



# PREMIX COMPILATION FOR 2020

**2<sup>nd</sup> Week of May  
(11<sup>th</sup> May to 16<sup>th</sup> May)**

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## GEOGRAPHY

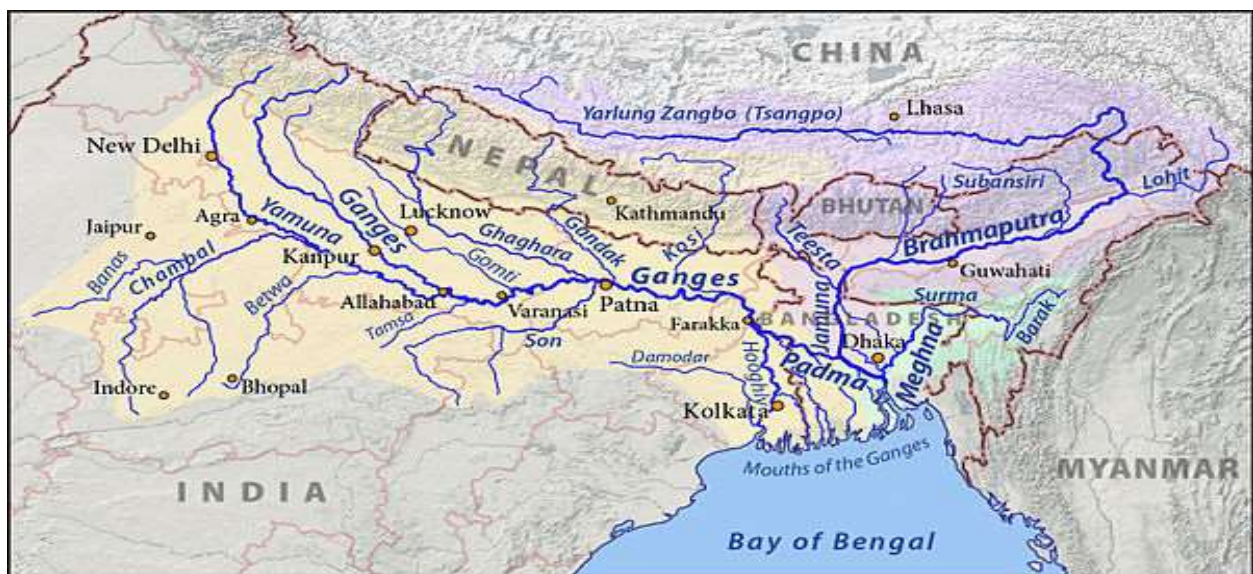
<https://youtu.be/370KNUI6tXs>

**Ganga** basin is the **largest river basin** in India in terms of catchment area. Identify the states associated with the **same**

1. Madhya Pradesh
  2. Rajasthan
  3. Uttar Pradesh
- A. 1 Only  
B. 1 and 3 only  
C. 2 and 3 only  
D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**



The basin covers 11 states viz., Uttarakhand, U.P., M.P., Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, West Bengal and Delhi.

Which of the following passes connect **Chumbi Valley to Sikkim**?

1. Nathu La
  2. Jelep La
  3. Shipki La
  4. Bomdi La
- A. 1 Only  
B. 1 and 2 only  
C. 1, 2 and 3 only  
D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**



The annual range of temperature in the interior of the continents is high as compared to coastal areas. What is/are the reason/reasons? (UPSC – 2013)

1. Thermal difference between land and water
2. Variation in altitude between continents and oceans
3. Presence of strong winds in the interior
4. Heavy rains in the interior as compared to coasts

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- Land heats up and cool down very fast as compared to the water. Areas in the interior of India are far away from the moderating influence of the sea. Such areas have extremes of climate.
- Statement 2 is wrong as there may or may not be much difference between the altitudes of land and ocean.
- Statement 3 is wrong as winds do not contribute enough to the variations in temperature.
- Statement 4 is wrong as coastal region receive more rainfall.

Which of the following is **may be considered as criticism** in context **with Continental Drift Theory?**

1. The theory doesn't consider oceans.
  2. It did not explain the formation of oceanic ridges and Island arcs.
  3. Forces like buoyancy, tidal currents and gravity are too weak to be able to move continents.
- A. Only 3
  - B. Only 2 and 3
  - C. Only 1 and 3
  - D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: D**

Which of the following are considered as **Meteorite Crater/s in India?**

1. Lonar Lake
  2. Dhala crater
  3. Ramgarh crater
- A. Only 1
  - B. Only 1 and 2
  - C. Only 2 and 3
  - D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

- **Lonar Lake** (1.8 km in diameter) in Buldhana District of Maharashtra
- **Dhala crater** (14 km in diameter) in Shivpuri district, Madhya Pradesh and
- **Ramgarh crater** (3.5 km in diameter) is a potential meteorite crater in Kota plateau in Rajasthan.

## HISTORY

<https://youtu.be/LFaHcxYapD4>

Which among the following places have given the earliest evidence of agriculture in Indian subcontinent?

- A. Pratapgarh
- B. Mehrgarh
- C. Quetta
- D. Kalat

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- In the period of the Neolithic revolution, roughly 8000-4000 BCE, agriculture was far from the dominant mode of support for human societies.
- Agro pastoralism in India included threshing, planting crops in rows—either of two or of six—and storing grain in granaries.
- **Barley and wheat cultivation**—along with the **rearing of cattle, sheep and goat**—was visible in **Mehrgarh** by **8000-6000 BCE**.

The earliest evidence of rice cultivation comes from which among the following valleys?

- A. Central Ganga Valley
- B. Belan Valley
- C. Gomal Valley
- D. Bolan Valley

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** Belan Valley, Allahabad is one of the regions the earliest evidence of rice cultivation has come.

Which among the following is a Tamil grammatical treatise?

- A. Pattupattu
- B. Ettutogai
- C. Silappadikaram
- D. Tolkappiam

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

- The Tolkappiyam deals with **ilakkanam (grammar)** in **three books (atikaram)**, **each with nine chapters (iyal)** of different sizes.
- The text has a cumulative total of 1,612 sutras in the nūṛpā meter, though some versions of its surviving manuscripts have a few less.
- It is a comprehensive text on grammar, and includes sutras on orthography, phonology, etymology, morphology, semantics, prosody, sentence structure and the significance of context in language.

Which of the following is the most common motif of the Indus Seals?

- A. Unicorn
- B. Bull
- C. Rhinoceros
- D. Elephant

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** The unicorn is the most common motif on Indus seals and appears to represent a mythical animal that Greek and Roman sources trace back to the Indian subcontinent.

\_\_\_\_\_ tells the story of a King who falls in love with the picture of an exiled servant girl. When the queen discovers her husband's passion for this girl, she becomes infuriated and has the girl imprisoned, but as fate would have it, the servant girl is in fact a true-born princess, thus legitimizing the affair.

- A. Mālavikāgnimitram
- B. Abhijñānaśākuntalam
- C. Vikramōrvaśīyam
- D. Kumārasambhava

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- **Mālavikāgnimitram** (Pertaining to Mālavikā and Agnimitra) tells the story of **King Agnimitra**, who falls in love with the picture of an exiled servant girl named **Mālavikā**.
- When the queen discovers her husband's passion for this girl, she becomes infuriated and has Mālavikā imprisoned, but as fate would have it, Mālavikā is in fact a true-born princess, thus legitimizing the affair.

## ECONOMY

<https://youtu.be/pyObCZezJfA>

Which of the following indices are correctly matched?

1. Gender Inequality Index (GII) – UNDP
2. Gender Related Development Index – IMF
3. Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) - OECD Development Centre
4. Gender Parity Index (GPI) – UNESCO

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 & 4 only
- B. 1 only
- C. 1, 3 & 4 only
- D. All of the above are correctly matched

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Gender Inequality Index (GII)** is an index for measurement of gender disparity that was introduced in the 2010 Human Development Report 20th anniversary edition by the United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**).
- **Gender Related Development Index (GDI)** is an index designed to measure gender equality.
- **GDI** together with the **Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM)** were introduced in 1995 in the Human Development Report written by the **United Nations Development Program**. The aim of these measurements was to add a gender-sensitive dimension to the Human Development Index (HDI).
- In 2007 the **OECD Development Centre** introduced a **Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI)**, a composite indicator of gender equality that solely focuses on social institutions that affect the equality between men and women, as well as on the **four dimensions** of family code, physical integrity, ownership rights and civil liberties.
- Social institutions comprise norms, values and attitudes that exist in a society in relation to women.
- **Gender Parity Index (GPI)** is a socioeconomic index usually designed to measure the relative access to education of males and females. This index is released by **UNESCO**.
- In its simplest form, it is calculated as the quotient of the number of females by the number of males enrolled in a given stage of education (primary, secondary, etc.).
- A GPI equal to one signifies equality between males and females.

Which of the following is/are the functions of the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) ?

1. The Bureau will recommend for selection of heads - Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions.
2. It will help Banks in developing strategies and capital raising plans.

Select the Correct Option

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- With a view **to improve the Governance of Public Sector Banks (PSBs)**, the Government had decided to set up an autonomous Banks Board Bureau.
- The Bureau will **recommend for selection of heads** - Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions and help Banks in developing strategies and capital raising plans.
- The Bureau which will have three ex-officio members and three expert members in addition to Chairman.
- All the Members and Chairman will be part time.
- The BBB started functioning from 1st April, 2016.

Which of the following is correct in context of higher depreciation rates being used for cars?

1. Resale value of vehicles will come down faster.
2. It will increase the insurance premium in subsequent years.

Which of the following is/are correct in this context?

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Higher depreciation rate for vehicles

- The Finance Minister has announced doubling of depreciation rate to 30 per cent for vehicles bought until March 31, 2020.
- A higher depreciation rate will mean that
- The resale value will come down faster, which will prompt customers to replace the car sooner.
- Bringing down insurance premium from the second year
- Allowing businesses to claim higher business

Which of the following is correct in context of investment in Sovereign Gold Bonds?

1. Capital gains made by investing in these Bonds is tax exempt (provided they are held till maturity)
2. The minimum investment in these bonds is ten grams.

Which of the following is/are correct in this context?

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:** Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme

- SGBs are government securities denominated in grams of gold.
- They are substitutes for holding physical gold.
- The Bond is issued by Reserve Bank on behalf of Government of India.
- The Bonds are issued in denominations of one gram of gold and in multiples thereof. Minimum investment in



the Bond shall be one gram with a maximum limit of subscription of 4 kg for individuals.

- On maturity, the redemption price shall be based on simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity of previous 3 business days from the date of repayment, published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association Limited.

What is the minimum period of contribution by any subscriber under APY:

- A. It should be 20 years or more.
- B. It should be 20 years or less.
- C. There are no such criteria of minimum period.
- D. It varies for males and females.

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- We discussed it in today's 2-Minute (14<sup>th</sup> May, 2020)
- The minimum age of joining APY is 18 years and maximum age is 40 years. Therefore, minimum period of contribution by any subscriber under APY would be 20 years or more.
- Atal Pension Yojana' (APY) has completed **five years** of implementation. (Started in **2015**).
- A **defined** pension, depending on the contribution, and its period.
- It provides a **minimum guaranteed pension** ranging from Rs 1000 to Rs 5000 on attaining 60 years of age.
- The amount of pension is **guaranteed for lifetime** to spouse on death of the subscriber.
- In the event of **death of both the subscriber** and the spouse, **entire pension corpus is paid to the nominee.**

## ENVIRONMENT

<https://youtu.be/rC1Pi1S2wiM>

Consider the following statements regarding International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)

1. Majorly it serves eight regional member countries (RMCs) of the Hindu Kush Himalayan region.
2. It is based in Bangladesh.

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:**

- The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) is a **regional intergovernmental learning and knowledge sharing centre** serving the eight regional member countries of the Hindu Kush Himalayas.
- ICIMOD serves **eight regional member countries (RMCs)** of the Hindu Kush Himalayan region—Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan—and the global mountain community.
- **Founded in 1983**, ICIMOD is based in **Kathmandu, Nepal**, and brings together a partnership of its regional member countries, partner institutions, and donors to secure a better future for the people and environment of the extended Himalayan region.

Consider the following statements regarding Snow Leopards

1. Snow Leopard is the state animal of Himachal Pradesh.
2. They are an indicator of the health of high-altitude habitats.
3. Its IUCN status is 'Endangered'.
4. They are listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A. 1, 2 and 4 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 2, 3 and 4 only
- D. All

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- **Snow Leopard** is the State Animal, **Western Tragopan** (Jujurana) (Tragopan melanocephalus) is the State Bird and **Pink Rhododendron** (Rhododendron campanulatum) is the State Flower of Himachal Pradesh.
- Snow leopards play a key role as both top predator and as an indicator of the health of their high-altitude habitat.
- If snow leopards thrive, so will countless other species.

- They are categorized as **'Vulnerable'** by IUCN and in the Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has downgraded conservation status of snow leopard from "endangered" to "vulnerable".
- They are listed in **Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)**, affording the highest conservation status to the species, both globally and in India.
- It inhabits alpine and subalpine zones at elevations from 3,000 to 4,500 m (9,800 to 14,800 ft), ranging from western Afghanistan to Mongolia and western China (Himalaya and Tibetan Plateau) .
- In India, it is found in Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- India will soon commission it's first-ever survey to estimate the population and geographical range of the snow leopard, an elusive and endangered predator.

Consider the following

1. Simlipal Biosphere Reserve
2. Manas Biosphere Reserve
3. Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve
4. Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve
5. Nokrek Biosphere Reserve

Which of the above Biosphere Reserves are not included in the UNESCO's MAB program?

- A. Only 2
- B. Only 2 and 3
- C. Only 1 and 3
- D. All of the above are included under MAB

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- The **Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve has become the 11th Biosphere Reserve** from India that has been included in the UNESCO designated World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR).
- India has **18 Biosphere Reserves** and with the inclusion of Khangchendzonga, the number of internationally designated WNBR has become 11, with 7 Biosphere Reserves being domestic Biosphere Reserves.

Consider the following statements with respect to response to abiotic factors

1. Aestivation is a response by certain organisms to escape the unfavorable conditions during summer.
2. Diapause, a stage of suspended development is a response by many zooplankton species during unfavorable conditions in lakes and ponds.

Which of the above statements are correct?

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- In animals, the organism, if **unable to migrate**, might avoid the stress by **escaping in time**.
- The **familiar case of bears** going into **hibernation** during winter is an example of escape in time.
- Some **snails and fish go into aestivation** to avoid summer–related problems-heat and desiccation.
- Under unfavorable conditions many **zooplankton** species in lakes and ponds are known to enter **diapause**, a stage of suspended development.

Consider the following statements with respect to Adaptations

1. A special photosynthetic pathway (CAM) is a feature of many desert plants.
2. Mammals from colder climates generally have shorter ears and limbs to minimise heat loss.
3. At high altitude, the human body compensates low oxygen availability by increasing red blood cell production, increasing the binding capacity of hemoglobin and by increasing breathing rate.

Which of the above are correct?

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- Many **desert plants have a thick cuticle** on their leaf surfaces and have their **stomata arranged in deep pits** to minimise water loss through transpiration.
- They also have a **special photosynthetic pathway (CAM)** that enables their stomata to remain closed during day time.
- Some desert plants like Opuntia, have **no leaves** – they are reduced to spines–and the photosynthetic function is taken over by the flattened stems.
- Mammals from colder climates generally have **shorter ears and limbs to minimize heat loss**. (This is called the **Allen’s Rule**.)
- In the **polar seas** aquatic mammals like seals have a thick layer of fat (**blubber**) below their skin that acts as an insulator and reduces loss of body heat.
- The body compensates **low oxygen availability** by increasing red blood cell production, decreasing the binding capacity of hemoglobin and by increasing breathing rate.

## ST + HEALTHCARE

<https://youtu.be/uqqzEiGHCdQ>

Which of the following are true in the context of PSLV?

1. ISRO has launched more than 100 satellites aboard PSLV till date.
  2. PSLV has “multiple burn technology” with the help of which PSLV can place satellites in multiple orbits in the same launch.
- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- Both the statements are correct.
- ISRO’s PSLV C40 which placed 31 satellites including main payload Cartosat-2s series and 28 foreign satellites in two different orbits, marked the roll out of the 100th satellite by ISRO.
- It was the second time that ISRO had achieved the two orbits feat. This was done through the “multiple burn technology” under which the rocket’s engine is switched off and then switched on to control its height.
- It reinstated India’s position as a successful multiple satellite launcher.

Which of the following statement(s) is/are true in the context of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4)

1. Total fertility rate declined in India from 2.7 in 2005-06 (NFHS-3) to 1.9 in 2015-16.
  2. Total fertility rate in rural areas is greater than that in urban areas.
  3. The section with the lowest income had the highest number of children and the richest had the least.
- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 2 and 3 only  
C. 1 and 3 only  
D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- Statement 1 is incorrect but statement 2 and 3 are correct
- Total fertility rate declined in India from 2.7 in 2005-06 (NFHS-3) to 2.2 in 2015-16 (NFHS-4).
- It is important to note that the replacement level fertility is 2.1 and India has not achieved that so far. Bihar has the highest rate at 3.41, followed by Meghalaya at 3.04 and Uttar Pradesh and Nagaland at 2.74.
- Total fertility rate in rural areas was 2.4 while in urban areas it was 1.8.
- The section with the lowest income had the highest number of children at 3.2 and the richest had the least, 1.5.
- Scheduled tribes, the least developed among social categories, had the highest fertility rate of 2.5, followed by 2.3 for scheduled castes and 2.2 for other backward classes.
- The upper castes had the lowest fertility rate of 1.9.

GIAN Program was launched by the Government of India in \_\_\_\_\_ sector.

- A. Health
- B. Education
- C. Defence
- D. Space

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) in Higher Education was launched in 2015.
- GIAN aims at tapping the talent pool of scientists and entrepreneurs to engage with the institutes of higher education in India to augment the country's existing academic resources, accelerate the pace of quality reforms, and further strengthen India's scientific and technological capabilities.

Which of the following committee is related to bulk drugs?

- A. Easwar Panel
- B. Katoch Committee
- C. Tapan Ray Panel
- D. Shyam Benegal Committee

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- Easwar Panel: Direct Taxes Reform
- Katoch Committee: Bulk Drugs
- Tapan Ray Panel: Companies Act Reforms
- Shyam Benegal Committee : Cinematograph Act

There are six planets in our solar system with known Trojan asteroids. Choose the incorrect amongst the following.

1. Jupiter
  2. Neptune
  3. Mercury
  4. Earth
- A. All except 1
  - B. All except 2
  - C. All except 3
  - D. All except 4

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- Trojans are asteroids that are constant companions to planets in our solar system as they orbit the Sun, remaining near a stable point 60 degrees in front of or behind the planet.
- Since they constantly lead or follow in the same orbit, they will never collide with their companion planet.
- There are six planets in our solar system with known Trojan asteroids—Jupiter, Neptune, Mars, Venus, Uranus and Earth.