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1. Geography

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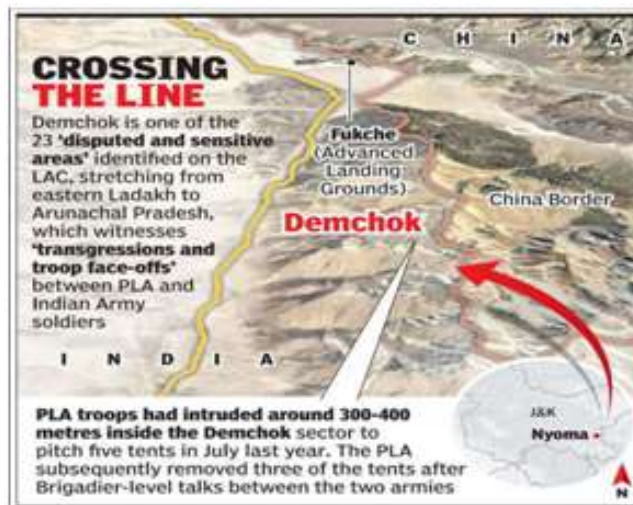
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1. Where does the Demchok sector lie?

- A. Sikkim
- B. Jammu and Kashmir
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Himachal Pradesh

Answer: B

Explanation



2. Which of the following statements are correct about Pangong Lake?

1. It is a long narrow, littoral lake situated at a height of more than 14,000 ft in the Ladakh Himalayas.
2. It has saline water.
3. An Inner Line Permit is required to visit the lake as it lies on the Sino-Indian Line of Actual Control.
4. It is controlled by both India and China.

Select the correct code

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- Pangong Tso is a long narrow, deep, landlocked lake situated at a height of more than 14,000 ft in the Ladakh Himalayas.
- During winter the lake freezes completely, despite being saline water.
- It is not a part of the Indus river basin area.
- One-third of the water body, its 45 km stretch is in Indian control while the rest of the 90 km is under Chinese control.
- In the 1990s, when the Indian side laid claims over the area, the Chinese army built a metal-top road contending that it was part of the Aksai Chin.
- The brackish water lake freezes over in winter and becomes ideal for ice skating and polo.
- An Inner Line Permit is required to visit the lake as it lies on the Sino-Indian Line of Actual Control.

3. Pelagornithids recently heard in news are

- A. An extinct species of smallest ever dinosaur.
- B. A new process of coal gasification.
- C. Fossil of a giant bird.
- D. Species of blue caterpillar found in Western Ghats.

Answer: C

Explanation

- Scientists have identified the fossil of a giant bird that lived about 50 million years ago, with wingspans of up to 21 feet that would dwarf today's largest bird, the wandering albatross.
- The fossils recovered from Antarctica in the 1980s represent the oldest giant members of an extinct group of birds that patrolled the southern oceans.
- By comparison, today's largest bird, the wandering albatross has a wingspan of 11 and-a-half-feet.
- Called Pelagornithids, the birds filled a niche much like that of today's albatrosses and travelled widely over Earth's oceans for at least 60 million years.

4. Which of the following statements in regard to Feni Bridge are correct?

- 1. Feni River originates in the South Assam district.
- 2. Feni Bridge is also known as Maitree Setu in Chattogram.

3. It is being built by BRO.
4. It was first taken up between India and Pakistan in 1958.

Select the correct code

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- The Feni River forms part of the India-Bangladesh border.
 - It originates in the South Tripura district.
 - The river passes through Sabroom town on the Indian side, and meets the Bay of Bengal after it flows into Bangladesh.
 - According to the Indian government, there has been no water-sharing agreement between the countries on the Feni previously.
 - The dispute over the sharing of the river water has been long-standing.
 - It was taken up between India and Pakistan (before the independence of Bangladesh) in 1958 during a Secretary-level meeting in New Delhi.
 - Constructed by: National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd of Ministry of Road and Transport highways, Government of India.
 - It is being developed as a corridor for trade and commerce between India's North-East and Bangladesh.
 - It will also promote tourism and people-to-people ties.
 - It will provide direct road connectivity between South Tripura and Chittagong allowing India to use Chittagong as a port of call.
 - The bridge will facilitate carrying heavy machines and goods to and from the north-eastern states and the rest of India via Bangladesh through Chattogram.
 - Feni Bridge is also known as Maitree Setu in Chattogram.
5. On the basis of the following statements identify the dam?
 1. It is a concrete gravity dam on the Narmada River.
 2. The project took form in 1979 as part of a development scheme funded by the World Bank to increase irrigation and produce hydroelectricity, using a loan of US\$200 million.
 3. The foundation stone of the project was laid out by then PM Jawaharlal Nehru on 5 April 1961.

4. Four Indian states, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, receive water and electricity supplied from the dam

Select the correct code

- A. Sardar Sarovar Dam
- B. Omkareshwar Dam
- C. Indirasagar Dam
- D. Bargi Dam

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Sardar Sarovar Dam is the second largest in the world in terms of volume and size. It comes second to the Grand Coulee Dam in the United States, which is considered the largest going by its volume of concrete used.
- The foundation stone of the Sardar Sarovar Dam on Narmada River was laid on April 5, 1961, by the country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.
- The Sardar Sarovar Dam has been dubbed as Gujarat's lifeline as it is credited for increasing the agricultural output and revenue of the region.
- The 1.2-km-long dam, which is 163 meters deep, will irrigate over 18 lakh hectares of land in the state, according to officials; the water from Narmada will flow into over 9,000 villages through a canal network.
- The Sardar Sarovar Dam has a capacity to produce 4,141 crore units of electricity from its two powerhouses -- the river bed powerhouse and canal head powerhouse -- with an installed capacity of 1,200 MW and 250 MW, respectively.
- Fifty-seven percent of the electricity produced from the dam goes to Maharashtra, while Madhya Pradesh gets 27 per cent and 16 per cent goes to Gujarat.
- In 1996, construction on the dam was suspended following a stay by the Supreme Court later allowing work to resume, four years after, but with conditions.

6. Which state has topped the 'best state' category under the National Water Awards 2019?

- A. Sikkim
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Gujrat
- D. Kerala

Answer: B

Explanation

- The ministry confers the award based on various parameters, including implementation of irrigation water supply schemes such as check dams, performance under micro irrigation, increase in irrigation coverage, performance in roof top rain water harvesting and status of implementation of water

accounting and auditing.

- It also takes into consideration the total number of water bodies created, reuse of waste water from farms/industry/sewage, management and utilisation of data/IT technology in water conservation and irrigation.
- Maharashtra and Rajasthan bagged second and third prizes respectively in the best state (normal) category.
- Mizoram topped the best state (special) category.
- Vellore and Karur districts bagged the first and second prizes respectively under the best district for revival of river category.
- Perambalur district won the second prize under water conservation category.
- The Madurai Municipal Corporation bagged the second prize in the best urban local body category.
- Madurai district received the first prize last year for rejuvenating and creating new water bodies.

7. Consider the following statements with respect to zooids.

1. Zooids are the single-cellular organisms.
2. Siphonophore is a colonial organism that comprise of zooids.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- Zooids are the multicellular organisms.
- This organism allows the colony to float, reproduce and move through water.
- The scientists have discovered a 500 metre high coral reef in the Great Barrier Reef of Australia.
- This is the first Coral Reef that has been discovered in 120 years.
- Out of total length, only 40 metres of the reef is under the sea surface.
- This reef is an addition to seven other tall detached reefs of the world including the Raine Island.
- The newly discovered detached reef has great potential for the new species to evolve there.
- The reason for this is, because there is a lot of deep water in between the discovered reef and the next coral community.
- One of the discovered specie is a 45-metre long Siphonophore.
- Siphonophore is a colonial organism that comprise of zooids.

8. Which of the following are Nordic countries?

1. Denmark
2. Estonia
3. Finland
4. Iceland

Select the correct code.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- The first India-Nordic-Baltic Conclave was held virtually on November 5, 2020
- The Conclave was hosted by Ministry of External Affairs and Confederation of Indian Industry jointly.
- The primary focus of the Conclave was on Artificial Intelligence, clean technologies, renewable energies, supply chain logistics and block chain led transformation.
- The Nordic Baltic includes eight countries namely, Norway, Estonia, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Latvia, Iceland and Lithuania
- Among these eight countries, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia are the Baltic countries.
- These three fast growing economies are located in the Baltic Sea.
- While the countries like Norway, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Iceland are called the Nordic countries.



9. Which of the following statements are correct about Ganga Utsav 2020?

1. It is being organised by Sankat Mochan Foundation (SMF).
2. It is being celebrated and observed in the light of 12th anniversary of Ganga being declared as National River.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Ganga Utsav begun virtually on November 2, 2020 and concluded on November 4, 2020.
- Ganga Utsav is being organised by the National Mission for Clean Ganga and the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- The Ganga Utsav is being celebrated and observed in the light of 12th anniversary of declaring River Ganges as National River.
- This year, as a part of the celebration, The Ganga Task Force conducted afforestation drives with NCC cadets.
- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG):
 - ✓ NMCG was implemented by the National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga on August 12, 2011 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 as a registered society.
 - ✓ This programme under the National Ganga Council is supported by the State level Programme Management Groups (SPMGs) in the state such as Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
 - ✓ This initiative was started by the Government of India to address the pollution of river Ganga by providing financial and technical assistance.

10. CARAT is the joint defense exercise between?

- A. India and France
- B. India and Qatar
- C. USA and Bangladesh
- D. Singapore and Thailand

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Navies of Bangladesh and United States held a joint Naval Exercise called CARAT on November 4, 2020.
- The bilateral exercise was held at Chittagong, Bangladesh.
- The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) will provide education on technical assistance to combat maritime crime and smuggling of migrants to the navies.
- The Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) is a series of annual bilateral naval exercise.

- It is conducted by the US Pacific fleet with countries including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Brunei, Philippines, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Singapore.
- The Primary focus of the exercise is on the ASEAN members. However, it also held exercises with non-ASEAN members like Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
- The CARAT exercise is held with objectives of enhancing regional cooperation, building friendships and strengthening the professional skills.

11. Which of the following statements are correct about Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ)?

- 1. It is a specialized agency of WTO.**
 - 2. It is elected for a period of 4 years.**
 - 3. Members serve in a personal capacity and not as representatives of Member States.**
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation

- Advisory Committee is an expert Committee of sixteen Members elected by the General Assembly (UN) for a period of three years, on the basis of a broad geographical representation.
- Members serve in a personal capacity and not as representatives of Member States.
- The Committee holds three sessions a year with total meeting time between nine and ten months per year.
- The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee are elected by the Members of the Advisory Committee.
- Functions:
 - ✓ To examine and report on the budget submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.
 - ✓ To advise the General Assembly concerning any administrative and budgetary matters referred to it.
 - ✓ Examines, on behalf of the General Assembly, the administrative budgets of the specialised agencies and proposals for financial arrangements with such agencies.
 - ✓ To consider and report to the General Assembly on the auditors' reports on the accounts of the United Nations and of the specialised agencies.
- Indian diplomat Vidisha Maitra recently got elected to U.N. ACABQ.

12. Which of the following statements regarding Food Coalition are correct?

1. It is launched by FAO- UN.
 2. It was proposed by India.
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- Due to food crisis caused by Covid 19 Pandemic and the urgency to tackle it, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has launched a Food Coalition.
- It was Proposed by Italy and led by Food and Agriculture Organization.
- The alliance aims to increase resilience of agricultural food systems and ensure global food access.
- Italy and the Netherlands have already pledged and delivered financial resources and technical support to the coalition.
- The alliance would work as a network of networks and a multi-stakeholder coalition for a unified global action to ensure food access and increase the resilience of agricultural food systems in response to COVID-19.
- The alliance involves a devoted trust fund and a web-based hub allowing participants to access a basket of project-focused information and data, as well as the funding and types of assistance needed for many on-the-ground projects.
- Objectives of the alliance:
 - ✓ Mobilising resources, expertise and innovation
 - ✓ Advocating for a joint and coordinated COVID-19 response.
 - ✓ Promoting dialogue and exchange of knowledge and expertise among countries.
 - ✓ Working towards solution-oriented plans and programmes.
 - ✓ Expanding international cooperation and partnership for a longer term impact.
 - ✓ FAO recently released Food Price Index.

13. Which of the following constitute OPEC+ countries?

1. Azerbaijan
2. Bahrain
3. Brunei
4. Kazakhstan

5. Ecuador

6. Mexico

7. Qatar

A. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7

B. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

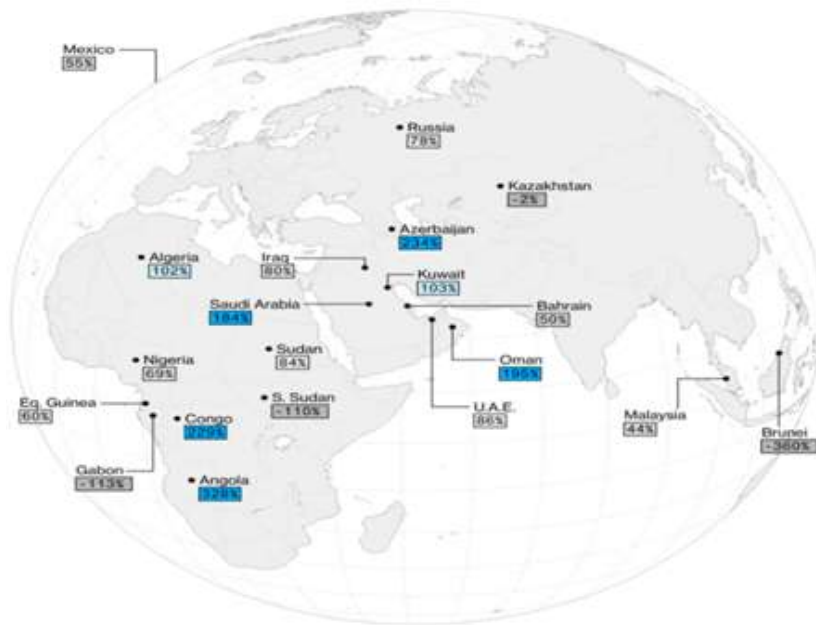
C. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7

D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6

Answer: D

Explanation

- OPEC+ refers to the alliance of crude producers, who have been undertaking corrections in supply in the oil markets since 2017.
- OPEC plus countries include Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan.
- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded in Baghdad, Iraq, with the signing of an agreement in September 1960 by five countries namely Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- They were to become the Founder Members of the Organization.
- It is a permanent, intergovernmental organization.
- Its objective is to co-ordinate and unify petroleum policies among Member Countries, in order to secure fair and stable prices for petroleum producers; an efficient, economic and regular supply of petroleum to consuming nations; and a fair return on capital to those investing in the industry.
- It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria.
- Its membership is open to any country that is a substantial exporter of oil and which shares the ideals of the organization.
- After news of Pfizer vaccine against Covid-19 and Saudi Arabia's assurance that an OPEC+ oil output deal could be adjusted to balance the market, Oil prices have risen.



14. Which of the following statements regarding Protocol for Inland Water Trade & Transit (PIWT&T) are correct?

1. India recently received its first shipment from Port of Colombo, Sri Lanka to Port of Chennai, under PIWT&T.
2. The Protocol for Inland Water Trade & Transit (PIWTT) was signed in 1972 first.
3. There is inclusion of Sonamura - Daudkhandi stretch of Gumti River as a new route in the Protocol.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Protocol for Inland Water Trade & Transit (PIWTT) was signed between India and Bangladesh in 1972 to provide inland waterways connectivity between the two countries, particularly with the North Eastern Region of India and also to enhance bilateral trade.
- The scope of PIWTT has been further expanded by the signing of the 2nd Addendum to PIWTT on May 20, 2020 with the inclusion of additional routes and ports of calls.
- The inclusion of Sonamura - Daudkhandi stretch of Gumti river (93 km) as a new route in the Protocol will improve the connectivity of Tripura and the adjoining States with Indian and Bangladesh's economic centers and will help the hinterland of both the countries.

Connectivity with mainland India through Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route



15. Which of the following statements are correct about WHO?

- 1. WHO recently declared 2020 as International year of health care workers?**
- 2. It began functioning on April 7, 1948 – a date now being celebrated every year as World Health Day.**
- 3. Its headquarters are situated in Geneva, Switzerland.**

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- World Health Organization (WHO) is United Nations' specialized agency for Health was founded in 1948.
- It began functioning on April 7, 1948 which is now celebrated every year as World Health Day.
- Its headquarters are situated in Geneva, Switzerland.
- There are 194 Member States, 150 country offices, six regional offices.
- It is an inter-governmental organization and works in collaboration with its member states usually through the Ministries of Health.
- The WHO provides leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.
- It acts as the directing and coordinating authority on international health work.
- It establishes and maintains effective collaboration with the United Nations, specialized agencies, governmental health administrations, professional groups and such other organizations as may be deemed appropriate.
- It provides assistance to the Governments, upon request, in strengthening health services.
- It promotes cooperation among scientific and professional groups which contribute to the advancement of health.
- Member States at the resumed virtual, 73rd World Health Assembly, recognizing the dedication and sacrifice of the millions of health and care workers at the forefront of the Covid-19 pandemic, unanimously designated 2021 as the International Year of Health and Care Workers (YHCW).

16. 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.



17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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 & Culture

To watch the following questions on YouTube, click on the links given below

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1. Which of the following statements are correct about Van Dhan scheme?

1. It is an initiative of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
 2. It was launched in 2018 to seek to improve additional income for the tribal population.
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- It is an initiative of TRIFED and Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- It was launched in 2018 to seek to improve additional income for the tribal population.
- The Van Dhan Vikas Kendra was launched under the scheme.
- The Van Dhan Vikas Kendra provides skill upgradation and setting up of value addition facilities and primary processing facilities.
- Also, it helps in providing capacity building training.
- The scheme is implemented by Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The Nodal Agency involved in the implementation is TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India).
- The two major functions of TRIFED are retail marketing of tribal products and development of minor forest produce.
- It aims to promote and encourage tribal community in improving their economic situations. The TRIFED acts as a facilitator for the tribal population to sell their products.

2. Based on the following statements, identify the resistance?

1. It was an organized working class uprising in the Princely State of Travancore, British India.
2. These riots were basically against the interim government.
3. ICHR says that these Communist agitations cannot be counted as the part of the Independence movement as they took place after the interim government led by Jawaharlal Nehru assumed

office.

4. This was a proper struggle against the declaration of 'Independent Travancore' by the then Travancore.

- A. Vellore mutiny
- B. Attingal revolt
- C. Malabar rebellion
- D. Punnapara-Vayalar revolt

Answer: D

Explanation

- It was an organized working class uprising in the Princely State of Travancore, British India against the Prime Minister, C. P. Ramaswami Iyer and the state.
- The objectives of the revolt were to overthrow the exploitative diwan of Travancore and to liberate the working class from unjust taxation and exploitation of the establishment.
- ICHR says these Communist agitations cannot be counted as the part of the Independence movement as they took place after the interim government led by Jawaharlal Nehru assumed office. These riots were basically against the interim government.
- It was a unique agitation where the working class rose against the government.
- It saw the people of all classes up in arms against a common tyrant hence it dissolved class and religion distinction and induced unity among people.
- It resulted in establishing democracy in the region and also gave a decisive turn to the politics of the state.
- Historians maintain this was a proper struggle against the declaration of 'Independent Travancore' by the then Travancore.
- T K Varghese Vaidyan, a leader of the struggle, had gone on record saying it was a rehearsal for a larger revolution with the ultimate objective of establishing a "Communist India".

3. BAGH print is associated with which state?

- A. Jharkhand
- B. Haryana
- C. Uttar pradesh
- D. Madhya Pradesh

Answer: D

Explanation

- Bagh print is a traditional Indian handicraft originating in Bagh, Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh, India.

- The process is characterised by hand printed wood block relief prints with naturally sourced pigments and dyes.
- Bagh print fabric motifs are typically geometric, paisley, or floral compositions dyed with vegetable colours of red and black over a white background, and is a popular textile printing product.
- Its name is derived from the village Bagh located on the banks of the Bagh River.

4. Which of the following statements are correct regarding Bhagat Singh?

1. In 1924 in Kanpur he established Hindustan Republican Association.
2. Initially, he supported Mahatma Gandhi and the Non-Cooperation Movement.
3. 23rd March is observed as 'Martyrs' Day' or 'Shaheed Diwas' or 'Sarvodaya Day' in honour of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev.
4. His 113th birth anniversary was celebrated on 28th September, 2020.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- Initially, he supported Mahatma Gandhi and the Non-Cooperation Movement.
- When Gandhi withdrew the movement in the wake of the Chauri Chaura incident, Bhagat Singh turned to revolutionary nationalism.
- In 1924 in Kanpur, he became a member of the Hindustan Republican Association, started by Sachindranath Sanyal a year earlier.
- In 1925, Bhagat Singh returned to Lahore and within the next year he and his colleagues started a militant youth organisation called the Naujawan Bharat Sabha.
- In 1928, he was associated with the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) along with Sukhdev, Chandrashekhar Azad and others.
- Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev also organized the Lahore Students Union for open, legal work among the students.

5. Which of the following statements are incorrect?

1. Thiruvalluvar was a Telugu saint, poet, and a philosopher.
2. Thiruvalluvar's moral philosophy is anthro-centric since it focuses on life on this earth rather than aspiring for heavenly abode.

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- Thiruvalluvar, commonly known as Valluvar, was a Tamil saint, poet, and a philosopher.
- He is usually shown with a white shawl in the images.
- Details about Thiruvalluvar's real name, date and place of birth, religious affiliation and family background are not available.
- Many researchers put his birth date between 1st century BCE and 2nd century CE.
- Thiruvalluvar's moral philosophy is anthro-centric since it focuses on life on this earth rather than aspiring for heavenly abode.
- He opposed absolutizing and idealizing the problems and making them other-worldly affairs.
- He boldly advocated a life of discipline, self-control, chastity, non-violence, temperance and devotion.
- He is best known as the author of Thirukkural, a collection of 1330 couplets on ethics, political and economic matters, and love.
- In Thirukkural, through the phrase 'Aadhi Bhagavan', Thiruvalluvar asserted that the Omnipotent and Omnipresent God was Universal.

6. Which of the following statements are correct about world tourism day?

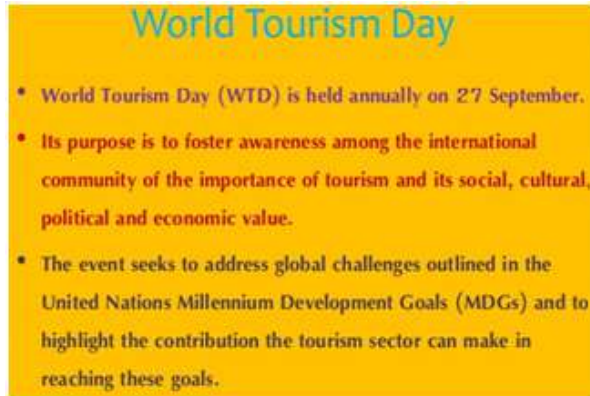
1. 27th September is celebrated as World Tourism Day.
2. Theme for 2020 is Tourism and Rural Development.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- 27th September has been celebrated as World Tourism Day since 1980.
- It was on this day in 1970 when the Statutes of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) were adopted which are considered a milestone in global tourism.
- The UNWTO is the United Nations specialised agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.
- Theme for 2020 is 'Tourism and Rural Development'.
- The theme encourages the celebration of the unique role played by tourism in job creation outside of the big cities.



7. SAATHI app has been launched by

- A. Ministry of Culture
- B. Ministry of Tourism
- C. National School of Drama
- D. Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Answer: B

Explanation

- The ministry of Tourism launched the SAATHI app.
- SAATHI is an initiative of the tourism ministry with the Quality Council of India.
- It is to assist the hospitality industry in continuing to operate safely and instill confidence among staff, employees and guests about the safety of the hotels and units.

8. Which of the following statements are correct about Ezhuthachan Puraskaram?

1. It is the highest literary honour that is given by the Tamil Sahitya Akademi.
 2. It is given by the state government.
 3. It consists of a cash prize of ₹5,00,000 and a citation.
 4. Paul Zacharia has been selected for Ezhuthachan Puraskaram 2020.
- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
 - B. 2, 3 and 4 only
 - C. 1, 3 and 4 only
 - D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Ezhuthachan Puraskaram is the highest literary honour that is given by the Kerala Sahitya Akademi, Government of Kerala.
- The award is named after Thunchaththu Ezhuthachan, the father of the Malayalam language.

- It consists of a cash prize of ₹5, 00,000 and a citation.
- The prize money was enhanced by ₹50,000 in 2011.
- The award was instituted in 1993 and Sooranad Kunjan Pillai was its first recipient.
- Noted Malayalam writer Paul Zacharia has been selected for this year's Ezhuthachan Puraskaram.
- Born in 1945 at Kottayam, Zacharia had worked as a journalist with various national media organisations.
- 'Salam America', 'Oridath', 'Aarkkariyam', 'Bhaskara patelarum ente jeevithavum' are among his various literary works.
- Zacharia won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award in 1979 and the Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award in 2004.

9. What is Avadhanam?

- A. A type of temple architecture.
- B. A grant of land by the king.
- C. A type of tax levied on animals.
- D. Test of the poet's literary prowess.

Answer: D

Explanation

- The Vice President observed that 'avadhanam' as a literary feat has greatly contributed to the Telugu language's glorious tradition.
- 'Avadhanam' is like a test of the poet's literary prowess and scholarship, he added. This extraordinary feat, a historical and unique feature of only a few languages.
- Avadhanam' is an exciting literary performance that involves solving tricky literary posers, improvising poems and tests a person's capability of performing such multiple tasks simultaneously.
- The 'International 'Satavadhanam'' a unique literary feat program, was launched virtually by the Vice President.

10. Where is Mansar lake situated?

- A. Jammu
- B. Himachal Pradesh
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Ladakh

Answer: A

Explanation

- Mansar Lake is situated 37 km from Jammu.
- Surinsar-Mansar Lakes are designated as Ramsar Convention in November 2005.

- Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region inaugurated the Mansar Lake Development Plan in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The project is eyed to attract almost 20 lakh tourists every year.
- It will bring an increase in employment opportunities.
- It is believed that the sanctity of this lake is equivalent to that of Mansarovar Lake of Tibet because its water has the power to absolve a person of his or her sins.
- Newlyweds consider it auspicious to perform three ambulations (Parikarma) around the lake to seek the blessings of Sheshnag, the lord of serpents, whose shrine is located on its eastern bank.

11. Which country has released a special pictorial anthology on Mahatma Gandhi named - The Gandhi as I understood?

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Russia
- C. South Africa
- D. Nepal

Answer: D

Explanation

- An anthology is defined as a book that has a large collection of writings in similar form, from a similar time, or about a similar subject manner, but by various authors
- Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari has released a special pictorial anthology on Mahatma Gandhi to mark the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- This anthology is written in the Nepali language.
- This anthology on Gandhi is titled as "Maile Bujheko Gandhi" or "the Gandhi as I understood".
- The book has been released to mark the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the culmination of the 2 year-long celebrations of '150 years of Mahatma'.
- This anthology has been published by the Indian Embassy together with the B P Koirala India-Nepal Foundation.
- The publishers hope that the teachings, ideas of Mahatma Gandhi will bring Nepalese youth closer to the global icon.
- The book aims to bring to youth of Nepal closer to Mahatma Gandhi.
- The book also brings together the perspectives of 25 eminent Nepali personalities about Mahatma Gandhi.

12. Local Diwali campaign has been launched by which ministry

- A. Ministry of culture
- B. Ministry of Textiles
- C. Ministry of Rural Development

D. Ministry of MSME

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Union Ministry of Textiles has launched a campaign for Diwali- “Local4Diwali”.
- The campaign has been launched to promote the Indian handicraft.
- As per the available data, the handicrafts sector is a major sector of women empowerment as almost 55% of the workers and artisans are women.
- Ministry has urged to Gift Diyas, home décor or furnishings like curtains, bed sheets or other handcrafted goods to your dear ones on this Diwali.
- Encourage the sale of local handicrafts, share posts on platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. with hashtag #Local4Diwali.
- Take a picture of your favorite handicraft product and post the picture tagging others.
- This campaign will help the handicraft artisans and workers in increasing their sales and promoting their business.
- After the promotion of idea of “Vocal for Local” by PM Modi, every sector is working towards promoting local businesses and strengthening Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

13. Which of the following statements about HUNAR HAAT are correct?

- 1. These Haat aim to provide market exposure and employment opportunities to artisans, craftsmen and traditional culinary experts.**
 - 2. These are organised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.**
- A. 1 Only
B. 2 Only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- Hunar Haat has restarted from November 11 after a gap of around seven months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The theme of this Hunar Haat is “Vocal for Local”.
- As the name suggests, local products made from Metal, Maati (clay), and Machiya (wooden and jute products) are the major attractions of the event.
- Other than this, products made from cane-bamboo and pottery work can also be seen at the event. More than 100 stalls have been set up at the haat.
- Hunar Haat is an exhibition of traditional products and handicrafts launched by Ministry of Minority Affairs in 2017.

- It was launched under upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/ Crafts for Development (USTTAD) scheme.

14. Which of the following statements about 'Barnaparichay' a mid 19th century Bengali text are correct?

- 1. It was written by Raja Rammohan Roy.**
- 2. It was the most widely used Bengali primer of the time.**

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- Barnaparichay or BarnaParichay (1855) is a Bengali primer written by 19th century Indian social reformer Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar.
- This is considered as "the most influential primer of Bengal".
- The primer had two parts (part I & part II) and was published.
- This reflected Vidyasagar's knowledge, expertise and background as a Sanskrit scholar.
- Year 2020 commemorates 200 years of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar.

15. Which of the following statements regarding Public Service Broadcasting Day are correct?

- 1. Public Service Broadcasting Day is celebrated every year as the remembrance of the only visit of Mahatma Gandhi to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi.**
- 2. During his visit to the All-India Radio station, Gandhi addressed people who were displaced after Indo- Pak partition.**

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- Public Service Broadcasting Day is celebrated every year on November 12 as the remembrance of the first and only visit of Mahatma Gandhi to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi in 1947.
- During his visit to the All-India Radio station, Gandhi addressed people who were displaced after partition of Haryana and were temporarily settled in Kurukshetra.

- Every year, a special event is organized to observe the Public Service Broadcasting Day in the premises of All India Radio, New Delhi.
- All India Radio:
 - ✓ All India Radio is a public sector broadcaster of the country established in the year 1936.
 - ✓ It is a division of broadcasting agency Prasar Bharati.
 - ✓ All India Radio is the one of the largest broadcasting organisations in the world in terms of the number of languages of broadcast and the socio-economic spectrum and cultural diversity served by the broadcaster.
 - ✓ AIR originates programming in 179 dialects and 23 languages.
 - ✓ AIR has 470 Broadcasting centres across the country.
 - ✓ Doordarshan is also a division of Prasar Bharati

16. 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.

17. 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.

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

1. It is located in Gujarat
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.

19. 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.

20. 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 Lakshmibai 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.
- 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

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.

3. Polity & Governance

To watch the following questions on YouTube, click on the links given below

- [Video 1](#)
- [Video 2](#)
- [Video 3](#)
- [Video 4](#)

1. **Swapnil Tripathi vs Supreme Court of India was a landmark judgement related to:**

- A. Allowing live streaming of court proceedings
- B. Caste-based reservations
- C. Right to move to the court for enforcement of fundamental rights
- D. Right to privacy, even if a matter becomes one of public record

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Gujarat High Court became the first to live stream judicial proceedings on YouTube channel.
- In 2017, various individuals and groups filed petition before the Supreme Court of India under Article 32 of the Constitution.
- The Petition was seeking a declaration that “Supreme Court case proceedings of constitutional importance having an impact on the public at large or a large number of people should be live streamed in a manner that is easily accessible for public viewing”.
- In addition, the Petition also sought guidelines from the Court to enable the future determination of cases that would qualify for live streaming.
- The Judgment is a significant decision on the concepts of Open Justice, access to public information and transparency in the judicial process.
- Though the Judgment only directs that certain proceedings in the Supreme Court be live-streamed for the time being, it has opened the doors for live-streaming to be extended to all proceedings in the Supreme Court, High Courts and proceedings in lower courts.

2. **Based on the following statements identify the body?**

- 1. **It has recently been granted accreditation conforming to ISO 17020:2012 by National Accreditation Board for Certification Body (NABCB).**
 - 2. **It was established by the Ministry of Industry in 1958.**
 - 3. **It is a constituent of the Tokyo-based Asian Productivity Organisation (APO), an Inter-Governmental Body, of which India is a founding member.**
- A. All India Handicrafts Board

- B. Tariff Commission
- C. National Productivity Council
- D. Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited

Answer: C

Explanation

- National Productivity Council (NPC) has been granted accreditation conforming to ISO 17020:2012 by National Accreditation Board for Certification Body (NABCB), Quality Council of India (QCI).
- The accreditation has been provided for undertaking inspection and audit work in the area of Food Safety Audit and Scientific Storage of Agricultural Products and will be valid for a period of three years.
- The ISO/IEC 17020:2012 specifies requirements for the competence of bodies performing inspection and for the impartiality and consistency of their inspection activities.
- It applies to inspection bodies of type A, B or C, as defined in ISO/IEC 17020:2012, and it applies to any stage of inspection.
- It is a national level organization to promote productivity culture in India.
- Established by the Ministry of Industry, in 1958 and is a constituent of the Tokyo-based Asian Productivity Organisation (APO), an Intergovernmental Body, of which the Government of India is a founding member.
- It comes under the aegis of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India.
- It is an autonomous, multipartite, non-profit organization and has been registered as a Society under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860.

3. Which of the following statements are incorrect regarding attorney general of India?

1. The Attorney General (AG) of India is a part of the Union Executive.
 2. AG is the highest law officer in the country.
 3. Article 79 of the Constitution provides for the office of AG of India.
 4. Term of the Office is 5 years or 65 years of age, whichever is earlier.
- A. 1 and 2 only
 - B. 1 and 3 only
 - C. 2 and 3 only
 - D. 3 and 4 only

Answer: D

Explanation

- The Attorney General (AG) of India is a part of the Union Executive.

- AG is the highest law officer in the country.
- Article 76 of the Constitution provides for the office of AG of India.
- AG is appointed by the President on the advice of the government.
- AG must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court i.e. s/he must be a citizen of India and must have been a judge of some high court for five years or an advocate of some high court for ten years or an eminent jurist, in the opinion of the President.
- Term of the Office: Not fixed by the Constitution.
- Removal: Procedures and grounds for the removal of AG are not stated in the Constitution. S/he holds office during the pleasure of the President (may be removed by the President at any time).
- Duties and Functions:
 - ✓ To give advice to the Government of India (Gol) upon such legal matters, which are referred to her/him by the President.
 - ✓ To perform such other duties of a legal character that is assigned to her/him by the President.
 - ✓ To appear on behalf of the Gol in all cases in the Supreme Court or in any case in any High Court in which the Gol is concerned.
 - ✓ To represent the Gol in any reference made by the President to the Supreme Court under Article 143 (Power of the President to consult the Supreme Court) of the Constitution.
 - ✓ To discharge the functions conferred on her/him by the Constitution or any other law.

4. Strategic Policy and Facilitation Bureau (SPFB), recently heard in news is a set up by which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
- C. Ministry of AYUSH
- D. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Answer: C

Explanation

- Ministry of AYUSH and Invest India will form a collaboration to set up a strategic policy unit called “Strategic Policy and Facilitation Bureau (SPFB)” to facilitate planned and systematic growth of the Ayush Sector.
- This is among the various steps which the Ministry has initiated to chart future directions along which the stake-holding groups of the Ayush Sector can move.
- The activities to be undertaken by the SPFB would include:
 - ✓ Knowledge Creation and Management,
 - ✓ Strategic and Policy-Making Support,
 - ✓ State Policy Bench marking: Undertaking State Policy bench marking to formulate uniform guidelines/regulations regarding AYUSH sector in India,

- Investment Facilitation: Follow up and facilitation of investment cases and MoUs, and coordination among different Department, organisations and States.
- Issue Resolution: Invest India would work with companies and other institutions on issue resolution across States and among various sub-sectors.
- Some of the Specific Deliverables of Bureau would include project monitoring for Inter-Ministerial Groups, Skill Development Initiatives, setting up Strategic Intelligence Research Unit and initiating an Innovation Program.

5. Which of the following statements related to DIKSHA portal are correct?

1. The DIKSHA platform was launched by the Ministry of Human Resources and Development in September 2017.
2. The aim of the portal was to provide a digital platform for the teachers to make their lifestyle digital.
3. Recently 'Integrated Government Online training' (iGOT) was launched on Diksha.
4. iGOT will look after the training needs of the frontline workers of COVID like nurses, paramedics, hygiene worker, technicians, doctors, midwives.

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- Government of India launched a training module for management of COVID-19 named 'Integrated Government Online training' (iGOT) portal on DIKSHA platform of MHRD
- The portal aims to enhance capacity building of front line workers to handle the pandemic efficiently
- MHRD's DIKSHA Platform is being already used by more than one crore teachers & students across 30 states & UTs.
- The portal will look after the training needs of the frontline workers. These workers include nurses, paramedics, hygiene worker, technicians, doctors, midwives.
- The training is to be provided on clinical management, basics of COVID-19, ICU care and management, quarantine and isolation, etc.
- The DIKSHA platform was launched by the Ministry of Human Resources and Development in September 2017. The aim of the portal was to provide a digital platform for the teachers to make their lifestyle digital.
- The platform helps teachers to learn and train themselves. It will also record their accomplishments in educational institutes.

6. Which of the following statements are correct about Finance commission?

1. It is set up under Article 280 of the Constitution.
2. It is set up every three years by the President.
3. The commission lays down rules by which the Center should provide grants-in-aid to states out of the Consolidated Fund of India.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- Finance Commission came into existence in 1951.
- A finance commission is set up every five years by the President under Article 280 of the Constitution.
- Its main function is to recommend how the Union government should share taxes levied by it with the states.
- These recommendations cover a period of five years.
- The commission also lays down rules by which the centre should provide grants-in-aid to states out of the Consolidated Fund of India.
- It is also required to suggest measures to augment the resources of states and ways to supplement the resources of panchayats and municipalities.
- The government can ask the commission to make suggestions on specific fiscal issues that it may want addressed.
- The Constitution does not make the recommendations of the Finance Commission binding on the government.

7. Which of the following statements are correct about PM-KUSUM scheme?

1. It is to support installation of off-grid solar pumps in rural areas and reduce dependence on grid, in grid-connected areas.
2. It was launched by ministry of agriculture and farmers welfare.

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- The PM-KUSUM scheme was launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) to support installation of off-grid solar pumps in rural areas and reduce dependence on grid, in grid-connected areas.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has issued an order for the scale-up and expansion of the (PM-KUSUM) Scheme.
- The target now is to achieve enhanced solar capacity of 30.8 Giga watt (GW) by 2022 with revised Central financial support of ₹34,035 crore.
- Earlier the scheme had aimed to add a solar capacity of 25,750 MW by 2022.
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM KUSUM) Scheme under which 20 lakh farmers would be provided funds to set up standalone solar pumps.
- 15 lakh farmers would be provided funds to set up grid-connected 15 lakh solar pumps.
- The scheme removes farmers' dependence on diesel and kerosene and linked them to solar energy.
- The scheme also enables the farmers to set up solar power generation capacity and sell it to the grid.
- The PM KUSUM scheme had three components – 10,000 megawatts (MW) of decentralised ground-mounted grid-connected renewable power plants (Component-A);
- Installation of 17.50 lakh standalone solar-powered agriculture pumps (Component-B);
- Solarisation of 10 lakh grid-connected solar-powered agriculture pumps (Component-C);
- All three components combined, the scheme had aimed to add a solar capacity of 25,750 MW by 2022.

8. Based on the following statements identify the writ?

1. It is a court order demanding that a public official deliver an imprisoned individual to the court and show a valid reason for that person's detention.
2. It is called bulwark of individual liberty against arbitrary detention.

- A. Habeas Corpus
- B. Mandamus
- C. Certiorari
- D. Quo-Warranto

Answer: A

Explanation

- Context: Recently Bombay HC rejected Arnab Goswami's Habeas Corpus petition for immediate release.

Writ of Habeas Corpus:

- Habeas Corpus: Habeas Corpus is a Latin term which literally means "you may have the body."

✓ This writ is in the nature of an order calling upon the person who has detained another to produce the latter before the Court, in order to let the Court, know on what ground he has been



confined, and to set him free if there is no legal justification for the confinement.

- ✓ Habeas corpus writ is applicable to preventive detention
- ✓ Legal entitlement to seek remedy: The principle on which Habeas Corpus functions is that a person illegally detained in confinement without legal proceedings is entitled to seek the remedy of habeas corpus.
- ✓ Nature of writ: In deciding whether Habeas Corpus writs are civil or criminal in nature, the court would rely on the way of procedures in which the locale has been executed.
- Few cases when a writ of Habeas Corpus can be issued:
 - ✓ Testing the validity of detention under preventive detention laws.
 - ✓ Securing custody of a person alleged to be lunatic.
 - ✓ Securing custody of the minor.
 - ✓ Detention for breach of privileges by the house.
 - ✓ Testing the validity of detention by the executive during an emergency, etc.
- Bulwark of individual liberty: Habeas corpus writ is called bulwark of individual liberty against arbitrary detention.
 - ✓ It has been described as “a great constitutional privilege” or “first security of civil liberty”.
 - ✓ Its most quintessential element is a speedy and effective remedy.
 - ✓ This writ can be issued against both public authorities as well as individual court.
- The rule for filing the petition: A general rule for filing the petition is that a person whose right has been infringed must file a petition. But Habeas corpus is an exception and anybody on behalf of the detainee can file a petition.
- Can be issued by local courts: Parliament by law can extend power to issue writs to any other courts (including local courts) for local limits of the jurisdiction of such courts.
- Damages: When a person is arrested and imprisoned with mischievous or malicious intent his constitutional and legal rights are invaded, the mischief or malice and invasion may not be washed or wished away by his being set free.
 - ✓ In certain appropriate cases, courts have the jurisdiction to compensate the victim by awarding suitable monetary compensation.
- Exceptions to Habeas Corpus:
 - ✓ Person against whom writ (or detained) is issued is not within the jurisdiction of the Court.
 - ✓ Court Martial – The tribunals established under military law.
 - ✓ To save release of a person who has been imprisoned by a court for a criminal charge.
 - ✓ To interfere with a proceeding for contempt by a Court of record or by Parliament.
 - ✓ When a person is put into physical restraint under the law unless the law is unconstitutional or the order is ultra-virus the statute.

9. Which of the following statements are correct about 'Meri Saheli' initiative?

1. It was launched by Ministry of Women and Child Development.
2. It is for focused action on security of women across with an objective to provide safety and security to lady passengers.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- Indian Railways has started another initiative named "Meri Saheli" to provide more safety and security to women passengers during their entire journey.
- The "Meri Saheli" initiative is to provide more safety and security of lady passengers travelling by trains in their entire journey from originating station till destination station.
- Under the initiative, a team of lady officer and staff have been formed.
- The team will visit all of the passenger coaches including ladies coaches to identify women passenger
- Details of their journey like, coach number & seat number will be noted down by the team, especially if a lady is travelling alone in the train.
- The passengers will be briefed about RPF Security Helpline No. 182, GRP Security Helpline No. 1512 and other precautions for example, not to take food from strangers, buying food from IRCTC authorized stalls only & taking care of luggage.
- The team will also advise them to feel free to contact the train escort party and dial 182 in case of any emergency.
- The details of the passengers will be conveyed to enroute Divisions & Zones to meet the passengers at their convenience till they reach their final destination.
- At the end of the journey, a feedback will be collected from the lady passengers regarding their journey experience and safety measures taken.

10. Who is the chairman of 15th finance commission?

- A. K. C. Neogy
B. J. M. Shelat
C. Dr. Y. V Reddy
D. N. K. Singh

Answer: D

Explanation

Fifteenth Finance Commission:

- 15th Finance Commission (FC) presented its final report for the five fiscal years from 2021-22 to 2025-26 to President Ram Nath Kovind.
- The report is titled 'Finance Commission in Covid Times'
- The commission was set up to give recommendations for devolution of taxes and other fiscal matters for five fiscal years, commencing 1 April 2020.
- The main tasks of the commission were to "strengthen cooperative federalism, improve the quality of public spending and help protect fiscal stability"
- The commission's chairperson, N. K. Singh, said in April 2019 that there should be mechanisms through which the Finance Commissions and the GST Council could coordinate to "ensure there are multiplier benefits of a higher growth trajectory".
- The report is unlikely to be made public anytime soon and will possibly be tabled in Parliament, along with an action-taken report, by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman when she presents the Union budget next year on February 1.

11. Which of the following statements are correct regarding – Office Of Profit?

1. The expression "office of profit" has been defined in the Constitution under article 102 (1).
 2. The Supreme Court in Pradyut Bordoloi vs Swapan Roy (2001) outlined broad principles for determining whether an office attracts the constitutional disqualification.
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- A parliamentary panel has sought the Centre's response to a long-pending demand for amending the Constitution to clear ambiguity over definition of 'office of profit', which bars lawmakers from taking up any positions that offer remunerations. Parliamentarians and legislators can avoid disqualification if they join offices which figure in the exempted category outlined in the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959.
- The expression "office of profit" has not been defined in the Constitution or in the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- It is for the courts to explain the significance and meaning of this concept.

What the law says

Article 102 (1)(a) says a person shall be disqualified from being a member of either House of Parliament if he holds any office of profit, among other grounds

Article 103 says if a question arises whether a member has incurred such disqualification, it will be referred to the President's decision. The President shall obtain the Election Commission's opinion and act accordingly

Article 191(1) contains a similar provision for MLAs and MLCs in the States. Legislators in Delhi are covered by corresponding provisions in the Government of National Capital Territory Act, 1991



- Over the years, courts have decided this issue in the context of specific factual situations.
- But, articles 102 (1) and 191(1) which give effect to the concept of office of profit prescribe restrictions at the central and state level on lawmakers accepting government positions.

12. Which of the following is not a member of SCO - Shanghai Cooperation Organisation?

- A. Kazakhstan
- B. Kyrgyzstan
- C. Tajakistan
- D. Azerbaijan

Answer: D

Explanation

- SCO is a major Eurasian organization that represents half of the world’s population.
- India joined SCO in 2017 at the insistence of Russia, and China balanced India’s entry with the entry of Pakistan.
- Significance: The organization comprises four major nuclear powers operating in the area India, Russia, China, and Pakistan.
- It has the capacity to counterbalance North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), therefore, it is sometimes considered as “alliance of the East”, i.e, the Eastern complementary of NATO.
- 20th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State was held on November 10, 2020.

Member states



13. Which of the following pairs have been correctly matched?

1. Justice A.K Mathur Commission - 7th Pay Commission
2. Athreya Committee - Scheme for Unorganized Sector
3. Mckinsey Report- Assessing Of Income Tax Rebates

4. Dave Committee - Pension Scheme for Unorganized Sector

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- McKinsey Report - Merger Of seven Associate Banks with State Bank of India.
- Dave Committee - Pension Scheme for Unorganized Sector.
- Athreya Committee - Restructuring of IDBI.
- Justice A.K Mathur Commission - 7th Pay Commission.

14. The distribution of powers between the Centre and the States in the Indian Constitution is based on the scheme provided in the (UPSC-2012):

- A. Morley-Minto Reforms, 1909
- B. Montagu-Chelmsford Act, 1919
- C. Government of India Act, 1935
- D. Indian Independence Act, 1947

Answer: C

Explanation

Government of India Act 1935

- The Constitution of 1950 was a by-product of the legacy started by the Government of India Act 1935.
- This was the longest act passed by the British government with 321 sections and 10 schedules.
- This act had drawn its content from four sources – Report of the Simon Commission, discussions and deliberations at the Third Round Table Conference, the White Paper of 1933 and the reports of the Joint select committees.
- This act abolished the system of provincial dyarchy and suggested the establishment of dyarchy at the centre and a 'Federation of India' consisting of the provinces of British India and most of the princely states.
- Most importantly, the act established the office of the Governor; all the executive powers and authority of the centre was vested in the Governor.

15. Consider the following statements with respect to The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018.

1. It provides that a preliminary enquiry will be mandatory for the registration of a First Information Report against a person accused under the Act.
2. The Act states that persons accused of committing an offence under the Act cannot apply for anticipatory bail.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2018 was introduced in Lok Sabha on August 3, 2018.
- It seeks to amend the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
- The Act prohibits the commission of offences against members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and establishes special courts for the trial of such offences and the rehabilitation of victims.
- In 2015, the Supreme Court stated that for persons accused of committing an offence under the Act, approval of the Senior Superintendent of Police will be required before an arrest is made.
- Further, the Deputy Superintendent of Police may conduct a preliminary enquiry to find out whether there is a prima facie case under the Act.
- The Bill states that the investigating officer will not require the approval of any authority for the arrest of an accused. Further, it provides that a preliminary enquiry will not be required for the registration of a First Information Report against a person accused under the Act.
- The Act states that persons accused of committing an offence under the Act cannot apply for anticipatory bail. The Bill seeks to clarify that this provision will apply despite any judgments or orders of a court that provide otherwise

16. 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.

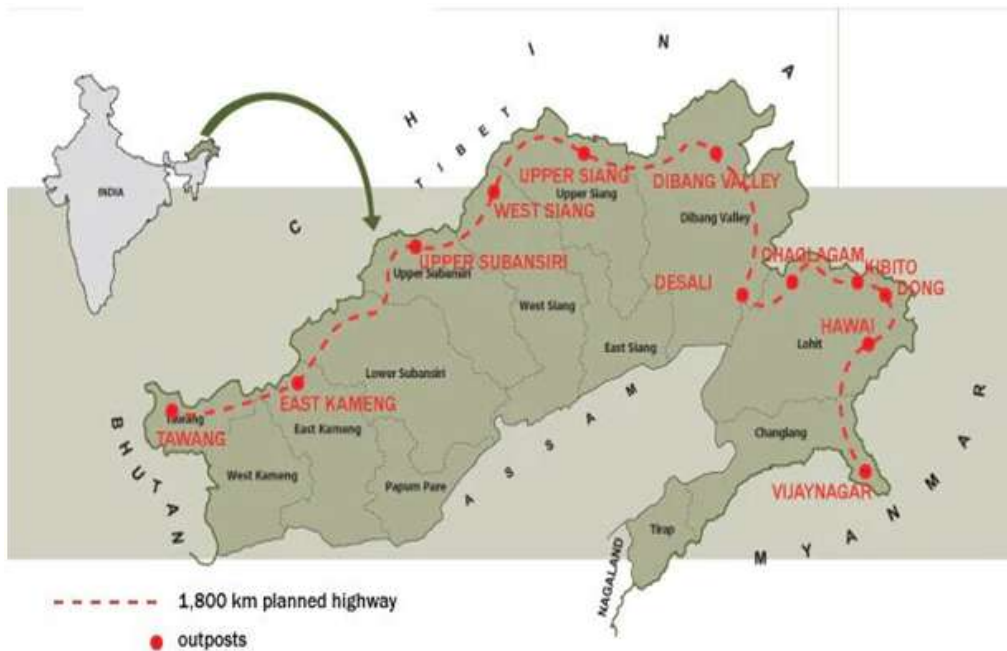
- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only

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, Hawaii 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.

17. 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



18. 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.

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
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- 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.

19. 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 Lilavati 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 Lilavati 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)

20. 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

To watch the following questions on YouTube, click on the links given below

- [Video 1](#)
- [Video 2](#)
- [Video 3](#)
- [Video 4](#)

1. Which of the following statements are correct in context of the recently enacted farm law Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020?

1. Sub-divisional magistrate would be the dispute resolving authority.
 2. The process of conciliation should be completed within a year from the date of appointment of conciliation board.
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- The sub-divisional magistrate would resolve the dispute by forming a conciliation board having equal representation from both sides.
- The process of conciliation should be completed within 30 days from the date of appointment of conciliation board.
- If the conciliation board fails to resolve the dispute, either of the party can approach sub divisional authority, who will have to decide the case within 30 days of filing application after proper hearing
- Cases where land of farmers fall across more than one sub divisions, the sub-divisional magistrate having jurisdiction over the largest portion of the land would be the deciding authority.
- The parties involved in the farm agreement will have the right to move to higher authority for review.
- The collector of the concerned district or the additional collector nominated by the collector would be the appellate authority.
- The aggrieved party may, within thirty days of passing of such order, file an appeal to the appellate authority in physical or electronic format.



- The authority then would have to dispose of the case within 30 days from the date of filing of such appeal, after giving the concerned parties a reasonable opportunity of being heard.
- The order passed by the appellate authority would have the force of the decree of the civil court.

2. Beijing Platform for Action recently heard in news is related with:

- A. Belt and Road initiative
- B. Population in China
- C. Women’s Rights
- D. Global Terrorism

Answer: C

Explanation

- The year 2020 will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995).
- Produced at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action calls for immediate and concerted action to assist women and girls to fully realise their rights.
- Protection, assistance and training for internally displaced women is a key strategic objective of the Beijing Declaration, and the text identifies actions that governments, together with non-governmental organizations, should take to support them.
- The text has been adopted by 189 countries and is reviewed every five years to monitor implementation.



3. Future of Jobs report 2020 is released by:

- A. World Bank Group
- B. International Monetary Fund
- C. United Nations Economic and Social Council
- D. World Economic Forum

Answer: D

Explanation

- The Future of Jobs 2020 report has found that COVID-19 has caused the labour market to change faster than expected.
- The research released recently by the World Economic Forum indicates that what used to be considered the “future of work” has already arrived.

- By 2025, automation and a new division of labour between humans and machines will disrupt 85 million jobs globally in medium and large businesses across 15 industries and 26 economies.
- More than 80% of business executives are accelerating plans to digitize work processes and deploy new technologies; and 50% of employers are expecting to accelerate the automation of some roles in their companies.
- By 2025, employers will divide work between human and machines equally.
- Roles that leverage human skills will rise in demand. Machines will be primarily focused on information and data processing, administrative tasks and routine manual jobs for white- and blue-collar positions.

4. National Program and Project Management Policy Framework (NPMPPF) is launched by:

1. NITI Aayog
2. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
3. Quality council of India
4. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- It is introduced with the aim of bringing radical reforms in the way infrastructure projects are executed in India.
- Indian Infrastructure Body of Knowledge (InBoK), a book on the practice of program and project management was launched under it.
- This framework aims to formulate radical reforms in the way large and mega infrastructure projects are managed in India, with an action plan to:
 - Adopt a program and project management approach to infra development
 - Institutionalize and promote the profession of program and project management and build a workforce of such professionals,
 - Enhance institutional capacity and capability of professionals.

5. Which of the following statements regarding Climate Finance Shadow Report 2020 are incorrect?

1. It is released by UN Environment Program (UNEP)
2. It highlights that debt is not being utilised enough to mobilise \$100 billion every year for Climate Finance.

- A. 1 only

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- It is released by OXFAM.
 - Developed countries had committed in 2009 to mobilise \$100 billion every year by 2020 to help developing countries cut their carbon dioxide emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change.
 - But around \$47 billion of the total climate financing of \$59.5 billion pledged in 2017-2018 was forwarded as loans, according to Oxfam's Climate Finance Shadow Report 2020.
 - Providing climate financing in the form of loans and other non-grant instruments "risked contributing to the unsustainable debt burdens of many low-income countries".
 - Oxfam said climate financing could be funded through a range of sources, including redirecting some fossil-fuel subsidies which cost governments over \$320 billion in 2019 alone.
 - Parties at the 26th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that will take place in November 2021 (Glasgow, Scotland) should agree to a number of things.
 - Parties should agree to accelerate the scale-up of grant-based financing for adaptation and reduce the share of climate financing provided in the form of loans. They should also rule out non-concessional climate financing and accounting standards under the UNFCCC for all donors.
6. Which of the following statements are incorrect about Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana?

1. It was launched by Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.
 2. The objective is to provide branded medicines at subsidized prices for BPL group.
 3. It is applicable to only medicines and not other medicinal products.
- A. 1 and 2 only
 - B. 2 and 3 only
 - C. 1 and 3 only
 - D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

Explanation

- Only 1 is correct
- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals in 2008 under the name Jan Aushadi Campaign.
- Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementation agency for PMBJ

- The Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India works under the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.
- PMBJP stores have been set up to provide generic drugs, which are available at lesser prices but are equivalent in quality and efficacy as expensive branded drugs.
- It also intends to extend the coverage of quality generic medicines so as to reduce the out of pocket expenditure on medicines and thereby redefine the unit cost of treatment per person.
- It will create awareness about generic medicines through education and publicity so that quality is not synonymous with an only high price.
- GOI had decided to re-name the BPPI as the Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI) and to set up a Pharma Bureau as a Single point interface of the Department of Pharmaceuticals.

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana

- ✔ Launched during the 11th plan period in November, 2008
- ✔ Number of Jan Aushadhi stores: 3000 by March 2017
- ✔ Coverage: All the Districts in the Country
- ✔ Number of medicinal products: 1000
- ✔ Type of Products: Medicines, Surgicals & Consumables, Stents & Replacements etc
- ✔ Income of Rs. 10,000/- per month up to a limit of Rs. 2.5 lakhs
- ✔ Income of Rs. 15,000 and total limit of Rs. 2.5 lakhs for NE

BPPI
Bureau of Pharma PSU of India (BPPI)
Under the Aegis of Department of Pharmaceuticals
Government of India

7. T+1 system recently heard in news is associated with which of the following?

- A. FICCI
- B. RBI
- C. ASSOCHAM
- D. SEBI

Answer: D

Explanation

- The Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) might soon offer a faster settlement trading system.
- The market regulator is considering lowering the settlement cycle for completion of share transactions to T+1 (trade plus one day)
- This means that the shares would be transferred to the buyer's Demat account the day after the transaction, and the seller would receive the proceeds.
- At present, trades are settled two working days after the transaction is done.
- SEBI is of the view that the shift to T+1 can be implemented once the market adjusts to the new margin system.
- India moved to the T+2 settlement cycle from the T+3 cycle in April 2003.
- The measure will help boost liquidity, improve efficiency and reduce payment-related risks to brokers and the system.

8. Which of the following statements regarding Sovereign Wealth Fund are correct?

1. A sovereign wealth fund is a state-owned investment fund comprised of money generated by the government, often derived from a country's surplus reserves.

2. Sovereign wealth funds are not permitted to invest in India under current norms due to security reasons.

3. National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) is an example of SWF.

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1,2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation

- A sovereign wealth fund is a state-owned investment fund comprised of money generated by the government, often derived from a country's surplus reserves.
- Popular sources for SWF are surplus reserves from state-owned natural resource revenues, trade surpluses, bank reserves that may accumulate from budgeting excesses, foreign currency operations, money from privatizations, and governmental transfer payments.
- National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) was set up as a sovereign wealth fund and is registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) under SEBI Regulations, 2012 as a Category II Alternate Investment Fund (AIF).
- It provides long-term capital for infra-related projects.
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has exempted dividend, interest and long term capital gains made by sovereign wealth fund MIC Redwood 1 RSC Limited, Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates in India from income tax subject to certain conditions.
- The exemption has been given under the clause 23 FE of section 10 of the Income Tax Act which allows sovereign wealth funds to invest in infrastructure projects in India subject to conditions including prohibition from undertaking any commercial activity within or outside India.
- Exemption will be allowed on investments made by the fund till March 31, 2024, the CBDT said in a notification dated November 2.
- The fund will have to fulfil several other conditions to get the exemption, including filing of income tax returns for the years that the investment is made till the time it's liquidated, auditing of its books, quarterly statement of investments besides a segmented account of income and expenditure in respect of such investment which qualifies for exemption.
- The fund will continue to be owned and controlled, directly or indirectly, by the Government of the Abu Dhabi at all times and will be regulated under the law of the Government of Abu Dhabi.
- No portion of the earnings will be credited to any private person, the conditions state further.
- The fund will not have any loan, borrowing, advances, deposits or investment in it of any kind directly or indirectly from any person other than the Government of the Abu Dhabi, while only surplus fund of the Government of Abu Dhabi can be invested into the fund.

- A monitoring mechanism to protect the investment will have to be set up by the fund, but it will not manage or control daily operations or appoint executive directors.
- The conditions also bar the fund from carrying out asset management for a third party.
- India has permitted investments by sovereign wealth funds, the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority and pension funds from other countries in 34 odd categories of infrastructure projects with the addition of affordable rental housing complexes in August.

9. “Interstate Migrant Policy Index” (IMPEX) has been brought out by which of the following?

- A. India Migration Now
- B. UNHCR -- The UN Refugee Agency
- C. DISHA foundation
- D. International Organization for Migration

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Mumbai based research non-profit India Migration Now has recently released “Interstate Migrant Policy Index” (IMPEX).
- The index measures integration of interstate migrants.
- The average IMPEX score of India is 37 out of 100.
- According to the index, the states of Kerala, Goa, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have been most successful in integrating migrant workers.
- On the other hand, Delhi has the least Interstate Migrant Policy Index.
- The index helps India to evolve policy for 455 million internal migrants.
- According to Census 2011, there are 455 million internal migrants in the country.
- The IMPEX is a regional adaptation of the international Migrant Integration Policy Index, conceptualised by the Migration Policy Group and the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs, both nonprofit policy think-tanks based in Europe.
- IMPEX examines eight policy areas--child rights, education, health and sanitation, housing, identity and registration, labour market, social benefits and political inclusion.

10. Which one of the following statements appropriately describes the “fiscal stimulus”?

- A. It is a massive investment by the Government in manufacturing sector to ensure the supply of goods to meet the demand surge caused by rapid economic growth.
- B. It is an intense affirmative action of the Government to boost economic activity in the country.
- C. It is Government’s intensive action on financial institutions to ensure disbursement of loans to agriculture and allied sectors to promote greater food production and contain food inflation.
- D. It is an extreme affirmative action by the Government to pursue its policy of financial inclusion.

Answer: B

Explanation

- Fiscal stimulus refers to increasing government consumption or transfers or lowering taxes.
- It refers to targeted fiscal and monetary policy intended to elicit an economic response from the private sector.
- It is a conservative approach to expansionary fiscal and monetary policy that relies on encouraging private sector spending to make up for losses of aggregate demand.
- Its measures are deficit spending and lowering taxes; monetary stimulus measures are produced by central banks and may include lowering interest rates.
- Economists still argue over the usefulness of coordinated fiscal stimulus, with some claiming that in the long run it can do more harm than short-term good.

11. Which of the following statements are correct about IPO- Initial public offering?

1. IPO refers to the process of offering shares of a private corporation to the public in a new stock issuance.
2. A company offering its shares to the public is not obliged to repay the capital to public investors.
3. RBI regulates the entire process of IPO'S in India.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- SEBI regulates the entire process of investment via an IPO India.
- Initial public offering is the process by which a private company can go public by sale of its stocks to general public.
- It could be a new, young company or an old company which decides to be listed on an exchange and hence goes public.
- Companies can raise equity capital with the help of an IPO by issuing new shares to the public or the existing shareholders can sell their shares to the public without raising any fresh capital.
- A company offering its shares to the public is not obliged to repay the capital to public investors.
- The company which offers its shares, known as an 'issuer', does so with the help of investment banks.
- After IPO, the company's shares are traded in an open market.
- Those shares can be further sold by investors through secondary market trading.
- SEBI regulates the entire process of investment via an IPO India.

- Recently, Indore-based Enking International plans on becoming the world's first company that operates in the carbon markets space to go in for an IPO.
- These are market-tradeable instruments that are issued to entities whose projects reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

12. Kamath committee recently heard in news is related to which of the following?

- A. To decide the appropriate level of reserves that the RBI should hold
- B. Security Analysis and Investment Management.
- C. Restructuring of stressed accounts.
- D. Comprehensive Financial Services for Small Businesses and Low Income Households.

Answer: C

Explanation

- The K.V. Kamath committee recommended a graded approach to restructuring of stressed accounts based on severity of the impact on the borrowers.
- The committee has allowed banks to classify the accounts into mild, moderate and severe as recommended by the committee.
- In line with the mandate given by the RBI, Kamath committee has identified four financial parameters including total outside liabilities to adjusted tangible network, total debt to EBITDA, debt service coverage ratio (DSCR), average debt service coverage ratio (ADSCR).



13. Which of the following statements are correct about OMO – Open Market Operations?

1. It is market operation conducted by RBI by way of sale/purchase of government securities to/from the market.
 2. If there is excess liquidity, RBI resorts to purchase of securities and sucks out the rupee liquidity.
- A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- If there is excess liquidity, RBI resorts to sale of securities and sucks out the rupee liquidity.)

- Open Market Operations (OMOs) are market operations conducted by RBI by way of sale/purchase of government securities to/from the market with an objective to adjust the rupee liquidity conditions in the market on a durable basis.
- If there is excess liquidity, RBI resorts to sale of securities and sucks out the rupee liquidity.
- Similarly, when the liquidity conditions are tight, RBI buys securities from the market, thereby releasing liquidity into the market.
- It is one of the quantitative (to regulate or control the total volume of money) monetary policy tools which is employed by the central bank of a country to control the money supply in the economy.



14.A situation when the price charged is more than or less than the equilibrium price determined by market forces of demand and supply is known as

- A. Price Gap
- B. Price Floor
- C. Price Ceiling
- D. Group Pricing

Answer: B

Explanation

- Price floor is a situation when the price charged is more than or less than the equilibrium price determined by market forces of demand and supply.
- By observation, it has been found that lower price floors are ineffective.
- Price floor has been found to be of great importance in the labour-wage market.
- Minimum wage laws have been passed in various countries to determine the minimum wages to be paid to the worker.
- Minimum wages are formulated from the demand-supply curve of labour.
- This helps the government ensure higher wages and a good standard of living for the workers.



15. Which of the following statements are correct about Jeevan Pramaan Patra?

1. It is a digital life certificate for pensioners.
 2. India Post Payments Bank has launched the doorstep Digital Life Certificate (DLC) service for pensioners.
 3. EPS pensioners can now submit DLC at any time during the year, as per their convenience.
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 1 and 3 only
C. 2 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Explanation

- Digital Life Certificate or Jeevan Pramaan is a biometric-enabled digital service for pensioners.
- This service can be availed without being physically present at the pension disbursing agency or have the Life Certificate issued by the authority.
- Pensioners have to submit Jeevan Pramaan Patra (JPP) / Digital Life certificate (DLC) each year to continue drawing pension.
- Owing to the current scenario, the Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) has facilitated multiple options for EPS pensioners to submit their DLC, close to their home or at their door step.
- Recently, India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has launched the doorstep Digital Life Certificate (DLC) service for pensioners.
- EPS pensioners can now submit online request for availing doorstep DLC service on payment of a nominal fee.
- A postman from the nearest Post Office will visit a pensioner and complete the process of generating DLC at the home of the pensioner only.
- EPS pensioners can now submit DLC at any time during the year, as per their convenience.
- The life certificate will remain valid for one year from date of submission of DLC.
- The pensioners who have been issued Pension Payment Order (PPO) in 2020 need not upload JPP till completion of one year.
- Earlier, all EPS pensioners were required to submit the DLC in the month of November.

16. 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.

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 timing 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



- 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.

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

- United Nations
- World Rural Forum Association
- Bioversity International
- 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: WBI 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



18. Global Bribery Risk Matrix is released by

- IMF
- LANCET
- TRACE
- 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.

19. Mission Purvodaya is launched by

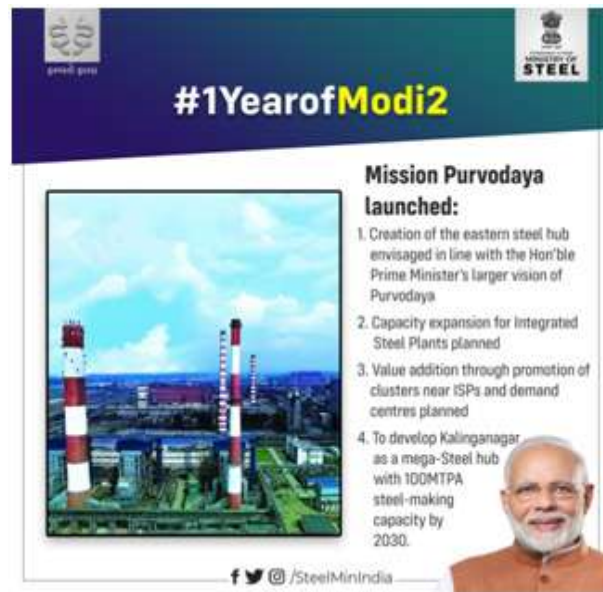
- A. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs
- C. Ministry of Steel
- D. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

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.



20. 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 & Ecology

To watch the following questions on YouTube, click on the links given below

- [Video 1](#)
- [Video 2](#)
- [Video 3](#)
- [Video 4](#)

1. Based On the following statements identify the animal

1. The species was first described by George Albert Boulenger in 1907.
 2. It occurs in hill forests at 450–850 m elevation.
 3. Males combat by ramming their shell during their breeding season between November and March.
 4. Restricted to the Western Ghats, in the Indian states of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- A. Indian Chameleon
B. Travancore Tortoise
C. Changeable Garden Lizard
D. Horseshoe Pit Viper

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Travancore tortoise (*Indotestudo travancorica*) is a large forest tortoise growing up to 330 millimeters (13 in) in length.
- The species was first described by George Albert Boulenger in 1907.
- It primarily feeds on grasses and herbs.
- It also feeds on molluscs, insects, animal carcass, fungi and fruits.
- It occurs in hill forests at 450–850 m elevation.
- Males combat by ramming their shell during their breeding season between November and March.
- It makes a shallow nest in the ground and lay 1 to 5 eggs.
- Hatchlings are 55–60 mm in size.
- The tortoise is hunted and it is threatened due to forest fires, habitat destruction and fragmentation
- Identification: a scute right behind the head is absent and the second scute along the vertebral column is located at the highest point of the shell.
- Status: IUCN Red list - vulnerable;

- Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act: Schedule IV.
- Distribution: restricted to the Western Ghats, in the Indian states of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

2. Which of the following are tributaries of Yamuna?

1. Tons
2. Sasur Khaderi
3. Sind
4. Karmansa

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- Karmansa is the tributary of river Ganga Major tributaries of Yamuna are: Tons, hindon, ken, Chambal , sind, sasur khaderi, betwa.

3. Which of the following are the parameters used in deriving AQI?

1. PM 2.5
2. LEAD (Pb)
3. Nitrous oxide (N_2O)
4. Carbon monoxide (CO)

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- Eight pollutants act as a major parameters in deriving the AQI of an area:
 - ✓ (PM) 10
 - ✓ PM2.5
 - ✓ Ozone (O₃)
 - ✓ Sulphur dioxide (SO₂)



- ✓ Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)
- ✓ carbon monoxide (CO)
- ✓ lead (Pb)
- ✓ ammonia (NH₃)

4. Kawasaki disease recently heard in news is attacks which body part?

- A. Eyes
- B. Bone Marrow
- C. Heart
- D. Spinal Cord

Answer: C

Explanation

- Kawasaki disease or mucocutaneous lymph node syndrome is an illness that causes blood vessels to become inflamed, almost always in young children.
- It is an auto immune disease.
- It's one of the leading causes of heart disease in kids.
- The inflammation of Kawasaki disease can damage a child's coronary arteries, which carry blood to their heart.
- It can also cause problems with lymph nodes, skin, and the lining of a child's mouth, nose, and throat.
- The signs and symptoms of Kawasaki disease include a high fever, peeling skin, rash, red eyes, swollen glands, belly pain, joint pain, etc
- Scientists haven't found an exact cause for Kawasaki disease.
- It might be linked to genes, viruses, bacteria, and other things in the world around a child, such as chemicals and irritants.
- The disease probably isn't contagious, but it sometimes happens in clusters in a community.
- Kids are more likely to get it in the winter and spring.
- Age: It usually affects children who are 5 or younger.
- Sex: Boys are 1.5 times more likely to get it than girls.
- Ethnicity: Children of Asian descent are more likely to have Kawasaki disease.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said India has not reported any cases of Kawasaki disease (KD) in children with COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus or SARSCoV-2.

5. Mudumalai Tiger Reserve is in which state?

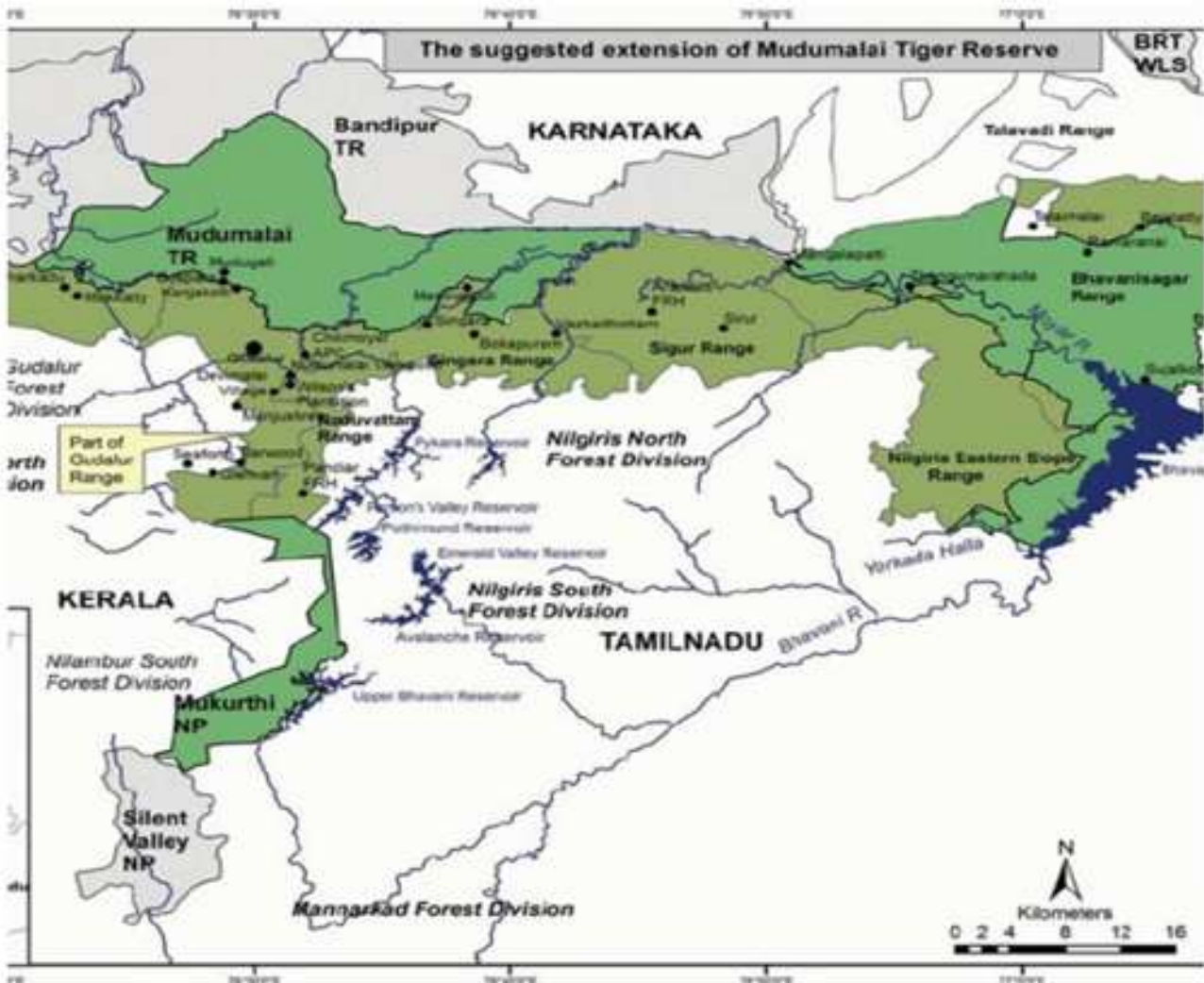
- A. Karnataka
- B. Kerela

- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Andhra Pradesh

Answer: C

Explanation

- Mudumalai Tiger Reserve is located in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu state at the tri-junction of three states, viz, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- It is a part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve along with Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala) in the West, Bandipur National Park (Karnataka) in the North, Mukurthi National Park and Silent Valley in the South.
- The name Mudumalai means the ancient hill range.
- This is the first Sanctuary to be set up in India and forms part of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Park.



6. Based on the following statements identify the NP/WLS/TR/BR.
1. It lies in the foothills of the eastern Himalayas.
 2. It is known for its amazing sightings of four resident hornbill species.
 3. It is bounded to the north and west by the Kameng River also known as Bhareli River.

4. It became the first in the eight-State northeast to provide insurance cover against COVID-19 to the staff.

- A. Namdapha National Park.
- B. Narpuh Wildlife Sanctuary
- C. Pakke Tiger Reserve
- D. Nokrek Biosphere Reserve

Answer: C

Explanation

- Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Arunachal Pradesh has become the first in the eight-State northeast to provide insurance cover against COVID-19 for “green soldiers”.
- Location: It is located in the East Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh. Pakke Tiger Reserve (declared in 1999 - 2000) lies in the foothills of the eastern Himalaya in the East Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh. It is also known as Pakhui Tiger Reserve.
- Neighbouring areas and rivers: Towards the south and south-east, the sanctuary adjoins Nameri National Park of Assam. To the east lies the Pakke River and to the west, the park is bounded by the Bhareli or Kameng River.
- It falls within the Eastern Himalaya Biodiversity Hotspot.
- It is home to over 2000 species of plants, 300 species of birds, 40 species of mammals, 30 species of amphibians and 36 species of reptiles. Many species of the flora and fauna are globally threatened, and PTR is one of the last remaining strongholds left for these species.
- It is known for its amazing sightings of four resident hornbill species.

7. Which of the following statements are incorrect about Polavaram project?

- 1. The dam is being built across the Godavari River in Telangana.
- 2. Its reservoir spreads in parts of Chhattisgarh and Orissa also.

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- Andhra Pradesh government is planning to complete the Polavaram project by 2022 kharif season, and six other projects – Vamsadhara Phase 2, Vamsadhara-Nagavali link, Owk tunnel-2, Velugonda-Phase 1 and Nellore and Sangam barrages in 2020-21.
- The dam is being built across the Godavari River in Andhra Pradesh.
- It will facilitate an inter-basin transfer to the Krishna river basin through its Right canal.

- Its reservoir spreads in parts of Chhattisgarh and Orissa States also.
- The project is a multipurpose major terminal reservoir project for development of Irrigation, Hydropower and drinking water facilities.
- The project was accorded national status in 2014 in the Andhra Pradesh Bifurcation Act and its design was changed.



8. Which of the following statements regarding Bio- decomposer technique are correct?

1. It is to be used as a base model for biogas plants on commercial level.
2. It is developed under the guidance of the PUSA Institute.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The bio-decomposer technique is being used for converting stubble into manure.
- It is based on the initial results from a farm where the bio decomposing solution, developed under the guidance of the PUSA Institute, was being tried out by the Delhi government.
- The government would now present this alternative in the Supreme Court owing to its effectiveness and cost.
- This solution can also be tried by farmers in Punjab and Haryana

- Pusa Decomposer is a mix of seven fungi that produce enzymes to digest cellulose, lignin and pectin in paddy straw.
- The fungi thrive at 30-32 degree Celsius, which is the temperature prevailing when paddy is harvested and wheat is sown.
- A liquid formulation is formed using decomposer capsules and fermenting it over 8-10 days and then spraying the mixture on fields with crop stubble to ensure speedy bio-decomposition of the stubble.
- The farmers can prepare 25 liter of liquid mixture with 4 capsules, jaggery and chickpea flour. The mixture is sufficient to cover 1 hectare of land.
- It takes around 20 days for the degradation process to be completed.
- Benefits:
 - ✓ Improves the fertility and productivity of the soil as the stubble works as manure and compost for the crops and lesser fertiliser consumption is required in the future.
 - ✓ It is an efficient and effective, cheaper, doable and practical technique to stop stubble burning.
 - ✓ It is an eco-friendly and environmentally useful technology.

9. Luhri Hydropower project is situated in

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Punjab
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Sikkim

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the investment for 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project.
- It is located on River Satluj in Shimla and Kullu districts of Himachal Pradesh.



पिबि
CABINET APPROVES
210 MW LUHRI STAGE-I
HYDRO ELECTRIC PROJECT

- Investment of ₹1810.56 crore approved
- Located on river Satluj in Himachal Pradesh
- Implemented by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited on Build-Own-Operate-Maintain basis
- Active support from Government of India and Himachal Pradesh Government
- Will generate 758.20 million units of electricity annually
- To be commissioned within a span of 62 months

1/2

10. Which of the following statements are correct about Paris Agreement?

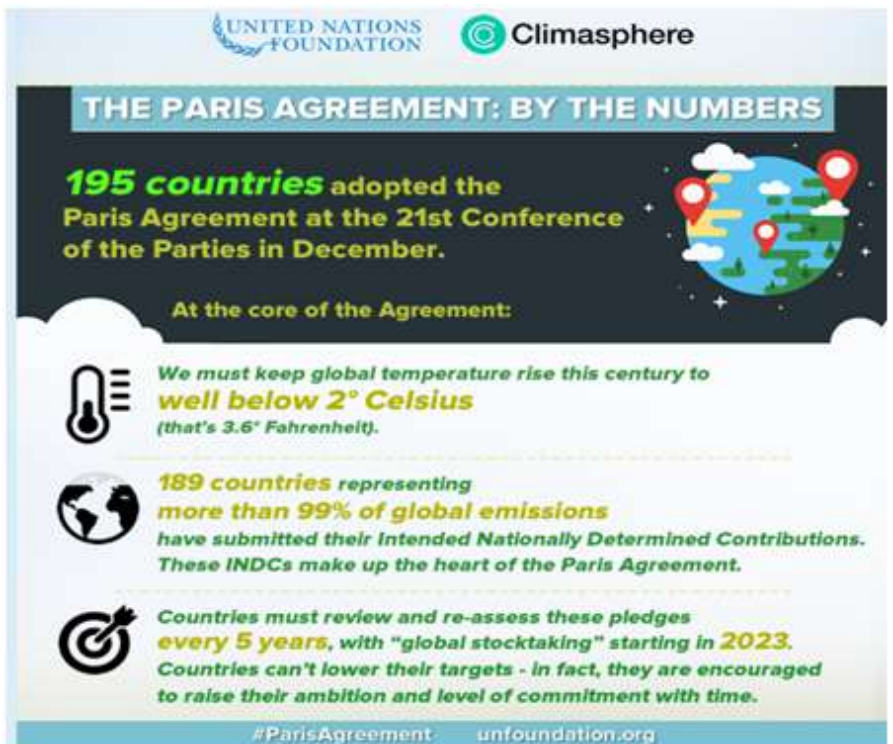
1. It was signed within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
2. It has a target of attaining “net zero emissions” between 2050 and 2100.
3. The Paris Agreement requires developed countries to put forward their best efforts through “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs).
4. Recently US formally left the Paris Climate Agreement.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- At COP 21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015, Parties to the UNFCCC reached a landmark agreement to combat climate change and to accelerate and intensify the actions and investments needed for a sustainable low carbon future.
- The Paris Agreement’s central aim is to keep global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.
- Additionally, the agreement aims to increase the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change, and at making finance flows consistent with a low GHG emissions and climate-resilient pathway
- The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through “nationally determined contributions” (NDCs) and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. This includes requirements that all Parties report regularly on their emissions and on their implementation efforts.
- There will also be a global stock take every 5 years to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the agreement and to inform further individual actions by Parties.
- The Paris Agreement opened for signature on 22 April 2016 – Earth Day – at UN Headquarters in New York.



- It entered into force on 4 November 2016, 30 days after the so-called “double threshold” (ratification by 55 countries that account for at least 55% of global emissions) had been met.

11. Based on the following statements identify the Wetland?

1. It is fed by the Ganga and Solani rivers.
 2. It is located within the boundaries of the Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary.
 3. It is an important stopover destination for winter migratory birds like the Greylag goose and the Bar-headed goose.
 4. Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA)-India is conducting a survey of river turtles here.
- A. Haiderpur wetland.
B. Dhanauri wetland.
C. Semrai wetland.
D. Ekana wetland.

Answer: A

Explanation

- The forest department in Uttar Pradesh is working along with conservation organisations to make the Haiderpur wetland in Muzaffarnagar district a Ramsar site.
- It came into existence in 1984 after the construction of the Madhya Ganga Barrage.
- It is spread over 1,214 hectares.
- It is located within the boundaries of the Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Many bird species inhabit the Haiderpur wetland and it is an important stopover destination for winter migratory birds like the Greylag goose and the Bar-headed goose.
- It is situated at a strategic location on the banks of the Ganga where it meets the Solani, a small tributary.
- After the barrage was constructed, the spill over water of these two rivers formed the marshy land, now an important bird habitat.
- TSA is conducting a survey of river turtles in Haidepur to assess their habitat and population.
- The Haidepur wetland has been identified under Namami Gange, a flagship programme of the Government of India launched in 2014, as a model wetland along the Ganga.

12. Which of the following statements are correct about Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 or PESA Act?

1. It was enacted by Government to cover the “Scheduled Areas”, which are not covered in the 73rd Constitutional amendment.
2. Elected heads of the respective state are empowered to safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs of the people, their cultural identity, community resources and the customary mode of dispute resolution.

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- Chhattisgarh government has recently started the process to frame the rules to implement the PESA Act.
- Since the PESA Act was passed, six states – Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat – have made rules while Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand have yet to do so for implementation of the Act.
- PESA is a law enacted by Government to cover the “Scheduled Areas”, which are not covered in the 73rd Constitutional amendment.
- This particular act extends the provisions of Part IX to the Scheduled Areas of the country.
- PESA brought powers further down to the Gram Sabha level.
- The Gram Sabha in the Panchayat Act were entrusted with wide ranging powers starting from consultation on land acquisition to that of ownership over minor forest produces and leasing of minor minerals.
- Every Gram Sabha shall be competent to safeguard and preserve the traditions and customs of the people, their cultural identity, community resources and the customary mode of dispute resolution.
- It has further provided that the Gram Sabha or Panchayats at appropriate level shall have the following powers:
 - ✓ To be consulted on matters of land acquisition and resettlement.
 - ✓ Grant prospecting license for mining lease for minor minerals and concessions for such activities.
 - ✓ Planning and management of minor water bodies.
 - ✓ The power to enforce prohibition or to regulate or restrict the sale and consumption of any intoxicant.
 - ✓ The ownership of minor forest produces.
 - ✓ The power to prevent alienation of land and to restore any unlawfully alienated land of a scheduled tribe.
 - ✓ The power to manage village markets.
 - ✓ The power to exercise control over money lending to scheduled tribes.
 - ✓ While giving such wide-ranging powers to Gram Sabhas or Panchayats, PESA has further given an added responsibility to States that they may endow Panchayats with powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government.

- ✓ It also contains safeguards to ensure that Panchayats at higher level do not assume the powers and authority of any Panchayats at the lower level or the Gram Sabha.

13. According to a recent notification issued by GOI which of the following statements are incorrect?

1. Health certification has been made mandatory for all milk and milk product exports.

2. The rules were passed by Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- India under the Export of Milk and Milk Products (Quality Control, Inspection and Monitoring) Rules, 2020, made a health certification mandatory for all milk and milk product exports that will be subject to stringent quality control, inspection and monitoring.
- Export of milk and milk products that do not comply with the standards will be prohibited as per rules notified by the commerce and industry ministry.
- Under the Export of Milk and Milk Products (Quality Control, Inspection and Monitoring) Rules, 2020, the government setup a standing committee under Chairman, Export Inspection Council (EIC) to formulate standards for which none are available.
- The order supersedes the Export of Milk Products (Quality Control, Inspection and Monitoring) Rules, 2000.
- It has also mandated the consignment to be accompanied by a certificate of export worthiness
- The council will issue a certificate that would be valid for a period of three years.
- EIC would issue the health certificate declaring such consignment is fit for human consumption and export worthy but would also issue a veterinary certificate, if requested by the exporter, in the specified preformat as asked by the importing country.
- In case the importing country requires a health certificate, the same may be provided.
- India exported \$129.87 million worth dairy produce, birds' eggs, natural honey and edible products of animal origin in the April-August period.
- The order details various hygiene requirements and general conditions relating to the holding and acceptance of raw milk at treatment and processing establishments.
- The EIC also has to ensure that there is no residue of substances having a pharmacological or hormonal action, and of antibiotics, pesticides, detergents in excess of the permitted levels fixed so as to make them harmful or which might alter their organoleptic characteristics or make their consumption dangerous or harmful to human health.

14. Which state has recently announced formation of 'Gau Cabinet' for cow protection?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Bihar
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Madhya Pradesh

Answer: D

Explanation

- Madhya Pradesh Govt. has decided to constitute a Gau Cabinet (cow cabinet) for cattle conservation and promotion.
- It will comprise animal husbandry, farmers' welfare, forest, panchayat-rural development, home and revenue departments.
- The first meeting of the cow cabinet will be held at the cow sanctuary in Agar-Malwa district on Gopashthami festival on November 22.

15. Which of the following statements regarding 'convergence project' are correct?

1. These projects are planned to be set up all over the country to ramp up the brownfield projects.
2. The first convergence project will be set up in Goa.
3. Commerce ministry is the implementing agency for convergence projects.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- India's first convergence project to generate green energy for rural and agriculture consumption is set to come up in Goa.
- Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL), a joint venture of PSUs under the Ministry of Power, and Goa government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the same.
- Objective: It seeks to connect seemingly independent sectors like Solar Energy, Energy Storage and LED lights to provide solutions, which can enable in decarbonisation and affordable energy access.
- Mechanism:
 - ✓ EESL is offering convergent interventions, which solve multiple gap areas in the energy ecosystem.
 - ✓ Solutions such as solarised agriculture feeders, LED Street lights in local villages and battery energy storage systems.

- ✓ Leveraging the carbon financing mechanism to rapidly strengthen rural infrastructure in a clean and sustainable manner, and to create a resilient and sustainable rural community in India.
- ✓ EESL's climate financing interventions currently include Gram UJALA, Decentralised Solar and Gram Panchayat Street Lights programmes.

● **Benefits:**

- ✓ **Promote Renewable Energy:** It will accelerate the usage of renewable energy sources, especially for agricultural and rural power consumption in the State.
- ✓ **Energy Efficient:** Contribute to reduction of peak energy demand through deployment of energy efficient pumping and lighting thus contributing to overall sustainability.
- ✓ **Improve Health of DISCOMs:** Accrue savings of Rs 2,574 crores to the State over the period of 25 years, while improving the health of DISCOMs and providing cleaner power.
- ✓ **Check Technical Losses:** Provide clean day time electricity to farmers as well as energy efficient pump sets which would reduce the power consumption as well as T&D (Transmission and Distribution Losses) losses associated with transmitting power to agriculture and rural feeder networks.

16. 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.

17. 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.



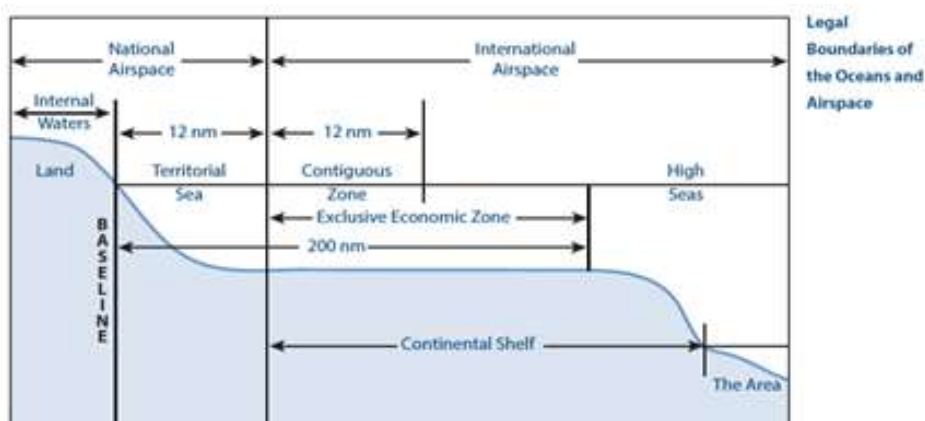
18. The term Exclusive Economic Zone recently heard in news is related to which of the following?

- 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.



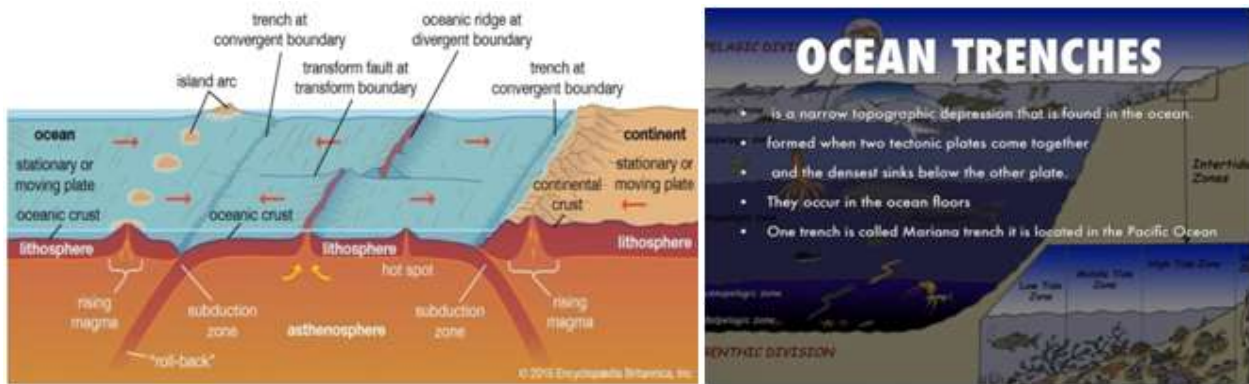
19. A long, narrow, deep depression in the ocean bed, typically one running parallel to a plate boundary and marking a subduction zone is called a

- A. Trench
- B. Strait
- C. Gulf
- D. 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.



20. 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

To watch the following questions on YouTube, click on the links given below

- [Video 1](#)
- [Video 2](#)
- [Video 3](#)
- [Video 4](#)

1. Which of the following statements are correct about SERB- POWER?

1. It is designed exclusively for school students.
2. SERB is a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology.

Choose the correct answer.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- SERB-POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research) is a scheme designed exclusively for women scientists.
- The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a Statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), has been contemplating to institute a scheme to mitigate gender disparity in science and engineering research in various S&T programs in Indian academic institutions and R&D laboratories.
- SERB - POWER Scheme will have two components namely (i) SERB-POWER Fellowship (ii) SERB-POWER Research Grants. The salient features of each of these are as follows:
- Salient features of the SERB-POWER Fellowship:-
 - ✓ Target: Women researchers in 35-55 years of age.
 - ✓ Up-to 25 Fellowships per year and not more than 75 at any point in time.

Salient features of the SERB - POWER Research Grant

- POWER Grants will empower women researchers by funding them under following two categories:
 - ✓ Level I (Applicants from IITs, IISERs, IISc, NITs, Central Universities, and National Labs of Central Government Institutions): The scale of funding is up to 60 lakhs for three years.



✓ Level II (Applicants from State Universities / Colleges and Private Academic Institutions): The scale of funding is up to 30 lakhs for three years.

- POWER Grant will be regulated through terms of reference conforming to SERB-CRG (Science and Engineering Research Board-Core Research Grant) guidelines.
- While a Search-cum-Selection Committee constituted for the purpose will help in identifying the POWER Fellowship, the existing Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) mechanism will be used to select the POWER Research Grants.
- It is proposed to institute 25 POWER Fellowships annually.
- A total of 50 Power Grants each will be sanctioned in Level I & Level II per annum.

2. 16 psyches, recently heard in news, is?

- A. The first image of a black hole.
- B. A giant squid sighting.
- C. An exoplanet with water vapor.
- D. An asteroid discovered in 1852.

Answer: D

Explanation

- Asteroids are small rocky bodies, orbiting the sun.
- The vast majority are in the so-called Asteroid Belt, between Mars and Jupiter.
- But these rocks also wander around elsewhere, leading to occasional scares about one hitting Earth and triggering another mass extinction.
- Scientists believe that the asteroid 16 Psyche is the core of a proto planet that was smashed apart some billion years ago.
- With a composition of 90 percent metallic and 10 percent silicate rock, it is thought to be much denser than a stony object of similar size, containing roughly 1 percent of the entire mass of the asteroid belt.
- The primary target of the Psyche mission, the Psyche spacecraft will launch in August 2022 and arrive at the asteroid in 2026, following a Mars gravity assist in 2023.
- Assuming that the core of the asteroid is made of iron and nickel, the total value of the asteroid is expected to be around \$10,000 quadrillion dollars.
- 16 Psyche is a large asteroid discovered by the Italian astronomer Annibale de Gasparis on 17 March 1852 from Naples and named after the Greek mythological figure Psyche.

3. Leishmania donovani, recently heard in news, is a/an

- A. Parasite
- B. Fungi
- C. Algae

D. Bacteria

Answer: A

Explanation

- Leishmania donovani is a species of intracellular parasites belonging to the genus Leishmania, a group of haemoflagellate kinetoplastids that cause the disease leishmaniasis.
- It is a human blood parasite responsible for visceral leishmaniasis or kala-azar, the most severe form of leishmaniasis.
- It infects the mononuclear phagocyte system including spleen, liver and bone marrow.
- Infection is transmitted by species of sand fly.
- Therefore, the parasite is prevalent throughout tropical and temperate regions including Africa (mostly in Sudan), China, India, Nepal, southern Europe, Russia and South America.

4. Which of the following statements are correct about Pinaka system?

1. It is indigenously developed by ISRO.
2. It will be used to launch satellites into the geo- stationary orbits.

Select the correct code.

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- Pinaka is an indigenously developed rocket system named after Lord Shiva's mythological bow.
- It is used for attacking the adversary targets prior to the close-quarter battles which involve smaller range artillery, armoured elements and the infantry.
- The development of the Pinaka was started by the DRDO in the late 1980s, as an alternative to the multi-barrel rocket launching systems of Russian make, called like the 'Grad', which are still in use.
- After successful tests of Pinaka Mark-1 in late 1990, it was first used in the battlefield during the Kargil War of 1999, quite successfully.
- Subsequently, multiple regiments of the system came up over the 2000s.
- The Pinaka, which is primarily a multi-barrel rocket system (MBRL) system, can fire a salvo of 12 rockets over a period of 44 seconds.
- One battery of the Pinaka system consists of six launch vehicles, accompanied by the loader systems, radar and links with network-based systems and a command post.
- It can neutralize an area one kilometer by one kilometer.

- The Mark-I version of Pinaka has a range of around 40 kilometres and the Mark-II version can fire up to 75 kilometres.
- The Mark-II version of the rocket has been modified as a guided missile system by integrating it with the navigation, control and guidance system to improve the end accuracy and increase the range.
- The navigation system of the missile is linked with the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System.
- India successfully flight-tested the enhanced version of Pinaka multi-barrel rocket system (MRLS).
- Indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the enhanced Pinaka along with guidance Pinaka will cover the range between 60 to 90 kilometres and will be deployed by the Indian Army.
- The test-flight was carried out from Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha.
- This new rocket system has a longer range with reduced length compared to the earlier variant (Mk-1), which will now be phased out.
- The design and development has been carried out by Pune-based laboratories of DRDO, Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE) and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL).
- All the flight articles were tracked by range instruments such as telemetry, radar and Electro Optical Tracking Systems (EOTS) which confirmed the flight performance.
- The enhanced version of the Pinaka rocket would replace the existing Pinaka Mk-1 rockets.
- While Mk-1 had a range of 36 km, this enhanced variant can hit a target 45 to 60 km away and has been developed as per requirements of the Indian Army.

5. Baghjan well is in which state?

- A. Bihar
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Assam
- D. Gujarat

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Oil India Limited owned Baghjan well, near tinsukia Assam, erupted on May 27, 2020.
- It has been burning for more than five months now.
- The fire is still uncontrollable even after five months of continuous efforts.
- In order to put off the fire, a snubbing unit is being brought from Canada.
- The OIL failed to control the fire after reaching a penultimate stage in August 2020.
- The uncontrollable release of natural gas was the main reason.

6. Which of the following statements regarding OTT are correct?

1. OTT - over-the-top media service is any online content provider that offers streaming media as a standalone product.
 2. It is regulated by Department of Telecommunications.
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- The government has brought “Over the Top” (OTT) platforms or video streaming service providers under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- This will give the government control over the OTT platforms, which were unregulated till now.
- Earlier there was no law or autonomous body governing digital content.
- In January 2019, eight video streaming services had signed a self-regulatory code that laid down a set of guiding principles for the content on these platforms.
- The code adopted by the OTTs prohibited five types of content, including content which deliberately and maliciously disrespects the national emblem or flag and any visuals or story lines that promotes child pornography.
- An “over-the-top” media service is any online content provider that offers streaming media as a standalone product.
- The term is commonly applied to video-on-demand platforms, but also refers to audio streaming, messaging services, or internet-based voice calling solutions.
- OTT services circumvent traditional media distribution channels such as telecommunications networks or cable television providers.

7. Shashi Shekhar Vempati committee recently heard in news is constituted for

- A. Consultative committee of Parliament for the Ministry of Defence.
B. Existing rating system for TV channels.
C. Malpractices in banks
D. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

Answer: B

Explanation

- The central government has entered into the functioning of India’s television rating system which was until now solely handled by joint industry body under BARC India.

- The government has notified a committee to be headed by Prasar Bharati CEO Shashi Shekhar Vempati to access the existing rating system for TV channels.
- The KRA of the committee according to the Ministry will be to:
 - ✓ Study past recommendations made by various forums on the subject of television rating systems in India and matter incidental thereto.
 - ✓ Study recent recommendations of TRAI on the subject
 - ✓ Suggest steps for enhancing competition in the sector
- Review of the presently notified guidelines to see if the intended purpose(s) of issuing the guidelines have stood the test of time and has met needs of various stakeholders involved. The lacunae, if any, shall be specially addressed by the committee
- Any issues related or incidental to the subject
- To make recommendations on way forward for robust, transparent and accountable rating system in India, and
- Any other related issues assigned by MIB from time to time
- The committee may invite any expert as a special invitee. The committee shall submit its report to the I&B Minister within two months of the date of issue of order.

8. Which of the following statements regarding India Mobile Congress are correct?

1. It is the largest cluster of e-court India services.
2. It is organized by Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
3. Theme for year 2020 is Inclusive Innovation – Smart | Secure | Sustainable.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The IMC 2020 will be held virtually this year.
- It is organized by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)
- Theme: “Inclusive Innovation – Smart | Secure | Sustainable”
- It is the biggest technology platform in Asia that brings together top policy makers, global industry experts, academia, regulators and analysts to discuss and deliberate on critical industry issues that result in policy decisions and affect market trends in addition to inviting investments into the sector and driving innovations.

- India Mobile Congress is committed to put India on the global technology map and promote the idea of a self-reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat)
- IMC has established itself as a leading platform for bringing together the industry, Government, academia, and other ecosystem players to discuss, deliberate and display the latest industry technology trends around major themes such as SG, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of things (IoT), Data Analytics, Cloud and Edge Computing, Open source tech, data privacy and cyber security, Smart Cities and automation.
- This year prime Partners include Dell Technologies, Ribbon Communications and Red Hat.

9. EOS-01, recently heard in news is

- A. Fermi's chimneys
- B. Radio bubbles in the galaxy
- C. Vaccine developed by Pfizer to fight covid-19
- D. An Earth observation satellite.

Answer: D

Explanation

- It is an earth observation satellite.
- EOS-01 is nothing but another Radar Imaging Satellite (RISAT) that will work together with RISAT-2B and RISAT-2BR1 launched last year.
- Henceforth all the earth observation satellites would be called EOS-series.
- Earth-observation satellites are used for land and forest mapping and monitoring, mapping of resources like water or minerals or fishes, weather and climate observations, soil assessment, geospatial contour mapping are all done through earth-observation satellites.



10. Pneumonia and Diarrhoea Progress Report is released by

- A. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- B. Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (Gavi).
- C. International Vaccine Access Centre (IVAC).
- D. United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

Answer: C

Explanation

- Released annually by the International Vaccine Access Centre (IVAC).

- India has made significant progress in its vaccination coverage to prevent child pneumonia and diarrhoea deaths.
- Although overall the world's health systems are falling short of ensuring that children have access to prevention and treatment services, India has achieved the global target of 90% coverage for three of the five vaccines whose coverage is monitored in the report.
- These vaccines are Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus (DPT) vaccine, Measles-containing-vaccine first dose, and Haemophilus influenzae type B, pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV), and rotavirus vaccine.
- India has also completed the "100-day agenda" – an unprecedented national scale-up of rotavirus vaccine. This landmark vaccine expansion will help protect 26 million children born each year against life-threatening cases of rotavirus diarrhoea.
- However, India failed to reach all four targets for treatment- breastfeeding, immunisation, care-seeking and antibiotics, oral rehydration solution (ORS), and zinc supplementation.

Report card

Though India has made some strides in its vaccination programme, access to treatment leaves much to be desired

● India's under-five diarrhoea and pneumonia deaths in 2017: **2,33,240**

● India's coverage of rotavirus vaccine increased from **35%** in 2018 to **53%** in 2019

● Coverage against pneumococcal pneumonia increased from **6%** in 2018 to **15%** in 2019

● Treatment for diarrhoea had the lowest coverage with only **51%** of children receiving ORS and **20%** getting zinc

A file picture of a nurse administering pentavalent vaccine to a child in Hyderabad.



11.PARAM SIDDHI recently seen in news is:

- A gel that can protect farmers from toxic pesticides.
- World's thinnest material with novel technique.
- An AI super computer
- Faster diagnostic tests for tuberculosis.

Answer: C

Explanation

- Param Siddhi is a supercomputer established under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM).
- It has achieved 63rd rank in the list of 500 most powerful supercomputers in the world.
- Param Siddhi-AI will go a long way in empowering our national academic and R&D institutions as well as industries and start-ups spread over the country networked on the national supercomputer grid over the National Knowledge Network (NKN)
- The AI system will strengthen application development of packages in areas such as advanced materials, computational chemistry and astrophysics, and several packages being developed under

the mission on platform for drug design and preventive health care system, flood forecasting package for flood-prone cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Patna and Guwahati.

- This will accelerate research and development in the fight against COVID-19 through faster simulations, medical imaging, genome sequencing and forecasting and is a boon for Indian masses and for start-ups and MSMEs in particular.
- It will help in application developers and will help testing of weather forecasting packages by National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecast (NCMRWF) and Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), geo-exploration packages for oil and gas recovery, packages for aero design studies, computational physics and mathematical applications and even online courses for Human Resource Development.
- The supercomputer with Rpeak of 5.267 Petaflops and 4.6 Petaflops Rmax (Sustained) was conceived by C-DAC and developed jointly with support of DST and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) under the NSM.
- Param Siddhi has got the recognition among non-distributed computer systems. A non-distributed computer system has all its components at a single location. In this case, Param Siddhi is in Pune.
- Param Siddhi Supercomputer is built on the NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD reference architecture networking along with C-DAC's indigenously developed HPC-AI engine, software frameworks and cloud platform and will help deep learning, visual computing, virtual reality, accelerated computing, as well as graphics virtualisation.

12. Which of the following statements are ***incorrect*** about G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance?

1. It was formed by WEF – World Economic Forum.
 2. The aim of the alliance is to promote the responsible and ethical use of smart city technologies by establishing global norms and policy standards for the use of connected devices in public spaces.
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Explanation

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) has announced the formation of the G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance on Technology Governance.
- The alliance includes 15 city networks and technology governance organisations from all over the world.
- The aim of the alliance is to promote the responsible and ethical use of smart city technologies by establishing global norms and policy standards for the use of connected devices in public spaces.
- The decision to form such an alliance took place in June 2019 parallel to the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan.

- The alliance committed to co-design and present a global policy framework on smart city technologies before the G20 Riyadh Summit in Saudi Arabia.
- It is currently accepting nominations from public and private entities, interested in contributing to global policy standards.
- Four Indian cities – Indore, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Faridabad – feature in a list of 36 cities across 22 countries and six continents selected by the World Economic Forum (WEF) to pioneer a new roadmap for smart cities as part of the G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance.
- The list also includes Dubai, Belfast, Barcelona, London, Manila, Moscow, San Jose, Toronto, Melbourne, Lisbon, Istanbul and others.
- These 36 “pioneer cities” will adopt policies for privacy protection, better broadband coverage, accountability for cyber security, increased openness of city data, and better accessibility to digital city services for disabled and elderly people.
- The plan will come into motion with the launch of a new global policy roadmap for safe adoption of new technology by the G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance amid the Covid-19 pandemic and the economic hardship it has brought on cities across the world.
- The policy is designed to give cities the procedures, laws and regulations they need to use new technology responsibly, the statement said.
- City governments are on the frontline of a global crisis and need to be able to act quickly and decisively to curtail this pandemic and set course for their economic recovery.
- Technology is an essential tool in this fight but governments cannot risk falling into the usual traps related to privacy, security and vendor lock-in.
- The initiative originated in Japan from the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

13. Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) recently heard in news is signed between which of the following countries?

1. Japan
 2. Australia
 3. India
 4. USA
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: A

Explanation

- Japan and Australia have signed a landmark defence deal in a bid to counter China’s growing influence in the South China Sea and over the Pacific island nations.

- The RCA is a defence pact which is expected to intensify military cooperation between the two countries.
- The agreement is expected to streamline activities such as joint military training exercises, natural disaster and humanitarian support of the two countries.
- Japan has a similar agreement with only one other country, the US. The agreement was six years in negotiation and will provide a legal and administrative framework for both forces visiting the other country.
- The pact does not need to be approved by the Australian Parliament, but it will need to be approved by Japan's parliament.
- Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) comes weeks after foreign ministers of the Quad alliance, which includes the US and India, met in Tokyo.
- The pact allows Japanese and Australian troops to visit each other's countries and conduct training and joint operations.
- The two sides also agreed on the need for a framework to allow Japanese military to protect Australian forces if needed.

14. Global Prevention Coalition (GPC) is related to which of the following?

- A. Suicide prevention
- B. HIV prevention
- C. Drug deaddiction
- D. Cardiovascular disease prevention

Answer: B

Explanation

Global HIV Prevention Coalition (GPC)

- It is a global coalition of United Nations Member States, donors, civil society organizations which was established in the year 2017 to support global efforts to accelerate HIV prevention.
- Membership: It includes the 25 highest HIV burden countries, UNAIDS Cosponsors, donors, civil society and private sector organizations.
- Goal: To strengthen and sustain political commitment for primary prevention by setting a common agenda among key policy-makers, funders and programme implementers.
- Union Health Minister addressed the Ministerial meeting of the Global Prevention Coalition (GPC) for HIV Prevention
- The programme is aimed at providing outreach, service delivery, counselling and testing and ensuring linkages to HIV care.
- Indian model is centered on the concept of 'Social Contracting' through which the Targeted Interventions (TI) programme is implemented.

- Under the Test and Treat Policy, about 50 thousand people living with HIV who were lost to follow-up were linked back to AntiRetroviral Treatment services through 'Mission SAMPARK', while Viral Load Testing facilities have been scaled up from the existing ten public sector labs to 64 labs across the country.



15. Which of the following statements regarding Team Halo are correct?

1. It is an initiative undertaken by the United Nations (UN) in collaboration with The Vaccine Confidence Project at the University of London.
 2. It is to provide vaccination to children in the remotest areas of Africa.
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- Over 100 scientists from different countries have joined hands to tackle the issue of misinformation surrounding Covid-19 vaccines
- These scientists have come together under Team Halo, an initiative undertaken by the United Nations (UN) in collaboration with The Vaccine Confidence Project at the University of London
- The initiative aims to tackle misinformation by sharing information on the safety and effectiveness of vaccines via social media.
- These scientists are producing creative, social media-friendly videos on Covid-19 vaccine science, personal experiences and reactions to information on the COVID-19 vaccine.

16. 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.

17. 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.

IRNSS
Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System

IRNSS (NavIC) is designed to provide accurate real-time positioning and timing services to users in India as well as region extending up to 1,500 km from its boundary

NAVIGATION CONSTELLATION CONSISTS OF SEVEN SATELLITES
3 in geostationary earth orbit (GEO) and 4 in geosynchronous orbit (GSO) inclined at 29 degrees to equator

Each sat has three rubidium atomic clocks, which provide accurate locational data

IT WILL PROVIDE TWO TYPES OF SERVICES
1 **Standard positioning service** : Meant for all users
2 **Restricted service** | Encrypted service provided only to authorised users (military and security agencies)

Applications of IRNSS are: Terrestrial, aerial and marine navigation; disaster management; vehicle tracking and fleet management; precise timing mapping and geodetic data capture; terrestrial navigation aid for hikers and travellers; visual and voice navigation for drivers

While American GPS has 24 satellites in orbit, the number of sats visible to ground receiver is limited. In IRNSS, four satellites are always in geosynchronous orbits, hence always visible to a receiver in a region 1,500 km around India

Geostationary earth orbit
Geosynchronous orbit

- 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'.

18. 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.

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

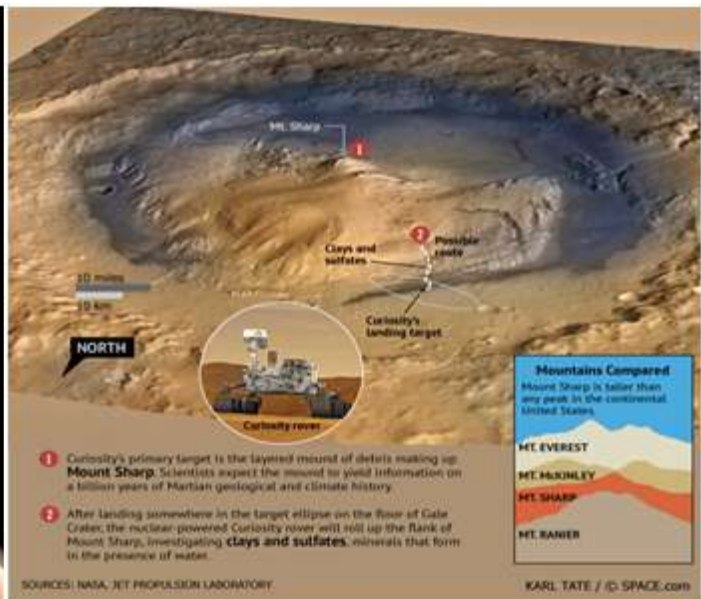
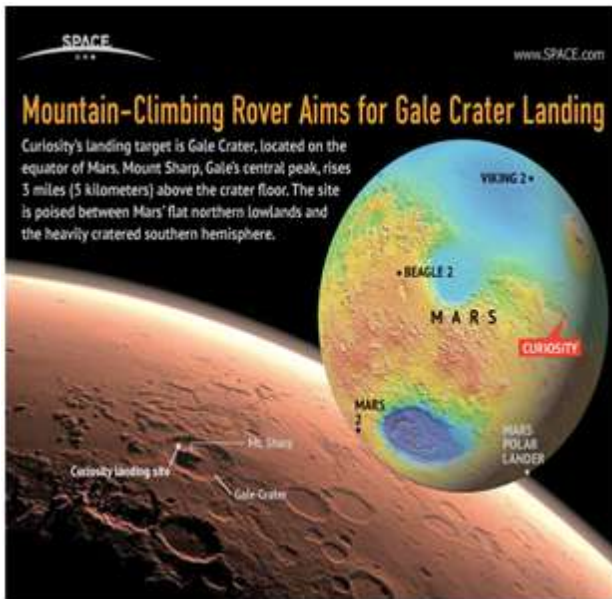
- A. Moon
- B. Venus
- C. Jupiter
- D. Mars

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.



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

- A. Emission Spectrum
- B. Bioluminescence
- C. Effervescence
- D. 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.