

1. Recently Points-Based Immigration System has been in news for sometimes, it was adopted by
- (a) Australia
  - (b) UK
  - (c) USA
  - (d) Canada

**Ans: (a)**

- In what is seen as an effort to block entry to unskilled people, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has promised to introduce an Australian style points-based visa policy from January 1, 2021.
- A points-based immigration system is an immigration system where a noncitizen's eligibility to immigrate is determined by whether that noncitizen is able to score above a threshold number of points in a scoring system that might include such factors as education level, wealth, connection with the country, language fluency, existing job offer, or others.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/02/australias-points-based-visa-policy/>

2. What do you understand by INSTEX?
- (a) Payment mechanism being setup by the European Union to secure trade with Iraq
  - (b) INSTEX is an extra charge being collected by OPEC countries from Asian countries when selling oil in comparison to western countries
  - (c) A new cryptocurren
  - (d) cy payment system used in oil trading
  - (e) None of the above

**Ans: (d)**

- **INSTEX:** It is a payment mechanism being setup by the European Union to secure trade with Iran (not Iraq) and skirt US sanctions after Washington pulled out of the landmark nuclear deal last May.
- It is registered at Paris with an initial 3,000 Euros in the capital and a supervisory board with members from France and Germany and chaired by the UK.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/02/instex-instrument-in-support-of-trade-exchanges-2/>

3. Recently Power of Siberia has been in news for sometimes is primarily related to
- (a) Gas pipeline linking Project
  - (b) Armed military exercise to combat terrorism
  - (c) For democracy revolt in Siberia
  - (d) None of the above

**Ans: (a)**

- It is a massive gas pipeline linking one of the most remote parts of Russia with a far-flung region of China.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/03/power-of-siberia/>



4. Recently 90-90-90 target has been in news for sometimes is primarily related to
- Global climate change
  - Global health care
  - Global education
  - Global peace

**Ans: (b)**

- 90-90-90 – An ambitious treatment target to help end the AIDS epidemic
- By 2020, 90% of all people living with HIV will know their HIV status. By 2020, 90% of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy. By 2020, 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression.

Refer: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/taking-stock-of-the-anti-aids-fight/article30142280.ece>

5. As per 1933's Montevideo Convention, a region wanting to become independent should meet
1. Permanent population
  2. Defined territory
  3. Government
  4. The capacity to entire into relations with other States

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- 1,3 and 4
- 2,3 and 4
- 1,2 and 3
- 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Ans: (d)**

- As per 1933's Montevideo Convention, a region wanting to become independent should meet 4 criteria: A country-hopeful must have a defined territory, people, government, and the ability to form relationships with other countries.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/05/bougainville-and-nationhood/>

6. The Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD) is a flagship initiative of the
- (a) Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
  - (b) South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)
  - (c) Maritime Nation India Conference 2019
  - (d) None of the above

**Ans: (a)**

The Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD) is a flagship initiative of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), with its origins in the 13th Council of Ministers meeting, held in November 2013 in Perth, Australia.

- The first IOD was held in Kerala, India in 2014, and has been followed by two others to date: in Perth, Australia in 2015 and Padang, Indonesia in 2016, respectively. Discussions included far ranging topics such as economic cooperation, maritime safety and security, blue economy, human assistance and disaster relief, etc. and resulted in the Kochi, Perth and Padang Consensuses each.
- Today, the IOD is established in its role as a stand-alone Track 1.5 discussion, encouraging an open and free flowing dialogue by key representatives of IORA Member States such as scholars, experts, analysts, and policy makers from governments, think tanks and civil societies on a number of crucial strategic issues of the Indian Ocean Region.

Refer: <http://newsonair.com/News?title=6th-Indian-Ocean-Dialogue%2c-Delhi-Dialogue-XI-to-be-held-from-Dec-13-14&id=375946>

7. With reference to Global Refugee Forum, Consider the following statements
1. It was the first ever Global Refugee Forum is being held in Switzerland
  2. It was jointly hosted by United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) along with Government of Switzerland

Which of the given above statement is/are **not** correct?

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

**Ans: (d)**

Explanation: Here Directive word is Not Corrcet!!

- First ever Global Refugee Forum is being held in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Jointly hosted by United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) along with Government of Switzerland.

What is Global Refugee Forum?

- Guided by the Global Compact on Refugees, the Global Refugee Forum is an opportunity to translate the principle of international responsibility-sharing into concrete action.
- The Forum will showcase impactful pledges and contributions and the exchange of good practices.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/18/global-refugee-forum/>

8. Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gomati and Dharla are some of the Indian rivers found in the Joint River Commission set up between India and
- (a) Bangladesh
  - (b) Nepal
  - (c) Bhutan
  - (d) China

**Ans: (a)**

- Bangladesh has not sent a delegation for the Joint River Commission (JRC) meeting with India that was scheduled to be held here on Wednesday. This has cast a shadow over the agreement to share the waters of the Feni river that was taken up during the October visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to India.
- That apart, the meeting cancellation is also expected to delay the preparation of draft framework for the Interim Sharing Agreements regarding the Manu, Muhuri, Khowai, Gomati, Dharla and Dudhkumar rivers that were also mentioned in the Joint Statement.

9. Which of the following nation is the only with an independent space power that conduct space warfare?
- (a) USA
  - (b) North Korea
  - (c) China
  - (d) Germany

**Ans: (a)**

- Once established, the U.S. Space Force is intended to become the lead military service for space operations, responsible for space doctrine, organization, training, matériel, leadership and education, personnel, facilities, and policy.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/23/military-space-force-2/>

10. With reference to Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), consider the following statements
1. OIC is the second largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations
  2. The OIC has permanent delegations to the United Nations and the European Union
  3. India and Pakistan are two founding members of OIC

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (a)**

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation is an international organization founded in 1969, consisting of 57 member states.

- It is the second largest inter-governmental organization after the United Nations.
- The organisation states that it is “the collective voice of the Muslim world” and works to “safeguard and protect the interests of the Muslim world in the spirit of promoting international peace and harmony “.
- The OIC has permanent delegations to the United Nations and the European Union.
- Permanent Secretariat is in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- India is not a member of OIC

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/23/islamic-cooperation-countries-oic-3/>

11. The **Eco** is the proposed name for the common currency of

- (a) All West African nations
- (b) All East African nations
- (c) Only 8 West African nations
- (d) Only 8 East African nations

**Ans: (c)**

- Eight West African countries have agreed to change the name of their common currency to Eco.
- The 8 West African countries namely- Ivory Coast, Mali, Burkina Faso, Benin, Niger, Senegal, Togo and Guinea-Bissau currently use CFA France as their currency. All these countries, except Guinea-Bissau, are former French colonies.

Refer: Facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/23/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-23-december-2019/>

12. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

- 1. Baha'i community – Oman
- 2. Rohingya community – Myanmar
- 3. Uyghurs community – China

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Ans: (a)**

- The Baha'is community are among the most persecuted religious minorities in the world.
- In Iran, where the religion was founded, universities refuse to admit Baha'i students, Baha'i cemeteries have been destroyed and the country's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei has confiscated properties from Baha'i families. Baha'is have also been discriminated against in Yemen and in Egypt.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/24/rohingya-crisis/>

13. With reference to Financial Action Task force, consider the following statements

- 1. FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 on the initiative of the G20
- 2. It is a policy-making body which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in various areas
- 3. FATF Secretariat is housed at the OECD headquarters in Paris

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (c)**

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 on the initiative of the G7. It is a "policy-making body" which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in various areas. The FATF Secretariat is housed at the OECD headquarters in Paris.
- Objectives: 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.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/24/fatfs-another-150-questions-for-pakistan/>

14. Recently Forty and Eight Special Recommendations has been in news for sometimes is primarily related to
- FATF
  - BRICS
  - SAARC
  - Indo-US 2+2 Dialogue

**Ans: (a)**

- The original FATF Forty Recommendations were drawn up in 1990 as an initiative to combat the misuse of financial systems by persons laundering drug money. In 1996 the Recommendations were revised for the first time to reflect evolving money laundering
- The 1996 Forty Recommendations have been endorsed by more than 130 countries and are the international anti-money laundering standard. In October 2001 the FATF expanded its mandate to deal with the issue of the financing of terrorism, and took the important step of creating the Eight Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing. These Recommendations contain a set of measures aimed at combating the funding of terrorist acts and terrorist organisations, and are complementary to the Forty Recommendations
- The revised Forty Recommendations now apply not only to money laundering but also to terrorist financing, and when combined with the Eight Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing provide an enhanced, comprehensive and consistent framework of measures for combating money laundering and terrorist financing.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/24/fatfs-another-150-questions-for-pakistan/>

15. With reference to Universal Postal Union (UPU), consider the following statements
1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN)
  2. UPU frames rules for international mail exchange, and fixes rates for international postal services
  3. India joined the UPU after independence
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2
  - (b) 2 and 3
  - (c) 3 only
  - (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (a)**

About Universal Postal Union (UPU):

- A specialized agency of United Nations that coordinates postal policies among member nations, in addition to worldwide postal system.
- Established in 1874 and is second oldest international organization worldwide after International Telecommunication Union (ITU) which was established in 1865.
- Headquartered in Berne, Switzerland.
- Has 192 member countries.
- It is primary forum for cooperation between postal sector players among member countries.
- UPU has four units: the Congress, the Council of Administration, the International Bureau, and the Postal Operations Council.
- Regulates 40 lakh postal outlets worldwide.

- India joined the UPU on July 1, 1876 and Pakistan on November 10, 1947.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/25/universal-postal-union-upu-2/>

INSIGHTS IAS

## VII. HISTORY, ART & CULTURE

1. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

<b>Festival</b>	<b>State</b>
1. Shirui lily festival	– Assam
2. Hornbill Festival	– Nagaland
3. Saaji	– Uttarakhand
4. Kicheri	– Uttara Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3
- (b) 2 and 4
- (c) 2 only
- (d) All of the above

**Ans: (b)**

- Shirui lily Festival: Manipur
- Hornbill Festival: Nagas celebrate this festival to revive, protect, sustain and promote the richness of the Naga heritage and traditions.
- Saaji: In Shimla District of Himachal Pradesh, Makara Sankranti is known as Magha Saaji. Saaji is the Pahari word for Sankranti, start of the new month. Hence this day marks the start of the month of Magha.
- Kicheri: The festival is known as Kicheri in Uttar Pradesh and involves ritual bathing.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/03/hornbill-festival-2/>

2. He was the last ruler of the Sikh empire. In 1849, after the British defeated the Sikhs in the war, Singh was forced to sign a legal document that amended the Treaty of Lahore, requiring him to not only give up claims of sovereignty over the region, but also the Koh-i-noor diamond also in 1853, he converted to Christianity, and settled in the UK in 1854. He was

- (a) Maharaja Ranjit Singh
- (b) Maharaja Duleep Singh
- (c) Maharaja Govind Singh
- (d) None of the above

**Ans: (b)**

- Congress MP Pratap Singh Bajwa recently made a demand in the Rajya Sabha to exhume the remains of Maharaja Duleep Singh from his grave in England, and have them brought to Amritsar.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/06/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-06-december-2019/>

3. Consider the following statements:

- 1. 'Gaj Yatra' a nationwide campaign to protect elephants, was launched on the occasion of World Elephant Day in 2017
- 2. Rewak is a secured Elephant corridor located in Assam
- 3. Asian elephant, is the only living species of the genus Elephants and has been listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (a)**

- The Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*), also called Asiatic elephant, is the only living species of the genus *Elephas* and is distributed throughout the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia, from India in the west, Nepal in the north, Sumatra in the south, and to Borneo in the east.
- The Asian elephant is the largest living land animal in Asia. Since 1986, the Asian elephant has been listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List, as the population has declined by at least 50 percent over the last three generations, estimated to be 60–75 years.
- Of the 101 corridors identified, six have been secured and six more are currently in the process of being secured through an amalgam of the four models.

**Secured corridors**

Thirunelli – Kudrakote, Kerala  
Edayarhalli – Doddasampige, Karnataka  
Kaniyanpura – Moyar corridor, Karnataka  
Siju – Rewak, Meghalaya  
Rewak – Emangre, Meghalaya  
Chilla – Motichur, Uttarakhand

**Corridors in the process of being secured**

Kalapahar – Daigrung, Karbi Anglong, Assam  
Chamrajnagar – Talamalai, Mudahalli, Karnataka  
Kaziranga – Karbi Anglong, Panbari, Assam  
Kaziranga – Karbi Anglong, Kanchanjuri, Assam  
Kaziranga – Karbi Anglong, Amguri, Assam  
Kaziranga – Karbi Anglong, Deosur, Assam

- ‘Gaj Yatra’, a nationwide campaign to protect elephants, was launched on the occasion of World Elephant Day in 2017. The campaign is planned to cover 12 elephant range states. The elephant is part of India’s animal heritage and the Government celebrates this day to spread awareness about the conservation of the species.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/07/asian-elephant-specialist-group-asesg/>

4. Consider the following statements

1. Paikas were the peasant militias of the Gajapati rulers of Odisha
2. The great Paika rebellion in 1817 was under Bakshi Jagabandhu
3. The land revenue policy of the British was the primary cause of the Paika rebellion

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 2
- (d) All of the above

**Ans: (d)**

- Pre-dating what has been popularly regarded as the first war of independence in 1857, the Paika Bidroha (Paika Rebellion) of 1817 in Odisha briefly shook the foundations of British rule in the eastern part of India.
- Paikas were essentially the peasant militias of the Gajapati rulers of Odisha who rendered military service to the king during times of war while taking up cultivation during times of peace.
- They unfurled the banner of rebellion against the British under the leadership of Baxi Jagandhu Bidyadhara as early as 1817 to throw off the British yoke.
- The British were not comfortable with these aggressive, warlike new subjects and set up a commission under Walter Ewer to look into the issue.
- The commission recommended that the hereditary rent-free lands granted to the Paikas be taken over by the British administration and this recommendation was zealously adhered to. They revolted against the British.
- However, the rebellion also had several other underlying causes – like the rise in the price of salt, abolition of the cowrie currency for payment of taxes and an overtly extortionist land revenue policy.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/09/paika-rebellion-3/>

5. Which of the following is/are correctly matched?

1. Tholpavakoothu – Andhra Pradesh
2. Mamallapuram stone sculptures – Tamil Nadu
3. Ravanachhaya – Maharashtra

Select the correct answer using the code below

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

**Ans: (a)**

Shadow Puppetry

1. Tholpavakoothu – Kerala
2. Ravanachhaya – Odisha
3. Tholu Bommalata – Andhra Pradesh
4. Togalu Gombeyatta – Karnataka
5. Mamallapuram stone sculptures – Tamil Nadu

Refer: <https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/art/puppetry-in-odisha-who-is-pulling-the-strings/article20781988.ece>

6. Arrange the following in chronological order:

1. Third Battle of Panipat
2. Battle of Plassey
3. Battle of Buxar
4. Battle of Talikota

Select the correct answer using the code below

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

**Ans: (c)**

- The Battle of Talikota (1565) was a watershed battle fought between the Vijayanagara Empire and an alliance of the Deccan sultanates who united in order to defeat Aliya Rama Raya. The defeat of the Vijayanagara Empire at Talikota, followed by the subsequent destruction and looting of their capital, Vijayanagara, led to the slow decline and eventual collapse of the state under the successors of Aliya Rama Raya.
- The Battle of Plassey was a decisive victory of the British East India Company over the Nawab of Bengal and his French allies on 1757, under the leadership of Robert Clive which was possible due to the defection of Mir Jafar Ali Khan. The battle helped the Company seize control of Bengal.
- Third Battle of Panipat- fought between Maratha forces and invading armies of Afghan general Ahmed Shah Abdali of Durrani Empire in 1761. Abdali was supported by two Indian allies—the Rohillas Najib-ud-daulah, Afghans of the Doab region and Shuja-ud-Daula-the Nawab of Awadh.
- The Battle of Buxar was fought on 1764, between the forces under the command of the British East India Company, led by Hector Munro, and the combined armies of Mir Qasim, Nawab of Bengal till 1764; the Nawab of Awadh Shuja-ud-Daula; and the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II accompanied by Raja Balwant Singh of Kashi. It was a decisive victory for the British East India Company. The war was brought to an end by the Treaty of Allahabad in 1765.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/11/maharaja-surajmal-and-the-third-battle-of-panipat/>

7. He was a poet, freedom fighter and social reformer from Tamil Nadu. His songs on nationalism and freedom of India helped to rally the masses to support the Indian Independence Movement in Tamil Nadu. He published the sensational “Sudesa Geethangal” in 1908. He was
- (a) C Rajagopalachari
  - (b) Subramaniya Bharathiyar
  - (c) Periyar E. V. Ramasamy
  - (d) Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

**Ans: (b)**

- He was a poet, freedom fighter and social reformer from Tamil Nadu.
- He was known as Mahakavi Bharathiyar and the laudatory epithet Mahakavi means a great poet.
- His songs on nationalism and freedom of India helped to rally the masses to support the Indian Independence Movement in Tamil Nadu.
- “Kannan Pattu” “Nilavum Vanminum Katrum” “Panchali Sabatam” “Kuyil Pattu” are examples of Bharathi’s great poetic output.
- He published the sensational “Sudesa Geethangal” in 1908.
- In 1949, he became the first poet whose works were nationalised by the state government

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/12/subramaniya-bharathi/>

8. Which of the following is/are the Intangible Cultural Heritages of India?

1. Bharath Natya
2. Kutiyattam
3. Ramman
4. Mudi yettu
5. Kalbelia

Select the correct answer using the code below

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (b) 2, 3, 4 and 5
- (c) 1, 2, 4 and 5
- (d) All of the above

**Ans: (b)**

A total of 13 Intangible cultural heritage (ICH) elements from India have been inscribed till date on the UNESCO’s Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

- Tradition of Vedic chanting.
- Ramlila, the traditional performance of the Ramayana.
- Kutiyattam, Sanskrit theatre.
- Ramman, religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal Himalayas.
- Mudi yettu, ritual theatre and dance drama of Kerala.
- Kalbelia folk songs and dances of Rajasthan.
- Chhau dance.
- Buddhist chanting of Ladakh: recitation of sacred Buddhist texts in the trans-Himalayan Ladakh region, Jammu and Kashmir.
- Sankirtana, ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur.
- Traditional brass and copper craft of utensil making among the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru, Punjab.
- Yoga
- Nawrouz
- Kumbh Mela

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/14/unescos-list-of-intangible-cultural-heritage-2/>

9. Who is the chairman of advisory committee on fundamental rights, minorities' tribal and excluded area of Constituent assembly?
- Vallabhbhai Patel
  - Jawaharlal Nehru
  - Rajendra Prasad
  - B R Ambedkar

**Ans: (a)**

Committees of the Constituent Assembly

- Drafting Committee – B. R. Ambedkar
- Union Power Committee – Jawaharlal Nehru
- Union Constitution Committee – Jawaharlal Nehru
- Provincial Constitution Committee – Vallabhbhai Patel
- Advisory Committee on Fundamental Rights, Minorities and Tribal and Excluded Areas – Vallabhbhai Patel. This committee had the following subcommittees:
- Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee – J. B. Kripalani
- Minorities Sub-Committee – Harendra Coomar Mookerjee,
- North-East Frontier Tribal Areas and Assam Excluded & Partially Excluded Areas Sub-Committee – Gopinath Bordoloi
- Excluded and Partially Excluded Areas (Other than those in Assam) Sub-Committee – A V Thakkar
- Rules of Procedure Committee – Rajendra Prasad
- States Committee (Committee for Negotiating with States) – Jawaharlal Nehru
- Steering Committee – Rajendra Prasad
- National flag ad hoc committee – Rajendra Prasad
- Committee for the function of the consistution assembly – G V Mavlankar
- House committee – B Pattabhi Sitaramayya
- language committee – Moturi Satyanarayana
- Order of business committee – K M Munshi

10. Consider the following statements

- The Ashoka Pillar in Sanchi is reflective of the Greco Buddhist style of Architecture
  - Ashoka Pillar at the Feroz Shah Kotla records the ten commandments of the Buddha in Brahmi script
- 1 only
  - 2 only
  - Both 1 and 2
  - Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans: (c)**

- Ashoka Pillar at the Feroz Shah Kotla: This 13 meter high sand stone pillar was transported from Topra in Ambala district. This pillar edict records the ten commandments of the Buddha in Brahmi script. These Ashoka Pillars are among the country's greatest monuments, representing its rich cultural heritage.
- Pillar at Sanchi: The Ashoka Pillar in Sanchi is reflective of the Greco Buddhist style of Architecture. It's most remarkable quality is that it is very well proportioned. It is quite intricately carved and bears resemblance to the pillar at Sarnath but the lions of this pillar do not support the wheel of law or Dharmachakra.

11. With reference to Sahitya Akademi Award, consider the following statements
1. It is a literary honour that is conferred annually on Indian writers for their outstanding works of literary merit
  2. The award given only to writers of the most outstanding books of literary merit published in languages, which are listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (a)**

- The Sahitya Academy Award is a literary honour in India, which the Sahitya Akademi, India's National Academy of Letters, annually confers on writers of the most outstanding books of literary merit published in any of the major Indian languages (24 languages, including the 22 listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution)

Refer: Facts For Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/20/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-20-december-2019/>

12. The *Rampa Rebellion of 1922*, also known as the *Manyam Rebellion*, was a tribal uprising, led by
- (a) Alluri Sitarama Raju
  - (b) Sidhu Murmu and Kanhu Murmu
  - (c) Bakshi Jagabandhu
  - (d) None of the above

**Ans: (a)**

- The grievances of the tribal assumed least significance for the Congress that claimed to be an all India party fighting against the British imperialism. As soon as the British took over Eastern India tribal revolts broke out to challenge the alien rule. In the early years of colonization, no other community of India offered such heroic resistance to British rule or faced such tragic consequences as did the numerous tribal communities of now Jharkhand, Chattisgarh, Orissa, Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.
- The forest laws imposed by the British had infringed the rights of the tribal from time to time and they had to fight their grievances on their own with little or no help from outside. Most of the tribal uprising were armed uprising against the British. The Rampa Rebellion (1922-23) under Alluri Sita Rama Raju of Andhra Pradesh was fought by the tribal as a protest to the oppressive Madras Forest Act of 1882.
- The Act placed restrictions on the free movement of tribal in the forest areas and prevented them from engaging in their traditional lifestyle of Podu (shifting) cultivation, and use of the forest for firewood and toddy. Period from 1917-1923, there was a lot of unrest in the tribal areas spreading from east Godavari to Vizianagaram.
- One of Andhra's early revolutionaries, Alluri Sita Rama Raju (1897-1923) was able to successfully mobilize the local tribal for an armed rebellion against the British. He made them give up alcohol and gave them military training first with bows and arrows and later with weapons. Inspired by the revolutionaries of Bengal, Raju decided to raid police stations in and around Chintapalli, Krishna-devi-peta and Raja-vommangi, in search of ammunition. The repressive measures and the unjust policies of the British, coupled with the misdeeds of British contractors who exploited and oppressed the workers of the hill tribes of the Visakhapatnam and East Godavari district, provoked him. He carried out a campaign in the region which brought him into conflict with the police.

13. Saptamatrika, a group of seven mother-goddesses, recently in news, are primarily related to
- (a) Hinduism
  - (b) Jainism
  - (c) Sikhism
  - (d) Buddhism

**Ans: (a)**

*Saptamatrika*, (Sanskrit: “Seven Mothers”) in Hinduism, a group of seven mother-goddesses, each of whom is the shakti, or female counterpart, of a god

**14.** With reference to Vaikom satyagrah, consider the following statements

1. The Satyagraha aimed at securing freedom to all sections of society through the public roads leading to the Sri Mahadeva Temple at Vaikom
2. In 1924, a satyagraha was launched against this injustice by T.K. Madhavan
3. Prominent figures included in the satyagraha are K.P. Kesava Menon, George Joseph, Kurur Neelakanthan Namboodiri and Mannathu Padmanabhan

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (d)**

- Vaikom was then in the princely state of Travancore. The four streets surrounding the temple of the presiding deity, Lord Mahadeva, were out of bounds for Ezhavas and other castes counted as ritually lower.
- In 1924, a satyagraha was launched against this injustice by T.K. Madhavan. It lasted for 18 months.
- In the initial stages, K.P. Kesava Menon and George Joseph led the struggle. Other prominent figures included Kurur Neelakanthan Namboodiri and Mannathu Padmanabhan.
- Towards the end, M.K. Gandhi reached Vaikom and gave it the finishing flourish.

Refer: <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/periyar-the-hero-of-vaikom/article30383014.ece>

**15.** He had served as the President of the INC on four occasions. He became the editor of the ‘Indian Opinion’ in 1889. He also started a Hindi weekly ‘Abhyudaya’, an English daily ‘Leader’, a Hindi newspaper ‘Maryada’. He was opposed to separate electorates to Muslims and the Lucknow Pact.

He was

- (a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (b) Bipin Chandra Pal
- (c) Madan Mohan Malaviya
- (d) Lal Lajapath Roy

**Ans: (c)**

Madan Mohan Malaviya was a freedom fighter and social reformer.

- He had served as the President of the INC on four occasions.
- He was awarded the Bharat Ratna posthumously in 2014.
- He was the editor of a Hindi magazine, ‘Hindusthan’.
- He became the editor of the ‘Indian Opinion’ in 1889. He also started a Hindi weekly ‘Abhyudaya’, an English daily ‘Leader’, a Hindi newspaper ‘Maryada’.
- Pandit Malaviya was instrumental in founding the Benares Hindu University in 1916. He also became its Vice-Chancellor till 1939.
- He was opposed to separate electorates to Muslims and the Lucknow Pact.
- He was also against the INC’s participation in the Khilafat Movement.
- He was a participant in the Second Round Table Conference in 1931.
- He started the Ganga Mahasabha to oppose construction of dams in the Ganga.

- He was also a social reformer who opposed untouchability. He worked for the temple entry of Dalits at the Kalaram Temple at Nashik, Maharashtra.
- He also founded the organisation Shri Mathura Vrindavan Hasanand Gochar Bhoomi in Vrindavan.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/26/pt-madan-mohan-malaviya/>

**16.** With reference to Khilafat Movement in India, consider the following statements

1. It was an agitation by Indian Muslims allied with Indian nationalism in the years following World War II
2. The All – India Khilafat Conference held in November 1919 in Delhi decided to withdraw all government cooperation if the government did not meet its demands
3. The Ali Brothers (Maulana Mohammed Ali and Maulana Shaukat Ali), Maulana Azad, Hakim Ajmal Khan, and Hasrat Mohani were the leaders of the Khilafat Movement.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (b)**

- The Khilafat Movement, which began in 1919, brought the Muslims and the Hindus on a common platform against the British rule, was the most important cause of the Non – Cooperation Movement.
- Under the leadership of the Ali Brothers (Maulana Mohammed Ali and Maulana Shaukat Ali), Maulana Azad, Hakim Ajmal Khan and Hasrat Mohani, and countrywide Khilafat agitation, a Khilafat Committee was soon formed. The All – India Khilafat Conference held in November 1919 in Delhi decided to withdraw all government cooperation if the government did not meet its demands.
- Mahatma Gandhi saw the Khilafat agitation as “an opportunity not to unite Hindus and Muslims in a hundred years’ time.” Also, the Muslims League gave full support to the National Congress and its political agitation

**17.** Consider the following statements about Satavahana Kingdom

1. The founder of the Satavahana dynasty was Shree Vijaya
2. The greatest ruler of the Satavahana dynasty was Gautamiputra Satakarni
3. They patronized Buddhism and Brahmanism

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (b)**

Satavahana Kingdom

- They are an ancient Indian dynasty based In the Deccan.
- They established their independent rule after the decline of the Mauryas.
- Puranas and the Nasik and Nanaghad inscriptions remain important sources for the history of Satavahanas.
- The founder of the Satavahana dynasty was Simuka.
- The greatest ruler of the Satavahana dynasty was Gautamiputra Satakarni.
- They patronized Buddhism and Brahmanism.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/28/south-indias-earliest-sanskrit-inscription-found-in-ap/>

18. Consider the following statements

1. Swami Shradhanand played a key role on the Sangathan and the Shuddhi, a Hindu reform movement in the 1920s
2. Arya Samaj founded by Dayanand Saraswati in 1875 in Calcutta
3. Members of the Arya Samaj believe in one God and accept the worship of idols

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (a)**

- It is a Hindu reform movement that was founded by Dayanand Saraswati in 1875 in Bombay.
- The movement believes in the infallible authority of the Vedas.
- The central objectives of Arya Samaj is to, “eradicate Ignorance (Agyan), Indigence or Poverty (Abhav) and Injustice (Anayay) from this earth.
- Members of the Arya Samaj believe in one God and reject the worship of idols

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/28/swami-shradhanand/>

19. ‘Jana Gana Mana’ was adopted as the country’s National Anthem by the Constituent Assembly of India on January 24, 1950, the last day of its last session. In this context, National Anthem was first sung in which of the following INC session?

- (a) Calcutta
- (b) Pune
- (c) Bombay
- (d) Madras

**Ans: (a)**

- On **December 27, 1911**, the National Anthem was first sung at the **Calcutta session** of the Congress.
- ‘**Jana Gana Mana**’ was adopted as the country’s National Anthem by the Constituent Assembly of India on **January 24, 1950**, the last day of its last session.
- Reverence to the National Anthem is a Fundamental duty as per Article 51A (a) of the Constitution.
- Originally written in Bengali, it is the first of five stanzas of a poem written and later set to notations by Rabindranath Tagore.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/28/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-28-december-2019/>

20. Arrange the following events in the chronological order

1. Signing of the Instrument of Accession
2. Assassination of Mahatma Gandhi
3. Nationalisation of RBI
4. Tripura becomes a part of the Union of India

Select the correct answer using the code below

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

**Ans: (a)**

- Instrument of Accession: 27 October 1947
- Assassination of Mahatma Gandhi: 30 January 1948
- Nationalisation of RBI: 1st January, 1949
- Tripura becomes a part of the Union of India: 15 October, 1949

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/30/instrument-of-accession/>

**21.** Consider the following statements with respect to Indian History Congress (IHC):

1. It was founded in 1935 and it is the largest association of professional historians in South Asia.
2. R C Dutt, G K Gokhale and E V Ramaswamy were the prominent leader associated with Indian History Congress.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (a)**

- Founded in 1935, the Indian History Congress (IHC) is the largest association of professional historians in South Asia.
- The BISM organised an All India Congress in 1935 to celebrate its silver jubilee in Pune. As an outcome, the Indian History Congress (IHC) was thus born with about 50 delegates.
- The Bharata Itihasa Samshodhaka Mandala (BISM) was founded by Vishwanath Kashinath Rajwade in 1910 in Pune with the support of K C Mehendale.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/01/01/indian-history-congress/>

**22.** Consider the following statements:

1. Battle of Koregaon was fought in 1818 between the *mahar* community and the Peshwa Baji Rao I of the Mogul Confederacy.
2. Battle of Koregaon was part of the Third Anglo Maratha war.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (b)**

- The Battle of Koregaon was fought on 1 January 1818 between the mahar Warrior and the Peshwa faction of the Maratha (not Mogul) Confederacy, at Koregaon Bhima.
- A 28,000-strong force led by Peshwa Baji Rao II whilst on their way to attack the company-held Pune, were unexpectedly met by an 800-strong Company force.
- The battle was part of the Third Anglo Maratha war, a series of battles that culminated in the defeat of the Maratha Empire and subsequent rule of the British East India Company in nearly all of Western, Central and Southern India.
- There is a “victory pillar” in Koregaon commemorating the battle that was on its way to reinforce the British troops in Pune.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/01/01/bhima-koregaon-anniversary-2/>

## VIII. STATES

1. Consider the following statements about Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India:
1. PVTGs reside in 18 States and one Union Territory
  2. A stagnant or declining population is one of the criteria for determining PVTG status
  3. There are 95 PVTGs officially notified in the country so far
  4. Irular and Konda Reddi tribes are included in the list of PVTGs

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

**Ans: (c)**

- 75 tribal groups have been categorized by Ministry of Home Affairs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG) s.
- PVTGs reside in 18 States and UT of A&N Islands. Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) are centrally recognized special category from among the Scheduled Tribe.
- It was constituted during the 4th five year plan on the basis of the report of the Dhebar commission (1960-61).
- Such groups were identified by one or more of the following features: Existence of pre-agricultural practices, Practice of hunting and gathering, Zero or negative population growth and relatively low level of literacy as compared to other tribal groups.
- Konda Reddy of Khammam district of Telangana and Irular of Tamil Nadu are in the list of PVTGs

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/03/particularly-vulnerable-tribal-group-pvtg/>

2. Recently Galo community has been in news for sometimes are primarily found in
- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
  - (b) Sikkim
  - (c) Madya Pradesh
  - (d) Tamil Nadu

**Ans: (a)**

Galo community:

- At about 1.5 lakh people, the Galos are one of the 26 major communities of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Galos belong to the Tani group inhabiting Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, besides Tibet.
- They trace their common origin to a primeval ancestor, Abotani.
- They have a system of prefixing the second syllable of a father's name to that of a son, who passes on the suffix in his name to his son. Hence they can trace the names of ancestors from the first syllable or prefix of our names.
- Mopin is the main festival in Galos which is celebrated for the prosperity of the villages
- The Galos perform Popir dance.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/09/30/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-30-september-2019/>

3. What is the common factor between Odisha's Kalia and Centre's PM-Kisan yojana?
- (a) Minimum income support to farmers
  - (b) Maximum income support to farmers
  - (c) Minimum moral support to farmers
  - (d) Minimum moral support to farmers

**Ans: (a)**

- The Odisha had launched the KALIA Yojana in December 2018. Similarly, a Central Sector Scheme namely, "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)" was launched during February 2019, wherein income support as assistance is provided to all eligible landholding farmers' families in the country.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/07/odishas-kalia-to-be-merged-with-pm-kisan/>

4. Which of the following government has amended rules directing industrial establishments that have taken any support from the government to give priority to natives in jobs on the shop floor in 'C' and 'D' category of employees?
- (a) Karnataka
  - (b) Kerala
  - (c) Telangana
  - (d) Tamil Nadu

**Ans: (a)**

- From now on, Private industries and factories in Karnataka must accord priority to Kannadigas in recruitments to their clerical and shop floor jobs.
- The state government on Saturday issued a notification revising rules governing recruitments in industries under the Karnataka Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Rules 1961 directing companies to give priority to Kannadigas in private sector jobs.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/09/kannadigas-to-get-priority-in-the-private-sector/>

5. The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project or KLIP is a multi-purpose irrigation project on
- (a) Godavari
  - (b) Krishna
  - (c) Mahanadi
  - (d) Kaveri

**Ans: (a)**

- The Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project or KLIP is a multi-purpose irrigation project on the Godavari River in Kaleshwaram, Bhoopalpally, Telangana, India.
- Currently the world's largest multi-stage lift irrigation project, its farthest upstream influence is at the confluence of the Pranhita and Godavari rivers.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/20/kaleswaram-project-2/>

5. Balimela Reservoir is located in
- (a) Odisha
  - (b) Telangana
  - (c) Andhra Pradesh
  - (d) Sikkim

**Ans: (a)**

- The Balimela Reservoir is on the river Sileru which is situated in the Maikangiri District of Odisha State.

Refer: Facts For Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/20/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-20-december-2019/>

6. Recently *Rajbongshi* ethnic group has been in news for sometimes, They primarily
- (a) West Bengal
  - (b) Madhya Pradesh
  - (c) Rajasthan
  - (d) Odisha

**Ans: (a)**

- The Rajbongshis, the largest Scheduled Caste (SC) group of West Bengal, are all set to shut down parts of north Bengal from early January in protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA). The organisers of the planned stir said that two key platforms of Rajbongshis had come together to lead the agitation.

7. *Chutiya, Moran* and *Motak* ethnic community primarily found in
- (a) Assam
  - (b) Odisha
  - (c) Tamil Nadu
  - (d) Andhra Pradesh

**Ans: (a)**

- Ahoms along with Chutiya, Moran, Motok, and Koch are still regarded as semi-tribal groups who have nominally converted to Ekasarana Dharma even though keeping alive their own tribal traditions and customs.
- Various indigenous Assamese communities in Assam like Chutiya, Koch-Rajbongshi, Moran, Motok, Ahoms etc (all having tribal origin) have slowly been converted into a caste through Sanskritisation.

Refer: <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/narendra-modi-assam-elections-tribals-scheduled-tribes-325858-2016-05-27>

8. Which of the following State government launched Mission Shat Pratishat?
- (a) Punjab
  - (b) Karnataka
  - (c) Tamil Nadu
  - (d) Uttara Pradesh

**Ans: (a)**

- The Mission Shat Pratishat was launched in September by the Punjab education department with the aim to further improve the results of government schools, as compared to the previous year.

Refer: Facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/23/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-23-december-2019/>

9. Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana was sought to provide relief to farmers by providing the differential between MSPs and market prices. it was launched by
- (a) Gujarat
  - (b) Odisha
  - (c) Bihar
  - (d) Madhya Pradesh

**Ans: (d)**

- Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana in Madhya Pradesh was sought to provide relief to farmers by providing the differential between MSPs and market prices.
- The Rythu Bandhu scheme of the Telangana provides ₹4,000 per acre for every season to all the farmers of the state. Similar initiatives have also be framed in Jharkhand and Odisha.
- Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income augmentation (KALIA) of Odisha is more complicated in design and implementation. It commits to give Rs 5,000 per SMF, twice a year that is Rs 10,000 a year.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/01/01/pm-kisan-scheme-5/>

## IX. SECURITY & DEFENCE

1. Recently Polar Science Cooperation Agreement has been in news for sometimes, it is primarily related to
- (a) maritime cooperation agreement between India and Singapore
  - (b) maritime cooperation agreement between India and Sweden
  - (c) maritime cooperation agreement between India and Switzerland
  - (d) maritime cooperation agreement between India and Sri Lanka

**Ans: (b)**

- India and Sweden are likely to sign Cooperation in Polar Science, during the visit to India of the Swedish royal couple. It is their first maritime cooperation agreement comprising both Arctic and Antarctic.

Refer: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-sweden-to-sign-mou-for-polar-science-cooperation/article30131446.ece>

2. Consider the following statements regarding Prithvi II missile
1. Prithvi II missile is a surface-to-surface tactical missile
  2. It is capable of carrying 500 to 1,000 kg of warheads, both conventional as well as nuclear
  3. It is developed by DRDO under Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP)
- (a) 1, and 3
  - (b) 2 and 3
  - (c) 1 and 2 only
  - (d) All of the above

**Ans: (d)**

Prithvi-II missile

- It is a surface-to-surface tactical missile with a strike range of 350 km.
- It is developed by DRDO under Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP).
- It is capable of carrying 500 to 1,000 kg of warheads, both conventional as well as nuclear.
- The state-of-the-art missile is powered by liquid propulsion twin engines.
- It uses an advanced inertial guidance system with maneuvering orbit to hit its target.
- It was inducted into armour of the defence forces in 2003.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/04/insightsias-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-04-december-2019/>

3. Recently India has requested for an early delivery of Meteor air-to-air missiles from
- (a) Israel
  - (b) France
  - (c) Russia
  - (d) USA

**Ans: (b)**

- India has requested for an early delivery of Meteor air-to-air missiles from France.

**Key facts:**

- They are beyond-visual-range air-to-air missiles.
- Have a range of 150 km and no escape zone of 60 km.

Refer: Facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/05/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-05-december-2019/>

4. Recently *StrandHogg* has been in news for sometimes is primarily related to
- Malware attack
  - Virus attack
  - Denial-of-service (DoS)
  - Eavesdropping attack

**Ans: (a)**

- The Union Home Ministry has alerted States, warning them about the vulnerability of the Android operating system to a bug called 'StrandHogg'.
- It is a Malware which allows real-time malware applications to pose as genuine applications and access user data of all kinds.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/17/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-17-december-2019/>

5. Recently India concluded Industrial Security Annex with which of the following nation?
- USA
  - Japan
  - China
  - Russia

**Ans: (a)**

India, US conclude Industrial Security Annex to facilitate collaboration between defence industries

6. Exercise 'Apharan' – a large scale Anti Hijacking Exercise conducted recently by
- Indian Navy
  - Indian Army
  - Indian Airforce
  - Central Armed Police Force

**Ans: (a)**

- It is a large scale Anti Hijacking Exercise conducted recently by the Indian Navy in collaboration with Indian Coast Guard.
- The latest edition was held in Kerala.

Refer: Facts For Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/19/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-19-december-2019/>

7. Consider the following statements
- Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air missiles (QRSAM) was developed to replace the Akash missile defence system
  - QRSAM has a strike range of 70-100 km
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
- 1 only
  - 2 only
  - Both 1 and 2
  - Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans: (a)**

QRSAM

- It has been developed to replace the 'Akash' missile defence system, and has 360-degree coverage.
- It uses solid fuel propellant and has a strike range of 25-30 km with capability of hitting multiple targets.
- It is capable of hitting the low flying objects.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/24/quick-reaction-surface-to-air-missiles-qrsam-3/>

8. Consider the following statements regarding Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)
1. CDS will be of a four star general
  2. CDS will act as the Principal Military Adviser to Defence Minister on all tri-Services matters
  3. CDS would not exercise any military command, including over the three Service Chiefs
  4. CDS will be a member of the Defence Acquisition Council chaired by the prime minister

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) All of the above
- (b) 1, 2 and 3
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 2, 3 and 4

**Ans: (b)**

Chief of Defence Staff

- "He will act as the Principal Military Adviser to Defence Minister on all tri-Services matters. However, the three Chiefs will continue to advise the Minister on matters exclusively concerning their respective Services, the statement said, adding that the CDS would not exercise any military command, including over the three Service Chiefs, so as to be able to provide impartial advice to the political leadership.
- In his capacity as the Permanent Chairman, COSC (Chiefs of Staff Committee), the CDS would administer tri-Services organisations, agencies and commands related to Cyber and Space. The CDS will also be a member of the Defence Acquisition Council chaired by the Defence Minister and Defence Planning Committee chaired by the NSA. In the strategic domain, the CDS would function as the "Military Adviser to the Nuclear Command Authority" chaired by the Prime Minister

### Single point of contact

The Cabinet approved the creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) as part of military reforms

- The CDS will be of the rank of a four-star General with salary equivalent to a service chief

- He will head the Department of Military Affairs (DMA), which will be created in the Ministry of Defence. The armed forces will be brought under the DMA



support services, communications, repairs and maintenance

- The CDS will look after the jointness in operations, logistics, transport, training, support services, communications, repairs and maintenance
- He will act as the principal military adviser to the Defence Minister on all services matters. However, the three chiefs will continue to advise the Minister on respective services

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/25/chief-of-defence-staff/>

9. Recently *Budapest convention* has been in news for sometimes is primarily related to
- (a) Cyber Crime
  - (b) Public Health Care
  - (c) Banking Reforms
  - (d) Nuclear Disarmament

**Ans: (a)**

Budapest convention

- Also known as the Convention on Cybercrime, it is the first international treaty seeking to address Internet and computer crime by harmonizing national laws, improving investigative techniques, and increasing cooperation among nations.
- It was drawn up by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, with the active participation of the Council of Europe's observer states Canada, Japan, South Africa and the United States.
- It is open for ratification even to states that are not members of the Council of Europe.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/30/un-backs-russia-on-internet-convention/>

10. Recently Operation Sankalp has been in news for sometimes is primarily related to
- (a) Safety and security of the Indian vessels
  - (b) Framework for Actions on Marine Plastics Litter
  - (c) Environment conservation initiative launched by the Indian Army
  - (d) Nationwide Environmental Literacy Drive

**Ans: (a)**

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

## X. REPORTS & INDICES

1. Consider the following statements:

1. According to census 2011, there are 11.8 crore cultivators and 14.4 crore agricultural workers
2. Post-independence, the responsibility for land administration was transferred to states
3. All the land records were collected and maintained manually by the respective Revenue Department of states

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (d)**

Prior to independence, land was mostly concentrated with the landlords or zamindars, who had permanent property rights. The zamindars collected land rent from a given territory, and paid a fixed sum as land revenue to the government. This land revenue formed a key source of government income.

- However, the rent that was to be paid by the cultivator tenants was unregulated, and was subject to the discretion of the landlords. This allowed the landlords to make profits by charging rents in excess of the amount to be paid as revenue.
- Since the landlords were primarily interested in maximising rent collection, a system of land records was created and maintained to facilitate this process. These land records furnished information important for land revenue assessment such as area of the property, and details of the person in possession of the property.
- Post-independence, the zamindari system was abolished, but land ownership continued to be determined through a combination of these records.
- Post-independence, the responsibility for land administration was transferred to states. All the records were collected and maintained manually by the respective revenue department.
- Further, with the abolition of the zamindari system, a few land reforms were implemented. These included policies on redistribution of land, and tenancy reforms.

According to Census 2011, there are 11.8 crore cultivators and 14.4 crore agricultural workers. "In practice, those who cultivate or work on the land but do not own it are excluded from access to agricultural credit and interest subvention for farm loans

Refer: <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/agriculture/who-is-a-farmer-government-has-no-clear-definition/article30131511.ece>

2. Recently which of the following released "Top 100 City Destination"?

- (a) UNDP
- (b) German Watch
- (c) Un-Habitat
- (d) None of the above

**Ans: (d)**

- "Top 100 City Destination" ranking: Released by Euromonitor International, a UK-based global market research company.
- The Euromonitor report highlights top 100 cities based on 2018 international arrivals. Arrivals encompasses all purposes of visit such as business, leisure and visiting friends and relatives.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/04/insightsias-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-04-december-2019/>

3. The Global Climate Risk Index 2020 is released by
- (a) UNDP
  - (b) IPCC
  - (c) CITES
  - (d) Germanwatch

**Ans: (d)**

- The international environmental think tank 'Germanwatch' has recently released the Global Climate Risk Index 2020.
- The annually published Risk Index analyses to what extent countries have been affected by the impacts of weather-related loss events (storms, floods, heat waves etc.).

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/06/global-climate-risk-index-2020/>

4. 'Global Financial Development Report' is published by
- (a) World Economic Forum
  - (b) World Bank
  - (c) World Trade Organization
  - (d) None of the above

**Ans: (b)**

It is published by World Bank. The Global Financial Development Report 2019/2020 provides new data and evidence on the regulatory remedies adopted to prevent future financial instability and sheds light on ongoing policy debates.

Main Messages

- Developing countries have increased their minimum capital requirements to help curb risks, but greater information disclosure and supervisory capacity are needed.
- Effective regulation and supervision need to harness the power of market discipline to curb excessive risk-taking by private parties.
- Bank regulations need to be compatible with incentives, but designing and enforcing such regulations are complex tasks.
- Less complex regulations may mean more effective enforcement by supervisors and better monitoring by stakeholders.
- Globalization and technological change are important trends that make it even more challenging to provide effective oversight of banks.

5. Recently Human Development Index-2019 has been released by
- (a) UNDP
  - (b) UNGA
  - (c) WEF
  - (d) WB

**Ans: (a)**

- UNDP has released the annual HDI 2019 report.
- The focus of the 2019 Report is on 'Inequality in Human Development'.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/12/human-development-index/>

6. India Skills Report 2019-20 has been released by
- (a) MSDE
  - (b) NITI
  - (c) MHRD
  - (d) None of the above

**Ans: (d)**

India Skills Report

- It is a joint initiative by PeopleStrong, a Global Talent Assessment Company, in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) along with partners like UNDP, AICTE, and AIU.
- The report also consists of an in-depth study of employability amongst the fresh candidates joining the workforce.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/13/india-skills-report/>

7. The latest edition of Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) was recently presented at the climate summit in Madrid. It was designed by
- (a) Germanwatch
  - (b) World Wild Life
  - (c) Bird Life International
  - (d) IUCN

**Ans: (a)**

Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)?

- Designed by the German environmental and development organisation GermanwatchV.
- Published in cooperation with the NewClimate Institute and Climate Action Network International and with financial support from Barthel Foundation.
- Objective: To enhance transparency in international climate politics.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/13/climate-change-performance-index-ccpi-2019-2/>

8. Global Gender Gap Report 2020 has been released by
- (a) WEF
  - (b) UNDP
  - (c) UN-Women
  - (d) None of the above

**Ans: (a)**

- Global Gender Gap Report 2020 has been released by the World Economic Forum.
- Global gender gap index is a part of this which measures gender equality across four pillars— they are economic opportunity, political empowerment, educational attainment and health and survival.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/18/gender-gap-index/>

9. India's position in Global gender gap index 2020 is
- (a) 108
  - (b) 110
  - (c) 112
  - (d) 114

**Ans: (a)**

- India has slipped to the 112<sup>th</sup> spot from its 108<sup>th</sup> position in 2018 in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2020, which covered 153 economies.
- According to the report, Nordic countries continue to lead the way to gender parity
- India ranked 18<sup>th</sup> in political empowerment and 4<sup>th</sup> in the number of years a female or a male ruled a state

**10.** 'Good Governance Index' launched by

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
- (c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- (d) Both A and C

**Ans: (b)**

- 'Good Governance Index' launched by MoS (PP) Dr Jitendra Singh on 'Good Governance Day' today to assess the state of governance in the country.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/26/good-governance-index/>

**11.** Which of the following has prepared the School Education Quality Index (SEQI)?

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) MHRD
- (c) PISA
- (d) CBSE

**Ans: (a)**

- NITI Aayog has prepared the School Education Quality Index (SEQI) based on the data of 2016-17
- Aim and Purpose. SEQI aims to drive policy reforms that will improve the quality of school education. The index seeks to institutionalise a focus on enhancing education outcomes by driving improvements in learning levels, access, equity, infrastructure and governance processes.

**12.** With reference to Indian state of Forest Report-2019, Consider the following statements

1. India State of Forest Report (ISFR) is a biannual publication of Forest Survey of India
2. Karnataka tops the country in growing the maximum amount of forest in the last two years

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (b)**

- India State of Forest Report (ISFR) is a biennial publication of Forest Survey of India (FSI) an organization under the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change Government of India
- According to report, Karnataka tops the country in growing the maximum amount of forest in the last two years. It is followed by Andhra Pradesh (990 sq km) and Kerala (823 sq km).

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/30/the-india-state-of-forest-report-2019/>

13. Recently Swachh Survekshan League 2020 has been released by

- (a) NITI
- (b) MoHUA
- (c) MoRD
- (d) MoJS

**Ans: (b)**

MOHUA announces results of Swachh Survekshan League (quarter 1 and quarter 2)

- Swachh Survekshan League 2020 (SS League 2020) was introduced with the objective of sustaining the onground performance of cities along with continuous monitoring of service level performance when it comes to cleanliness.
- SS League 2020 is being conducted in 3 quarters, i.e. April- June, July – September and October- December 2019 and has 2000 marks for each quarter evaluated on the basis of monthly updation of SBM-U online MIS by cities along with citizen's validation on the 12 service level progress indicators through outbound calls.
- Ranks have been assigned in two categories, namely, cities with population of one lakh and above (with two sub-categories, i.e. 1-10 lakh and 10 lakhs and above) and cities with population of less than 1 lakh (under the < 1 lakh population category, the rankings are given zone and population wise).
- The performance of cities in SS League 2020 is crucial to their ranking in Swachh Survekshan 2020 due to the 25% weightage of the quarterly assessments to be included in the annual survey scheduled to commence from 4 January till 31 January 2020.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/01/01/swachh-survekshan-league/>

## XI. MAPS/PLACES

1. Kulasekarapattinam in Tamil Nadu has been in news for sometimes is primarily related to
- Setting up of new missile launch pad
  - Setting up of new rocket launch pad
  - Setting up of new nuclear power plant
  - Setting up of new port

**Ans: (a)**

- On 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019, the Scottish Parliament declared a climate emergency, making Scotland the first country to do so.
- This was quickly followed by the National Assembly for Wales on the 29th April and then the Parliament of the United Kingdom for the UK as whole in 1st May.
- United Kingdom, made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, is an island nation in northwestern Europe.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/11/29/eu-declares-climate-emergency/>

2. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

<b>City</b>	<b>Country</b>
1. Idlib	- Syria
2. Cancun	- Mexican
3. Baghouz	- Iraq

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- 1, 2 and 3
- 1 and 2 only
- 2 Only
- 1 Only

**Ans: (b)**

- Idlib and Baghouz – Syria
- Cancun – Mexican

Refer: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/nearly-70-dead-in-clashes-in-syrias-idlib/article30131730.ece>

3. Recently India's first maritime museum has been established in which of the following state?
- West Bengal
  - Andhra Pradesh
  - Gujarat
  - Maharashtra

**Ans: (c)**

- National Maritime Heritage Museum will be established at Lothal in Gujarat.
- The museum will act as an independent research center for archaeology of boat building, reconstruction of maritime history and materials traded.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/03/indias-first-maritime-museum-in-gujarat/>

4. Recently Bougainville Island has been in news for holding a referendum to decide if it wants to remain a part of Papua New Guinea or become an independent country, is located on
- Coral sea
  - Solomon Sea
  - Tasman Sea
  - South China Sea

**Ans: (b)**



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/05/bougainville-and-nationhood/>

5. Recently, Sukapaika river has been in news for sometimes is
- Distributaries of Mahanadi river
  - Distributaries of Krishna river
  - Distributaries of Kaveri river
  - Distributaries of Godavari river

**Ans: (a)**

- Sukapaika is one of the several distributaries of the mighty Mahanadi river in Odisha.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/06/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-06-december-2019/>

6. Arrange the following Mountain ranges from North to South direction
- Urals
  - Rockies
  - Andes
  - Drakensburg
  - Atlas

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Ans: (a)**



7. Which of the following is geographically closer to Chabhar?

- (a) Karachi
- (b) Kandla
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) Gwadar

**Ans: (d)**





8. Khardung La is a famous mountain pass located in

- (a) Sikkim
- (b) Ladakh
- (c) Jammu
- (d) Kashmir

**Ans: (b)**

- The pass on the Ladakh Range is north of Leh and is the gateway to the Shyok and Nubra valleys.
- The pass is strategically important to India as it is used to carry supplies to the Siachen Glacier.
- Khardong La is historically important as it lies on the major caravan route from Leh to Kashgar in Central Asia. About 10,000 horses and camels used to take the route annually, and a small population of Bactrian camels can still be seen at Hunder, in the area north of the pass. During World War II there was an attempt to transfer war material to China through this route.

9. This tiger Reserve is a pristine reserve of tropical jungle, shola forest and grassland rising to 2400m and spilling over the Western Ghats into Kerala between Kodaikanal and Coimbatore. This tiger reserve is home to all kinds of exotic endemic wildlife, much of it rare and endangered – including leopards and around 30 elusive tigers, though you're much more likely to see lion-tailed macaques, peacocks, langurs, spotted deer and elephants, or crocodiles.

The above passage referring which of the following tiger reserve?

- (a) Anamalai tiger reserve
- (b) Mudumalai tiger reserve
- (c) Satyamangal tiger reserve
- (d) Bandipura tiger reserve

**Ans: (a)**



10. Kawal Tiger Reserve is located in

- (a) Telangana
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Odisha
- (d) Karnataka

**Ans: (a)**

- Kawal Tiger Reserve is located in Telangana state of India. Govt of India declared Kawal wildlife sanctuary as Tiger Reserve in 2012. The reserve is the oldest sanctuary in the northern Telangana region of the state.

11. Chabahar Port located on

- (a) Gulf of Yeman
- (b) Gulf of Oman
- (c) Gulf of Persia
- (d) Gulf of Aden

**Ans: (b)**



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/21/chabahar-port-2/>

12. Tipeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary located in
- Karnataka
  - Maharashtra
  - Goa
  - Telangana

**Ans: (b)**

- Tipeshwar Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Yavatmal district of Maharashtra

13. This falls are fed by the Zambezi River and define the boundary between Zambia and Zimbabwe in southern Africa. The falls are also referred to as “The Smoke that Thunders” and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Here falls refers to
- Victoria Falls
  - Angels Falls
  - Tugela Falls
  - Niagara Falls

**Ans: (a)**

Victoria Falls:



Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/09/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-09-december-2019/>

14. The Port of Duqm is strategically located on
- (a) Arabian Sea
  - (b) Andaman Sea
  - (c) Red Sea
  - (d) Mediterranean Sea

**Ans: (a)**



15. Feni River flows through which of the following states before entering the Bangladesh?

1. Tripura
2. Mizoram
3. Meghalaya

Select the correct answer using the code below

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

**Ans: (a)**

- Feni is a river in southeastern Bangladesh. It is a trans-boundary river with an ongoing dispute about water rights. The Feni River originates in South Tripura district and flows through Sabroom town and then enters Bangladesh.
- The question of sharing of the waters of the river between India and Pakistan was first discussed in 1958. Through at least 2006 the countries continued to consider possible compromises.



16. Recently the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has discovered the earliest Sanskrit inscription in South India. It is claimed to be an earliest epigraphic evidence (Epigraphy is the study of ancient inscriptions) for the Saptamatrika cult. This discovery was made in which of the following site?

- (a) Penukonda
- (b) Chebrolu
- (c) Goripalli
- (d) Chandragiri

**Ans: (b)**

About the inscriptions found:

- It is in Sanskrit and in Brahmi characters.
- It was issued by Satavahana king Vijaya in 207 A.D.
- Chebrolu inscription of Satavahana king Vijaya issued in his 5th regnal year (207 A.D.) is also the earliest datable Sanskrit inscription from South India so far. Until now the Nagarjunakonda inscription of Ikshavaku king Ehavala Chantamula issued in his 11th regnal year (4<sup>th</sup> century A.D.) was considered the earliest Sanskrit inscription in South India.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/28/south-indias-earliest-sanskrit-inscription-found-in-ap/>

**17.** Four sites of Indian Railways have been declared as “World Heritage sites” by the UNESCO. They are

1. Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway
2. Nilgiri Mountain
3. Mumbai CST
4. Kalka-Shimla Railways

Select the correct answer using the code below

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 1, 2 and 3
- (c) 1, 2 and 4
- (d) All of the above

**Ans: (d)**

- The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway was the first, and is still the most outstanding, example of a hill passenger railway. Opened in 1881, its design applies bold and ingenious engineering solutions to the problem of establishing an effective rail link across a mountainous terrain of great beauty.
- The construction of the Nilgiri Mountain Railway, a 46-km long metre-gauge single-track railway in Tamil Nadu State was first proposed in 1854, but due to the difficulty of the mountainous location the work only started in 1891 and was completed in 1908. This railway, scaling an elevation of 326 m to 2,203 m, represented the latest technology of the time.
- The Kalka Shimla Railway, a 96-km long, single track working rail link built in the mid-19th century to provide a service to the highland town of Shimla is emblematic of the technical and material efforts to disenclave mountain populations through the railway.
- The Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, formerly known as Victoria Terminus Station, in Mumbai, is an outstanding example of Victorian Gothic Revival architecture in India, blended with themes deriving from Indian traditional architecture. The building, designed by the British architect F. W. Stevens, became the symbol of Bombay as the ‘Gothic City’ and the major international mercantile port of India. The terminal was built over 10 years, starting in 1878, according to a High Victorian Gothic design based on late medieval Italian models.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/28/indian-railway-management-service-irms/>

**18.** Consider the following statements

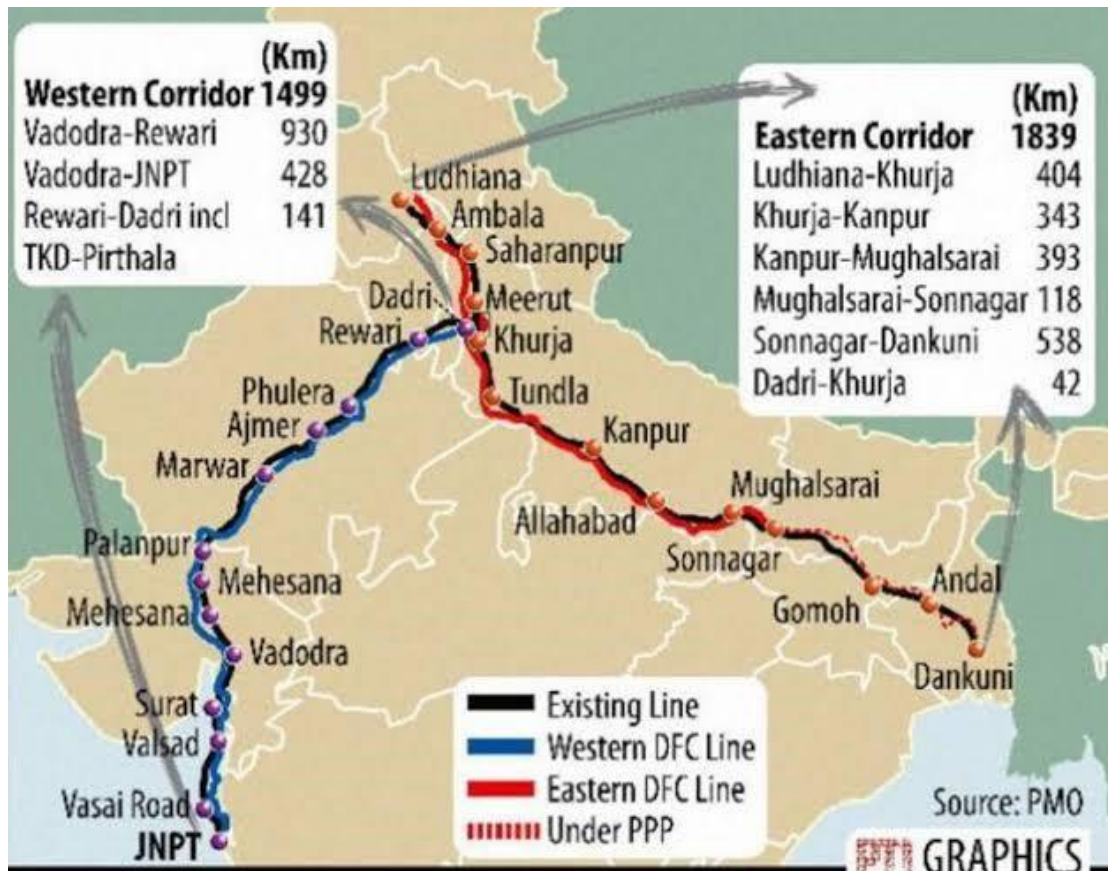
1. Western DFC passes through States of Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra Only
2. Eastern DFC through States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

**Ans: (b)**

- Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) is from Ludhiana to Dankuni (1318 Kms Ludhiana to Sonnagar and 538 Kms Sonnagar to Dankuni) and Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) is from Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal (JNPT) to Dadri (1504 Kms).
- Western DFC passes through States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra and Eastern DFC through States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/28/western-dedicated-freight-corridor/>

19. Recently Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve is in news for sometimes, it is located in
- (a) Maharashtra
  - (b) Odisha
  - (c) Madhya Pradesh
  - (d) Jharkhand

**Ans: (c)**

- Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve: In 1968, it was notified as a national park and in 1993 was declared a tiger reserve- under the Project Tiger Network.

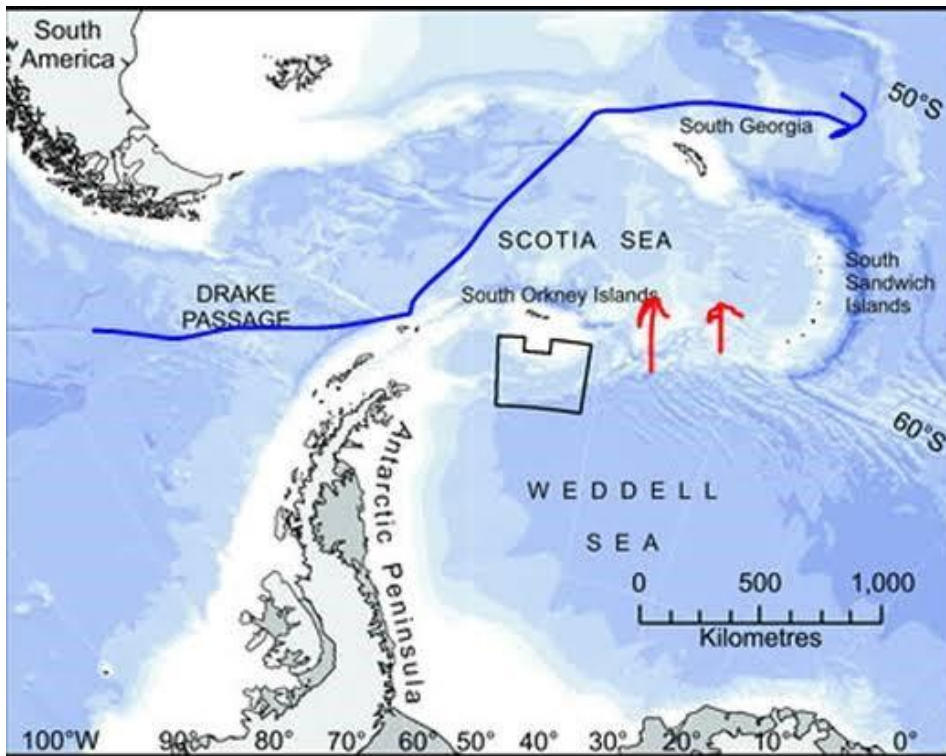
Refer: Facts For Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/30/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-30-december-2019/>

20. This sea located at the northern edge of the Southern Ocean at its boundary with the South Atlantic Ocean. It is bounded on the west by the Drake Passage and on the north, east, and south by an undersea ridge and island arc system supporting various islands.

It refers to which of the following sea?

- (a) Sargasso Sea
- (b) Scotia Sea
- (c) Salton Sea
- (d) Labrador Sea

**Ans: (b)**



Refer: Facts For Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/30/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-30-december-2019/>

**20.** The UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR) covers internationally designated protected areas, each known as biosphere reserves that are meant to demonstrate a balanced relationship between people and nature. In this context which of the following biosphere reserves is/are the part of World Network of Biosphere Reserves in India?

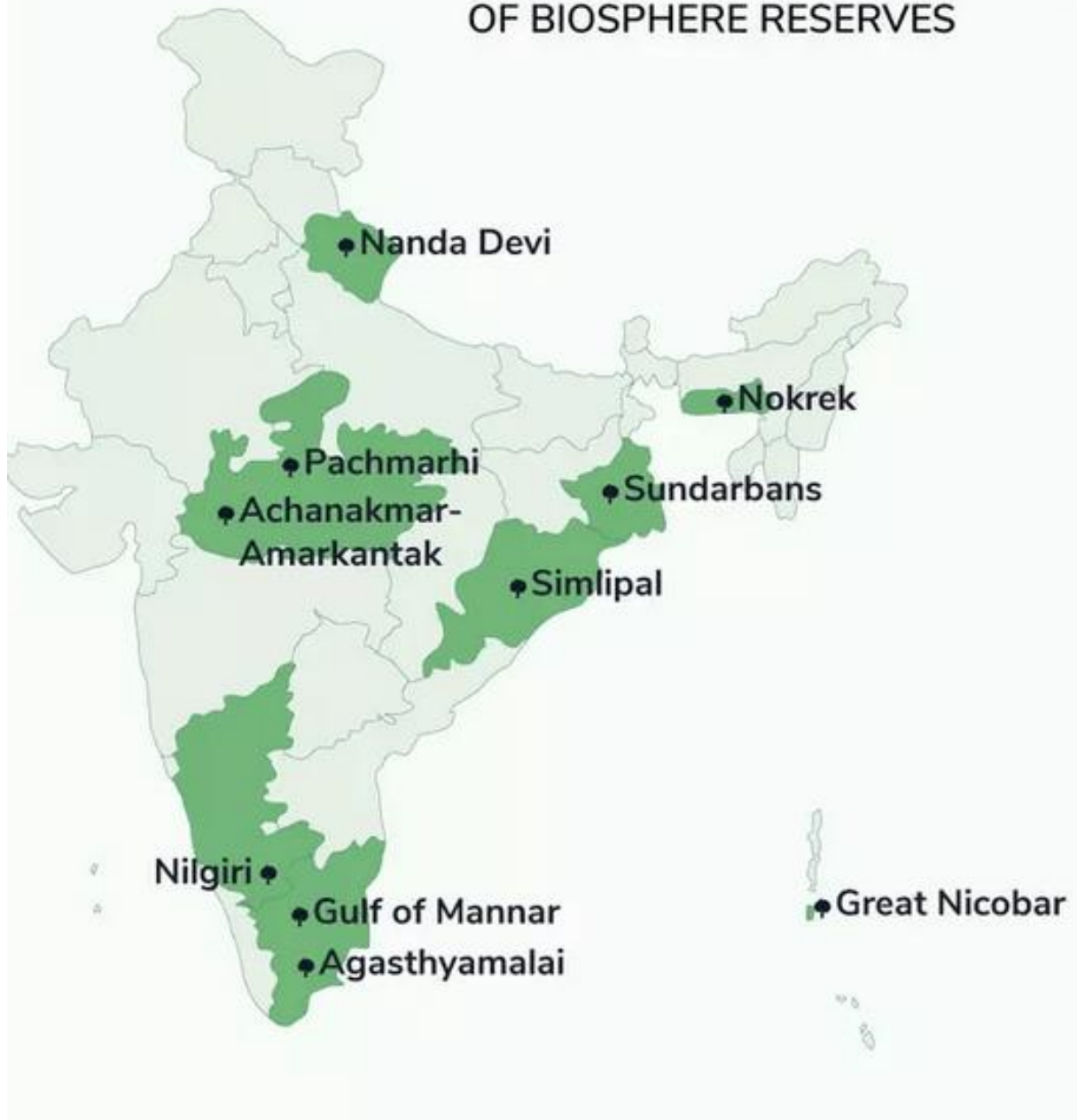
1. Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve
2. Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve
3. Simlipal Biosphere Reserve
4. Panna Biosphere Reserve
5. Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

**Ans: (b)**

# WORLD NETWORK OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES



- 11 of the eighteen biosphere reserves are a part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, based on the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme list.

## XII. Miscellaneous

1. With reference to International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which of the statements are **not** correct ?
1. It was instituted by United Nations General Assembly
  2. It aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities
- (a) 1 Only  
(b) 2 Only  
(c) Both 1 and 2  
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Ans: (d)**

Explanation: Here the directive word is Not Correct!!

- International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- It was instituted by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1992.
- It aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/04/insightsias-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-04-december-2019/>

2. GOAL is a Facebook program primarily aimed at
- (a) Guiding and encouraging tribal girls to become village-level digital young leaders for their communities
  - (b) Awareness campaign on gender equality
  - (c) Improving the women education
  - (d) Advertising the women built product on Facebook

**Ans: (a)**

- The GOAL is a Facebook program aimed at guiding and encouraging tribal girls from across India to become village-level digital young leaders for their communities
- The programme will help to connect underprivileged young tribal women with senior expert mentors in the areas of business, fashion and arts to learn digital and life skills.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/06/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-06-december-2019/>

3. Crystal award is awarded by
- (a) UN-Habitat
  - (b) UNDP
  - (c) UNEP
  - (d) WEF

**Ans: (d)**

- Awarded by the World Economic Forum (WEF)
- Hosted by World Economic Forum's World Arts Forum.
- The Award recognises as well as celebrates the achievements of leading artists and cultural figures whose leadership inspires inclusive and sustainable change

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/16/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-16-december-2019/>

4. A movie titled *The Man Who Knew Infinity* is based on the biography of
- (a) Stephen Hawking
  - (b) Albert Einstein
  - (c) S. Ramanujan
  - (d) C. V. Raman

**Ans: (c)**

- 'The Man who knew infinite' is a biographical movie of Indian Mathematician Srinivas Ramanujan (played by Dev Patel) and his association with British mathematician GH Hardy.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/23/national-mathematics-day-2019/>