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1. Geography

Click [here](#) to watch the following questions on YouTube

1. Which of the following statements regarding (APEC) Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation are correct?

1. It is a regional Economic forum established in 1989 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific.

2. India is a founding member of APEC.

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- Recently Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum was held online.
- It is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific.
- Its aim is to create greater prosperity for the people of the region by promoting balanced, inclusive, sustainable, innovative and secure growth and by accelerating regional economic integration.
- APEC works to help all residents of the Asia-Pacific participate in the growing economy. APEC projects provide digital skills training for rural communities and help indigenous women export their products abroad.
- Recognizing the impacts of climate change, APEC members also implement initiatives to increase energy efficiency and promote sustainable management of forest and marine resources.
- The forum adapts to allow members to deal with important new challenges to the region's economic well-being. This includes ensuring disaster resilience, planning for pandemics, and addressing terrorism.
- APEC's 21 member economies are Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; The Philippines; The Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States of America; Viet Nam.
- India has requested membership in APEC, and received initial support from the United States, Japan, Australia and Papua New Guinea. Officials have decided not to allow India to join for various reasons, considering that India does not border the Pacific Ocean, which all current members do.



2. Consider the following statements with respect to The Bonn Challenge.

1. The Bonn Challenge is a global goal to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes into restoration by 2030 and 350 million hectares by 2050.
2. India has joined the voluntary Bonn Challenge and pledged to restore 13 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by the year 2020, and additional 8 million hectares by 2030.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land into restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030.
- India at the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) 2015 in Paris joined the voluntary Bonn Challenge pledge to bring into restoration 13 million hectares of degraded and deforested land by the year 2020, and additional 8 million hectares by 2030. India's pledge is one of the largest in Asia.
- The 2020 target was launched at a high level event in Bonn in 2011 organised by the Government of Germany and IUCN, and was later endorsed and extended to 2030 by the New York Declaration on Forests of the 2014 UN Climate Summit. To date, 74 governments, private associations and companies have pledged over 210 million hectares to the Challenge.

3. Which of the following statements regarding hurricanes are correct?

1. Tropical cyclones use warm, moist air as fuel whereas hurricanes are a result of cold currents.
2. Hurricanes that reach category three or higher are called 'major hurricanes' because of their potential to cause devastating damage to life and property.

- A. 1 only

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- Hurricane Iota has made landfall in Nicaragua in Central America and has developed into a category five storm.
- The Atlantic Hurricane season is from June to November and covers the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico, while the Eastern Pacific Hurricane season runs from May 15 to November 30.
- Hurricanes are categorised on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale
- It rates them on a scale of 1 to 5 based on wind speed.
- Hurricanes that reach category three or higher are called 'major hurricanes' because of their potential to cause devastating damage to life and property.
- Tropical cyclones or hurricanes use warm, moist air as fuel, and therefore form over warm ocean waters near the equator.
- There is no difference between a hurricane and a tropical storm
- Depending on where they occur, hurricanes may be called typhoons or cyclones.
- As per NASA, the scientific name for all these kinds of storms is tropical cyclones.

4. The Five Eyes is a/an

- A. UNCLOS classification
- B. Satellite mission by NASA
- C. Intelligence Alliance
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Five Eyes (FVEY) is an intelligence alliance comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- The origins of the Five Eyes alliance can be traced back to the Atlantic Charter, which was issued in August 1941 to lay out the Allied goals for the post-war world.
- These countries are parties to the multilateral UK-USA Agreement, a treaty for joint cooperation in signals intelligence.
- India is among seven countries to back a UK-led campaign against end-to-end encryption of messages by social media giants such as Facebook, which they say hinder law enforcement by blocking all access to them.

5. Which of the following statements about UN Peace Keeping missions are correct?

1. Every peacekeeping mission is authorized by the Security Council.
 2. Peacekeeping forces are contributed by member states on a mandatory basis.
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- With China significantly scaling up its troop contribution for United Nations Peace Keeping (UNPK) missions, India and the U.S. are looking to undertake training of military personnel for the missions from Southeast Asian countries on the lines of the ongoing initiative for African countries.
- Peacekeeping by the United Nations is a role held by the Department of Peace Operations as "a unique and dynamic instrument developed by the organization as a way to help countries torn by conflict to create the conditions for lasting peace"
- United Nations Peacekeeping is a joint effort between the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support.
- Every peacekeeping mission is authorized by the Security Council.
- The financial resources of UN Peacekeeping operations are the collective responsibility of UN Member States.
- According to the UN Charter, every Member State is legally obligated to pay their respective share for peacekeeping.
- UN peacekeepers (often referred to as Blue Berets or Blue Helmets because of their light blue berets or helmets) can include soldiers, police officers, and civilian personnel.
- Peacekeeping forces are contributed by member states on a voluntary basis.
- Civilian staffs of peace operations are international civil servants, recruited and deployed by the UN Secretariat.
- UN Peacekeeping is guided by three basic principles:
 - ✓ Consent of the parties.
 - ✓ Impartiality.
 - ✓ Non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate.

2. History

Click [here](#) to watch the following questions on YouTube

1. Who has won the Booker Prize for year 2020?

- A. Anna Burns
- B. George Saunders
- C. Paul Beatty
- D. Douglas Stuart

Answer: D

Explanation

- Douglas Stuart has won the Booker Prize for Shuggie Bain, his debut novel about a boy in 1980s Glasgow trying to support his mother as she struggles with addiction and poverty.
- The Booker Prize for Fiction, formerly known as the Booker–McConnell Prize (1969–2001) and the Man Booker Prize (2002–2019), is a literary prize awarded each year for the best original novel written in the English language and published in the United Kingdom.
- For a book, translated into English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland, the International Booker Prize is awarded.

2. Which of the following statements regarding Tungabhadra Pushkaralu are correct?

1. It is celebrated once every five years.
 2. It is celebrated in both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh
- A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- Tungabhadra Pushkaram is a festival of River Tungabhadra normally occurs once in 12 years.
- This Pushkaram is observed for a period of 12 days from the time of entry of Jupiter into Makara rasi (Capricorn).
- The places on the banks of the Tungabhadra River where pilgrims visit famous temples are in the Alampur, Jogulamba Gadwal district of Telangana and Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.
- The notable places are Hospet, Hampi, Kampli, Mantralayam, Kurnool, Alampur.
- Pilgrims take bath in Tungabhadra River.

3. Which of the following statements are correct regarding Statue of Peace?

- 1. It is located in Gujrat**
 - 2. It is a statue of a Jainacharya.**
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- On 16 November 2020, Prime Minister unveiled 'Statue of Peace' in Rajasthan's Pali.
- It was to mark the 151st Jayanti celebrations of Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj.
- Statue of Peace:
 - ✓ It is a 151-inch tall statue and is made up of 'ashtadhatu' (eight metals with copper being the major constituent).
 - ✓ It is installed at the Vijay Vallabh Sadhana Kendra, Jetpura, in Rajasthan's Pali.
- Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj:
 - ✓ Jainacharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj was born in 1870 and led an austere life, working selflessly and dedicatedly to spread the message of Lord Mahavira.
 - ✓ Jainacharya has established many institutes imbued with Indian values in Indian states like Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.
 - ✓ He also established many institutions for the girl child and worked for female education.
 - ✓ He worked relentlessly for the welfare of the people, the spread of education and eradication of social evils, wrote inspiring literature (poetry, essays, devotional hymns and stavans) and gave active support to the 'freedom movement' and the cause of the 'swadeshi'.
 - ✓ He died in the year 1954.

4. Justice Rajadhyaksha commission is related to

- A. Enquiry into Godhra carnage
B. Insurance Reforms
C. Press reforms
D. Companies and MRPT Act

Answer: C

Explanation

- Every year the National Press Day is celebrated on November 16.
- Press Council of India was established on November 16, 1966.
- The Press Council of India acts as a moral watchdog for media.
- Also, the Press Council of India makes sure that the freedom of press is not controlled by the threats or influence of other extraneous factors.
- The Article 19 of the Constitution of India provides the right to freedom of speech and expression. However, the freedom of press is not specifically included in the article.
- Press Commission under Justice Rajadhyaksha:
 - ✓ A Press Commission was set up under Justice Rajadhyaksha in 1954.
 - ✓ A major recommendation of the committee was the establishment of the All India Press Council.
 - ✓ It was formally established on 4 July 1966, as an autonomous, statutory, quasi-judicial body.

5. Based on the following statements identify the freedom fighter?

1. She played an important role in the Indian Rebellion of 1857, and the fight against doctrine of lapse.
2. The movement to establish Bundelkhand as a separate state has also used the legend to create the Bundeli identity.
3. The Archaeological Survey of India is setting up a museum at Panch Mahal, a five-story building located inside the Jhansi Fort in her remembrance.

- A. Rani Laxmi Bai
- B. Uda Devi
- C. Jhalkari Bai
- D. Umabai Kundapur

Answer: C

Explanation

- Jhalkaribai (22 November 1830 – 4 April 1858) was a woman soldier who played an important role in the Indian Rebellion of 1857.
- She served in the women's army of Rani Lakshmbai of Jhansi.
- She eventually rose to a position of a prominent advisor to the queen, Rani of Jhansi herself.
- At the height of the Siege of Jhansi, she disguised herself as the Queen and fought on her behalf, on the front, allowing the Queen to escape safely out of the fort.

First press commission :-

- First press commission was formed under the chairmanship of justice J.S Rajadhyaksha on **23 September 1952** by ministry of information & broadcasting to inquiry into the state of press in India.
- Press commission submitted its annual report in **1954**, made several important recommendations, which help in constituting the profession of journalism in systematic manner.

- Jhalakaribai was born to Sadova Singh and Jamunadevi on 22 November 1830 in Bhojla village near Jhansi.
- The Dalit castes of North India have used her legend to glorify their communities; for example, the Koris consider her a brave woman warrior born in their caste, and celebrate "Jhalkaribai Jayanti" to create a sense of pride among themselves.
- The death anniversary of Jhalkaribai is also celebrated as Shahid Diwas (Martyr Day) by various Koli organizations.
- The movement to establish Bundelkhand as a separate state has also used the legend of Jhalkaribai to create the Bundeli identity.
- The Government of India's Post and Telegraph department has issued a postal stamp depicting Jhalkaribai.
- The Archaeological Survey of India is setting up a museum at Panch Mahal, a five-story building located inside the Jhansi Fort in remembrance of Jhalkaribai.
- President Ramnath Kovind unveiled the statue of Jhalkari Bai at Guru Tegh Bahadur Complex in Bhopal on 10 November 2017.

3. Polity

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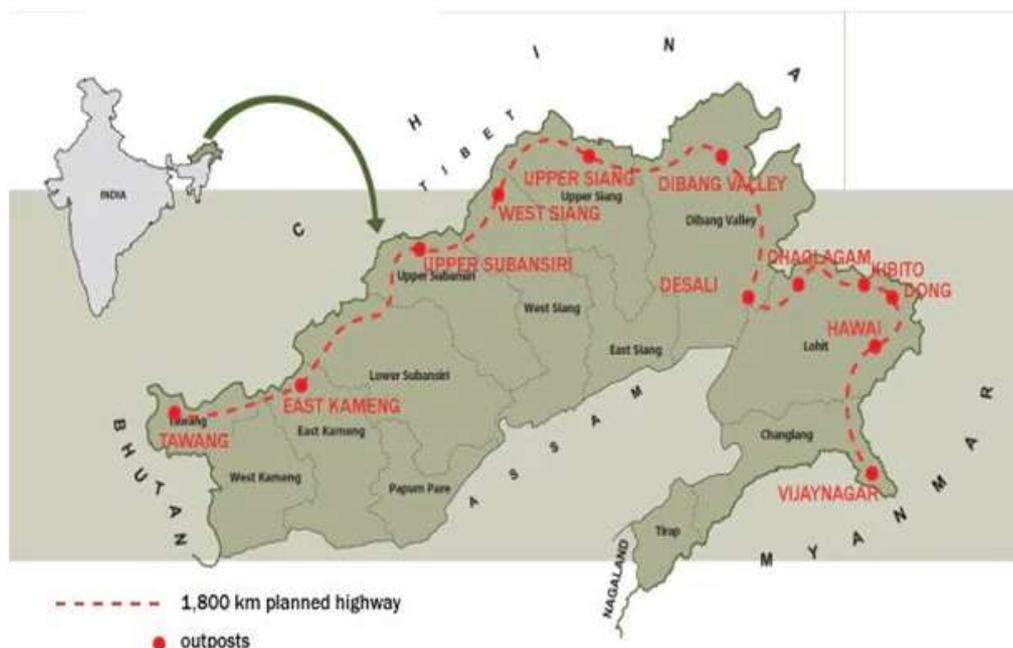
1. Which of the following statements are correct about Frontier Highway Projects?
 1. It connects Vijaynagar in Andhra Pradesh to Gulmarg in Jammu and Kashmir.
 2. The highway will intersect with the proposed East-West Industrial Corridor Highway in the foothills of Arunachal Pradesh.
 3. The project will be monitored by Home Ministry.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- Context: A U.S.-based advocacy group has expressed concern that projects in Arunachal Pradesh such as the proposed Frontier Highway along the India-Tibet border would disturb the resting places of 400 U.S. military aviators who lie unburied at World War II crash sites across the State.
- The U.S. Air Force flew support missions to China and South East Asia against the Japanese army over Arunachal Pradesh during the last phase of WWII (1943-45). Many of the ill-fated warplanes tried to fly across 'The Hump', a Bermuda Triangle-like stretch in the eastern end of the Himalayas.
- Teams from the U.S. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency have undertaken a few expeditions in the State to locate the remains of the U.S. servicemen. The last of these was in 2016.



- India, in a move which can be dubbed as an attempt to counter neighbour China, will take up an ambitious road project along the McMahon Line in Arunachal Pradesh.
 - The proposed Indo-China frontier highway, that will be monitored by the Union Home Ministry will run parallel along the China border and will be 1,800-km long.
 - The government is also planning an industrial corridor in Arunachal Pradesh.
 - The proposed highway, with an estimated cost of over Rs 40,000 crore, will pass through Tawang, East Kameng, Upper Subansiri, West Siang, Upper Siang, Dibang Valley, Desali, Chaglagam, Kibito, Dong, Hawai and Vijaynagar in bordering areas of Arunachal Pradesh.
 - The government has already relaxed environmental clearances for border area projects.
 - It is also called as the Arunachal Frontier Highway and Mago-Thingbu-Vijaynagar Border Highway.
 - It accompanies the Trans-Arunachal Highway (through the middle) and the Arunachal East-West Corridor (in the foothills along the Assam border) as major highways spanning Arunachal Pradesh, pursuing the Look East connectivity concept.
 - The highway will intersect with the proposed East-West Industrial Corridor Highway in the foothills of Arunachal Pradesh from Bhairabkunda, the tri-junction of Bhutan, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh to Ruksin in East Siang district.
 - The highway will cross the Dibang Wildlife Sanctuary, which may raise environmental issues.
- 2. Which of the following statements about National Digital Health Mission are correct?**
- 1. The scheme was rolled out through a pilot launch in the Union Territories of Chandigarh, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.**
 - 2. The National Medical Commission has been given the mandate to design, build, roll-out and implement the mission in the country.**
 - 3. Every Indian will get a Health ID card that will store all medical details of the person including prescriptions, treatment, diagnostic reports and discharge summaries.**
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation

- The scheme was rolled out through a pilot launch in the Union Territories of Chandigarh, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.
- It is a digital health ecosystem under which every Indian citizen will now have unique health IDs, digitised health records with identifiers for doctors and health facilities.

- The scheme will come under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
- It comprises six key building blocks – HealthID, DigiDoctor, Health Facility Registry, Personal Health Records, e-Pharmacy and Telemedicine.
- The National Health Authority has been given the mandate to design, build, roll-out and implement the mission in the country.
- The core building blocks of the mission is that the health ID, DigiDoctor and Health Facility Registry shall be owned, operated and maintained by the Government of India
- Private stakeholders will have an equal opportunity to integrate and create their own products for the market. The core activities and verifications, however, remain with the government.
- Under the Mission, every Indian will get a Health ID card that will store all medical details of the person including prescriptions, treatment, diagnostic reports and discharge summaries.
- The citizens will be able to give their doctors and health providers one-time access to this data during visits to the hospital for consultation



3. Which of the following statements are incorrect about National Population Register – NPR?

1. NPR is being prepared under provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.
 2. The NPR was first collected in 2010 and then updated in 2015.
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Explanation

- Context: The office of the Registrar-General of India (RGI) has clarified that the schedule, or the questionnaire, of the National Population Register (NPR) is “being finalised” and the information

about the expected date of the first phase of Census 2021 is “not available”

- NPR is a Register of usual residents of the country.
- It is being prepared at the local (Village/sub-Town), sub-District, District, State and National level under provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003
- It is mandatory for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR.
- Its Objective is to create a comprehensive identity database of every usual resident in the country.
- The NPR was first collected in 2010 and then updated in 2015.
- A usual resident is defined for the purposes of NPR as a person who has resided in a local area for the past 6 months or more or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next 6 months or more.

NO SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS NEEDED	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ NPR, a pan-India exercise excluding Assam, will seek info regarding date & place of birth of a usual resident's mother and father as well as his/her identity details like Aadhaar, passport, driving licence & voter ID ➤ A 'usual resident' is defined as a person who has resided in an area for the past 6 months or more or who intends to reside in that area for next 6 months ➤ Data will be recorded as 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> declared by respondent & no proof or supporting documents will be sought ➤ Sharing Aadhaar, passport, driving licence & voter ID details will be voluntary. PAN details won't be sought ➤ No biometrics will be collected during NPR, though the same can be sourced from UIDAI if needed on the basis of Aadhaar ➤ NPR was last prepared in 2010 along with Census 2011, followed by updation in 2015

4. Lilavati Award recently heard in news is related to which of the following?

- A. Women Empowerment
- B. SafaiMitra Suraksha Challenge
- C. Water conservation
- D. Recognition by ISRO

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Union Minister of Education virtually launched the Lilavati Award-2020.
- The award has been named after the 12th century book called “Lilavati”.
- The book was written by the mathematician Bhaskara II.
- Lilavati was the daughter of Indian Mathematician Bhaskara II.
- It is AICTE's (All India Council for Technical Education) Innovative education program to empower women.
- All the stakeholders (especially the girl students) in AICTE approved institutions would get an opportunity to present a solution to the prevalent issues of gender discrimination, such as illiteracy, unemployment, economic and nutritional disparities, maternal mortality, human rights, etc.

AICTE Ulavati award intends to recognize efforts being made by AICTE approved institutions to treat women with 'equality and fairness' in all spheres of their lives.

Objectives of the Theme

- To create awareness about issues like sanitation, hygiene, health, nutrition using traditional Indian values.
- To create awareness about issues like literacy, employment, technology, credit, marketing, innovation, skill development, natural resources and rights among women.
- For promoting and practicing ideas of gender equity.
- To work towards the well-being of the girl child, adolescents, and women and focus on their development by creating awareness on gender equality.
- To bring about empowerment of communities, hence the footprint of such activities may also encompass neighboring/ surrounding villages/areas.
- To pave way for women of the country to come forward.

Targeted Sub-Themes

AICTE Ulavati Award - 2020 intends to seek applications from the eligible teams, who have undertaken remarkable intervention for the cause and made an impact, in the form of a short video clip (not more than 4-5 minutes' duration) that showcases their work under the following sub-themes:-

- Women Health** (Issues related to nutrition, maternal mortality, breast / ovarian & cervical cancer, pregnancy issues, depression and anxiety, child care, etc.)
- Self Defence** (Training/ awareness programs for safety measures, Girl child safety, domestic violence, work place harassment, confidence building programs, etc.)
- Sanitation & Hygiene** (Menstrual hygiene, home & environment hygiene, etc.)
- Literacy** (Basic education, digital literacy, awareness against taboos, etc.)
- Women Entrepreneurship** (Financial safety, business opportunities, govt. schemes, credit, etc.)
- Legal Awareness** (Women rights & duties, gender equality in society & workplace)

5. Shreya Singhal vs Union of India case is related to

- A. Cases of sexual harassment.
- B. Online speech and intermediary liability.
- C. Maintenance lawsuit.
- D. Basic Structure Doctrine.

Answer: B

Explanation

- Section 66A dealt with information related crimes in which sending information, by means of a computer resource or a communication device, which is inter alia offensive, derogatory and menacing is made a punishable offence.
- In Shreya Singhal v. Union of India judgement, SC had observed that the weakness of Section 66A lay in the fact that it had created an offence on the basis of undefined actions: such as causing "inconvenience, danger, obstruction and insult", which do not fall among the exceptions granted under Article 19 of the Constitution, which guarantees the freedom of speech.
- The court also observed that the challenge was to identify where to draw the line. Traditionally, it has been drawn at incitement while terms like obstruction and insult remain subjective.
- In addition, the court had noted that Section 66A did not have procedural safeguards like other sections of the law with similar aims, such as :
 - ✓ The need to obtain the concurrence of the Centre before action can be taken.
 - ✓ Local authorities could proceed autonomously, literally on the whim of their political masters.
- The judgment had found that Section 66A was contrary to both Articles 19 (free speech) and 21 (right to life) of the Constitution.
- The entire provision was struck down by the court.

- After that government had appointed an expert committee (T.K. Viswanathan committee) which proposed a legislation to meet the challenge of hate speech online.

SUPREME QUOTES

WHY COURT KILLED SECTION 66A, WHAT IT SAID

<p>“ Discussion or advocacy of particular cause howsoever unpopular at heart of right to freedom of speech and expression</p>	<p>Sec 66A has no proximate relationship to public order</p>	<p>Sec 66A cast so widely that virtually any opinion on any subject would be covered by it</p>
<p>It is clear that expressions in 66A are open-ended and undefined</p>	<p>Govts may come and govts may go but Sec 66A goes on forever. An assurance from the present govt even if carried out faithfully would not bind any successor govt</p>	
<p>It creates an offence which is vague and overbroad, and, therefore, unconstitutional</p>	<p>Complete violence to language of Sec 66A to read into it something never intended to be read into it</p>	
<p>Law may be made curtailing speech or expression that leads to/ tends to cause public disorder... affects sovereignty & integrity, security of India</p>		

4. Economy

Click [here](#) to watch the following questions on YouTube

1. Which of the following are correct about Transferable Development Rights- TDR?

1. TDR was introduced in India with the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance Bill 2020.
 2. TDR certificates can be traded in the market for cash.
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- Transferable Development Rights or TDR can be considered as an important raw material in the real estate industry.
- It allows the developer to build over and above the permissible Floor Space Index (FSI) under the prevalent rules of the respective locations.
- On the back of growing urbanization and lack of availability of space, TDR assumes a greater importance especially in the suburban areas of the cities.
- When the Government undertakes compulsory acquisition of individual land parcels for creating infrastructural projects, it is required to compensate the land owners.
- The compensation provided by the Government is usually lower than the market rate, and hence they introduced the concept of Transferable Development Rights.
- Under the TDR route, the government acquires land from the landowner in exchange for development rights that are transferred to the landowner.
- Such 'development rights,' issued as Development Rights Certificate (DRC), empowers the owner to go for extra floor area ratio (FAR), which shall be fixed by the government.
- FAR is the ratio of the total floor area of a building in a certain location, to the size of the land it occupies and the permissible floor area which can be built is restricted at this prescribed ratio.
- TDR allows the developers to exceed the mandatory FAR and allow them to build additional floors in a building.
- The greatest advantage of TDR is its flexibility in use – it can either be used by the landowner on the remaining portion of the land after the acquisition or be utilised on any other property of personal choice.
- It can also be traded to other parties for an agreed sum of money.

- The TDR scheme is found to have effectively addressed the long, complicated, and costly process of land acquisition in urban areas for public purpose.
- Mumbai was the first city in India to introduce TDR in 1991, finding its success in the city of New York.
- Various types of TDRs can be designed such as slum TDR; amenities TDR, low-cost housing TDR, and heritage TDR, to list a few.
- The government need not spend anything for any of these development activities but has to issue DRCs to builders and developers, who could be engaged in the development of roads, slums, and social amenities.
- Based on the stage of development, a city is classified into various zones like fully developed, moderately developed and sparsely developed.
- The Transferable Development Rights are usually transferred from the fully developed zones to other zones and not vice-versa.
- The underlying principle of such utilization is also to facilitate development of the underdeveloped areas.
- Just as the stock market, cities like Mumbai do have a huge TDR market in place.
- As these TDR certificates can be traded in the market for cash, most of the developers purchase the same and utilize them for increasing their permissible development rights.
- TDR trading follows the open market principle wherein the pricing is entirely driven by demand, supply and availability and there is no Government control over the same.
- In most of the cases, an average person does not get to know about the way TDR is bought, sold or transacted.

Purpose and Types of Transferable Development Rights..

Purposes:

- Landmark preservation
- Preservation of fragile lands
- As a method of encouraging the construction of moderate and low income Housing.
- As a method of regulating the location and limiting of the community growth.
- To provide for acquisition of land under reservation for urban services.
- Open space preservation
- As a tool for land use regulation

Following types are accountable as TDR:

- Heritage
- Reservation
- Slum
- Road
- Amenity
- Agriculture



2. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a specialized agency of

- A. United Nations
- B. World Rural Forum Association
- C. Bioversity International
- D. International Co-operative Alliance

Answer: A

Explanation

What is climate finance?

- According to UNFCCC Climate finance refers to local, national or transnational financing—drawn from public, private and alternative sources of financing—that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions that will address climate change.
- Only 1.7 per cent of climate finance – a fraction of what is needed – goes to small-scale farmers in developing countries despite their disproportionate vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, according to a recent report released by the UN’s International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Climate Policy Initiative (CPI).
- The report adds that small-scale agriculturists encounter a number of challenges in accessing the funds they need.
- India’s governmental support for agriculture was estimated in the early 2010s at \$85 billion per year.
- There are around 21.6 crore small and marginal farmers (or 4.3 crore families) who actually are reeling under distress due to cycles of unseasonal rains and droughts.
- “Assessment of Climate Change over Indian Region” report published by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) mentions that since the middle of the twentieth century, India has witnessed a rise in average temperature; a decrease in monsoon precipitation; a rise in extreme temperature and rainfall events, droughts, and sea levels; and an increase in the intensity of severe cyclones, alongside other changes in the monsoon system.
- According to the Ministry of Environment, “India’s action on climate change is guided by the National Action Plan on Climate Change, which is operationalised through eight missions each having its own budget and action plan. Hence, a separate fund for climate action has not been found to be necessary”.

What is Climate Finance?

- ❑ No internationally agreed definition
- ❑ Often understood as “new and additional” public financial assistance for developing countries
- ❑ Other financing sources, such as foreign direct investments and regular budgetary expenditures, are also included.



Source: CDKN. Further info: WEB website

Who we are

IFAD is a specialized United Nations agency and an International Financial Institution, established in 1977

Together with FAO and WFP, IFAD based its headquarters in Rome as a UN agency committed to ensure rural poverty reduction and **food security**

IFAD was created to form global alliances across geographic and ideological boundaries that bring people together for the shared goal of eradicating poverty and hunger

The Fund is a unique partnership of members of OPEC, other developing countries and members of the OECD



3. Global Bribery Risk Matrix is released by

- A. IMF
- B. LANCET
- C. TRACE
- D. OXFAM

Answer: C

Explanation

- India is at 77th position with a score of 45 in a global list that measures business bribery risks of 2020.
- The list by TRACE, an anti-bribery standard setting organisation, measures business bribery risk in 194 countries, territories, and autonomous and semi-autonomous regions.
- According to this year's data, North Korea, Turkmenistan, South Sudan, Venezuela and Eritrea present the highest commercial bribery risk, while Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand present the lowest.
- In 2019, India's rank stood 78 position with a score of 48 while in 2020 the country was ranked 77 with a score of 45, the data showed.
- The score is based on four factors: business interactions with government, anti-bribery deterrence and enforcement, government and civil service transparency, and capacity for civil society oversight, including the role of the media.
- India fared better than its neighbours – Pakistan, China, Nepal and Bangladesh. Bhutan, meanwhile, secured 48th rank with a score of 37.
- Apart from India, Peru, Jordan, North Macedonia, Colombia and Montenegro also have a score of 45 in the matrix.
- Somalia moved out of the bottom ranking, which it held from 2017 to 2019, and is now ranked 187th out of 194.
- The TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix measures the likelihood of bribe demands in 194 jurisdictions.
- It was originally published in 2014 to meet a need in the business community for more reliable, nuanced information about the risks of commercial bribery worldwide
- The matrix aggregates relevant data obtained from leading public interest and international organisations, including the United Nations, World Bank, V-Dem Institute at the University of Gothenburg and World Economic Forum.
- This data helps companies to assess the likely risk of bribe demands in each country and to design compliance and due diligence programs tailored to that risk, it said.

4. Mission Purvodaya is launched by

- A. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs
- C. Ministry of Steel
- D. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

Answer: C

Explanation

- Mission Purvodaya will drive eastern India towards self-reliance and contribute to making of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

- Purvodaya-Accelerated Development of Eastern Region through an Integrated Steel hub, in line with Prime Minister's Vision for focused development of the Eastern States
- The proposed Integrated Steel Hub, encompassing Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Northern Andhra Pradesh, would lead to comprehensive socio-economic growth of Eastern India.
- The objective of this hub would be to enable swift capacity addition and improve overall competitiveness of steel producers both in terms of cost and quality.
- In addition to increased steel capacity, this hub would also help enhance best-in-class value addition capabilities.
- The Integrated Steel Hub would focus on 3 key elements:
 - ✓ Capacity addition through easing the setup of greenfield steel plants
 - ✓ Development of steel clusters near integrated steel plants as well as demand centres
 - ✓ Transformation of logistics and utilities infrastructure which would change the socio-economic landscape in the East
- These elements would be supported through additional enablers such as ensured availability of raw materials, presence of supporting industries such as capital goods and well-established avenues for skill development.



5. Which of the following statements are incorrect about Negative Yield Bond?

1. A negative bond yield is when an investor receives less money at the bond's maturity than the original purchase price for the bond.
2. Even when factoring in the coupon rate or interest rate paid by the bond, a negative-yielding bond means the investor lost money at maturity.
3. Negative-yielding debt issued by governments usually has no effect on other fixed-income securities.

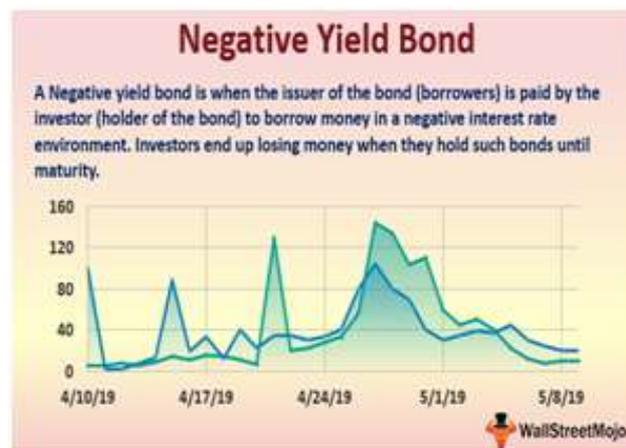
- A. 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- Negative-yielding bonds are financial instruments that cause purchasers to lose money.
- They are usually issued by governments in countries with low or negative interest rates and bought by investors who want to keep money safe or avoid worse yields.
- Sub-zero debt is growing and corporate issuers are starting to issue bonds with negative yields as well.
- With negative-yielding bonds, investors won't receive enough in coupons or par value payments to make up for the cost of the bond.
- Negative-yielding debt is not new in Europe and Japan where these bonds are issued by European and Japanese governments.
- In Japan, the interest rate set by the government is below 0%.
- With a negative interest rate, the central bank charges banks for keeping deposits. This is a monetary policy that tries to encourage banks to lend out money and stimulate the economy. The same strategy has been used by the European Central Bank.
- Negative-yielding debt issued by governments also has a spillover effect on other fixed-income securities.



5. Environment

Click [here](#) to watch the following questions on YouTube

1. Which of the following statements regarding NGT are correct?

1. M.C. Mehta & Anr. Etc vs Union of India & Ors. Etc (1986) case suggested setting up Environmental Courts for the first time in India.
 2. The Tribunal is not bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.
 3. NGT is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 weeks of filing of the same
- A. 1 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 2 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation

- Context: The Supreme Court directed the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC) to hasten the process of pending appointments to vacancies in the National Green Tribunal (NGT).
- M.C. Mehta & Anr. Etc vs Union of India & Ors. Etc (1986) case: The then Chief Justice of India, Justice P.N. Bhagwati had suggested setting up Environmental Courts
- The NGT has been established in 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010.
- It draws inspiration from India's constitutional provision of Article 21, which assures the citizens of India the right to a healthy environment.
- It aims for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to the environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- It has Original Jurisdiction on matters of "substantial question relating to environment" and "damage to the environment due to specific activity" (such as pollution).
- It follows principles of Natural Justice.

2. Based on the following statements identify the river?

1. In Ramayana, it was also known by the name of Pampa.
2. Recently a festival of this river was celebrated which normally occurs once in 12 years.
3. It is a Major tributary of Krishna River.

4. It originates from Koodli in Karnataka.

5. The wedge of land that lies between this river and Krishna River is known as the Raichur Doab.

- A. Ghat Prabha
- B. TungaBhadra
- C. Paleru
- D. Bhima

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Tungabhadra River starts and flows through the state of Karnataka during most of its course, before flowing along the border between Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and ultimately joining the Krishna River near Sangameswaram village in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh.
- In the epic Ramayana, the Tungabhadra River was known by the name of Pampa.
- The Tungabhadra River is formed by the confluence of the Tunga River and the Bhadra River at Koodli which flow down the eastern slope of the Western Ghats in the state of Karnataka.
- The wedge of land that lies north of the Tungabhadra River, between the Tungabhadra and the Krishna, is known as the Raichur Doab.



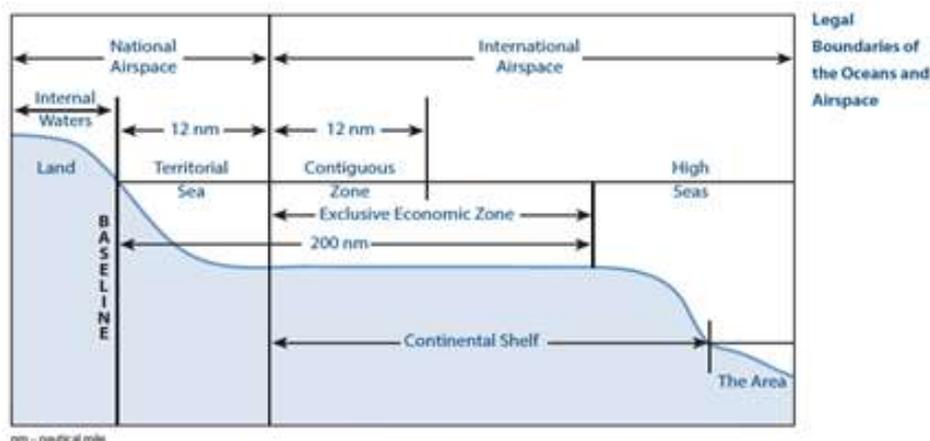
3. The term Exclusive Economic Zone recently heard in news is related to which of the following?

- A. Deemed Forests
- B. Sacred Groves
- C. Marine Areas
- D. Coal Fields

Answer: C

Explanation

- EEZ is a zone in the sea prescribed by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) over which a country has certain rights.
- The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) defined the EEZ as a zone in the sea over which a sovereign nation has certain special rights with respect to the exploration and usage of marine resources, which includes the generation of energy from wind and water, and also oil and natural gas extraction.
- The EEZ is an area that is adjacent to and beyond the territorial sea.
- It can extend to a maximum of 200 nautical miles from the baseline. The baseline is normally measured is the low-water line along the coast as indicated on large-scale charts officially approved by the coastal state.
- The EEZ does not include the territorial sea and also does not include the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles.
- The EEZ includes the contiguous zone.
- Within the EEZ, the country has rights over natural resources.
- The country has jurisdiction over some activities for the reasons of environmental protection, among others.
- It also has to respect the rights of other countries in the EEZ such as the freedom of navigation.
- The difference between territorial sea and the EEZ is that the former confers full sovereignty over the waters, whereas the latter is merely a “sovereign right” which refers to the coastal nation’s rights below the surface of the sea.
- The surface waters are international waters.



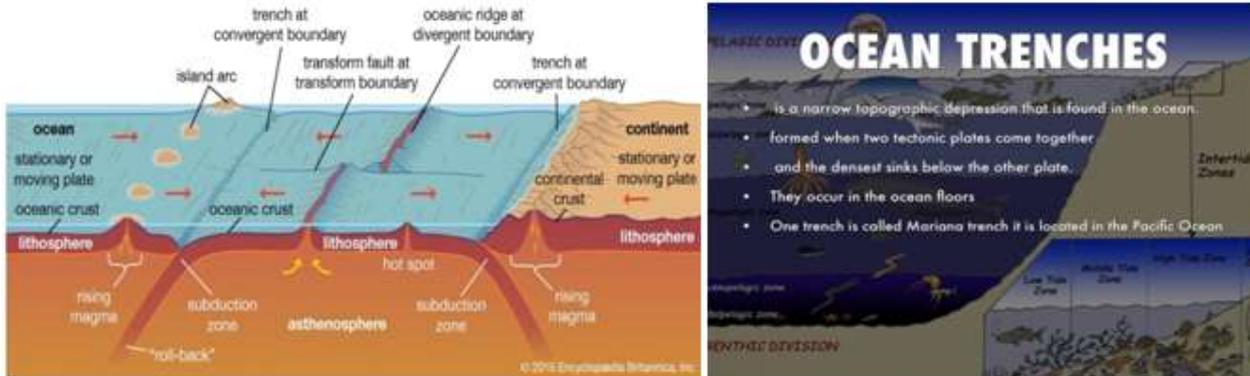
4. A long, narrow, deep depression in the ocean bed, typically one running parallel to a plate boundary and marking a subduction zone is called a

- Trench
- Strait
- Gulf
- Isthmus

Answer: A

Explanation

- Context: China live streamed footage of its new manned submersible parked at the bottom of the Mariana Trench, part of a historic mission into the deepest underwater valley on the planet.



5. Which of the following statements regarding Forest rights act (FRA) – 2006 are correct?

1. It primarily applies to people residing in forests or forest land dependent on forests and forest land for a livelihood.
2. The land cannot be sold or transferred to anyone except by inheritance.
3. The law also gives the community the right to protect and manage the forest.

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- Context: The Jammu and Kashmir administration is in the process of implementing the Forest Rights Act of 2006 “to grant the rights to forest dwellers”
- The Forest Rights Act of 2006 provides for granting of rights to forest dwellers across the country.
- It was not applicable or implemented in J&K till 31st October, 2019.
- It has been decided that the survey of claimants by the forest rights committees for assessing the nature and extent of rights being claimed at village- level be completed by January 15, 2021

FRA

- The Act passed in 2006 grants legal recognition to the rights of traditional forest dwelling communities.
- everyone has to satisfy two conditions:
 - ✓ primarily residing in forests or forest lands;
 - ✓ depends on forests and forest land for a livelihood;

- one has to prove that:
 - ✓ the above conditions have been true for 75 years, in which case one is an Other Traditional Forest Dweller OR
 - ✓ One is a member of a Scheduled Tribe and that he/she is residing in the area where they are scheduled.
 - ✓ In the latter case he/she is a Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribe.

The law recognizes three types of rights:

- Land Rights:
 - ✓ No one gets rights to any land that they have not been cultivating prior to December 13, 2005.
 - ✓ Ownership to land that is being framed by tribal or forest dwellers are subject to a maximum of 4 hectares.
 - ✓ Ownership is only for land that is actually being cultivated by the concerned family, meaning that no new lands are granted.
 - ✓ Those who have a patta or a government lease, but whose land has been illegally taken by the Forest Department or whose land is the subject of a dispute between Forest and Revenue Departments, can claim those lands.
 - ✓ The land cannot be sold or transferred to anyone except by inheritance.
- Use Rights:
 - ✓ Minor forests produce things like tendupatta, herbs, medicinal plants etc. “that has been traditionally collected (this does not include timber).
 - ✓ Grazing grounds and water bodies
 - ✓ Traditional areas of use by nomadic or pastoralist communities
- Three-step procedure for deciding on who gets rights:
 - ✓ First, the gram sabha (full village assembly, not the gram panchayat) makes a recommendation.
 - ✓ The gram sabha’s recommendation goes through two stages of screening committees at the taluka and district levels.
 - ✓ The district-level committee makes the final decision.
- The law also gives the community the right to protect and manage the forest.

6. Science & Technology

Click [here](#) to watch the following questions on YouTube

1. Which of the following statements regarding Chang'e-5 Mission are correct?

1. It was recently launched by Japan.
2. It will attempt to collect 2 kg of samples in a previously unvisited area in a massive lava plain known as Oceanus Procellarum, or "Ocean of Storms"

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Chang'e-5 probe, named after the mythical Chinese moon goddess, aims to shovel up lunar rocks and soil to help scientists learn about the moon's origins, formation and volcanic activity on its surface.
- The goal of the mission is to land in the Mons Rumker region of the moon, where it will operate for one lunar day, which is two weeks long.
- It will collect 2 kg of surface material from a previously unexplored area known as Oceanus Procellarum – or "Ocean of Storms" – which consist of vast lava plain.
- The original mission, planned for 2017, was delayed due to an engine failure in China's Long March 5 launch rocket.
- If successful, China will be only the third country to have retrieved samples from the moon, following the U.S. and the Soviet Union in the 1960s and 1970s.



CHINA'S CHANG'E-5 PROBE EXPLAINED

China launched its Chang'e-5 lunar probe Tuesday. The first lunar surface - return mission in more than four decades is hoped to bring back samples of rock from a previously unexplored part of the Moon. China started its space programme in the 1950s and launched its first satellite in 1970.

WHAT IS CHANG'E-5 MISSION?
Named after the Chinese Moon goddess, the Chinese National Space Administration's (CNSA) lunar sample return mission launched from the Wenchang Space Launch Center on Hainan Island.

WHAT DOES THE MISSION COMPRISE OF?
A lunar orbiter, a lander and an ascent probe will lift samples on board and return them back to Earth. Chang'e-5 also has a robotic arm, a coring drill, a sample chamber and is equipped with a camera, penetrating radar and spectrometer.

WHY ARE LUNAR SAMPLES IMPORTANT?
They can help unravel some important questions in lunar science and astronomy, including about the Moon's age, its formation and geological features, as well as its similarities and differences with Earth.

WHAT IS ITS GOAL?
To land in the Mons Rumker region, from which it will operate for one lunar day - equal to two earth weeks - and return a 2kg sample of rock.

WHEN WILL CHANG'E-5 RETURN TO EARTH?
Around December 18.

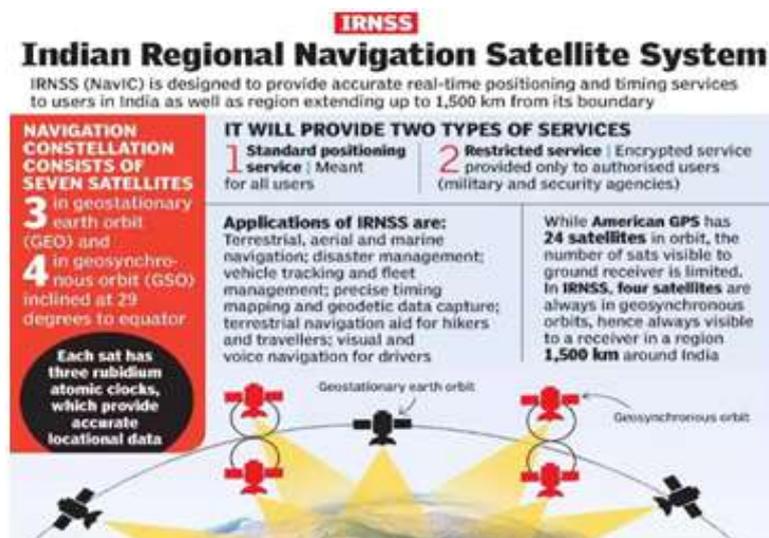
WHEN WAS THE FIRST LUNAR SAMPLE COLLECTED?
During the Apollo 11 mission in 1969.

2. Which of the following statements about Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) are correct?
1. It has been accepted as a component of the World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS) for operation in the Indian Ocean region.
 2. It was developed by DRDO.
 3. NavIC has 8 satellites and their range is within India and its adjoining regions extending up to 1,500 km from the country's border.
- A. 3 only
B. 1 and 2 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation

- Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) has been accepted as a component of the World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS) for operation in the Indian Ocean region by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).
- The move will enable merchant vessels to use IRNSS for obtaining position information similar to Global Positioning System (GPS) and Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS) to assist in the navigation of ships in ocean waters up to 1500 km from Indian boundary.
- The Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of International Maritime Organisation (IMO) during its recent meeting held from November 4-11 has approved the recognition of the IRNSS as a component of the World-Wide Radio Navigation System.
- This is a significant achievement of Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) towards 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.



3. SIMBEX-20 is a maritime exercise between

1. India
2. Singapore
3. Thailand

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- The 27th edition of India – Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20 has been organised from 23 to 25 November 2020 in the Andaman Sea.
- Indian Navy (IN) is the host for the 2020 edition of SIMBEX.
- The SIMBEX series of exercises are being held between the Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), annually since 1994.
- The exercise aims at enhancing mutual inter-operability and imbibing best practices from each other.
- From the Indian side, destroyer Rana with integral Chetak helicopter and indigenously built corvettes Kamorta and Karmuk, IN submarine Sindhuraj and P8I maritime reconnaissance aircraft participated in the exercise.
- RSN was represented by the 'Formidable' Class frigates 'Intrepid' and 'Steadfast' with integral S70B helicopter and 'Endurance' Class Landing Ship Tank 'Endeavour' in the exercise.

4. Gale crater, recently heard in news, is located on

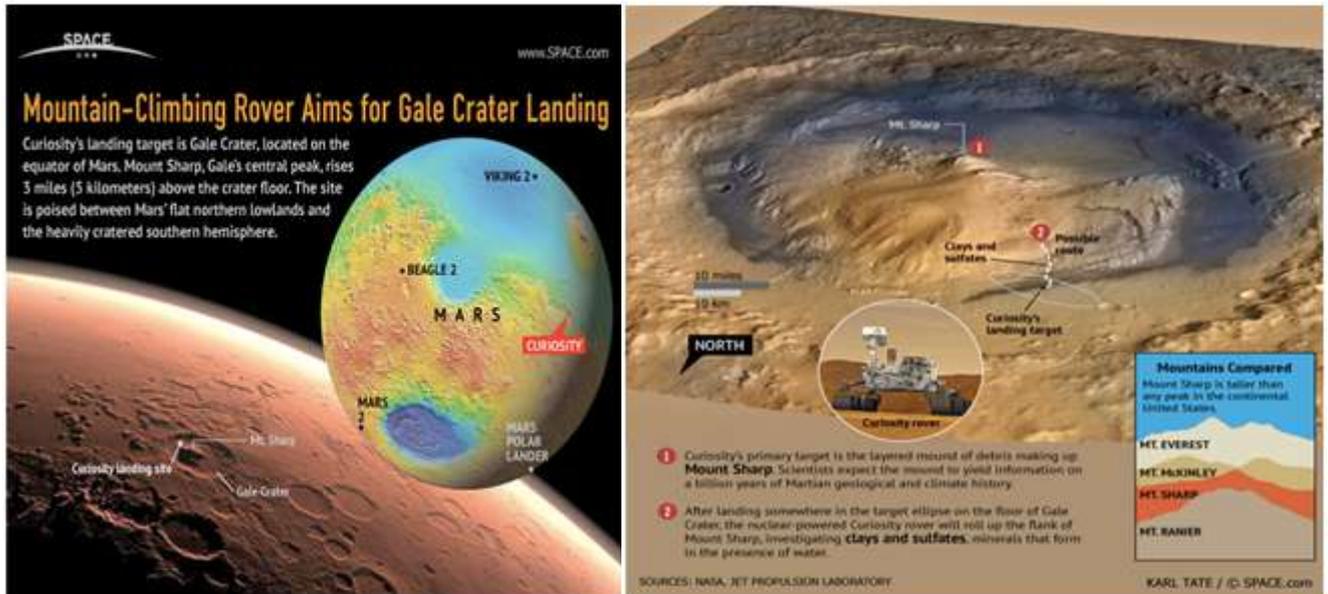
- A. Moon
- B. Venus
- C. Jupiter
- D. Mars

Answer: D

Explanation

- NASA's Curiosity rover has been exploring Gale Crater on Mars since 2012.
- In that time, it's confirmed that a lake – or series of lakes, and flowing streams – existed there a few billion years ago.
- It's more evidence that Mars was once a wetter and much more habitable environment than it is today.

- On November 18, 2020, scientists announced a new study based on an analysis of Curiosity's data that has yielded another glimpse into Gale Crater's past: mega floods.
- They are giant floods, likely caused by a meteorite impact that washed through the crater with incredible power, leaving behind ripples that can still be seen today.
- These scientists said that the heat from a meteorite impact likely created the mega floods by melting ice on the Martian surface.
- The finding is a bit of a surprise, since the telltale geologic structures were first seen by Curiosity, and had not previously been identified from orbit.



5. The production and emission of light by a living organism is called

- Emission Spectrum
- Bioluminescence
- Effervescence
- Braking Radiation

Answer: B

Explanation

- Bioluminescence is an amazing natural phenomenon in which an organism produces and emits light due to a chemical reaction where the chemical energy is converted into light energy
- The sparkle of fireflies on a summer night is produced as a result of a chemical reaction in their glowing abdomens.
- Bioluminescence occurs due to a chemo luminescence reaction, where the enzyme luciferase catalyses the pigment luciferin.
- Energy is utilized in most of the reactions
- The reaction takes place inside or outside the cell.
- Many organisms produce luciferase which helps them to accelerate the rate of reaction.

- Some organisms bind oxygen with luciferin in a photoprotein.
- It lights up the moment some ion is present.
- The tide that produces a fluorescent blue hue—bioluminescence—made an appearance on Juhu beach in Mumbai and Devgad beach in Sindhudurg along Maharashtra's coastline.
- Bioluminescence has been an annual occurrence along the west coast since 2016 during the months of November and December.
- Similar to the blue tide, there exists another such phenomenon called red tide or harmful algal blooms that emits red light.
- It is rare occurrence caused when colonies of algae—simple plants that live in the sea and freshwater—grow out of control while producing toxic or harmful effects on people, fish, shellfish, marine mammals, and birds.