INSTA CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

SEPTEMBER 2020
Table of Contents

1. ECONOMY ................................................................................................................................. 2
2. ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT ............................................................................................... 6
3. GOVERNMENT SCHEMES AND PROGRAMMES .................................................................... 20
4. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ................................................................................................. 31
5. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ORGANISATIONS ....................................................... 39
6. POLITY ....................................................................................................................................... 52
7. REPORTS AND INDICES .......................................................................................................... 53
8. MAPS / PLACES ......................................................................................................................... 54
9. MISCELLANEOUS ..................................................................................................................... 62
1. Economy

1) Consider the following statements regarding Transfer payments.
   1. Transfer payments are receipts which the residents of a country receive ‘for free’.
   2. They consist of remittances, gifts and grants.
   3. They could be given by the government or by private citizens living abroad

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

Solution: d)

Transfer payments are the receipts which the residents of a country get for ‘free’, without having to provide any goods or services in return.
They consist of gifts, remittances and grants.
They could be given by the government or by private citizens living abroad.

2) Utkarsh 2022, often seen in the news, is related to
   a) Space technology
   b) Military system
   c) Governance system
   d) Banking system

Solution: d)

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) board had finalized a three-year roadmap to improve regulation and supervision, among other functions of the central bank. It is a three-year road map for medium term objective to be achieved for improving regulation, supervision of the central bank.

Utkarsh 2022 is a medium-term strategy in line with the global central banks’ plan to strengthen the regulatory and supervisory mechanism.

Source

3) New Arrangement to Borrow (NAB), a funding mechanism, recently seen in news is related to which bank
   a) World Bank
   b) Asian Development Bank
   c) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
   d) International Monetary Fund

Solution: d)

The New Arrangement to Borrow is the fund mobilization arrangement of the IMF to mobilise additional funds through borrowing from member countries. Under NAB, member countries and institutions can stand ready to lend to the Fund.

Source

4) Which of the following statements about the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is incorrect?
   a) ED is appointed on the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister.
   b) It functions under the aegis of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

www.insightsonindia.com
c) It is responsible for tracking black money and hawala trade cases.

d) None of the above

Solution: b)

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) is a law enforcement agency and economic intelligence agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crime in India. It functions under the aegis of the Department of Revenue, Union Ministry of Finance. It has a mandate to enforce two of most stringent laws in the country. They are Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) to check black money and hawala trade cases.

5) Among the following Acts, an Enforcement Directorate (ED) in India will be most concerned with
   a) Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act
   b) Negotiable Instrument Act
   c) Public Debt Act
   d) Prevention of Money Laundering Act

Solution: d)

Enforcement Directorate (ED) is a law enforcement agency and economic intelligence agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crime in India. It is part of the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance. The prime objective of the Enforcement Directorate is the enforcement of two key Acts- the Foreign Exchange Management Act 1999 (FEMA) and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2002 (PMLA).

6) A SWIFT Code, sometime seen in the news, is related to
   a) International Banking Transaction
   b) Payment Gateway System
   c) Quick Toll Plaza Electronic Payment
   d) None of the above

Solution: a)

The SWIFT - Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication - is a secure financial message carrier — it transports messages from one bank to its intended bank recipient. Its core role is to provide a secure transmission channel between banks.

7) Specified financial transactions, recently seen in news is related to?
   a) Donations received from foreign countries to Indian NGOs.
   b) Financial transactions which are exempt from Income tax payments
   c) High-value transactions undertaken by citizens which will be tracked by the Government
   d) None of the above

Solution: c)

Specified financial transactions are certain high-value transactions undertaken by citizens that the Government proposes to track with an intent to curb black money and widen the tax base in India.

The government recently proposed to expand the scope of reporting of SFTs by including new high-value transactions, such as domestic business-class air travel/foreign travel; payment of educational fee/donations; purchase of jewellery, white goods, paintings, marble and electricity consumption above `1 lakh; payment of life insurance policy above `50,000; hotel spends; and payment of health insurance premium more than `20,000.

As per the I-T department’s notification in May 2020, SFTs will be part of the new Form 26AS.
This SFT information will be of immense use to the taxman to cross-verify suspicious transactions.

Source

8) Consider the following statements regarding Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS).
   1. TReDS is an electronic platform for facilitating the financing / discounting of trade receivables of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through multiple financiers.
   2. Only MSMEs can participate as sellers in TReDS.
   3. Banks and NBFCs can participate as financiers in TReDS.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1, 2
   b) 1, 3
   c) 2, 3
   d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

The Budget For 2019-20 (Apr-Mar) Proposed To Amend The Factoring Regulation Act To Allow All Non-banking Finance Companies To Directly Participate On The TReDS Platform.

TReDS is an electronic platform for facilitating the financing / discounting of trade receivables of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through multiple financiers. These receivables can be due from corporates and other buyers, including Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

Sellers, buyers and financiers are the participants on a TReDS platform.

Only MSMEs can participate as sellers in TReDS.

Corporates, Government Departments, PSUs and any other entity can participate as buyers in TReDS.

Banks, NBFC - Factors and other financial institutions as permitted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), can participate as financiers in TReDS.

9) Consider the following statements regarding India’s tax system.
   1. In the last 10 years, India's Indirect tax-to-GDP ratio is lower that direct tax-to-GDP.
   2. The average share of direct tax in OECD countries is greater than that in India.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 only
   c) Both 1 and 2
   d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: b)

India's tax system is regressive with heavy dependence on indirect tax. This would be clear by mapping the gross tax revenue (of both centre and states)-as reproduced below. Indirect-tax-to-GDP ratio remains consistently higher than that of direct tax-to-GDP (2011-12 series, current prices).
In the OECD countries, the average share of direct tax is about two-third of the total tax, while it is a little over one-third in India.
2. Ecology and Environment

1) Consider the following statements regarding WWF-India’s Small Grants Innovation Program
   1. It offers eligible individuals a one-time grant for undertaking conservation research
   2. It adopts one village in every major critical habitat of India to recreate it as an eco-model village

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

Solution: a)

With the aim of encouraging young Indians to respond innovatively and independently to the conservation issues which affect the country, WWF-India is offering eligible individuals a one-time grant of upto INR 400,000 over a maximum period of 2 years for undertaking conservation research/ action research. The grants will be used to fund research and initiatives which especially demonstrate innovation that is replicable, scalable and sustainable.

This can include (but not limited to):
   • Improving local livelihoods through conservation and natural resource management or promoting livelihoods that reduce impacts on biodiversity
   • Aspects of trade involving wildlife species
   • Increasing understanding on the status of lesser known or lesser studied species of wildlife.

Source

2) Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under
   a) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
   b) Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
   c) Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991
   d) Hazardous waste Handling and management act, 1989

Solution: a)

Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted under Section 3(3) of the ‘Environment (Protection) Act, 1986’ for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the Country. CGWA grants ‘No Objection Certificates’ (NOC) for ground water abstraction in 23 States/UTs.

3) Global Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators is an initiative of
   a) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
   b) Conference of the Parties–Convention of Biological Diversity
   c) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
   d) Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Solution: b)

About the Global Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators:
The organisation was formed to follow up on the findings of IPBES Assessment 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.

4) Consider the following statements regarding ‘Hope Spots’.
1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep islands are the first in India to make it to the list of global hope spots.
2. A hope spot is an area of an ocean that needs special protection because of its wildlife and significant underwater habitats.
3. They are declared by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

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

Solution: c)

Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep islands have been named as the "hope spots" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Mission Blue, an organization involved in the study of oceans.

A hope spot is an area of an ocean that needs special protection because of its wildlife and significant underwater habitats.

The two group of islands, considered extremely rich in marine biodiversity, are the first places in India to have been added in the list of global 'hope spots'.

5) Consider the following statements regarding ‘Drought Management in India’
1. There is no single, legally accepted definition of drought in India.
2. Drought will fall within the definition of “disaster” as defined in Disaster Management Act, 2005.
3. Central Government is the final authority when it comes to declaring a region as drought affected.

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

Solution: a)

Drought is generally considered as a deficiency in rainfall /precipitation over an extended period, usually a season or more, resulting in a water shortage causing adverse impacts on vegetation, animals, and/or people.

There is no single, legally accepted definition of drought in India. Some states resort to their own definitions of drought. State Government is the final authority when it comes to declaring a region as drought affected.

The Supreme Court of India in its verdict in the matter of Swaraj Abhiyan Vs Union of India stated that drought would certainly fall within the definition of “disaster” as defined under Section 2(d) of the Disaster Management (DM) Act, 2005.

6) Flexitarian Movement is often seen in news. It is related to
a) Providing protein rich food to Children and adolescents
b) Moving to flexible interest rates for loans rather than the fixed interest rate
c) Reducing the animal-based food and increasing the plant based food
d) None of the above

Solution: c)

The Flexitarian Diet is a style of eating that encourages mostly plant-based foods while allowing meat and other animal products in moderation. It’s more flexible than fully vegetarian or vegan diets.

Source: www.insightsonindia.com
7) Consider the following statements regarding Manufactured sand (M-Sand).
   1. Manufactured sand (M-Sand) is a substitute of river sand for concrete construction and is produced from hard granite stone by crushing.
   2. The size of manufactured sand (M-Sand) is less than 4.75mm.
   3. One disadvantage of M-sand is that it contains organic and soluble compound which affects the setting time and properties of cement.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1, 3
   b) 1, 2
   c) 2, 3
   d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: b)

Manufactured sand (M-Sand) is a substitute of river sand for concrete construction. Manufactured sand is produced from hard granite stone by crushing. The crushed sand is of cubical shape with grounded edges, washed and graded to as a construction material. The size of manufactured sand (M-Sand) is less than 4.75mm.

Advantages of Manufactured Sand (M-Sand)
   • It is well graded in the required proportion.
   • It does not contain organic and soluble compound that affects the setting time and properties of cement, thus the required strength of concrete can be maintained.
   • It does not have the presence of impurities such as clay, dust and silt coatings, increase water requirement as in the case of river sand which impair bond between cement paste and aggregate. Thus, increased quality and durability of concrete.

Source

8) Serengeti National Park, recently in news, is located in
   a) Botswana
   b) Tanzania
   c) South Africa
   d) Kenya

Solution: b)

The Serengeti National Park is a Tanzanian national park in the Serengeti ecosystem in the Mara and Simiyu regions. It is famous and well known for its annual migration of over 1.5 million white-bearded (or brindled) wildebeest and 250,000 zebra and for its numerous Nile crocodile and honey badger.

9) Consider the following statements regarding National Board for Wildlife (NBWL).
   1. National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) is a “Statutory Organization” constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
   2. Its roles is “advisory” in nature and advises the Central Government on framing policies and measures for conservation of wildlife in the country.
   3. It has power to review all wildlife-related matters and approve projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1, 2, 3
   b) 1, 2
   c) 2, 3
   d) 1, 3

Solution: c)
National Board for Wildlife:

- It is a “Statutory Organization” constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- Its role is “advisory” in nature and advises the Central Government on framing policies and measures for conservation of wildlife in the country.
- Primary function of the Board is to promote the conservation and development of wildlife and forests.
- It has power to review all wildlife-related matters and approve projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries.
- No alternation of boundaries in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries can be done without approval of the NBWL.
- Composition: The NBWL is chaired by the Prime Minister. It has 47 members including the Prime Minister. Among these, 19 members are ex-officio members. Other members include three Members of Parliament (two from Lok Sabha and one from Rajya Sabha), five NGOs and 10 eminent ecologists, conservationists and environmentalists.

Source

10) Consider the following statements regarding Earth Overshoot Day.

1. Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when humanity’s demand for ecological resources and services in a given year exceeds what Earth can regenerate in that year.
2. Earth Overshoot Day is hosted and calculated by Global Footprint Network.
3. In the last ten years, every year the overshoot date has been advancing compared to the previous year.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when humanity’s demand for ecological resources and services in a given year exceeds what Earth can regenerate in that year. We maintain this deficit by liquidating stocks of ecological resources and accumulating waste, primarily carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Earth Overshoot Day is hosted and calculated by Global Footprint Network, an international research organization that provides decision-makers with a menu of tools to help the human economy operate within Earth’s ecological limits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past Earth Overshoot Days</th>
<th>Past Earth Overshoot Days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1987 October 23</td>
<td>2013 August 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990 October 11</td>
<td>2014 August 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995 October 5</td>
<td>2015 August 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 September 23</td>
<td>2016 August 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 August 26</td>
<td>2017 August 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 August 8</td>
<td>2018 August 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 August 4</td>
<td>2019 July 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 August 4</td>
<td>2020 August 22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11) Which of the following are some of the main modes of seed dispersal?

1. Gravity
2. Wind
3. Animals
Select the correct answer code:
   a) 2 only
   b) 2, 3
   c) 1, 2, 3
   d) 1, 3

Solution: c)

Seed dispersal is the movement, spread or transport of seeds away from the parent plant. Plants have very limited mobility and consequently rely upon a variety of dispersal vectors to transport their propagules, including both abiotic vectors such as the wind and living (biotic) vectors like birds. There are five main modes of seed dispersal: gravity, wind, ballistic, water, and by animals.

12) ‘PLAN BEE’, an initiative of Indian Railways concerns
   a) Reducing traffic on passenger trains
   b) Safety of wild elephants
   c) Hiking tariff on congested routes to improve turnaround times
   d) Preserving trees on newly constructed or to be constructed railway tracks

Solution: b)

PLAN BEE is an amplifying system imitating the buzz of a swarm of honey bees to keep wild elephants away from railway tracks. It is a unique strategy adopted by Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR). It has earned the best innovation award in Indian Railways for the 2018-19 fiscal. Speakers that play the sound of bees scare the elephants away. Elephants have long been known to be frightened by the buzzing of bees and stings. Nearly 50 buzzing amplifiers have been deployed as part of "Plan Bee" at a dozen "elephant corridors" in the vast forests of Assam state, home to nearly 6,000 elephants, 20 percent of the country's total.

13) Which of the following statements is correct regarding ‘Bamboonomics’?
   a) Bamboo plantation in urban areas in order to maintain a sustainable environment and pollution free clean air.
   b) Promoting Bamboo as an alternative in building construction.
   c) Encourage bamboo plantation by farmers in private lands.
   d) A movement to combat desertification and climate change

Solution: d)

Bamboonomics:
It is a movement to combat desertification and climate change which will involve the tribal community of India since they have the expertise in this field. The movement will ensure that tribals can earn a livelihood without causing environmental harm. It was launched at the COP 14 of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

Source

14) Consider the following statements:
   1. India is the founding member of the Global Tiger Forum (GTF).
   2. Pakke Tiger reserve is located in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
   3. National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body constituted under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 headed by the Prime Minister.

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

The Global Tiger Forum (GTF) is the only inter-governmental international body established with members from willing countries to embark on a global campaign to protect the Tiger. The GTF was formed in 1993 on recommendations from an international symposium on Tiger Conservation at New Delhi, India. The first meeting of the Tiger Range countries to setup the forum was held in 1994, in which India was elected to the Chair and was asked to form an interim secretariat.

Pakke Tiger Reserve, also known as Pakhui Tiger Reserve, is a Project Tiger reserve in the East Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.

National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body constituted under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 headed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Source

15) Consider the following statements:
1. The National Compensatory Afforestation Fund falls under the Public Account of India.
2. The Champions of the Earth award is the highest environmental award of United Nations.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 only
   c) Both 1 and 2
   d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: c)

To compensate the loss of forest area and to maintain the sustainability, the Government of India came up with a well-defined Act, known as CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority). The law establishes the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Public Account of India, and a State Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Public Account of each state.

Champions of the Earth, the UN’s highest environmental honour, celebrates outstanding figures from the public and private sectors and from civil society whose actions have had a transformative positive impact on the environment.

16) Consider the following statements regarding International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).
1. International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is a multilateral treaty overseen by the Food and Agriculture Organization.
2. It aims to secure coordinated, effective action to prevent and to control the introduction and spread of pests of plants and plant products.
3. It is the only international standard setting body for plant health.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1, 2
   b) 1, 2, 3
   c) 1, 3
   d) 2, 3

Solution: b)

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is a 1951 multilateral treaty deposited with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) that aims to secure coordinated, effective action to prevent and to control the introduction and spread of pests of plants and plant products. The Convention extends beyond
the protection of cultivated plants to the protection of natural flora and plant products. It also takes into consideration both direct and indirect damage by pests, so it includes weeds.

The Convention is recognized by the World Trade Organization’s (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement) as the only international standard setting body for plant health.

While the IPPC’s primary focus is on plants and plant products moving in international trade, the Convention also covers research materials, biological control organisms, germplasm banks, containment facilities, food aid, emergency aid and anything else that can act as a vector for the spread of plant pests – for example, containers, packaging materials, soil, vehicles, vessels and machinery.

Source

17) Arrange the following National Park and Wildlife Sanctuaries of India from South to North.
   1. Dudhwa
   2. Bandhavgarh
   3. Keibul Lamjao
   4. Simlipal

Select the correct answer code:
   a) 4231
   b) 3142
   c) 4213
   d) 1243

   Solution: a)

The Dudhwa National Park is a national park in the Terai belt of marshy grasslands of northern Uttar Pradesh.

Bandhavgarh National Park is one of the national parks of India, located in the Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh.

The Keibul Lamjao National Park is a national park in the Bishnupur district of the state of Manipur.

Simlipal National Park is a national park and a tiger reserve in the Mayurbhanj district in the Indian state of Odisha.
18) Under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) is mandated to

1. Collect and collate intelligence related to organized wildlife crime activities and to disseminate the same to State and other enforcement agencies.
2. Establish a centralized wildlife crime data bank.
3. Assists and advises the Customs authorities in inspection of the consignments of flora & fauna.

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau is a statutory multi-disciplinary body established by the Government of India under the Ministry of Environment and Forests, to combat organized wildlife crime in the country.

Under Section 38 (Z) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972,

- it is mandated to collect and collate intelligence related to organized wildlife crime activities and to disseminate the same to State and other enforcement agencies for immediate action so as to apprehend the criminals;
- to establish a centralized wildlife crime data bank;
- co-ordinate actions by various agencies in connection with the enforcement of the provisions of the Act;
- assist foreign authorities and international organization concerned to facilitate co-ordination and universal action for wildlife crime control;
- capacity building of the wildlife crime enforcement agencies for scientific and professional investigation into wildlife crimes and assist State Governments to ensure success in prosecutions related to wildlife crimes;
- and advise the Government of India on issues relating to wildlife crimes having national and international ramifications, relevant policy and laws.
- It also assists and advises the Customs authorities in inspection of the consignments of flora & fauna as per the provisions of Wild Life Protection Act, CITES and EXIM Policy governing such an item.
19) Consider the following statements regarding Central Asian Flyway (CAF).
   1. The Central Asian Flyway (CAF) covers a large continental area of Eurasia between the Arctic and Indian Oceans and the associated island chains.
   2. Central Asian Waterbirds Flyway Action Plan promotes the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats.
   3. Rann of Kutch and Marine National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary are the major sites for migratory waterbirds.

Select the correct answer code:
   a) 1, 2
   b) 1, 3
   c) 2, 3
   d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

The Central Asian Flyway (CAF) is a flyway covering a large continental area of Eurasia between the Arctic Ocean and the Indian Ocean and the associated island chains. The CAF comprises several important migration routes of waterbirds, most of which extend from the northernmost breeding grounds in Siberia to the southernmost non-breeding wintering grounds in West Asia, India, the Maldives and the British Indian Ocean Territory.

20) Match the following Tiger Reserves and their location.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tiger Reserve</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Corbett Tiger Reserve</td>
<td>A. Mizoram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Buxa Tiger Reserve</td>
<td>B. Telangana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Amrabad Tiger Reserve</td>
<td>C. Uttarakhand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Dampa Tiger Reserve</td>
<td>D. West Bengal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select the correct answer code:
   a) 1-A, 2-B, 3-C, 4-D
   b) 1-D, 2-B, 3-C, 4-A
   c) 1-C, 2-D, 3-B, 4-A
   d) 1-C, 2-B, 3-D, 4-A

Solution: c)

Consider the following statements regarding International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).
   1. It is a comprehensive international agreement for ensuring food security through the conservation, exchange and sustainable use of the world’s Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.
   2. It aims to ensure that recipients share benefits they derive from the use of the plant genetic materials with the countries where they have been originated.
   3. It is not mandatory to ratify the treaty for accessing Plant Genetic materials.

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

Solution: a)

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture was adopted by the Thirty-First Session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on 3 November 2001.
It is also known as **Seed Treaty** as it is a comprehensive international agreement for ensuring food security through the conservation, exchange and sustainable use of the world’s Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFA).

**The Treaty aims at:**
- establishing a global system to provide farmers, plant breeders and scientists with access to plant genetic materials;
- ensuring that recipients share benefits they derive from the use of these genetic materials with the countries where they have been originated.

**Access and benefit sharing:** The Treaty facilitates access to the genetic materials of the 64 crops in the Multilateral System for research, breeding and training for food and agriculture. **Those who access the materials must be from the Treaty’s ratifying nations and they must agree to use the materials totally for research, breeding and training for food and agriculture.** The Treaty prevents the recipients of genetic resources from claiming intellectual property rights over those resources in the form in which they received them.

22) The coastal ecosystems of mangroves, tidal marshes, and seagrass meadows provide numerous benefits and services along coasts like

1. Protection from storms and sea level rise
2. Regulation of coastal water quality
3. Provision of habitat for commercially important fisheries
4. Food security for many coastal communities
5. Sequester and store coastal blue carbon from the atmosphere

Select the correct answer code:

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

**Solution:** d)

The coastal ecosystems of mangroves, tidal marshes, and seagrass meadows provide numerous benefits and services that are essential for climate change adaptation along coasts globally, including protection from storms and sea level rise, prevention of shoreline erosion, regulation of coastal water quality, provision of habitat for commercially important fisheries and endangered marine species, and food security for many coastal communities. Additionally, these ecosystems sequester and store significant amounts of coastal blue carbon from the atmosphere and ocean and hence are now recognized for their role in mitigating climate change.

**Source**

23) When coal is burned, it releases a number of airborne toxins and pollutants like

1. Mercury
2. Lead
3. Sulfur dioxide
4. Nitrogen oxides

Select the correct answer code:

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

**Solution:** d)
When coal is burned it releases a number of airborne toxins and pollutants. They include Carbon dioxide, mercury, lead, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, particulates, and various other heavy metals. Health impacts can range from asthma and breathing difficulties, to brain damage, heart problems, cancer, neurological disorders, and premature death.

24) Consider the following statements regarding Emperor Penguin.
   1. Emperor penguin is the shortest of all living penguin species and is endemic to Antarctica.
   2. It is the only penguin species that breeds during the Antarctic winter.
   3. Disappearing sea ice impacts Emperor Penguins directly, as the animals use it as a home base for their breeding season.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1, 2
   b) 1, 3
   c) 2, 3
   d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

The emperor penguin (Aptenodytes forsteri) is the tallest and heaviest of all living penguin species and is endemic to Antarctica. It is the only penguin species that breeds during the Antarctic winter.

Disappearing sea ice impacts Emperor Penguins directly, as the animals use it as a home base for their nine-month breeding season and for feeding and moulting.

Source

25) Consider the following statements.
   1. Svalbard Global Seed Vault is a facility located on a remote island in the Arctic Ocean and it houses the world's largest collection of seeds.
   2. ICRISAT is contributing seeds to be stored in Svalbard Global Seed Vault for a 100-year experiment that seeks to test the resilience of seeds.
   3. In India, because of its climatic conditions, there are no Seed storage facility like the Svalbard Global Seed Vault.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1, 2
   b) 1, 3
   c) 2, 3
   d) 1 only

Solution: a)

The Global Seed Vault is a facility located on a remote island in the Arctic Ocean and it houses the world’s largest collection of seeds. The seeds can be of use in the event of a global catastrophe or when some species is lost due to natural disasters. It is therefore also referred to as the doomsday vault.
Genebanks of six global research institutions including ICRISAT (International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics) have begun a 100-year experiment at the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in a quest to know how long seeds live. India is playing a crucial role in an experiment as the ICRISAT is contributing four seeds to be stored in this 100-year experiment that seeks to test the resilience of seeds.

At Chang La in the Himalayas, at a height of 17,300 feet, India has its seed storage facility. The vault is a joint venture of the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (which comes under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research) and the Defence Institute of High-Altitude Research (under Defence Research and Development Organisation).

Source

26) India’s cold wave zone covers which of the following states.
   1. Punjab
   2. Haryana
   3. Gujarat
   4. Madhya Pradesh
   5. Bihar

Select the correct answer code:
   a) 1, 2, 3
   b) 1, 4, 5
   c) 1, 2, 3, 4
   d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Solution: d)

India’s cold-wave zone covers the north Indian states of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and also other states like Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Bihar.

Source

27) Consider the following statements regarding Carbon offsetting.
   1. Carbon offsetting allows a country to help reach its own emissions reduction targets by funding emission reductions in another country.
   2. The United Nation’s Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) set up under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol is first major Carbon offsetting scheme.
   3. Carbon offsets can be bought by individuals, companies or countries.

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

Solution: d)

Carbon offsetting allows a country to help reach its own emissions reduction targets by funding emission reductions in another country. Companies are also increasingly using carbon credits to offset their emissions. The first major offsetting scheme, the U.N.s clean development mechanism (CDM), was set up under the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, in which 190 countries agreed country-by-country emission reduction targets. The scheme was designed to help fund emission reduction projects in developing countries, while also providing offset credits to the developed world to help meet its Kyoto targets.
More than 8,100 projects in 111 countries have registered with the CDM scheme, which has handed out over 2 billion carbon credits, called Certified Emission Reductions (CERs), representing 2 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide reduction. Projects registered under the scheme range from capturing and using methane gases in pig manure to create electricity to replacing traditional wood and coal burning cookstoves with cleaner alternatives such as ethanol. Offsets can be bought by individuals, companies or countries.

Source

28) Recently over 450 long-finned pilot whales have died in Australia in what is being called the biggest stranding of whales on record in Australia. What could be the possible reasons for stranding of whales.

1. Whales follow fish or other prey in the shallow waters, which causes the whales to become disoriented and get stranded.
2. Panic from being trapped by a predator such as killer whales or sharks.
3. The shape of the beach and the coastline.

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

Recently over 450 long-finned pilot whales have died in Australia in what is being called the biggest stranding of whales on record in Australia. The whales were beached at a remote beach in Tasmania’s west coast.

Whales are known to strand themselves on beaches across the world and they do so singularly or in groups.

There are a few theories that might explain this behaviour. One reason could be that some whales follow schooling fish or other prey into shallow waters, which causes the whales to become disoriented, as a result of which they get stranded. Another reason could be panic from being trapped by a predator such as killer whales or sharks. Another possibility is that whales might be drawn to land by prey-rich currents. Further, the shape of the beach and the coastline could also have a role to play. For instance, if the beach has gently-sloping shorelines, whales that are dependent on echolocation for navigation can be deceived. The species that most often get stranded on Australian beaches are those that use echolocation or sonar for navigation, such as pilot and sperm whales.

Source

29) Which of the following factors could influence the occurrence of wildfires?

1. Increase in average temperatures  
2. Increase in the intensity of heatwaves  
3. Increase in the frequency of droughts

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

The Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which was published in 2013, identified a few factors that could influence the way wildfires play out. These include global increase in average temperatures, global increases in the frequency, intensity and extent of heatwaves (breaching of
historically extreme temperature thresholds) and regional increases in the frequency, duration and intensity of
droughts.

Source
3. Government Schemes and Programmes

1) Consider the following statements regarding Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).
   1. TRAI regulates telecom services, including fixation/revision of tariffs for telecom services.
   2. One of the objectives of TRAI is to provide a fair and transparent policy environment promoting a level playing field amongst players and facilitating fair competition.

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

Solution: c)

The entry of private service providers brought with it the inevitable need for independent regulation. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was established in 1997 by an Act of Parliament, called the *Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997*, to regulate telecom services, including fixation/revision of tariffs for telecom services which were earlier vested in the Central Government.

One of the main objectives of TRAI is to provide a **fair and transparent policy environment which promotes a level playing field and facilitates fair competition.**

The TRAI Act was amended by an ordinance, effective from 24 January 2000, establishing a Telecommunications Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) to take over the adjudicatory and disputes functions from TRAI.

**Source**

2) Consider the following statements regarding the role and functions of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)?
   1. It imparts basic and operational level training to State Response Forces like Police and Home guards.
   2. It is responsible for organizing Public Awareness Campaigns about disaster management.
   3. It is the statutorily sanctioned force for guarding sensitive international borders during a disaster.

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

Solution: a)

Functions of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF):
- Specialized response during disasters.
- Proactive deployment during impending disaster situations.
- Acquire and continually upgrade its own training and skills.
- Liaison, Reconnaissance, Rehearsals and Mock Drills.
- Impart basic and operational level training to State Response Forces (Police, Civil Defence and Home Guards).
- Community Capacity Building Programme.
- Organize Public Awareness Campaigns.

Ministry of Mines is responsible for
   1. Survey and exploration of all minerals
   2. Mining and metallurgy of non-ferrous metals
3) Administration and management of Geological Survey of India
Select the correct answer code:
   a) 1, 2
   b) 1, 3
   c) 2, 3
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

Ministry of Mines is responsible for survey and exploration of all minerals, other than natural gas, petroleum and atomic minerals; for mining and metallurgy of non-ferrous metals like aluminium, copper, zinc, lead, gold, nickel etc. and for administration of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 in respect of all mines and minerals other than coal, natural gas and petroleum.

A list of subjects allocated to the Ministry of Mines, Attached Office, Subordinate Office, Public Sector Undertakings and Research Institutions under the administrative control of Ministry of Mines are given below:-
(a) Legislation for regulation of mines and development of minerals within the territory of India, including mines and minerals underlying the ocean within the territorial waters or the continental shelf, or the exclusive economic zone and other maritime zones of India as may be specified, from time to time by or under any law made by Parliament.
(b) Regulation of mines and development of minerals other than Coal, Lignite and Sand for stowing and any other mineral declared as prescribed substances for the purpose of the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 (33 of 1962) under the control of the Union as declared by law, including questions concerning regulation and development of minerals in various. States and the matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

All other metals and minerals not specifically allotted to any other Ministry/Department, such as Aluminium, Zinc, Copper, Gold, Diamonds, Lead and Nickel.
Planning, development and Control of, and assistance to, all industries dealt with by the Ministry.

Administration and Management of Geological Survey of India.
Administration and Management of Indian Bureau of Mines Metallurgical Grade Silicon.

Source

4) The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme aimed at providing adequate and timely credit support from the banking system under a single window with flexible and simplified procedure for the farmers for their overall credit requirements such as
   1. Marketing of produce
   2. Maintenance of farm assets
   3. Consumption requirements of farmer households
   4. Post-harvest expenses

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

Solution: d)

The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme, introduced in 1998, aimed at providing adequate and timely credit support from the banking system under a single window with flexible and simplified procedure for the farmers for their overall credit requirements such as cultivation of crops, post-harvest expenses, marketing of produce, maintenance of farm assets, activities allied to agriculture and also consumption requirements of farmer households.
5) Consider the following statements regarding VidyaDaan 2.0
   1. It is a national programme launched by the ministry of human resource development to develop and contribute e-learning content.
   2. The content will be used on the DIKSHA app to help millions of children across the country to continue their learning anytime and anywhere.
   3. Contributions can be made only by the subject experts.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1, 2
   b) 1, 3
   c) 2, 3
   d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: a)

The ministry of human resource development launched the national programme VidyaDaan 2.0 for inviting e-learning content contribution.

The content will be used on DIKSHA app to help millions of children across the country to continue their learning anytime and anywhere.

The programme was launched due to the increasing requirement for e-learning content for students (both school and higher education) especially in the backdrop of the situation arising out of Covid-19 and also due to the urgent need to integrate digital education with schooling to augment learning.

Contributions can be made by educationists, subject experts, schools, colleges, Universities, institutes, government and non-government organisations, individuals.

6) Consider the following statements regarding Food Safety Mitra (FSM).
   1. In a bid to improve the ease of doing business, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched the scheme Food Safety Mitra (FSM).
   2. The scheme will mainly support large scale food businesses in compliance to the food safety laws.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 only
   c) Both 1 and 2
   d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: a)
In a bid to improve the ease of doing business, apex food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched a scheme --Food Safety Mitra (FSM). The scheme will support small and medium scale food businesses in compliance to the food safety laws.

FSSAI has said that the scheme will lead to improved ease of doing business by creating a transparent and organized ecosystem supporting food businesses wherein food businesses will be able to get trained service providers at fair prices - lowering the costs of compliance.

“Apart from strengthening food safety, this scheme would also create new employment opportunities for youth, particularly with food and nutrition background.

7) Consider the following statements regarding 'Samudrayaan' project.
   1. It is a pilot project of the Ministry of Earth Sciences for deep ocean mining for rare minerals.
   2. It proposes to send humans into the deep sea in a submersible vehicle for ocean studies.
   3. The project has been undertaken by ISRO.

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

Solution: c)

Samudrayaan:
It is a pilot project of the Ministry of Earth Sciences for deep ocean mining for rare minerals. It proposes to send men into the deep sea in a submersible vehicle for ocean studies. The project is expected to become a reality by 2021-22. The project has been undertaken by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT).

Source

8) Consider the following statements regarding 'Mission Parivar Vikas'.
   1. Mission Parivar Vikas is a family planning programme aimed at stabilising population growth in all the states of the country.
   2. The objective of the mission is to accelerate access to high quality family planning choices based on information, reliable services and supplies within a rights-based framework.
   3. The goal is to reduce the Total Fertility Rate and to bring it to 2.1 by 2025.

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

Solution: c)

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched Mission Parivar Vikas for improved family planning services in 146 High Focus districts in seven states. The objective of mission is to accelerate access to high quality family planning choices based on information, reliable services and supplies within a rights-based framework. The goal is to reduce the Total Fertility Rate and to bring it to 2.1 by 2025 in these districts.

These districts are located in the seven high focus states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Assam.

They are having the highest total fertility rates and constitute 44% of the country’s population.
9) Recently Delhi high court ordered schools to provide gadgets and internet access to students from economically weaker section (EWS) and disadvantaged groups (DG) categories to assist in their online education during the Covid-19 crisis. In this context consider the following statements regarding Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

1. The private unaided schools can claim some reimbursement for procurement of the gadget and Internet package from the government under RTE Act.
2. The RTE Act mandates 35% reservation for disadvantaged sections of the society.
3. RTE Act makes provisions for a non-admitted child to be admitted to an age appropriate class.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Delhi high court has ordered schools (Both Private and Government) to provide gadgets and internet access to students from economically weaker section (EWS) and disadvantaged groups (DG) categories to assist in their online education during the Covid-19 crisis.

The Court has made it clear that the private unaided schools will be entitled to claim reimbursement of reasonable cost for procurement of the gadget and Internet package from the government under Section 12(2) of the RTE Act.

Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 mandates 25% reservation for disadvantaged sections of the society. It also makes provisions for a non-admitted child to be admitted to an age appropriate class.

Source

10) Consider the following statements regarding the recently launched “Chunauti” programme.

1. Chunauti is a Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest launched by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
2. It aims to boost startups and software products with special focus on Tier-II towns of India.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: d)

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has launched “Chunauti” - Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest.

Aims and Objectives:

- To further boost startups and software products with special focus on Tier-II towns of India.
- Identify around 300 startups working in identified areas and provide them seed fund of upto Rs. 25 Lakh and other facilities.

Under this challenge the Ministry of Electronics and IT will invite startups in the following areas of work:

- Supply Chain, Logistics & Transportation Management.
11) Consider the following statements regarding Mission Karmayogi.
   1. Mission Karmayogi, is a new capacity-building scheme for civil servants aimed at upgrading the post-recruitment training mechanism.
   2. Mission Karmayogi programme will be delivered through a digital platform called iGOTKarmayogi.
   3. Capacity Building Commission will prepare and monitor annual capacity building plans and audit human resources available in the government.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1, 2
   b) 1, 3
   c) 2, 3
   d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

The Union Cabinet recently approved ‘Mission Karmayogi’, a new capacity-building scheme for civil servants aimed at upgrading the post-recruitment training mechanism of the officers and employees at all levels.

Mission Karmayogi programme will be delivered by setting up a digital platform called iGOTKarmayogi.

The platform will act as a launchpad for the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB), which will enable a comprehensive reform of the capacity building apparatus at the individual, institutional and process levels.

Also, there will be a Capacity Building Commission, which will include experts in related fields and global professionals. This commission will prepare and monitor annual capacity building plans and audit human resources available in the government.

Source

12) SAANS campaign, sometimes seen in news is related to
   a) Reducing child mortality due to pneumonia
   b) Improve the overall quality of life of children through early detection of birth defects
   c) Prevention of anaemia among under-5 children
   d) Vaccination against vaccine preventable diseases

Solution: a)

SAANS, a campaign aimed at reducing child mortality due to pneumonia, which contributes to around 15% deaths annually of children under the age of five.

SAANS, short for ‘Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully’ was launched to mobilise people to protect children from pneumonia, and train health personnel and other stakeholders to provide prioritised treatment to control the disease.

13) Consider the following statements regarding Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020.
   1. Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 grant farmers and traders the freedom of choice to sell and buy agricultural produce outside the premises of APMC mandis.
   2. The Bill gives statutory backing to minimum support price (MSP).
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 only

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The Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill does not give any statutory backing to MSP. There isn’t even a mention of either “MSP” or “procurement” in the Bill passed by both Houses of Parliament. The new legislation has “nothing to do with MSP”. Instead, its objective is simply to grant farmers and traders the freedom of choice to sell and buy agricultural produce outside the premises of APMC mandis.

Source

14) Consider the following statements.
   1. National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides a legal basis for the public distribution system (PDS).
   2. Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) that recommend minimum support price (MSP) is a statutory body set up through an Act of Parliament.
   3. Sugar cane pricing is governed by the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 issued under the Essential Commodities Act.

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

Solution: b)

The National Food Security Act, 2013 (NFSA) provides a legal basis for the public distribution system (PDS). The NFSA made access to the PDS a right, entitling every person belonging to a “priority household” to receive 5 kg of foodgrains per month at a subsidised price not exceeding Rs 2/kg for wheat and Rs 3/kg for rice. Priority households were further defined so as to cover up to 75% of the country’s rural population and 50% in urban areas.

MSP, by contrast, is devoid of any legal backing. Access to it, unlike subsidised grains through the PDS, isn’t an entitlement for farmers. They cannot demand it as a matter of right.

CACP is not a statutory body set up through an Act of Parliament. “CACP is an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India”. It recommends MSPs.

Sugarcane pricing being governed by the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 issued under the Essential Commodities Act. That order, in turn, provides for the fixation of a ‘fair and remunerative price’ (FRP) for cane during every sugar year (October-September). But even the FRP — which, incidentally, was until 2008-09 called the ‘statutory minimum price’ or SMP — is payable not by the government. The responsibility to make FRP payment to farmers within 14 days of cane purchase lies solely with the sugar mills.

Source

15) The commodities included under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 are
   1. Fertilisers, both inorganic and organic
   2. Edible oils
   3. Hank yarn made wholly from cotton
   4. Jute textiles
   5. Seeds of cattle fodder

Select the correct answer code:
   a) 1, 2, 3
   b) 1, 2, 4
c) 2, 3, 4, 5  
d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5  

Solution: d)  

According to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, which implements the Act, the Schedule at present contains seven commodities — drugs; fertilisers, whether inorganic, organic or mixed; foodstuffs including edible oils; hank yarn made wholly from cotton; petroleum and petroleum products; raw jute and jute textiles; seeds of food-crops and seeds of fruits and vegetables, seeds of cattle fodder, jute seed, cotton seed.  

Source  

16) Consider the following statements regarding Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) 1985.  
1. According to Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) 1985, no person under any circumstance shall import into India, export from India or tranship any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance.  
2. The act applies also to all Indian citizens outside India.  
3. United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is the only international drug control treaty currently in force.  
Which of the above statements is/are correct?  
a) 2 only  
b) 1, 3  
c) 2, 3  
d) 1, 2  

Solution: a)  

Section 8 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) 1985 says, “No person shall cultivate any coca plant or gather any portion of coca plant; cultivate the opium poppy or any cannabis plant; or produce, manufacture, possess, sell, purchase, transport, warehouse, use, consume, import inter-State, export inter-State, import into India, export from India or tranship any narcotic drug or psychotropic substance, except for medical or scientific purposes and in the manner and to the extent provided by the provisions of this Act ...” Any person found violating these measures can be charged under the NDPS Act.  

The Act extends to the whole of India and it applies also to all Indian citizens outside India and to all persons on ships and aircraft registered in India.  


Source  

17) Consider the following statements regarding Essential Commodities Act.  
1. The Essential Commodities Act is an act of Parliament of India which was established to ensure the delivery of certain commodities or products, the supply of which if obstructed owing to hoarding or blackmarketing would affect the normal life of the people.  
2. The states can include new commodities as and when the need arises, and only the centre can take them off the list once the situation improves.  
Which of the above statements is/are correct?  
a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2
The Essential Commodities Act is an act of Parliament of India which was established to ensure the delivery of certain commodities or products, the supply of which if obstructed owing to hoarding or blackmarketing would affect the normal life of the people.

Additionally, the government can also fix the maximum retail price (MRP) of any packaged product that it declares an “essential commodity”.

The Centre can include new commodities as and when the need arises, and take them off the list once the situation improves.

The act empowers Central and State Governments concurrently to control production, supply and distribution of certain commodities in view of rising pricing. When difference arise between Centre and States, the act specifies that the Centre will prevail.

18) Consider the following statements regarding Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897.
   1. Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 was introduced to tackle the epidemic of bubonic plague that had spread in the erstwhile Bombay Presidency in the 1890s.
   2. The law is meant for containment of epidemics by providing special powers that are required for the implementation of containment measures to control the spread of the disease.
   3. Bal Gangadhar Tilak in his newspapers Kesari and Mahratta had praised about the Act and handling of the plague epidemic.

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

Solution: a)

History of the 1897 Epidemic Diseases Act
The colonial government introduced the Act to tackle the epidemic of bubonic plague that had spread in the erstwhile Bombay Presidency in the 1890s.
Using powers conferred by the Act, colonies authorities would search suspected plague cases in homes and among passengers, with forcible segregations, evacuations, and demolitions of infected places.
Historians have criticised the Act for its potential for abuse.

In 1897, the year the law was enforced, freedom fighter Bal Gangadhar Tilak was punished with 18 months’ rigorous imprisonment after his newspapers Kesari and Mahratta admonished imperial authorities for their handling of the plague epidemic.

Provisions of the 1897 Epidemic Diseases Act
The Act, which consists of four sections, aims to provide “for the better prevention of the spread of Dangerous Epidemic Diseases.”
Section 2 empowers state governments/UTs to take special measures and formulate regulations for containing the outbreak. It reads:
“Power to take special measures and prescribe regulations as to dangerous epidemic disease.

Source

19) Mission Sahakar 22, sometimes seen in news aims to
   a) Open defecation free India by 2022
   b) 100 percent rural electrification by 2022
   c) Double farmers’ income by 2022

www.insightsonindia.com
d) Elimination of TB by 2022

Solution: c)

National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) is a major financial institution for cooperatives, and has started Mission Sahakar 22, which aims to double farmers’ income by 2022.

20) Consider the following statements regarding National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)

1. NCDC is the apex financing organization of Union Agriculture Ministry.
2. NCDC is a statutory Corporation set up under an Act of Indian Parliament.
3. NCDC carries out planning and promoting programmes for production, processing, marketing, storage, export and import of agricultural produce.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

The National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has sanctioned Rs 19,444 crore as the first instalment to Haryana, Telangana and Chhattisgarh for carrying out kharif paddy procurement operation at the minimum support price.

NCDC is the apex financing organization of Union Agriculture Ministry.

About NCDC:

• It is a statutory corporation set up under the National Cooperative Development Corporation Act, 1962.
• The objectives of NCDC are planning and promoting programmes for production, processing, marketing, storage, export and import of agricultural produce, foodstuffs, industrial goods, livestock and certain other notified commodities and services on cooperative principles.

Source

21) Consider the following statements regarding National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).

1. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare can delegate power under Disaster Management Act, 2005 to NPPA to regulate the availability and pricing of Medical devices.
2. Under the provisions of Drug Prices Control Order, 2013, NPPA monitors and controls the prices of all Scheduled Drugs.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare delegated powers under Section 10(2) (l) of Disaster Management Act, 2005 to NPPA to take all necessary steps to immediately regulate the availability and pricing of liquid medical oxygen (LMO) and medical oxygen cylinders.

Under the provisions of Drug Prices Control Order, 2013, only the prices of drugs that figure in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) are monitored and controlled by the regulator, the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority.
2. SWAYAM: Provide High Quality Educational Channels through DTH (Direct to Home).
3. SWAYAM PRABHA: National online education platform.

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: b)

DIKSHA will serve as National Digital Infrastructure for Teachers. All teachers across nation will be equipped with advanced digital technology. Diksha portal will enable, accelerate and amplify solutions in realm of teacher education. It will aid teachers to learn and train themselves for which assessment resources will be available.

The SWAYAM PRABHA is a group of 34 DTH channels devoted to telecasting of high-quality educational programmes on 24X7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellite.

SWAYAM is a programme initiated by Government of India and designed to achieve the three cardinal principles of Education Policy viz., access, equity and quality. The objective of this effort is to take the best teaching learning resources to all, including the most disadvantaged. SWAYAM seeks to bridge the digital divide for students who have hitherto remained untouched by the digital revolution and have not been able to join the mainstream of the knowledge economy.
4. Science and Technology

1) Consider the following statements regarding ExoMars.
   1. It is an initiative of SpaceX.
   2. It aims to examine the change in Martian orbit patterns.
Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 only
   c) Both 1 and 2
   d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: c)

About ExoMars:
It is a joint endeavour between ESA and the Russian space agency, Roscosmos. The primary goal of the ExoMars programme is to address the question of whether life has ever existed on Mars. Launch of ExoMars rover delayed to 2022.

2) Consider the following statements regarding Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)
   1. BIRAC is a not-for-profit Public Sector Enterprise
   2. It was set up by Department of Biotechnology (DBT)
   3. It helps provide access to risk capital through targeted funding for the bio-tech sector
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1, 2
   b) 1, 3
   c) 2, 3
   d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) is a not-for-profit, Public Sector Enterprise, set up by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India as an Interface Agency to strengthen and empower the emerging Biotech enterprise to undertake strategic research and innovation, addressing nationally relevant product development needs.

BIRAC is an industry-academia interface and implements its mandate through a wide range of impact initiatives, be it providing access to risk capital through targeted funding, technology transfer, IP management and handholding schemes that help bring innovation excellence to the biotech firms and make them globally competitive.

Source

3) Hyperspectral imaging can be useful in
   1. Finding oil fields
   2. Monitoring crop health
   3. Diagnosis of retinopathy
   4. Removing defects and foreign material in processed food
Select the correct answer code:
   a) 1, 2, 3
   b) 2, 3, 4
   c) 1, 3, 4
   d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Solution: d)
Hyperspectral imaging, like other spectral imaging, collects and processes information from across the electromagnetic spectrum. The goal of hyperspectral imaging is to obtain the spectrum for each pixel in the image of a scene, with the purpose of finding objects, identifying materials, or detecting processes.

Whereas the human eye sees color of visible light in mostly three bands (long wavelengths - perceived as red, medium wavelengths - perceived as green, and short wavelengths - perceived as blue), spectral imaging divides the spectrum into many more bands.

Statement 1: A spectral signature for oil helps geologists find new oil fields.
Statement 2: Hyperspectral remote sensing use is increasing for monitoring the development and health of crops. This is because the finer colours that indicate crop health can be mapped by hyperspectral imaging.
Statement 3: Researchers are working to test the use of hyperspectral photography in the diagnosis of retinopathy and macular edema before damage to the eye occurs.
Statement 4: In the food processing industry, hyperspectral imaging, combined with intelligent software, enables digital sorters (also called optical sorters) to identify and remove defects and foreign material (FM) that are invisible to traditional camera and laser sorters.

4) Consider the following statements regarding Notifiable Disease.
   1. A notifiable disease is any disease that is required by law to be reported to government authorities.
   2. The onus of notifying any disease and the implementation lies with the state government.
   3. Any failure to report a notifiable disease is a criminal offence and the state government can take necessary actions against defaulters.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1, 2
   b) 1, 3
   c) 2, 3
   d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

A notifiable disease is any disease that is required by law to be reported to government authorities. The process helps the government keep track and formulate a plan for elimination and control. The onus of notifying any disease and the implementation lies with the state government. Any failure to report a notifiable disease is a criminal offence and the state government can take necessary actions against defaulters.

The Centre has notified several diseases such as cholera, diphtheria, encephalitis, leprosy, meningitis, pertussis (whooping cough), plague, tuberculosis, AIDS, hepatitis, measles, yellow fever, malaria dengue, etc.

Source

5) Which of the following services generally use encryption to secure data transmission?
   1. Payment gateways
2. Messaging services
3. Wireless microphones and Bluetooth devices

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: b)

Encryption is the process of encoding messages or information in such a way that only authorized parties can read it. For example: word "ABC" can become "BCD" in encrypted form, if every letter is replaced by next alphabet. Those who know how it is encoded can only able to read "ABC" correctly.

All messaging services like WhatsApp, Viber, Google Chat, Yahoo messenger use encrypted services. Banks (payment gateways) and e-commerce sites also use encryption to protect financial and private data including passwords.

Encryption is also used to protect data in transit, for example data being transferred via networks (e.g. the Internet, e-commerce), mobile telephones, wireless microphones, wireless intercom systems, Bluetooth devices and bank automatic teller machines.

6) RaIDer-X, recently seen in news, has applications in
   a) Explosive detection
   b) Narcotics control
   c) Both (a) and (b)
   d) None of the above

Solution: c)

It is an explosives detection device. It can detect up to 20 explosives from a stand-off distance of two meters. Developed by the High Energy Material Research Laboratory (HEMRL) — an arm of the DRDO — in Pune and the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. It can also discern bulk explosives even if they have been concealed.

Applications:
The device has various applications including narcotics, for local police, for customs and other detection agencies who need to detect various elements which may be explosive or non-explosive in nature.

7) Which of the following is/are examples of natural nanomaterials, i.e. those which occur naturally in the world?
   1. Haemoglobin in our blood
   2. Particles in volcanic ash
   3. Nano-structures that give colour to peacock’s feathers

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: c)

Natural nanomaterials, as the name suggests, are those that occur naturally in the world. These include particles that make up volcanic ash, smoke, and even some molecules in our bodies, such as the hemoglobin in our blood. The brilliant colors of a peacock’s feathers are the result of spacing between nanometer-scale structures on their surface.
Man-made nanomaterials are those that occur from objects or processes created by people. Examples include exhaust from fossil fuel burning engines and some forms of pollution.

**Source**

8) The applications of nano-technology in the food sector include
   1. Delivering plant growth hormones directly to plants
   2. Designing anti-bacterial and anti-fungal packaging
   3. Making biodegradable nano-sensors for monitoring food temperature and moisture

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2  

b) 1, 3  

c) 2, 3  

d) 1, 2, 3

**Solution:** d)

9) Consider the following statements about ICRISAT Genebank.
   1. It is a gene collection of all major food crops grown around the World.
   2. The collection intends to serve as an insurance against genetic erosion and a source of tolerance to diseases and pests for a given plant variety.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1 only  

b) 2 only  

c) Both 1 and 2  

d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Solution:** b)
The ICRISAT Genebank serves as a world repository for the collection of germplasm of the six mandate crops: sorghum, pearl millet, chickpea, pigeonpea, groundnut, finger millet; and five small millets: foxtail millet, little millet, kodo millet, proso millet and barnyard millet. With 128,155 germplasm accessions assembled from 144 countries through donations and collection missions, it is one of the largest international genebanks.

The collection serves both as insurance against genetic erosion and a sources of tolerance to diseases and pests, environmental stresses, higher nutritional quality and traits related to yield for crop improvement. The majority of collection have been placed in-trust with the FAO of the United Nations and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) for use by the global community as International Public Good (IPG).

**Source**

10) Which of these disease(s) are transmitted by a vector?
   1. Polio
   2. Chicken Pox
   3. Tuberculosis
   4. Hepatitis B

Select the correct answer code:
   a) 1, 2, 3
   b) 2, 3
   c) 3, 4
   d) None of the above

Solution: d)

The table below shows that Malaria is transmitted by a vector (an animal or an insect that carries the disease).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Human Disease</th>
<th>Causative Microorganism</th>
<th>Mode of Transmission</th>
<th>Preventive measures (General)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuberculosis</td>
<td>Bacteria</td>
<td>Air</td>
<td>Keep the patient in complete isolation. Keep the personal belongings of the patient away from those of the others. Vaccination to be given at suitable age.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measles</td>
<td>Virus</td>
<td>Air</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken Pox</td>
<td>Virus</td>
<td>Air/Contact</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polio</td>
<td>Virus</td>
<td>Air/Water</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cholera</td>
<td>Bacteria</td>
<td>Water/Food</td>
<td>Maintain personal hygiene and good sanitary habits. Consume properly cooked food and boiled drinking water. Vaccination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typhoid</td>
<td>Bacteria</td>
<td>Water</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hepatitis B</td>
<td>Virus</td>
<td>Water</td>
<td>Drink boiled drinking water. Vaccination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaria</td>
<td>Protozoa</td>
<td>Mosquito</td>
<td>Use mosquito net and repellents. Spray insecticides and control breeding of mosquitoes by not allowing water to collect in the surroundings.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11) India has officially declared itself free from which of the following diseases?
   1. Chikungunya
   2. Yaws
   3. Avian Influenza
   4. Smallpox

Select the correct answer code:
   a) 2, 4
b) 1, 2, 4  
c) 2, 3, 4  
d) 1, 3, 4
Solution: c)

India is not free from Chikungunya disease which is carried mainly by mosquitoes.

India has become the first country in the world to get the Yaws-free certificate by the WHO.

India has officially declared itself free from highly contagious Avian Influenza (H5N1) or bird flu and has notified the same to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

Smallpox was declared by WHO to be eradicated in 1979 from the World.

12) Consider the following statements regarding Copernicus Programme.
   1. Copernicus is the NASA’s Earth observation programme.
   2. It aims to improve the management of the environment, understand and mitigate the effects of climate change.
   3. It uses vast amount of global data from satellites and from ground-based systems to produce timely and quality information in the domains of environment and security.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1, 2  
   b) 2, 3  
   c) 1, 3  
   d) 1, 2, 3
Solution: b)

**Copernicus is the European Union’s Earth observation programme coordinated and managed by the European Commission** in partnership with the European Space Agency (ESA), the EU Member States and EU Agencies.

It aims at achieving a global, continuous, autonomous, high quality, wide range Earth observation capacity. Providing accurate, timely and easily accessible information to, among other things, improve the management of the environment, understand and mitigate the effects of climate change, and ensure civil security.

The objective is to use vast amount of global data from satellites and from ground-based, airborne and seaborne measurement systems to produce timely and quality information in the domains of environment and security on a global level in order to help service providers, public authorities and other international organizations improve the quality of life for the citizens of Europe.

In other words, it pulls together all the information obtained by the Copernicus environmental satellites, air and ground stations and sensors to provide a comprehensive picture of the “health” of Earth.

13) Consider the following statements regarding winter-grade diesel.
   1. The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) introduced a special winter-grade diesel which does not lose its fluidity even in extreme winter conditions such as minus 30-degree celsius.
   2. This winter-grade diesel does not meet BIS specification of BS-VI grade.
   3. Regular diesel fuel contains paraffin wax, which at low temperature thickens and hinders the flow of fuel in the car engine.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1, 2  
   b) 1, 3  
   c) 2, 3  
   d) 1, 2, 3
Solution: b)
Motorists in high-altitude areas face the problem of freezing of diesel in their vehicles when winter temperatures drop to as low as minus 30-degree celsius.

The government launched the supply of special winter-grade diesel for high altitude Ladakh, which faces sub-zero temperatures during the winter months.

The winter-grade diesel has been developed by the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) with a low pour-point of -33 degree Celsius, which does not lose its fluidity function even in extreme winter conditions.

This winter-grade diesel also meets BIS specification of BS-VI grade and was successfully produced and certified for the first time by the Panipat Refinery.

14) NASA’s sonification project recently seen in news is related to
   a) Creating 3D images from astronomical data
   b) Astronomical mapping exercise
   c) Transforming astronomical images into music
   d) None of the above

   Solution: c)

While telescopes offer glimpses of outer space by translating digital data into stunning images, NASA’s Chandra X-Ray Center (CXC) has gone a step further by unveiling a new ‘sonification’ project that transforms data from astronomical images into audio.

Source

15) The term ‘Brute Force Acquisition’ is related to
   a) Encryption of mobile data
   b) Private land acquisition
   c) Mobile device forensics
   d) None of the above

   Solution: c)

Brute force acquisition can be performed by 3rd party passcode brute force tools that send a series of passcodes / passwords to the mobile device. This technique uses trial and error in an attempt to create the correct combination of password or PIN to authenticate access to the mobile device.

Source

16) Consider the following statements regarding Bhabha Kavach.
   1. Bhabha Kavach is India’s lightest bullet-proof jacket which can withstand bullets from an AK-47 assault rifle.
   2. It is developed by DRDO.
   3. The jacket is powered with nano technology from Bhabha Atomic Research Centre.

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

   Solution: b)

Bhabha Kavach, billed as “India’s lightest bullet-proof jacket”, was launched at the International Police Expo 2019.
The bullet-proof jacket, **developed jointly by the Ordnance Factories Board and the public sector metals and metal alloys manufacturer MIDHANI**, can withstand bullets from an AK-47 assault rifle (7.62 mm hard steel core bullets), and the 5.56 mm INSAS rifle.

The Kavach weighs 9.2 kg, a half kilogram less than the weight for a bullet-proof jacket prescribed by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

The jacket “**is powered with nano technology from Bhabha Atomic Research Centre**”, and has a five-year warranty.

**Source**
5. International Relations and Organisations

1) What advantages do India and Russia accrue from the Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS)?
   1. It will allow access to India and Russia, to each other’s military facilities for supplies and fuel.
   2. India will get access to ports in the Russian part of the Arctic, allowing access to energy resources there.
Select the correct answer code:
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 only
   c) Both 1 and 2
   d) Neither 1 nor 2

   Solution: c)

India and Russia are finalising a defence agreement that will simplify interoperability and enable military platforms to receive support and supplies across bases in both nations- Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS).

What is Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS)?
It is an arrangement that will allow access to India and Russia, to each other’s military facilities for supplies and fuel, expanding the logistics support and operational turnaround of the Indian military.

Benefits and mutual significance:
   • This will be beneficial for the Indian Navy, which has a large number of Russian origin ships, that will get access to Russian ports for supplies and refueling. It would be crucial for joint exercises.
   • The air force too will benefit by finding it easier to deploy aircraft for the same purpose.
   • This access will also be for ports in the Russian part of the Arctic, allowing access to energy resources there.
   • Russia, on the other hand, will be able to access Indian ports and air bases.
   • Russia has also assured India access to energy resources in the vast Arctic region.

2) Consider the following regarding World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
   1. It was founded alongside the World Trade Organization (WTO).
   2. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations.
Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 only
   c) Both 1 and 2
   d) Neither 1 nor 2

   Solution: a)

WIPO was established by the WIPO Convention in 1967 with a mandate from its Member States to promote the protection of IP throughout the world through cooperation among states and in collaboration with other international organizations.

WTO was established in 1995.
As a specialized agency of the UN, WIPO is dedicated to developing a balanced and accessible international intellectual property (IP) system. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

3) Consider the following statements regarding the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).
   1. It is an organ of the United Nations adjudicating disputes arising out of the interpretation and application of the UN Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS).
   2. Each state party of the ITLOS nominates a representative to become a member of ITLOS.
Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?
   a) 1 only
b) 2 only 
c) Both 1 and 2 
d) Neither 1 nor 2 

Solution: c)

The Tribunal is an independent judicial body but maintains close links with the United Nations. The Tribunal and the UN have entered into agreement concerning cooperation and relationship. UN has granted the Tribunal observer status in the General Assembly.

The Tribunal is composed of 21 independent members, elected from among persons enjoying the highest reputation for fairness and integrity and of recognized competence in the field of the law of the sea.

Law expert Neeru Chadha became the first Indian women to be elected to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Seas (ITLOS).
Neeru has also earned a distinction of becoming the second Indian woman to occupy a top position at the United Nations after Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit who served as the President of the United Nations General Assembly.

4) E-2020 initiative, launched by the World Health Organization (WHO), is regarding
   a) Anti-biotic resistance
   b) Malaria elimination
   c) Tackling health issues arising from e-waste
   d) Disbursement of electronic aids to the differently abled in developing countries

Solution: b)

E-2020 initiative, launched in 2016, working in 21 countries, spanning five regions, to scale up efforts to achieve malaria elimination by 2020.

5) Consider the following statements regarding PACEsetter fund.
   1. The fund was constituted by India and OECD nations.
   2. The fund provides early-stage grant funding to accelerate the commercialization of innovative off-grid clean energy products.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 only
   c) Both 1 and 2
   d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: b)

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy awards grants to four projects in second round of PACEsetter Fund programme.

PACEsetter fund:
• Constituted by India and the USA in 2015.
• It is a INR 50 crore (USD 7.9 million) fund jointly capitalized by the Governments of the Republic of India and the United States of America.
• It is a joint fund to provide early-stage grant funding to accelerate the commercialization of innovative off-grid clean energy products, systems, and business models.

Eligibility:
• To be eligible, projects must be focused on improving the viability of off grid renewable energy businesses and organizations, under served individuals and communities in India without access to grid connected power or with
limited or intermittent access less than 8 hours per day using small scale (under 1 megawatt) clean energy systems.

6) UN convention on the Rights of persons with disabilities includes which of these rights for the differently abled?
   1. Rights to accessibility including the information technology
   2. Rights to live independently and be included in the community
   3. Rights to participate in political and public life

Select the correct answer code:
   a) 1, 3
   b) 2, 3
   c) 1, 2
   d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

Rights specific to this convention include the rights to accessibility including the information technology, the rights to live independently and be included in the community (Article 19), to personal mobility (article 20), habilitation and rehabilitation (Article 26), and to participation in political and public life, recreation and sport (Articles 29 and 30).

Source

7) Oslo Accords sometimes seen in news concern which of these countries?
   a) Egypt-Sudan
   b) Israel-Palestine
   c) Iraq-Iran
   d) Turkmenistan-Afghanistan

Solution: b)

Under the Oslo Accords of the 1993, both Israel and the Palestinians agreed that the status of settlements would be decided by negotiations. But the negotiations process has been all but dead for several years now. Israel walked into East Jerusalem in 1967, and subsequently annexed it. For Israel, Jerusalem is non-negotiable. The Palestinians want East Jerusalem as the capital of their future state. Most of the world’s nations look at it as occupied territory.

8) Hague Code of Conduct (HCOC), sometimes seen in news, is related to
   a) Code of Conduct for civil servants working for United Nations
   b) Prevention of the proliferation of ballistic missiles
   c) Prohibition of the usage of biological weapons by the member countries
   d) None of the above

Solution: b)

The International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, also known as the Hague Code of Conduct (HCOC), was established on 25 November 2002 as an arrangement to prevent the proliferation of ballistic missiles.

9) Convention no. 185 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), often seen in the news, deals with?
   a) Protection of Workers against Radiations
   b) Equal treatment of labour
   c) Seafarer Identity Document
   d) None of the above

Solution: d)
India has become the first country in the world to issue Biometric Seafarer Identity Document (BSID), capturing the facial bio-metric data of seafarers. The new card is in confirmation of the Convention No. 185 of the International Labour Organisation on BSID.

Source

10) Momentum for Change is an initiative of
   a) UN Climate Change secretariat
   b) UNEP
   c) World Bank
   d) UNICEF

Solution: a)

Momentum for Change is an initiative spearheaded by the UN Climate Change secretariat to shine a light on the enormous groundswell of activities underway across the globe that are moving the world toward a highly resilient, low-carbon future. Momentum for Change recognizes innovative and transformative solutions that address both climate change and wider economic, social and environmental challenges.

11) Consider the following statements about the Bangladesh-Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) initiative.
   1. The main objective of BBIN is to facilitate seamless cross-border movement of vehicles.
   2. Asian Development Bank (ADB) is providing technical, advisory, and financial support to the BBIN.
   3. The initiative also aims to phase out all custom duties and tariff on international trade in goods and services between the member countries.

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

Solution: d)

As per the agreement, member countries would allow vehicles registered in the other countries to enter their territory under certain terms and conditions. Customs and tariffs will be decided by the respective countries and these would be finalised at bilateral and trilateral forums.

Benefits: It would permit unhindered movement of passenger and cargo vehicles among the four countries. Cargo vehicles do not have to be changed at the border. The BBIN agreement will promote safe, economical efficient and environmentally sound road transport in the subregion and will further help each country in creating an institutional mechanism for regional integration.

Assistance from ADB: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been providing technical, advisory, and financial support to the BBIN MVA initiative as part of its assistance to the South Asia Sub regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) program, a projects-based economic cooperation initiative that brings together the BBIN countries, Maldives, Sri Lanka and more recently, Myanmar. ADB is the secretariat of SASEC.

12) Consider the following statements regarding Intellectual Property Rights policy 2016
   1. It is entirely in compliant with the WTO’s agreement on TRIPS
   2. It aims to remove compulsory licensing clause from India’s Patents Act.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 only
c) Both 1 and 2

d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: a)

Intellectual Property Rights Policy which is in compliance with WTO's (World Trade Organisation) agreement on TRIPS (Trade Related aspects of IPRs), aims to sustain entrepreneurship.

As per the WTO norms, a compulsory licensing (CL) can be invoked by a government allowing a company to produce a patented product without the consent of the patent owner in public interest. Under the Indian Patents Act, a CL can be issued for a drug if the medicine is deemed unaffordable, among other conditions, and the government grants permission to qualified generic drug makers to manufacture it.

13) Consider the following statements regarding UN Security Council.
   1. It is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states.
   2. The presidency of the Council is held by each of the members in turn for one month, following the English alphabetical order of the Member States names.
   3. It was established in 1945 and headquartered in Geneva.

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

Solution: d)

All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, only the Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

The presidency of the Council is held by each of the members in turn for one month, following the English alphabetical order of the Member States names.

It was established in 1945 and headquartered in New York.

Source

14) Consider the following statements regarding Information Technology Agreement (ITA).
   1. The Information Technology Agreement (ITA) is a plurilateral agreement enforced by the World Trade Organisation.
   2. The aim of the agreement is to lower all taxes and tariffs on information technology products by signatories to zero.
   3. India does not impose basic customs duty on photovoltaic cells and modules.

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

Solution: d)

The Information Technology Agreement (ITA) is a plurilateral agreement enforced by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and concluded in the Ministerial Declaration on Trade in Information Technology Products in 1996, and entered into force 1 July 1997.
The aim of the treaty is to lower all taxes and tariffs on information technology products by signatories to zero. India is a signatory to the Information Technology Agreement. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) clarified that the basic customs duty (BCD) on imported solar cells and modules would remain nil.

15) India has signed the Singapore Convention on Mediation. What will be the positive implications of this move?
   1. It will allow Indian individuals and entities to move arbitration and mediation cases from any law court in India to the UN Committee on Mediation.
   2. It will give a positive signal to foreign investors about India’s commitment to adhere to international practice on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

Select the correct answer code:
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 only
   c) Both 1 and 2
   d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: b)

India has signed the **United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA)**.

About UNISA:

Key features:
- The Convention provides a uniform and efficient framework for the enforcement of international settlement agreements resulting from mediation and for allowing parties to invoke such agreements, akin to the framework that the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (New York, 1958) (the “New York Convention”) provides for arbitral awards.
- The Convention defines two additional grounds upon which a court may, on its own motion, refuse to grant relief. Those grounds relate to the fact that a dispute would not be capable of settlement by mediation or would be contrary to public policy.

Benefit:
Signing of the Convention will boost the confidence of the investors and shall provide a positive signal to foreign investors about India’s commitment to adhere to international practice on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

16) Consider the following statements about the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).
   1. Nepal and Bhutan are members of the BIMSTEC.
   2. It was established through the Bangkok Declaration.
   3. It is an implicit free trade agreement among the member nations.

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

Solution: a)
The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization comprising seven Member States lying in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal constituting a contiguous regional unity.

This sub-regional organization came into being in 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration. It constitutes seven Member States: five deriving from South Asia, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and two from Southeast Asia, including Myanmar and Thailand.

It is not an FTA. It is a sector-driven organization focussing on sharing best practices and help each other in agriculture, public health, poverty alleviation, counter-terrorism, environment, culture etc. Fourteen priority sectors of cooperation have been identified and several BIMSTEC centres have been established to focus on those sectors.

17) The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) includes which of these member countries?
   1. Australia
   2. Indonesia
   3. India
   4. Japan
   5. China

Select the correct answer code:
   a) 1, 2, 3
   b) 2, 4, 5
   c) 2, 3
   d) 3, 4, 5

Solution: a)

The IONS is a regional forum of Indian Ocean littoral states, represented by their Navy chiefs, launched by India in 2008.
It is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime co-operation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region by providing an open and inclusive forum for discussion of regionally relevant maritime issues and, in the process, endeavors to generate a flow of information between naval professionals that would lead to common understanding and possibly agreements on the way ahead.

18) INTERPOL’s declared policing goals include
   1. Providing a secure cyberspace for people and businesses
   2. Curbing illicit markets
   3. Supporting environment security

Select the correct answer code:
   a) 2 only
   b) 1, 3
   c) 1, 2, 3
   d) 1 only

Solution: c)

The International Criminal Police Organisation, or Interpol, is an intergovernmental organisation. Headquartered in Lyon, France.
Formed in 1923 as the International Criminal Police Commission, and started calling itself Interpol in 1956.
Interpol’s declared global policing goals include countering terrorism, promoting border integrity worldwide, protection of vulnerable communities, providing a secure cyberspace for people and businesses, curbing illicit markets, supporting environment security, and promoting global integrity. India joined the organisation in 1949.

19) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states include
   1. Afghanistan
2. Belarus  
3. Mongolia  
4. Iran  

Select the correct answer code:  
a) 2, 3  
b) 1, 3  
c) 1, 2, 4  
d) None of the above  

Solution: d)

The SCO currently comprises eight Member States (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan).

20) With respect to the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), consider the following statements.  
1. It is an associated organization of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).  
2. India is a member of IOC.  
Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?  
a) 1 only  
b) 2 only  
c) Both 1 and 2  
d) Neither 1 nor 2  
Solution: c)

India was recently accepted as an observer in the Indian Ocean Commission, an organization that handles maritime governance in the western Indian Ocean.

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

21) Consider the following statements about Wassenaar Arrangement.  
1. It concerns with transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies.  
2. It is a sub-treaty under the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).  
3. It also extends to web-based systems.  
Which of the above statements is/are correct?  
a) 1, 2  
b) 1 only  
c) 2, 3  
d) 1, 3  
Solution: d)

Wassenaar Arrangement promotes transparency and greater responsibility in transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies, thus preventing destabilising accumulations. The aim is also to prevent the acquisition of these items by terrorists.  
Australia Group, Nuclear Suppliers Group and Missile Technology Control Regime are different arrangements than Wassenaar.
India is a member; China is not.

New technologies in Wassenaar (amendment in 2013) placed under the export control regime include "intrusion software"—software designed to defeat a computer or network's protective measures so as to extract data or information—as well as IP network surveillance systems.

22) Survival International sometimes seen in news advocates the rights of

a) Trafficked human beings
b) Leprosy patients
c) Tribal people
d) Refugees

Solution: c)

Survival International is a human rights organisation formed in 1969 that campaigns for the rights of indigenous and/or tribal peoples and uncontacted peoples. The organisation's campaigns generally focus on tribal peoples' desires to keep their ancestral lands. Survival International states that it aims to help foster tribal people's self-determination.

23) Hague Code of Conduct (HCOC), often seen in news, is related to

a) Code of Conduct for civil servants working for United Nations
b) Prevention of the proliferation of ballistic missiles
c) Prohibition of the usage of biological weapons by the member countries
d) None of the above

Solution: b)

The International Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation, also known as the Hague Code of Conduct (HCOC), was established on 25 November 2002 as an arrangement to prevent the proliferation of ballistic missiles.

24) The Budapest Convention, sometimes seen in news is related to

a) World Trade Organization
b) Cyber Security
c) Organic Farming
d) Ozone Depletion

Solution: b)

The Convention on Cybercrime, also known as the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime or the Budapest Convention, is the first international treaty seeking to address Internet and computer crime (cybercrime) by harmonizing national laws, improving investigative techniques, and increasing cooperation among nations. It was drawn up by the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, with the active participation of the Council of Europe's observer states Canada, Japan, Philippines, South Africa and the United States.

Since 2018, India has been reconsidering its stand on the Convention after a surge in cybercrime, though concerns about sharing data with foreign agencies remain.

25) Consider the following statements regarding United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

1. UNODC is mandated to assist Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism.
2. UNODC was established through a merger between the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention.
3. Reducing conflict, crime and violence is part of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2
b) 1, 3
UNODC is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime. Established in 1997 through a merger between the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention, UNODC operates in all regions of the world through an extensive network of field offices. It relies on voluntary contributions, mainly from Governments, for more than 90% of its budget.

UNODC is mandated to assist Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism.

In 2015, the commitment to reducing conflict, crime and violence became a central element of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which explicitly recognizes that “there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.” In this context, UNODC provides support to Member States to reach the targets established under the various Sustainable Development Goals.

Source

26) Consider the following statements regarding Indus Water Treaty.
   1. Indus Water Treaty is a Water-Distribution Treaty between India and Pakistan, brokered by the World Bank, signed soon after India’s Independence.
   2. Under the treaty, India has no control and right to use the water of the western rivers – Indus, Chenab and Jhelum.
Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?
   a) 1 only
   b) 2 only
   c) Both 1 and 2
   d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: c)

Indus Water Treaty is a Water-Distribution Treaty, signed in Karachi in 1960, between India (PM Jawaharlal Nehru) and Pakistan (President Ayub Khan), brokered by the World Bank.

Under the treaty, India has control over water flowing in the eastern rivers – Beas, Ravi and Sutlej. Pakistan has control over the western rivers – Indus, Chenab and Jhelum.

India is allowed to use 20% water of the western rivers for irrigation, power generation and transport purposes.

It also granted 3.6 million acre-feet (MAF) of “permissible storage capacity” to India on the western rivers.

The treaty sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two countries regarding their use of the rivers.

27) Consider the following statements regarding the funding of World Health Organisation (WHO).
   1. WHO gets its funding from Member States paying for their membership dues and voluntary contributions from Member States and other partners.
   2. The WHO Foundation, a legal entity of WHO facilitates contributions from the general public, individual major donors and corporate partners to WHO.
   3. For the 2018/2019 biennium, USA was the top contributor to WHO.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?
   a) 1, 2
   b) 1, 3
   c) 2, 3
   d) 1, 2, 3
Solution: b)

WHO gets its funding from two main sources: Member States paying their assessed contributions (countries’ membership dues), and voluntary contributions from Member States and other partners. Assessed contributions (AC) are a percentage of a country’s Gross Domestic Product (the percentage is agreed by the UN General Assembly). Member States approve them every two-years at the World Health Assembly. They cover less than 20% of the total budget.

The remainder of WHO’s financing is in the form of voluntary contributions (VC), largely from Member States as well as from other United Nations organizations, intergovernmental organizations, philanthropic foundations, the private sector, and other sources.

The WHO Foundation was launched 27 May 2020. It is legally separate from WHO and it will facilitate contributions from the general public, individual major donors and corporate partners to WHO and trusted partners to deliver on high-impact programmes.

### Top 10 contributors to WHO for 2018/19 biennium

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>2018/19 revenue (AC &amp; VC)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>851.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>463.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill &amp; Melinda Gates Foundation</td>
<td>455.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAVI Alliance</td>
<td>388.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>358.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNOCHA</td>
<td>285.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>233.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European Commission</td>
<td>213.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rotary International</td>
<td>168.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Philanthropic Trust</td>
<td>115.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source

28) Consider the following statements regarding OECD Mutual Acceptance of Data Agreement.

1. The OECD Mutual Acceptance of Data system is a multilateral agreement that allows the results of a variety of non-clinical safety tests done on chemical products like pesticides, to be shared across OECD countries.
2. India is not a member to OECD system for the Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) Agreement.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

India has become the third key emerging economy to join the OECD system for the Mutual Acceptance of Data (MAD) in the Assessment of Chemicals.

“The OECD Mutual Acceptance of Data system is a multilateral agreement which saves governments and chemical producers around €150 million every year by allowing the results of a variety of non-clinical safety tests done on chemicals and chemical products, such as industrial chemicals and pesticides, to be shared across OECD and other countries that adhere to the system.

Source

www.insightsonindia.com
29) COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Programme (CARES Programme) is the initiative of
   a) World Bank
   b) Asian Development Bank
   c) European Union
   d) ASEAN

   Solution: b)

   The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a $1.5 billion loan agreement for the
   ADB’s COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Programme (CARES Programme).

   The objective of the Program is to provide the Government of India with budget support to mitigate the severe
   adverse social and economic impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source

30) Consider the following statements.
   1. Globally the year 2018 saw the highest level of gold purchases by the Central banks in the past 50
      years.
   2. India is in the list of top five countries in terms of total gold reserves.
   Which of the above statements is/are correct?
      a) 1 only
      b) 2 only
      c) Both 1 and 2
      d) Neither 1 nor 2

   Solution: a)

   **Highest central bank buying in 50 years drives 4% growth in gold demand in 2018.**

   India’s gold reserves have grown substantially in the past couple of decades from 357.8 tonnes in the first quarter
   of 2000 to 657 tonnes as of August 2020.

   Here’s a list of countries with the highest gold reserve as of August 2020, according to the latest data from the
   International Monetary Fund and the World Gold Council.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Tonnes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>8133.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>3363.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>2451.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>2436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>2293.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China, P.R.Mainland</td>
<td>1948.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>1040.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>765.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>657.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
<td>612.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>583.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>422.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

31) Consider the following statements regarding International Energy Agency (IEA).
1. IEA is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organization established in the framework of the World Economic Forum.
2. The IEA acts as a policy adviser to its member states, but also works with non-member countries like China and India.
3. IEA also promotes alternate energy sources including renewable energy.

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

Solution: c)

The International Energy Agency (IEA) is a Paris-based autonomous intergovernmental organisation established in the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1974 in the wake of the 1973 oil crisis.

The IEA acts as a policy adviser to its member states, but also works with non-member countries, especially China, India, and Russia.

The IEA has a broad role in promoting alternate energy sources (including renewable energy), rational energy policies, and multinational energy technology co-operation.
6. Polity

1) Consider the following statements.
   1. Prices of milk in the country are decided entirely by market forces.
   2. ‘Preservation of cattle’ is a matter on which the legislature of the States has exclusive powers to legislate.
   3. Improving animal husbandry and the quality of cattle breed is one of the Directive Principles of State Policy in the Constitution of India.

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

Solution: b)

Prices of milk in the country are decided by the Cooperative and Private dairies based on cost of production. Under the distribution of legislatives powers between the Union of India and States under Article 246(3) of the Constitution, the preservation of cattle is a matter on which the legislature of the States has exclusive powers to legislate.

As per article 48 of Indian Constitution the state shall endeavour to organize agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines and shall in particular take steps for preserving improving the breed, and prohibiting the slaughter, of cows and calves and other milch and draught cattle.

2) Recently the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) notified new rules for administration in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir that specify the functions of the Lieutenant Governor (LG). Which of the following fall under the executive functions of the LG.
   1. Police
   2. Public Order
   3. Land
   4. Anti-Corruption

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

Solution: b)

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) recently notified new rules for administration in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir that specify the functions of the Lieutenant Governor (LG) and the Council of Ministers.

According to the transaction of business rules, “police, public order, All India Services and anti-corruption,” will fall under the executive functions of the LG, implying that the Chief Minister or the Council of Ministers will have no say in their functioning.

Source
7. Reports and Indices

1) Global Social Mobility Report is released by
   a) International Monetary Fund
   b) United Nations Economic and Social Council
   c) World Economic Forum
   d) World Bank

   Solution: c)

World Economic Forum has come out with its first-ever Global Social Mobility Report. The report has ranked India a lowly 76 out of the 82 countries profiled.

Source

2) The “COVID-19 Risks Outlook: A Preliminary Mapping and Its Implications” is published by which of the following organizations?
   a) United Nations Development Programme
   b) World Economic Forum
   c) World Bank
   d) IMF

   Solution: b)

COVID-19 Risks Outlook: A Preliminary Mapping and Its Implications, published by the World Economic Forum with support from Marsh & McLennan, examines familiar risks that may be amplified by the pandemic and new ones that may emerge.

3) Consider the following statements regarding the Global Innovation Index 2020.
   1. Global Innovation Index is released annually by the World Bank.
   2. India is in the list of top 50 innovative countries.
   3. The top three countries in the Global Innovation Index 2020 are also the high-income countries as defined by the World Bank.

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

   Solution: c)

India climbed four spots on the Global Innovation Index 2020 and is now at 48th position in the list of top 50 innovative countries in the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) annual ranking. India occupied the 52nd position in 2019 and was ranked 81st in the year 2015. India is at the top position among the nations in central and southern Asia.

India has now become the third most innovative lower middle-income economy in the world.

Switzerland, Sweden, US, UK and Netherlands are in the top spots of this year’s ranking.

The India Innovation Index, which was released last year by the NITI Aayog, has been widely accepted as the major step in the direction of decentralization of innovation across all the states of India.

Source

www.insightsonindia.com
8. Maps / Places

1) The Indian Army commemorates September 23 every year as Haifa Day to pay its respect to the three Indian Cavalry Regiments that helped liberate Haifa. Haifa is located in
   a) Saudi Arabia
   b) Jordan
   c) Palestine
   d) Israel

Solution: d)

In 2018 the northern Israeli coastal city of Haifa celebrated the centenary year of its liberation from Ottoman rule during World War I, honouring the brave Indian soldiers who laid down their lives in what is considered “the last great cavalry campaign in history”.

The Indian Army commemorates September 23 every year as Haifa Day to pay its respects to the three Indian Cavalry Regiments - Mysore, Hyderabad and Jodhpur Lancers, that helped liberate Haifa following a dashing cavalry action by the 15th Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade of the then British Indian Army at the Battle of Haifa in 1918.

Source

2) Which of these African states border the Mediterranean Sea?
   1. Tunisia
   2. Egypt
   3. Niger
   4. Chad

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

Solution: a)

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3) The Indian Ocean has some large marginal or regional seas such as
   1. Arabian Sea
   2. Laccadive Sea
   3. Somali Sea
   4. Tasman Sea
Select the correct answer code:
   a) 1, 2
   b) 1, 2, 3
   c) 1, 2, 4
   d) 1, 2, 3, 4
Solution: b)

The Indian Ocean has some large marginal or regional seas such as the Arabian Sea, the Laccadive Sea, the Somali Sea, Bay of Bengal, and the Andaman Sea.

The Tasman Sea is a marginal sea of the South Pacific Ocean.

4) Agalega Island and Assumption Island sometimes in news is located in
   a) Pacific Ocean
   b) Atlantic Ocean
   c) Indian Ocean
   d) Mediterranean Sea
Solution: c)
5) Doumeira Islands, sometimes seen in news is located in
   a) Black Sea
   b) Red Sea
   c) Caspian Sea
   d) Mediterranean Sea

   Solution: b)

   The Doumeira Islands are situated northeast of Djibouti and east of Eritrea near the Bab el-Mandeb in the Red Sea.

6) Which of these water bodies witnesses sun rise at the earliest?
   a) Red Sea
   b) Black Sea
   c) Caspian Sea
   d) Mediterranean Sea
Caspian sea lies the easternmost among all of the options. Black Sea lies to the west of Caspian Sea.

7) The Red Sea is a strip of water and an inlet of the Indian Ocean occupying the area separating the continent of Africa from Asia. The countries bordering the Red Sea are
   1. Saudi Arabia
   2. Yemen
   3. Ethiopia
   4. Egypt
   5. Djibouti
Select the correct answer code:
   a) 1, 2, 3, 4
   b) 1, 2, 3, 5
   c) 2, 3, 4, 5
   d) 1, 2, 4, 5

Solution: d)

The six countries that border the Red Sea are the following: Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, and Djibouti.
8) Kunduz, Ghormuz and Ghazni, often seen in news, is located in
   a) Afghanistan
   b) Pakistan
   c) Iran
   d) Turkmenistan

   Solution: a)

9) Okjokull glacier, recently seen in news is located in

   www.insightsonindia.com
a) Canada  
b) Greenland  
c) Antarctica  
d) Iceland  

Solution: d)  

The Okjokull glacier became the first Icelandic glacier lost due to climate change.  

Source

10) Marawah Island sometimes seen in the news is located in?  
   a) Bay of Bengal  
   b) Arabian Sea  
   c) Persian Gulf  
   d) South China Sea  

Solution: c)  

The World’s oldest known natural pearl discovered at a Neolithic site on Marawah Island, off the coast of Abu Dhabi. Marawah is a low-lying island off the coast of the Western Region of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates. The island is 15 km north of the Khor al-Bazm along the Abu Dhabi coastline in the southern Persian Gulf.

Source

11) The transboundary Indus river basin is spread across which of the following countries?  
   1. India  
   2. Pakistan  
   3. China  
   4. Afghanistan  

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

Solution: d)  

The transboundary Indus river basin has a total area of 1.12 million km\(^2\) distributed between Pakistan (47 percent), India (39 percent), China (8 percent) and Afghanistan (6 percent).
12) The Island crete, recently seen in news is located in
a) South China Sea
b) Caspian Sea
c) Mediterranean Sea
d) Yellow Sea

Solution: c)

Crete is the largest and most populous of the Greek islands, and the fifth largest island in the Mediterranean Sea.

Greece and Turkey are planning rival naval exercises off Crete amid an escalating row over energy claims in the Eastern Mediterranean. Turkey and Greece have competing ambitions over gas reserves and they disagree profoundly over who has rights to key areas of the Eastern Mediterranean. They have laid claim to overlapping areas, arguing they belong to their respective continental shelves.
9. Miscellaneous

1) Yo-Yo test, recently seen in news is related to
   a) Analyzing the genome of a plant to identify the presence of a genetic modification.
   b) Estimation of Total Polar Compounds (TPC) to decide whether the cooking oil is safe for further use or not.
   c) Indoor Air Quality Testing
   d) Athlete’s fitness level test

Solution: d)

Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Virat Kohli discussed about yo-yo test during their interaction. yo-yo test, is a vital part of the Indian cricket team’s fitness routine. Players who fail in the test are not available for selection.

Source