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UPSC TOPPERS

2014
- Saurabh K
  AIR 6, CSE 2014
- Nisha Kumar
  AIR 16, CSE 2014

2015
- Arthak Saha
  AIR 9, CSE 2015
- KJo Choudhary
  AIR 16, CSE 2015

2016
- Rajneesh K R
  AIR 1, CSE 2015
- Bhargava I
  AIR 41, CSE 2015

2017
- Anubhav
  AIR 1, CSE 2017
- Ankush Kumar
  AIR 4, CSE 2017

2018
- Shubham Pratap Singh
  AIR 52, CSE 2018
- Prasanna R M
  AIR 102, CSE 2018

Telegram: https://t.me/insightsIAsTips
Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpoccbCK9GEIwaile4HLjwA
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<td>30th Mar-2020</td>
<td>159</td>
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<tr>
<td>31st Mar-2020</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Which of the following pairs (Funds: Placed under the disposal of) is/are not correctly matched?
   (a) National Sports Development Fund: Union Minister in charge of Youth Affairs and Sports
   (b) Contingency Fund of India: President of India
   (c) State Disaster Response Fund: Chief Minister of state
   (d) All of the above options (a), (b) and (c) are correctly matched
   Ans: (c)
   Explanation:
   • About State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF): SDRF has been constituted by each state under the provisions of Disaster Management act 2005.
     o It was constituted based on the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission.
     o Funding: The government of India contributes 75% and 90% of the total yearly allocation of SDRF to general states and special category states respectively.
     o Heads: The state executive committee headed by the Chief Secretary is authorized to decide on all matters relating to the financing of the relief expenditure from the SDRF.
   • About NDRF: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/10/05/national-disaster-response-fund-ndrf/
   • About Contingency Fund of India: https://ccaind.nic.in/govt_accounts.asp
   Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/02/national-sports-development-fund/

2. Which of following diseases can be classified as rare diseases?
   1. Rett syndrome
   2. Huntington diseases
   3. Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
   4. Thyroid cancer
   Select the correct answer using the code below:
   (a) 1 and 2
   (b) 2, 3 and 4
   (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
   (d) All of the above
   Ans: (d)
   Explanation:
   • Rare diseases are serious, often chronic and progressive, diseases. For many rare diseases, signs may be observed at birth or in childhood, as is the case of proximal spinal muscular atrophy,
neurofibromatosis, osteogenesis imperfecta, chondrodysplasia or Rett syndrome.

- However, over 50% of rare diseases appear during adulthood, such as Huntington diseases, Crohn disease, Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Kaposi’s sarcoma or thyroid cancer.

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/02/rare-disease-day/

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Places in News</th>
<th>Nation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lisbon</td>
<td>Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sao Paulo</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishkek</td>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doha</td>
<td>UAE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Foreign ministers’ meet of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) held in Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic.
- Ocean Conference 2020 held in Lisbon, Portugal, it was led by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- 5th Meeting of BRICS Minister of Environment held in Sao Paulo, Brazil.
- US and Taliban have signed a historic agreement- “Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan”- in Doha, Qatar.

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/02/agreement-for-bringing-peace-to-afghanistan/

4. Raider-X, Sometimes mentioned in news, it is

(a) Upcoming Bollywood movie based on true story.
(b) Indigenously developed a new bomb detection device.
(c) A new helicopter display team of the Indian Air Force.
(d) None of the above

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore have developed a new bomb detection device called Raider-X.

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/02/raider-x/
5. Arrange the following cities in the direction of West to East:
   1. Itanagar
   2. Kohima
   3. Shillong
   4. Imphal
   Select the correct answer using the code below:
   (a) 1-3-2-4
   (b) 4-3-1-2
   (c) 3-2-1-4
   (d) 3-1-4-2
   Ans: (d)
   Explanation:

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/02/inner-line-permit-ilp-2/

6. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?
   NP/WS               State
   1. Guindy National Park        Tamil Nadu
   2. Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary    Uttarakhand
   3. Anshi National Park         Goa
   4. Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary     Jharkhand
   Select the correct answer using the code below:
   (a) 1, 2 and 4
   (b) 3 and 4
   (c) 1, 2 and 3
   (d) 1 and 4
   Ans: (d)
   Explanation:
   • Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary: Himachal Pradesh
   • Anshi National Park: Karnataka

Telegram: https://t.me/insightsIAStips
Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpoccbCX9GEIwaile4HljwA
7. Consider the following statements with reference to *National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) Project*:
   1. It is a *Mission Mode Project (MMP)* included in *Digital India Programme*.
   2. It is device neutral and member centric application.
   3. It will completely eliminate the process of sending out a notice/request for collection of data.
   Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
   (a) 1 and 3  
   (b) 2 Only  
   (c) 2 and 3  
   (d) All of the above  
   Ans: (d)  
   Explanation:
   - **Paperless Assembly or e-Assembly** is a concept involving of electronic means to facilitate the work of Assembly.
   - It enables automation of entire law making process, tracking of decisions and documents, sharing of information.
   - NeVA aims to bring all the legislatures of the country together, in one platform thereby creating a massive data depository without having the complexity of multiple applications.  
   - **NeVA is a device neutral and member centric application** created to equip them to handle diverse House Business smartly by putting entire information regarding member contact details, rules of procedure, list of business, notices, bulletins, bills, starred/unstarred questions and answers, papers laid, committee reports etc. in their hand held devices/ tablets and equip all Legislatures/ Departments to handle it efficiently. Citizens would also gain access to this information at their fingertips.
   - **e-Vidhan is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) included in Digital India Programme and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA)** is the ‘Nodal Ministry’ for its implementation in all the States/ UTs with Legislatures.
   - **NeVA will completely eliminate the process of sending out a notice/request for collection of data**. Through the **cloud technology (Meghraj)**, data deployed can be accessed anywhere at any time. Further, live webcasting of Lok Sabha TV and Rajya Sabha TVs is also available on this application.
   Refer: [https://meity.gov.in/content/mission-mode-projects](https://meity.gov.in/content/mission-mode-projects)

8. Government of India announces minimum support prices (MSPs) for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane. In the context of this which of the following *Rabi crops* is/are covered under the list of Minimum Support Prices (MSPs)?
   1. Wheat  
   2. Barley  
   3. Safflower  
   4. Maize
5. **Jowar**
Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) Except 5, all other Rabi crops are covered
(b) Except 4 and 5, all other Rabi crops are covered
(c) Except 2 and 5, all other Rabi crops are covered
(d) All of the given above Rabi crops are covered
Ans: (b)
Explanation:
- **Rabi crops** are the crops that are sown at the end of monsoon or at the beginning of winter season
- Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2020-21
- Wheat, Barley, Gram, Lentil, Rapeseed & Mustard, Safflower
- Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for the mandated **kharif crops**, namely, paddy, **maize, jowar**, bajra, ragi, arhar (tur), moong, urad, groundnut, soybean, sunflower, sesame, nigerseed and cotton


9. A state in India has the following characteristics:
1. The forests in this state can be broadly classified into **coniferous forests and broad-leaved forests**.
2. The **Satluj, Beas, Ravi, are Chenab** are the important rivers of this State.
3. **Inderkilla National Park and Kugti Wild life sanctuary** are located in this state.
Which one of the following states has all of the above characteristics?
(a) Uttarakhand
(b) Himachal Pradesh
(c) Punjab
(d) Jammu And Kashmir
Ans: (b)
Explanation:
- As per the Champion & Seth Classification of Forest Types (1968), the forests in Himachal Pradesh belong to eight Type Groups which are further divided into 39 Forest Types.
- The forests in the State can be broadly classified into **coniferous forests and broad-leaved forests**.
- Distribution of species follows altitudinal zonation. The vegetation varies from dry scrub forests at lower altitudes to alpine pastures at higher altitudes. In between these two extremes, distinct vegetational zones of Mixed Deciduous Forests, Bamboo, Chir Pine, Oak, Deodar, Kail, Fir and Spruce are found.
- The **Satluj, Beas, Ravi, Chenab and Yamuna** are the important rivers of the State.
10. What is the correct sequence of occurrence of the following cities in South-East Asia as one proceeds from south to north?
   1. Bangkok
   2. Hanoi
   3. Jakarta
   4. Singapore

Select the correct answer using the code given below.
(a) 4-2-1-3
(b) 3-2-4-1
(c) 3-4-1-2
(d) 4-3-2-1

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

---

11. Consider the following statements:
1. The Election Commission of India imposes limits on the expenditure incurred by a candidates and political parties, on their election campaign.
2. For all states, except Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Sikkim, a candidate can spend a maximum of Rs 70 lakh on canvassing.
3. An expenditure beyond the cap can lead to disqualification of candidates under Section 10A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Ans: (b)
Explanation:
- **The Election Commission of India imposes limits on the expenditure incurred by a candidate, but not political parties, on their election campaign.**
- A candidate can spend between Rs 50 lakh and Rs 70 lakh, depending on the state they are contesting the Lok Sabha election from.
- **For all states, except Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Sikkim, a candidate can spend a maximum of Rs 70 lakh on canvassing.** The cap for Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Sikkim is Rs 54 lakh. And, it is Rs 70 lakh for Delhi and Rs 54 lakh for other Union territories.
- For the assembly elections, the ceiling is between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 28 lakh.
- **Candidates have to keep a separate account and file the election expenses with the poll watchdog under the law.** An incorrect account or expenditure beyond the cap can lead to disqualification for up to three years under Section 10A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/03/state-funding-of-elections/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/03/state-funding-of-elections/)

12. Consider the following statements:
1. *Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maan-dhan Yojana* is a voluntary and contribution based central sector scheme.
2. *Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)* is applicable to the entire country.
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)
Explanation:

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/03/deen-dayal-upadhyaya-grameen-kaushlaya-yojana/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/03/deen-dayal-upadhyaya-grameen-kaushlaya-yojana/)
13. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heritage site</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Fatehpur Sikri</td>
<td>Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Khangchendzonga NP</td>
<td>Sikkim</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Great Himalayan NP</td>
<td>Uttarakhand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Rani ki vav</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 1, 2 and 4  
(b) 2 and 4  
(c) 2, 3 and 4  
(d) All of the above  

Ans: (b)  
Explanation:  
- Fatehpur Sikri: Uttar Pradesh  
- Great Himalayan NP: Himachal Pradesh  

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/03/unesco-world-heritage-list/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/03/unesco-world-heritage-list/)

14. Consider the following statements:
1. LiFi uses infrared waves for data transmission while WiFi uses radio waves for data transmission.
2. LiFi covers distance of about 100 meters while WiFi covers about 10 meters.
3. WiFi provides more secured data transfer compared to LiFi.

Which of the given above statements is/are not correct?
(a) 2 only  
(b) 1 and 3  
(c) 1 and 2  
(d) All of the above  

Ans: (d)  
Explanation: Here directive word is **Not-Correct!!**
15. Recently, GoI puts export restrictions on *metronidazole, chloramphenicol, ornidazole*, amid the coronavirus outbreak in China. These are
(a) Moisturising agents in cosmetics
(b) Chemicals used in meat processing industries
(c) Antibiotics used for the treatment of variety of diseases
(d) Chemicals used in manufacturing of agriculture pesticides

Ans: (c)

Explanation:
• Govt puts export restrictions on 26 pharma ingredients & medicines amid coronavirus outbreak in China
Apart from paracetamol, vitamin B1, B6 and B12, other APIs and formulations over which the export restrictions have been imposed include tinidazole, metronidazole, acyclovir, progesterone, chloramphenicol, ornidazole, formulations made of chloramphenicol, clindamycin salts, neomycin, and paracetamol.


16. Consider the following statements:
   1. The UN Security Council was established by the UN Charter.
   2. The council's presidency is a capacity that rotates every month among its 15 members.

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)
Explanation:
- The Security Council was established by the UN Charter. Its primary responsibility is to work to maintain international peace and security. The council has 15 members: the five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members elected for two-year terms. The council's presidency is a capacity that rotates every month among its 15 members.

Refer: https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/presidency

17. Recently, The Premium Residency, sometimes mentioned in the news, it is granted by
   (a) Saudi Arabia
   (b) USA
   (c) UK
   (d) Australia
Ans: (a)
Explanation:
- The Premium Residency, informally known as Saudi Green Card, is a residence permit in Saudi Arabia that grants expatriates the right to live, work and own business and property in the Kingdom without need for a sponsor.
- Recently, Saudi Arabia officially started the issuance of Permanent Premium Residency Permit to Foreigners, Indian investor Yosuffali M A, Chairman of the Lulu group became one of the first to be given the permanent residency permit by Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
18. Consider the following statements:
   1. India Trade Promotion Organisation is the premier trade promotion agency of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
   2. ITPO is a not for profit, autonomous body.
   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)
   Explanation:
   - The 35th edition of AAHAR - the Food and Hospitality fair began in New Delhi today. This five-day-long fair is being organized by India Trade Promotion Organisation, ITPO, with support of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Agriculture and Processed Food Products Development Authority and several apex industry associations.
   - India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), the premier trade promotion agency of the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India is committed to showcase excellence achieved by the country in diverse fields especially trade and commerce.
   - ITPO is a Mini-Ratna Category-1 Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) with 100 percent shareholding of Government of India.
   - It manages India’s world class exhibition complex which is constantly upgraded to keep it in a high standard of readiness.

   Refer: [http://indiatradefair.com/](http://indiatradefair.com/)

19. Which one of the following are Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve?
   (a) Parts of Chamoli District, Pithoragarh District & Bageshwar District
   (b) Part of Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon, Barpeta, Nalbari, Kamrup and Darrang Districts
   (c) Chandratal and Sarchu, Pin Valley National Park and surroundings & Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary.
   (d) Neyyar, Peppara and Shenduruny Wildlife Sanctuary and their adjoining areas
   Ans: (c)
   Explanation:
   - Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve is a biosphere reserve located in the western Himalayas region, within Himachal Pradesh state in North India.
   - The cold deserts of India are located adjacent to the Himalaya Mountains. They are not affected by the Indian monsoons because they lie in the rain shadow of the Himalayas.

20. Consider the following statements:
   1. Valley of Flowers National Park is renowned for its meadows of endemic alpine flowers and outstanding natural beauty is located in this state.
   2. This state is richly diverse area, it is also home to rare and endangered animals, including the Asiatic black bear, snow leopard, brown bear and blue sheep.
   3. This state also hosts the Bengal tiger in the oldest national park of the Indian subcontinent.
Which one of the following states has all of the above features?
(a) Himachal Pradesh
(b) Uttarakhand
(c) Kerala
(d) West Bengal
Ans: (b)
Explanation:
• Uttarakhand is a state in the northern part of India. It is often referred to as the "Devabhumi" (literally "Land of the Gods") due to numerous Hindu temples and pilgrimage centres found throughout the state.
• The state hosts the Bengal tiger in Jim Corbett National Park, the oldest national park of the Indian subcontinent.
• The Valley of Flowers, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in the upper expanses of Bhyundar Ganga near Joshimath in Gharwal region, is known for the variety and rarity of its flowers and plants.


RTM: REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 4th-Mar-2020

21. Consider the following statements:
   1. Damanganga-Pinjal river linking project proposes to divert excess water from reservoirs in the Damanganga basin to Pune.
   2. Manas river is a trans-boundary river between Bhutan and India.
   3. Teesta passes through Buxa tiger reserve.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 2 Only
(b) 1 and 3
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) None of the above
Ans: (a)
Revision Through MCQs (RTM) Compilation (March 2020)

Explanation:
- **The Damanganga-Pinjal river linking project** proposes to divert excess water from reservoirs in the Damanganga basin to **Mumbai** through the **Pinjal dam**, built on the Pinjal river in Vaitarna basin.
- **Buxa Tiger Reserve** lies in Alipurduar district of West Bengal. Its northern boundary runs along the international border with Bhutan.
- **The Teesta**, considered the lifeline of Sikkim, originates in the eastern Himalayas and joins the Brahmaputra in Bangladesh.
- **The Manas river**, a trans-boundary river between Bhutan and India, joins Brahmaputra at Jogighopa in western Assam. The Sankosh too flows down from northern Bhutan and joins the Brahmaputra in Assam.


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lakes</th>
<th>Located City</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Sukhna Lake</td>
<td>Chandigarh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Gorewada lake</td>
<td>Mumbai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Ulsoor Lake</td>
<td>Bangalore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Lonar Lake</td>
<td>Pune</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:
- **Gorewada Lake** is situated on the north-west corner of **Nagpur city**. It is created with a dam 2,350 feet long. In 1912, Gorewada lake was developed by the water works department as the primary drinking water source for Nagpur's 1.01 lakh population.
- **Lonar Lake**, also known as Lonar crater, is a notified National Geo-heritage Monument, saline, soda lake, located at **Lonar** in **Buldhana district**, Maharashtra.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/04/sukhna-lake-is-a-living-entity/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/04/sukhna-lake-is-a-living-entity/)

23. Which of the following Fundamental rights available to both citizens & foreigners (except aliens)?

(a) Equality before law and equal protection of laws.  
(b) Protection in respect of conviction for offences.  
(c) Protection of life and personal liberty.  
(d) All of the above options (a), (b) and (c) are correct.

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Fundamental rights available to both citizens & foreigners (except aliens)**
- Equality before law and equal protection of laws (article 14).
- Protection in respect of conviction for offences (article 20).
- Protection of life and personal liberty (article 21).
- Right to elementary education (article 21A)
- Protection against arrest and detention in certain cases (article 22)
- Prohibition of traffic and human beings and forced labour (article 23).
- Prohibition of employment of children in factories etc (article 24).
- Freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion (article 25).
- Freedom to manage religious affairs (article 26).
- Freedom from payment of taxes for promotion of any religion (article 27).
- Freedom from attending religious instruction or worship in certain educational institutions (article 28).


24. Consider the following statements:
   1. **National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) of India** was prepared under the aegis of department of pharmaceuticals.
   2. **Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)** is the implementing agency of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana.
   3. **Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)** is a government regulatory agency that controls the prices of pharmaceutical drugs in India.

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

   Ans: (b)

   Explanation:
   - **National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)** of India was prepared by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
   - **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority** is a government regulatory agency that controls the prices of pharmaceutical drugs in India.
   - **The Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)**, Government of India works as the Central Drug Authority of India for discharging functions assigned to the Central Government under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.
   - The first National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) of India was prepared and released in 1996. This list was subsequently revised in 2003 and 2011.

25. Consider the following statements:

1. *Black carbon* is a potent climate-warming component of particulate matter formed by the complete combustion of fossil fuels.
2. *Black carbon* is a short-lived climate pollutant.
3. *Black carbon* is produced both naturally and by human activities. 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:** (b)

**Explanation:**

- **Black carbon** is a potent climate-warming component of particulate matter formed by the *incomplete combustion of fossil fuels*, wood and other fuels. Complete combustion would turn all carbon in the fuel into carbon dioxide (CO2), but combustion is never complete and CO2, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, and organic carbon and black carbon particles are all formed in the process. The complex mixture of particulate matter resulting from incomplete combustion is often referred to as soot.

- **Black carbon** is a *short-lived climate pollutant* with a lifetime of only days to weeks after release in the atmosphere. During this short period of time, black carbon can have significant direct and indirect impacts on the climate, glacial regions, agriculture and human health.

- BC is produced both naturally and by human activities as a result of the *incomplete combustion of fossil fuels, biofuels, and biomass*. Primary sources include emissions from diesel engines, cook stoves, wood burning and forest fires.
Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/04/black-carbon-levels-spike-at-himalayan-glaciers/

26. Which of the following authority’s decision is/are legally binding but subjected to appeal?
1. *National Company law appellate tribunal.*
2. *Lok Adalat*
3. *Gram Nyayalayas*
Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 1 and 3
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Ans: (b)
Explanation:
- **National company law appellate tribunal:** An appeal against the NCLAT’s judgement and orders can be filed before the SC. Such an appeal can be filed within 45 days.
- **Lok Adalat:** the award (decision) made by the Lok Adalats is deemed to be a case of a civil court and is final and binding on all parties and no appeal against such an award lies before any court of law. If the parties are not satisfied with the award of the Lok Adalat (though there is no provision for an appeal against such an award), they are free to initiate litigation by approaching the court of appropriate jurisdiction.
- **Gram Nyayalaya:** Appeals in criminal matter can be made to the Sessions Court in the respective jurisdiction and in civil matters to the District Court within a period of one month from the date of judgment.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/04/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-4-march-2020/

27. Consider the following statements:
1. A tornado is a rapidly rotating column of air that is in contact with both the surface of the Earth and a cumulonimbus cloud.
2. Cyclone is a large scale air mass that rotates around a strong center of low atmospheric pressure.
3. A typhoon is a most active mature tropical cyclone basin on Earth.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 2 Only
(b) 1 and 2
(c) 1 and 3
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Ans: (d)
Explanation:
- **Statement 1:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tornado
- **Statement 2:** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyclone
28. “Ema Keithel or Ema Market” is well known for run exclusively by women also it is believed to be the world’s largest women market. It is located in
(a) Shillong
(b) Kohima
(c) Imphal
(d) Guwahati
Ans: (c)
Explanation:
• Women play a very important role in economic development of Manipur. The Ema Market of Imphal is well known for run exclusively by women. It is one of its kind in India.


29. Consider the following statements:
1. NABARD was established on the recommendations of B.Sivaramman Committee.
2. The initial corpus of NABARD was Rs.1000 crores
3. NABARD has a portfolio of Natural Resource Management Programmes involving fields like watershed development and tribal development.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 2 Only
(b) 1 and 2
(c) 1 and 3
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Ans: (c)
Explanation:
• NABARD was established on the recommendations of B.Sivaramman Committee on 12 July 1982 to implement the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act 1981.
• It is one of the premier agencies providing developmental credit in rural areas. NABARD is India’s specialised bank for Agriculture and Rural Development in India.
• The initial corpus of NABARD was Rs.100 crores.
• NABARD is also known for its ‘SHG Bank Linkage Programme’ which encourages India’s banks to lend to self-help groups (SHGs). Largely because SHGs are composed mainly of poor women, this has evolved into an important Indian tool for microfinance.
• NABARD also has a portfolio of Natural Resource Management Programmes involving diverse fields like Watershed Development, Tribal Development and Farm Innovation through dedicated funds set up for the purpose.
30. Which of the following nations is/are members of G-7 group?
   1. Britain
   2. Canada
   3. Russia
   4. Italy
   5. China
   Select the correct answer using the code below:
   (a) 1, 2 and 4
   (b) 1, 2, 3 and 4
   (c) 1, 2, 3 and 5
   (d) All of the above
   Ans: (a)
   Explanation:
   • **The Group of Seven (G7)** is an international intergovernmental economic organization consisting of the seven IMF- advanced economies in the world: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

31. Consider the following statements:
   1. Parliamentary privileges are defined in Article 105 of the Indian Constitution and those of State legislatures in Article 194.
   2. When a member of the House is involved for parliamentary misbehaviour or commits contempt, he can be expelled from 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: (c)
Explanation:
- Parliamentary privileges are certain rights and immunities enjoyed by members of Parliament, individually and collectively, so that they can “effectively discharge their functions”.
- **Parliamentary privileges are defined in Article 105 of the Indian Constitution and those of State legislatures in Article 194.**
- When any of these rights and immunities are disregarded, the offence is called a breach of privilege and is punishable under law of Parliament.
- Besides, Rule No 222 in Chapter 20 of the Lok Sabha Rule Book and correspondingly Rule 187 in Chapter 16 of the Rajya Sabha rulebook govern privilege.
- In India, the Parliament has been given punitive powers to punish those who are adjudged guilty of contempt of the House.
- Such contempt can be committed by the members of any House or any outsider. **When a member of the House is involved for parliamentary misbehaviour or commits contempt he can be expelled from the House.**

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/01/03/parliamentary-privileges/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/01/03/parliamentary-privileges/)

32. Consider the following statements:
   1. *The National Anti-profiteering Authority* shall be headed by a senior officer of the level of a Secretary to the Government of India.
   2. *National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC)* chaired by the Prime Minister.

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)
Explanation:
- A National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) has been constituted in the Cabinet Secretariat.
- Cabinet Secretary is the Chairman of NCMC.
- When a situation is to be handled also by the NCMC, it will give such directions to the Crisis Management Group of the Ministry as deemed necessary. The Secretary(A&C) will be responsible for ensuring that all developments are brought to the notice of the NCMC promptly.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/05/national-anti-profiteering-authority-napa/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/05/national-anti-profiteering-authority-napa/)
33. Which of the following pairs (Reports: Publishing Org’s) is/are correctly matched?
   1. World University Rankings – Quacquarelli Symonds
   2. Global Information Technology Report – International Telecommunication Union

Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 1, 2 and 4
(b) 1, 3 and 4
(c) 1 and 4
(d) All of the above

Ans: (c)

Explanation:
- Global Information Technology Report – WEF (World Economic Forum)
- World Happiness Report – Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/05/world-university-rankings-by-subject-2020/

34. Consider the following statements:
   1. Insolvency is the inability of a person or corporation to pay their bills as and when they become due and payable.
   2. Bankruptcy is when a person is declared incapable of paying their due and payable bills.

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)

Explanation:
35. With reference to India’s satellite launch vehicle, consider the following statements:
   1. PSLVs launch the satellites useful for Earth resources monitoring whereas GSLVs are designed mainly to launch communication satellites.
   2. Satellites launched by PSLV appear to remain permanently fixed in the same position in the sky, as viewed from a particular location on Earth.
   3. PSLV is a four-staged launch vehicle with the first and third stages using solid rocket motors; and the second and fourth stages using liquid rocket engines.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 2 only
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3
(d) 1 only
Ans: (c)
Explanation:
- **PSLV** is designed mainly to deliver the “earth-observation” or “remote-sensing” satellites with lift-off mass of up to about 1750 Kg to Sun-Synchronous circular polar orbits of 600-900 Km altitude.
- **PSLV** is a launch vehicle with four stages—PS1, PS2, HPS3, and PS4 which is equipped with twin-liquid engines is equipped with twin liquid engines. After the launch vehicle enters space, it ejects the satellite and eventually becomes debris which is normally not recovered.
- The **GSLV** is designed mainly to deliver the communication-satellites to the highly elliptical (typically 250 x 3.6000 Km) Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO). The satellite in GTO is
further raised to its final destination, viz., Geo-synchronous Earth orbit (GEO) of about 3.6000 Km altitude (and zero degree inclination on equatorial plane) by firing its in-built on-board engines. Due to their geo-synchronous nature, the satellites in these orbits appear to remain permanently fixed in the same position in the sky, as viewed from a particular location on Earth, thus avoiding the need of a tracking ground antenna and hence are useful for the communication applications.

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/02/17/gisat-1-geo-imaging-satellite/

36. Consider the following statements with reference Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana for tribal women:
   1. It is implemented by National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC).
   2. NSTFDC was set up in 2001 under the Ministry of Minority affairs.
   3. Under the scheme, Scheduled Tribes women can undertake any income generation activity.

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

Explanation:
• Government has adopted Scheduled Tribe Component strategy for ensuring overall development of tribal areas across the country. National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation is implementing Adivasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana for tribal women.
• Under the scheme, Scheduled Tribes women can undertake any income generation activity. Loans upto 90 per cent for scheme costing upto 1 lakh rupees are provided at a concessional rate of interest of 4 per cent per annum.

• **National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)** was set up in 2001 under the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**, Government of India with head office in New Delhi.
  
  o The corporation is managed by a Board of Directors with representatives from Central Government, State Channelizing Agencies (SCA), National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD), Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED) and three eminent persons representing Scheduled Tribes.
  
  o **The main objects of the Corporation** is to work for socio-economic and educational upliftment of Scheduled Tribes(STs), to provide better self-employment avenues so that they can become economically independent and self-reliant. The Corporation undertakes a wide range of activities for socio-economic and educational upliftment of the STs by devising and implementing financial assistance schemes exclusively for the tribal. These schemes are for providing loans to the poor STs at concessional rates of interest and on soft terms & conditions. For helping tribal students to pursue higher education, loans are offered which are subsidized by the Ministry of Human Resources Development.
  
  o The Corporation also provides grants for conducting training and skill development programs for tribal youth so that they can enhance their employability /productivity or can take-up entrepreneurial activity.

37. Recently Ministry of Finance, Government of India has invoked “**Force Majeure (FM) clause**” in light of
  
  (a) Adjusted Gross Revenue default by Telco’s
  
  (b) To permit Indian companies to list on stock exchanges in foreign jurisdiction
  
  (c) To decriminalise the bona fide defaults under the Companies Act, 2013
  
  (d) COVID-19 outbreak
  
  Ans: (d)

Explanation:

• Disruption in the supply of goods from China or any other country due to Novel Coronavirus will be considered as a case of natural calamity under the Force Majeure (FM) clause.

• In a statement, Ministry of Finance has clarified that the clause may be invoked as per the Manual for procurement of Goods, 2017, in light of the COVID-19 outbreak.
• FM clause saves stakeholders from contractual liability in the event of circumstances beyond human control. Firms entering into supply agreements have to notify such events as soon as it occurs.


38. Consider the following statements with reference to Employees' Provident Fund Organisation:
   1. It is the nodal agency for implementing Bilateral Social Security Agreements with other countries on a reciprocal basis.
   2. It works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

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)

Explanation:
• EPFO is one of the World’s largest Social Security Organisations in terms of clientele and the volume of financial transactions undertaken. At present it maintains 19.34 crore accounts (Annual Report 2016-17) pertaining to its members.
• The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is an organization tasked to assist the Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund a statutory body formed by the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 and is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India.
• EPFO assists the Central Board in administering a compulsory contributory Provident Fund Scheme, a Pension Scheme and an Insurance Scheme for the workforce engaged in the organized sector in India.
• It is also the nodal agency for implementing Bilateral Social Security Agreements with other countries on a reciprocal basis.
• The schemes cover Indian workers as well as International workers (for countries with which bilateral agreements have been signed. As of now 19 Social Security Agreements are operational).
• The EPFO’s apex decision making body is the Central Board of Trustees (CBT)


39. Mediterranean Sea is a border of which of the following countries?
   1. Albania
   2. Morocco
3. *Syria*
4. *Slovenia*
Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 2 and 3
(b) 1, 2 and 3
(c) 2, 3 and 4
(d) All of the above
Ans: (d)
Explanation:

40. Consider the following pairs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sea</th>
<th>Bordering country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adriatic Sea</td>
<td>Serbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Sea</td>
<td>Croatia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caspian Sea</td>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mediterranean Sea</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Sea</td>
<td>Syria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which of the pair given above are not correctly matched?
(a) 1, 2 and 5 only
(b) 3 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
Ans: (a)
Explanation: **Here Directive Word is not correct!!**

- The countries with coasts on the Adriatic are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia.
41. Consider the following statements:
   1. *Justice Rajesh Bindal committee* was set up by GoI, to examine the issue of international child abduction.
   2. In its report, Bindal committee suggested against joining the Hague convention.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3
(d) All of the above
Ans: (a)

Explanation:
- Last year, the ministry set up a committee under **Justice Rajesh Bindal** of the Chandigarh Judicial Academy to examine the issue of international child abduction. In its report, the panel suggested against joining the Hague convention.
- India not yet signed the convention on international child abduction.
• "A committee constituted by the Centre to examine legal issues involved in international parental abduction submitted its report in April, opposing a central provision of the Hague Convention. It said that the criterion of habitual residence of the child, which is used to determine whether the child was wrongfully removed by a parent as well as to seek the return of the child to the country of habitual residence, was not in the best interest of the child”.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/06/child-adoption-regulatory-authority-cara/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/06/child-adoption-regulatory-authority-cara/)

42. Consider the following statements:
   1. While *National Population Register* only contains demographic information, but more details are required for census.
   2. *National Population Register* is a database of people living in India, but National Register of Citizens is a database of Indian citizens.

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)

Explanation:
- While the process of NPR and Census will begin simultaneously, the two databases are not same.
- The decennial census is the largest single source of a variety of statistical information on different characteristics of the people of India.
- **While NPR only contains demographic information, more details are required for census like information on demography, economic activity, literacy and education, and housing and household amenities besides others.**
- **National Population Register is a database of people living in India, citizens or not, but National Register of Citizens is a database of Indian citizens.** The NRC process demands proof of citizenship from the respondents. Those who found in what of the proof may face deportation or detention in long run. But in NPR, there is no need to provide any document.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/06/npr-data-useful-for-welfare-schemes-says-union-home-ministry/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/06/npr-data-useful-for-welfare-schemes-says-union-home-ministry/)

43. Consider the following statements about the *North East Venture Fund (NEVF)*?
   1. It is a close-ended fund with capital commitment of Rs 1000 crore.
   2. The primary objective of the Fund would be to invest in enterprises focused on and not limited to Food Processing, Healthcare and Tourism.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
Revision Through MCQs (RTM) Compilation (March 2020)

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **North East Venture Fund (NEVF):**

- **It is a close-ended fund** with capital commitment of **Rs 100 crore** and the investment ranging between Rs 25 lakh and Rs 10 crore per venture, which is long term in nature with investment horizon of 4-5 years.

- **The primary objective of North East Venture Fund (NEVF)** would be to invest in enterprises focused on and not limited to Food Processing, Healthcare, Tourism, Aggregation of Services and IT&ITES located in the NER and to provide resources for entrepreneurs from the region to expand throughout the country.

- The investment focus of the NEVF will be early and growth stage investment mostly in enterprises involved in the fields of, Food processing, Healthcare, Tourism, Aggregation of Services and IT & ITES.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/06/north-east-venture-fund-nevf-2/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/06/north-east-venture-fund-nevf-2/)

44. “Freedom in the World 2020” has been released by
(a) Amnesty International
(b) Green Peace
(c) Walk free Foundation
(d) Freedom House

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Freedom in the World 2020** has been released by America based **Freedom House**.

- Freedom House is a US-based watchdog, which has been tracking global political and civil liberties for almost half a century.


45. Consider the following statements about **International Criminal Court (ICC):**

1. It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN).
2. It is the court of last resort for prosecution of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

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)

Explanation:
• **The International Court of Justice (ICJ)** is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN). It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946.

• **The International Criminal Court (ICC)**, located in The Hague, is the court of last resort for prosecution of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

• It is the first permanent, treaty based, international criminal court established to help end impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.

• Its founding treaty, the Rome Statute, entered into force on July 1, 2002.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/06/international-criminal-court-icc-2/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/06/international-criminal-court-icc-2/)

46. Consider the following statements:
   1. *SFURTI scheme* has been launched in the year 2005 with the view to promote Cluster development.
   2. *Solar Charkha Mission* has been implemented by *Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)*.

   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)

   Explanation:

   • **SFURTI** is **Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries**.

   • **Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**, Govt. of India has launched this scheme in the year 2005 with the view to promote Cluster development.

   • **As per the revised guidelines, the following schemes are being merged into SFURTI:**
     o The Scheme for Enhancing Productivity and Competitiveness of Khadi Industry and Artisans
     o The Scheme for Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP)
     o The Scheme for Rural Industries Service Center (RISC) and
     o Other small interventions like Ready Warp Units, Ready to Wear Mission, etc.

   Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/06/solar-charkha-mission/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/06/solar-charkha-mission/)

47. *Naya Savera*, sometimes mentioned in the news, it is related
   (a) Scheme of interest subsidy to students of minority communities on educational loans for overseas higher studies.
   (b) Leadership development of women belonging to minority communities.
   (c) Scheme aims to provide free coaching to students/candidates belonging to minority communities.
(d) A scheme for formal school education & skilling of school dropouts. 
Ans: (c)
Explanation:
- **Naya Savera** – Free Coaching and Allied Scheme – The Scheme aims to provide free coaching to students/candidates belonging to minority communities for qualifying in entrance examinations of technical/ professional courses and Competitive examinations.

Refer: Facts For Prelims: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/06/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-6-march-2020/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/06/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-6-march-2020/)

48. **Bura Chaporri Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in
(a) Arunachal Pradesh
(b) Meghalaya
(c) Tripura
(d) Assam
Ans: (d)
Explanation:
- **Bura Chaporri Wildlife Sanctuary** is a protected area located in the state of Assam.
- Indian Rhino Vision 2020 aims at increasing the number and range of rhinos in Assam through wild-to-wild translocations from **Kaziranga National Park** and **Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary** to potential Protected Areas including **Manas National Park**, **Burachaporri Wildlife Sanctuary**, **Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary**, and **Dibru-Saikhowa National Park**.

Refer: [http://www.assaminfo.com/tourist-places/18/burachaporri-wildlife-sanctuary.htm](http://www.assaminfo.com/tourist-places/18/burachaporri-wildlife-sanctuary.htm)

49. Consider the following statements:
1. Mangrove forests only grow at tropical and subtropical latitudes.
2. The Sundarbans lies in latitudes north of the Tropic of Cancer.
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: (a)
Explanation:
- Mangrove trees grow in areas with low-oxygen soil, where slow-moving waters allow fine sediments to accumulate.
- Mangrove forests only grow at tropical and subtropical latitudes near the equator because they cannot withstand freezing temperatures.
- The **Sundarbans** lies south of the **Tropic of Cancer**
50. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lake</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Haflong Lake</td>
<td>Assam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neela Hauz Lake</td>
<td>Delhi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badkhal Lake</td>
<td>Haryana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sambhar Lake</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 2 and 4  
(b) 2, 3 and 4  
(c) 1, 2 and 4  
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4  
Ans: (d)  
Explanation:  
• All of the options are correctly matched

Refer: [https://www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/category/32/thesaurus/lake-pollution/](https://www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/category/32/thesaurus/lake-pollution/)

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51. Consider the following statements:
1. Under Article 82, the Parliament can enact a Delimitation Act after every Census.
2. Once the Act is in force, President of India sets up the Delimitation Commission.

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)  
Explanation:  
• Delimitation is carried out by an independent Delimitation Commission.  
• The Constitution mandates that its orders are final and cannot be questioned before any court as it would hold up an election indefinitely.  
• **Under Article 82**, the **Parliament** enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.  
• **Once the Act is in force**, the **Union government sets up a Delimitation Commission**.  
• **Composition**: The commission is made up of a retired Supreme Court judge, the Chief Election Commissioner and the respective State Election Commissioners.
- **Functions**: The Commission is supposed to determine the number and boundaries of constituencies in a way that the population of all seats, so far as practicable, is the same. The Commission is also tasked with identifying seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; these are where their population is relatively large.

- All this is done on the basis of the latest Census and, in case of difference of opinion among members of the Commission, the opinion of the majority prevails.

- The draft proposals of the Delimitation Commission are published in the Gazette of India, official gazettes of the states concerned and at least two vernacular papers for public feedback.

- The Commission also holds public sittings. After hearing the public, it considers objections and suggestions, received in writing or orally during public sittings, and carries out changes, if any, in the draft proposal.

- The final order is published in the Gazette of India and the State Gazette and comes into force on a date specified by the President.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/07/delimitation-of-constituencies-3/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/07/delimitation-of-constituencies-3/)

52. Which of the following rights is/are available to * Arrested person * in India?

1. Right To Appeal
2. Right Against Solitary Confinement
3. Right To Vote
4. Right To Humane Treatment In Prison

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **Rights of Arrested Person in India**:

- The Right to Appeal: The rights of arrested persons include the right to file an appeal against his conviction in a higher court.

- The Right to Humane Treatment in Prison: Accused persons have the right to have all their human rights when in prison. Also, be subjected to humane treatment by the prison authorities.

- Right to have Family Visits in Jail
- Right against solitary confinement

**Voting Rights for Prisoners**:

According to section 62(5) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, no person shall vote at any election if he is confined in a prison, whether under a sentence of imprisonment or transportation or otherwise, or is in the lawful custody of the police.
53. Consider the following statements:
1. Speaker is empowered to place a Member under suspension but not for revocation of a Member’s suspension.
2. Unlike the Speaker, the Rajya Sabha Chairman does not have the power to suspend a Member.
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)
Explanation:
• While the Speaker is empowered to place a Member under suspension, the authority for revocation of this order is not vested in her. It is for the House, if it so desires, to resolve on a motion to revoke the suspension.
• The Chairman of the Rajya Sabha is empowered under Rule Number 255 of its Rule Book to “direct any Member whose conduct is in his opinion grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately” from the House.
• In such a situation, the House may adopt a motion suspending the Member from the service of the House for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session.
• The House may, however, by another motion, terminate the suspension.
• Unlike the Speaker, however, the Rajya Sabha Chairman does not have the power to suspend a Member.

54. With reference to Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill 2020, consider the following statements:
1. The Bill clarifies that companies acquiring coal mines through auctions can use the coal produced only for specified end-uses such as power generation and steel production.
2. The Bill clarifies that the companies need not possess any prior coal mining experience in India in order to participate in the auction of coal and lignite blocks.
3. The Bill clarifies that competitive bidding process for auction of coal and lignite blocks will uniformly apply to all coal mines.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 3
(b) 2 Only
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Ans: (b)

Explanation:
- Currently, companies acquiring Schedule II and Schedule III coal mines through auctions can use the coal produced only for specified end-uses such as power generation and steel production. The Bill removes this restriction on the use of coal mined by such companies. **Companies will be allowed to carry on coal mining operation for own consumption, sale or for any other purposes, as may be specified by the central government.**
- The Bill clarifies that the companies need not possess any prior coal mining experience in India in order to participate in the auction of coal and lignite blocks. Further, the **competitive bidding process for auction of coal and lignite blocks will not apply to mines considered for allotment to:** (i) a government company or its joint venture for own consumption, sale or any other specified purpose; and (ii) a company that has been awarded a power project on the basis of a competitive bid for tariff.


55. Consider the following statements about **Indian Ocean Commission**:
1. It is an intergovernmental organization created in 1982.
2. The vision for IOC originated during a visit by late President Nelson Mandela of South Africa to India in 1995.

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)

Explanation:
- It is an intergovernmental organization created in 1982.
- It was institutionalized in 1984 by the Victoria Agreement in Seychelles.
- The COI is composed of five African Indian Ocean nations: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion (an overseas region of France), and Seychelles.
- COI’s principal mission is to strengthen the ties of friendship between the countries and to be a platform of solidarity for the entire population of the African Indian Ocean region.
- The Commission has a Secretariat which is located in Mauritius and headed by a Secretary General.
- The Commission has four observers — China, EU, Malta and International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF).

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/07/indian-ocean-commission/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/07/indian-ocean-commission/)
56. Consider the following statements:
1. Most of the world’s coral reefs are in tropical waters.
2. More than one-third of the world’s coral reefs are located in the territories of west America, East Africa and Australia.
3. Coral reefs host far more number of animal phyla than those hosted by tropical rainforests.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 3
(b) 1 and 2
(c) 1 Only
(d) 2 and 3
Ans: (a)
Explanation:
• S1 and S2: The vast majority of large reefs created by corals in shallow waters (< 50 m water depth) are located within a tropical zone located between 30° N and 30° S latitude with a preferred temperature range of approximately 22° to 29° C. Coral reefs are often called the “tropical rainforests of the sea” for their astounding richness of life.

• S3: Coral reefs are the most diverse communities on the planet. These tropical marine communities occupy less than 1% of the ocean floor, but are inhabited by at least 25% of all marine species. Scientists estimate that more than 25,000 described species from thirty-two of the world’s thirty-three animal phyla live in reef habitats – four times the number of animal phyla found in tropical rain forests.


57. One of the largest coral reefs in the world, the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System is a reef system extends along the coast of
(a) Off the east coast of the Queensland mainland, Australia
(b) USA and Mexico
(c) Australia and New Zealand
(d) Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras
Ans: (d)
Explanation:


58. Ghasidas National Park is located in
(a) Madhya Pradesh
(b) Odisha
(c) Chhattisgarh
(d) Jharkhand
Ans: (c)
Explanation:
- Chhattisgarh is set to have Guru Ghasidas National Park in Kotiya district as its fourth 'tiger reserve'.
- Presently there are three tiger reserves in the state which are: Achanakmar Tiger Reserve, Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve and Indravati Tiger Reserve. With this new announcement, four tiger reserves will get functional in the state. Additionally, notification regarding the formation of Lemru Elephant Reserve was also made in this meeting.

59. Consider the following statements with reference to Seydi Ali Reis:
1. He was a Turkish traveller to India in the 16th century.
2. He established good relations with Babur.
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)

Explanation: **Seydi Ali Reis:**
- He was an Ottoman admiral and navigator.
- He commanded the left wing of the Ottoman fleet at the naval Battle of Preveza in 1538.
- He was later promoted to the rank of fleet admiral of the Ottoman fleet in the Indian Ocean, and as such, encountered the Portuguese forces based in the Indian city of Goa on several occasions in 1554.
- Seydi Ali Reis established good relations with Sultan Ahmad Shah III, the 12-year-old new ruler of Gujarat whose ascension to the throne was challenged by a nobleman named Nasir-ul-Mulk who simultaneously declared himself as the new sultan and captured the stronghold of Burudj.

Reference: Inspired from PYQ: QP-CISF-2020

60. Consider the following statements with reference to medieval Indian history:
1. *Muhammad Husain Kashmiri*, a contemporary of *Emperor Akbar*, was a reputed calligrapher.
2. *Jharoka darshan* was introduced by *Shah Jahan*.
3. During Mughal Rule, *Sijda* was the highest form of submission or complete prostration.

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:
- For statement 1: [https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/453356](https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/453356)
- Statement 2: *Jharoka darshan* was introduced by *Akbar* with the objective of broadening the acceptance of the imperial authority as part of popular faith.
- Statement 3: The forms of salutation to the ruler indicated the person’s status in the hierarchy: deeper prostration represented higher status. The highest form of submission was *sijda or complete prostration*. Under *Shah Jahan* these rituals were replaced with *chahartaslim and zaminbos* (kissing the ground).

Reference: Inspired from PYQ: QP-CISF-2020
61. Consider the following statements:
   1. In 1503 AD, Portuguese had established their first fort in Cochin in India.
   2. Goa was Portugal’s first territorial possession in Asia.
   3. Portuguese constructed a fort at Diu.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 Only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Ans: (d)
Explanation:
   • **1503 AD**: The Portuguese had established their first fort in Cochin in India.
   • **Goa was Portugal’s first territorial possession in Asia, captured by Afonso de Albuquerque in 1510**, and it served as the main Portuguese base in the East for four and a half centuries. Albuquerque had intended Goa to be a colony and a naval base, as distinct from the fortified factories which had been established in certain Indian seaports.
   • Elsewhere in India, the **Portuguese had constructed a fort at Diu**, an important port that commanded the commercial and pilgrimage routes between India and the Middle East. By the mid-1550s all Gujarati ships entering and leaving the Gulf of Khambhat were being required to pay Portuguese duties at Diu. In 1559 the Portuguese occupied Daman, a port that they had sacked and burned almost 30 years earlier.

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/09/marakkars-who-fought-against-portuguese-invaders/

62. Consider the following statements with reference to eminent women in the Indian history:
   1. **Devi Ahilya Bai** was the Holkar Queen of the Maratha Malwa kingdom.
   2. **Kannagi** is a legendary Tamil woman who forms the central character of the Tamil epic Silapathikaram.
   3. **Rudrama Devi** was a monarch of the Satavahana dynasty in the Deccan Plateau.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 Only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Ans: (a)
Explanation:
• **Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar** Award for Best Private Sector organization/ Public sector undertaking in promoting the well-being and welfare of women, named after Ahilyabai Holkar, *18th-century ruler of the Malwa kingdom*.

• **Kannagi** is a legendary Tamil woman who forms the central character of the Tamil epic Silapathikaram.

• **Rudramadevi** was a monarch of the *Kakatiya dynasty* in the Deccan Plateau from 1263 until her death. She was one of the very few women to rule as monarchs in India and promoted a male image in order to do so.

**Refer:** [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/09/nari-shakti-puraskar/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/09/nari-shakti-puraskar/)

63. “*Gender Social Norms Index*” was recently released by 
   (a) World Economic Forum  
   (b) UN-Women  
   (c) UN Development Programme  
   (d) Both (b) and (c)  
   Ans: (c)  
   Explanation:  
   • The first Gender Social Norms Index was recently released by the *UN Development Programme (UNDP)*.


64. “*Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*”, sometimes mentioned in the news, is related to 
   (a) To adopt stimulus packages to address the fallout of the Corona Virus  
   (b) Tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife  
   (c) Support account for peacekeeping operations  
   (d) To promulgate a set of principles concerning the equality of men and women  
   Ans: (d)  
   Explanation:  
   • 2020 marks the 25th anniversary of the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+25)*, the most visionary agenda on women’s empowerment to date.


65. The Election Commission of India (ECI) mandates certain rules regarding starting a new political party in India. In the context of this, which of the following is/are the set down conditions by ECI to form a political party in India?  
   1. It must consist only of Indian citizens  
   2. It must call itself a political party set up for the purpose of contesting elections to the Parliament and State Legislatures and for no other purpose.
3. It must have at least 100 registered electors as its members. 
Select the correct answer using the code below: 
(a) 1 and 3 
(b) 2 Only 
(c) 3 Only 
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Ans: (d)
Explanation:  
• **The law (The Representation of the People Act 1951 Section 29A)** sets down certain conditions for a political party to form and get registered by the **Election Commission of India (ECI):**
  o It must consist only of Indian citizens  
  o It must call itself a political party set up for the purpose of contesting elections to the Parliament and State Legislatures and for no other purpose. 
  o It must have at least 100 registered electors as its members. 
• An application for registration (along with all supporting documents) is to be submitted to the Secretary of the ECI in the prescribed format.
• Also, after a political party has been registered by the ECI, it is its legal duty to keep the ECI duly informed of any change in its name, head office, office-bearers, address, or in any other material matters, like its constitution.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/09/centre-cannot-brand-organisations-political-sc/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/09/centre-cannot-brand-organisations-political-sc/)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Autonomous Agency/Bodies</th>
<th>Parent agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Enforcement Directorate</td>
<td>Ministry of Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The Asiatic Society</td>
<td>Ministry of Mines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Defence Intelligence Agency</td>
<td>Ministry of Defence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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: (c)

• The Asiatic Society: ministry of Culture  
• National Institute of Solar Energy: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/09/enforcement-directorate/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/09/enforcement-directorate/)

67. Consider the following statements:

1. **The Union Budget, 2018-19**, has proposed to treat school education holistically without segmentation from pre-nursery to Class 12.
2. **Samagra Shiksha** is an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class 12.

3. **Right to Education Act** makes education a fundamental right of every child, till the age of 14 and specifies minimum norms in elementary schools.

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: (a)

Explanation:

**About Samagra Shiksha:**

- The Union Budget, 2018-19, has proposed to treat school education holistically without segmentation from pre-nursery to Class 12.
- Samagra Shiksha - an overarching programme for the school education sector extending from pre-school to class 12 has been, therefore, prepared with the broader goal of improving school effectiveness measured in terms of equal opportunities for schooling and equitable learning outcomes.
- It subsumes the three erstwhile Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE).

**About Right to Education:**

*The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act or Right to Education Act (RTE)*, is an Act of the Parliament of India enacted on 4 August 2009, which describes the modalities of the importance of free and compulsory education for children between 6 and 14 in India under Article 21a of the Indian Constitution. India became one of 135 countries to make education a fundamental right of every child when the Act came into force on 1 April 2010.

- The Act makes *education a fundamental right* of every child between the ages of 6 and 14 and specifies minimum norms in elementary schools.
- It requires all private schools to reserve 25% of seats to children (to be reimbursed by the state as part of the public-private partnership plan). Kids are admitted in to private schools based on economic status or caste based reservations.

68. Which of the following diseases is/are caused/spread by the Viral Infection?
   1. Pneumonia
   2. Catarrhal Fever
   3. Kyasanur Forest Disease
   4. Hepatitis B
   5. Diphtheria

Select the correct answer using the ode below:
   (a) 1, 2 and 3
   (b) 2, 3 and 4
   (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
   (d) All of the above

Ans: (c)

Explanation:
   - **Diphtheria** is an infectious disease caused by *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*, which primarily infects the throat and upper airways, and produces a toxin affecting other organs.


69. Consider the following statements:
   1. Cord blood is the blood that remains in the umbilical cord and placenta post-delivery.
   2. Globally, cord blood banking is recommended as a source of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation.
   3. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) recommends commercial stem cell banking in India.

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: (b)

Explanation:
   - **The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) does not recommend commercial stem cell banking.**
   - **Cord blood (short for umbilical cord blood)** is the blood that remains in the umbilical cord and placenta post-delivery. It contains special cells called hematopoietic stem cells that can be used to treat some types of diseases.
   - **Cord blood banking** is the process of collecting the cord blood and extracting and cryogenically freezing its stem cells and other cells of the immune system for potential future medical use.
   - Globally, cord blood banking is recommended as a source of hematopoietic stem cell transplantation for haematological cancers and disorders where its use is recommended. For all other conditions, the use of cord blood as a source of stem cells is not yet established.
70. Consider the following pairs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wildlife</th>
<th>Naturally found in</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Red Panda</td>
<td>Shola Forest in Western Ghats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Gharials</td>
<td>Chambal River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Lion tailed macaque</td>
<td>Eastern Himalaya and Assam Forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Rusty spotted cats</td>
<td>Eastern Ghats</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which one of the pair given above are correctly matched?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:
- Red Panda: Sikkim, Meghalaya, West Bengal and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Lion tailed macaque: Endemic to Western Ghats.


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71. Consider following statements with reference to Article 21 of the Indian Constitution:

1. Article 21 cannot be suspended during an emergency.
2. The Right to marry a person of one’s choice is integral to Article 21.
3. Right to life and liberty also covers the Access to Internet.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:
- Article 21 cannot be suspended during an emergency. The 44th Amendment of the Constitution provided that this article could not be suspended even during an emergency.
- “The right to marry a person of one’s choice is integral to Article 21 (right to life and liberty) of the Constitution”, the Supreme Court said Monday and set aside a 2017 order of the
Kerala High Court which annulled the marriage of Kerala Muslim convert girl Hadiya and Shefin Jahan.

- Statement 3: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/09/21/access-to-internet-is-a-basic-right-kerala-hc/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/09/21/access-to-internet-is-a-basic-right-kerala-hc/)


72. Consider the following statements:

1. In *Maru Ram v Union of India (1980)* case, it was held by the Supreme Court that Article 72 is to be exercised on the advice of central government.
2. According to U.S. Constitution, the President can grant pardon except in the cases of impeachment.
3. The power of the President of India to grant pardon extends in cases where the punishment or sentence is by a Court Martial.

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: (d)

Explanation:

- **In Maru Ram v Union of India case (1980),** the constitutional bench of the Supreme Court of India held that the power under Article 72 is to be exercised on the advice of the Central Government and not by the President on his own at his discretion. And that the advice of the Government is binding on him.

- **According to U.S. Constitution,** the President can grant pardon except in the cases of impeachment. Unlike Indian President the American President has the absolute power, such power cannot be questioned or blocked by the court or the congress. There is no question of any judicial review.

- **The scope of the pardoning power of the President under Article 72** is wider than the **pardoning power of the Governor under Article 161.**

- The power of the President to grant pardon extends in cases where the punishment or sentence is by a Court Martial but Article 161 does not provide any such power to the Governor.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/10/petitions-and-safeguards-understanding-the-delay-convicts-hanging/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/10/petitions-and-safeguards-understanding-the-delay-convicts-hanging/)

73. Consider the following statements:

1. Supreme Court has recently ruled that reservation in promotion in public posts can be claimed as a fundamental right.
2. In India, State governments are not bound to make a reservation and have discretion in providing reservations.
3. Article 335 of the Constitution of India recognises that special measures need to be adopted for considering the claims of SCs and STs in order to bring them to a level-playing field.

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)

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court has recently ruled that the states are not bound to provide reservation in appointments and promotions and that there is no fundamental right to reservation in promotions.

- **What has the court said?**
  - Reservation in promotion in public posts cannot be claimed as a fundamental right.
  - Articles 16 (4) and 16 (4-A) of the Constitution does not confer individuals with a fundamental right to claim reservation in promotion. It only empowers the State to make a reservation in matters of appointment and promotion in favour of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, only if in the opinion of the State they are not adequately represented in the services of the State.
  - State governments are not bound to make a reservation and have discretion in providing reservations.
  - The judgment also noted that even the courts could not issue a mandamus directing the States to provide reservation.

- **Article 335** recognises that special measures need to be adopted for considering the claims of SCs and STs in order to bring them to a level-playing field.


74. “Opec+”, sometimes mentioned in the news, is related to
(a) It is an operating system and an extensive collection of computer software.  
(b) It acts as the Platform for Infrastructure and Materials Providers.  
(c) It refers to the alliance of crude producers.  
(d) None of the above.  

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Opec+ refers to the alliance of crude producers**, who have been undertaking corrections in supply in the oil markets since 2017.
75. Consider the following statements about Input tax credit (ITC):

1. It is the tax that a business pays on a purchase and that it can use to reduce its tax liability when it makes a sale.
2. A business under composition scheme cannot avail of input tax credit.
3. ITC can be claimed for personal use or for goods that are exempt.

Which of the given above statements is/are not correct?
(a) 3 Only
(b) 1 and 2
(c) 2 and 3
(d) All of the above

Ans: (a)

Explanation: Here Directive Word is Incorrect!!

- It is the tax that a business pays on a purchase and that it can use to reduce its tax liability when it makes a sale.
- In simple terms, input credit means at the time of paying tax on output, you can reduce the tax you have already paid on inputs and pay the balance amount.
- A business under composition scheme cannot avail of input tax credit. ITC cannot be claimed for personal use or for goods that are exempt.

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/10/input-tax-credit/

76. Consider the following statements about Geographical Indications (GI):

1. Two GI certificates of registration for a same produce cannot be issued.
2. The registration of a geographical indication is valid for a period of 20 years.
3. At international level, GI is also governed by the World Customs Organization.

Which of the given above statements is/are not correct?
(a) 2 and 3
(b) 2 Only
(c) 1 and 3
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (a)

Explanation: Here Directive word is Not Correct!!

- Madhya Pradesh government’s struggle to join the elite ‘basmati’ league has failed once again as the Madras high court has

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/10/input-tax-credit/
dismissed the state’s plea seeking geographical indication (GI) tag for basmati rice grown in areas falling under the state.

- **What has the Court said?**
  - Two GI certificates of registration for a same produce cannot be issued.
  - The petitioners have an alternative and efficacious remedy available by filing an application to the registrar of trademark seeking to cancel or vary the GI certificate issued to APEDA.

- **At the International level:** Geographical Indications are covered as a component of intellectual property rights (IPRs) under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property. **GI is also governed by the World Trade Organisation’s (WTO’s) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).**

- In India, Geographical Indications registration is administered by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 which came into force with effect from September 2003.

- **The registration of a geographical indication is valid for a period of 10 years.**
- It can be renewed from time to time for further period of 10 years each.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/10/basmati-gi-tag/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/10/basmati-gi-tag/)

77. With reference to **Intensified Mission Indradhanush**, consider the following statements
1. Mission falls under the purview of **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
2. It aims to provide the routine immunization to children below 2 years of age.
3. Intensified Mission Indradhanush would be closely monitored through PRAGATI platform.

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

Explanation:
- Mission falls under the purview of **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**
- Through this programme, Government of India **aims to reach each and every child under two years of age** and all those pregnant
women who have been left uncovered under the routine immunisation programme.

- Intensified Mission Indradhanush would be closely monitored at the district, state and central level at regular intervals. Further, it would be reviewed by the Cabinet Secretary at the National level and will continue to be monitored at the highest level under a special initiative *Proactive Governance and Timely Implementation (PRAGATI)*.


78. Consider the following pairs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reports</th>
<th>Publishers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Global Wealth Report</td>
<td>WEF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. World Investment Report</td>
<td>WB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Explanation:

- Global Wealth Report - Credit Suisse Group
- World Investment Report - UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development)
- Global Financial Stability Report - IMF


79. ‘*Feed our future*’ campaign, sometimes mentioned in news, is launched by

(a) A Growing Culture  
(b) Food and Agriculture Organization  
(c) World Food Programme  
(d) Food First  
Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- United Nations *World Food Programme (WFP)* have launched a cinema advertisement campaign ‘Feed Our Future’.

80. Consider the following statements with respect to *Mukurthi National Park*:

1. It was created to protect “Nilgiri tahr”, one of the keystone species of this park.
2. It is a part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve along with Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Bandipur National Park, Nagarhole National Park, Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary and Silent Valley.
3. Recently, the forest department of Kerala has begun work on construction of fire lines in this park.

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: (a)

Explanation:

- **Source**: Ahead of summer and peak fire season, ‘fire lines’ or ‘fire breaks’, in the Mukurthi National Park (MNP) are being constructed by the **Tamil Nadu government**.
- **Mukurthi National Park (MNP)** is located in the northwest corner of **Tamil Nadu in the Western Ghats**.
- It is a part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve along with Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, Bandipur National Park, Nagarhole National Park, Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary and Silent Valley.
- Keystone Species: The park was created to protect its keystone species, the Nilgiri Tahr.

Refer: [https://ootytourism.co.in/mukurthi-national-park](https://ootytourism.co.in/mukurthi-national-park)

**RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 11th-Mar-2020**

81. Consider following statements:

1. Under the **UJALA scheme**, 40W LED tube lights and BEE 5-star rated energy efficient fans are distributed to the consumers.
2. **UJJWALA scheme** has been conceived primarily for prevention of trafficking and rescue, rehabilitation and re-integration of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation.
3. Under the **UJJWALA scheme**, a woman of the BPL household without Aadhar, may apply for a new LPG connection in the prescribed format to the nearest LPG distributor.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3
(b) 2 Only
(c) 1 Only
(d) 2 and 3
Ans: (b)
Explanation:

- **"UJALA" - an acronym for Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All.**
  - The main objective is to promote efficient lighting, enhance awareness on using efficient equipment which reduce electricity bills and help preserve environment.
  - Under the scheme, **20W LED tube lights** and **BEE 5-star rated energy efficient fans** are distributed to the consumers.
  - The 20W LED tube lights are 50% more energy efficient than conventional 40W tube lights and are available for Rs. 220/- per tube, as against the market price of Rs. 400-600.
  - The energy efficient fans under the UJALA scheme come with a BEE 5 Star rating.
  - These ceiling fans are rated 30% more energy efficient than conventional fans and are priced at Rs. 1200/- per fan.

- **Ujjawala** – A Comprehensive Scheme for Prevention of Trafficking and Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of Victims of Trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation. Objectives:
  - To prevent trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation through social mobilization and involvement of local communities, awareness generation programmes, generate public discourse through workshops/seminars and such events and any other innovative activity.
  - To facilitate rescue of victims from the place of their exploitation and place them in safe custody.
  - To provide rehabilitation services both immediate and long-term to the victims by providing basic amenities/needs such as shelter, food, clothing, medical treatment including counselling, legal aid and guidance and vocational training.
  - To facilitate reintegration of the victims into the family and society at large.
  - To facilitate repatriation of cross-border victims to their country of origin.

- **About Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**
  - A woman of the BPL household, which does not have access to LPG connection may apply for a new LPG connection (in the prescribed format) to the LPG distributor.
  - **Source:** While submitting the application form, the woman will submit details, like Address, Jandhan/ Bank Account and Aadhar number **(if the Aadhar number is not available, steps would be taken in coordination with UIDAI for issue of Aadhar number to the woman of BPL household)**.
82. Which of the following is geographically closest to “Sir Creek”?  
(a) Jamnanagar (India)  
(b) Dholavira (India)  
(c) Kandla (India)  
(d) Karachi (Pakistan)  
Ans: (d)  
Explanation:  
- Sir Creek is a 96-km strip of water disputed between India and Pakistan in the Rann of Kutch marshlands.

- Sir Creek is ~164km from Karachi; ~245Km from Jamnanagar; ~225Km from Kandla; ~202Km from Dholavira.

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/11/sir-creek-pact/

83. Consider the following statements:  
1. National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) will be implemented by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) with a total outlay of Rs. 6000 Crore for a period of five years.  
2. The first supercomputer designed and built under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) by C-DAC at Indian Institute of Technology (BHU), Varanasi is named as “Param Shivay”.  
3. The GOI in its budget 2020 has announced a National Mission on Quantum Technologies & Applications (NM-QTA) with a total budget outlay of Rs 8000 Crore for a period of five years.  
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?  
(a) 1 and 3  
(b) 2 Only  
(c) 2 and 3  
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Ans: (c)
Explanation:

- **Source**: To harness the potential of this new wave of technology and make India a leading player in CPS, the Union Cabinet approved the launch of **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)** to be implemented by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) with a total outlay of **Rs. 3660 Crore** for a period of five years.

- **Source**: The first supercomputer designed and built under **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)** by C-DAC at Indian Institute of Technology (BHU), Varanasi is named “**Param Shivay**”. It uses more than one lakh twenty thousand compute cores (CPU + GPU cores) to offer a peak computing power of 833 TeraFlops.

- The government in its budget 2020 has announced a **National Mission on Quantum Technologies & Applications (NM-QTA)** with a total budget outlay of **Rs 8000 Crore** for a period of five years to be implemented by the Department of Science & Technology (DST).
  
  - **Quantum technologies** are rapidly developing globally with a huge disruptive potential. The next generation transformative technologies that will receive a push under this mission include quantum computers and computing, quantum communication, quantum key distribution, encryption, crypt analysis, quantum devices, quantum sensing, quantum materials, quantum clock and so on. The areas of focus for the Mission will be in fundamental science, translation, technology development, human and infrastructural resource generation, innovation and start-ups to address issues concerning national priorities.
  
  - Their applications which will receive boost include those in aero-space engineering, numerical weather prediction, simulations, securing the communications & financial transactions, cyber security, advanced manufacturing, health, agriculture, education and other important sectors with focus on creation of high skilled jobs, human resources development, start-ups & entrepreneurship leading to technology lead economic growth.


84. Consider the following statements:

1. Gundla Brahmeswaram, Kambalakonda, Kaundinya were the major wildlife sanctuaries established in the Eastern Ghats to preserve its biodiversity.
2. *Pterocarpus santalinus* is endemic to Western Ghats.
3. The **Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP)** designated the entire Western Ghats range as an **Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA)**.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 3
(b) 2 Only
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 1 Only
Ans: (a)
Explanation:
- The Government of India has taken many initiatives to protect biodiversity of the Eastern Ghats. Seshachalam hill ranges of Andhra Pradesh have been designated as Biosphere Reserve. Several Wildlife Sanctuaries established in the Eastern Ghats to preserve its Biodiversity. These include Gundla Brahmeswaram, Kambalakonda, Kaundinya, Nagarjunsagar-Srisailam, Papikonda, Pocharam, Rollapadu, Sri Lankamalleswaram, Sri Peninsula Narasimha and Sri Venkateswara Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- *Pterocarpus santalinus*, with the common names red sanders, red sandalwood, is a species of Pterocarpus endemic to the southern Eastern Ghats mountain range of South India.
- Gadgil Commission is formally known as Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel (WGEEP). The commission submitted the report to the Government of India on 31 August 2011. It designated the entire hill range as an Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA).
- The Kasturirangan committee was constituted to examine the WGEEP report. The committee is often called high-level working group (HLWG), headed by Kasturirangan. It recommended, only 37% of the total area be brought under Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA).


85. ‘United for Biodiversity’ coalition, sometimes mentioned in news, has been launched by
(a) European Parliament
(b) European Council
(c) European Commission
(d) European Central Bank
Ans: (c)
Explanation:
- The **European Commission (EC)** has launched the ‘United for Biodiversity’ coalition.
- It was launched on World Wildlife Day 2020- 3rd March.
- **The institutions of the European Union** are the seven principal decision-making bodies of the European Union. They are, as listed in Article 13 of the Treaty on European Union:
  - the European Parliament,
the European Council (of Heads of Government),
- the Council of the European Union (of national Ministers, a Council for each area of responsibility),
- the European Commission,
- the Court of Justice of the European Union,
- the European Central Bank and
- the Court of Auditors.

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/11/united-for-biodiversity/

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coalfields</th>
<th>States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Godda</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jharsuguda</td>
<td>Odisha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singareni</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korba</td>
<td>Chattisgarh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:
- **Source**: Godda is mostly famous for the Rajmahal coalfield, located in Jharkhand
- **Source**: Singareni coalfield is located in Telangana
- **Singrauli** Coalfield is located in Madhya Pradesh.
87. Consider the following statements:
   1. Petrapole is the Indian side of Petrapole-Benapole border checkpoint between India and Benapole of Bangladesh.
   2. Recently India has extended a line of credit for the expansion of the Mongla Port of Bangladesh, to enhance the connectivity in the BBIN region.
   3. Assam shares longest border with Bangladesh.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 Only
(d) 2 Only
Ans: (a)
Explanation:
- **The Petrapole-Benapole joint retreat ceremony** was inaugurated on 6 November 2013 by the Home Minister at ICP Petrapole in the presence of Home Minister of Bangladesh. It is a daily military exercise similar to the Wagah Border Ceremony and engages soldiers of Border Security Force (India) and the Border Guards Bangladesh.
• For statement 2: http://newsonair.com/News?title=Bangladesh-to-enhance-Mongla-Port-Capacity&id=381596

• Bangladesh and India share a 4,096-kilometer (2,545-mile) long international border, the fifth-longest land border in the world. **West Bengal with 2,217 km share longest border with Bangladesh.** Other states include 262 km in Assam, 856 km in Tripura, 180 km in Mizoram, 443 km in Meghalaya, and 2,217 km in West Bengal.


88. Consider the following statements about **Gaur (Bos Gaurus):**
1. Gaur is the largest extant bovine in the world.
2. The gaur is the State Animal of both Goa and Bihar.
3. It is listed as ‘vulnerable’ on the IUCN red list of threatened species.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 3
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 2
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Ans: (d)
Explanation:
- Gaur is the largest extant bovine in the world.
- Gaur are grassland specialists and their main food is grass.
- Native to south and southeast Asia.
- Also state animal of both Bihar and Goa.


89. Consider the following statements:
1. Latitude of Varanasi’s location is between those of Kanpur and Patna.
2. Longitude of Srinagar’s location is between those of Amritsar and Ludhiana.
3. Nagpur is situated more southward than Pune.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 Only
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 1 and 3
Ans: (b)
Explanation:
90. Among the following cities, which one lies on a latitude closest to Nagpur?
(a) Surat
(b) Pune
(c) Mumbai
(d) Vadodara
Ans: (a)
Explanation:
- Surat Coordinates: 21°10′12.864″N and 72°49′51.819″E
- Nagpur Coordinates: 21°9′N and 79°5′E
91. Consider following statements with reference to Rules of Conduct and Parliamentary Etiquette of the Rajya Sabha:

1. Rajya Sabha has the right to punish its members for their misconduct whether in the House or outside it.
2. In an extreme case of misconduct or contempt committed by its members, the House can impose life time ban on its members.

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)

Explanation:

- According to the Rules of Conduct and Parliamentary Etiquette of the Rajya Sabha, “The House has the right to punish its members for their misconduct whether in the House or outside it.

- In cases of misconduct or contempt committed by its members, the House can impose a punishment in the form of admonition, reprimand, withdrawal from the House, suspension from the service of the House, imprisonment and expulsion from the House.”

- Mild offences are punished by admonition or reprimand (reprimand being the more serious of the two). Withdrawal from the House is demanded in the case of gross misconduct.

- Persistent and wilful obstructions’ lead the Chairman to name and subsequently move a motion for suspension of the member. A member can be suspended, at the maximum, for the remainder of the session only.

- In an extreme case of misconduct, the House may expel a member from the House. According to a comment in the above rule book, “The purpose of expulsion is not so much disciplinary as remedial, not so much to punish members as to rid the House of persons who are unfit for membership.”

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/suspension-of-seven-cong-mps-revoked/

92. Consider the following statements with reference to High Court System in India:

1. Currently, there are 25 High courts in India.
2. Only three of them have jurisdiction over more than one state.
3. No UT has a High Court of its own.
4. Judges of the High Court hold office till the age of 62.

Which of the given above statements is/are not correct?
(a) 1 and 4
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1, 2 and 4
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Ans: (b)

Explanation: **Here Directive Word is Not Correct!!**
- **Source**: Andhra Pradesh to have separate High Court, 25th in India.
- High courts having jurisdiction more than one State/UT
  - Bombay high court - Maharashtra, Goa, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu.
  - Kolkata High court- Kolkata and Andaman and Nicobar
  - Kerala high court- Kerala and Lakshadweep
  - Madras high court- madras and Pondicherry
  - Punjab and high court- Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh
  - Gauhati High Court – Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh
- Delhi and J&K has High court of its own.
- A Judge of the High Court holds office as Judge until he completes the age of 62 years. Supreme court Judges hold office till the age of 65 Years.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/12/sc-to-hear-uttar-pradesh-plea-on-lucknow-banners-today/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/12/sc-to-hear-uttar-pradesh-plea-on-lucknow-banners-today/)

93. Consider the following statements with reference to Lt. Governor of Delhi:

1. The Lt. Governor of Delhi has more powers than the Governor of a State.
2. In the case of difference of opinion between the Lt. Governor and his ministers, the Lt. Governor is to refer the matter to the president for decision and act accordingly.
3. The Lt. Governor is empowered to promulgate ordinances during recess of the assembly.

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

Explanation:
- **Source**: In an observation made in November 2017, the Supreme Court said that the **Lt. Governor of Delhi has more powers than the Governor of a State** — he does not have to listen to the advice of the Council of Ministers.
  - In the case of Delhi, since portfolios like land, police and public order fall under the domain of the Centre, of which the Lt. Governor is a representative, he holds more powers than a Governor.
• The council of ministers headed by the chief minister aid and advise the Lt. Governor in the exercise of his functions except in so far as he is required to act in his discretion. **In the case of difference of opinion between the Lt. Governor and his ministers, the lt. governor is to refer the matter to the president for decision and act accordingly.**

• **The Lt. Governor is empowered to promulgate ordinances during recess of the assembly.** An ordinance has the same force as an act of the assembly. Every such ordinance must be approved by the assembly within six weeks from its reassembly. He can also withdraw an ordinance at any time. But, he cannot promulgate an ordinance when the assembly is dissolved or suspended. Further, no such ordinance can be promulgated or withdrawn without the prior permission of the President.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/12/role-of-l-g-and-govt-intertwined-madras-hc/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/12/role-of-l-g-and-govt-intertwined-madras-hc/)

94. With reference to *Consumer Dispute Redressal at district level* in India, which one of the following statements is not correct?

(a) Each District Forum is headed by a person who is or has been or is eligible to be appointed as a District Judge.
(b) A state government can establish more than one District Forum in a district if it deems fit.
(c) One of the members of the District forum shall be a women.
(d) The District Forum entertains the complaints where the value of goods or services does not exceed rupees 1 Crore.

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Here Directive Word is Not Correct!!**

• **The Consumer Protection Act, 1986** provides for a 3-tier structure of the National and State Commissions and District Forums for speedy resolution of consumer disputes. They are quasi-judicial bodies.

• Composition: Each District Forum is headed by a person who is or has been or is eligible to be appointed as a District Judge and each State Commission is headed by a person who is or has been a Judge of High Court.

• A written complaint, can be filed before the **District Consumer Forum for pecuniary value of upto Rupees twenty lakh, State Commission** for value **upto Rupees one crore** and the **National Commission** for value **above Rupees one crore**, in respect of defects in goods and or deficiency in service.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/12/consumer-disputes-redressal-forum/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/12/consumer-disputes-redressal-forum/)
95. Consider the following statements with respect to *Provisions of the 1897 Epidemic Diseases Act*:

1. It empowers state governments/UTs to take special measures and formulate regulations for containing the outbreak.
2. The state may determine in what manner and by whom any expenses incurred shall be defrayed.
3. It also gives legal protection to the implementing officers acting under the Act.

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)

Explanation: *Provisions of the 1897 Epidemic Diseases Act*:

- It empowers state governments/UTs to take special measures and formulate regulations for containing the outbreak.
- It also empowers state to prescribe such temporary regulations to be observed by the public or by any person or class of persons as it shall deem necessary to prevent the outbreak of such disease or the spread thereof.
- The state may determine in what manner and by whom any expenses incurred (including compensation if any) shall be defrayed.
- The State Government may take measures and prescribe regulations for the inspection of persons travelling by railway or otherwise, and the segregation, in hospital, temporary accommodation or otherwise, of persons suspected by the inspecting officer of being infected with any such disease.
- It also provides penalties for disobeying any regulation or order made under the Act. These are according to section 188 of the Indian Penal Code (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant).
- It also gives legal protection to the implementing officers acting under the Act.


96. Consider the following statements about COVID-19:

1. It is a respiratory infection.
2. COVID-19 is the official name given to the virus by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention.
3. Coronaviruses are zoonotic.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3
(b) 1 Only
(c) 2 and 3
(d) All of the above
Ans: (d)
Explanation:
- COVID-19 is a respiratory infection. There are many types of coronavirus, some linked to the common cold, but this one is new and was detected toward the end of 2019.
- **COVID-19 is the official name given to the virus by the World Health Organization.** Before WHO officially named the virus, it was also referred to as coronavirus, the novel coronavirus and 2019-nCOV (to indicate the year when the virus was first detected).
- **Source:** Coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they are transmitted between animals and people. Detailed investigations found that SARS-CoV was transmitted from civet cats to humans and MERS-CoV from dromedary camels to humans. Several known coronaviruses are circulating in animals that have not yet infected humans.


97. Which of the following is/are the key features of ‘Additional Tier-1 bonds’?
   1. These bonds have no maturity date.
   2. Individual investors too can hold these bonds.
   3. These bonds provide higher yield than secured bonds issued by the same entity.

Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 1 and 3
(b) 2 Only
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Key features:**
- These have higher rates than tier II bonds.
- These bonds have no maturity date.
- The issuing bank has the option to call back the bonds or repay the principal after a specified period of time.
- The attraction for investors is higher yield than secured bonds issued by the same entity.
- Individual investors too can hold these bonds, but mostly high net worth individuals (HNIs) opt for such higher risk, higher yield investments.
- Given the higher risk, the rating for these bonds is one to four notches lower than the secured bond series of the same bank. For example, while SBI’s tier II bonds are rated AAA by Crisil, its tier I long-term bonds are rated AA+.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/12/what-are-additional-tier-1-bonds/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/12/what-are-additional-tier-1-bonds/)
98. Consider the following statements with respect to *Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve/ Wildlife Sanctuary*:

1. It is the largest wildlife sanctuary in Tamil Nadu.
2. In 2013, it became the fourth tiger reserve as a part of Project Tiger in the state of Tamil Nadu.
3. As per the All India Tiger Estimation Report 2018, maximum improvement in Tiger Population since 2014 recoded in this Tiger Reserve.

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: (d)

Explanation: **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve/ Wildlife Sanctuary:**

- First declared as a wildlife sanctuary in 2008 and enlarged in 2011.
- It is the largest wildlife sanctuary in Tamil Nadu.
- In 2013, it became the fourth tiger reserve as a part of Project Tiger in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- Sathyamangalam forest range is a significant wildlife corridor in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve between the Western Ghats and the rest of the Eastern Ghats.
- It acts as a genetic link between the four other protected areas which it adjoins, including the Billigiriiranga Swamy Temple Wildlife Sanctuary, Sigur Plateau, Mudumalai National Park and Bandipur National Park.

**Key Findings All India Tiger Estimation Report 2018,**
• **Top 5 Performing States:** Madhya Pradesh saw highest number at 526, followed by Karnataka (524), Uttarakhand (442), Maharashtra (312) and Tamil Nadu (264).

• States that saw Decline in Tiger Population: Chhattisgarh and Mizoram. While all other States saw a Positive increase.

• **Highest Number of Tigers:** found in Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.

• **Maximum Improvement in Tiger Population since 2014:** recoded in Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu.

99. Consider the following states:
   1. Madhya Pradesh
   2. Karnataka
   3. Uttarakhand
   4. Maharashtra
   5. Tamil Nadu

Above given states are top 5 performing states, as per the findings of **All India Tiger Estimation Report 2018** with respect to Tiger population. Arrange (as per the tiger population) them in ascending order:

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

• **Top 5 Performing States:** Madhya Pradesh saw highest number at 526, followed by Karnataka (524), Uttarakhand (442), Maharashtra (312) and Tamil Nadu (264).
100. Consider the following statements:
1. Longitude of Jabalpur's location is between those of Bhopal and Indore.
2. Latitude of Mahabalipurm location is between those of Bangalore and Chennai.
3. Agartala is situated more northward than Aizawl.
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: (c)
Explanation:
- Stat1:
- Stat2:
- Stat3:
Location of Agartala in Tripura: Coordinates: $23°50′N 91°17′$ and $23°50′N 91°17′E$

Location of Aizawl in Mizoram: Coordinates: $23°43′38″N$ and $92°43′04″E$

Hence, Agartala is situated more northward than Aizawl.

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**RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 13st-Mar-2020**

101. Consider following statements with reference to Anti-Defection Law:

1. The Tenth Schedule was inserted in the Constitution in 1985 by the 52nd Amendment Act.
2. The law applies to both Parliament and State assemblies.
3. The decision on question as to disqualification on ground of defection is referred to the Chairman or the Speaker of such House, and his decision is final and immune from judicial review.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)  
Explanation:  
- The anti-defection law initially stated that the decision of the Presiding Officer is not subject to judicial review.
• This condition was struck down by the Supreme Court in 1992, thereby allowing appeals against the Presiding Officer's decision in the High Court and Supreme Court.
• However, it held that there may not be any judicial intervention until the Presiding Officer gives his order.

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/13/what-is-the-anti-defection-law-and-how-is-it-implemented/

102. Which one of the following suggested that the decisions under the Tenth Schedule should be made by the President/ Governor on the binding advice of the Election Commission?
(a) First Administrative Reforms Commission
(b) National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution
(c) Election Commission
(d) Law Commission (170th Report)
Ans: (c)
Explanation:
• **Election Commission**
  o Decisions under the Tenth Schedule should be made by the President/ Governor on the binding advice of the Election Commission.

• **Dinesh Goswami Committee on electoral reforms (1990)**
  o Disqualification should be limited to cases where (a) a member voluntarily gives up the membership of his political party, (b) a member abstains from voting, or votes contrary to the party whip in a motion of vote of confidence or motion of no-confidence.
  o The issue of disqualification should be decided by the President/ Governor on the advice of the Election Commission.

• **Halim Committee on anti-defection law (1998)**
  o The words 'voluntarily giving up membership of a political party' be comprehensively defined.
  o Restrictions like prohibition on joining another party or holding offices in the government be imposed on expelled members.
  o The term political party should be defined clearly.

• **Law Commission (170th Report, 1999)**
  o Provisions which exempt splits and mergers from disqualification to be deleted.
  o Pre-poll electoral fronts should be treated as political parties under anti-defection law.
  o Political parties should limit issuance of whips to instances only when the government is in danger.

• **Constitution Review Commission (2002)**
o Defectors should be barred from holding public office or any remunerative political post for the duration of the remaining term.

- The vote cast by a defector to topple a government should be treated as invalid.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/13/what-is-the-anti-defection-law-and-how-is-it-implemented/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/13/what-is-the-anti-defection-law-and-how-is-it-implemented/)

103. As per the Mineral Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020 in India, Which one of the following statements is correct?
(a) As per the Bill, companies acquiring Schedule II and Schedule III coal mines through auctions can use the coal produced only for specified end-uses such as power generation and steel production.
(b) The Bill clarifies that the companies need not possess any prior coal mining experience in India in order to participate in the auction of coal and lignite blocks.
(c) The Bill provides that Central government can take advance action for auction of a mining lease before its expiry.
(d) Under the New Bill, separate licenses are provided for prospecting and mining of coal and lignite.

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Removal of restriction on end-use of coal**: Currently, companies acquiring Schedule II and Schedule III coal mines through auctions can use the coal produced only for specified end-uses such as power generation and steel production. The Bill removes this restriction on the use of coal mined by such companies. Companies will be allowed to carry on coal mining operation for own consumption, sale or for any other purposes, as may be specified by the central government.

- **Eligibility for auction of coal and lignite blocks**: The Bill clarifies that the companies need not possess any prior coal mining experience in India in order to participate in the auction of coal and lignite blocks. Further, the competitive bidding process for auction of coal and lignite blocks will not apply to mines considered for allotment to: (i) a government company or its joint venture for own consumption, sale or any other specified purpose; and (ii) a company that has been awarded a power project on the basis of a competitive bid for tariff.

- **Composite license for prospecting and mining**: Currently, separate licenses are provided for prospecting and mining of coal and lignite, called prospecting license, and mining lease, respectively. Prospecting includes exploring, locating, or finding mineral deposit. The Bill adds a new type of license, called prospecting license-cum-mining lease. This will be a composite license providing for both prospecting and mining activities.
• **Advance action for auction:** Under the MMDR Act, mining leases for specified minerals (minerals other than coal, lignite, and atomic minerals) are auctioned on the expiry of the lease period. The Bill provides that state governments can take advance action for auction of a mining lease before its expiry.


104. Which one of the following statements best describes “Landlord port model”?

(a) Private handling of cargo operations, but the terminal equipment is owned by the port authority.
(b) The port authority owns the land and all available assets—fixed and mobile—and performs all regulatory and port functions.
(c) The port authority is entirely privatized with almost all the port functions under private control with the public sector retaining a standard regulatory oversight.
(d) The port infrastructure, particularly terminals, are leased to private operating companies with the port authority retaining ownership of the land.

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Main port management models based upon the respective responsibility of the public and private sectors:**

- **Landlord ports:**
  - In the landlord port model, the publicly governed port authority acts as a regulatory body and as landlord while private companies carry out port operations—mainly cargo-handling activities.
  - Here, the port authority maintains ownership of the port while the infrastructure is leased to private firms that provide and maintain their own superstructure and install own equipment to handle cargo.
  - In return, the landlord port gets a share of the revenue from the private entity.
  - The role of the landlord port authority would be to carry out all public sector services and operations such as the award of bids for cargo terminals and dredging.

- **Corporatized ports:** Concerns ports that have almost entirely been privatized, with the exception that ownership remains public and often assumed as a majority shareholder. The port authority essentially behaves as a private enterprise. This management model is unique since it is the only one where ownership and control are separated, which lessens “public good” pressures landlord port authority are facing and “shareholder value” pressures private ports are facing.

- **Private service ports:** The outcome of a complete privatization of the port facility with a mandate that the facilities retain their maritime role. The port authority is entirely privatized with almost
all the port functions under private control with the public sector retaining a standard regulatory oversight. Still, public entities can be shareholders and thus gear the port towards strategies that are deemed to be of public interest.

- **Public service ports**: The port authority of public service ports performs the whole range of port related services, in addition of owning all the infrastructure. They are commonly a branch of a government ministry and most of their employees are civil servants. Some ancillary services can be left to private companies. Because of the inefficiencies they are related with, the number of public service ports has declined.

- **Tool ports**: Similar in every aspect to a public service port, the tool port differs only by the private handling of its cargo operations, albeit the terminal equipment is still owned by the port authority. In several cases, a tool port is a transitional form between a public service port and a landlord port.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/13/major-port-authorities-bill-2020/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/13/major-port-authorities-bill-2020/)

105. Consider the following statements:
   1. The Foreigner’s Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies.
   2. The Foreigners Tribunals places the burden of proving one’s Indian citizenship on the person suspected of doubtful nationality.
   3. There is no provision of appeal against Foreigners Tribunals order.

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

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

- Section 9 of the Foreigners Act says that “the onus of proving that such person is not a foreigner or is not a foreigner of such particular class or description, as the case may be, shall not notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, lie upon such person”.

- **Thus, the accused has to prove he or she is an Indian. Since the onus is on the person, if he or she is absconding and doesn’t appear before the tribunal, the member can pass an ex parte order.**

- What happens if an ex parte order does not come up for review, or a review fails?
  - If police can track the person after the order, he or she will be arrested and put into a detention camp. If not, the person
will be an ‘untraced foreigner’. Many ‘declared foreigners’ appeal in the High Court and then the Supreme Court against an order by the FT.


106. Consider the following statements:
1. Avian influenza (bird flu) is a viral infection that can infect not only birds, but also humans and other animals.
2. The avian botulism is a neuro-muscular illness caused by Botulinum that is produced by a bacteria.
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)
Explanation:
- **About Avian influenza (bird flu):**
  - It is a viral infection that can infect not only birds, but also humans and other animals. Most forms of the virus are restricted to birds.
  - It is a highly contagious viral disease affecting several species of food-producing birds (chickens, turkeys, quails, guinea fowl, etc.), as well as pet birds and wild birds.
- **Source: About Avian Botulism**
  - Avian botulism is said to be the reason behind the deaths of 18,000 birds in and around Rajasthan’s Sambhar lake.
  - It is a neuro-muscular illness caused by Botulinum that is produced by a bacteria — Clostridium botulinum.
  - The bacteria is commonly found in the soil, rivers, and seawater. It affects both humans and animals.
  - The bacteria also need anaerobic (absence of oxygen) conditions and do not grow in acidic conditions.


107. Consider the following statements about *Digital Signature Certificate*:
1. Digital Signature Certificates (DSC) are the digital equivalent (that is electronic format) of physical or paper certificates.
2. Common Service Centres are mandated to issue digital signature certificates.
3. Digital Signature certificates are legally admissible in a Court of Law, as provided under the provisions of IT Act, 2000.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 3
(b) 1 Only
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 1 and 2
Ans: (a)
Explanation:

- **Digital Signature Certificates (DSC)** are the digital equivalent (that is electronic format) of physical or paper certificates. Few Examples of physical certificates are drivers' licenses, passports or membership cards. Certificates serve as proof of identity of an individual for a certain purpose; for example, a driver's license identifies someone who can legally drive in a particular country. Likewise, a digital certificate can be presented electronically to prove one’s identity, to access information or services on the Internet or to sign certain documents digitally.

- **A licensed Certifying Authority (CA) issues the digital signature.** Certifying Authority (CA) means a person who has been granted a license to issue a digital signature certificate under Section 24 of the Indian IT Act 2000.

- **Digital Signatures are legally admissible in a Court of Law, as provided under the provisions of IT Act, 2000.**

Refer: [http://www.mca.gov.in/MinistryV2/digitalsignaturecertificate.html](http://www.mca.gov.in/MinistryV2/digitalsignaturecertificate.html)

https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/13/amendments-to-the-information-technology-it-act-2/

108. Consider the following statements:

1. *Crime Multi Agency Centre (Cri-MAC)* aims to share information on heinous crime and other issues related to inter-state coordination.

2. *Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS)* is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) under the National e-Governance Plan of Govt. of 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: (c)

Explanation:

- **Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS)** is a project initiated in June 2009 which aims at creating a comprehensive and integrated system for enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of policing at the Police Station level.

- This will be done through adoption of principles of e-Governance, and creation of a nationwide networked infrastructure for evolution of IT-enabled state-of-the-art tracking system around “investigation of crime and detection of criminals”.

- **CCTNS is a Mission Mode Project (MMP)** under the National e-Governance Plan of Govt. of India.
109. Consider the following statements:
1. Asiatic cheetah is naturally found in India.
2. White Giraffe is endemic to western Asia.
3. One horned rhinoceros is naturally found in India.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 Only
(b) 2 Only
(c) 3 Only
(d) None of the above
Ans: (d)
Explanation:
- The Asiatic cheetah is the only large mammal to go extinct in the country since Independence.
- Poachers have killed two extremely rare white giraffes in northeast Kenya, leaving just one such animal in the world.
- Population distribution of the Greater One Horned Rhino

110. “Pong Dam Lake Wild Life sanctuary” is located in
(a) Uttara Pradesh
(b) Uttarakhand
(c) Himachal Pradesh
(d) Haryana
Ans: (c)
Explanation:
- ‘Restaurant’ for vultures in HP wild life sanctuary: It is a feeding station for vultures in the Pong Dam Lake Wild Life sanctuary in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh.
111. Consider following statements:
1. A floor test is a motion through which the government of the day seeks to know whether it still enjoys the confidence of legislature.
2. During Composite floor test, majority is counted based on those present and voting through voice vote only.
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)
Explanation:
- **About Composite Floor Test:** If there is more than one person staking claim to form the government and the majority is not clear, the governor may call for a special session to see who has the majority. Some legislators may be absent or choose not to vote. In such a case, the majority is counted based on those present and voting. Following are the modes by which voting can be conducted:
  - **Voice vote:** In a voice vote, the legislators respond orally.
  - **Division vote:** In case of a division vote, voting is done using electronic gadgets, slips or in a ballot box.
  - **Ballot vote:** Ballot box is usually a secret vote - just like how people vote during state or parliamentary elections.
- **About floor test:** it is a motion through which the government of the day seeks to know whether it still enjoys the confidence of legislature. In this procedure, a CM appointed by the Governor can be asked to prove majority on the floor of the Legislative Assembly of the state.

Refer: [https://www.insightsindia.com/2020/03/14/what-is-a-floor-test-or-trust-vote/](https://www.insightsindia.com/2020/03/14/what-is-a-floor-test-or-trust-vote/)

112. Consider the following statements:
1. Granting citizenship is the sole discretion of the Union of India and states.
2. Article 365 of the Constitution of India makes it mandatory for the state governments to implement the directions of the Central government.
3. Seventh Schedule in the Constitution of India is borrowed from Australia’s Constitution.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 3
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 2 Only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Ans: (c)
Explanation:
- Granting citizenship is the sole discretion of the Union of India not states.
- Concept of Concurrent list is borrowed from Australia not 7th Schedule.

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/14/delhi-assembly-passes-resolution-against-npr-nrc/

113. Consider the following statements with reference to Essential Commodities Act, 1955:
1. The list of items under the Act include drugs, fertilisers, pulses, edible oils, masks and hand sanitizers only.
2. Under the Act, the government can also fix the maximum support price (MSP) of any packaged product that it declares an “essential commodity”.
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)

Explanation: Essential Commodities Act, 1955:
- The ECA was enacted way back in 1955.
- It has since been used by the Government to regulate the production, supply and distribution of a whole host of commodities it declares ‘essential’ in order to make them available to consumers at fair prices.
- The list of items under the Act include drugs, fertilisers, pulses and edible oils, and petroleum and petroleum products. Refer for more
- The Centre can include new commodities as and when the need arises, and take them off the list once the situation improves.
- Under the Act, the government can also fix the maximum retail price (MRP) of any packaged product that it declares an “essential commodity”.

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/14/what-is-essential-commodities-act/

114. Which of the following best describes/describe the objectives of ‘National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)’ of Government of India?
1. To augment and evolve effective and proficient ambient air quality monitoring network across the country for ensuring comprehensive and reliable database.
2. To have efficient data dissemination and public outreach mechanism for timely measures for prevention and mitigation of air pollution.
3. Public participation in both planning and implementation of the programmes and policies of government on air pollution.
4. To have feasible management plan for prevention, control and abatement of water, noise and air pollution. Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2  
(b) 2, 3 and 4  
(c) 1, 2 and 3  
(d) All of the above  
Ans: (c)  
Explanation: National Clean Air Programme (NCAP):  
- **Goal:**  
  o Goal of NCAP is to meet the prescribed annual average ambient air quality standards at all locations in the country in a stipulated timeframe. The tentative national level target of 20%–30% reduction of PM2.5 and PM10 concentration by 2024 is proposed under the NCAP taking 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration.  
- **Objectives:**  
  o To augment and evolve effective and proficient ambient air quality monitoring network across the country for ensuring comprehensive and reliable database  
  o To have efficient data dissemination and public outreach mechanism for timely measures for prevention and mitigation of air pollution  
  o Inclusive public participation in both planning and implementation of the programmes and policies of government on air pollution  
  o To have feasible management plan for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution.  
- **Approach:**  
  o Collaborative, Multi-scale and Cross-Sectoral Coordination between relevant Central Ministries, State Government and local bodies.  
  o Focus on no Regret Measures, Participatory and Disciplined approach  
Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/14/national-clean-air-programme-ncap-3/  
115. A rise in ‘SENSEX’ means  
(a) A rise in prices of shares of all companies registered with Bombay stock Exchange.  
(b) A rise in prices of shares of all companies registered with National Stock Exchange.  
(c) An overall rise in prices of shares of group of companies registered with Bombay Stock Exchange.  
(d) A rise in prices of shares of all companies belonging to a group of companies registered with Bombay Stock Exchange.  
Ans: (c)
Explanation:
• SENSEX is the benchmark index of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) in India.
• Sensex comprises 30 of the largest and most actively-traded stocks on the BSE, providing an accurate gauge of India's economy.
• Analysts and investors use the Sensex to observe the overall growth, development of particular industries, and booms and busts of the Indian economy.
• Increase in SENSEX reflects the overall mood of the economy. A rise in it means that investors and FIIs are positive about the growth of Indian economy.
• A bull market is a market that is on the rise and is economically sound, while a bear market is a market that is receding, where most stocks are declining in value.


116. Blue chip, sometimes mentioned in the news, is related to
(a) An equity security that pays regular, often steadily increasing dividends.
(b) An equity security whose price is affected by macroeconomic, systematic changes in the overall economy.
(c) It is a share in a company that is anticipated to grow at a rate significantly above the average for the market.
(d) It is a nationally recognized, well-established, and financially sound company.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:
• A blue chip is a nationally recognized, well-established, and financially sound company.
• Blue chips generally sell high-quality, widely accepted products and services.
• Blue chip companies are known to weather downturns and operate profitably in the face of adverse economic conditions, which helps to contribute to their long record of stable and reliable growth.


117. Consider the following statements:
1. Sepsis is a life-threatening organ dysfunction caused by the body’s immune system overreacting in response to an infection.
2. Sepsis can be triggered by Viruses only.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 Only
(b) 2 Only
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(c) Both 1 and 2  
(d) Neither 1 nor 2  
Ans: (a)  
Explanation:  
- Sepsis is a life-threatening organ dysfunction caused by the body’s immune system overreacting in response to an infection. This overactive, toxic response can lead to tissue damage, multiple organ failure and death.  
- **Viruses, bacteria, fungi or parasites — sepsis can be triggered by a variety of pathogens.**  
- The causes of sepsis are usually pneumonia, wound infections, urinary tract infections or infections in the abdominal cavity.  
- Ebola and yellow fever viruses, dengue, swine flu or bird flu viruses can also cause sepsis.


118. **Innovate in India (I3) is an industry- academia collaborative mission of**  
(a) NITI Aayog and WIPO  
(b) Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) and WTO  
(c) Department of Biotechnology (DBT) with World Bank  
(d) Department of Higher Education (India) and WIPO  
Ans: (c)  
Explanation:  
- **Innovate in India (I3) is an industry- academia collaborative mission of Department of Biotechnology (DBT) in collaboration with World Bank for accelerating discovery research to early development of Biopharmaceuticals and to be implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).**


119. Which of the following **pairs (Schemes: Parent Ministry)** is/are correctly matched?  
(a) National Creche Scheme: Ministry of labour and Employment  
(b) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK): Ministry of Human Resource Development  
(c) National Biopharma Mission: Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers  
(d) National Food Security Mission: Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution  
Ans: (d)  
Explanation:  
- National Creche Scheme: Ministry of Women and Child Development  
- Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK): Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
• National Biopharma Mission: Ministry of Science & Technology

Refer: Facts for Prelims: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/14/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-14-march-2020/

120. If you travel by road from Kalapani to Kottayam, what is the minimum number of States within India through which you can travel, including the origin and the destination?
   (a) 5
   (b) 6
   (c) 7
   (d) 8
   Ans: (b)
   Explanation:
   • You need to cross origin ie Kalapani (Uttarakhand), Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, then through either Tamilnadu to Kerala (Kottayam) or through AP to Karnataka to Kerala: 6 states either way
   • Or Kalapani (UK) -UP-MP-MH-KA to Kottayam (Kerala)
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 16th-Mar-2020

121. Concept of ‘One Health’, frequently mentioned in the news, is related to
(a) Physical, mental, and social wellbeing
(b) Combining public and private health care system
(c) Refers to not only to the absence of disease, but the ability to recover and bounce back from illness and other problems
(d) Health of human beings is connected to health of animals and environment

Ans: (d)
Explanation:
- The concept of One Health can be effectively implemented for reducing incidence of emerging zoonotic threats like COVID-19.
- The concept of ‘One Health’, which recognizes that health of human beings is connected to health of animals and environment, is gaining importance as most of the contagious diseases affecting humans are zoonotic (animal to man origin) in nature.

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/16/onehealth-concept/

122. Consider the following statements:
1. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2012.
2. In India, NITI Aayog has been assigned the role of overseeing the implementation of SDGs in the country.

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)
Explanation:
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted in September 2015 as a part of the resolution, ‘Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’.
- India is committed to achieve the 17 SDGs and the 169 associated targets, which comprehensively cover social, economic and environmental dimensions of development and focus on ending poverty in all its forms and dimensions.
- At the Central Government level, NITI Aayog has been assigned the role of overseeing the implementation of SDGs in the country.
123. Consider the following statements:
1. President’s satisfaction while promulgating an Ordinance was final and could not be questioned in any court on any ground.
2. There was no instances as such of promulgation of ‘second ordinance’ by the President to replace an ‘existing one’.
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)
Explanation:
- **38th Constitutional Amendment Act (1975):** Inserted a new clause (4) in Article 123 stating that the President’s satisfaction while promulgating an Ordinance was final and could not be questioned in any court on any ground.
- **44th Constitutional Amendment Act (1978):** Deleted clause (4) inserted by the 38th CAA and therefore reopened the possibility for the judicial review of the President’s decision to promulgate an Ordinance.
- **AK Roy vs. Union of India (1980):** In AK Roy vs. Union of India (1982) while examining the constitutionality of the National Security Ordinance, 1980, which sought to provide for preventive detention in certain cases, the Court argued that the President’s Ordinance making power is not beyond the scope of judicial review. However, it did not explore the issue further as there was insufficient evidence before it and the Ordinance was replaced by an Act. It also pointed out the need to exercise judicial review over the President’s decision only when there were substantial grounds to challenge the decision, and not at “every casual and passing challenge”.
- **DC Wadhwa vs. State of Bihar (1987):** It was argued in DC Wadhwa vs. State of Bihar (1987) the legislative power of the executive to promulgate Ordinances is to be used in exceptional circumstances and not as a substitute for the law making power of the legislature. Here, the court was examining a case where a state government (under the authority of the Governor) continued to re-promulgate ordinances, that is, it repeatedly issued new Ordinances to replace the old ones, instead of laying them before the state legislature. A total of 259 Ordinances were re-promulgated, some of them for as long as 14 years. The Supreme Court argued that if Ordinance making was made a usual practice, creating an ‘Ordinance raj’ the courts could strike down re-promulgated Ordinances.
124. Consider the following statements about National Career Services (NCS) scheme:
   1. It is one of the mission mode projects under the umbrella of E-Governance Plan.
   2. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
   3. Enhancing female labour force participation is one of the focus areas of the scheme.

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:
- **National Career Service (NCS)** project is an initiative launched by the **Ministry of Labour and Employment** as a Mission Mode Project for establishing quick and efficient career related services.
- It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 20 July 2015 as part of the government’s focus on providing right skills and generating employment.
- **The focus areas for the National Career Service platform are listed below:**
  - Enhancing career and employment opportunities.
  - Counselling and guidance for career development.
  - Focusing on decent employment
  - Enhancing female labour force participation.
  - Encouraging entrepreneurial endeavours.

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/16/ncs-national-career-service/

125. Which one of the following statement is not true?
   (a) ExoMars is a joint endeavour between ESA and the Russian space agency, Roscosmos.
   (b) The terms ‘Event Horizon’, ‘Singularity’ and ‘String Theory’ are sometimes mentioned in the news in the context of observation and understanding of the universe.
(c) The space segment consists of the IRNSS constellation of eight satellites, NavIC.
(d) GISAT-1 or Geo Imaging Satellite-1 is India’s first earth imaging satellite in a geosynchronous orbit.
Ans: (d)
Explanation: **Here Directive Word is Not True!!**
- Option 4: **Source**: GISAT-1 or Geo Imaging Satellite-1 is **India’s first earth imaging satellite in a geostationary orbit**.
- A satellite in geostationary orbit (about 36,000 km above earth) has an orbital period equal to earth’s rotational period.
- Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F10) will launch GISAT-1, will be the fourteenth flight of the GSLV.
- Option 3: **Source**: The space segment consists of the IRNSS constellation of eight satellites, NavIC. Three satellites are located in suitable orbital slots in the geostationary orbit and the remaining four are located in geosynchronous orbits with the required inclination and equatorial crossings in two different planes. All the satellites of the constellation are configured identically. The satellites are configured with I-1K Bus to be compatible for launch on-board PSLV.
- Option 2: Event Horizon; Singularity; String Theory are related to observation and understanding of the universe.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/16/what-is-exomars/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/16/what-is-exomars/)

126. Consider the following statements:
1. All viruses have the lipid layer.
2. Prokaryotes are divided into virus, bacteria and archaea.
3. The DNA found in a prokaryotic cell is double-stranded and circular.
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: (b)
Explanation:
- **Certain viruses do not have the lipid envelop and are called the non-enveloped viruses.** Rotavirus which causes severe diarrhoea, poliovirus, adenovirus that cause pneumonia and even human papillomavirus (HPV) do not contain the lipid envelop.
- **Viruses are neither prokaryotic or eukaryotic.** Viruses are not made of cells. Viruses cannot replicate on their own. Most scientists do not consider viruses to be living.
- **About Nucleoid:** The nucleoid is the space within a prokaryotic cell where the genetic information, called the genophore, is found.
Prokaryotes are divided into bacteria and archaea, which are both unicellular organisms that contain no membrane-bound organelles.

The nucleoid, then, also has no membrane around it. It attached to the cell membrane and in immediate contact with the cytoplasm. The nucleoid also doesn’t take a uniform shape and has no specific size.

However, we can still distinguish it from the rest of the cell and identify it under a light microscope.

The nucleoid is mostly composed of multiple compacted copies of DNA in a continuous thread, with the addition of some RNA and proteins. The DNA in prokaryotes is double-stranded and generally takes a circular shape.


127. The Disaster Management Act, 2005 empowers the Government of India to
1. Creation of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), headed by the Union Home Minister.
2. To spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to Disaster Management 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: (b)
Explanation:
- On 23 December 2005, the Government of India enacted the Disaster Management Act, which envisaged the creation of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), headed by the Prime Minister, and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) headed by respective Chief Ministers, to spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to Disaster Management in India.

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/16/state-disaster-response-fund-sdrf-2/

128. Which one of the following is true about the Excise duty in India?
(a) Duty that is levied on goods coming from outside the country.
(b) Taxes levied on the manufacture of goods imported from outside the country.
(c) It is an Indirect Tax.
(d) None of the above
Ans: (c)
Explanation:
**Excise duty refers to the taxes levied on the manufacture of goods within the country**, as opposed to custom duty that is levied on goods coming from outside the country.

**Not covered under GST:** In July 2017 the Centre introduced GST that subsumed a number of indirect taxes including excise duty. This means excise duty, technically, does not exist in India except on a few items such as liquor and petroleum.


129. ‘Orange Category Industries’ is/are
(a) Includes aluminium utensils, steel furniture, soap manufacturing and tea processing.
(b) Includes coal washeries, glass manufacturing, paints, stone crushers, and aluminium and copper extraction from scrap.
(c) Includes Cement industry, Petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, sugar, paper and pulp, nuclear power plants, organic chemicals, fertilizers, fire crackers.
(d) Includes the industries that are “practically non-polluting”.

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **Categorisation of industries:**
- Red category: Includes Cement industry, Petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, sugar, paper and pulp, nuclear power plants, organic chemicals, fertilizers, fire crackers.
- Orange category: Includes coal washeries, glass manufacturing, paints, stone crushers, and aluminium and copper extraction from scrap.
- Green category: Includes aluminium utensils, steel furniture, soap manufacturing and tea processing.
- White category: Includes the industries that are “practically non-polluting”. These industries, like air cooler or air conditioning units, chalk factories, biscuit tray units, won’t need a green clearance enabling easier financing.


130. Consider the following pairs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region often in news</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chechnya</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hubei</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishkek</td>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?
(a) 1 and 3
(b) 2 Only
(c) 2 and 3 Only
(d) 1 Only
Ans: (a)
Explanation:
- **Source**: Four gunmen attacked a Russian Orthodox church in the mostly Muslim Russian province of Chechnya, but were killed by security forces in a clash Saturday that also left two policemen and a churchgoer dead.
- **Source**: Coronavirus outbreak: China may soon lift quarantine in Hubei. Hubei is a landlocked province in Central China
- **Source**: India, SCO members unite to condemn terrorism in Bishkek Declaration. Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, borders Central Asia’s Tian Shan range.

**RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 17th-Mar-2020**

131. Consider the following statements:
   1. The State Election Commission is a Constitutional Authority.
   2. The powers and functions of the State Election Commission are identical to those vested in the Election Commission of India.
   3. State Election Commissioner cannot be removed by the Governor, though appointed by him.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3
(d) All of the above
Ans: (d)
Explanation:
- **State election commissioner** is appointed by The **Governor**.
- The **powers and functions** of the **State Election Commission** under article 243K AND 243ZA of the Constitution Of India are identical to those vested in the **Election Commission Of India** constituted under article 324 of the Constitution Of India in their respective domains.
- His conditions of **service and tenure** of office shall also be **determined by the governor**.
- He shall not be removed from the office except in the manner and on the grounds prescribed for the removal of the judge of the state high court.
- A judge of a high court can be removed from his office by the president on the recommendation of the parliament. This means that a **state election commissioner cannot be removed by the governor, though appointed by him**.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/17/state-election-commission/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/17/state-election-commission/)
132. Consider the following statements about Question hour?
1. It denotes the time immediately following the Zero Hour in both Houses of Parliament.
2. It is mentioned in the Rules of Procedure of the House.
3. During this time, the members ask questions and the ministers usually give answers.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 2 Only
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3
(d) All of the above
Ans: (b)
Explanation: **What is Question hour?**
- The **first hour** of every parliamentary sitting is termed as **Question hour**.
- It is mentioned in the **Rules of Procedure of the House**.
- During this time, the members ask questions and the ministers usually give answers.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/17/what-are-starred-questions-2/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/17/what-are-starred-questions-2/)

133. With reference to Indian Parliament, which one of the following is not correct?
(a) The Appropriation Bill must be passed by both the Houses of Parliament before it can be enacted into law
(b) No Money shall be withdrawn from the consolidated Fund of India except under the appropriation made by the Appropriation Act
(c) Finance Bill is required for proposing new taxes but not other Bill/Act is required for making changes in the rates of taxes which are already under operation.
(d) No Money Bill can be introduced except on the recommendation of the President.
Ans: (a)
Explanation: **Here Directive Word is Not Correct!!**
- According to **Article 114** of the Constitution, **no amount can be withdrawn from the consolidated fund of India without the authorisation from Parliament or legislatures of the states**. Due to this, the Parliament, as well as the state Assemblies need to pass appropriation bills as a part of the Budget exercise to be able to withdraw money from the consolidated fund of Union or state to spend it on various public expenditure programmes and to run day-to-day affairs of government.
- **Appropriation Bill can be defined as a kind of Money Bill passed annually** (or at various times of the year) providing for the withdrawal or appropriation from and out of the **Consolidated Fund of India**, of moneys, voted by Lok Sabha and moneys
charged on the Consolidated Fund for the services of a financial year or a part of a financial year.

- Appropriation Bill, after it is passed by Lok Sabha is sent to the Rajya Sabha as Appropriation Bill and is certified by the Speaker as a Money Bill. **Rajya Sabha has the power to recommend amendments in the Finance Bill.** However, it is for Lok Sabha to accept or reject the recommendations.

- Therefore, Appropriation Bill is a Money Bill, RS has only recommendatory power and need not be passed by RS.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/17/appropriation-bill/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/17/appropriation-bill/)

134. Consider the following statements about the *Bharat Stage Emission Standards (BSES)*:

1. They are set by the Central Pollution Control Board under the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.
2. They are based on American emission standards.
3. Sulphur traces in BS6 fuel is ten times lower (10 ppm) as compared to sulphur traces in BS4 fuel (100 ppm).

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **About the Bharat Stage Emission Standards (BSES):**

- Introduced in the year 2000.
- They are set by the Central Pollution Control Board under the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.
- Objective: To keep air pollutants emitted by the internal combustion engine of vehicles under control.
- They are based on **European (EURO) emission standards.**
- Sulphur and Nitrogen Oxide content: **Sulphur traces in BS6 fuel is five times lower (10 ppm) as compared to sulphur traces in BS4 fuel (50 ppm).** Further, nitrogen oxide level for BS6-grade diesel engines and petrol engines will be brought down by 70% and 25%, respectively.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/17/what-are-bharat-stage-emission-standards-bses/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/17/what-are-bharat-stage-emission-standards-bses/)

135. Which of the following factors is/are mainly responsible for Uranium contamination in Ground Water?

1. Oxidation conditions that enhance the extracted uranium’s solubility in water.
2. Amount of uranium contained in an aquifer's rocks.
3. Dewatering effects.

Refer: [https://t.me/insightsIAStips](https://t.me/insightsIAStips)

Youtube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpoccbCX9GEIwaille4HljwA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpoccbCX9GEIwaille4HljwA)
4. Water-rock interactions that cause the uranium to be extracted from those rocks. 
Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 1, 2 and 4
(b) 1, 2 and 3
(c) 2, 3 and 4
(d) All of the above
Ans: (d)
Explanation:
- **Dewatering effects.**
- To enable a mine to be worked, groundwater needs to be prevented from entering the mine or removed in a process known as dewatering.
- Groundwater entering the mine can be pumped out and discharged at the surface, or the local water table can be lowered using a number of extraction wells surrounding the mine to prevent water from entering.
- Mine dewatering activities have the potential to affect surface water quality, particularly if the discharge is not treated. Groundwater will naturally have a composition that reflects the mineralogy of the host rock and depends on many factors.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/17/uranium-contamination-in-groundwater/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/17/uranium-contamination-in-groundwater/)

136. Consider the following statements about *Pakke Tiger Reserve*:
1. It is also known as *Pakhui Tiger Reserve*.
2. It is bounded by Kameng River in the west and north, and by Pakke River in the east.
3. This Tiger Reserve has won *India Biodiversity Award 2016* in the category of ‘Conservation of threatened species’ for its Hornbill Nest Adoption Programme.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 3
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3
(d) All of the above
Ans: (d)
Explanation:
- **Pakke Tiger Reserve** is also known as **Pakhui Tiger Reserve**.
- This Tiger Reserve has won **India Biodiversity Award 2016** in the category of ‘Conservation of threatened species’ for its Hornbill Nest Adoption Programme.
- It is bounded by **Bhareli or Kameng River** in the west and north, and by Pakke River in the east.
- Neighbours: Papum Reserve Forest in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam’s Nameri National Park, Doimara Reserve Forest and Eaglenest Wildlife Sanctuary.
• The main perennial streams in the area are the Nameri, Khari and Upper Dikorai. West of Kameng River is Sessa Orchid Sanctuary.


137. ‘Dibru-Saikhowa National Park’ is situated in
(a) Arunachal Pradesh
(b) Meghalaya
(c) Assam
(d) Nagaland
Ans: (c)
Explanation:
• **Dibru-Saikhowa is a National Park** as well as a Biosphere Reserve situated in the south bank of the river Brahmaputra in the extreme east of **Assam** state in India.
• The forest type of Dibru-Saikhowa comprises of **semi-evergreen forests, deciduous forests, littoral and swamp forests and patches of wet evergreen forests**. Famed for Ferral horses, a total 36 species of mammals and above 400 species of birds have so far been recorded from the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park.

Refer: PIB one liner facts: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/17/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-17-march-2020/

138. Consider the following statements with reference to **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**:
1. It operates under the Department of Financial Services, Government of India.
2. It is one of the four All India Financial Institutions regulated and supervised by the Reserve Bank.
3. RBI is the largest individual shareholder of SIDBI.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 3 Only
(c) 2 and 3
(d) All of the above
Ans: (a)
Explanation:
• Small industrial Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is a development financial institution in India, headquartered at Lucknow and having its offices all over the country.
• Its purpose is to provide refinance facilities and short term lending to industries, and serves as the principal financial institution in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.
• It was **established on April 2, 1990**, through an **Act of Parliament**. It is headquartered in Lucknow.
• SIDBI operates under the Department of Financial Services, Government of India.
• SIDBI is one of the four All India Financial Institutions regulated and supervised by the Reserve Bank; other three are EXIM Bank, NABARD and NHB.
• State Bank of India is the largest individual shareholder of SIDBI with holding of 16.73% shares, followed by Government of India and Life Insurance Corporation of India.

Refer: PIB one liner facts: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/17/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-17-march-2020/

139. SAMADHAAN portal, sometimes mentioned in news, is primarily related to
(a) MHA’s answer to Naxal problem
(b) to monitor the delayed payments of MGNREGA workers
(c) to monitor the delayed payments of MSME sector
(d) None of the above
Ans: (c)
Explanation:
• Ministry of MSME has launched MSME SAMADHAAN portal to facilitate online registration of references related to delayed payments.
• Operation ‘SAMADHAN’ is the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)’s answer to the Naxal problem. The acronym SAMADHAN stands for Smart leadership, Aggressive strategy, Motivation and training, Actionable intelligence, Dashboard Based KPIs (key performance indicators) and KRAs (key result areas), Harnessing technology, Action plan for each theater, and No access to financing.

Refer: PIB one liner facts: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/17/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-17-march-2020/

140. Consider the following statements:
1. Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) is a project for the development of National Waterways in India
2. The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) under the Ministry of Shipping is the statutory body is responsible for the development and regulation of the inland waterways.
3. The states covered under the Jal Marg Vikas Project are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 1 and 3
(c) 2 and 3
(d) All of the above
Ans: (d)
Explanation:
Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) is a project for the development of National Waterways in India. JMVP was implemented as an initiative towards national integration with an aim to reduce rail and road congestion, carbon footprint and minimal resource depletion.

The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) under the Ministry of Shipping is the statutory body of this project which is responsible for the development and regulation of the inland waterways.

The states covered under the Jal Marg Vikas Project are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.


**RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 18th -Mar-2020**

141. Consider the following statements with reference to Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020:

1. It seeks to extend the upper limit for permitting abortions from 20 weeks to 26 under special circumstances.
2. The Bill proposes requirement of opinion of one registered medical practitioner (RMP) for termination of pregnancy up to 20 weeks of gestation.
3. Every state government is required to constitute a Medical Board. 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)

Explanation: Key Changes made:

- It seeks to extend the upper limit for permitting abortions from **20 weeks to 24** under special circumstances.
- The “special categories of women” include rape survivors, victims of incest, the differently abled and minors.
- The Bill proposes requirement of opinion of one **registered medical practitioner (RMP)** for termination of pregnancy up to **20 weeks of gestation**.
- It also provides for the requirement of opinion of two RMPs for termination of pregnancy of 20 to 24 weeks.
- Constitution of a Medical Board: Every state government is required to constitute a Medical Board. These Medical Boards will consist of the following members: (i) a gynaecologist, (ii) a
paediatrician, (iii) a radiologist or sonologist, and (iv) Any other number of members, as may be notified by the state government.

- Under the Bill, if any pregnancy occurs as a result of failure of any device or method used by a woman or her partner to limit the number of children, such an unwanted pregnancy may constitute a grave injury to the mental health of the pregnant woman.


142. Consider the following statements with reference to Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Phase-1:

1. ODF+ and ODF++ were launched in August 2018.
2. While ODF+ focuses on toilets with water, maintenance and hygiene, ODF++ focuses on toilets with sludge and septage management.

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)

Explanation:
- **ODF+ and ODF++** were launched in August 2018 to further scale up and sustain the work undertaken by the cities after achieving the ODF status under **Phase I of the Swachh Bharat Mission — Urban (SBM-Urban)**.
- ODF+ and ODF++ are aimed towards proper maintenance of toilet facilities and safe collection, conveyance, treatment/disposal of all faecal sludge and sewage.
- **While ODF+ focuses on toilets with water, maintenance and hygiene, ODF++ focuses on toilets with sludge and septage management.**


143. Which one following categories of foreign nationals is/are not eligible to apply for OCI Card?
(a) Who is a citizen of another country, but was a citizen of India at the time of, or at any time after, the commencement of the constitution.
(b) Who is a citizen of another country, but was eligible to become a citizen of India at the time of the commencement of the constitution.
(c) Who is a citizen of another country, but belonged to a territory that became part of India after the 15th day of August, 1947.
(d) Who is a citizen of another country, but whose parents or grandparents hold citizenship of Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **The following categories of persons (except Pakistan and Bangladesh) are eligible to apply under OCI scheme:**
144. With reference to RBI released new guidelines for payment aggregators, consider the following statements:

1. Capital requirements for payment aggregators has been reduced to Rs 15 crore at the time of application for the licence.
2. The RBI has prohibited payment aggregators from allowing online transactions to be done with ATM pin as the second factor of authentication.

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)

Explanation: **RBI releases new guidelines for payment aggregators:**

- **Capital requirements** for payment aggregators has been **reduced to Rs 15 crore** at the time of application for the licence.
- **This needs to be increased to Rs 25 crore within three years of operations.**
- Existing non-bank entities offering payment aggregation (PA) services shall apply for authorisation on or before June 30, 2021.
- Pure-play payment gateway companies would be separated as an entity and would be identified as technology service providers for banks and non-banks.
- PAs have also been asked to adhere to strict security guidelines, adhere to all KYC (Know Your Customer) and AML (Anti Money Laundering) rules.
- The guidelines have also mandated that PAs need to check their merchant customers are not involved in selling of prohibited or fake items.
- The central bank has also asked PAs to set up designated nodal offices to deal with customer grievance.
- **The RBI has prohibited PAs from allowing online transactions to be done with ATM pin as the second factor of**
authentication, which few payment gateway companies were offering as a service.

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/18/rbi-releases-new-guidelines-for-payment-aggregators/

145. Consider the following statements:
   1. Payment gateways are the inclusion of all payment aggregators.
   2. Payment aggregators in India allow the merchants to deal in a specific payment option put on the portal.
   3. Payment gateways require RBI authorization before they set up a business.

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: (b)

Explanation:

• **Payment Gateway**: It is an e-commerce software application, a software that allows online transactions to take place. It is a pass-through mechanism through which cards, net banking and e-wallet payments are done. Payment gateways offer a means to accept online payments.

• **Payment Aggregator**: it is the inclusion of all these payment gateways. Payment aggregators are service providers through which e-commerce merchants process payments. They allow merchants to accept bank transfers without setting up a merchant account that is associated with a bank.

• A payment aggregator can offer a payment gateway, but a payment gateway cannot offer a payment aggregator.

**Difference between Payment Gateways & Payment Aggregators**

• Both payment gateways and payment aggregators are inclusive. A payment aggregator need not act as a payment gateway, but a payment gateway will need an aggregator.

• **Options**: **Payment Gateways in India allow the merchants to deal in a specific payment option put on the portal, whereas Payment aggregators offer multiple options for payment, from bank transfers, credit/debit cards, e-wallet transactions, and recently UPI.**

• **Small Businesses**: Payment gateways use payment aggregators to be able to cater to small businesses. This is due to the fact that small businesses generally find the transaction fees provided by payment gateways too high and complex.

• **Intermediary & Interface**: Payment Gateways play the role of an intermediary with merchants and customers who want to pay for any goods or services they are purchasing from the site. A
payment aggregator is more an interface through which said intermediaries accept payments and make settlements.

- **Ownership:** Payment gateways in India are owned by Payment aggregators (financial service providers) who act as a processing unit for implementing online payments. Payment gateways are merchants and vendors who cannot

- **License:** Payment gateways require RBI authorization before they set up a business. But a payment aggregator requires a payment aggregator license and obtain necessary certification from the Payment Card Industry (Data Security Standard/PCI DSS).


146. Which of the following statements is not true about GEMINI device?
(a) GEMINI is a portable receiver that is linked to ISRO-satellites.
(b) It is developed by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the Airports Authority of India.
(c) The drawback of this device is that it only allows one-way communication.
(d) The device is developed for dissemination of emergency information on Ocean States Forecast and mapping of Potential Fishing Zones (PFZ) to fishermen.

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **Gagan Enabled Mariner’s Instrument for Navigation and Information (GEMINI) device:**
- It is a device that used for seamless and effective dissemination of emergency information and communication on disaster warnings, Potential Fishing Zones (PFZ) and Ocean States Forecasts (OSF) to fishermen.
- The device will help to provide information related to disaster warnings when fishermen move away from the coast beyond 10 to 12 kilometres.
- The GEMINI device receives and transfers the data received from GAGAN satellite/s to a mobile through Bluetooth communication. A mobile application developed by INCOIS decodes and displays the information in nine regional languages.
- **It has been developed by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), and Airports Authority of India (AAI).**
- It is electronically designed and manufactured by a private industry M/S Acord, Bangalore under Make in India Program.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/18/potential-fishing-zone-pfz/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/18/potential-fishing-zone-pfz/)

147. “Mission Parivar Vikas” is a flagship initiative of
(a) Ministry of Women and Child Development
(b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
(c) National Institution for Transforming India
(d) Ministry of Science and Technology
Ans: (b)
Explanation:
- On the World Population Day-2016, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare had given directions to the Ministry to develop a strategy within 3 months where vulnerable districts in the country will be targeted for intensive and improved family planning services.
- In accordance with these directions, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched “Mission Parivar Vikas” in 145 high focus districts having the highest total fertility rates in the country.
- These 145 districts are in the seven high focus, high TFR states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Assam that constitute 44% of the country’s population.
- The main objective of ‘Mission Parivas Vikas’ : to accelerate access to high quality family planning choices based on information, reliable services and supplies within a rights-based framework.


148. Why is a plant called Nilavembu Kudineer often mentioned in news ?
(a) Its extract is beneficial for the management of the Dengue fever.
(b) It tends to reduce the biodiversity in the area in which it grows.
(c) Its extract is used in the synthesis of pesticides.
(d) None of the above
Ans: (a)
Explanation:
- Nilavembu Kudineer, a Siddha medicine has proven effect in the prevention and management of Dengue and Chikungunya in epidemic out breaks.


149. Consider the following statements with reference to Lt. Governor of Delhi:
1. The Lt. Governor of Delhi has more powers that the Governor of a State.
2. In the case of difference of opinion between the Lt. Governor and his ministers, the Lt. Governor is to refer the matter to the president for decision and act accordingly.
3. The Lt. Governor is empowered to promulgate ordinances during recess of the assembly.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2

Telegram: https://t.me/insightsIAStips
Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpoccbCX9GElwaile4HjwA
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Ans: (d)
Explanation:
- **Source:** In an observation made in November 2017, the Supreme Court said that the **Lt. Governor of Delhi has more powers than the Governor of a State** — he does not have to listen to the advice of the Council of Ministers.
  - In the case of Delhi, since portfolios like land, police and public order fall under the domain of the Centre, of which the Lt. Governor is a representative, he holds more powers than a Governor.
- The council of ministers headed by the chief minister aid and advise the Lt. Governor in the exercise of his functions except in so far as he is required to act in his discretion. **In the case of difference of opinion between the Lt. Governor and his ministers, the Lt. Governor is to refer the matter to the president for decision and act accordingly.**
- **The Lt. Governor is empowered to promulgate ordinances during recess of the assembly.** An ordinance has the same force as an act of the assembly. Every such ordinance must be approved by the assembly within six weeks from its reassembly. He can also withdraw an ordinance at any time. But, he cannot promulgate an ordinance when the assembly is dissolved or suspended. Further, no such ordinance can be promulgated or withdrawn without the prior permission of the President.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/12/role-of-l-g-and-govt-intertwined-madras-hc/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/12/role-of-l-g-and-govt-intertwined-madras-hc/)

150. Consider the following statements:
1. Longitude of Jabalpur’s location is between those of Bhopal and Indore.
2. Latitude of Mahabalipurm location is between those of Bangalore and Chennai.
3. Agartala is situated more northward than Aizawl.
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: (c)
Explanation:
- **Stat1:**
Stat2:

Stat3:

- **Location of Agartala in Tripura**: Coordinates: 23°50′N 91°17′ and 23°50′N 91°17′E
- **Location of Aizawl in Mizoram**: Coordinates: 23°43′38″N and 92°43′04″E
- Hence, Agartala is situated more northward than Aizawl.
151. The ‘Means-Test and Creamy Layer’ first finds expression in the Supreme Court’s landmark judgment in
(a) Kesavananda Bharati Case (1973)
(b) Indra Sawhney Case (1992)
(c) S R Bommai Case (1994)
(d) M Nagaraj Case (2006)
Ans: (b)

Explanation:
• 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.

• **About Indra Sawhney vs Union of India Case:**
  o In its landmark 1992 decision in Indra Sawhney vs Union of India, the Supreme Court had held that reservations under Article 16(4) could only be provided at the time of entry into government service but not in matters of promotion. And the principle would operate only prospectively and not affect promotions already made and reservation already provided in promotions shall continue in operation for a period of five years from the date of the judgment.
  o More significantly, it ruled that the creamy layer can be and must be excluded.
  o On June 17, 1995, Parliament, acting in its constituent capacity, adopted the seventy-seventh amendment by which
clause (4A) was inserted into Article 16 to enable reservation to be made in promotion for SCs and ST.


152. ‘Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Action Plan 13’, sometimes mentioned in news, is developed by
(a) G7
(b) OECD
(c) WTO
(d) Both (a) and (b)
Ans: (b)

Explanation:
- **The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** has developed an Action Plan called “Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Action Plan 13” to ensure that a multinational enterprise would report its profit correctly where it is earned.

- **About Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS):**
  - Base erosion and profit shifting refers to the phenomenon where companies shift their profits to other tax jurisdictions, which usually have lower rates, thereby eroding the tax base in India.
  - India in July 2019 ratified the international agreement to curb base erosion and profits shifting (BEPS)– Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/20/what-is-a-country-by-country-cbc-report/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/20/what-is-a-country-by-country-cbc-report/)

153. With reference to Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting:
1. Recently, India conveyed its decision not to join the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty.
2. The Multilateral Convention is an outcome of the OECD / G20 Project.
3. The MLI will be applied alongside existing countries tax treaties, modifying their application in order to implement the BEPS measures.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 Only
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 1 and 3
Ans: (c)

Explanation:
- **India has ratified the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (MLI)**, which was signed by the Hon’ble Finance
Minister at Paris on 7th June, 2017 on behalf of India, along with representatives of more than 65 countries. On 25th June, 2019,

- India has deposited the Instrument of Ratification to OECD, Paris along with its Final Position in terms of **Covered Tax Agreements (CTAs)**, Reservations, Options and Notifications under the MLI, as a result of which MLI will enter into force for India on 01st October, 2019 and its provisions will have effect on India’s DTAs from FY 2020-21 onwards.

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

- **The MLI will modify India’s tax treaties to curb revenue loss through treaty abuse and base erosion and profit shifting strategies by ensuring that profits are taxed where substantive economic activities generating the profits are carried out.**

- The MLI will be applied alongside existing tax treaties, modifying their application in order to implement the BEPS measures.

- Out of 93 CTAs notified by India, 22 countries have already ratified the MLI as on date and the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with these countries will be modified by MLI.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/20/what-is-a-country-by-country-cbc-report/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/20/what-is-a-country-by-country-cbc-report/)

154. Consider the following statements about Small Farmers’ Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC):

1. It is an exclusive Society focused on increasing incomes of small and marginal farmers through aggregation and development of agribusiness.
2. It promotes development of small agribusiness through its VCA Scheme for value added processing and marketing linkages.
3. SFAC is implementing the National Agriculture Market Electronic Trading (e-Nam) platform.

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **About Small Farmers’ Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC):**
• SFAC is an **exclusive Society** focused on **increasing incomes of small and marginal farmers** through aggregation and development of agribusiness.

• SFAC has pioneered the formation and growth of **Farmer Producer Organizations/Farmer Producer Companies**, which is now being implemented across the length and breadth of the country. SFAC is progressing towards establishing an eco system for FPOs/FPCs to make them sustainable and viable in the long run.

• SFAC offers Schemes like Equity Grant and Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme to FPCs to improve availability of working capital and development of business activities.

• SFAC promotes development of small agribusiness through its VCA Scheme for value added processing and marketing linkages.

• SFAC is also implementing the **National Agriculture Market Electronic Trading (e-Nam) platform**. The purpose is to provide for a single unified market for agricultural products with much higher price discovery for farmers.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/20/small-farmers-agri-business-consortium-sfac/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/20/small-farmers-agri-business-consortium-sfac/)

155. Consider the following statements about **Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority**:
   1. APEDA is an apex body under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
   2. It is mandated with the responsibility of export promotion and development of Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic Beverages.
   3. APEDA has been entrusted with the responsibility to monitor import of sugar.

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

• **The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** was established by the Government of India under the **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act** passed by the Parliament in December, 1985.

• APEDA is mandated with the responsibility of export promotion and development of the following scheduled products:
  • Fruits, Vegetables and their Products.
  • Meat and Meat Products.
  • Poultry and Poultry Products.
  • Dairy Products.
  • Confectionery, Biscuits and Bakery Products.
Revision Through MCQs (RTM) Compilation (March 2020)

- Honey, Jaggery and Sugar Products.
- Cocoa and its products, chocolates of all kinds.
- **Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic Beverages.**
- Cereal and Cereal Products.
- Groundnuts, Peanuts and Walnuts.
- Pickles, Papads and Chutneys.
- Guar Gum.
- Floriculture and Floriculture Products.
- Herbal and Medicinal Plants.

- In addition to this, **APEDA has been entrusted with the responsibility to monitor import of sugar.**

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/20/small-farmers-agri-business-consortium-sfac/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/20/small-farmers-agri-business-consortium-sfac/)

156. Who among the following is the head of the ‘**National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)**’?
   (a) Union Home Minister
   (b) President
   (c) Prime Minister
   (d) Director General

Ans: (d)

Explanation:
- **The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** is a specialised force constituted "for the purpose of specialist response to a threatening disaster situation or disaster" under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- The apex body for Disaster Management in India is the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). **The Chairman of the NDMA is the Prime Minister.**
- **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** is under the National Disaster Management Authority. **The head of the NDRF is designated as Director General.** The Director Generals of NDRF are IPS officers on deputation from Indian police organisations. Director General wears the uniform and badges of rank of an army three-star general.


157. Consider the following statements:
   1. The Disaster Management Act has statutory provisions for constitution of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) for the purpose of specialized response to natural and man-made disasters.
   2. NDRF battalions are also trained and equipped for response during chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) emergencies.

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)
Explanation:
- **The Disaster Management Act has statutory provisions for constitution of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** for the purpose of specialized response to natural and man-made disasters.
- At present, **National Disaster Response Force consist of 12 battalions**, three each from the BSF and CRPF and two each from CISF, ITBP and SSB.
- Each battalion have 18 self-contained specialist search and rescue teams of 45 personnel each including engineers, technicians, electricians, dog squads and medical/paramedics.
- The total strength of each battalion is 1,149. All the 12 battalions have been equipped and trained to respond natural as well as man-made disasters. **Battalions are also trained and equipped for response during chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) emergencies.**

Refer: [http://www.ndrf.gov.in/about-us](http://www.ndrf.gov.in/about-us)

158. Which of the following **pairs (Dam/Irrigation Projects: States)** is/are correctly matched?
(a) Saryu Nahar Pariyojana : Bihar
(b) Gosikhurd Irrigation Project: Maharashtra
(c) Teesta Barrage Project : Sikkim
(d) Shahpurkandi Dam Project: Himachal Pradesh
Ans: (b)
Explanation:
- Five projects have been taken up for execution are: Polavaram Irrigation Project (Andhra Pradesh), Saryu Nahar Pariyojana (Uttar Pradesh), **Gosikhurd Irrigation Project (Maharashtra)**, Teesta Barrage Project (West Bengal) & Shahpurkandi Dam Project (Punjab).


159. Which of the following statements is/are correct?
(a) National Aquifer Mapping and Management program (NAQUIM) is implemented by Central Water Commission.
(b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements Naya Savera scheme.
(c) NITI Aayog developed comprehensive School Health Programme (SHP) under Ayushman Bharat to foster the growth, development and educational achievement of school going children by promoting their health and wellbeing.
(d) The National Crisis Management Committee is headed by the Cabinet Secretary.
Ans: (d)
Explanation:

- **National Aquifer Mapping and Management program (NAQUIM):** Implemented by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB). It envisages mapping of aquifers and development of Aquifer Management Plans to facilitate sustainable management of Ground Water Resources.

- **The Ministry of Minority Affairs implements Naya Savera – Free Coaching and Allied Scheme** under which free coaching is provided to students of six centrally notified minority communities namely Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, and Zoroastrians (Parsis). So as to enable them to qualify in entrance examinations for admission in technical/ professional courses, and various Competitive examinations.

- **Ministry of Human Resources Development and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** have jointly developed comprehensive School Health Programme (SHP) under Ayushman Bharat to foster the growth, development and educational achievement of school going children by promoting their health and wellbeing.

- **The National Crisis Management Committee is headed by the Cabinet Secretary.**


160. Consider the following statements with respect to **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve/ Wildlife Sanctuary:**

1. It is the largest wildlife sanctuary in Tamil Nadu.
2. In 2013, it became the fourth tiger reserve as a part of Project Tiger in the state of Tamil Nadu.
3. As per the All India Tiger Estimation Report 2018, maximum improvement in Tiger Population since 2014 recoded in this Tiger Reserve.

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: (d)

Explanation: **Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve/ Wildlife Sanctuary:**

- First declared as a wildlife sanctuary in 2008 and enlarged in 2011
- It is the **largest wildlife sanctuary** in Tamil Nadu.
- In 2013, it became the **fourth tiger reserve** as a part of Project Tiger in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- Sathyamangalam forest range is a significant wildlife corridor in the **Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve** between the Western Ghats and the rest of the Eastern Ghats
- **It acts as a genetic link between the four other protected areas which it adjoins, including the Billigiriranga Swamy Temple**
Wildlife Sanctuary, Sigur Plateau, Mudumalai National Park and Bandipur National Park.

Key Findings All India Tiger Estimation Report 2018,

- **Top 5 Performing States:** Madhya Pradesh saw highest number at 526, followed by Karnataka (524), Uttarakhand (442), Maharashtra (312) and Tamil Nadu (264).
- States that saw Decline in Tiger Population: Chhattisgarh and Mizoram. While all other States saw a Positive increase.
- **Highest Number of Tigers:** found in Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.
- **Maximum Improvement in Tiger Population since 2014:** recoded in Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu.

**RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 21th -Mar-2020**

161. Consider the following statements:
1. Civil contempt refers to the wilful disobedience of an order of any court.
2. Criminal contempt includes any act or interferes with the administration of justice in any other manner.
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)
Explanation:

- **Contempt refers to the offence of showing disrespect to the dignity or authority of a court.**
- The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 divides contempt into civil and criminal contempt.
- **Civil contempt** refers to the wilful disobedience of an order of any court.
- **Criminal contempt** includes any act or publication which: (i) ‘scandalises’ the court, or (ii) prejudices any judicial proceeding, or (iii) interferes with the administration of justice in any other manner. ‘Scandalising the Court’ broadly refers to statements or publications which have the effect of undermining public confidence in the judiciary.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/21/contempt-of-court-3/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/21/contempt-of-court-3/)

162. As per the draft of Defence Procurement Procedure 2020, consider the following statements:

1. In the new DPP, a new category of "Buy (Global-Manufacture in India)" has been introduced.
2. A "price variation clause" has been introduced in the new DPP that will be applicable to all cases where the total cost of contract is more than Rs 1,000 crore and the delivery schedule exceeds 60 months.

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)

Explanation: **Key highlights of the draft:**

- **Indigenous Content (IC)** stipulated in various categories of procurement has been increased by about 10% to support the ‘Make in India’ initiative.
- **Leasing** has been introduced as a new category for acquisition in addition to existing ‘Buy’ & ‘Make’ categories to substitute huge initial capital outlays with periodical rental payments. Here, the lessor can be both Indian as well as global.
- **New Category Buy (Global – Manufacture in India)** has been introduced with minimum 50% indigenous content on cost basis of total contract value.
- There is also long-term product support — which would be three to five years after the warranty period is over.
- A “**price variation clause**” has been introduced that will be applicable to all cases where the total cost of contract is more than Rs 1,000 crore and the delivery schedule exceeds 60 months.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/21/defence-procurement-procedure-2020/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/21/defence-procurement-procedure-2020/)
163. Consider the following statements about *Tech for Tribals*:
1. It is an initiative of TRIFED supported by Ministry of MSME.
2. Under this program, the Partners will develop course contents relevant to entrepreneurship in value addition and processing of Forest Produces.
3. Under this program, trainees will undergo a 30 days program over six weeks comprising 120 sessions.

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:
- *Tech for Tribals*, an initiative of TRIFED supported by Ministry of MSME, aims at capacity building and imparting entrepreneurship skills to tribal forest produce gatherers enrolled under the *Pradhan Mantri VanDhan Yojana (PMVDY)*.
- The trainees will undergo a 30 days program over six weeks comprising 120 sessions.
- Under the Tech for Tribals program, the Partners will develop course contents relevant to Entrepreneurship in Value Addition and Processing of Forest Produces.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/21/tech-for-tribals/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/21/tech-for-tribals/)

164. Consider the following statements with respect to Pradhan Mantri VanDhan Yojana (PMVDY):
1. The Van Dhan Scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED.
2. It was launched in 2015 and seeks to improve tribal incomes through value addition of tribal products.
3. The scheme will be implemented through TRIFED as Nodal Department at the Central Level and locally managed by a Managing Committee (an SHG) consisting of representatives of Van Dhan SHGs in the cluster.

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:
- The *Van Dhan Scheme* is an initiative of the *Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED*.
- It was launched on **14th April, 2018** and seeks to improve tribal incomes through value addition of tribal products.
The scheme will be implemented through Ministry of Tribal Affairs as Nodal Department at the Central Level and TRIFED as Nodal Agency at the National Level.

At State level, the State Nodal Agency for MFPs and the District collectors are envisaged to play a pivot role in scheme implementation at grassroot level.

Locally the Kendras are proposed to be managed by a Managing Committee (an SHG) consisting of representatives of Van Dhan SHGs in the cluster.

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/21/tech-for-tribals/

165. Consider the following statements:
1. 'Minor Forest Produce (MFP)' means all non-timber forest produce of plant origin and will include bamboo, canes, fodder, leaves, gums, waxes, dyes, resins etc.
2. The Minor Forest Produces provide both subsistence and cash income for people who live in or near forests.
3. Tribals derive 90% of their annual income from Minor Forest Produce on which they spend major portion of their time.

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

An important source of livelihoods for tribal people are non-wood forest products, generally termed 'Minor Forest Produce (MFP)' means all non-timber forest produce of plant origin and will include bamboo, canes, fodder, leaves, gums, waxes, dyes, resins and many forms of food including nuts, wild fruits, Honey, Lac, Tusser etc.

The Minor Forest Produces provide both subsistence and cash income for people who live in or near forests.

The Minor Forest Produce has significant economic and social value for the forest dwellers as an estimated 100 Million people derive their source of livelihood from the collection and marketing of Minor Forest Produce (Report of the National Committee on Forest Rights Act, 2011).

The importance of Minor Forest Produces for this section of the society can be gauged from the facts that around 100 million forest dwellers depend on Minor Forest Produces for food, shelter, medicines and cash income.

Source: Tribals derive 20-40% of their annual income from Minor Forest Produce on which they spend major portion of their time. This activity has strong linkage to women’s financial empowerment as most of the Minor Forest Produces are collected and used/sold
by women. Minor Forest Produce sector has the potential to create about 10 million workdays annually in the country.

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/21/tech-for-tribals/

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reports</th>
<th>Publishers/Org’s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. World Happiness Report</td>
<td>SSDN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Global Financial Stability Report</td>
<td>WB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Global Information Technology Report</td>
<td>WEF</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 1 Only
(b) 1 and 3
(c) 1 and 2
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

Explanation:
- Global Financial Stability Report: International Monetary Fund

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/21/world-happiness-report-2/

167. Consider the following statements:

1. The presidents of the European Council and the European Commission represent the EU at G-7 summits.
2. India, China and Singapore are the members of G-20.

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)

Explanation:
- **G-7, or “group of seven,”** mainly has to do with politics. After the first oil shock of the 1970s, economies across the world were suffering, and global leaders wanted to do something about it. So, a group of government officials decided to meet and figure things out.
- **Members** are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. In addition, the presidents of the European Council and the European Commission represent the EU at G-7 summits.
- **The G-20** is all about money and has 20 members. Its members represent 85 percent of global economic output, and it’s a little less exclusive than the G-7.
- The **members** are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia,
Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.
- Singapore is not member of neither G7 nor G20.

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/21/trump-to-host-g7-meet-via-videoconference/

168. Consider the following statements about Navroz:
1. In India, it was introduced by Ghiyas ud din Balban.
2. It is inscribed in the list of UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of India.
3. In India, the Parsi community, who follow Zoroastrianism, celebrate Navroz with full fervour.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3
(d) All of the above
Ans: (d)
Explanation:
- **Navroz** is a 3,000-year-old Zoroastrian tradition, a ritual celebration that signals the start of Spring and the Persian new year.
- **In 1079 AD**, an **Iranian king** named Jalaluddin Malekshah introduced the Navroz (New Year) festival to generate revenue and collect taxes from people.
- In India, the **Parsi community**, who follow Zoroastrianism, celebrate Navroz with full fervour.
- **Ghiyas ud din Balban** (Reign: 1266 – 1287)
  - Ninth Sultan in the Mamluk dynasty. He was the wazir of the grandson of Iltutmish, Nasir-ud-din-Mahmud. He was purchased as a slave by Iltutmish.
  - Balban was a strict ruler and his court was the symbol of austerity and strict obedience to the emperor. He even demanded that people prostrate before the king. He had a spy system to keep his nobles in check.
  - He introduced the Persian festival of Navroz in India.


169. With reference to Indian Parliament, Which of the following is/are best describes/describe the term ‘Quorum’?
(a) It is one-tenth of the total number of members of the House, as provided under article 105(3) of the Constitution.
(b) It is 1/10th of the total number of members in each house excluding presiding officer.
(c) It is 1/10th of the total number of members in each house including presiding officer.
(d) Both (a) and (b)
Ans: (c)
Explanation:
• “Quorum“—The minimum number of members required to be present at a sitting of the House or a Committee for valid transaction of its business, which is one-tenth of the total number of members of the House, as provided under article 100(3) of the Constitution.
• It is 1/10th of the total number of members in each house including presiding officer, means there at least present 55 members in Lok Sabha and 25 in Rajya Sabha to start the business of the House.


170. Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY), sometimes mentioned in the news, it is implemented by
(a) Ministry of Defence
(b) Ministry of Home Affairs
(c) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
(d) Ministry of Textile
Ans: (d)
Explanation:
• The Ministry of Textiles is implementing converged Mahatma Gandhi Bunkar Bima Yojana (MGBBY) for providing social security benefits like life, accidental & disability insurance coverage to handloom weavers/workers in the age group of 51-59 years across the country.

Refer: PIB one liner facts: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/21/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-21-march-2020/

**RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 23th -Mar-2020**

171. Consider the following statements about Technology Development Board:
   1. It is a statutory body
   2. It provides equity capital to industrial concerns and financial assistance to research and development institutions
3. Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Technology Development Board. Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3
(d) All of the above
Ans: (a)
Explanation:
- **About Technology Development Board:**
  - It is a statutory body established by Technology Development Board Act, 1995.
- **Roles and functions of the board:**
  - Encourage enterprises to take up technology-oriented products.
  - Provide equity capital or loans to industrial concerns and financial assistance to research and development institutions.
- **Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA):**
  - In order to stimulate private sector’s investment in R&D, TDB has established Global Innovation & Technology Alliance (GITA).
  - It is a joint venture between Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and TDB with an equity contribution of 51:49 respectively.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/23/technology-development-board/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/23/technology-development-board/)

172. Consider the following statements:
1. The Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) Scheme would support setting up of both Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) and Common Facility Centres (CFCs).
3. NEP 2019 aims to promote domestic manufacturing and export in the entire value-chain of Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) to achieve a turnover of Rs 26 lakh crore by 2025.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3
(d) All of the above
Ans: (d)
Explanation:
- **About The Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMC 2.0) Scheme**
The scheme would support setting up of both Electronics Manufacturing Clusters (EMCs) and Common Facility Centers (CFCs).

For the purpose of this Scheme, an Electronics Manufacturing Cluster (EMC) would set up in geographical areas of certain minimum extent, preferably contiguous, where the focus is on development of basic infrastructure, amenities and other common facilities for the ESDM units.

For Common Facility Centre (CFC), there should be a significant number of existing ESDM units located in the area and the focus is on upgrading common technical infrastructure and providing common facilities for the ESDM units in such EMCs, Industrial Areas/Parks/industrial corridors.

- **Salient Features of National Policy on Electronics 2019:**
  - NPE 2019 proposes to build on that foundation to propel the growth of ESDM industry in the country. **The National Policy of Electronics 2019 (NPE 2019) replaces the National Policy of Electronics 2012 (NPE 2012).**
  - Create eco-system for globally competitive ESDM sector: Promoting domestic manufacturing and export in the entire value-chain of ESDM.
  - Provide incentives and support for manufacturing of core electronic components.
  - Provide special package of incentives for mega projects which are extremely high-tech and entail huge investments, such as semiconductor facilities display fabrication, etc.
  - Formulate suitable schemes and incentive mechanisms to encourage new units and expansion of existing units.
  - Promote Industry-led R&D and innovation in all sub-sectors of electronics, including grass root level innovations and early stage Start-ups in emerging technology areas such as 5G, IoT/ Sensors, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, Virtual Reality (VR), Drones, Robotics, Additive Manufacturing, Photonics, Nano-based devices, etc.
  - Provide incentives and support for significantly enhancing availability of skilled manpower, including re-skilling.
  - Create **Sovereign Patent Fund (SPF)** to promote the development and acquisition of IPs in ESDM sector.
  - Promote trusted electronics value chain initiatives to improve national cyber security profile.
  - The National Policy on Electronics 2019 aims to promote domestic manufacturing and export in the entire value-chain of **Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) to achieve a turnover of $400 billion (Rs 26 lakh crore) by 2025.**
173. Consider the following statements about *Scheme on Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks*:

1. The scheme will be implemented by State Implementing Agencies (SIA) to be set up by the respective State Governments.
2. Government of India will give Grants-in-Aid to States with a maximum limit of Rs. 1000 Crore per Bulk Drug Park.

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)  

Explanation: **Scheme on Promotion of Bulk Drug Parks:**

- The scheme will be implemented by State Implementing Agencies (SIA) to be set up by the respective State Governments.
- The scheme is expected to reduce manufacturing cost of bulk drugs in the country and dependency on other countries for bulk drugs.
- Decision is to develop 3 mega Bulk Drug parks in India in partnership with States.
- **Government of India will give Grants-in-Aid to States with a maximum limit of Rs. 1000 Crore per Bulk Drug Park.**
- Parks will have common facilities such as solvent recovery plant, distillation plant, power & steam units, common effluent treatment plant etc.
- A sum of Rs. 3,000 crore has been approved for this scheme for next 5 years.


174. *‘Devonian Period’, sometimes mentioned in the news, is primarily related to*

(a) Age of Fishes  
(b) Cold climate, increased evidence to ice caps  
(c) Phenomenon of increased dissolved oxygen in oceans  
(d) All of the above  

Ans: (a)  

Explanation:  

- **Devonian Period**, in geologic time, an *interval of the Paleozoic Era* that follows the *Silurian Period* and precedes the *Carboniferous Period*, spanning between about 419.2 million and 358.9 million years ago.
The Devonian Period is sometimes called the “Age of Fishes” because of the diverse, abundant, and, in some cases, bizarre types of these creatures that swam Devonian seas.

During most of the Devonian Period, North America, Greenland, and Europe were united into a single Northern Hemisphere landmass, a minor supercontinent called Laurussia or Euramerica.

An ocean covered approximately 85 percent of the Devonian globe. There is limited evidence of ice caps, and the climate is thought to have been warm and equitable.

The oceans experienced episodes of reduced dissolved oxygen levels, which likely caused the extinction of many species, especially marine animals.


175. Why is a plant called ‘Carissa kopilii’ often mentioned in news?
(a) Its extract is used in the synthesis of pesticides.
(b) It tends to reduce the biodiversity in the area in which it grows.
(c) Its extract is widely used in medicines.
(d) Its extract is widely used in Cosmetics.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- The Carissa kopilii is threatened by the very river it is named after — Kopili in central Assam. It is a distant cousin of multi-utility wild berry.
- It has been used as a traditional herbal medicine for a number of ailments such as diarrhoea, anaemia, constipation, indigestion, skin infections and urinary disorders. The leaves have been used as fodder for silkworms while a paste of its pounded roots serves as a fly repellent.


176. Consider the following statements:
1. Gahirmatha marine sanctuary and Rushikulya rookery coast in Ganjam district are main Olive Ridley nesting sites in Odisha.
2. Loggerhead sea turtle is listed as Endangered 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: (a)

Explanation:
About loggerhead sea turtle:
- Also commonly called Caretta Caretta, is a species of oceanic turtle distributed throughout the world. It is a marine reptile.
- Found in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans, as well as the Mediterranean Sea.
- It is omnivorous, feeding mainly on bottom-dwelling invertebrates
- Considered a vulnerable species by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Places in news</th>
<th>Ocean</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Reunion Island</td>
<td>Indian Ocean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Assumption island</td>
<td>South-Pacific Ocean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Falkland Islands</td>
<td>South-Atlantic Ocean</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 1 and 3
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 Only
(d) All of the above

Ans: (a)

Explanation:
Falkland Islands, also called Malvinas Islands or Spanish Islas Malvinas, internally self-governing overseas territory of the United Kingdom in the South Atlantic Ocean.
India and Seychelles agree on naval base at Assumption Island.


178. Consider the following statements about District cooling system:

1. District cooling systems produce chilled water, steam or hot water at a central plant and then pipe that energy out to buildings for air conditioning, space heating and water heating.
2. District cooling systems are more efficient than small, individual units.
3. India's First District cooling system will come up in Delhi.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **India's First District cooling system** will come up in **Amravati**, capital of the **Andhra Pradesh**.

- District cooling systems produce chilled water, steam or hot water at a central plant and then pipe that energy out (either underground or over rooftops) to buildings for air conditioning, space heating and water heating. As a result, these buildings don't require their own chillers, air conditioners, boilers or furnaces.
They are considered to be highly efficient to address each of the challenges like high Capital and operating costs, reliability, flexibility and environmental sustainability while meeting their comfort and process cooling and heating needs.

- **District cooling uses only 50% of primary energy consumption for cooling urban building in compared to other cooling systems.** This also reduces carbon emissions.


179. Garia festival is an important festival for the tribal community of which state?
(a) Manipur
(b) Assam
(c) Tripura
(d) Nagaland

Ans: (c)

Explanation:
- **Garia festival** is an important festival for the **Tripuri tribal** community of the state.
- The **Garia dance** is very popular among the **Tripuris and the Reangs**. Symbolic of the worship of deities as well as of the socio-economic activities of the households, these dances represent hunting, fishing, food-gathering and various other activities.
- The **Garia Pujais** usually held from the beginning of the last day of the month of Chaitra till the seventh day of the month of April (Vaishakha).

180. Consider the following statements about RISAT-2B1:
1. It was launched by GSLV MkIII2.
2. RISAT-2B satellite would be vital for Armed forces, agriculture forecasting, forestry and Disaster management support.
3. Its X-band synthetic aperture radar can give added details such as the size of objects on earth, structures and movement.

Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 1 and 2 Only
(b) 2 and 3 Only
(c) 1 and 3 Only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)


- Data from the satellite would be vital for the Armed Forces, agriculture forecasters and disaster relief agencies.
- The new satellite will enhance India’s all-weather [space-based] capabilities in agriculture, forestry and disaster management.
• Designed at ISRO’s U.R. Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) in Bengaluru and fast-tracked in just 15 months, the RISAT-2B is built to operate for at least five years.
• Its X-band synthetic aperture radar can give added details such as the size of objects on earth, structures and movement. Information from RISAT-2B will complement data from normal optical remote sensing satellites. Such data are useful for agencies that need ground images during cloud, rain and in the dark.
• This is the third Indian RISAT in 10 years, and follows the Israeli-built RISAT-2 in 2009 and the ISRO-built RISAT-1 in 2012. The older RISATs have reached the end of their lives.
• ISRO has planned a series of radar imagers in the coming months to enhance its space based observation of Earth and the Indian region.

Refer: https://www.isro.gov.in/Spacecraft/risat-2b

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 24th -Mar-2020

181. Consider the following statements:
1. Both the Indian Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code are applicable in the whole of India.
2. The Indian Penal Code was drafted in 1860 on the recommendations of first law commission of India established in 1834 under the Charter Act of 1833.
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)
 Explanation:
• About Indian Penal Code:
  o The draft of the Indian Penal Code was prepared by the First Law Commission, chaired by Thomas Babington Macaulay in 1834 and was submitted to Governor-General of India Council in 1835.
  o Based on a simplified codification of the law of England at the time, elements were also derived from the Napoleonic Code and from Edward Livingston’s Louisiana Civil Code of 1825.
  o The first final draft of the Indian Penal Code was submitted to the Governor-General of India in Council in 1837, but the draft was again revised. The drafting was completed in 1850 and the Code was presented to the Legislative Council in 1856, but it did not take its place on the statute book of
British India until a generation later, following the Indian Rebellion of 1857.

- The draft then underwent a very careful revision at the hands of Barnes Peacock, who later became the first Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, and the future puisne judges of the Calcutta High Court, who were members of the Legislative Council, and was passed into law on 6 October 1860.

- The Code came into operation on 1 January 1862. Macaulay did not survive to see the penal code he wrote come into force, having died near the end of 1859. The code came into force in Jammu and Kashmir on 31 October 2019, by virtue of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, and replaced the state’s Ranbir Penal Code.

- **About Code of Criminal Procedure:**
  - CrPC is the main legislation on procedure for administration of substantive criminal law in India.
  - It was enacted in 1973 and came into force on 1 April 1974.
  - It provides the machinery for the investigation of crime, apprehension of suspected criminals, collection of evidence, determination of guilt or innocence of the accused person and the determination of punishment of the guilty.
  - It also deals with public nuisance, prevention of offences and maintenance of wife, child and parents.
  - The Criminal Procedure Code is applicable in the whole of India. The Parliament’s power to legislate in respect of Jammu & Kashmir was curtailed by Article 370 of the Constitution of India. But now the Parliament has revoked Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir. Thus CrPC is applicable to whole India

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/24/what-is-section-188-ipc/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/24/what-is-section-188-ipc/)

182. Consider the following statements about *Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)*

1. PM-JAY is the world’s largest health insurance/ assurance scheme fully financed by the government.
2. It provides a cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empanelled hospitals in India.
3. It covers up to 3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days post-hospitalization expenses such as diagnostics and medicines.
4. There is no restriction on the family size, age or gender.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1, 2 and 4
(b) 2, 3 and 4
(c) 1, 3 and 4
(d) All of the above
Ans: (d)
Explanation: **Key Features of PM-JAY:**
- **PM-JAY** is the **world’s largest health insurance**/assurance scheme fully financed by the government.
- It provides a **cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization** across public and private empanelled hospitals in India.
- Over 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable entitled families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) are eligible for these benefits.
- **PM-JAY provides cashless access to health care services** for the beneficiary at the point of service, that is, the hospital.
- PM-JAY envisions to help mitigate catastrophic expenditure on medical treatment which pushes nearly 6 crore Indians into poverty each year.
- **It covers up to 3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days post-hospitalization expenses** such as diagnostics and medicines.
- **There is no restriction on the family size, age or gender.**
- All pre-existing conditions are covered from day one.
- Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country i.e. a beneficiary can visit any empanelled public or private hospital in India to avail cashless treatment.
- Services include approximately 1,393 procedures covering all the costs related to treatment, including but not limited to drugs, supplies, diagnostic services, physician’s fees, room charges, surgeon charges, OT and ICU charges etc.
- Public hospitals are reimbursed for the healthcare services at par with the private hospitals

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/24/ayushman-bharat-2/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/24/ayushman-bharat-2/)

183. Consider the following statements about **Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY):**
1. PM-JAY is completely funded by the Government and costs are shared between Central and State Governments.
2. States can choose the implementation model and can implement the scheme through Trust, Insurance company or Mixed model.
3. States must use SECC data for targeting the beneficiaries.
Which of the following statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3
(d) All of the above

Ans: (a)
Explanation: **Financing of The Scheme:**
- **PM-JAY is completely funded by the Government and costs are shared between Central and State Governments.** The
Government of India decides a national ceiling amount per family that is used to determine the maximum limit of the central share of the contribution. The actual premium discovered through open tendering process or the maximum ceiling of the estimated premium decided by Government of India for the implementation of PM-JAY, whichever is less, would be shared between Central Government and States/UTs in the ratio as per the extant directives issued by Ministry of Finance, from time to time.

- In addition, administrative cost for implementing the scheme at the State level is also provided under the scheme and shared between Centre and State in the same sharing pattern.

**States have been provided the flexibility in terms of the following parameters:**

- **Mode of implementation** – States can choose the implementation model and can implement the scheme through Trust, Insurance company or Mixed model.
- **Usage of beneficiary data** – PM-JAY uses SECC data for targeting the beneficiaries, however, States have been provided flexibility to decide on the dataset for this purpose, if they are covering more beneficiaries than SECC defined numbers. However, State will need to ensure that all beneficiaries eligible as per SECC data are also covered.
- **Co-branding** – States can co-brand their existing health insurance/assurance schemes with PM-JAY as per co-branding guidelines of the scheme.
- **Expansion of cover to more people** – States can cover more number of families than those defined as per SECC data. For these additional families, full cost will need to be borne by the States.
- **Increasing benefit cover to higher value** – If the State want they can even expand the benefit cover beyond `5 lakh per family per year. However, in this case cost of additional cover will need to be completely borne by the State.
- **Payment to public hospitals** – States have also been provided flexibility to deduct a certain percentage of claims amount that is paid to public hospitals.
- **Reservation of packages for public hospitals** – To ensure that such services that can be provided well by Government health facilities are not misused by private providers, NHA has defined a set of conditions that are reserved for only public health care facilities. States can revise list of such conditions that are reserved for public hospitals.

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/24/ayushman-bharat-2/

184. Consider the following statements:

1. Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by virus.
2. TB is spread from person to person through the air.
3. GOI is implementing a national strategic plan (NSP) to end TB by 2025. Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 
(b) 2 and 3 
(c) 1 and 3 
(d) All of the above 
Ans: (b) 
Explanation: 
• Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by bacteria (Mycobacterium tuberculosis) that most often affect the lungs. Tuberculosis is curable and preventable. 
• TB is spread from person to person through the air. When people with lung TB cough, sneeze or spit, they propel the TB germs into the air. A person needs to inhale only a few of these germs to become infected. 
• Initiatives in India: 
  o TB treatment is free in India. 
  o India aims to eliminate TB by 2025. UN aims to eliminate TB by 2030. 
  o Mass BCG vaccination to prevent TB. 
  o In 1993, the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) was launched, offering free diagnosis and treatment for patients, rescuing them from otherwise sure death. 
  o Rs 12,000 cr fund to fight TB over the next 3 years. 
  o TB Harega Desh Jeetega campaign. 

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/24/world-tuberculosis-day-2020/

185. Consider the following statements: 
1. As per Article 110 of the Constitution of India, the Finance bill is a Money bill. 
2. All money bills are financial bills but all financial bills are not Money bills. 
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) 
Explanation: Financial bills: 
• Financial bills are those bills that deal with fiscal matters, that is, revenue or expenditure. However, the Constitution uses the term ‘financial bill’ in a technical sense. Financial bills are of three kinds: 
  o Money bills—Article 110 
  o Financial bills (I)—Article 117 (1) 
  o Financial bills (II)—Article 117 (3)
• This classification implies that money bills are simply a species of financial bills. Hence, **all money bills are financial bills but all financial bills are not money bills.** Only those financial bills are money bills which contain exclusively those matters which are mentioned in Article 110 of the Constitution. These are also certified by the Speaker of Lok Sabha as money bills. The financial bills (I) and (II), on the other hand, have been dealt with in Article 117 of the Constitution.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/24/what-is-finance-bill/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/24/what-is-finance-bill/)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Super Computer</th>
<th>Installed in</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Param Shivay</td>
<td>IIT(BHU) – Varanasi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Param Shakti</td>
<td>IIT – Kharagpur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Param Brahma</td>
<td>IISER – Pune</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 1 Only
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3
(d) All of the above

Ans: (d)

Explanation:
• The first supercomputer assembled indigenously, called **Param Shivay**, was installed in **IIT (BHU)** and was inaugurated by the Prime Minister.
• Similar systems **Param Shakti and Param Brahma** were installed at **IIT-Kharagpur and IISER, Pune.**
• They are equipped with applications from domains like Weather and Climate, Computational Fluid Dynamics, Bioinformatics, and Material science.


187. Consider the following statements about **Yakshagana:**
1. Yakshagana is a traditional theatre form of Karnataka.
2. Its stories are drawn from Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavata and other epics from both Hindu and Jain and other ancient Indic traditions.
3. It is performed with percussion instruments like chenda, maddalam and jagatta only.

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:
- **Yakshagana** is a traditional theatre form of **Karnataka**.
- It is a **temple art form** that depicts mythological stories and Puranas.
- It is performed with massive headgears, elaborate facial make-up and vibrant costumes and ornaments.
- Usually recited in Kannada, it is also performed in Malayalam as well as Tulu (the dialect of south Karnataka).
- It **is performed with percussion instruments like chenda, maddalam, jagatta or chengila (cymbals) and chakratala or elathalam (small cymbals)**.
- Its stories are drawn from Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavata and other epics from both Hindu and Jain and other ancient Indic traditions.


188. Consider the following statements regarding **National Green Tribunal (NGT)**
1. It can impose fine up to 5 lakhs on individuals, institutions and state agencies.
2. NGT is established under Environment Protection Act, 1986.
3. It is a specialized body equipped with the necessary expertise to handle environmental disputes involving multi-disciplinary issues.

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

Ans: (c)

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

Refer: [http://www.greentribunal.gov.in/](http://www.greentribunal.gov.in/)
189. Consider the following statements with reference to Asiatic Lion.

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

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:
- For the first time, the entire genome of Asiatic lion has been sequenced by scientists from CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad.
- The objective is to understand the species at DNA level and study if there are any specific problems with regard to adaptability to environment or behaviour vis-à-vis other big cats.
- **About Asiatic Lion:**
  - IUCN Red List Status: Endangered
  - At present the only home of Asiatic lion is Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat.
  - The population of the endangered Asiatic lion is very low — only 523 animals are present in the Gir forests.

Refer: 
https://www.wwfindia.org/about_wwf/priority_species/threatened_species/asiatic_lion/

190. Consider the following statements regarding Cyclones.

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

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:
- Cyclones are sustained by very strong low-pressure areas at their core. Winds in surrounding areas are forced to rush towards these low-pressure areas. Though cyclones are common in the
June, very few of them originate in the Arabian Sea. Most of them are found in the Bay of Bengal.

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

**RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 25th-Mar-2020**

191. In India, Parliamentary Committee means a committee that:

1. Is appointed or elected by the House or nominated by the Speaker/Chairman
2. Works under the direction of the Speaker/Chairman
3. Presents its report to the House or to the Speaker/Chairman
4. Has a secretariat provided by the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 3
(b) 2, 3 and 4
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) All of the above

Ans: (d)

Explanation:
- The Constitution of India makes a mention of these committees at different places, but without making any specific provisions regarding their composition, tenure, functions, etc. All these matters are dealt by the rules of two Houses. Accordingly, a parliamentary committee means a committee that:
  - Is appointed or elected by the House or nominated by the Speaker/Chairman
  - Works under the direction of the Speaker/Chairman
  - Presents its report to the House or to the Speaker/Chairman
  - Has a secretariat provided by the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha

- The consultative committees, which also consist of members of Parliament, are not parliamentary committees as they do not fulfill above four conditions.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/25/parliamentary-standing-committees-3/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/25/parliamentary-standing-committees-3/)

192. Which of the following Parliamentary Standing Committee’s is/are can be classified under ‘Committees Relating to the Day-to-Day Business of the House’?

1. Business Advisory Committee
2. Committee on Government Assurances
3. Committee on Subordinate Legislation
4. Rules Committee
Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 3 and 4
(d) 1 and 4
Ans: (d)
Explanation:
- **Committees Relating to the Day-to-Day Business of the House**
  - Business Advisory Committee
  - Committee on Private Members’ Bills and Resolutions
  - Rules Committee
  - Committee on Absence of Members from Sittings of the House
- **Committees to Scrutinise and Control**
  - Committee on Government Assurances
  - Committee on Subordinate Legislation
  - Committee on Papers Laid on the Table
  - Committee on Welfare of SCs and STs
  - Committee on Empowerment of Women
  - Joint Committee 3 on Offices of Profit

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/25/parliamentary-standing-committees-3/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/25/parliamentary-standing-committees-3/)

193. Consider the following statements with reference to Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS):
1. It is an ongoing Central Sector Scheme which was launched in 1993-94.
2. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has been responsible for the policy formulation and release of funds.
3. The annual MPLADS fund entitlement per MP constituency is Rs. 3 crore.
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)
Explanation: **Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS):**
- It is an ongoing **Central Sector Scheme** which was launched in 1993-94.
The Scheme enables the Members of Parliament to recommend works for creation of durable community assets based on locally felt needs to be taken up in their constituencies in the area of national priorities namely drinking water, education, public health, sanitation, roads etc.

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has been responsible for the policy formulation, release of funds and prescribing monitoring mechanism for implementation of the Scheme.

Features

The MPLADS is a Plan Scheme fully funded by Government of India. The annual MPLADS fund entitlement per MP constituency is Rs. 5 crore.

MPs are to recommend every year, works costing at least 15 per cent of the MPLADS entitlement for the year for areas inhabited by Scheduled Caste population and 7.5 per cent for areas inhabited by S.T. population.

In order to encourage trusts and societies for the betterment of tribal people, a ceiling of Rs. 75 lakh is stipulated for building assets by trusts and societies subject to conditions prescribed in the scheme guidelines.

Lok Sabha Members can recommend works within their Constituencies and Elected Members of Rajya Sabha can recommend works within the State of Election (with select exceptions). Nominated Members of both the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the country.

All works to meet locally felt infrastructure and development needs, with an emphasis on creation of durable assets in the constituency are permissible under MPLADS as prescribed in the scheme guidelines. Expenditure on specified items of non-durable nature are also permitted as listed in the guidelines.


194. With reference to ‘Recommendation of works under Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)’, consider the following statements:
   1. The Lok Sabha Members can recommend works in their respective constituencies.
   2. The elected members of the Rajya Sabha may select works for implementation anywhere in the country.
   3. Nominated members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha can recommend works anywhere in the state from which they are elected.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
   (a) 1 and 2
(b) 1 Only
(c) 2 and 3
(d) All of the above
Ans: (b)
Explanation: **Recommendation of works under MPLAD Scheme:**
- The **Lok Sabha Members** can recommend works in their respective constituencies.
- The **elected members of the Rajya Sabha** can recommend works anywhere in the state from which they are elected.
- **Nominated members of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha** may select works for implementation anywhere in the country


195. Consider the following statements:
1. A cess imposed by the central government is a tax on tax, levied by the government for a specific purpose.
2. Surcharge is a charge on any tax, charged on the tax already paid. 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)
Explanation:
- **A cess imposed by the central government is a tax on tax, levied by the government for a specific purpose.** Generally, cess is expected to be levied till the time the government gets enough money for that purpose.
- For example, a cess for financing primary education – the education cess (which is imposed on all central government taxes) is to be spent only for financing primary education (SSA) and not for any other purposes.
- **Surcharge is a charge on any tax, charged on the tax already paid.** As the name suggests, surcharge is an additional charge or tax. The main surcharges are that on personal income tax (on high income slabs and on super rich) and on corporate income tax. A common feature of both surcharge and cess is that the centre need not share it with states. **Following are the difference between the usual taxes, surcharge and cess.**
  - The usual taxes goes to the consolidated fund of India and can be spend for any purposes.
  - Surcharge also goes to the consolidated fund of India and can be spent for any purposes.
  - Cess goes to Consolidated Fund of India but can be spend only for the specific purposes.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hindu New Year</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Gudi Padwa</td>
<td>Odisha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Sajibu Cheiraoba</td>
<td>Mizoram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Navreh</td>
<td>Telangana</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 1 and 3
(b) 2 Only
(c) 3 Only
(d) None of the above

Ans: (d)

Explanation: Hindu New Year:
- Andhra Pradesh and Telangana: Ugadi.
- Karnataka: Yugadi /Ugadi.
- Maharashtra: Gudi Padwa.
- Sindhis: Cheti Chand.
- Manipuris: Sajibu Cheiraoba.
- Kashmiri Pandits: Navreh
- Hindus of Bali and Indonesia also celebrate their new year on the same day as Nyepi.


197. Consider the following statements regarding Kelps:

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

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

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

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:
- Kelps are large brown algae seaweeds that make up the order Laminariales. There are about 30 different genera.
- Kelps have adapted to the severe conditions. These cool water species have special strategies to survive freezing temperatures and long periods of darkness, and even grow under sea ice.
• In regions with **cold, nutrient-rich water**, they can attain some of the highest rates of primary production of any natural ecosystem on Earth.

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

• **Kelp forests throughout the world** play an **important role in coastal economies**, supporting a broad range of tourism, recreational and commercial activities.

• Kelp is a **coveted food source** in many countries, full of potassium, iron, calcium, fibre and iodine.


198. Consider the following statements regarding the **“One Planet One City Challenge”**

1. It’s a friendly competition, organized by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) to mobilize cities to deliver on the Paris Agreement.
2. The logo of WWF is a Red Panda.
3. Pune was selected as a National Winner in 2017-2018 edition of WWF’s “One Planet City Challenge (OPCC)”.

Which of the statements given above is /are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation: **“One Planet One City Challenge”**:

• **The black-and white panda (a Giant Panda) is the logo of World Wide Fund for Nature.**

• Panaji, Pune, and Rajkot were the three Indian cities which were selected as national finalists in 2017-2018 edition of WWF’s One Planet City Challenge (OPCC).

• However, **Rajkot emerged as the National Winner in 2017-2018 edition of WWF’s One Planet City Challenge (OPCC)**.

Refer: [https://wwf.panda.org/our_work/projects/one_planet_cities/one_planet_city_challenge/](https://wwf.panda.org/our_work/projects/one_planet_cities/one_planet_city_challenge/)

199. Consider the following statements.

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

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)  

Explanation:  
- **Bt cotton** is a genetically modified organism (GMO) or genetically modified pest resistant plant cotton variety, which produces an insecticide to bollworm. In India, it is the responsibility of the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) under the Environment Ministry to assess the safety of a genetically modified plant, and decide whether it is fit for cultivation.  
- **Legally, sale, storage, transportation and usage of unapproved GM seeds is a punishable offence under the Rules of Environmental Protection Act.** Also, sale of unapproved seeds can attract action under the Seed Act of 1966 and the Cotton Act of 1957.  


200. Consider the following statements regarding **Forest landscape restoration (FLR).**  
1. Forest landscape restoration (FLR) is the ongoing process of regaining ecological functionality and enhancing human well-being across deforested or degraded forest landscapes.  
2. FLR also includes planting new trees, agro-forestry, and managing natural regeneration.  
3. IUCN and UNCCD have also developed a proven Restoration Opportunities Methodology Assessment (ROAM) with practical steps for diverse stakeholders to restore landscapes at any scale.  

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

Ans: (a)  

Explanation:  
- **Forest landscape restoration (FLR)** is the ongoing process of regaining ecological functionality and enhancing human well-being across deforested or degraded forest landscapes.  
- **FLR is more than just planting trees** –it is restoring a whole landscape to meet present and future needs and to offer multiple benefits and land uses over time.  
- FLR manifests through different processes such as: new tree plantings, managed natural regeneration, agroforestry, or improved land management to accommodate a mosaic of land uses, including agriculture, protected wildlife reserves, managed plantations, riverside plantings and more.
IUCN collaborates with FLR partners to gather knowledge, develop and apply tools, and build capacity while supporting policy-makers, practitioners, researchers and landowners around the world. **IUCN and WRI have also developed a proven Restoration Opportunities Methodology Assessment (ROAM) with practical steps for diverse stakeholders to restore landscapes at any scale.**

Refer: https://www.iucn.org/theme/forests/our-work/forest-landscape-restoration

**RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 26th -Mar-2020**

201. Consider the following statements:
1. Forest produce is defined under section 2(4) of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.
2. In India, tribes derive more than 90% of their annual income from Minor Forest Produce on which they spend major portion of their time. 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)

Explanation:
- **The Indian Forest Act, 1927** was largely based on previous Indian Forest Acts implemented under the British.
  - The most famous one was the Indian Forest Act of 1878. Both the 1878 act and the 1927 act sought to consolidate and reserve the areas having forest cover, or significant wildlife, to regulate movement and transit of forest produce, and duty leviable on timber and other forest produce.
  - It also defines the procedure to be followed for declaring an area to be a Reserved Forest, a Protected Forest or a Village Forest.
  - **Forest produce is defined under section 2(4) of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.**
  - Forest produce can be divided into several categories. From the point of view of usage, forest produce can be **categorized into three types: Timber, Non Timber and Minor Minerals.** Non-timber forest products [NTFPs] are known also as minor forest produce (MFP) or non-wood forest produce (NWFP). The NTFP can be further categorized into medicinal and aromatic plants (MAP), oil seeds, fiber & floss, resins, edible plants, bamboo, reeds and grasses.
• **Source**: The importance of Minor Forest Produces for this section of the society can be gauged from the facts that around 100 million forest dwellers depend on Minor Forest Produces for food, shelter, medicines and cash income. It is important for them for food, shelter medicines and case income beside providing critical subsistence during the lean seasons, particularly for primitive tribal groups such as hunter gatherers, and the landless. **Tribals derive 20-40% of their annual income from Minor Forest Produce on which they spend major portion of their time.** This activity has strong linkage to women’s financial empowerment as most of the Minor Forest Produces are collected and used/sold by women. Minor Forest Produce sector has the potential to create about 10 million workdays annually in the country.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/26/msp-for-mfp/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/26/msp-for-mfp/)

202. Consider the following statements with reference to 'Mechanism for marketing of minor forest produce (MFP) through minimum support price (MSP) and development of value chain for MFP’ scheme:
1. It is a central sector scheme.
2. Currently, the scheme was extended only to Scheduled Areas in eight states and fixed MSPs for 12 MFPs.
3. The Minimum Support Price would be determined by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs with technical help of TRIFED.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 3 Only
(c) 2 and 3
(d) All of the above
Ans: (b)

Explanation:
• Stat1: The Union Cabinet, in 2013, approved a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** for marketing of non-nationalized / non monopolized Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and development of a value chain for MFP through Minimum Support Price (MSP).
• Stat2: **Earlier, the scheme was extended only to Scheduled Areas in eight states and fixed MSPs for 12 MFPs. Later expanded to all states and UTs.**
• Stat3: The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** will be the nodal Ministry for implementation and monitoring of the scheme. The Minimum Support Price would be determined by the **Ministry with technical help of TRIFED**.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/26/msp-for-mfp/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/26/msp-for-mfp/)

203. Which one of the following nations is the full member of G20?
(a) Singapore
(b) Mexico
(c) Chile
(d) Malaysia
Ans: (b)
Explanation: **Full membership of the G20:**
- Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, **Mexico**, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/26/g20-virtual-summit/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/26/g20-virtual-summit/)

204. Consider the following statements about G-7 Nations:
1. G-7 is an international intergovernmental economic organization.
2. The G7 Summit includes the 7 heads-of-state from 7 member countries.
3. G7 Summits are held annually and hosted on a rotation basis by the group's members.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3
(d) All of the above
Ans: (d)
Explanation:
- **The Group of Seven (G7)** is a forum of the world's seven **largest developed economies** whose government leaders **meet annually** to discuss international economic and monetary issues.
- It is an international **intergovernmental economic organization** consisting of the seven IMF-advanced economies in the world: **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.**
- **The annual G7 Summit includes the 7 heads-of-state from these 7 countries.**

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/26/g20-virtual-summit/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/26/g20-virtual-summit/)

205. With reference to Capital to Risky Asset Ratio (CRAR), consider the following statements:
1. The CRAR is the capital needed for a bank measured in terms of the assets disbursed by the banks.
2. The Basel III norms stipulated a capital to risk weighted assets of 8%.
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)
Explanation: **Capital to Risky Asset Ratio (CRAR):**
• The CRAR is the capital needed for a bank measured in terms of the assets (mostly loans) disbursed by the banks. Higher the assets, higher should be the capital by the bank.
• The Basel III norms stipulated a capital to risk weighted assets of 8%. However, as per RBI norms, Indian scheduled commercial banks are required to maintain a CAR of 9% while Indian public sector banks are emphasized to maintain a CAR of 12%.
Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/26/recapitalisation-of-rrbs/

206. Consider the following statements:
1. Bio-fortification aims to increase nutrient levels in crops during plant growth rather than through manual means during processing of the crops.
2. The ‘+F’ logo has been notified by FSSAI to identify fortified foods. 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)
Explanation:
• **Fortification is the practice of deliberately increasing the content of an essential micronutrient**, i.e. vitamins and minerals (including trace elements) in a food, so as to improve the nutritional quality of the food supply and provide a public health benefit with minimal risk to health.
• **Bio-fortification is the process by which the nutritional quality of food crops is improved through agronomic practices, conventional plant breeding, or modern biotechnology.**
• Bio-fortification differs from conventional fortification in that bio-fortification aims to increase nutrient levels in crops during plant growth rather than through manual means during processing of the crops. Bio-fortification may therefore present a way to reach populations where supplementation and conventional fortification activities may be difficult to implement and/or limited.
• Food Fortification is a scientifically proven, cost-effective, scalable and sustainable global intervention that addresses the issue of micronutrient deficiencies.
• In October 2016, **FSSAI operationalized the Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2016 for fortifying staples namely Wheat Flour and Rice** (with Iron, Vitamin B12 and Folic Acid), Milk and Edible Oil (with Vitamins A and D) and **Double Fortified Salt** (with Iodine and Iron) to reduce the high burden of micronutrient malnutrition in India.
• The ‘+F’ logo has been **notified to identify fortified foods**. Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2018 were notified in the Gazette of India on 09.08.2018.
207. Consider the following about The Large Hadron Collider (LHC).

1. The term hadron in LHC refers to composite particles composed of quarks held together by the gravitational force.
2. To allow for the collision of high energy particles, cryogenic stage temperature is maintained inside the accelerator.
3. It consists of a long ring of superconducting magnets with a number of accelerating structures to boost the energy of the particles along the way.

Select the correct answer using the codes below.
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 3 only

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **The Large Hadron Collider (LHC):**

- These quarks cannot be held together by such a weak gravitational force. It is the “Strong Force” (electromagnetic) which holds them together.
- Inside the accelerator, two high-energy particle beams travel at close to the speed of light before they are made to collide. The beams travel in opposite directions in separate beam pipes – two tubes kept at ultrahigh vacuum. They are guided around the accelerator ring by a strong magnetic field maintained by superconducting electromagnets.
- The electromagnets are built from coils of special electric cable that operates in a superconducting state, efficiently conducting electricity without resistance or loss of energy. This requires
chilling the magnets to 271.3°C – a temperature colder than outer space!

Refer: [https://home.cern/science/accelerators/large-hadron-collider](https://home.cern/science/accelerators/large-hadron-collider)

208. Consider the following about the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer.
1. It entered in force after Montreal protocol.
2. It includes legally binding reduction goals for the use of CFCs.
3. It has been ratified by all United Nations Member states.
Select the correct answer using the codes below.
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Ans: (b)
Explanation: Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer:
- It was agreed upon at the 1985 Vienna Conference and entered into force in 1988 (Montreal in 1989). It is one of the most successful treaties of all time in terms of universality. It has been ratified by 197 states (all UN members as well as the Niue, Holy See and the Cook Islands) as well as European Union.
- It acts as a framework for the international efforts to protect the ozone layer. These are laid out in the accompanying Montreal Protocol. However, it does not include legally binding reduction goals for the use of CFCs, the main chemical agents causing ozone depletion.

Refer: [https://ozone.unep.org/treaties/vienna-convention](https://ozone.unep.org/treaties/vienna-convention)

209. The following were in news for some time. Consider their matches with what they are associated with.
1. Tiangong-2 : World’s fastest Supercomputer
2. Cassini–Huygens : NASA’s Spacecraft to study Saturn
3. NASA’s New Horizons : Interplanetary space probe
4. NASA’s Odyssey : Exploration of Jupiter
Select the correct answer using the codes below.
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 4 only
Ans: (c)
Explanation:
- China has successfully launched Tiangong-2 space lab to develop expertise for a future space station and conduct science experiments.
• **NASA’s Cassini spacecraft** after studying Saturn, its rings and moons for more than 12 years, has entered in the final year of its epic voyage. It will make the closest-ever observations of the planet. It is the first to enter successfully in its orbit.

• **New Horizons** is an interplanetary space probe that was launched as a part of NASA’s New Frontiers program. It was launched on January 19, 2006. The primary mission is to perform a flyby study of the Pluto system. The secondary mission to fly by and study one or more other Kuiper belt objects (KBOs).

• **NASA’s Odyssey** is a Mars exploration spacecraft.


210. *It is the largest protected area in the Eastern Himalaya biodiversity hotspot and harbours the northernmost lowland evergreen rainforests in the world. The habitat changes with increasing altitude from tropical moist forests to montane forests, temperate forests and at the higher elevations to Alpine meadows and perennial snow. The national park is?*

(a) Namdapha National Park
(b) Dachigam National park
(c) Nokrek National park
(d) Khangchendzonga National Park

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

• The park is located in Changlang district of the Northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, near its border with Myanmar.

• The park has extensive bamboo forests and secondary forests in addition to the primary forests. Because of many different vegetation zones, the park is home to a great diversity of mammal species. Snow leopards, clouded leopards, large Indian civet, barking deer etc.

Refer: [http://www.worldwildlife.org/places/easternhimalayas](http://www.worldwildlife.org/places/easternhimalayas)

**RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 27th -Mar-2020**

211. Consider the following statements about District mineral foundation (DMF):

1. DMF is a trust set up as a non-profit body.
2. Its manner of operation comes under the jurisdiction of the relevant State Government.
3. Setting up of DMFs in all districts in the country affected by mining related operations was mandated through the Mines and Minerals Amendment Act, 2015.

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: (d)
Explanation:
• **District Mineral Foundation (DMF)** is a trust set up as a non-profit body, in those districts affected by the mining works, to work for the interest and benefit of persons and areas affected by mining related operations. It is funded through the contributions from miners.
• **Its manner of operation comes under the jurisdiction of the relevant State Government.**
• Setting up of District Mineral Foundations (DMFs) in all districts in the country affected by mining related operations was mandated through the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, (MMDRA) 2015.


212. Consider the following statements:
1. Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) is a programme launched in 2015 to provide for the welfare of areas and people affected by mining related operations.
2. PMKKKY is implemented by the State Gov/UTs of the respective districts using the funds accruing to the DMF from miners.
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)
Explanation:
• **Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY)** is a programme launched on 17 September 2015 to provide for the welfare of areas and people affected by mining related operations.
• PMKKKY is implemented by the District Mineral Foundations (DMFs) of the respective districts using the funds accruing to the DMF from miners.
• **Objective:** Mining related operations largely affect less developed and very remote areas of the country, and vulnerable sections of the population, especially Scheduled Tribes. Therefore, it is especially necessary that special care and attention is devoted, in an organized and structured manner so as to ensure that these areas and affected persons are benefitted by the mineral wealth in their regions and are empowered to improve their standard of
living. It is with this objective that DMF and PMKKKY were launched by the Government. **The overall objectives of PMKKKY scheme are:**

- to implement various developmental and welfare projects/programs in mining affected areas. These projects/programs will be complementing the existing ongoing schemes/projects of State and Central Government;
- to minimize/mitigate the adverse impacts, during and after mining, on the environment, health and socio-economics of people in mining districts; and
- to ensure long-term sustainable livelihoods for the affected people in mining areas.


213. Consider the following statements with reference to utilization of Funds under PMKKY:

1. At least 60% of the funds under the PMKKKY has to be used for high priority areas such as drinking water supply, environment preservation and pollution control measures etc.
2. Up to 40% of the funds can be used for infrastructure projects such as physical infrastructure, irrigation, energy and watershed development.
3. Not more than 5% of the funds can be used for administrative expenses.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

(a) All of the above  
(b) 1 and 2  
(c) 2 and 3  
(d) None of the above

Ans: (a)

Explanation: **Utilization of Funds Under PMKKKY:**

- **At least 60% of the funds under the PMKKKY has to be used for high priority areas** such as drinking water supply, environment preservation and pollution control measures, primary / secondary health care, education, welfare of women, children, aged and disabled people, skill development & sanitation.

- **Up to 40% of the funds can be used for infrastructure projects** such as physical infrastructure, irrigation, energy and watershed development and any other measures for enhancing environmental quality in mining district.

- **Not more than 5% of the funds can be used for administrative expenses.** Save for the base minimum contractual posts, creation of posts, purchase of vehicles etc. would require prior permission.

- The **DMFs have also been directed to take all major decision in a participatory mode,** in consultation with the ‘gram sabhas’ of the respective villages. They are expected to maintain utmost
transparency in their functioning and provide periodic reports on the various projects and schemes taken up by them.

- Efforts are made to achieve convergence with the State and the District Plans so that the activities taken up by the DMF supplement/complement the development and welfare activities already being carried out. However, activities meant to be taken up under the ‘polluter pays principle’ cannot be taken up under the PMKKKY.


214. Consider the following statements with reference to Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization:

1. It is a regulatory authority with autonomous status.
2. It works under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
3. It was established after Arab Oil Crisis in 1973.

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation: Petroleum & Explosives Safety Organization:

- It is a department under Department for the Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under [Ministry of Commerce and Industry](https://www.industry.gov.in).
- It is a regulatory authority with autonomous status.
- It was established during the British India in 1890s as Department of Explosives and later expanded to various other activities.
- As a statutory authority, PESO is entrusted with the responsibilities under the Explosives Act, 1884; Petroleum Act, 1934; Inflammable Substances Act, 1952, Environment (Protection Act), 1986.


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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jyotirlingas</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baidyanath</td>
<td>Jharkhand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bhimashankar</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahakaleshwar</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nageshwar</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 1, 3 and 4
(b) 2, 3 and 4
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) All of the above

Ans: (d)
Explanation: The twelve jyotirlinga are:
- Somnath in Gir Somnath, Gujarat
- Mallikarjuna in Srisailam, Andhra Pradesh
- **Mahakaleswar in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh**
- Omkareshwar in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh
- Kedarnath in Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand
- **Bhimashankar in Maharashtra**
- Vishwanath in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- Trimbakeshwar in Nashik, Maharashtra
- **Baidyanath in Deoghar, Jharkhand**
- **Nageshvara in Dwarka, Gujarat**
- Ramanathaswamy in Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu
- Grishneshwar in Aurangabad, Maharashtra


216. Consider the following about the Nataraja dancing posture depicted in Chola period bronze sculpture.
1. The dance is associated with the end of the cosmic world.
2. Shiva has been shown balancing himself on his left leg and suppressing the demon of ignorance.
3. Shiva’s main right hand is posed in the bhumisparsha hasta.
4. Tirobhava depicted in the sculpture shows the birth of the Universe.
Select the correct answer using the codes below.
(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 only
Ans: (d)
Explanation:
- In the bronze sculpture Shiva has been shown balancing himself on his **right leg** and suppressing the **apasmara**, the demon of ignorance or forgetfulness, with the foot of the same leg.
- At the same time he raises his **left leg** in **bhujangatrasita stance**, which represents **tirobhava**, that is kicking away the veil of **maya or illusion** from the devotee’s mind.
- **His four arms** are outstretched and the main right hand is posed in **abhaya hasta** or the gesture suggesting.
- The **upper right holds** the **damaru** his favourite musical instrument to keep on the beat tala.
Refer: Page No 107: Introduction to Indian Art – Class XI

217. Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) are toxic organic chemical substances show which of the following properties?
   1. Accumulate in the water component of the bodies of living organisms and thus spread to higher trophic levels
   2. Found at higher concentrations at higher levels in the food chain
   Which of the above is/are correct?
   (a) 1 only
   (b) 2 only
   (c) Both 1 and 2
   (d) None of the above
   Ans: (b)
   Explanation:
   They are carbon-based compounds and possess a particular combination of physical and chemical properties such that, once released into the environment, they:
   - remain intact for exceptionally long periods of time (many years);
   - become widely distributed throughout the environment as a result of natural processes involving soil, water and, most notably, air;
   - accumulate in the fatty tissue (not water tissues, so 1 is wrong) of living organisms including humans, and are found at higher
• Concentrations at higher levels in the food chain; and are toxic to both humans and wildlife.

As a result of releases to the environment over the past several decades due especially to human activities, POPs are now widely distributed over large regions (including those where POPs have never been used) and, in some cases, they are found around the globe. **Stockholm convention deals with these POPs on a global scale.** India is a signatory to the convention


218. Consider the following about The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).
1. It is a research arm of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
2. Oizapper technology for bio-remediation of oily sludge and oil spills was developed by TERI.

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: (b)

Explanation:

- **TERI is a leading think tank** dedicated to conducting research for sustainable development of India and the Global South.
- **TERI was established in 1974 as an information centre on energy issues.**
- Nearly 70% of oil refineries in India use the Oizapper technology developed by TERI.
  - **Oizapper**, a bacterial consortium that degrades crude oil and oil sludge, has reclaimed thousands of hectares of contaminated cropland in different parts of India.
  - TERI is now cleaning up nearly 2,40,000 sq meters of oil spills in Kuwait-the first-of-its-kind large-scale bioremediation project implemented by India’s biotechnology sector.
- Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) was conceived by TERI and developed with Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. It is a national rating system for green buildings in India.
- **TERI’s mycorhizzal technology** has made its mark as a commercially **successful bio-fertilizer in India**, Europe and North America.
- It is being used by large industries to reclaim toxic wastelands; and at the same time helping to boost crop yields by nearly 25% thus significantly curtailing the use of chemical fertilizers.
Refer: https://www.teriin.org/technology/oilzapper-and-oilivorous-s

219. Which of these tribes can be found in the Eastern Himalayan region?
1. Rabhas
2. Hajongs
3. Khamti
4. Chakmas

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:
- **Rabha** is a Scheduled Tribe community of Assam, Meghalaya and West Bengal. The language/dialect spoken by the Rabha people is also of the same name.
- The Rabhas belong to the Indo Mongoloid group of people and have similarities with other members of Koch group such as Garos.
- **Hajongs** are one of the largest ethnicities in Meghalaya. Hajong people are spread out across North East India West Bengal and Bangladesh. Hajongs are predominantly rice farmers. Hajong have the status of a Scheduled Tribe in India.
- **Khamti**: They can be found in northwestern Burma as well as Lohit district of Arunachal Pradesh in India. Smaller numbers can be found in parts of Assam. The Tai-Khamti are followers of Theravada Buddhism.
- **Chakmas**: Chakmas are spread across Bangladesh and parts of northeastern India, western Burma etc. They have their own language, customs and culture, and profess Theravada Buddhism.

220. Consider the following about Indian rose chestnut, also called as cobra’s saffron.
1. It is a tree species found in Western Ghats of India.
2. It is the smallest tree found in the hilly regions of India.
3. The tree is considered auspicious in many regions of India as it attains maturity within a full moon night.

Select the correct answer using the codes below.
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **Indian rose chestnut**:
- It is widely cultivated as an ornamental due to its leaves and fragrant white flowers **Nageshwar (the state flower of Tripura)**.
• It is native to wet, tropical parts of Sri Lanka, India, southern Nepal, Burma, Thailand, Indochina, the Philippines, Malaysia and Sumatra, where it grows in evergreen forests, especially in river valleys.
• In the **eastern Himalayas and Western Ghats in India** it grows up to altitudes of 1,500 m, while in Sri Lanka up to 1,000 m.
• The **tree can grow over 30 m tall**, often buttressed at the base with a trunk up to 2 m in diameter.
• It is a slow growing tree.

Refer: [http://bsienvis.nic.in/writereaddata/Tripura%20State%20Flower_4_12.pdf](http://bsienvis.nic.in/writereaddata/Tripura%20State%20Flower_4_12.pdf)

**RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 28th-Mar-2020**

221. Which one of the following statements is not true about Schedule H1 Drugs?
   (a) It has been introduced through Gazette notification to check the indiscriminate use of antibiotics, anti-TB and some other drugs in the country.
   (b) Schedule H1 drugs cannot be sold without a valid prescription.
   (c) The package of the drugs will have a mandatory warning printed in a box with red colour border.
   (d) Recently MoHF&W declared the ‘Amobarbital and Barbital’ as Schedule H1 drug.

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Here Directive word is not true!!**
- On March 27, 2020, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare declared the **Hydroxychloroquine** as a **Schedule H1 drug**.

**About Schedule H1 Drugs:**
- The Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, are the set of rules under The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, which has provisions for classification of drugs into different schedules and also guidelines for storage, sale, display.
- Schedule H1 has been introduced through Gazette notification GSR 588 (E) dated 30-08-2013 to check the indiscriminate use of antibiotics, anti-TB and some other drugs in the country.
- The schedule contains certain 3rd and 4th generation antibiotics, certain habit forming drugs and anti-TB drugs.
- As per government notification, these drugs are required to be sold in the country with the following conditions:
- The supply of a drug specified in Schedule H1 shall be recorded in a separate register at the time of the supply giving the name and
address of the prescriber, the name of the patient, the name of the drug and the quantity supplied and such records shall be maintained for three years and be open for inspection.

• The drug specified in Schedule H1 shall be labelled with the symbol Rx which shall be in red and conspicuously displayed on the left top corner of the label, and shall also be labelled with the following words in a box with a red border

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/28/what-is-a-schedule-h1-drug/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/28/what-is-a-schedule-h1-drug/)

222. Consider the following statements:
1. The Cash Reserve Ratio is the percentage of demand and time deposits banks have to keep with the RBI.
2. Treasury bills, dated securities issued under market borrowing programme and market stabilisation schemes (MSS) form part of the Statutory Liquidity Ratio.

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)
Explanation:
• The RBI reduced the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by a full percentage point down to 3% for a year. The CRR is the percentage of demand and time deposits banks have to keep with the RBI.

• **Statutory Liquidity Ratio:** Apart from Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), banks have to maintain a stipulated proportion of their net demand and time liabilities in the form of liquid assets like cash, gold and unencumbered securities. Treasury bills, dated securities issued under market borrowing programme and market stabilisation schemes (MSS), etc also form part of the SLR. Banks have to report to the RBI every alternate Friday their SLR maintenance, and pay penalties for failing to maintain SLR as mandated.


223. Consider the following statements:
1. Disbursements are made with the approval of the President.
2. PMNRF has not been constituted by the Parliament.
3. PMNRF is exempt under Income Tax Act.

Which of the above given features is/are correct with respect to Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF)?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3
(d) All of the above
Ans: (b)
Explanation: **Key features:**
- Disbursements are made with the approval of the **Prime Minister**.
- PMNRF has not been constituted by the Parliament.
- The fund is recognized as a **Trust under the Income Tax Act** and the same is managed by Prime Minister or multiple delegates for national causes.
- PMNRF is exempt under Income Tax Act.
- **Prime Minister is the Chairman of PMNRF** and is assisted by Officers/Staff on honorary basis.
- These contributions also qualify as CSR (corporate social responsibility) spend for companies, making it more attractive in terms of tax exemptions.

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/28/prime-ministers-national-relief-fund-pmnrf/

224. With reference to type of contributions accepted in Prime Minister’s National Relief Fund (PMNRF), consider the following statements:
1. Only voluntary donations by individuals
2. Contributions flowing out of budgetary sources of Government
3. Salary donation by President and Vice President
Select the correct answer using the code below:
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 1 and 3
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 3 Only
Ans: (d)
Explanation: Type of contributions accepted in PMNRF:
- PMNRF accepts only voluntary donations by individuals and institutions.
- Contributions flowing out of budgetary sources of Government or from the balance sheets of the public sector undertakings are not accepted.
- At the time of natural calamity of devastating scale, Prime Minister, makes an appeal for donation to the fund.

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/28/prime-ministers-national-relief-fund-pmnrf/

225. Which of the following **pairs (Institutions in News: Chaired by)** is/are correctly matched?
(a) National Testing Agency : Union Secretary to MHRD
(b) National Anti-profiteering Authority : Union Finance Minister
(c) National Tiger Conservation Authority: Prime Minister
(d) National Executive Committee (DMA,2005): Union Home secretary
Ans: (d)
Explanation:
• Option A: NTA will be chaired by an **eminent educationist appointed by MHRD**.
• Option B: Government appoints **Shri B.N. Sharma (IAS: 1985)** as Chairman of the **National Anti-profiteering Authority under GST**.
• Option C: The **National Tiger Conservation Authority** is set up under the Chairmanship of the **Minister for Environment and Forests**.
• Option D: **National Executive Committee (NEC)**
  o A National Executive Committee is constituted under Section 8 of DM Act, 2005 to assist the National Authority in the performance of its functions.
  o **Union Home secretary** is its ex-officio chairperson.
  o NEC has been given the responsibility to act as the coordinating and monitoring body for disaster management, to prepare a National Plan, monitor the implementation of National Policy etc.


226. Ossification test, sometimes mentioned in the news, is primarily used for
(a) detection of coronavirus
(b) for age determination
(c) measurement of Ocean temperature
(d) detection of PM2.5 level in air
Ans: (b)
Explanation:
• It is the primary test for **age determination**.
• Human bones are remodelled and new layer of bone material is laid by a process called ossification (or osteogenesis). Based upon this phenomenon, ossification test is carried out.


227. ‘Arr-Rinam and Motor’ rituals observed in Indian indigenous communities are related to
(a) Hunting rituals
(b) God worship rituals
(c) Cannibalism
(d) Lockdown rituals
Ans: (d)
Explanation:
• It is a tribal **lockdown ritual** observed in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
• It is the **Galo equivalent** of lockdown imposed by consensus for 48 hours whenever an epidemic strikes.
• It has been imposed now on account of COVID-19 spread


228. “Operation Namaste” has been launched by
(a) Indian Parliamentarians
(b) Indian Navy
(c) Indian Airforce
(d) Indian Army
Ans: (d)
Explanation:
• **Indian Army launched “Operation Namaste”** to contain the spread of Corona Virus in the country.
• Under the operation, the army will help the Government of India fight against the deadly disease.
• Under the operation, Indian Army has established 8 quarantine so far. Also, Command wise help line numbers have been established.


229. ‘Mo Jiban’ is new programme by ___ Government, under which people of the State have to take a resolute vow to stay home and not to go outside during the lockdown period to remain safe from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).
(a) Telangana
(b) Karnataka
(c) Odisha
(d) Kerala
Ans: (c)
Explanation:
• It is a new programme launched by **Odisha Government**, under which people of the State have to take a resolute vow to stay home and not to go outside during the lockdown period to remain safe from the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).


230. Consider the following statements with reference to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).
1. It is a legally binding instrument on member nations for targeting POPs.
2. The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) is the designated interim financial mechanism for the Stockholm Convention.
3. The term “Dirty Dozen” is often associated with the convention.
Select the correct answer using the codes below.
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs):**
- Stat1: It aims to eliminate or restrict the production and use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and imposes certain obligation on party states to the convention.
- For e.g. developed countries should provide new and additional financial resources and measures to eliminate production and use of intentionally produced POPs, eliminate unintentionally produced POPs where feasible, and manage and dispose of POPs wastes in an environmentally sound manner.
- Stat2: The GEF also serves as the financial mechanism for several other conventions, for e.g. CBD, UNFFFC, UNCCD etc.
- Stat3: The Stockholm Convention established an initial list of 12 key POPs chemicals (the so called dirty dozen) for which signatories are required to reduce the risks to human health and the environment arising from their release.

Refer: [http://www.pops.int/](http://www.pops.int/)

**RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 30th -Mar-2020**

231. Consider the following statements about Anti-defection Law:
   1. The Tenth Schedule was inserted in the Constitution in 1985 by the 54nd Amendment Act.
   2. The decision on question as to disqualification on ground of defection is referred to the Chairman or the Speaker of such House, and his decision is final.
   3. The law allows a party to merge with or into another party provided that at least two-thirds of its legislators are in favour of the merger.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3
(d) All of the above
Ans: (b)

Explanation:
- Stat1: The Tenth Schedule was inserted in the Constitution in 1985 by the **52nd Amendment Act**.
• Stat2: The decision on question as to disqualification on ground of defection is referred to the Chairman or the Speaker of such House, and his decision is final but subjected to judicial review.
• Stat3: The law allows a party to merge with or into another party provided that at least two-thirds of its legislators are in favour of the merger.

Refer: https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/30/manipur-mla-shyamkumar-disqualified-for-defection/

232. Consider the following statements with reference to FRBM Review Committee (Chairperson: Mr. N.K. Singh):
1. The Committee suggested using debt as the primary target for fiscal policy and debt to GDP ratio of 60% should be targeted with a 40% limit for the centre and 20% limit for the states.
2. The Committee proposed to create an autonomous Fiscal Council with Finance Minister as a chairperson and two members appointed by the centre.
3. The Committee noted that under the FRBM Act, the government can deviate from the targets in case of a national calamity, national security or other exceptional circumstances notified by it.
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 3
(b) 2 Only
(c) 2 and 3
(d) All of the above
Ans: (a)
Explanation:

• The FRBM Review Committee (Chairperson: Mr. N.K. Singh) submitted its report in January 2017. The Report was made public in April 2017. The Committee proposed a draft Debt Management and Fiscal Responsibility Bill, 2017 to replace the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003(FRBM Act). Key recommendations of the Committee and features of the draft Bill are summarised below.

• Debt to GDP ratio: The Committee suggested using debt as the primary target for fiscal policy. A debt to GDP ratio of 60% should be targeted with a 40% limit for the centre and 20% limit for the states. It noted that majority of the countries that have adopted fiscal rules have targeted a debt to GDP ratio of 60%.The targeted debt to GDP ratio should be achieved by 2023. This ratio is expected to be around 70% in 2017.

• Fiscal Council: The Committee proposed to create an autonomous Fiscal Council with a Chairperson and two members appointed by the centre. To maintain its independence, it proposed a non-renewable four-year term for the Chairperson and members. Further, these people should not be employees in the central or state governments at the time of appointment.
• **Role of the Council:** The role of the Council would include: (i) preparing multi-year fiscal forecasts, (ii) recommending changes to the fiscal strategy, (iii) improving quality of fiscal data, (iv) advising the government if conditions exist to deviate from the fiscal target, and (v) advising the government to take corrective action for non-compliance with the Bill.

• **Deviations:** The Committee noted that under the FRBM Act, the government can deviate from the targets in case of a national calamity, national security or other exceptional circumstances notified by it. Allowing the government to notify these grounds diluted the 2003 Act. The Committee suggested that grounds in which the government can deviate from the targets should be clearly specified, and the government should not be allowed to notify other circumstances.

• Further, the government may be allowed to deviate from the specified targets upon the advice of the Fiscal Council in the following circumstances: (i) considerations of national security, war, national calamities and collapse of agriculture affecting output and incomes, (ii) structural reforms in the economy resulting in fiscal implications, or (iii) decline in real output growth of at least 3% below the average of the previous four quarters. These deviations cannot be more than 0.5% of GDP in a year.

• **Debt trajectory for individual states:** The Committee recommended that the 15th Finance Commission should be asked to recommend the debt trajectory for individual states. This should be based on their track record of fiscal prudence and health.

• **Borrowings from the RBI:** The draft Bill restricts the government from borrowing from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) except when: (i) the centre has to meet a temporary shortfall in receipts, (ii) RBI subscribes to government securities to finance any deviations from the specified targets, or (iii) RBI purchases government securities from the secondary market.

• **Review Committee:** The draft Bill requires the centre to establish a committee to review the functioning of the Bill in 2023-24


233. Consider the following statements:

1. Business Immunity Platform is designed as a comprehensive resource to help businesses and investors get real-time updates on India’s active response to COVID-19.

2. Invest India is the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India, set up as a non-profit venture under the aegis of Ministry of Finance.

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)  
Explanation:  
- Stat1: **Business Immunity Platform** is designed as a comprehensive resource to help businesses and investors get real-time updates on India’s active response to **COVID-19 (Coronavirus)**.  
- Stat2: Invest India is the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency of India, set up as a non-profit venture under the aegis of **Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, Government of India.  
- It facilitates and empowers all investors under the ‘Make in India’ initiative to establish, operate and expand their businesses in India.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/30/business-immunity-platform/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/30/business-immunity-platform/)

234. The project **CoNTeC**, an acronym for **COVID-19 National Teleconsultation Centre**, has been conceptualised by  
(a) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
(b) Ministry of Communication  
(c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology  
(d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare  
Ans: (d)  
Explanation:  
- The project CoNTeC, an acronym for COVID-19 National Teleconsultation Centre, has been conceptualised by the **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare** and has been **implemented** by the **All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi**.  
- The CoNTeC is a Telemedicine Hub established by AIIMS, New Delhi, wherein expert doctors from various clinical domains will be available 24×7 to answer the multifaceted questions from specialists from all over the country.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/30/national-teleconsultation-centrecontec/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/30/national-teleconsultation-centrecontec/)

235. Consider the following statements about Himalayan Ibex:  
1. The Himalayan Ibex is distributed mainly in the trans-Himalayan ranges.  
2. IUCN status of Ibex is Vulnerable.  
3. The National Mission on Himalayan Studies is implemented by the NITI.  
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?  
(a) 1 and 2  
(b) 1 Only  
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 1 and 3  
Ans: (b)  
Explanation:  
- **Stat1: Himalayan Ibex (Capra sibirica hemalayanus):** Earlier the Himalayan Ibex was regarded as a subspecies of the Siberian Ibex (Capra sibirica). The Himalayan Ibex is distributed mainly in the trans-Himalayan ranges of the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh.  
- **Siberian Ibex (Capra sibirica):** It is distributed in diverse habitats, ranging from cold deserts, rocky outcrops, steep terrain, high-land flats and mountain ridges to low mountains and foothills. From Mongolia, its distribution extends towards Altai, Hangai, Gobi-Altai, the Hurukh mountain ranges as well as Sayan Mountains near Russia and scattered populations in the small mountains of Trans-Altai Gobi.  
- **Stat2:** Its IUCN status is **least concerned.**  
- **Stat3:** The National Mission on Himalayan Studies is implemented by the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.**  
- It targets to provide much needed focus, through holistic understanding of system's components and their linkages, in addressing the key issues relating to conservation and sustainable management of natural resources in Indian Himalayan Region (IHR).  


236. Consider the following statements about Exercise Red Flag:  
1. Only countries considered friendly towards the United States take part in Red Flag exercises.  
2. The Indian Air Force (IAF) was to take part in the exercise with its Tejas MK2 fighter jets.  
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)  
Explanation:  
- **Stat2:** The U.S. Air Force has cancelled Phase-I of its flagship multilateral air exercise, Red Flag, scheduled in Alaska from April 30. The Indian Air Force (IAF) was to take part in the exercise with its Sukhoi Su-30 fighter jets.  
- **Stat1:** Only countries considered friendly towards the United States take part in Red Flag exercises.

237. Consider the following statements about PM- CARES fund:
1. It is a public charitable trust.
2. Contributions by corporates to this fund will be considered as social welfare spending under the Company’s law.
3. The Prime Minister is the chairman of the new public charitable trust, its members include the Defence Minister, Home Minister and the Finance Minister.

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)

Explanation:
- **PM- CARES fund stands for Prime Minister’s Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund.**
- It is a public charitable trust.
- Contributions by corporates to this fund will be considered as social welfare spending under the companies law.
- It will be an emergency situation fund. This Fund will also cater to similar distressing situations, if they occur in the times ahead.
- How will the fund be administered?
  - The **prime minister is the chairman** of the new public charitable trust, its members include the defence minister, home minister and the finance minister.


238. Autotrophic Nutrition is common in
(a) Plants, fungi and protozoa
(b) Bacteria, Virus and Protozoa
(c) Plants and blue-green algae
(d) Virus and Fungi

Ans: (c)

Explanation:
- **Carbon and energy requirements of the autotrophic organism are fulfilled by photosynthesis.**
- It is the process by which autotrophs take in substances from the outside and convert them into stored forms of energy.
- **Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) and plants both obtain their energy through photosynthesis.**
- Fungi are saprophytes that live on dead or decaying organic matter.
239. The major international protocols that address genetically modified organisms (GMOs) is/are
1. Cartagena protocol
2. Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol
3. Helsinki Convention
4. Geneva Protocol
Select the correct answer using the codes below.
(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 4 only
Ans: (a)
Explanation:
• Option 1: India is a party to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity signed at Rio de Janeiro. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB), the first international regulatory framework for safe transfer, handling and use of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) was negotiated under the aegis of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
• Option 2: Following years of negotiations over the question of liability for GMO-produced damages, in 2010, the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (the Supplementary Protocol) was adopted. India has already ratified the protocol in 2014, you can see here http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=110927
• Option 3: It is the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area.
• Option 4: Geneva Protocol addresses “Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or other Gases and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare”.

Refer: https://www.cbd.int/

240. These bacteria are the most common cause of traveller's diarrhoea as transmission usually occurs through contaminated food and water. Some of its serotypes are harmless and cause gastroenteritis in humans. It is?
(a) Salmonella Typhi
(b) Escherichia coli
(c) Shigella
(d) Listeria monocytogenes
Ans: (b)
Explanation:
• E. coli are a large and diverse group of bacteria. Although most strains of E. coli are harmless, others can make you sick. Some
kinds of E. coli can cause diarrhea, while others cause urinary tract infections, respiratory illness and pneumonia.

- Most E. coli strains are harmless, but some serotypes can cause serious food poisoning in their hosts, and are occasionally responsible for product recalls due to food contamination.
- The harmless strains are part of the normal flora of the gut, and can benefit their hosts by producing vitamin K2, and preventing colonization of the intestine with pathogenic bacteria.
- E. coli is expelled into the environment within faecal matter.

So, high concentration of E. Coli in river waters is an indicator of large dumping of faecal matter.

Refer: [https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/index.html)

**RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 31<sup>th</sup> -Mar-2020**

241. “Companies Fresh Start Scheme, 2020” has been introduced by
(a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
(b) Ministry of Finance
(c) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
(d) NITI
Ans: (c)
Explanation:
- **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** introduces the “Companies Fresh Start Scheme, 2020” and revised the “LLP Settlement Scheme, 2020” to provide relief to law abiding companies and Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) in the wake of COVID 19.


242. Consider the following statements:
1. A Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) is a body corporate and legal entity separate from its partners.
2. In an LLP, one partner is not responsible or liable for another partner’s misconduct or negligence.

Which of the given above statements is/are not correct?
(a) 1 Only
(b) 2 Only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 and 2
Ans: (d)
Explanation: **Here Directive word is Not Correct!!**
- A Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) is a partnership in which some or all partners have limited liability. It therefore exhibits elements of partnerships and corporations.
• In an LLP, one partner is not responsible or liable for another partner’s misconduct or negligence.

• An LLP is a body corporate and legal entity separate from its partners. It has perpetual succession.

• Being the separate legislation (i.e. LLP Act, 2008), the provisions of Indian Partnership Act, 1932 are not applicable to an LLP and it is regulated by the contractual agreement between the partners.

• Every Limited Liability Partnership shall use the words “Limited Liability Partnership” or its acronym “LLP” as the last words of its name.


243. Consider the following statements about Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES):
1. AES, also known as Litchi Virus in India
2. The causative agent of AES varies with geographical location and season
3. AES complications may include memory loss, coma and even death. Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
   (a) 1 Only
   (b) 2 and 3
   (c) 1 and 3
   (d) All of the above

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

• AES, also known as ‘Chamki Fever’ or Litchi Virus in India, is an umbrella term used for infections that causes inflammation irritation or swelling on the brain.

• Apart from sources like fungus, bacteria, chemical, parasites, toxins and spirochetes to reported to be the cause of AES over the past few decades, viruses have also been attributed mainly to be the cause of AES in India. In addition to viral encephalitis, severe form of toxoplasmosis and leptospirosis can cause AES. Apart from this, the causative agent of AES varies with geographical location and season.

• The logic behind the link between Litchi fruit consumption and AES is that when children eat large amounts of unripe litchi fruits (on an empty stomach), it may lead to hypoglycemic encephalopathy, a brain injury that causes prolonged or severe hypoglycemia or low blood sugar. Unripe litchi has the toxins hypoglycin A and methylene cyclopropyl glycine (MCPG) that causes vomiting if ingested in large quantities. An India-U.S. team confirmed the role of the toxin MCPG in 2017.

• Well-nourished children are not affected by the consumption of Litchi fruit. AES affects only undernourished children who
consumed litchi fruit the previous day and went to bed on an empty stomach.

- **AES complications may include memory loss, coma and even death. The signs and symptoms typically include:**
  - High Fever
  - Headache
  - Vomiting
  - Confusion
  - Seizures
  - Sensitivity to light
  - Stiff neck and back
  - Memory loss
  - Problems with speech or hearing
  - Drowsiness
  - In some severe cases, paralysis and coma

- **Who is affected?**
  - It mostly affects people below 15 years.
  - Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) has its endemic zones covering the Gangetic plain like states of Bihar, Assam, east UP, West Bengal and some parts of Tamil Nadu.


244. ‘Rapid Tests’ are frequently mentioned in the news, is/are related to:
   (a) Coronavirus
   (b) Quality service Test
   (c) Satellite Launching
   (d) None of the above
   Ans: (a)

Explanation:
- To tackle suspicions of whether the novel coronavirus has spread into the community and if not prevent such a scenario, the Kerala government has announced ‘rapid tests’ that will ensure speedy results within half an hour.
- A rapid test is conducted to determine whether there has been any kind of recent viral infection in a person’s body.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/31/what-is-the-rapid-test/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/31/what-is-the-rapid-test/)

245. NIDHI PRAYAS program initiated by
   (a) Department of Bio-Technology (DBT)
   (b) Department of Science and Technology (DST)
   (c) Department of Health Research (DHR)
   (d) Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC)
   Ans: (b)

Explanation:
- A new technology has been adopted by the Maharashtra hospitals in the fight of COVID-19 fight. The technology was developed by a Pune based Start Up.
• The product is named “Scitech Airon”. It is a Negative Ion Generator.
• The technology has been developed under the NIDHI PRAYAS program initiated by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

**What is NIDHI program?**

- **Department of Science & Technology** has launched a NIDHI program (National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations) under which programmes for setting up of incubators, seed fund, accelerators and ‘Proof of concept’ grant for innovators and entrepreneurs have been launched.
- Under NIDHI, PRAYAS (Promoting and Accelerating Young and Aspiring innovators & Startups) programme has been initiated in which established Technology Business Incubators (TBI) are supported with PRAYAS grant to support innovators and entrepreneurs with grants for ‘Proof of Concept’ and developing prototypes.
- A maximum grant of Rs. 220 lakh is given to a TBI for establishing a PRAYAS Centre which includes Rs.100 lakh for PRAYAS SHALA, Rs. 20 lakh for operational cost of PRAYAS Centre and maximum of Rs. 10 lakh to one innovator for developing prototype. Funding for ten innovators is given to the TBI in a year.

Refer: [https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/31/nidhi-program/](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/31/nidhi-program/)

246. Consider the following statements about Earth Hour:

1. Every year, Earth Hour is observed on the last Saturday of March
2. It is an annual event organized by the Global Footprint Network.

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)

Explanation:

- Every year, **Earth Hour** is observed on the **last Saturday of March at 8:30 pm**. And while previously it brought the public out onto the roads to mark the hour, this year the famous environmental initiative went digital as many countries are in lockdown.

**What is Earth Hour?**

- Dating back to 2007, Earth Hour is an annual event organized by the **World Wildlife Fund** that promotes conservation and sustainable energy. During this time, civilians are encouraged to switch off their lights for one hour to help reduce the effect of global warming and raise awareness for climate change and wildlife conservation.
247. Consider the following statements about Community Reserve:
1. It is established under Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. Any state government can declare community-owned forest area as “community reserve” if locals are willing to participate in conservation efforts for same.

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)

Explanation:
- **Conservation reserves and community reserves** in India are terms denoting protected areas of India which typically act as buffer zones to or connectors and migration corridors between established national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and reserved and protected forests of India.
- It is established under **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- It enables any state government to declare community-owned forest area as “community reserve” if locals are willing to participate in conservation efforts for same.


248. The Sun is visible to us about 2 minutes before the actual sunrise, and about 2 minutes after the actual sunset because of
(a) Dispersion of sunlight
(b) Total Internal Reflection of Sunlight
(c) Atmospheric refraction
(d) Constructive interference of Sunlight

Ans: (c)

Explanation:
- By actual sunrise, we mean the actual crossing of the horizon by the Sun.
- Figure below shows the actual and apparent positions of the Sun with respect to the horizon.
- The time difference between actual sunset and the apparent sunset is about 2 minutes. The apparent flattening of the Sun’s disc at sunrise and sunset is also due to the same phenomenon.
249. Nettle leaves have stinging hair, which cause painful stings when touched accidentally. Despite giving pain, stinging nettle is useful as?
   (a) Analgesic
   (b) Antioxidant
   (c) Antimicrobial agent
   (d) All of the above

Ans: (d)

Explanation:
- Stinging nettle contains a number of chemicals, such as serotonin, histamine and acetylcholine, some of which can be very irritating.
- According to the University of Maryland Medical Center, the plant has been used most commonly throughout history as a diuretic and for treating painful muscles and joints, eczema, arthritis, gout, and anemia.
- Today, it’s used primarily to treat urinary issues, as well as allergies and joint pain.
- Studies have shown stinging nettle has antioxidant, antimicrobial, antiulcer, astringent and analgesic capabilities.
250. Plant tissue culture relies on “totipotency” of plant cells which means the
(a) Genetic similarity across many breeds of the same plant
(b) Ability to regenerate a whole plant from plant cells
(c) Absence of cell walls to facilitate gene transfer mechanism
(d) Native reproductive abilities of plants via pollination mechanism
Ans: (b)
Explanation:
- Plant tissue culture is a collection of techniques used to maintain or grow plant cells, tissues or organs under sterile conditions on a nutrient culture medium of known composition. Plant tissue culture is widely used to produce clones of a plant in a method known as micropropagation.
  - Single cells, plant cells without cell walls (protoplasts), pieces of leaves, stems or roots can often be used to generate a new plant on culture media given the required nutrients and plant hormones.
- Different techniques in plant tissue culture may offer certain advantages over traditional methods of propagation, including:
  - The production of exact copies of plants that produce particularly good flowers, fruits, or have other desirable traits.
  - To quickly produce mature plants.
  - The production of multiples of plants in the absence of seeds or necessary pollinators to produce seeds.
The regeneration of whole plants from plant cells that have been genetically modified etc.

**CONCEPT OFTOTIPOTENCY**

- As cells divide mitotically, they do so equationaly to produce daughters cells.
- G.Haberlandt’s claimed that one day it could be possible to rear plants from isolated would be rarely surviving cells of flowering plants.
- He also stated that out of surviving somatic cells artificial embryos would be reared asexually
- Therefore every cell within the plant has a potential to regenerate into a whole plant.

Refer: [https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/agricultural-and-biological-sciences/totipotency](https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/agricultural-and-biological-sciences/totipotency)
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2014
- Nikhil R
- Abhay K

2015
- Arvind
- Ankit

2016
- Shivam
- Abhishek

2017
- Anand
- Akhil

2018
- Balaji
- Pranav

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