



PREMIX COMPILATION FOR 2020

**3rd week of April
(20th April to 25th April)**

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GEOGRAPHY

<https://youtu.be/NuYE4fwlMrw>

1. Which of the following has/have **shrunk immensely/dried up** the recent past due to human activities? (UPSC 2018)

1. Aral Sea
2. Black Sea
3. Lake Baikal

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: D

Explanation: Article In Hindu

- As per **NASA**, over the last 50 years, Aral Sea has shrunk by about 75% of its original size mainly because of **water diversion for agricultural usages in surrounding areas. Also from a depth of 68 meters in the 1960s, today it stands at less than 10 meters.**
- In Lake Baikal, **water level has gone below the critical mark of 456m eleven times since 1962.**
- Thus, **while Aral Sea has dried up immensely, Lake Baikal shows more of a fluctuating regime and shrinkage is not comparable to that of Aral Sea.**

2. Consider the following pairs: (**UPSC 2018**) Towns sometimes mentioned in news – Country

1. Aleppo - Syria
2. Kirkuk - Yemen
3. Mosul - Palestine
4. Mazar-i-sharif - Afghanistan

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer: B

Explanation: Aleppo is in Syria, Kirkuk and Mosul are in Iraq while Mazar - i - Sharif is in Afghanistan.

3. Which one of the following is an **artificial lake?** (UPSC -2018)

- A. Kodaikanal (Tamil Nadu)
- B. Kolleru (Andhra Pradesh)
- C. Nainital (Uttarakhand)

D. Renuka (Himachal Pradesh)

Answer: A

Explanation: Kodaikanal Lake, also known as **Kodai Lake** is a manmade lake located in the Kodaikanal city in **Dindigul district in Tamilnadu, India**. Sir Vere Henry Lvinge, the then Collector of Madurai, was instrumental in creating the lake in 1863, amidst the Kodaikanal town which was developed by the British and early missionaries from USA

4. Consider the following statements: (UPSC – 2018)

1. The Barren Island volcano is an active volcano located in the Indian Territory.
2. Barren Island lies about 140 km east of Great Nicobar.
3. The last time the Barren Island volcano erupted was in 1991 and it has remained inactive since then.

Which of the statements **given above is/are correct?**

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

Answer: A

Explanation: Barren Island is **India's only active volcano**. It is located 140kms to the east of Port Blair (lies in South Andaman) while Great Nicobar is southernmost region of Andaman & Nicobar and lies further south of Port Blair. **The Barren Island volcano had been lying dormant for more than 150 years until it saw a major eruption in 1991. Since then it has shown intermittent activity, including eruptions in 1995, 2005 and 2017**

5. Consider the following statements:

1. Most of the world's coral reefs are in tropical waters.
2. More than one-third of the world's coral reefs are located in the territories of Australia, Indonesia and Philippines.
3. Coral reefs host far more number of animal phyla than those hosted by tropical rainforests.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: D

Explanation:

- Most coral reefs are **located in tropical shallow waters less than 50 meters deep, in the western regions of the Indian ocean, Pacific Ocean and Greater Caribbean.**
- Global distribution of corals **Australia-17% Indonesia-16% Philippines-9% So, Australia, Indonesia and Philippines together host more than one-third of world's corals.**
- **32 of the 34 recognised animal Phyla are found on coral reefs compared to only 9 Phyla in tropical rainforests.**

HISTORY

<https://youtu.be/8q0BUJ3yiow>

1. The Public Service Commission of India (forerunner of the Union Public Service Commission) was established on 1st October 1926 under the chairmanship of _____?

- A. Sir Ross Barker
- B. Sir Hugh Lorry
- C. Sir Patrick Lawrence
- D. Sir David Attenborough

Answer: A

Explanation: The Public Service Commission of India (forerunner of the Union Public Service Commission) was established on 1st October 1926 under the chairmanship of **Sir Ross Barker**.

2. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. Up to 1853, the Directors of the British East India Company made appointments of covenanted civil servants by nominations.
- 2. This nomination system was abolished in 1861 by the Parliament in England.

Select the Correct Option

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- The Charter Act of 1853 provided for an open competitive examination for the recruitment of civil servants and had deprived the Court of Directors of the power of appointments based on patronage.
- This was recommended by a committee headed by Lord Macaulay.
- After the Government of India Act of 1858, the higher civil service in India came to be known as the Indian Civil Services (ICS).
- This nomination system was abolished in 1861 by the Parliament in England via the India Civil Services Act 1861 and it was decided that the induction would be through competitive examinations of all British subjects, without distinction of race.

3. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- 1. The ICS was headed by the Secretary of State for India
- 2. With the passing of the Government of India Act 1909, the Imperial Services were split into two – All India Services and Central Services.

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation:

- The ICS was headed by the Secretary of State for India, a member of the British cabinet.
- With the passing of the Government of India Act 1909, the Imperial Services headed by the Secretary of State for India, were split into two – All India Services and Central Services.

4. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Islington Commission in 1912 recommended that 25 % of the higher posts be filled by Indians.
2. It also recommended that the recruitment to higher posts should be done partly in India and partly in England.

Select the Correct Option

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- In 1912 the Islington Commission suggested that 25 % of the higher posts be filled by Indians.
- It also recommended that the recruitment to higher posts should be done partly in India and partly in England.

5. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. The Federal Public Service Commission and Provincial Public Service Commission set up under the Government of India Act 1935 was recommended by Lee Commission (1924)
2. In 1922, Indian candidates were permitted to sit for the ICS examinations in Delhi

Select the Correct Option

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- In 1922, Indian candidates were permitted to sit the ICS examinations in Delhi
- In 1924, the Lee Commission was set up, chaired by Arthur Lee, which eventually led to the foundation of the Federal Public Service Commission and Provincial Public Service Commission under the Government of India Act 1935
- One of its important recommendations was that future batches of ICS officers should be composed of 40% Europeans and 40% Indians, with the remaining 20% of appointments to be filled by direct promotion of Indians from the Provincial Civil Services (PCS) and the examinations in Delhi and London were to produce an equal number of ICS probationers.

POLITY

<https://youtu.be/naR0FDrSrlQ>

1. Which of the following statement(s) are correct?

1. Freedom of trade and commerce within the country and between the states is taken from the Australian Constitution
2. The procedure for the amendment of Constitution is taken from the South African constitution

Select the C Correct Option

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Australia

- Concept of Concurrent list
- Article 108 i.e. Joint sitting of the two houses
- Freedom of trade and commerce

South Africa

- Election of members of the Rajya Sabha
- Amendment of the Constitution

2. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities?

1. The post of Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities was added to the Constitution via 27th Constitution Amendment Act
2. Art 350-B prescribes that he is to be appointed by the President of India.
3. He submits the annual reports or other reports to the President through the Union Minority Affairs Minister

Select the Correct Option

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Originally, the Constitution of India did not make any provision with respect to the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities
- Later, the **States Reorganisation Commission (1953-55)** made a recommendation in this regard. Accordingly, the **Seventh Constitutional Amendment Act of 1956** inserted a new **Article 350-B** in **Part XVII** of the Constitution.

This article contains the following provisions:

- There should be a Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities. He is to be **appointed by the President of India.**

- At the Central level, the **Commissioner falls under the Ministry of Minority Affairs.**
- Hence, he submits the annual **reports or other reports to the President through the Union Minority Affairs Minister**

3. Which of the following is/are correct?

1. Advocate General of the State is not a constitutional office.
2. The Constitution does not contain the procedure and grounds for his removal.
3. The remuneration of the advocate general is not fixed by the Constitution.

Select the Correct Option

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The Constitution (**Article 165**) has provided for the office of the advocate general for the states.
- He is the highest law officer in the state. Thus, he **corresponds to the Attorney General of India**
- The advocate general is **appointed by the governor.**
- He must be a person who is **qualified to be appointed a judge of a high court.**
- The term of office of the advocate general is not fixed by the Constitution. Further, the Constitution does not contain the procedure and grounds for his removal. He **holds office during the pleasure of the governor.**
- The remuneration of the advocate general is not fixed by the Constitution. He receives **such remuneration as the governor may determine.**

4. Which of the following statement(s) are true?

1. Various articles of Part-II (citizenship) came into force on 26 November 1949
2. No article of Part-III (Fundamental Rights) came into force on 26 November 1949.

Select the Correct Option

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- **Part II** of the Constitution of India (Articles 5-11) deals with the **Citizenship of India.**
- **Article 5** speaks about the citizenship of India at the **commencement of the Constitution (Nov 26, 1949).**
- Article 11 gave powers to the Parliament of India to regulate the right of citizenship by law. This provision resulted in the enactment of Citizenship Act 1955 by the Indian Parliament.

5. Which of the following statement(s) are true?

1. Effective majority is the total strength of the house minus the vacancies
2. It is required in the case of removal of Vice-President in Rajya Sabha

Select the Correct Option

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

Answer: C

Explanation: Effective Majority

- This refers to a majority of more than 50% of the effective strength of the House.
- For example, in the Lok Sabha, out of the total strength of 545, suppose 5 are vacant seats. This means, the effective strength of the House is $(545 - 5) = 540$. In this case, the effective majority is 270.
- In the Constitution, an effective majority is mentioned as “all the then members”.

Instances where an effective majority is needed:

- Removal of the Chairman (Vice President of India), Deputy Chairman in the Rajya Sabha (Article 67(b)).
- Removal of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the State Legislatures

ECONOMY

<https://youtu.be/ODhlzwbBQrk>

1. The construction of the Strategic Crude Oil Storage facilities is being managed by –

- A. Oil India Limited (OIL)
- B. Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL)
- C. Gail (India) Limited (GAIL)
- D. Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)

Answer: B

Explanation:

- To ensure energy security, the Government of India decided to set up 5 million metric tons (MMT) of strategic crude oil storages at three locations namely, Visakhapatnam, Mangalore and Padur (near Udupi).
- These strategic storages would be in addition to the existing storages of crude oil and petroleum products with the oil companies and would serve as a cushion during any supply disruptions.
- The construction of the Strategic Crude Oil Storage facilities is being managed by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited (ISPRL), a Special Purpose Vehicle, which is a wholly owned subsidiary of Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) under the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- The crude oil storages are constructed in underground rock caverns and are located on the East and West coast of India.
- Crude oil from these caverns can be supplied to the Indian Refineries either through pipelines or through a combination of pipelines and coastal movement.
- Underground rock caverns are considered as the safest means of storing hydrocarbons.

2. Which of the following is/are true in context of renewable energy capacity in India –

- 1. The cumulative grid-connected installed renewable power capacity in India has crossed 100 GW.
- 2. The total installed capacity of wind power sector is higher than Solar Sector.

Select the Correct Option

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

- According to the data provided by the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)
- As on March 31, 2020, cumulative grid-connected installed renewable power capacity in India stood at 87,027 MW.
- The solar segment had a cumulative installed capacity of 34,627 MW (includes 32,112 MW of ground-mounted and 2,515 MW of rooftop capacity).
- The total installed capacity of wind power sector stood at 37,694 MW as of March 2020.
- Small hydro, biomass (bagasse cogeneration), biomass (non-bagasse/captive power) and small hydro had cumulative capacities of 4,683 MW, 9,200 MW and 675 MW respectively.

3. Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) is prescribed under the:

- A. Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
- B. Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- C. Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007
- D. It is not mentioned in any act and is only a regulation

Answer: B

Explanation:

- The public deposits form part of a bank's net demand and time liabilities.
- The Statutory liquidity ratio requires a bank to keep a percentage of such liabilities in liquid form as prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- Statutory liquidity ratio is a minimum percentage prescribed by RBI from time to time.
- The RBI regulates the SLR in its policy meetings with a view to keep a check on inflation and credit growth.
- An increase in SLR will help in containing inflation, while a decrease in SLR will facilitate economic growth.
- SLR is prescribed under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- It helps in maintaining and keeping a check on the solvency of commercial banks.
- In a case of falling demand and slowing economic growth, SLR is cut to infuse more liquidity in the economy, facilitating loan growth and so on.
- A cut in SLR means banks have to keep less money in liquid form with RBI.

4. Which of the following is/are not a part of Monetary Policy?

- 1. Repo Rate
- 2. Reverse Repo Rate
- 3. Personal Income Tax Rate
- 4. Corporate Income Tax Rate

Select the Correct Option

- A. 1 & 2 only
- B. 1, 2 & 3 only
- C. 3 & 4 only
- D. All of the above are part of Monetary Policy

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Monetary policy is the macroeconomic policy laid down by the central bank.
- It involves management of money supply and interest rate and is the demand side economic policy used by the government of a country to achieve macroeconomic objectives like inflation, consumption, growth and liquidity.
- It includes Repo, Reverse Repo, SLR, CRR, Quantitative Easing, etc.
- Taxes are part of Fiscal Policy.

5. The Indian basket of Crude Oil comprises of:

- 1. Sour grade (Saudi & Dubai average)
- 2. Sweet grade (Brent Dated)
- 3. The Sweet grade comprises of 24.50 percent of the total

Select the Correct Option

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

Answer: C

Explanation: The Indian basket of Crude Oil represents a derived basket comprising of:

- Sour grade (Oman & Dubai average)
- Sweet grade (Brent Dated) of Crude oil processed in Indian refineries in the ratio of 75.50: 24.50 during 2018-19.

IR + (Apps Special)

<https://youtu.be/FA3xlilfAls>

1. Kisan-Rath app relates to

- A. Facilitate transport of food grains and perishables during lockdown
- B. Divert industry labour stranded during lockdown to farms
- C. On-field soil testing for better produce
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation: It is an app developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to facilitate farmers & traders in searching transport vehicles for Primary and Secondary transportation for movement of agriculture and horticulture produce

2. Which of the following are true in the context of Swayam Prabha

- 1. It is a group of 32 DTH channels devoted to telecasting of high-quality educational programmes on 24x7 basis
- 2. There will be new content for at least 4 hours which would be repeated 5 more times in a day

Select the Correct Option

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

- Swayam Prabha is a group of 32 DTH channels devoted to telecasting of high quality educational programmes on 24X7 basis using the GSAT-15 satellite
- Every day, there will be new content for at least (4) hours which would be repeated 5 more times in a day, allowing the students to choose the time of their convenience
- It will cover
 - Higher Education: Contents at post-graduate and under-graduate level covering diverse disciplines
 - School Education: 9-12 levels
 - Curriculum-based courses that can meet the needs of life-long learners of Indian citizens in India and abroad
 - Assist students (class 11th & 12th) prepare for competitive exams

3. Which of the following is/are true in the context of e-Raktkosh Portal?

- A. IT solution to standardize and streamline the standard operating procedures, guidelines and workflow of blood banks across nation
- B. Provide information on availability of nearest blood bank, status of blood group etc.
- C. It enforces Drug & Cosmetic Act, National Blood Policy Standards and Guidelines
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation:

- e-RaktKosh is a comprehensive IT solution attempting to address the problem of blood stock availability by providing means to collect, disseminate, standardize and streamline the standard operating procedures, guidelines and workflow of blood banks across the nation
- It enforces Drug & Cosmetic Act, National Blood Policy Standards and Guidelines, thus ensuring proper collection & donation, effective management and monitoring the quality and quantity of the donated blood
- Salient Features
 - Web based application on open source platform
 - Configurable to support varied size & flow of Blood Banks
 - Enforcing Mechanism - to ensure compliance with Standard protocols
 - Biometric Interfacing - to restrict professional donors
 - Adhere to Drug & Cosmetic act, NACO & NABH Guidelines
 - Provision of Multilingual Questionnaire & Consent Printing
 - Generation of alerts, MIS Reports, trends, forecasting etc.

4. COVID India Seva falls under the purview of

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- C. Prime Minister's Office
- D. Ministry of Science & Technology

Answer: B

Explanation:

- Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has launched COVID India Seva for establishing a direct channel of communication with millions of Indians during novel coronavirus pandemic
- The interactive platform is aimed at enabling transparent e-governance delivery in real-time and answering citizen queries without delay especially in crises like the ongoing COVID-10 pandemic

5. Sahyog App relates to which of the following?

- A. Geospatial application to support corona fighters
- B. Complaints and grievances in context of Income tax department
- C. Raising legal awareness
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation:

- Survey of India has developed a platform that will collect geo-tagged information on the nation's critical infrastructure in order to help the government and public health agencies take critical decisions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Survey of India has introduced the Sahyog app to complement Aarogya Setu