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1. History

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1. The Radcliffe Committee was appointed to

- A. solve the problem of minorities in India
- B. give effect to the Independence Bill
- C. delimit the boundaries between India and Pakistan
- D. enquire into the riots in East Bengal

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Radcliffe Line was the **boundary demarcation line between the Indian and Pakistani portions of the Punjab and Bengal provinces** of British India.
- It was named after its architect, Sir Cyril Radcliffe, who was the joint chairman of the two boundary commissions for the two provinces.
- The demarcation line was published on 17 August 1947 upon the Partition of India.

2. During Indian freedom struggle, the National Social Conference was formed. What was the reason for its formation?

- A. Different social reform groups or organizations of Bengal region united to form a single body to discuss the issues of larger interest and to prepare appropriate petitions/representations to the government.
- B. Indian National Congress did not want to include social reforms in its deliberations and decided to form a separate body for such a purpose
- C. Behramji Malabari and M. G. Ranade decided to bring together all the social reform groups of the country under one organization
- D. None of the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above is correct in this context

Answer: D

Explanation

- Indian Social Conference was founded by **M.G.Ranade and Raghunath Rao**.
- The conference met annually from its **first session in 1887 at Madras**.
- At its meetings, the members had discussions about social issues and **advocated inter caste marriage , opposed polygamy and kulinism**.
- Because of such healthy discussions in its annual meetings, Indian Social Conference could be called as the **Social Reform Cell of Indian National Congress (INC)**.

- ISC launched “**Pledge Movement**” to inspire people to take a pledge against Child Marriage.

3. What was the purpose with which Sir William Wedderburn and W. S. Caine had set up the Indian Parliamentary Committee in 1893?

- A. To agitate for Indian political reforms in the House of Commons
- B. To campaign for the entry of Indians into the Imperial Judiciary
- C. To facilitate a discussion on India’s Independence in the British Parliament
- D. To agitate for the entry of eminent Indians into the British Parliament

Answer: A

Explanation

- Wedderburn was an ICS officer and his attention was focussed on famine, the poverty of the Indian peasantry, the problem of agricultural indebtedness and the question of reviving the ancient village system.
- His concern with these problems brought him in touch with the Indian National Congress.
- After his retirement, Wedderburn threw his heart and soul into it.
- He **presided over the fourth Congress** held in **Bombay in 1889**.
- He entered Parliament in 1893 as a Liberal member and sought to voice India's grievances in the House.
- He formed the Indian Parliamentary Committee.
- In **1895**, Wedderburn represented India on the **Welby Commission** (i.e. Royal Commission) **on Indian Expenditure**.

4. What was/were the object/objects of Queen Victoria’s Proclamation (1858)?

1. To disclaim any intention to annex Indian States
2. To place the Indian administration under the British Crown
3. To regulate East India Company’s trade with India

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Company's territories in India were to be vested in the Queen, the Company ceasing to exercise its power and control over these territories. **India was to be governed in the Queen's name.**
- A council of fifteen members was appointed to assist the Secretary of State for India. The council became an advisory body in Indian affairs.
- An Indian Civil Service was to be created under the control of the Secretary of State.
- Hereto all the property and other assets of the East India Company were transferred to the Crown.

5. The 1929 Session of Indian, National Congress is of significance in the history of the Freedom Movement because the

- A. attainment of Self-Government was declared as the objective of the Congress
- B. attainment of Purna Swaraj was adopted as the goal of the Congress
- C. Non-Cooperation Movement was launched
- D. decision to participate in the Round Table Conference in London was taken

Answer: B

Explanation

- The **Purna Swaraj declaration** was promulgated by the Indian National Congress on 19 December 1929, resolving the Congress and Indian nationalists to fight for Purna Swaraj, or complete self-rule independent of the British Empire.

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2. Economy

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1. Which of the following is/are incorrect in context of Public Sector Banks (PSBs):

1. India has more than 20 PSBs at the moment.
2. Bank Board Bureau as a body makes recommendations for appointment of whole-time directors as well as non-executive chairpersons of public sector banks (PSBs) but not state-owned financial institutions.

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both are incorrect
D. None of the above is incorrect

Answer: C

Explanation

- After the mega bank merger that saw 10 PSBs getting consolidated into four, the country now has only 12 state-owned banks.
- The government, in 2016, had approved the constitution of the BBB as a body of eminent professionals and officials to make recommendations for appointment of whole-time directors as well as non-executive chairpersons of public sector banks (PSBs) and state-owned financial institutions.
- BBB was also entrusted with the task of engaging with the board of directors of all PSBs to formulate appropriate strategies for their growth and development.
- Also, it was asked to frame a strategy discussion on consolidation based on the requirement. The government wanted to encourage bank boards to restructure their business strategy and also suggest ways for their consolidation and merger with other banks.

2. Which of the following is/are correct about Foreign Exchange Reserves (Forex) in India:

1. India now has one trillion dollars as Forex.
2. If the Current Account Deficit (CAD) is low, it could further help in increasing the Forex.

- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both are correct
D. None is correct

Answer: B

Explanation

- India now has half a trillion dollars of foreign exchange reserves. Those reserves cover 12 months of

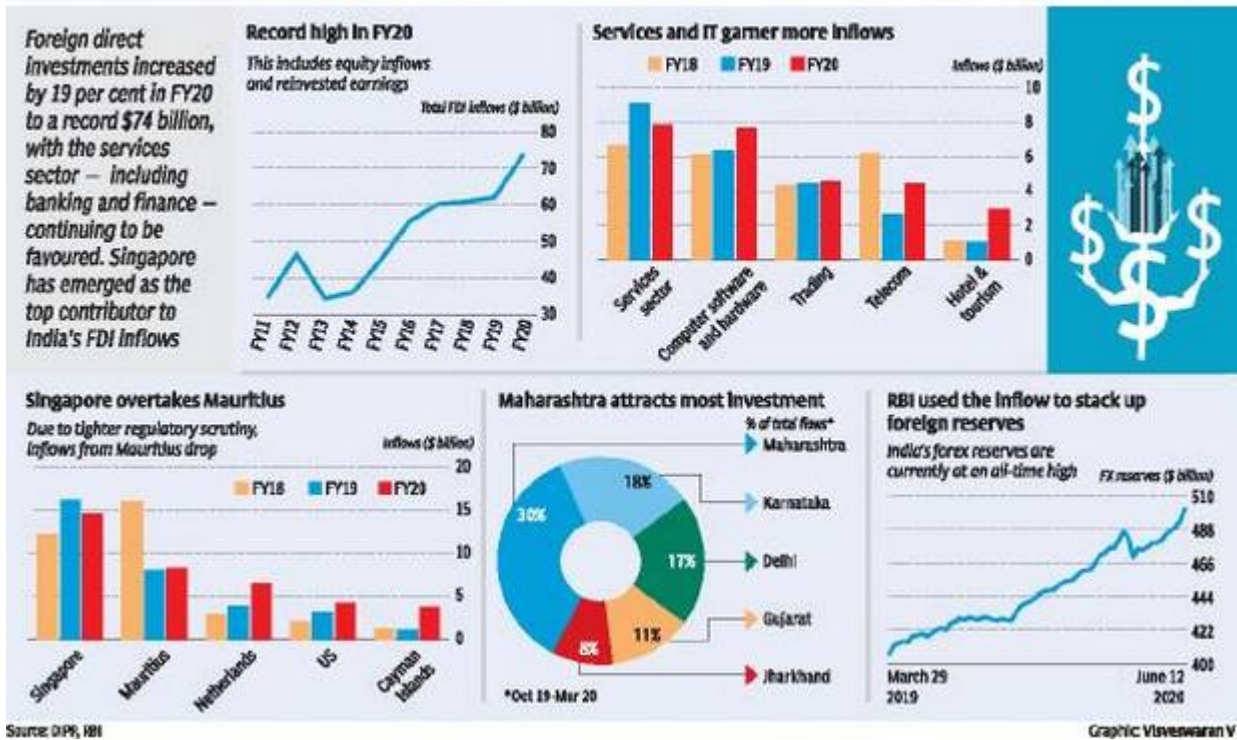
the pre-Covid-19 level of imports. They are about 88% of India's external debt which stood at \$564 billion as of December 2019.

- During 2001-07, India's CAD averaged 0.1% of GDP, while capital flows were strong. India's reserves increased by \$232 billion between Q1 2001-02 and Q1 2008-09, a period in which cumulative net FPI inflows stood at \$66.3 billion. Thus, a lower CAD helps build up Forex.

AKHIL NALLANATHU

STATISTALK

FDI on an upswing



3. Which of the following is/are correct about Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA):

1. It was founded in 2015.
2. India and China are the only countries in Asia not associated with JICA.

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both are correct
- D. None is correct

Answer: D

Explanation

- In News: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) India has set up Tsunagaru Lab, a business co-creation lab for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The term tsunagaru means 'to be connected' in Japanese.
- The lab will facilitate partnership between Japanese companies and Indian social enterprises to

contribute to the achievement of India's SDGs directly and indirectly.

- In January 2019, JICA and the Indian government had signed an agreement for an official development assistance loan of ¥15 billion (approximately ₹950 crore) to engage on SDGs.
- JICA was founded in 2003.
- India and JICA have a long history of collaboration.

The History of JICA	
October 1954	Affiliation with Colombo Plan Launch of Technical Cooperation Projects
June 1962	Overseas Technical Cooperation Agency (OTCA) established
July 1963	Japan Emigration Service (JEMIS) established
April 1965	Dispatch of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) started
August 1974	Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) established
September 1987	Law concerning Japan Disaster Relief Team enacted
May 1994	JICA adds one hundred thousandth participant
October 2003	JICA changes from a special public institution to an independent administrative institution
November 2006	Passage of the Law for Partial Amendment to the Japan International Cooperation Agency Law
June 2007	More than thirty thousand JOCV and volunteers dispatched in the field

4. Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) is headed by

- A. Prime Minister
- B. Finance Minister
- C. Governor, RBI
- D. Chief Economic Adviser

Answer: B

Explanation

- In News: At the 24th meeting of the FSDC sub-committee, which was chaired by RBI Governor, the proposal to set up of an Inter Regulatory Technical Group on Fintech (IRTG-Fintech) and the National Strategy on Financial Education (NSFE) 2020-2025 were discussed.
- The FSDC was set up to create an institutional structure and mechanism for financial stability,

financial sector development and interregulatory coordination.

- It is charged with financial literacy, financial inclusion and macro prudential supervision of the economy, including the functioning of large financial conglomerates.
- The council, headed by the finance minister, will now include the minister of state responsible for the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA).
- The secretary of Department of Electronics and Information Technology also becomes a member, given the importance the government gives to digital transactions and issues of data privacy.
- The reconstituted FSDC will include the chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) and the revenue secretary.
- Members are –
 - ✓ Governor Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
 - ✓ Chief Economic Advisor, Ministry of Finance
 - ✓ Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
 - ✓ Chairman, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA)
 - ✓ Chairman, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
 - ✓ Chairman, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)
 - ✓ Finance Secretary and/ or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Secretary, Department of Financial Services (DFS), Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

5. Which of the following is/are *incorrect* in context of Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF):

1. It is the sovereign wealth fund of Saudi Arabia.
 2. Till date, it has made no investment in the Indian economy.
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both are correct
D. None is correct

Answer: B

Explanation

- In News: Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) has invested ₹ 11,367 crore in Jio Platforms Ltd for a 2.32 per cent stake.
- PIF is the sovereign wealth fund of Saudi Arabia and as part of its mandate to diversify its economy, has made its largest investment into the Indian economy to-date.

3. Environment & Ecology

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1. Consider the following statements regarding Malabar Gliding Frog

1. It is endemic to rain forests of Western Ghats.
2. The IUCN status is Near Threatened.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- Recently, a rare amphibian, that is, Malabar Gliding Frog (*Rhacophorus malabaricus*) was spotted in Pullad, Kerala.
- The amphibian is **endemic** to the rainforest of Western Ghats.
- It is a green frog with slender body, webbed feet, unusual body positions and very well camouflaged.
- It has a **high gliding abilities**, with the long skin between the fingers which helps to cover 10 to 12 feet in one leap.
- IUCN Status – Least Concern
- It has a body length of 10 cm, making it one of the **largest mossy frogs**.
- **Mossy Frogs** - These frogs have the skin which is green in colour and resembles moss growing on the rock.
- They built **foam nests** above small pools of water, into which the tadpoles drop after hatching.
- Behaviour like **cannibalism** has been found among tadpoles.

2. Consider the following statements regarding Pangolin

1. It is only scaly mammal on the planet.
2. It has been listed as “critically endangered” by International Union for Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) Red List.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1 only

- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None

Answer: A

Explanation

- Pangolin is **only scaly mammal** on the planet.
- Of the eight species of pangolin worldwide, two are found in India.
- They are **Chinese pangolin**, mostly found in northeast India and **Indian pangolin**.
- Indian pangolin has been listed as “**endangered**” in IUCN Red List.
- It is also a **Schedule I** category protected animal, under the Wildlife Protection Act (1972).
- Chinese pangolin has been listed as “**critically endangered**” by International Union for Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) Red List.
- Scientists have, for the first time, radio-tagged the Indian pangolin, an endangered animal, that is rarely sighted in forests.
- Radio-tagging involves attaching a transmitter to an animal to monitor its movements.
- The radio-tagging is part of a joint project by the forest department and non-profit organisation, the Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT). (First time in MP)
- Pangolins are among the **most trafficked wildlife species** in the world.
- The International Union for the Conservation of Nature says these toothless animals have seen a rapid reduction in population.
- The projected population declines range from 50% to 80 % across the genus.
- **World Pangolin Day**, celebrated on the third Saturday in February, is an **international attempt to raise awareness of pangolins** and bring together stakeholders to help protect these unique species from extinction.(15th February, 2020)

3. Consider the following

- 1. UNESCO Natural World Heritage site**
- 2. Project Tiger reserve**
- 3. Elephant reserve**
- 4. Biosphere reserve under MAB of UNESCO**

Which of the above designations have been accorded to Manas NP in Assam in India?

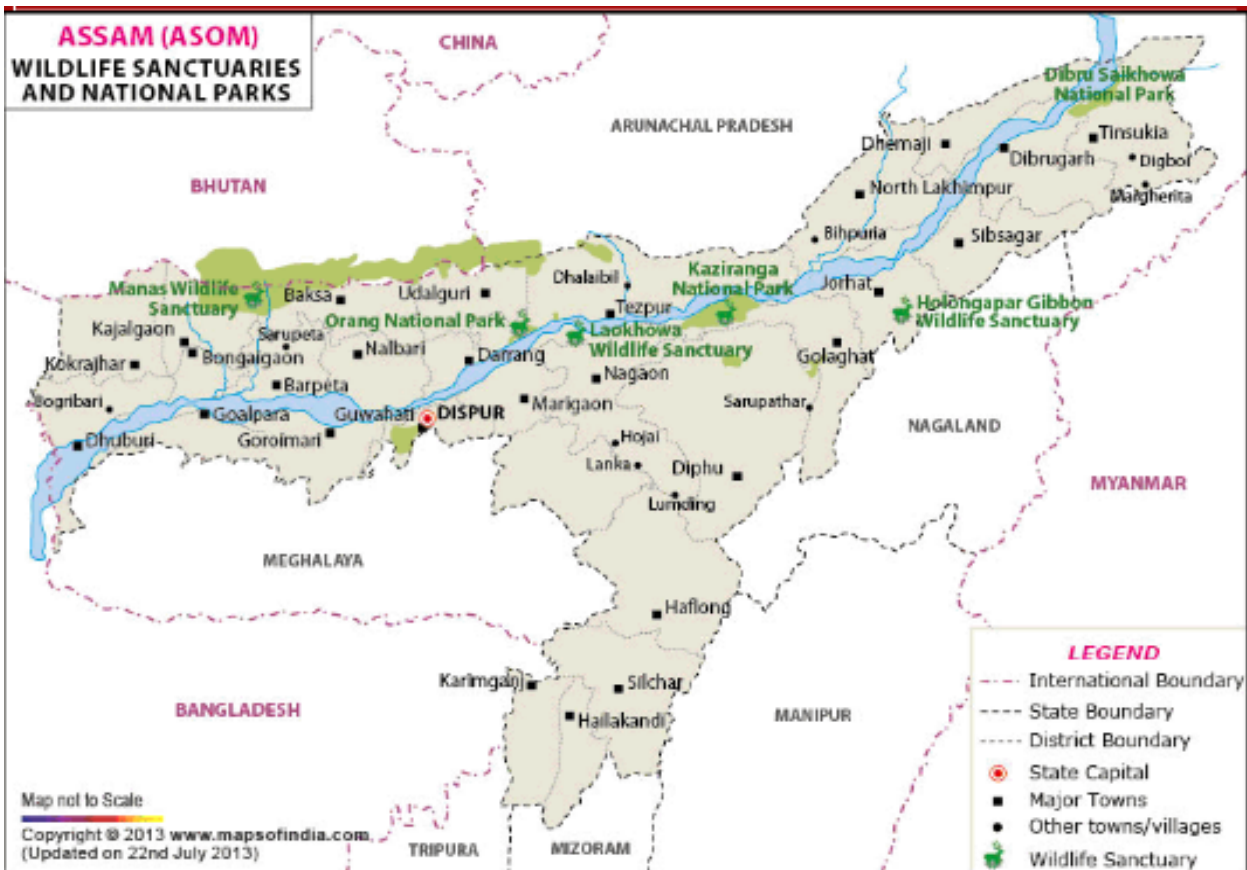
- A. 2 and 4 only
- B. 2 and 3 only

- C. 1, 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- Manas National Park or Manas Wildlife Sanctuary is a
 - ✓ National park
 - ✓ UNESCO Natural World Heritage site
 - ✓ Project Tiger reserve
 - ✓ An elephant reserve
 - ✓ Biosphere reserve (Not under MAB of UNESCO) in Assam, India.
- Located in the **Himalayan foothills**, it is contiguous with the **Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan**.



4. Which of the following regions in India is/are a biodiversity hotspot?

1. Western ghats
2. Eastern ghats
3. Eastern Himalayas

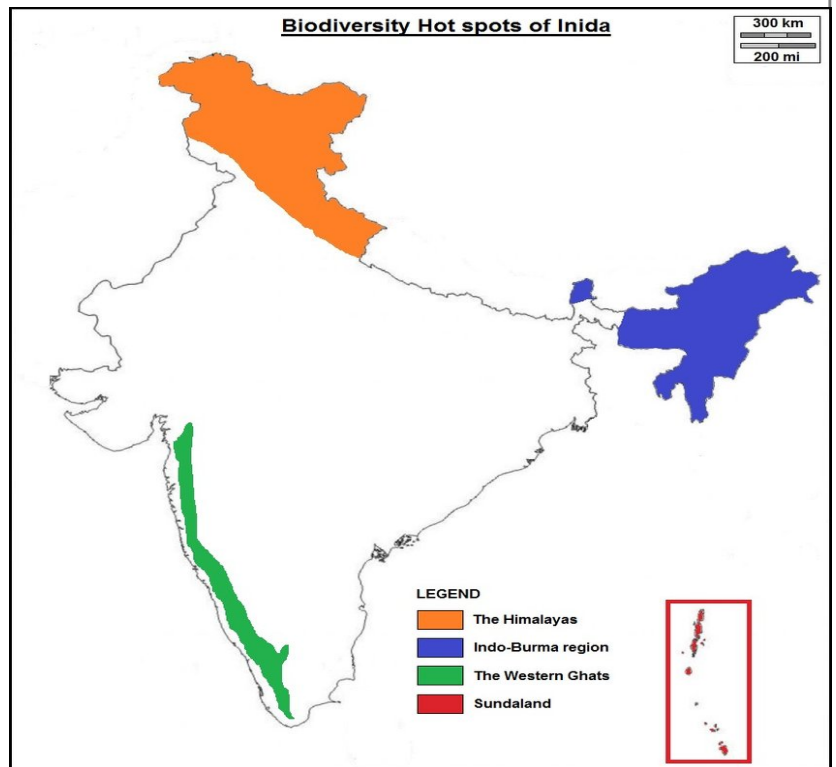
Choose the correct option

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: B

Explanation

- To qualify as a biodiversity hotspot, an area must meet **two strict criteria** Contain **at least 1,500 species of vascular plants** found nowhere else on Earth (known as "endemic" species).
- A hotspot, in other words, is irreplaceable.
- Have lost at least **70 percent of its primary native vegetation.**
- It must have 30% or less of its original natural vegetation.
- In other words, it must be threatened.
- It hosts 4 biodiversity hotspots
 - ✓ The Western Ghats
 - ✓ The Himalayas
 - ✓ The Indo-Burma region
 - ✓ The Sundaland, includes Nicobar group of Islands



5. Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve is located in which of the following states?

- A. Nagaland
- B. Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Assam
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- **Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary** is located in the Dibrugarh and Tinsukia Districts of **Assam** and covers an area of 111.19 km² rainforest.
- **Dehing** is the name of the river that flows through this forest and **Patkai** is the hill at the foot of which the sanctuary lies.
- The Dehing Patkai forms the largest stretch of **tropical lowland rainforests in India.**

- The forest is often referred to as "**The Amazon of the east**" owing to its large area and thick forests.
- The different trees of this four-layered rainforest are laden with many exotic species of orchids and bromeliads.
- The towering **Hollong tree** which is also the state tree of Assam dominates the emergent layer of this rainforest.
- **Rare fauna** found in the region include Chinese pangolin, flying fox, wild pig, sambar, barking deer, gaur, serow and Malayan giant squirrels.
- All seven cats were photographed in the **Jeypore-Dehing lowland forests** that stretch over 500 sq.km in the state of Assam in northeast India and include the Dehing-Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The **seven species** caught on camera are the rare and elusive **clouded leopard** (*Neofelis nebulosa*), **marbled cat** (*Pardofelis marmorata*), and **golden cat** (*Catopuma temminckii*), and four relatively widely distributed species – **tiger** (*Panthera tigris*), **leopard** (*Panthera pardus*), **leopard cat** (*Prionailurus bengalensis*), and **jungle cat** (*Felis chaus*).



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4. Science & Tech & International Relations

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1. 'Micius' has been in news recently. It is

- A. Humanoid
- B. Quantum Satellite
- C. SARS-COV-2 Test kit
- D. Weapon detecting radar

Answer: B

Explanation

- It is the world's first quantum communications satellite which established the world's most secure communication link
- It was launched in 2016

2. Which of the following reports are released by UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

1. World Investment Report
2. Least Development Countries Report
3. Technology and Innovation Report

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Explanation

- All the above mentioned reports are released by UNCTAD World Investment Report
- Global FDI flows are forecast to decrease by up to 40% in 2020
 - ✓ This would bring global FDI below \$1 trillion for the first time since 2005
- Developing economies are expected to see the biggest fall in FDI

3. Which of the following statement(s) is/are true in the context of nuclear stockpiles?

1. India and China have increased their nuclear stockpiles in the past year

2. The total number of nuclear warheads in the nuclear-armed countries has gone down

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

Both the statements are correct

- SIPRI, a Swedish think tank, has recently released a report about the nuclear stockpiles.
- India, Pakistan and China have increased their nuclear stockpile in the past year and all nations already having them, are moderating their arsenals
- The total number of nuclear warheads in these countries has gone down from 13.865 in 2019 to 13400 in 2020

4. Which of the following drugs have been used to treat COVID-19?

- 1. Dexamethasone
- 2. Azithromycin
- 3. Lopinavir

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Explanation

Option D is the correct answer

- All the above mentioned drugs have been used to treat COVID-19
- Dexamethasone reduces the production of the chemicals that cause inflammation and also reduces the activity of the immune system by affecting the way white blood cells function
 - ✓ It falls under the category of corticosteroids and used to mimic the cortisol which is the hormone produced by adrenal glands

5. Which of the following are correct

- 1. Antigen are found in the RBCs

2. Antibodies are present in the blood plasma

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

Both the statements are correct

- Two proteins are present in the blood, antigens and antibodies
 - ✓ The surfaces of RBCs contain genetically determined antigens
 - ✓ The blood plasma contains the antibodies

Type	A	B	AB	O
RBC Antigen	A	B	AB	None
Plasma Antibody	anti-b	anti-a	none	anti-a; anti-b

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