INSTA Revision Plan 2.0 - 2020

INSTA Tests

9 to 15

SOLUTIONS

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1. Consider the following statements:

1. Nagaland shares international boundary with Myanmar.
2. Nagaland does not have any Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).
3. Ntanki National park is located in the state of Nagaland.

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

**Solution: D**

**Nagaland** is a mountainous state in northeast India, bordering Myanmar. It’s home to diverse indigenous tribes, with festivals and markets celebrating the different tribes’ culture.

**About ‘Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)’:**

PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups.

1. They have **declining or stagnant population, low level of literacy, pre-agricultural level of technology** and are **economically backward**.
2. They generally inhabit remote localities having **poor infrastructure** and administrative support.

Among the **75 listed PVTG’s** the highest number are found in **Odisha (13)**, followed by **Andhra Pradesh (12)**, **Bihar including Jharkhand (9)**, **Madhya Pradesh including Chhattisgarh (7)**, **Tamil Nadu (6)**, **Kerala and Gujarat having five groups each**. The remaining PVTGs live in **West Bengal (3)**, **Maharashtra (3)**, two each in **Karnataka and Uttarakhand** and one each in **Rajasthan, Tripura and Manipur. All the four tribal groups in Andamans, and one in Nicobar Islands**, are recognized as **PVTGs**.

**Ntangki National Park** is a national park located in **Peren** district of **Nagaland**, India. Among the species that inhabit the park are the rare hoolock
2. Recently, World Health Organization (WHO) consolidated guideline on self-care interventions for health, focusing on:

   (a) Rare Diseases
   (b) Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
   (c) Genetic Diseases
   (d) Vector Borne Diseases

**Solution: B**

The **WHO** has launched its first guidelines on self-care interventions for health.

**Need for self-care interventions:**

As per an estimate by 2035 the world will face a shortage of nearly 13 million healthcare workers. Currently at least 400 million people worldwide lack access to the most essential health services.

**Key guidelines:**

- The guidelines **focus on sexual and reproductive health and rights.**
- Some of the interventions include **self-sampling** for human papillomavirus (HPV) and sexually transmitted infections, self-injectable contraceptives, home-based ovulation predictor kits, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) self-testing and self-management of medical abortion.
- These guidelines look at the scientific evidence for health benefits of certain interventions that can be done outside the conventional sector, although sometimes with the support of a health-care provider.
- They do not replace high-quality health services nor are they a shortcut to achieving universal health coverage.
3. Consider the following pairs of Beaches and their respective States/UTs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beach Name</th>
<th>State/UT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Shivrajpur Beach</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Bhogave</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Padubidri</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Radhanagar beach</td>
<td>Lakshadweep</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

**Solution: C**
Blue Flag Certification for beaches

The Ministry has embarked upon a programme for ‘Blue Flag’ Certification for select beaches in the country. This Certification is accorded by an international agency “Foundation for Environment Education, Denmark” based on 33 stringent criteria in four major heads i.e. (i) Environmental Education and Information, (ii) Bathing Water Quality, (iii) Environment Management and Conservation and (iv) Safety and Services in the beaches. The ‘Blue Flag’ beach is an Eco-tourism model endeavouring to provide to the tourists/beach goers clean and hygienic bathing water, facilities/amenities, safe and healthy environment and sustainable development of the area.

13 pilot beaches that have been identified for the certification, in consultation with concerned coastal States/UTs, are Ghoghala Beach (Diu), Shivrajpur beach (Gujarat), Bhogave (Maharashtra), Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad beach (Kerala), Kovalam beach (Tamil Nadu), Eden beach (Puducherry), Rushikonda beach (Andhra Pradesh), Miramar beach (Goa), Golden beach (Odisha), Radhanagar beach (Andaman & Nicobar Islands) and Bangaram beach (Lakshadweep).


https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1594507

4. Consider the following statements regarding the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI):

1. It is a fortnightly production volume index.
2. It is compiled and released by Central Statistical Office (CSO).
3. Base year for the Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) is 2011-12.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: B

The monthly Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) is a production volume index. ICI measures collective and individual performance of production in
selected **eight core industries** viz. Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity. It is compiled and released by **Office of the Economic Adviser (OEA), Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), and Ministry of Commerce & Industry.** The inter-se weights of these eight industries are largely in alignment with the respective weight of these industries in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

The **base year of the ICI** has been revised to **2011-12** from 2004-05 in alignment with the new series of IIP. **Combined weight** of these eight core industries is **40.27 percent of IIP** with base 2011-12. The ICI with base 2004-05 had a weight of 37.90 percent in the IIP (2004-05). The comparison of industry-wise weights of different base years is given at Annexure. ICI for a reference month is released with a time lag of one month on last day of the next month, which is about twelve days prior to the release of IIP for the reference month. It is an important lead indicator for overall industrial performance and general economic activities in the economy.

The ICI series was initially compiled with base 1980-81 and subsequent revisions were done with base 1993-94 and 2004-05. Prior to the 2004-05 series six core industries namely Coal, Cement, Finished Steel, Electricity, Crude petroleum and Refinery products constituted the index basket. Two more industries i.e. Fertilizer and Natural Gas were added to the index basket in 2004-05 series. The ICI series with base 2011-12 will continue to have eight core industries.

https://www.eaindustry.nic.in/eight_core_infra/ICICompilation_Methodology.pdf

5. **Mekedatu Dam Project, sometimes seen in news, is located in:**
   (a) Andhra Pradesh
   (b) Karnataka
   (c) Tamil Nadu
   (d) Kerala

**Solution: B**

The Karnataka Government has submitted a detailed project report (DPR) of the **Mekedatu project** to the Central Water Commission (CWC).
About Mekedatu dam project:

Being set up by the Karnataka government, the project is near Mekedatu, in Ramanagaram district, across the river Cauvery from Tamil Nadu. Its primary objective is to supply drinking water to Bengaluru and recharge the groundwater table in the region.

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/mekedatu-project-to-claim-525-sq-km-of-core-forest-area/article28265460.ece

6. Which of the following crops is/are Kharif crops?

1. Barley
2. Ragi
3. Paddy
4. Mustard

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: B

Kharif crops, monsoon crops or autumn crops are domesticated plants like rice that are cultivated and harvested during monsoon season, which lasts from June to November depending on the area.

Rice, maize, bajra, ragi, soybean, groundnut, cotton are all Kharif crops.

Rabi crops or rabi harvest are agricultural crops that are sown in winter and harvested in the spring.

Wheat, barley, mustard and green peas are some of the major rabi crops that grow in India.

7. Consider the following pairs of cities and rivers:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>River</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Mithi River</td>
<td>Mumbai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Mula Mutha River</td>
<td>Pune</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Musi River</td>
<td>Hyderabad</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

**Solution: D**

The Mithi River is a river on Salsette Island, the island of the city of Mumbai, India. It is a confluence of tail-water discharges of the Powai and Vihar lakes. The river is seasonal and rises during the monsoons.

The Mula-Mutha is a river in India, formed by the confluence of the Mula and Mutha rivers in the city of Pune, which later meets the Bhima River, which itself later meets the Krishna River and finally emptying to the Bay of Bengal.

Musi River or Musinuru is a tributary of the Krishna River in the Deccan Plateau flowing through Telangana state in India. Hyderabad stands on the banks of Musi river, which divides the historic old city and the new city.

https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/mumbai-marooned/article28275516.ece

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

(a) Pratham NGO
(b) UNESCO
(c) World Bank
(d) Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MoHRD)

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

It was jointly developed by CEIAR (TISS) & UNESCO.

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

**Key highlights of the report:**

- There are 78,64,636 children with disability in India constituting 1.7% of the total child population.

- Three-fourths of the children with disabilities at the age of five years and one-fourth between 5-19 years do not go to any educational institution.

- The number of children enrolled in school drops significantly with each successive level of schooling.

- There are fewer girls with disabilities in schools than boys with disabilities in schools.

- A large number of children with disabilities do not go to regular schools but are enrolled at the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS).

- The percentage of children attending schools is the lowest among those with multiple disabilities, mental illnesses and mental retardation.


9. Consider the following statements regarding Karakoram Pass

1. Karakoram pass falls on the boundary between Indian Territory of Ladakh and China’s Xinjiang autonomous region.

2. Kashmir Stag species dominates the area of Karakoram pass.

3. It is located around 100 km from Kargil

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 2 only

(c) 1 and 2 only

(d) 1 only
The **Karakoram Pass** is a 5,540 m or 18,176 ft mountain pass **between India and China** in the Karakoram Range. The Karakoram pass falls on the boundary between Indian territory of Ladakh and China’s Xinjiang autonomous region.

**Kashmir Stag** species doesn’t dominates the area of Karakoram pass region. It is located around 400 km from Kargil.

10. Consider the following statements regarding Appointments Committee of the Cabinet

1. It consists of Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs only
2. The committee makes appointments to posts of Chiefs of all Air and Army Commands
3. The minutes of these meeting is shared with general public
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: D

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE OF THE CABINET (ACC)

The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** decides appointments to several top posts under the Government of India. The committee is composed of the Prime Minister of India (who is the Chairman), the **Minister of Home Affairs**. Originally the Minister in-charge of the concerned Ministry was also the part of the committee but as per the new notification (as on 14 July 2016) the minister of concerned ministry has been excluded from the committee.

The committee makes appointments to posts of:

- Chiefs of three services
- Director General of Military Operations
- Chiefs of all Air and Army Commands
- Director General of Defence Intelligence Agency
- Scientific Advisor to the Defence Minister
- Director General of Armed Forces Medical Services

11. Arctic Greening, sometime seen in the news, is related to

   (a) Initiative to grow cultivable crops in arctic region.
   (b) Lush growth of green algae due to eutrophication
   (c) Greening of landscape in Arctic region due to climate change
   (d) None of the statements given above (a), (b) and (c) are correct.

Solution: C
Due to changing climate, Arctic regions of North America are getting greener, with almost a third of the land cover looking more like landscapes found in warmer ecosystems, according to a new NASA study.

With 87,000 images taken from Landsat satellites, converted into data that reflects the amount of healthy vegetation on the ground, the researchers found that western Alaska, Quebec and other regions became greener between 1984 and 2012.

The new Landsat study further supports previous work that has shown changing vegetation in Arctic and boreal North America. Landsat is a programme that provides the longest continuous space-based record of Earth’s land vegetation in existence.


12. Consider the following statements regarding Core Investment Companies

1. They are specialized Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).
2. Their main business is acquisition of shares and securities with certain conditions.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: C

Core Investment Companies (CICs) are a specialized Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). A Core Investment Company registered with the RBI has an asset size of above Rs 100 crore.

Their main business is acquisition of shares and securities with certain conditions.

13. Consider the following statements regarding Human Rights Courts

1. Section 30 of the Human Rights Act envisages that a State government, with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of High Court,
by notification, specify for each district a court of session as a court of human rights.

2. Section 31 of the Human Rights Act provides the State government to specify and appoint a special public prosecutor in that court

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

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

**Solution: D**

**Human Rights Courts in India**

One of the objects of the *Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993* as stated in the preamble of the Act, is the establishment of human rights courts at district level. The creation of Human Rights Courts at the district level has a great potential to protect and realize human rights at the grassroots.

**Section 30 of the Act** envisages that a State government, with the concurrence of the Chief Justice of High Court, by notification, specify for each district a court of session as a court of human rights for the speedy trial of violation of rights.

Whereas **Section 31 of the Act** provides the State government to specify and appoint a special public prosecutor in that court

14. Consider the following statements regarding “monuments of national importance”

1. It is designated by UNESCO

2. The monument or archaeological site is not less than 100 years old for getting nominated into the list.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

MONUMENTS OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Over 300 Centrally-protected monuments and sites, including World Heritage Sites, across the country are “under encroachment”.

“Monument of National Importance” is designated by the Archaeological Survey of India.

It includes the following:

- The remains of an ancient monument
- The site of an ancient monument
- The land on which there are fences or protective covering structures for preserving the monument
- Land by means of which people can freely access the monument

Definition of ancient monument

By Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 – “Ancient Monument means any structure, erection or monument, or any tumulus or place of interment, or any cave, rock-sculture, inscription or monolith which is of historical, archaeological or artistic interest and which has been in existence for not less than 100 years.”

Criteria for protection

The monument or archaeological site is not less than 100 years old. It has special historical, archaeological or artistic interest, making it worthy of declaration as of national importance.

15. MSTrIPES, sometime seen in the news, is related to

(a) Management of National Highways
(b) Tiger Population Estimation
(c) Campaign against poaching of wild animals
(d) Cyber Security

Solution: B

MSTrIPES (monitoring system for Tigers-Intensive protection and Ecological status) is a new app used to estimate tiger population.
M-STRiPES is an application used by forest guards, is GPS-enabled and helps to capture data relating to tiger sightings, deaths, wildlife crime and ecological observations while patrolling.

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**DAY – 10**

16. Consider the following statements regarding Chiru Goat

1. It has been classified as ‘Near Threatened’ by the IUCN.
2. It is the sole species in the genus Pantholops.
3. It is endemic to the Tibetan Plateau.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution: D**

**Chiru Goat**

Chiru, or Tibetan antelope, is assessed as ‘Near Threatened’ by the International Union for Conservation of Nature 2017.

The Tibetan antelope is the sole species in the genus Pantholops.

Endemic to the Tibetan Plateau, the Tibetan antelope inhabits open alpine and cold steppe environments.

It is a migratory species of the cold desert, moving seasonally between lower and higher altitudes, and can be found between 3,700m and 5,500m.

17. Which of the followings is/are included in UNESCO’s World Heritage List?

1. Burial Mounds, Bahrain
2. Jaipur City
3. Mozu-FuruichiKofun Group
4. Megalithic Jar Sites in Xiengkhouang
Select the correct answer from the codes given below

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

Solution: D

UNESCO world heritage site:

A UNESCO World Heritage Site is a place that is listed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as of special cultural or physical significance.

The list is maintained by the international World Heritage Programme administered by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, composed of 21 UNESCO member states which are elected by the General Assembly.

Each World Heritage Site remains part of the legal territory of the state wherein the site is located and UNESCO considers it in the interest of the international community to preserve each site.

The World Heritage Committee inscribed seven cultural sites on UNESCO’s World Heritage List.

These 7 sites include:

**Burial Mounds (Bahrain):** The burial mounds are evidence of the Early Dilmun civilization, around the 2nd millennium BCE, during which Bahrain became a trade hub, whose prosperity enabled the inhabitants to develop an elaborate burial tradition applicable to the entire population.

**BudjBim Cultural Landscape (Australia):** Composed of channels, dams and weirs, they are used to contain floodwaters and create basins to trap, store and harvest the kooyang eel (Anguilla australis), which has provided the population with an economic and social base for six millennia.

**Archaeological Ruins of Liangzhu City (China):** Located in the Yangtze River Basin on the south-eastern coast of the country, the archaeological ruins of Liangzhu (about 3300-2300 BCE) reveal an early regional state with a unified belief system based on rice cultivation in Late Neolithic China.

**Jaipur City, Rajasthan (India):** The fortified city of Jaipur, in India’s northwestern state of Rajasthan was founded in 1727 by Sawai Jai Singh II. Unlike other cities in the region located in hilly terrain, Jaipur was established
on the plain and built according to a grid plan interpreted in the light of Vedic architecture.

**Ombilin Coal Mining Heritage of Sawahlunto, (Indonesia):** Built for the extraction, processing and transport of high-quality coal in an inaccessible region of Sumatra, this industrial site was developed by the Netherlands’ colonial government from the late 19th to the beginning of the 20th century with a workforce recruited from the local population and supplemented by convict labour from Dutch-controlled areas.

**Mozu-Furuichi Kofun Group:** Mounded Tombs of Ancient Japan (Japan): Located on a plateau above the Osaka Plain, this property includes 49 kofun (old mounds in Japanese). These kofun have been selected from a total of 160,000 in Japan and form the richest material representation of the Kofun period, from the 3rd to the 6th century CE. They demonstrate the differences in social classes of that period and reflect a highly sophisticated funerary system.

**Megalithic Jar Sites in Xiengkhouang — Plain of Jars (Lao People’s Democratic Republic):** The Plain of Jars, located on a plateau in central Laos, gets its name from more than 2,100 tubular-shaped megalithic stone jars used for funerary practices in the Iron Age.

18. The Operation Thirst has been launched by
   (a) Ministry of Food Processing Industries
   (b) Ministry of Health
   (c) Ministry of Jal Shakti.
   (d) Ministry of Railways

*Solution: D*

*Operation Thirst* is an all-India drive launched by the *Railway Protection Force (RPF)* to curb menace of selling *unauthorized packaged drinking water* in railway stations.

19. Consider the following statements regarding Territorial army:
   1. Under this, volunteers apply for a short period of training every year
   2. It is part of a Regular Army
   3. It comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs

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

Solution: C

Territorial Army:  

India’s first Governor General Shri C Rajagopalachari formally inaugurated the Indian Territorial Army on October 9 in 1949.

It is an organization where volunteers apply for a short period of training every year, so as to be ready to tackle any emergent situation or to serve for the defence of India.

The Territorial Army, also known as the ‘Terriers’, is considered the second line of national defence after the regular Army.

The Territorial Army is part of a Regular Army and its present role is to relieve the Regular Army from static duties and assist civil administration in dealing with natural calamities and maintenance of essential services in situations where life of the communities is affected or the security of the country is threatened and to provide units for Regulars Army as and when required.

Territorial Army comes under the Defence Ministry.

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

1. All members of the UN are parties to the statute of the ICJ
2. It consists of 15 judges and their tenure is for 5 years.
3. Any non-governmental organizations, corporations or any other private entities are eligible to appear before the ICJ.

Select the correct answer from codes given below

(a) 1 only  
(b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 1 and 2 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 3
International Court of Justice

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

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

All members of the UN are parties to the statute of the ICJ, and non-members may also become parties.

Members of the Court:

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

Only countries are eligible to appear before the ICJ, not individuals, non-governmental organisations, corporations or any other private entities.

Who nominates the candidates?

Every state government, party to the Charter, designates a group who propose candidates for the office of ICJ judges. This group includes four members/jurists of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (machinery which enables arbitral tribunals to be set up as desired and facilitates their work) also picked by the State. Countries not part of the statute follow the same procedure where a group nominates the candidates.

Each group is limited to nominate four candidates, two of whom could be of their nationality. Within a fixed duration set by the Secretary-General, the names of the candidates have to be sent to him/her.

What are the qualifications of ICJ judges?

A judge should have a high moral character.

A judge should fit to the qualifications of appointment of highest judicial officers as prescribed by their respective states or.

A judge should be a jury consult of recognized competence in international law.
The **15 judges** of the Court are **distributed** as per the **regions**:

- Three from Africa.
- Two from Latin America and Caribbean.
- **Three from Asia.**
- Five from Western Europe and other states.
- Two from Eastern Europe.

**Independence of the Judges:**

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

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

21. Match the following GI Products and their states

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GI products</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Tawlhlohpuan</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Kaji Nemu</td>
<td>Assam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Tirur Betel Leaf</td>
<td>Kerala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Khola Chilli</td>
<td>Arunachal Pradesh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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

**Solution: B**

**Tawlhlohpuan**, a medium to heavy, compactly woven, good quality **fabric** from **Mizoram** is known for **warp yarns**, warping, weaving and intricate designs that are made by hand. Tawlhloh, in Mizo language, means ‘to stand firm or not to move backward’. Tawlhlohpuan, which holds high significance in the Mizo society, is produced throughout the state of Mizoram. **Aizawl** and **Thenzawl** town are the main centre of production.
Assam Lemon, also known as Nemu Tenga in Assamese, are cultivars of lemon, namely ‘Gol Nemu’ and ‘Kaji Nemu’, which are found and cultivated in the Indian state of Assam. These lemons are an important part of Assamese cuisine. The botanical name of Assam Lemon is Citrus limon. Recently it got GI tag.

Tirur betel vine from Kerala, which is mainly cultivated in Tirur, Tanur, Tirurangadi, Kutippuram, Malappuram and Vengara block panchayaths of Malappuram district, is valued both for its mild stimulant action and medicinal properties.

The famous Khola Chilli or Kholchi Mirchi that’s being grown on the hills of Khola village in Canacona taluka region of Goa has received the Geographical Indication tag from the Geographical Indications Registry.

22. Which of the followings are correct regarding Applications of Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)

1. Mapping and Geodetic data capture.
2. Vehicle tracking and fleet management
3. Terrestrial navigation aid for hikers and travellers
4. Disaster Management
5. Visual and voice navigation for drivers

Select the correct answer from the codes given below

(a) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only  
(b) 2, 3 and 4 only  
(c) 1, 2 and 4 only  
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Solution: D

Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC):

Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) is an independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide position information in the Indian region and 1500 km around the Indian mainland.

Services provided:

IRNSS would provide two types of services, namely Standard Positioning Services available to all users and Restricted Services provided to authorised users.
Its **applications** include:

2. Disaster Management.
3. Vehicle tracking and fleet management.
4. Integration with mobile phones.
5. Precise Timing.
7. Terrestrial navigation aid for hikers and travellers.
8. Visual and voice navigation for drivers.

**23.** Which of the following missiles are developed under integrated guided missile development programme?

1. Agni
2. Akash
3. Trishul
4. Asraam
5. Prithvi

Select the correct answer from the codes given below

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3, 4 and 5 only
(c) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

*Solution: C*
24. Consider the following statements regarding SAFAR initiative

1. It has been launched by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. It provides frontier research based scientific accredited robust Air Quality Forecasting system for Indian Metropolitan Cites.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: B
SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting)

- **SAFAR** was developed indigenously by **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM)**, Pune and operationalized by **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**.

- It has been introduced for greater metropolitan cities of India to provide location-specific information on air quality in near real time and its forecast 1-3 days in advance for the first time in India.

- It is integral part of **India’s first Air Quality Early Warning System** operational in Delhi. It will monitor all weather parameters like temperature, rainfall, humidity, wind speed and wind direction.

- **Pollutants monitored**: PM1, PM2.5, PM10, Ozone, CO, NOx (NO, NO2), SO2, BC, Methane (CH4), Non-methane hydrocarbons (NMHC), VOC’s, Benzene, Mercury.

- **Monitored Meteorological Parameters**: UV Radiation, Rainfall, Temperature, Humidity, Wind speed, Wind direction, solar radiation.

- It provides frontier research based scientific accredited robust Air Quality Forecasting system for Indian Metropolitan Cities.

25. Consider the following statements

1. India is the largest producer of silk in the world.
2. India produces all the five kinds of silk.

Which of the given statements is/are correct?

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

**Solution: B**

Sericulture in India:

**Sericulture** is an **agro-based cottage industry** having huge employment and income generating potential in rural and semi-urban areas.

It is estimated that sericulture industry provides employment to approximately 91.20 lakh persons (including 3.40 lakh persons in the State
of Tamil Nadu) in rural and semi-urban areas in the country as of March-2019.

Of these, a sizeable number of workers belong to the economically weaker sections of society, including women. This is mainly due to implementation of Government schemes and efforts made by State/ Central Government.

**India is the 2nd largest producer of silk in the world after China.**

- It is **largest consumer** of silk in the world.
- It is the **only country** in the world that **produces all 5 varieties of silk** on a commercial scale– *Mulberry, Oak Tasar & Tropical Tasar, Muga* and *Eri*.

26. Consider the following statements regarding the ASRAAM (Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile):

1. It is the next generation infrared-guided missile.
2. The ASRAAM missile can be deployed to engage targets within visual range (WVR) combat operations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Solution: C**

**ASRAAM** (Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile) is the next generation infrared-guided missile designed and built by MBDA UK (formerly Matra BAe Dynamics) to provide enhanced aerial combat capabilities for fighter aircraft.

The ASRAAM missile can be deployed to engage targets **within visual range (WVR) combat operations**. It offers **high speed** and exceptional agility during its flight time. It is capable of engaging targets under **complex environmental conditions** and is **compatible with aircraft** armed with Sidewinder or AMRAAM missiles.

http://www.defencenews.in/article/IAF-to-adopt-ASRAAM-missile-across-its-fighter-fleet-585757
27. Consider the following statements regarding the Shigella infection:

1. It is an intestinal infection.
2. It is caused by family of fungi.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: A

Shigella infection (shigellosis) is an intestinal disease caused by a family of bacteria known as shigella. The main sign of shigella infection is diarrhea, which often is bloody. Shigella can be passed through direct contact with the bacteria in the stool.


28. World Population Prospects 2019 report has been launched by

(a) Population Division of United Nations
(b) World Bank
(c) United Nation Development Programme (UNDP)
(d) World Health Organization (WHO)

Solution: A

The United Nations population estimates and projections form a comprehensive set of demographic data to assess population trends at the global, regional and national levels. They are used in the calculation of many of the key development indicators commonly used by the United Nations system, including for more than one third of the indicators used to monitor progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/a-demographic-window-of-opportunity/article28363940.ece
29. Consider the following statements regarding the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2019:

1. The Code applies to establishments employing at least 10 workers.
2. It does not apply to apprentices.
3. The Code specifies employer shall provide free annual health examinations to employees.

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

Solution: D

The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2019 applies to establishments employing at least 10 workers, and to all mines and docks. It does not apply to apprentices. Further, it makes special provisions for certain types of establishments and classes of employees, such as factories, mines, and building and construction workers.

The Code repeals and replaces 13 labour laws relating to safety, health and working conditions. These include the Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1952, and the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970.

The Code specifies several duties of employers. These include: (i) providing a workplace that is free from hazards that may cause injury or diseases, and (ii) providing free annual health examinations to employees, as prescribed. In case of an accident at the workplace that leads to death or serious bodily injury of an employee, the employer must inform the relevant authorities.


30. Pothmala Hills, recently seen in news, is located in:
   (a) Karnataka
   (b) Tamil Nadu
   (c) Kerala
   (d) Maharashtra
Solution: C

Indicating the existence of active human presence in Kerala’s hilly district of Idukki around 3,000 years ago, a group of researchers have located a menhir—a large upright stone usually of prehistoric origin—at Pothamala hills in Nedumkandam. The 20 feet tall menhir is believed to be the largest ever found in the state.


DAY – 11

31. Consider the following statements regarding National Skill Development Fund (NSDF)

1. Accounts of the Trust are subject to CAG Audit and are also audited by a Chartered Accountant for every financial year

2. It was set up in 2009 by the Government of India for raising funds both from Government and Non-Government sectors for skill development in the country.

3. The Fund meets its objectives through National Skill Development Corporation

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: B

The National Skill Development Fund was set up in 2009 by the Government of India for raising funds both from Government and Non-Government sectors for skill development in the country.

The Fund is contributed by various Government sources, and other donors/contributors to enhance, stimulate and develop the skills of Indian youth by various sector specific programs.
A public Trust set up by the Government of India is the custodian of the Fund. The Trust accepts donation, contribution in cash or kind from the Contributors for furtherance of objectives of the Fund. The Fund is operated and managed by the Board of Trustees. The Chief Executive Officer of the Trust is responsible for day-to-day administration and management of the Trust.

The Fund meets its objectives through National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) which is an industry led ‘Not For Profit Company’ set up for building skill development capacity and forging strong linkages with the market. NSDC acts as a catalyst in skill development by providing funding to enterprises, companies and organizations that provide skill training.

It also develops appropriate models to enhance, support and coordinate private sector initiatives. Till 31st March 2015, NSDF has released Rs. 2333 crore to NSDC towards skill development programmes including National Skill Certification and Monetary Reward Scheme (STAR) and UDAAN Scheme (J&K oriented). NSDC with 160 training partners and 1722 training centres has so far trained around 35 lakh persons across India.

Accounts of the Trust are subject to CAG Audit and are also audited by a Chartered Accountant for every financial year.

32. Consider the following statements regarding Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

1. Groups of farmers would be motivated to take up organic farming under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY).
2. There will be liability on the farmers for expenditure on certification.
3. It will motivate the farmers for natural resource mobilization for input production.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: A
The Scheme envisages:

- Promotion of commercial organic production through certified organic farming.
- The produce will be pesticide residue free and will contribute to improve the health of consumer.
- It will raise farmer's income and create potential market for traders.
- It will motivate the farmers for natural resource mobilization for input production.

Programme implementation

- Groups of farmers would be motivated to take up organic farming under Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY).
- Fifty or more farmers will form a cluster having 50 acre land to take up the organic farming under the scheme. In this way during three years 10,000 clusters will be formed covering 5.0 lakh acre area under organic farming.
- There will be no liability on the farmers for expenditure on certification.
- Every farmer will be provided Rs. 20,000 per acre in three years for seed to harvesting of crops and to transport produce to the market.
- Organic farming will be promoted by using traditional resources and the organic products will be linked with the market.
- It will increase domestic production and certification of organic produce by involving farmers

33. Consider the following statements regarding North East Venture Fund (NEVF)

1. North Eastern Council has launched North East Venture Fund.
2. It would invest in enterprises focused on and not limited to Food Processing, Healthcare and Tourism etc.
3. Investments will typically be in startups, early stage and growth stage companies with new products and technologies or innovative business models

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFi) in association with Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (M-DoNER) has launched the first dedicated venture capital fund for the North Eastern Region Namely “North East Venture Fund”.

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.

NEVF would inter alia invest in areas such as development of new products and services, technological up gradation, expansion or diversification, process improvement and quality improvement with the purpose of creating value for all stakeholders.

Investments will typically be in startups, early stage and growth stage companies with new products and technologies or innovative business models which have the potential to bring superior value proposition to the customers and clients and high growth in earnings and profitability and also in companies undertaking expansions which already have sound financial performance.

https://www.nedfi.com/nedfiventure

34. Consider the following statements regarding The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

1. It is a relief and human development agency that was established in 1991.
2. UNRWA is the only UN agency dedicated to helping refugees from a specific region or conflict and is separate from UNHCR

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: D
The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is an UN agency created in December 1949 to support the relief and human development of Palestinian refugees. The UNRWA definition of “refugee” covers Palestinian who fled or were expelled from their homes during the 1948 Palestine War.

UNRWA is the only UN agency dedicated to helping refugees from a specific region or conflict and is separate from UNHCR.

Formed in 1950, UNHCR is the main UN refugee agency, which is responsible for aiding other refugees all over the world. Unlike UNRWA, UNHCR has a specific mandate to aid its refugees to eliminate their refugee status by local integration in current country, resettlement in a third country or repatriation when possible.

https://www.unrwa.org/palestine-refugees

35. Which of the followings are eligible to avail benefits of Kisan Credit Card scheme

1. Joint cultivator owners
2. Tenant farmers
3. share croppers
4. Self-help groups (SHGs)

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: D

Kisan Credit Card Scheme:

- The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was announced in the Budget speech of 1998-99 to fulfil the financial requirements of the farmers at various stages of farming through institutional credit.
The model scheme was prepared by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) on the recommendation of V Gupta committee.

The KCC scheme is being implemented by the all Co-operative banks, Regional Rural Banks and Public Sector Banks throughout the country.

Scheme covers risk of KCC holders against death or permanent disability resulting from accidents.

Objectives:

- To provide adequate and timely credit support from the banking system to the farmers at the cheap rate of interest.
- To provide credit at the time of requirement.
- To support post-harvest expenses.
- To provide Working capital for maintenance of farm assets and activities allied to agriculture.
- Investment credit requirement for agriculture and allied activities (land development, pump sets, plantation, drip irrigation etc.)
- Consumption requirements of farmers.

Eligibility:

- All farmers – individuals/Joint cultivator owners
- Tenant farmers, oral lessees and share croppers etc.
- Self-help groups (SHGs) or Joint liability groups including tenant farmers.

Other Salient features of the Scheme:

- Revolving cash credit facility involving any number of drawals and repayments within the limit.
- Limit to be fixed on the basis of operational land holding, cropping pattern and scale of finance.
- Entire production credit needs for full year plus ancillary activities related to crop production to be considered while fixing limit.
- Card valid for 5 years subject to annual review. As incentive for good performance, credit limits could be enhanced to take care of increase in costs, change in cropping pattern, etc.
- Conversion/rescheduling of loans also permissible in case of damage to crops due to natural calamities.
• Operations may be through issuing branch (and also PACS in the case of Cooperative Banks) through other designated branches at the discretion of bank.

• Crop loans disbursed under KCC Scheme for notified crops are covered under Crop Insurance Scheme, to protect the interest of the farmer against loss of crop yield caused by natural calamities, pest attacks etc.

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

   1. They can accept demand deposits
   2. They do not form part of the payment and settlement system
   3. They are registered under the Companies Act, 1956.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: B

Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)

Non-Banking Financial Companies are financial institutions engaged in several non-banking businesses like hire purchase, leasing, microfinance, chit fund, gold loan etc. These entities are not allowed to offer financial products and services like banks.

NBFC cannot accept demand deposits;

According to the RBI, ‘A non-banking institution which is a company and has principal business of receiving deposits under any scheme or arrangement in one lump sum or in installments by way of contributions or in any other manner, is also a non-banking financial company (Residuary non-banking company).’

NBFCs do not form part of the payment and settlement system and cannot issue cheques drawn on itself;

NBFCs are defined under section 45 I (c) of the RBI Act, 1934.
Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956.

37. Consider the following statements regarding Finance Commission of India

1. It is constituted by Prime Minister of India.
2. Finance Commission’s recommendations are binding on the Government.

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

Solution: D

Finance Commission:

- The Finance Commission is constituted by the President under article 280 of the Constitution, mainly to give its recommendations on distribution of tax revenues between the Union and the States and amongst the States themselves.

- Two distinctive features of the Commission’s work involve redressing the vertical imbalances between the taxation powers and expenditure responsibilities of the centre and the States respectively and equalization of all public services across the States.

- Finance Commission’s recommendations are advisory in nature and, hence, not binding on the Government.

Functions of the Finance Commission:

It is the duty of the Commission to make recommendations to the President as to:

- the distribution between the Union and the States of the net proceeds of taxes which are to be, or may be, divided between them and the allocation between the States of the respective shares of such proceeds;

- the principles which should govern the grants-in-aid of the revenues of the States out of the Consolidated Fund of India;
• the measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of the Panchayats and Municipalities in the State on the basis of the recommendations made by the Finance Commission of the State;

Any other matter referred to the Commission by the President in the interests of sound finance.

The Commission determines its procedure and have such powers in the performance of their functions as Parliament may by law confer on them.

**Who appoints the Finance Commission and what are the qualifications for Members?**

The Finance Commission is appointed by the President under Article 280 of the Constitution. As per the provisions contained in the Finance Commission [Miscellaneous Provisions] Act, 1951 and The Finance Commission (Salaries & Allowances) Rules, 1951, the Chairman of the Commission is selected from among persons who have had experience in public affairs, and the four other members are selected from among persons who:

1. are, or have been, or are qualified to be appointed as Judges of a High Court; or
2. have special knowledge of the finances and accounts of Government; or
3. have had wide experience in financial matters and in administration; or
4. have special knowledge of economics

**38. Consider the following statements regarding National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)**

1. It is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme.
2. This programme is being implemented only in rural areas especially For BPL card holders.
3. It is being administered by the Ministry of Rural Development.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Solution: C**
National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP):

The NSAP is a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Rural Development. It came into effect from 15th August, 1995.

It represents a significant step towards the fulfillment of the DPSP in Article 41 of the Constitution. In particular, Article 41 of the Constitution of India directs the State to provide public assistance to its citizens in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in other cases of undeserved want within the limit of its economic capacity and development.

This programme is being implemented in rural areas as well as urban areas.

It aims to provide financial assistance to the elderly, widows and persons with disabilities in the form of social pensions.

Coverage: It currently covers more than three crore people who are below the poverty line (BPL), including about 80 lakh widows, 10 lakh disabled and 2.2 crore elderly.

39. Which of the following commission is recommended that Governors must not be removed before completion of their five-year tenure?

(a) Venkatachaliah Commission
(b) Punchhi Commission
(c) Sarkaria Commission
(d) Rajmannar Commission

Solution: C

Sarkaria Commission:

Sarkaria Commission was set up in 1983 by the central government of India.

The Sarkaria Commission’s charter was to examine the central-state relationship on various portfolios and suggest changes within the framework of Constitution of India.

The final report contained 247 specific recommendations. In spite of the large size of its reports – the Commission recommended, by and large, status quo in the Centre-State relations, especially in the areas, relating to legislative matters, role of Governors and use of Article 35

It recommended that Governors must not be removed before completion of their five-year tenure, except in rare and compelling circumstances.
This was meant to provide Governors with a measure of security of tenure so that they could carry out their duties without fear or favour.

It was further recommended that Governors should be informed of the grounds of their removal.

40. The Operation Sudarshan has been launched by

(a) Ministry of Culture
(b) Defence Research and Development Organisation
(c) Border Security Force
(d) NITI Aayog

Solution: C

Operation Sudarshan:

Border Security Force (BSF) has launched a massive exercise, code named as Sudarshan, to fortify Anti-Infiltration Grid along Pakistan border in Punjab and Jammu.

41. Which of the following work can be done under Jal Shakti Abhiyan?

1. Rejuvenation of the traditional water bodies.
2. Desilting of ponds and lakes.
3. Encroachments removal in the water bodies.
5. Construction and strengthening of inlets/outlets.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only
(b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only
(c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Solution: D
Jal Shakti Abhiyan:

It is a time-bound, mission-mode campaign. Launched in 2019, it covered 256 water stressed districts across the country. The campaign will run through citizen participation. It is also a mass movement to bring all the stakeholders under one ambit of water conservation drive.

It is a collaborative effort of various Ministries of the Government of India and State Governments, being coordinated by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Work to be done under this initiative:

- Rejuvenation of the traditional water bodies.
- Desilting of ponds and lakes.
- Encroachments removal in the water bodies.
- Catchment area treatment.
- Construction and strengthening of inlets/outlets.

42. Consider the following statements regarding Parliamentary privileges

1. These are certain rights and immunities enjoyed by members of Parliament.
2. The Speaker of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha is the first level of scrutiny of a privilege motion.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: C

Parliamentary privileges are certain rights and immunities enjoyed by members of Parliament individually and collectively, so that they can electively discharge their functions.
The Constitution of India under **Article 105** mentions **two privileges**, i.e. *freedom of speech in Parliament* and *right of publication of its proceedings*. The Speaker of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha is the first level of scrutiny of a privilege motion.

The Speaker/Chairperson can decide on the privilege motion or refer it to the privileges committee of Parliament.

If the Speaker/Chairperson gives consent under respective rules, the member concerned is given an opportunity to make a short statement.

**43.** Consider the following statements regarding Whip

1. The whip is a written order that political party issue to its members for being present for an important vote.
2. It is mentioned in the Rules of the House and in Parliamentary Statute.
3. All political parties can issue a whip to their members.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Solution: A**

The concept of the *whip* was inherited from colonial British rule. It is used in parliamentary parlance often for floor management by political parties in the legislature.

A *whip is a written order that political party issue* to its members for being present for an important vote, or that they vote only in a particular way.

The term is derived from the old British practice of “whipping in” lawmakers to follow the party line.

They are vital in maintaining the links between the internal organisation of the party inside the Parliament.

A whip is also an important office-bearer of the party in the Parliament. In India, all parties can issue a whip to their members. Parties appoint a senior member from among their House contingents to issue whips. This member is called a Chief Whip, and he/she is assisted by additional Whips.
The office of ‘whip’, is mentioned neither in the Constitution of India nor in the Rules of the House nor in a Parliamentary Statute. It is based on the conventions of the parliamentary government.

44. Consider the following statements regarding the elections for Rajya Sabha

1. Only elected members of the State Legislative Assemblies can vote in a Rajya Sabha election.
2. Electors can vote for any number of candidates in order of their preference.
3. The Rajya Sabha polls have a system of open ballot

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

Solution: D

What is peculiar to the Rajya Sabha polls as far as the electorate is concerned?

Only elected members of the State Legislative Assemblies can vote in a Rajya Sabha election. The legislators send a batch of new members to the Upper House every two years for a six-year term. A third of Members of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha (which is a permanent House and is not subject to dissolution), from each State retire once in two years and polls are held to fill up the vacancies.

A single transferable vote means electors can vote for any number of candidates in order of their preference. A candidate requires a specified number of first preference votes to win. Each first choice vote has a value of 100 in the first round.

The Rajya Sabha polls have a system of open ballot, but it is a limited form of openness. As a measure to check rampant cross-voting, which was taken to mean that the vote had been purchased by corrupt means, the system of each party MLA showing his or her marked ballots to the party’s authorised agent, before they are put into the ballot box, has been introduced.
45. Consider the following statements regarding Laboratory for the Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES)

1. It is India’s only research facility engaged in conservation and preservation of wildlife and its resources.
2. It is a part of centre for cellular and molecular biology.

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

Solution: C

Laboratory for the Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES)

It is located in Hyderabad at the Laboratory for the Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES), a research wing of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB).

The state-of-the-art bank is equipped with sophisticated equipment to preserve the genetic resources that could be utilised to virtually resurrect an animal species in case it goes extinct.

It is India’s only research facility engaged in conservation and preservation of wildlife and its resources.

The bank that contains genetic resources of about 250 wildlife species.

The Genetic Resource Bank will store genetic material of Indian species. It will also help in protecting India’s biodiversity and environment.

It is a part of centre for cellular and molecular biology.

Achievements of Laboratory for the Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES):

- It is India’s only research facility engaged in conservation and preservation of wildlife and its resources. It was established in 1998 with the help of Central Zoo Authority of India, CSIR and the government of Andhra Pradesh.
LaCONES has helped the Mouse Deer Conservation Breeding Centre at Nehru Zoological Park to increase the population of mouse deer in Telangana forests. Amrabad forest, for instance, ran out of mouse deer and through the efforts of LaCONES, the animal is now reintroduced in Amrabad Tiger Reserve.

Earlier, LaCONES has developed universal DNA based marker for identification of wild animals from parts and remains. It has a DNA banking of more than 250 species of mammals, birds and reptiles.

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46. Consider the following statements regarding National Common Mobility Card (NCMC).

1. It is an inter-operable transport card.
2. It is enabled through the RuPay card mechanism
3. The NCMC card is issuable as a prepaid, debit, or credit RuPay card from partnered banks

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Solution: D**

**National Common Mobility Card (NCMC),** is an inter-operable transport card conceived by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs of the Government of India.

It was launched on 4 March 2019. The transport card enables the user to pay for travel, toll duties (toll tax), retail shopping, and withdraw money.

It is enabled through the RuPay card mechanism. The NCMC card is issuable as a prepaid, debit, or credit RuPay card from partnered banks such as the State Bank of India, Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, and others.
47. Consider the following statements regarding AGMARK

1. It is a certification mark employed on agricultural products in India.
2. It is legally enforced in India by Food safety and standards act 2006
3. It covers the guidelines for various products like vegetable oils, fruits and vegetables

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: A

AGMARK is a certification mark employed on agricultural products in India. It assures that they conform to a set of standards approved by the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, an agency under Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers welfare.

The AGMARK is legally enforced in India by the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act Of 1937 (and amended in 1986). The AGMARK Head Office at Faridabad (Haryana).

The present AGMARK standards cover quality guidelines for 222 different commodities spanning a variety of Pulses, Cereals, Essential Oils, Vegetable Oils, Fruits & Vegetables and semi-processed products like Vermicelli.

48. Consider the following statements regarding Commonwealth

1. It is a voluntary association of 53 independent and equal sovereign states.
2. Leaders of Commonwealth member countries meet every two years to discuss issues of mutual concern and interest.

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

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2
India has urged the Commonwealth to expedite readmission of the Maldives as a member country. The Maldives withdrew from the Commonwealth during 2016. The Commonwealth is a voluntary association of 53 independent and equal sovereign states.

Member countries are supported by a network of more than 80 intergovernmental, civil society, cultural and professional organisations. Leaders of Commonwealth member countries meet every two years to discuss issues of mutual concern and interest.

The Commonwealth Secretariat, established in 1965, supports Commonwealth member countries to achieve development, democracy and peace. The last country to join the Commonwealth was Rwanda in 2009.

49. Consider the following statements regarding Global Solar Atlas

1. It is launched by World Bank group in partnership with International Solar Alliance
2. The primary aim of this is to provide quick and easy access to solar resource data globally.

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

Solution: C

The World Bank and the International Finance Corporation, collectively The World Bank Group, have provided this Global Solar Atlas in addition to a series of global, regional and country GIS data layers and poster maps, to support the scale-up of solar power in our client countries.

This work is funded by the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP), a multi-donor trust fund administered by The World Bank and supported by 13 official bilateral donors. It is part of a global ESMAP initiative on Renewable Energy Resource Mapping that includes biomass, small hydro, solar and wind.
The World Bank Group has selected Solargis as its global provider of solar data and related solar energy assessment services.

This Global Solar Atlas has been prepared by Solargis under a contract to The World Bank, based on a solar resource database that they own and maintain. For commercial enquiries, please contact Solargis directly.

The primary aim of this Global Solar Atlas is to provide quick and easy access to solar resource data globally.

https://olc.worldbank.org/content/global-solar-atlas

50. Consider the following statements regarding the major institutions of the European Union (EU).

1. The European Commission is the EU’s executive arm.
2. The European Parliament (EP) is, partly indirectly elected and partly nominated, a parliamentary institution of the European Union (EU).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: A

The European Commission is the EU’s executive arm. It takes decisions on the Union’s political and strategic direction. Every year the Commission produces a report on the results achieved with the EU budget and how the previous year’s budget was managed.

The European Parliament (EP) is the directly elected parliamentary institution of the European Union (EU). Together with the Council of the European Union (the Council) and the European Commission, it exercises the legislative function of the EU.

The Parliament is composed of 751 members, who represent the second-largest democratic electorate in the world (after the Parliament of India) and the largest trans-national democratic electorate in the world (375 million eligible voters in 2009). It has been directly elected every five years by universal suffrage since 1979.
51. Consider the following statements regarding Internet Saathi programme
1. It is joint initiative of Google India and Tata Trusts.
2. It aims to facilitate digital literacy among women in rural India.
3. Under this scheme, Women who are BPL card holders are provided free smart phones.

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

Solution: C

Internet Saathi:
It is joint initiative of Google India and Tata Trusts.
It aims to **facilitate digital literacy among women in rural India**.
The programme aims to train Saathis in villages that can in turn help educate other women from their village in the use of the internet.
Women trained under this initiative have started their own micro-business such as stitching, honeybee farming, and beauty parlours. Many under programme are also driving awareness for issues like girl child education, menstrual hygiene and more within their communities.

52. “Find the Incredible You” campaign has been launched by
(a) NITI Aayog
(b) Ministry of Human Resource Development
(c) Ministry of Tourism
(d) Ministry of Culture

Solution: C

The Incredible India “Find the Incredible You” campaign released globally by the Ministry of Tourism during 2018-19 has been declared winner of the
PATA (Pacific Asia Travel Association) Gold Award 2019 in the “Marketing – Primary Government Destination” category.

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

53. Consider the following statements regarding National Commission for Safai Karamcharis

1. It is a statutory body
2. It aims to provide rehabilitation for all identified manual scavengers on time-bound basis.

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

Solution: b

National Commission for Safai Karamcharis

National Commission for Safai Karamcharis is an Indian statutory body was established through National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993.

It aims to promote and safeguard the interests and rights of SafaiKaramcharis.

The National Commission for SafaiKaramcharis seeks to study, evaluate and monitor the implementation of various schemes for SafaiKaramcharis as an autonomous organisation and also to provide redressal of their grievances.

It has important role to ensure rehabilitation of all identified manual scavengers on time-bound basis.
54. Consider the following statements regarding Core Investment Companies

1. They are non-banking financial companies with asset size of ₹100 crore and above
2. All Core Investment Companies must be registered with RBI.
3. They are allowed to accept public funds.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: C

Core Investment Companies (CICs):

CICs are non-banking financial companies with asset size of ₹100 crore and above which carry on the business of acquisition of shares and securities, subject to certain conditions.

CICs, which are allowed to accept public funds, hold not less than 90% of their net assets in the form of investment in equity shares, preference shares, bonds, debentures, debt or loans in group companies.

Investments of CIC in the equity shares (including instruments compulsorily convertible into equity shares within a period not exceeding 10 years from the date of issue) in group companies constitutes not less than 60% of its net assets as mentioned in clause.

Exemption: CICs having asset size of below Rs 100 crore are exempted from registration and regulation from the RBI, except if they wish to make overseas investments in the financial sector.

55. The Van Dhan Scheme is the initiative of which of the following ministry?

(a) Ministry of Finance
(b) Ministry of Tribal Affairs
(c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(d) Ministry of Culture
Van Dhan Scheme:

The Van Dhan Scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED).

The initiative aims to promote MFPs-centric livelihood development of tribal gatherers and artisans.

It mainstreams the tribal community by promoting primary level value addition to MFP at grassroots level.

Significance: Through this initiative, the share of tribals in the value chain of Non-Timber Forest Produce is expected to rise from the present 20% to around 60%.

56. Consider the following statements regarding Project Manav

1. The project has been launched by the Indian Council of Medical Research
2. It aims at creating a database network of all tissues in the human body from the available scientific literature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: B

Project Manav:

It has been launched by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT)

It aims at creating a database network of all tissues in the human body from the available scientific literature.

It is a project that involves scientific skill development for annotation, science outreach along with handling big data.
The programme will involve gaining better biological insights through physiological and molecular mapping, develop disease models through predictive computing and have a wholistic analysis and finally drug discovery.

The project can be signed up by students who are in their final year graduation and above. Students from the fields of biochemistry, biotechnology, microbiology, botany, zoology, bioinformatics, health sciences, systems biologists, pharmacologists and data sciences can associate with this project.

Even participants having a science background but not necessarily involved in active scientific research can be part of this network.

57. The World Press Freedom Index has been released by

(a) International Press Institute
(b) News Media Coalition
(c) International Institute for Journalism
(d) Reporters Without Borders

Solution: D

World Press Freedom Index:

Published annually by Reporters without Borders since 2002, the World Press Freedom Index measures the level of media freedom in 180 countries.

It is based on an evaluation of media freedom that measures pluralism, media independence, and the quality of the legal framework and the safety of journalists.

It also includes indicators of the level of media freedom violations in each region.

It is compiled by means of a questionnaire in 20 languages that is completed by experts all over the world. This qualitative analysis is combined with quantitative data on abuses and acts of violence against journalists during the period evaluated.

58. Consider the following statements regarding Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN)

1. It will be the master list of all indigenous inhabitants from rural and urban of Nagaland
2. It aims to prevent people from acquiring fake indigenous inhabitants’ certificates.

3. It can deny citizenship to any person

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

Solution: B

Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN)

Nagaland government has decided to set up a Register of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN) with the aim of preventing fake indigenous inhabitants’ certificates.

The RIIN will be the master list of all indigenous inhabitants of the state.

The RIIN list will be based on “an extensive survey”.

It will involve official records of indigenous residents from rural and (urban) wards and would be prepared under the supervision of the district administration.

This provisional list will then be published in all villages, wards and on government websites by September 11, 2019.

All indigenous inhabitants of the state would be issued a barcoded and numbered Indigenous Inhabitant Certificate.

The RIIN cannot grant nor deny citizenship to any person.

59. Common Service Centres (CSC) Initiative has been started by
(a) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
(b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
(c) Ministry of Consumer Affairs
(d) Ministry of Rural Development

Solution: B
Common Service Centres (CSC):

It is an initiative of Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY)

Common Services Centers (CSCs) are a strategic cornerstone of the Digital India programme.

They are the access points for delivery of various electronic services to villages in India, thereby contributing to a digitally and financially inclusive society.

They are multiple-services-single-point model for providing facilities for multiple transactions at a single geographical location. They are the access points for delivery of essential public utility services, social welfare schemes, healthcare, financial, education and agriculture services, apart from host of B2C services to citizens in rural and remote areas of the country.

60. The Incheon Declaration, sometimes seen in news, is related to?

(a) Anti-Microbial Resistance
(b) Terro Financing
(c) Education
(d) Climate Change

Solution: C

UNESCO together with UNICEF, the World Bank, UNFPA, UNDP, UN Women and UNHCR organized the World Education Forum 2015 in Incheon, Republic of Korea, from 19 – 22 May 2015, hosted by the Republic of Korea.

Over 1,600 participants from 160 countries, including over 120 Ministers, heads and members of delegations, heads of agencies and officials of multilateral and bilateral organizations, and representatives of civil society, the teaching profession, youth and the private sector, adopted the Incheon Declaration for Education 2030, which sets out a new vision for education for the next fifteen years.

The Incheon Declaration constitutes the commitment of the education community to Education 2030 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognizing the important role of education as a main driver of development.

61. Consider the following statements regarding SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunications) messaging system

1. It is a messaging network that financial institutions use to securely transmit information and instructions through a standardized system of codes
2. It does not facilitate funds transfer
3. It holds funds on its own

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

Solution: A

Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT):

It is a **messaging network** that **financial institutions** use to **securely transmit information and instructions** through a standardized system of codes. Under SWIFT, each financial organization has a **unique code** which is used to send and receive payments.

SWIFT **does not facilitate funds transfer**: rather, it sends **payment orders**, which must be settled by correspondent accounts that the institutions have with each other.

The SWIFT is a **secure financial message carrier** — in other words, it transports messages from one bank to its intended bank recipient.

SWIFT neither holds funds on its own nor manages external client accounts.

Its core role is to **provide a secure transmission channel** so that Bank A knows that its message to Bank B goes to Bank B and no one else. Bank B, in turn, knows that Bank A, and no one other than Bank A, sent, read or altered the message en route. Banks, of course, need to have checks in place before actually sending messages.

**SWIFT India** is a joint venture of top Indian public and private sector banks and SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication). The company was created to deliver high quality domestic financial messaging...
services to the Indian financial community. It has a huge potential to contribute significantly to the financial community in many domains.

62. Pro-Active Governance And Timely Implementation platform has been launched by

(a) NITI Aayog
(b) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
(c) Prime Minister's Office
(d) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

**Solution: C**

**PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation):**

PRAGATI (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation) is a unique integrating and interactive platform.

It has been launched by **Prime Minister’s Office**

The platform is aimed at addressing common man’s grievances, and simultaneously monitoring and reviewing important programmes and projects of the Government of India as well as projects flagged by State Governments.

The PRAGATI platform uniquely bundles three latest technologies: Digital data management, video-conferencing and geo-spatial technology.

It also offers a unique combination in the direction of cooperative federalism since it brings on one stage the Secretaries of Government of India and the Chief Secretaries of the States.

With this, the Prime Minister is able to discuss the issues with the concerned Central and State officials with full information and latest visuals of the ground level situation. It is also an innovative project in e-governance and good governance.

It is a **three-tier system** (PMO, Union Government Secretaries, and Chief Secretaries of the States).

Issues to be flagged before the PM are picked up from the available database regarding Public Grievances, on-going Programmes and pending Projects.
63. Consider the following statements regarding Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP)

1. It has been launched by Ministry of Women and Child Development.
2. It aims to promote and support aspiring as well as established women entrepreneurs in India.

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

Solution: B

Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP):
The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is a first of its kind, unified access portal which brings together women from different parts of India to realize their entrepreneurial aspirations. It is an initiative of NITI Aayog.

The initiative is aimed at building an ecosystem for women across India to realize their entrepreneurial aspirations, scale-up innovative initiatives and chalk-out sustainable, long-term strategies for their businesses.

The platform aspires to substantially increase the number of women entrepreneurs who will create and empower a dynamic New India.

It aims to promote and support aspiring as well as established women entrepreneurs in India.

64. Shillong Declaration, often seen in the news, is related to
(a) Climate change
(b) Artificial intelligence
(c) Disaster management
(d) e-Governance

Solution: D
22nd National Conference on e-Governance adopts ‘Shillong Declaration’ with focus on Northeast. The declaration has outlined the future trajectory that would be taken in terms of e-governance with a focus on improving connectivity in Northeast.

65. Consider the following statements regarding Whip

1. In India, all parties can issue a whip to their members.
2. It is applicable to the election of the President.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: A

Whip

A whip is an official of a political party whose task is to ensure party discipline in a legislature. This usually means ensuring that members of the party vote according to the party platform, rather than according to their own individual ideology or the will of their constituents.

In India all parties can issue a whip to their members. Parties appoint a senior member from among their House contingents to issue whips — this member is called a Chief Whip, and he/she is assisted by additional Whips.

However, there are some cases such as Indian Presidential elections where whips cannot direct a Member of Parliament (MP) or Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) on whom to vote.

66. Consider the following statements regarding Delimitation Commission

1. Under Article 82, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.
2. Its orders can be questioned before supreme court
3. The commission includes retired High Court judge, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) and State Election Commissioners.

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

Solution: A

Delimitation Commission:
According to the Delimitation Commission Act, 2002, the Delimitation Commission appointed by the Centre has to have three members: a serving or retired judge of the Supreme Court as the chairperson, and the Chief Election Commissioner or Election Commissioner nominated by the CEC and the State Election Commissioner as ex-officio members.

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

67. Limboo and Tamang communities, recently seen in the news, are present in
   (a) Himachal Pradesh
   (b) Sikkim
   (c) West Bengal
   (d) Gujarat

Solution: B

A proposal for reservation of seats for Limboo and Tamang communities in Sikkim Legislative Assembly is under consideration of the Government of
India. Limboo and Tamang communities, notified as the Scheduled Tribes in Sikkim in January 2003

68. Consider the following statements regarding SANKALP Project

1. It is a Central sector Scheme
2. It aims to implement the mandate of the National Skill Development Mission

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

Solution: B

SANKALP Project

SANKALP is a centrally sponsored scheme of Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE). It is an outcome focused scheme marking shift in government’s implementation strategy in vocational education and training from inputs to results. SANKALP aims to implement the mandate of the National Skill Development Mission (NSDM).

SANKALP will provide market relevant training to 3.5 crore youth.

Objective: The Objective of the project is to enhance institutional mechanisms for skills development and increase access to quality and market-relevant training for the work force.

The scheme provides the required impetus to the National Skill Development Mission, 2015 and its various sub missions. It is aligned to flagship Government of India programs such as Make in India and SwachhhtaAbhiyan and aims at developing globally competitive workforce for domestic and overseas requirements.

The Key result areas for the project include Institutional Strengthening at the National and State Levels for Planning, Delivering, and Monitoring High-Quality Market-Relevant Training; Improved Quality and Market Relevance of Skills Development Programs; Improved access to and completion of skills training for female trainees and other disadvantaged groups; and Expanding skills training through private-public partnerships (PPPs).
69. Consider the following statements regarding Space Debris

1. Space debris encompasses both natural (meteoroid) and artificial (man-made) particles.
2. Most of the space debris orbits Sun
3. They travel at speeds up to 17,500 mph, fast enough for a relatively small piece of orbital debris to damage a satellite or a spacecraft.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Solution: D**

**Space debris** encompasses both **natural** (meteoroid) and **artificial** (man-made) particles. **Meteoroids** are in orbit about the sun, while most artificial debris is in orbit about the Earth. Hence, the latter is more commonly referred to as **orbital debris**.

**Orbital debris** is any **man-made object** in orbit about the Earth which no longer serves a useful function. Such debris includes non-functional spacecraft, abandoned launch vehicle stages, mission-related debris and fragmentation debris.

There are **more than 20,000 pieces of debris** larger than a softball orbiting the Earth. They travel at speeds up to 17,500 mph, fast enough for a relatively small piece of orbital debris to damage a satellite or a spacecraft. There are 500,000 pieces of debris the size of a marble or larger. There are many millions of pieces of debris that are so small they can’t be tracked.


70. Consider the following statements

1. Globally nearly 90% of wild flowering plant species depend on animal pollination.
2. Global Coalition of the willing on Pollinators was taken by the Conference of the Parties–Convention of Biological Diversity held in Mexico.
3. India becomes fourth nation to join global coalition to protect pollinators.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Solution: B**

Nigeria becomes fourth African nation to join global coalition to protect pollinators.

While Morocco became a member of this group in May this year, Ethiopia was the first African nation to be part of this global coalition in 2017. Burundi was the second African country to join this global group.

**About the Global Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators:**

The organisation was formed three years ago, to follow up on the findings of [IPBES Assessment](https://www.insightsonindia.com) on Pollinators, Pollination and Food Production, which found that many of the world’s pollinator species are on the decline.

The initiative to form a coalition was taken by the Netherlands on December 12, 2016 at the Conference of the Parties–Convention of Biological Diversity held in Mexico.

Members: The coalition now has 28 signatories including 17 European countries, five from Latin America and the Caribbean and four from Africa.

**What is the importance of pollinators?**

- Plants depend on pollination.
- Globally nearly 90% of wild flowering plant species depend on animal pollination.
- More than 75% of leading global crop types benefit from animal pollination in production, yield and quality.
- Around 5-8% of current global crop production is directly ascribed to animal pollination, which equates to somewhere between 235 and 577 billion American dollars worldwide.

71. Consider the following statements regarding “one nation-one ration card”

1. It will ensure all beneficiaries especially migrants can access PDS across the nation from any PDS shop of their own choice.
2. It will reduce beneficiaries dependence on shop owners and curtail instances of corruption

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: C

Here is all you need to know about the ‘one nation, one ration card’ system:

1) Under the initiative, eligible beneficiaries would be able to avail their entitled foodgrains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) from any Fair Price Shop in the country using the same ration card.

2) The government wanted to implement ‘one nation, one ration card’ scheme across the country effective 1st June 2020.

3) A standard format for ration card has been prepared after taking into account the format used by different states and after consultation with other stakeholders.

4) For national portability, the state governments have been asked to issue the ration card in bi-lingual format, wherein besides the local language, the other language could be Hindi or English.

5) As of now, 17 states are on integrated management of the public distribution system (PDS).

6) Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Haryana, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Jharkhand and Tripura. Bihar, UP, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Daman and Diu have been integrated with the ‘one nation, one ration card’ system.

72. Consider the following statements regarding Collagen

1. It is a hard, insoluble, and fibrous vitamin that makes up one-third of the nutrients in the human body
2. They give the skin strength and elasticity
3. It can be used to build functional parts

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: D

Collagen is the most abundant protein in the human body, found in the bones, muscles, skin, and tendons. It is the substance that holds the body together. Collagen forms a scaffold to provide strength and structure.

Collagen is a hard, insoluble, and fibrous protein that makes up one-third of the protein in the human body.

Endogenous collagen is natural collagen, synthesized by the body. Exogenous collagen is synthetic. It comes from an outside source, such as supplements. These act as supporting structures and anchor cells to each other. They give the skin strength and elasticity.

U.S Scientists have successfully built functional heart parts out of collagen using a 3D bio-printer.

73. Consider the following statements regarding Bharat Stage (BS) VI Norms

1. These are based on European emission norms.
2. The emission standards is set by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
3. Armored and Specialised Vehicles of Armed/Paramilitary Forces were exempted from BSVI Emission Norms.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Solution: A**

*Bharat Stage (BS) VI Norms* are the standards set up by the Indian government which specify the amount of air pollutants from internal combustion engines, including those that vehicles can emit.

Bharat Stage (BS) norms are based on European emission norms which, for example, are referred to in a similar manner like Euro 4 and Euro 6.

These emission standards were set by the central government to keep a check on the pollutant levels emitted by vehicles that use combustion engines.

To bring them into force, the *Central Pollution Control Board* sets timelines and standards which have to be followed by automakers.

*Armoured and Specialised Vehicles of Armed/ Paramilitary Forces were exempted from BSVI Emission Norms* that will come into Force in April 2020.

74. Spodopterafrugiperda, sometime seen in the news, is

(a) Invasive plant species  
(b) Invasive pest species  
(c) Bio-pesticide  
(d) Bio-fertilizer

**Solution: B**

FAW (*Spodopterafrugiperda*) is an *invasive and polyphagous* (feeding on many foods) *pest*. It can attack *cereals* and forage grasses.

*Fall armyworm (FAW)*, one of the most important pests of *maize* in *Latin America*, suddenly appeared in *Africa* in 2016 and spread rapidly. Estimates of crop losses due to FAW are essential in order to compare the impact of these losses with the cost of controlling FAW and advise appropriate technology dissemination and policy. In this study, therefore, crop losses due to FAW in 2017 and 2018 were estimated in all the maize production areas of Kenya.
75. It is the largest National Park of India and situated at a high altitude. The park is bounded on the north by the banks of the Indus River, and includes the catchments of Markha, Sumdah and Rumbak, and parts of the Zanskar Range. Moreover there is a Famous Tibetan Buddhist monastery within the park which has 400 year old history.

Which of the following national park best describes the above description?

(a) Dachigam National Park  
(b) Valley of Flowers National Park  
(c) Hemis National Park  
(d) None of the above

**Solution: C**

**Hemis National Park** (or Hemis High Altitude National Park) is a high altitude national park in the eastern **Ladakh** Union Territory of the Republic of India. Globally famous for its **snow leopards**, it is believed to have the **highest density** of them in any protected area in the world.

The park is bounded on the north by the banks of the **Indus River**, and includes the catchments of Markha, Sumdah and Rumbak, and parts of the **Zanskar Range**.

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76. Dinesh sharma committee is often seen in the news, is related to

(a) Non-performing loans  
(b) Banking reforms  
(c) virtual currencies  
(d) poverty alleviation

**Solution: C**

The government has formed a panel to **study the existing framework for virtual currencies** such as bitcoin. A finance ministry statement said Dinesh
Sharma, special secretary in the economic affairs department will chair the nine-member inter-disciplinary committee.

77. Consider the following statements regarding Rotavirus

1. It spreads from person to person due to bacterial and parasiting agents
2. Rotavirus is transmitted by the faecal-oral route

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: C

Rotavirus:
Rotavirus is a leading cause of severe diarrhoea and death among children less than five years of age.

It is responsible for around 10% of total child mortality every year.

Rotavirus-Signs and Symptoms:
Kids with a rotavirus infection have fever, nausea, and vomiting, often followed by abdominal cramps and frequent, watery diarrhea.

Kids may also have a cough and runny nose.

Sometimes the diarrhea that accompanies a rotavirus infection is so severe that it can quickly lead to dehydration.

As with all viruses, though, some rotavirus infections cause few or no symptoms, especially in adults.

Transmission:
Rotaviruses are transmitted by the faecal-oral route, via contact with contaminated hands, surfaces and objects, and possibly by the respiratory route. Viral diarrhea is highly contagious.

Virus spreads from person to person due to bacterial and parasiting agents.
78. Consider the following statements regarding Price Stabilization Fund Scheme

1. It is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.
2. It is a Central Sector Scheme
3. It aims to discourage hoarding and unscrupulous speculation.

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

Solution: D

Price Stabilization Fund Scheme:

Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF) refers to any fund constituted for the purpose of containing extreme volatility in prices of selected commodities.

Price Stabilization Fund (PSF) with a corpus of Rs.500 crores is a Central Sector Scheme.

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation is implementing the scheme. It helps regulate the price volatility of important agri-horticultural commodities like onion, potatoes and pulses.

The scheme provides for maintaining a strategic buffer of aforementioned commodities for subsequent calibrated release to moderate price volatility and discourage hoarding and unscrupulous speculation.

Apart from domestic procurement from farmers/wholesale mandis, import may also be undertaken with support from the Fund.

It aims to discourage hoarding and unscrupulous speculation.

79. Consider the following statements regarding Project SURE

1. It has been launched by the Ministry of Textiles.
2. It aims to contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goal 12.

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

Solution: C

**Project SURE:**

The SURE project is a **commitment** by India’s apparel industry to set a **sustainable pathway** for the Indian fashion industry.

SURE stands for ‘**Sustainable Resolution**’ – a firm commitment from the industry to move towards fashion that **contributes to a clean environment**.

The project has been launched by the union **Textiles Ministry**, along with Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI); United Nations in India; and IMG Reliance.

Significance: It will be the first holistic effort by the apparel industry towards gradually introducing a broader framework for establishing critical sustainability goals for the industry.

This framework would help the industry reduce its carbon emissions, increase resource efficiency, tackle waste and water management, and create positive social impact to achieve long-term sustainability targets.

It aims to contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030, especially **SDG-12** for **responsible consumption and production**

80. Consider the following statements regarding National Anti-Doping Agency

1. It was set up as registered society under the Societies Registration Act of 1890.
2. It is responsible for promoting, coordinating, and monitoring doping control program in sports in all its forms.
3. It comes under Ministry of Home Affairs

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: C

National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA):
National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) was set up as registered society under the Societies Registration Act of 1890 on November 24, 2005 with a mandate for Dope free sports in India.

The primary objectives are to implement anti-doping rules as per WADA code, regulate dope control programme, to promote education and research and creating awareness about doping and its ill effects.

It is responsible for promoting, coordinating, and monitoring doping control program in sports in all its forms.

It Comes under Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

81. The SARAL Index has been launched by

(a) International Energy Agency
(b) Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency
(c) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
(d) Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

Solution: D

SARAL – ‘State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index’
SARAL – ‘State Rooftop Solar Attractiveness Index’ was recently launched.

The Index evaluates Indian states based on their attractiveness for rooftop development.

SARAL is the first of its kind index to provide a comprehensive overview of state-level measures adopted to facilitate rooftop solar deployment.

SARAL has been designed collaboratively by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF), Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and Ernst & Young (EY).
SARAL currently captures five key aspects:

1. robustness of policy framework
2. implementation environment
3. investment climate
4. consumer experience
5. business ecosystem

82. Consider the following statements regarding Aadi Mahotsav, 2019

1. It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Culture and Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India
2. The theme of the festival is “A celebration of the spirit of Tribal Craft, Culture and Commerce”.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: B

Aadi Mahotsav

It is a joint initiative of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India & Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).

The theme of the festival is: “A celebration of the spirit of Tribal Craft, Culture and Commerce”. TRIFED essentially is to play the role of a ‘Service provider’ & ‘Market Developer.’

The Mahotsav will comprise of display and sale of items of tribal art and craft, tribal medicine & healers, tribal cuisine and display of tribal folk performance, in which tribal artisans, chefs, folk dancers/musicians from 23 States of the country shall participate and provide glimpse of their rich traditional culture.

Significance of the event: As the name of this event AadiMahotsav suggests, it is it’s ‘Adi’ factor that is important about them. The Adivasi way of life is guided by primal truths, eternal values and a natural simplicity. The greatness of the tribes lies in this that they have managed to retain the primal
skills and natural simplicity. This quality gives their arts and crafts a timeless appeal. The crudest tribal handicraft instantly touches a primal instinct in all of us. This is particularly true in tribal music and dance.

83. Consider the following statements regarding Rechargeable Iron Ion Battery
   1. The iron ion battery is cost-effective.
   2. It has been designed using mild steel as the anode
   3. Iron has favourable physico-chemical properties like lithium.
   Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
   (a) 1 only
   (b) 1 and 2 only
   (c) 1, 2 and 3
   (d) 2 and 3 only

   **Solution: C**

   The rechargeable iron ion battery has been designed using mild steel as the anode. The iron ion battery is cost-effective and the amount of energy that can be stored in the battery is also high.

   While lithium ions are the charge carriers in lithium ion battery, the Fe\(^{2+}\) ions perform that function in the case of iron ion battery.

   **Benefits of Iron over Lithium**

   Iron has favourable physico-chemical properties like lithium. The redox potential of iron ion is higher than lithium ion and the radius of the Fe\(^{2+}\) ion is nearly the same as that of the lithium ion.

   Iron is more stable during the charging process and therefore prevents short-circuiting of the batteries.

84. Sovereign Blue Bond, first of its kind, is introduced by
   (a) Seychelles
   (b) France
   (c) Mauritius
   (d) None of the above
Solution: A

Sovereign Blue Bond, first of its kind is introduced by Seychelles.

Republic of Seychelles has launched the world’s first sovereign blue bond—a pioneering financial instrument designed to support sustainable marine and fisheries projects.

The bond, which raised US$15 million from international investors, demonstrates the potential for countries to harness capital markets for financing the sustainable use of marine resources. The World Bank assisted in developing the blue bond and reaching out to the three investors: Calvert Impact Capital, Nuveen, and U.S. Headquartered Prudential Financial, Inc.


85. The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty (INF treaty) was signed between which of the following countries?

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

Solution: C

Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty:


Under the INF Treaty, the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. agreed to eliminate within three years all ground-launched-missiles of 500-5,500 km range and not to develop, produce or deploy these in future.

The U.S. destroyed 846 Pershing IIs and Ground Launched Cruise Missiles (GLCMs) and the U.S.S.R., 1,846 missiles (SS-4s, SS-5s and SS-20s), along with its support facilities.
US in early December last year announced that it would suspend its obligations under the INF treaty by Feb. 2, citing Russian “cheating,” unless Moscow comes into compliance with the terms of the pact.

The U.S. government says the new Russian missile violates provisions of the pact that ban production, testing and deployment of land-based cruise and ballistic missiles with a range of 310 to 3,400 miles.

86. Consider the following statements regarding National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED)

1. It was setup with an objective of promoting co-operative marketing.
2. It is registered under The Indian Societies Registration Act of 1860.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: A

National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), established in 1958, is registered under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act.

NAFED was setup with the object to promote Cooperative marketing of Agricultural Produce to benefit the farmers.

Agricultural farmers are the main members of Nafed, who have the authority to say in the form of members of the General Body in the working of Nafed.

The objectives of the NAFED shall be to organize, promote and develop marketing, processing and storage of agricultural, horticultural and forest produce, distribution of agricultural machinery, implements and other inputs, undertake inter-state, import and export trade etc

87. Consider the following statements regarding Bharat Ratna

1. The provision of Bharat Ratna was introduced in 1954.
2. There is written provision that Bharat Ratna should be awarded to Indian citizens only.
3. Any person without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex is eligible for these awards

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

_Solution: A_

**Bharat Ratna** is the _highest civilian award_ of the Republic of India. The provision of Bharat Ratna was introduced in 1954.

Eligibility: Any person without distinction of race, occupation, position or sex is eligible for these awards.

There is no written provision that Bharat Ratna should be awarded to Indian citizens only.

It is awarded in recognition of exceptional service/performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour.

The award was originally limited to achievements in the arts, literature, science and public services but the government expanded the criteria to include “any field of human endeavour” in December 2011.

88. Recently, Indian and Chinese armies confronted along the Pangong Lake.

Which of the following statements are correct regarding Pangong Lake?

(a) A brackish water lake present in Ladakh region
(b) A brackish water lake present in Arunachal Pradesh
(c) A fresh water lake present in Himachal Pradesh
(d) A fresh water lake present in Sikkim

_Solution: A_

**Pangong Lake** in Ladakh is the world’s highest brackish lake at 14,256 feet above sea level. In winter the **lake freezes completely**, despite being **saline water**.
89. Consider the following statements regarding Legislative Council

1. Parliament may by law create or abolish the second chamber in a state.
2. The Legislative Assembly of that state must pass a resolution to that effect by a special majority.

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

Solution: C

Parliament may by law create or abolish the second chamber in a state.
The Legislative Assembly of that state must pass a resolution to that effect by a special majority.

Currently, six states have Legislative Councils UP, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana), Maharashtra, Karnataka.

Legislative council of a state shall not exceed one third of the total number of the members in the legislative Assembly of that state and the total number of members in the legislative council of a state shall in no case be less than 40.

90. India’s First ever otter reserve has been opened which of the following state?
(a) Assam
(b) Kerala
(c) Madhya Pradesh
(d) Karnataka

Solution: D

Inside the country’s first ever otter reserve in Karnataka, there is a family of smooth-coated otters (Lutrogaleperspicillata) gathered at a spot. They are
involved in activity that binds them together as a family and group. They are defecating together. If for humans the adage states that a family that eats together stays together, it is the other end of the digestion process for otters.

DAY – 15

91. Consider the following statements regarding the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019:

1. It makes all declaration of talaq, except electronic form, to be void and illegal.
2. It makes declaration of talaq a non cognizable offence.
3. A Muslim woman against whom talaq has been declared, is entitled to seek subsistence allowance from her husband for herself and for her dependent children.

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

Solution: B

The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019:

Any pronouncement of talaq by a Muslim husband upon his wife, by words, either spoken or written or in electronic form or in any other manner whatsoever, shall be void and illegal.

In the Act, “talaq” means talaq-e-biddat or any other similar form of talaq having the effect of instantaneous and irrevocable divorce pronounced by a Muslim husband.

Offence to be cognizable, compoundable, etc.—

Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (2 of 1974),—

(a) an offence punishable under this Act shall be cognizable, if information relating to the commission of the offence is given to an officer in charge of a
police station by the married Muslim woman upon whom talaq is pronounced or any person related to her by blood or marriage;

(b) an offence punishable under this Act shall be compoundable, at the instance of the married Muslim woman upon whom talaq is pronounced with the permission of the Magistrate, on such terms and conditions as he may determine;

(c) no person accused of an offence punishable under this Act shall be released on bail unless the Magistrate, on an application filed by the accused and after hearing the married Muslim woman upon whom talaq is pronounced, is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for granting bail to such person.

Subsistence allowance.—

Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions contained in any other law for the time being in force, a married Muslim woman upon whom talaq is pronounced shall be entitled to receive from her husband such amount of subsistence allowance, for her and dependent children, as may be determined by the Magistrate.

92. Pattamadai Pai (Mat), sometimes seen in news, belongs to

(a) Karnataka
(b) Andhra Pradesh
(c) Tamil Nadu
(d) Telangana

Solution: C

PATTAMADAI PAI (PATTAMADAI MATS):

This is a handwoven grass mat wall hanging unique to a town called Pattamadai (Pathamadai) in Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu. More commonly known as ‘Korai Mat’ (‘Paai’ in Tamil; ‘Chatai’ in Hindi), its base material is Korai Grass that grows mainly along riverbeds. The mat-making technique is intricate and elaborate that involves drying, soaking, splitting and dyeing the grass strands. Traditionally these mats were used for sitting, chatting and sleeping; to stay in sync with changing tastes and needs, the artisans are now transforming these mats into beautiful wall hangings, table runners, tea mats, jewellery boxes, and wallets.
93. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Star tortoise:

1. It has been listed under Appendix II of CITES.
2. It is mainly found in the northeastern region of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: D

India’s proposal to upgrade the protection of star tortoises (Geochelone elegans), the smooth-coated otter (Lutrogale perspicillata) and small-clawed otters (Anoyx cinereus) in CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species on Wild Fauna and Flora) have been approved.

These species have been listed under Appendix I of CITES and will now enjoy the highest degree of protection as there will be a complete international ban enforced on their trade.

Appendix I of CITES lists species that are the most endangered among CITES-listed animals and plants. They are threatened with extinction and CITES prohibits international trade in specimens of these species except when the purpose of the import is not commercial, for instance for scientific research.

This species lives in three separate parts of the Indian subcontinent: western India and the extreme southeast of Pakistan (e.g., Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan in India, as well as the Thar Desert in Pakistan), in southeastern India (Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu), and on Sri Lanka. They occupy a wide variety of habitats, including semi-arid lowland forests, moist deciduous forest, thorn scrub forests, semi-desert and arid grasslands. This species has a high tolerance for habitats that are seasonally wet or dry, many populations inhabiting areas with a monsoon or rainy season followed by a long hot and dry period. Sometimes they live in agricultural areas.

94. Consider the following statements regarding the International Court of Justice (ICJ):

1. It is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN).
2. The judges are elected for terms of office of nine years.
3. Its official languages are English and French.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: D

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 seat of the Court is at the **Peace Palace** in **The Hague** (Netherlands). Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York (United States of America).

The Court’s role is to **settle**, in accordance with **international law**, legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.

The Court is composed of **15 judges**, who are elected for terms of office of nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. It is assisted by a Registry, its administrative organ. Its official languages are English and French.


https://www.icj-cij.org/en/court

95. Consider the following statements regarding Gram Sabha

1. It is a permanent body
2. The term Gram Sabha is defined in the Constitution
3. The power to annul a decision of the Gram Sabha rests with state Government.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: C

Gram Sabha

- The term Gram Sabha is defined in the Constitution of India under Article 243(b).
- Gram Sabha is the primary body of the Panchayati Raj system and by far the largest.
- It is a permanent body.
- The power to annul a decision of the Gram Sabha rests with the Gram Sabha only.

Composition:

- Persons, those who are above 18 years of age.
- Living in the village.
- Whose names are included in the electoral rolls for the Panchayat at the village level.

Powers and functions:

- Constitution mentions that Gram Sabha exercises such powers and performs such functions at the village level as the Legislature of a State may, by law, provide.

96. Consider the following statements

1. The right to cast vote is a fundamental right
2. Prisoners can cast their vote from jails through postal ballot.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Solution: D**

**Voting Rights of Prisoners**

The *right to cast vote* is neither a fundamental right nor a common law right and is *only provided by a statute*.

The right to vote provided under the statute — Representation of the People Act — was subject to restrictions imposed by the law, which does not allow prisoners to cast vote from jails.

**Who can vote and who cannot?**

Under *Section 62(5)* of the *Representation of the People Act, 1951*, *individuals in lawful custody* of the police and those serving a sentence of imprisonment after conviction *cannot vote*. *Undertrial prisoners* are also *excluded from participating in elections* even if their names are on electoral rolls.

*Only those under preventive detention* can *cast their vote* through *postal ballots*.

**97.** Consider the following statements regarding Leader of Opposition (LoP)

1. He/She is a leader of the largest party that has not less than one-sixth of the total strength of the house.
2. It is a statutory post provided by an act of the parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Solution: B**
Leader of Opposition:

The **LOP is leader of the largest party** that has **not less than one-tenth of the total strength** of the house.

It is a **statutory post** defined in the **Salaries and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977**.

LoP is referred to as the ‘**shadow Prime Minister**’.

She/he is expected to be ready to take over if the government falls.

The LoP also plays an important role in bringing cohesiveness and effectiveness to the opposition’s functioning in policy and legislative work.

LoP plays a crucial role in bringing bipartisanship and neutrality to the appointments in institutions of accountability and transparency – CVC, CBI, CIC, Lokpal etc.

The **Speaker** needs to recognise him/her as the Leader of Opposition.

The law is clear that the Speaker is required to recognise the leader of the numerically largest party in opposition as the leader of opposition. The option of not recognising him/her is just not available.

98. Which of the following countries borders the Baltic Sea?

   1. Denmark
   2. Lithuania
   3. Sweden
   4. Latvia

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

**Solution: D**

**Baltic Sea**, arm of the **North Atlantic Ocean**, extending northward from the latitude of southern Denmark almost to the Arctic Circle and **separating the Scandinavian Peninsula from the rest of continental Europe**.
Proceeding clockwise from the west, the countries bounding the Baltic are Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Germany.

99. WHO’s REPLACE campaign, recently seen in news, is related to

(a) Replace all petrol and diesel vehicles to Electric Vehicles by 2030.
(b) Eliminate industrially produced trans-fatty acids from the global food supply.
(c) Provide protein rich food to children in the government schools.
(d) None of the above

Solution: B
Eliminating trans fats is key to protecting health and saving lives: WHO estimates that every year, trans fat intake leads to more than 500,000 deaths of people from cardiovascular disease.

Industrially-produced trans fats are contained in hardened vegetable fats, such as margarine and ghee, and are often present in snack food, baked foods, and fried foods. Manufacturers often use them as they have a longer shelf life than other fats. But healthier alternatives can be used that would not affect taste or cost of food.

“WHO calls on governments to use the REPLACE action package to eliminate industrially-produced trans-fatty acids from the food supply,” said WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. “Implementing the six strategic actions in the REPLACE package will help achieve the elimination of trans fat, and represent a major victory in the global fight against cardiovascular disease.”


100. Consider the following statements regarding Flue-gas desulfurization technology

1. It is a set of technologies used to remove sulfur dioxide (SO2) from exhaust flue gases of fossil-fuel power plants.
2. It has high concentrations of sulfates, calcium, magnesium, heavy metals, TSS and ammonia.
3. Flue-gas desulfurization technology is exists in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: C

Flue gas desulfurization (FGD) is a set of technologies used to remove sulfur dioxide (SO2) from exhaust flue gases of fossil-fuel power plants, as well as from the emissions of other sulfur oxide emitting processes.

When using a wet FGD scrubbing process, wastewater is generated, which must be treated before disposal. FGD wastewater contains high
concentrations of sulfates, calcium, magnesium, heavy metals, TSS and ammonia.

The country’s largest power producer NTPC Thursday said it is installing sulphur dioxide-reducing technology flue-gas desulphurisation (FGD) at all its plants across the country.