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Of

December

2020

(7th December to 12th December)

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1. Geography

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

1. MARCOS recently heard in news is a part of which branch

- A. Navy
- B. Army
- C. Airforce
- D. Territorial Army

Answer: A

Explanation

- The government has deployed the Marine Commandos (MARCOS) of the Indian Navy in the Pangong lake area in eastern Ladakh.
- The deployment comes after the stationing of Indian Air Forces Garud commandos and Indian Army Para Special Forces in the conflict zone for over more than past six months.
- The deployment of the MARCOS is to enhance the integration of the three services and provide the naval commandos exposure to extreme cold weather conditions.
- The Indian Navy has deployed teams of its MARCOS in the Wular lake area of Jammu and Kashmir to tackle terrorism there.
- MARCOS have also undertaken several operations against the LTTE in the 1990s ensuring India's dominance in the unpredictable Sri Lankan zone is kept under control.
- They were also deployed in Somalia in 1993 and they were deployed along with the Indian Army during the Kargil war in 1999.
- The commandos are trained to undertake anti-piracy operations which they have carried out with clinical precision in the Gulf of Aden which is the hotbed of pirates.
- It is the Special Forces unit of the Indian Navy that is responsible for conducting special operations.
- MARCOS was founded in February 1987.
- MARCOS are capable of operating in all types of environments; at sea, in air and on land.

2. Recently conducted Passex 2020 in IOR is an exercise between the navies of India and

- A. USA
- B. Russia
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Thailand

Answer: B

Explanation

- The navies of India and Russia began a two-day Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the East Indian Ocean Region (IOR) on Friday, coinciding with Navy Day on December 4.
- The exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability, improving understanding and imbibing best practices between both the friendly navies, and would involve advanced surface and anti-submarine warfare exercises, weapon firings, seamanship exercises and helicopter operations.
- Two warships from India and three ships from Russia are taking part in the PASSEX.
- This year, the Indian Navy has so far participated in 13 bilateral and multilateral exercises.
- In the first bilateral exercise since all such engagements were suspended due to COVID-19, India and Russia held Indra 2020 in the North Indian Ocean in September.
- The Navy has held a series of passage exercises in the IOR with major Navies since the COVID-19 lockdown
- In July, frontline warships of the Indian Navy conducted a passage exercise with US Navy's USS Nimitz carrier strike group near the Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) islands as it was transiting the Indian Ocean after conducting freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea.
- A PASSEX was also held with the Japanese Navy.

3. Which of the following statements are correct about Oman?

1. It is located in Arabian Peninsula.
2. It borders UAE, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.
3. The country holds four sea ports facing the Indian Ocean

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- Oman borders Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen;
- It shares maritime borders with Iran and Pakistan.
- The country is bounded by the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman; at the Musandam Peninsula it borders the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf.
- The country holds four industrial free zones and four sea ports facing the Indian Ocean.
- Oman recently announced to establish Friendship association with India.
- This will be the first of such initiative in West Asia.

- It was announced during a bilateral discussion held between the foreign ministers of the country.
- During the bilateral discussion, the countries reviewed their economic cooperation, consular issue, capacity building and training programmes.
- The association will aim to provide a platform to promote matters of mutual interest, understanding between the business and social communities of the countries.

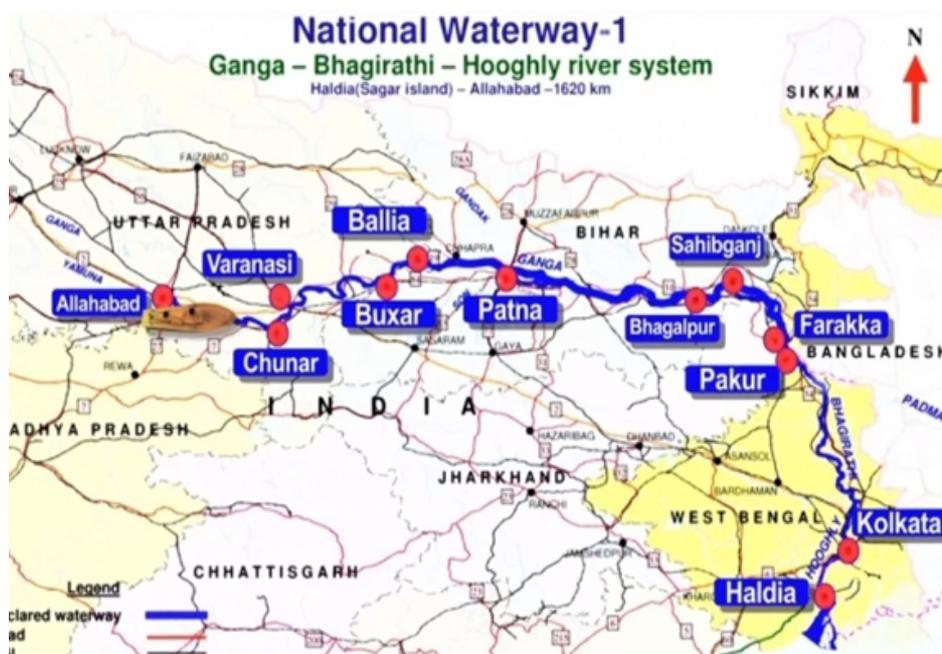


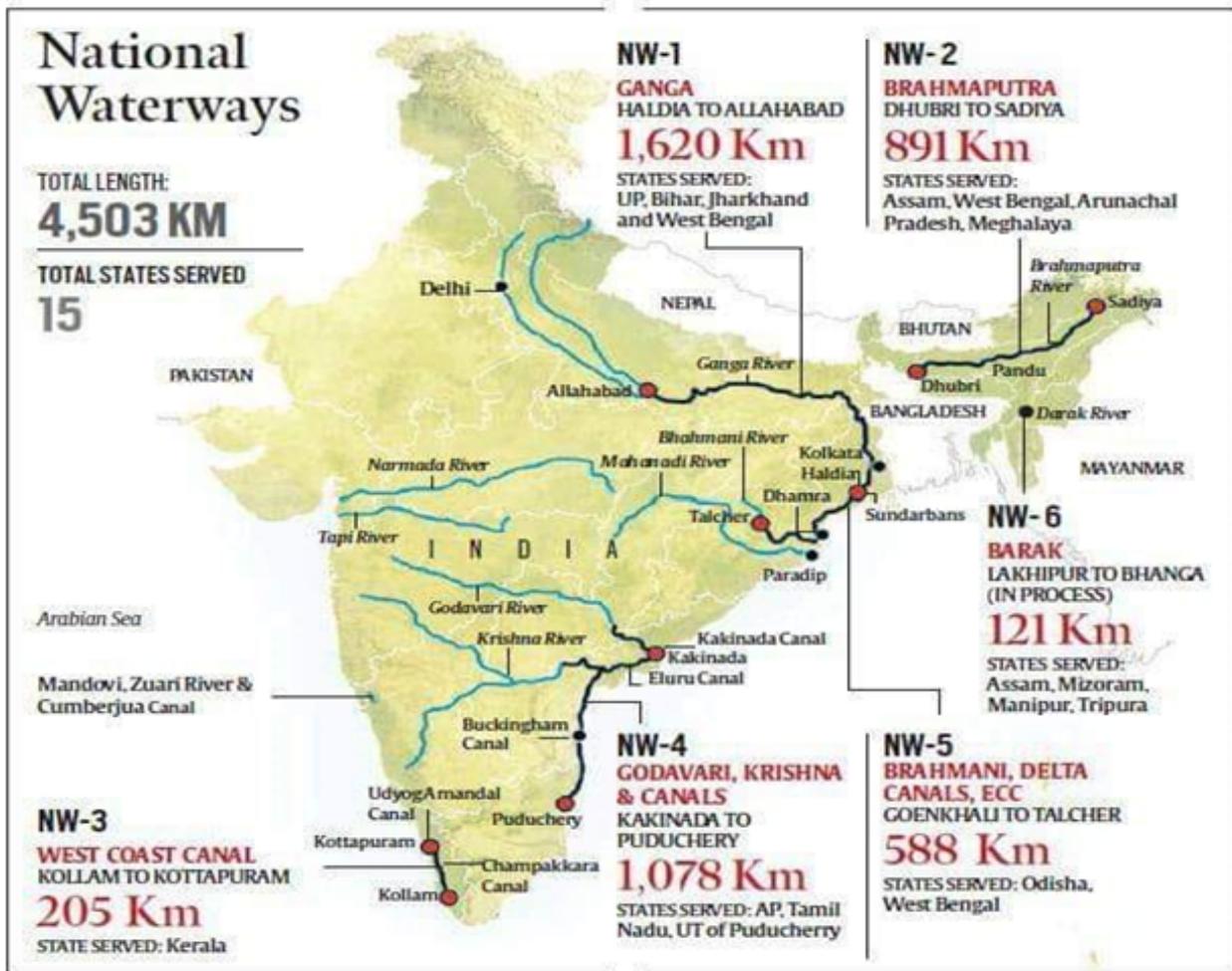
4. Which one of the following is National Waterway 1?

- A. Sadiya-Dhubri
- B. Kottapuram - Kollam
- C. Prayagraj - Haldia
- D. Kakinada-Puducherry

Answer: C

Explanation





- The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has eased tender terms for privatising multi-modal terminals (MMT) at Varanasi, Haldia and Sahibganj on National Waterway (NW) 1.
- MMTs are being privatised on Equip, Operate and Transfer (EOT) basis. EOT model is used where infrastructure already exists and there is no need of capital investment.
- NW 1 is from Allahabad to Haldia that falls on Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system. It passes through UP, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- MMT use combination of at least two or more different modes (rail, road, waterways) to move cargo from a place to another place.
- MMTs are being built as part of Jal Marg Vikas Project that aims to develop stretch of River Ganga between Varanasi to Haldia for navigation of large vessels upto 1500-2000 tonnes weight.

5. Boko Haram, recently heard in news, is present in which country?

- A. Burkina Faso
- B. Gabon
- C. Libya
- D. Nigeria

Answer: D

Explanation

- An attack by the extremist group Boko Haram has left 110 farmers dead in Nigeria, according to the UN resident and humanitarian coordinator in Nigeria. The search for many missing victims is currently on, and the death toll is further expected to rise.
- Boko Haram, a jihadist group that has been operating in the region since 2009 to carve out a caliphate in north-east Nigeria, has claimed responsibility for the killings.
- Boko Haram, a Hausa term which loosely translates to 'Western education is forbidden', is infamous for its 2014 abduction of 276 schoolgirls from Chibok.
- It is vehemently opposed to Westernization of Nigeria and adheres to strict Sharia law. The killings were in retaliation for the capture of a jihadist soldier by the villagers.
- Fearing further retaliation, farmers have stopped going to their fields which is affecting Nigeria's grain stocks.
- Nigeria is soon likely to face food crisis.
- It is also reported that Nigeria's stocks have declined to less than 30,000 metric tons, which is a fraction of what the country of 200 million people needs to sustain themselves.
- It is also fuelling food inflation and vastly undermining the President's plans for making Nigeria's food security.

2. History & Culture

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

1. He was born in 1891, in Madhya Pradesh's Mhow.
2. He was the prime crusader in The Mahad Satyagraha of 1927.
3. Reserve Bank of India was conceptualised according to the guidelines presented by him to the Hilton Young Commission.
4. The Problem of the Rupee – Its Origin and Its Solution is one of the books written by him.
5. He changed the working hours from 12 hours to 8 hours as a part of labor reforms in 1942.

- A. Dhondo Keshav Karve
- B. Babasaheb Ambedkar
- C. Vinoba Bhave
- D. Ravishankar Shukla

Answer: B

Explanation

- He was the first Indian to pursue an Economics doctorate degree abroad, he is also the first Ph.D in Economics and the first double doctorate holder in Economics in South Asia.
- During his three years at Columbia University, Ambedkar took twenty nine courses in economics, eleven in history, six in sociology, five in philosophy, four in anthropology, three in politics and one each in elementary French and German.
- Reserve Bank of India was conceptualised according to the guidelines presented by Ambedkar to the Hilton Young Commission (also known as Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance) in his book, The Problem of the Rupee – Its Origin and Its Solution.
- The Mahadsatyagraha of 1927 was one of the defining moments in Ambedkar's political thought and action. Held in the small town of Mahad in Maharashtra, this satyagraha was held three years prior to Gandhi's Dandi march. While salt was at the centre of Gandhi's campaign, drinking water was at the core of Ambedkar's crusade.
- As the member for labour in the viceroy's council from 1942 to 1946, DrAmbedkar was instrumental in bringing about several labour reforms. He changed the working hours from 12 hours to 8 hours in the 7th session of Indian Labour Conference in New Delhi in November 1942.
- He also introduced several measures for workers like dearness allowance, leave benefit, employee insurance, medical leave, equal pay for equal work, minimum wages and periodic revision of scale of pay. He also strengthened trade unions and established employment exchanges across India.

2. Which of the following statements regarding Chardham Project are correct?

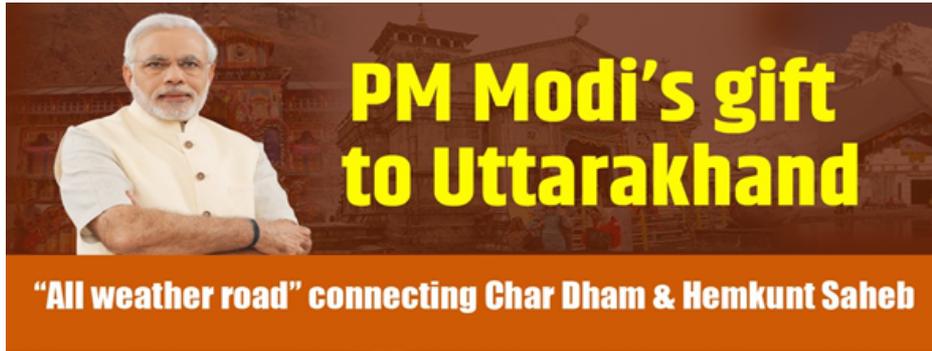
1. It is a Project under Ministry of culture.
2. BRO is building roads and tunnels in this project.
3. It is a programme taken up for connectivity improvement for Chardham (Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunotri and Gangotri) in Uttarakhand.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- Recently Environmentalists have alleged that the contractors deputed by the government to make roads as part of the Chardham project are violating the Supreme Court orders on the appropriate road width to be followed in mountainous terrain.
- It is a programme taken up by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for connectivity improvement for Chardham (Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunotri and Gangotri) in Uttarakhand.
- The cost of the project is around Rs. 12,000 Crore.
- It envisages improvement as well as development of 889 km length of national highways.
- Implementing Agencies are Uttarakhand State Public Works Department (PWD), BRO and the National Highway & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL)
- The work under the programme is being implemented on Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode.
 - ✓ Under the EPC mode, the project cost is completely borne by the government.
 - ✓ However, the contractor is directly responsible for ensuring quality of the work as well as rectification of defects and maintenance of the project stretch for a period of 4 years after completion of construction.
- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has completed construction of a 440 m long tunnel below the Chamba town on the Rishikesh-Dharasu road highway (National Highway - 94).



Project highlights:



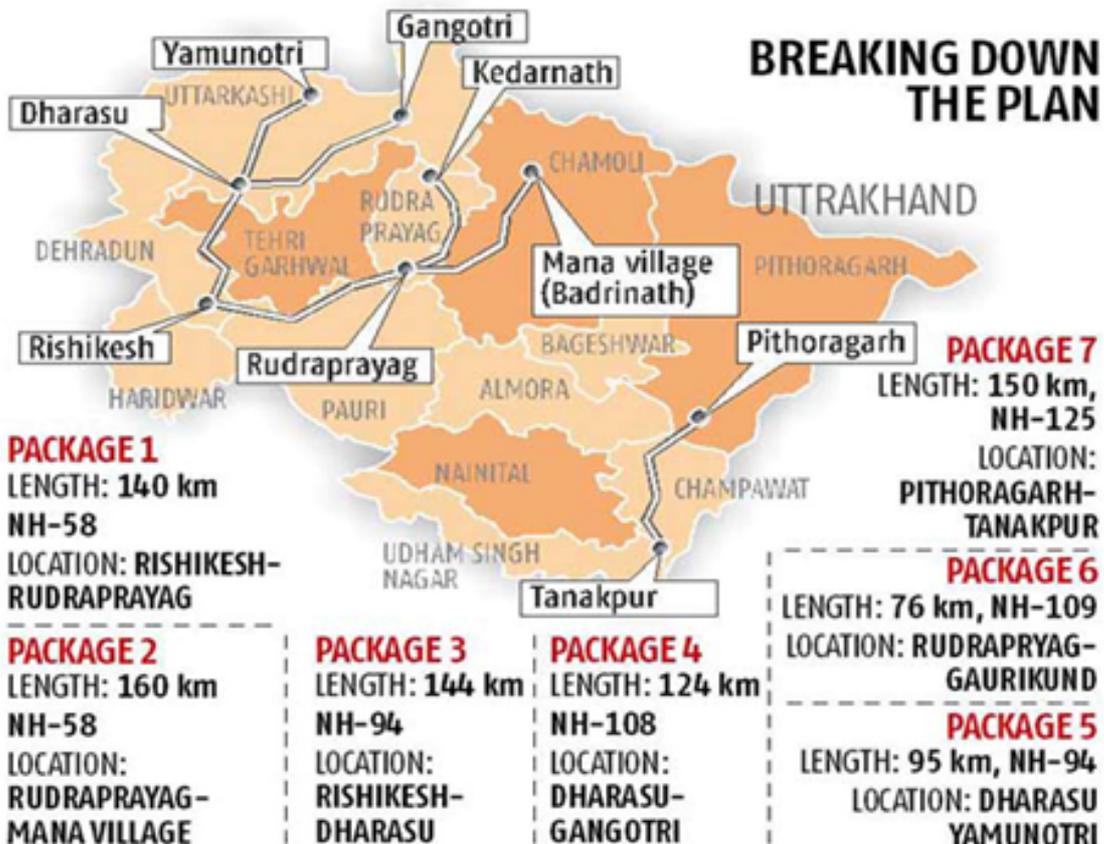
Rs. 12,000 crore approved for the project

Road to be open during rain, flood & snowfall

Upgradation of 900 km highway connecting Char Dham

Project to be completed by 2020

Source : bit.ly/ConnectingCharDham [f](#) [t](#) [v](#) [i](#) /BJP4India [+](#) /+BJP www.bjp.org



Source: Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways

3. Nguh Lou Dawr recently heard in news is associated with which of the following states?

- A. Mizoram
- B. Nagaland
- C. Sikkim
- D. Manipur

Answer: A

Explanation

- The culture is called 'Culture Of Mizoram' and it is a way of life in and around Selling.
- Locals set up shops with items for sale on display. While prices are mentioned there is complete trust as well.
- Passersby are trusted to pick up what they need and put the money in the box.
- If change is required, the buyers are encouraged to help themselves from the same container.
- The shops work on the principle of trust.
- The practice of trusting another teaches human beings generosity of spirit.

4. Hindustan Dainik - a newspaper in 1936 was started by

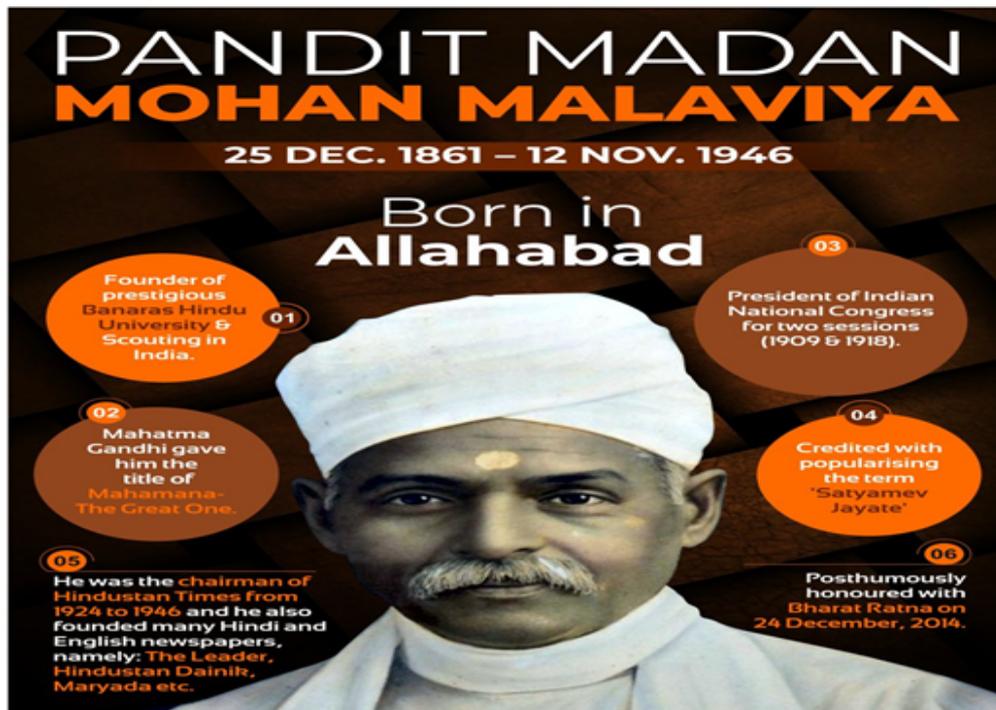
- A. Tarak Nath Das
- B. Ganesh Shankar Vidyardhi
- C. M.M. Malviya
- D. B.G. Tilak

Answer: C

Explanation

- Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya passed away on this day, November 12, in the year 1946. He is known for his contribution in India's education system and his role in the Indian Independence movement.
- Hindustan Dainik or Hindustan Times today, was introduced by Madan Mohan Malaviya – who was awarded the Bharat Ratna, posthumously.
- Malaviya owned the paper during its critical initial years in the 1920s, and served as the chairman of HT from 1924 till his death in 1946.
- HT was originally the brainchild of the Akalis, who wanted an English language paper to communicate with others in the freedom movement and expand their reach.
- It was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi on September 26, 1924.
- Akalis had asked Krishan Das Kohli, who had participated in the Non-Cooperation Movement, to help set up the paper.

- The entire investment came to about ` 25,000. The money came from Sikhs in Canada.
- But as an essay by Prem Shankar Jha in 'History in the Making: 75 Years of Hindustan Times' points out, "Setting up a paper was one thing and running it, quite another... Within six months the paper was facing a financial crisis."
- Both Motilal Nehru and Malaviya were keen to purchase the paper, but the Akalis preferred to sell it to Malaviya for ` 20,000.
- In 1925, he borrowed ` 40,000 from the Punjab National Bank through his friend, Lala Lajpat Rai, who was its chairman.
- Malaviya gave the Akalis half the amount to buy the paper, and the remaining to Kohli to run the paper.



5. Which of the following statements are correct about Delhi pact?

1. It reiterated the goal of 'Poorna Swaraj'.
 2. It was endorsed by the Congress in its Karachi Session on 29th March, 1931
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Explanation

- The British Government started to convince Congress to participate in the Second Round Table Conference in 1931.
- Therefore, the Government released all Congress leaders from prison on 25th January, 1931.

- Finally, Gandhiji was convinced to negotiate with the Viceroy Lord Irwin.
- So Gandhiji and Lord Irwin met on 19th February, 1931 and after discussion for fifteen days, they signed an agreement on 5th March, 1931 known as “Gandhi-Irwin Pact.”
- This pact included the following matters:
 - ✓ All political prisoners not convicted for violence, to be immediately released.
 - ✓ Return of confiscated lands not yet sold to Third Parties by the Government and remission of all fines not yet collected.
 - ✓ The Government employees who had resigned, to be treated leniently.
 - ✓ Confederation of right to make salt for consumption to villages along the Sea coast.
 - ✓ Right to peaceful and non-aggressive picketing.
- All these demands of Congress were accepted by the Government. But two demands were refused to accept:
 - ✓ A demand for a public inquiry into police excesses.
 - ✓ Commutation of death sentences of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru. On the other hand, Congress on its part agreed to:
 - ✓ Participate in the Second Round Table Conference,
 - ✓ Discontinue the Civil Disobedience Movement.
- This ‘Gandhi-Irwin Pact, also known as the ‘Delhi Pact’, was endorsed by the Congress in its Karachi Session on 29th March, 1931.
- It also reiterated the goal of ‘Poorna Swaraj’.

3. Polity & Governance

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

1. If someone is not wearing masks in public in the present Covid-19 scenario, they are violating

- A. Article 21
- B. Article 14
- C. Article 32
- D. Article 15

Answer: A

Explanation

- Context: The Supreme Court stayed the December 2 order passed by Gujarat high court mandating social service duty at Covid care centres for those found not wearing masks in public.
- SC held that the state must vigorously enforce the standard operating procedure (SOP) released by the Centre for mandatory wearing of masks and keeping social distancing to contain the spread of Covid 19 disease.
- People not wearing masks in public are violating the fundamental right (right to life and health) of other citizens.
- Solicitor general for Gujarat had opposed the high court order, calling it well-intentioned but claiming that the consequences of its implementation will be bad.
- Those violating mandatory wearing of masks are being fined Rs 1000 by the State Police.
- SC agreed to stay the interim direction of Gujarat HC on the appeal filed by the State stating that such a direction will cause more harm to people by exposing them to the risk of catching infection. However, it noted that wearing of masks is mandatory and state authorities shall take every action to punish violators, including levy of fine.

2. Gursimran Singh Narula vs Union of India recently heard in news is related to which of the following?

- A. Covid- 19
- B. Mining Leases
- C. Passive Euthanasia
- D. Section 377

Answer: A

Explanation

- Gursimran Singh Narula filed a petition in SC questioning the efficacy of disinfection tunnels, spraying of disinfectants and fogging as means to prevent coronavirus infection.

- Spraying of disinfectants on humans causes both physical and psychological harm, the Union Ministry of Health informed the Supreme Court.
- The Ministry said it had “nowhere issued any advisory/guidelines/SOPs for usage, installation, production, advertisement of disinfection tunnels to spray/fumigate chemical or organic disinfectants in workspace, public spaces, etc”.
- The government said spraying of chemical or organic disinfectants both indoors and outdoors hardly had any effect on the coronavirus.
- Spraying affected the skin and the respiratory tract.
- Disinfectants were deactivated the moment they touched dirt or debris.
- Streets and sidewalks were porous and the spray cannot reach everywhere.

3. Consider the following statements with respect to Atal Bhujal Yojana (AJY).

- 1. It is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development.**
- 2. The project will be 100% funded by the World Bank.**

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) is a Central Sector Scheme to improve ground water management through community participation. The scheme has a total outlay of Rs.6000 crore and is to be implemented over a period of 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25).
- Out of the total outlay of Rs. 6000 crore, 50% shall be in the form of World Bank loan, and be repaid by the Central Government. The remaining 50% shall be through Central Assistance from regular budgetary support. The entire World Bank's loan component and Central Assistance shall be passed on to the States as Grants.
- The scheme envisages undertaking this through various interventions, including awareness programmes, capacity building, convergence of ongoing/new schemes and improved agricultural practices etc.
- The scheme aims to improve ground water management through community participation in identified priority areas in seven States, viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- ATAL JAL has two major components:

✓ Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building Component

✓ Incentive Component

4. Which of the following are OIC - Organization of the Islamic Cooperation member countries?

1. Brunei
 2. Maldives
 3. Syria
 4. Yemen
 5. Somalia
 6. UAE
- A. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
B. 2, 4, 5 and 6 only
C. 2, 5 and 6 only
D. 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 only

Answer: D

Explanation

- Context: India strongly hit out at the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for making factually incorrect and unwarranted references to Jammu and Kashmir in resolutions adopted by the grouping at a meeting in Niger, and asserted that the union territory is an integral and inalienable part of the country.
- Organization of the Islamic Cooperation, is an Islamic organization established in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in May 1971, following summits by Muslim heads of state and government in 1969 and by Muslim foreign ministers in 1970.
- The membership includes Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, the Palestinian Authority (PA), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Syria (suspended), Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.
- The conference aims at promoting Islamic solidarity by coordinating social, economic, scientific, and cultural activities.
- Under the banner of strengthening the struggle of Muslims, the conference pledges to eliminate racial segregation and discrimination, especially in regard to the Palestinians.
- Projects include the International Islamic News Agency, the Islamic Development Bank, the Islamic Solidarity Fund, and the World Centre for Islamic Education.



- Egypt was suspended in 1979 after it signed the agreement known as the Camp David Accords with Israel; in 1984 it accepted an offer to rejoin the organization.
- Syria was suspended in 2012 as its crackdown on Arab Spring protesters evolved into civil war.

5. World Malaria Report 2020 was recently released by

- A. Lutheran World Relief
- B. GAVI – Global Vaccine Alliance
- C. WHO – World Health Organisation
- D. African Leaders Malaria Alliance

Answer: C

Explanation

- Recently, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has released the World Malaria Report (WMR) 2020.
- The report provides a comprehensive update on global and regional malaria data and trends including prevention, diagnosis, treatment, elimination and surveillance.
- It indicates that India has made considerable progress in reducing its malaria burden.
- Malaria cases globally numbered about 229 million, an annual estimate that has remained virtually unchanged over the last four years.
- In 2019, it claimed about 4,09,000 lives, compared to 4,11,000 in 2018.
- The report noted that the 11 highest-burden countries viz. Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, India, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Tanzania, account for 70% of the global estimated case burden and 71% of global estimated deaths from malaria.
- Countries in South-East Asia made particularly strong progress, with reductions in cases and deaths of 73% and 74%, respectively.
- India is the only high endemic country which has reported a decline of 17.6% in 2019 as compared to 2018.
- The Annual Parasite Incidence (API, the number of new infections per year per 1000 population) reduced by 18.4% in 2019 as compared to 2018.
- India has sustained API less than one since the year 2012
- India has also contributed to the largest drop in cases region-wide, from approximately 20 million to about 6 million.
- The percentage drop in the malaria cases was 71.8% and deaths were 73.9% between 2000 to 2019.
- India achieved a reduction of 83.34% in malaria morbidity and 92% in malaria mortality between the year 2000 and 2019, thereby achieving Goal 6 of the Millennium Development Goals.



- States of Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya and Madhya Pradesh (high endemic states) disproportionately accounted for nearly 45.47% of malaria cases in 2019.
- 63.64% of malaria deaths were also reported from these states.

4. Economy

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

1. An index of the prevailing direction of economic trends in the manufacturing and service sectors, that summarizes whether market conditions, as viewed by purchasing managers, are expanding, staying the same, or contracting is
 - A. Market Index
 - B. Price Index
 - C. Fiscal Performance Index
 - D. Purchasing Managers Index

Answer: D

Explanation

- The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an index of the prevailing direction of economic trends in the manufacturing and service sectors.
- It consists of a diffusion index that summarizes whether market conditions, as viewed by purchasing managers, are expanding, staying the same, or contracting.
- The purpose of the PMI is to provide information about current and future business conditions to company decision makers, analysts, and investors.
- The PMI dataset features a headline number, which indicates the overall health of an economy, and sub-indices, which provide insights into other key economic drivers such as GDP, inflation, exports, capacity utilization, employment and inventories.
- The PMI data are used by financial and corporate professionals to better understand where economies and markets are headed, and to uncover opportunities.
- Purchasing Managers' Index™ (PMI™) data are compiled by IHS Markit for more than 40 economies worldwide.

Manufacturing PMI Eased To 56.3 In November 2020



Source: IHS Markit

Bloomberg | Quint

- Data released by the analytics firm IHS Markit showed India's PMI manufacturing dropped to 56.3 in November from an over 12-year high of 58.9 in October.
- Growth in the Indian manufacturing sector lost momentum in November with the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) falling to a three-month low.
- There were slower increases in factory orders, exports, buying levels and output while pandemic related restrictions caused a further drop in payroll numbers.
- Input costs and output charges rose at accelerated rates that nevertheless remained below their respective long-run averages.
- Softening of rates of expansion seen in the latest month does not represent a major setback, since these are down from over decade highs in October, a spike in covid-19 cases and the possibility of associated restrictions could undermine the recovery.

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

1. The economy quickly recoups lost ground and gets back to the normal growth trend-line – V shaped recovery
2. The growth falls and rises, but falls again before recovering – L shaped Recovery.
3. The economy quickly rises after an economic crash – Z shaped recovery.
4. A bit of unrealistic scenario, in which growth rises sharply from the lows much higher than the trend-line and stays there – W shaped recovery.

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

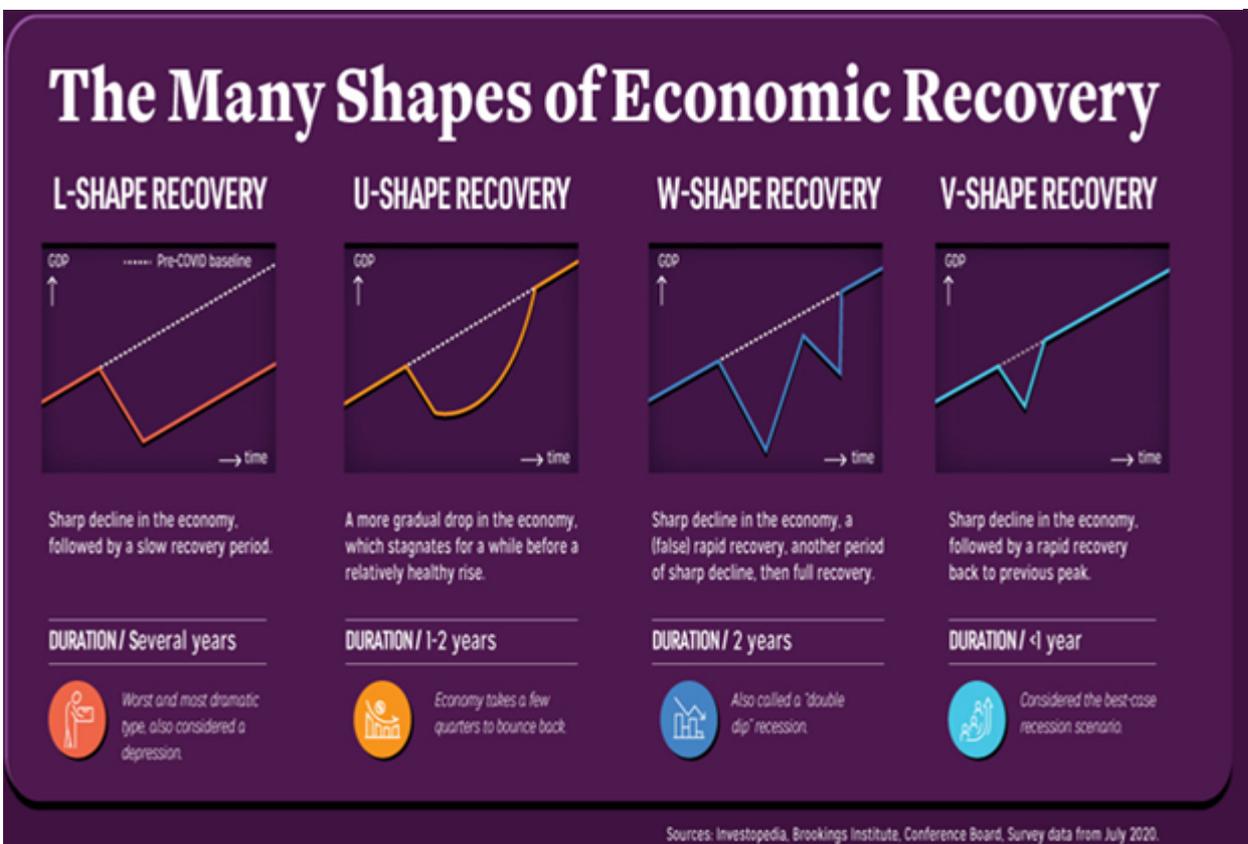
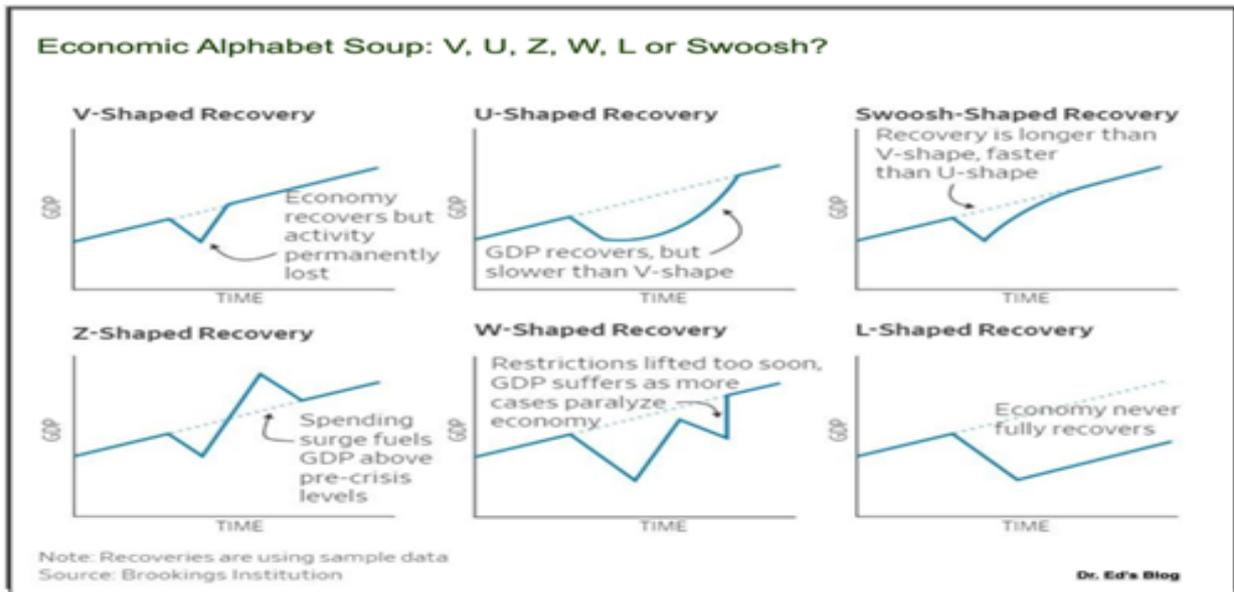
Answer: B

Explanation

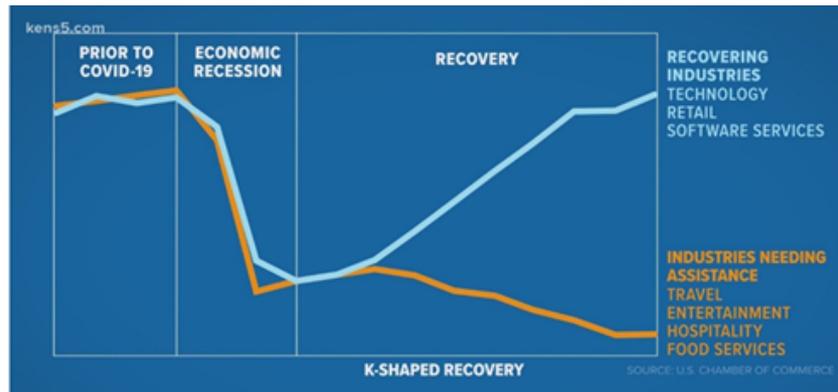
According to Ministry of Finance:

- India's economy is firmly on the path of a V-shaped recovery after the collapse in the first quarter.
- Further improvement is expected in the third quarter, 'notwithstanding some moderation' in November's indicators.
- The recovery is attributed to the unlocking process along with 'astute' stimulus measures.
- Z-shaped recovery the economy quickly rises like a phoenix after a crash. It more than makes up for lost ground before settling back to the normal trend-line, thus forming a Z-shaped chart.
- V-shaped recovery the economy quickly recoups lost ground and gets back to the normal growth trend-line.

- U-shaped recovery the economy, after falling, struggles and muddles around a low growth rate for some time, before rising gradually to usual levels.
- W-shaped recovery the economic growth falls and rises, but falls again before recovering yet again, thus forming a W-like chart.
- L-shaped recovery is the worst-case scenario, in which growth after falling, stagnates at low levels and does not recover for a long, long time.
- J-shaped recovery is a bit of unrealistic scenario, in which growth rises sharply from the lows much higher than the trend-line and stays there.



3. According to the following graph, which of the following statements are correct?



1. The K Curve depicts the inequality existing between different financial entities in terms of their attributes that determine their future growth and profitability.
 2. Widening of the arms of the 'K' would imply that the inequality is decreasing, while narrowing of the span of the 'K' would mean the opposite.
- A. 1 only
 B. 2 only
 C. Both 1 and 2
 D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- The K Curve depicts the inequality existing between different financial entities in terms of their attributes that determine their future growth and profitability.
- A K-shaped recovery occurs when, following a recession, different parts of the economy recover at different rates, times, or magnitudes.
- A K-shaped recovery leads to changes in the structure of the economy or the broader society as economic outcomes and relations are fundamentally changed before and after the recession.
- This type of recovery is called K-shaped because the path of different parts of the economy when charted together may diverge, resembling the two arms of the Roman letter "K".
- Widening of the arms of the 'K' would imply that the inequality is increasing, while narrowing of the span of the 'K' would mean the opposite.

4. Global Wage Report 2020 was recently released by

- A. Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)
 B. International Centre for Trade Union Rights
 C. International Labour Organization (ILO)
 D. World Bank

Answer: C

Explanation

According to the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Global Wage Report 2020-2021:

- Women and lower-paid workers have disproportionately borne the brunt of the decrease in wages due to the COVID-19 crisis as their working hours were reduced.
- Global wage growth fluctuated between 1.6% and 2.2% in the four years preceding the pandemic, that is 2016 to 2019.
- The impact of the crisis had been different for women and men.
- Women workers in a selection of European countries would have faced an 8.1% reduction in wages between the first and second quarters of 2020, as opposed to 5.4% for men without payment of wage subsidies.
- Such a discrepancy was mainly caused by reduced working hours, more than by the difference in the number of lay-offs.
- The wage bill lost as a result of the drop in working hours was 6.9 per cent for women compared to 4.7 per cent for men.
- Lower-paid workers have also been disproportionately hit by the crisis, leading to an increase in inequality.
- The lowest-paid 50% of workers would have lost 17.3% of wages without wage subsidies, in comparison to 6.5% of all workers in selected European countries.

5. Which of the following statements are incorrect about Ayush Export promotion Council?

- 1. Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ministry of AYUSH have decided to set up an AYUSH Export Promotion Council to boost AYUSH exports.**
- 2. Ministry of AYUSH will work in collaboration with Bureau of Indian standards to develop international standards for AYUSH products as well as services.**

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ministry of AYUSH have decided to set up an AYUSH Export Promotion Council to boost AYUSH exports.
- Both Ministries will work together for establishing an AYUSH Export Promotion Council (AEPC).
- The proposed AEPC can be housed at Ministry of AYUSH.

- Standardization of HS code for AYUSH will be expedited.
- Ministry of AYUSH will work in collaboration with Bureau of Indian standards to develop international standards for AYUSH products as well as services.
- AYUSH industry will work on ensuring quality and standards of AYUSH products as well as to become price-competitive.
- AYUSH will also figure in the Brand India activities.

5. Environment & Ecology

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

1. Based on the following statements, identify the animal?

1. It is found mostly in evergreen and semi-evergreen forests, from plains to hills at elevations of 50 m to 1,500 m above sea level.
2. Globally it is distributed through Southern China, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Burma, the Malayan Peninsula, Sumatra, and Java.
3. In India, is found in the forests of Northeast and is currently found in parts of West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Nagaland.
4. It is considered to be a forest health indicator species.
5. It has a dark upper body, pale under parts, and a long, bushy tail.
6. They are diurnal (active during the day), but arboreal (tree-dwelling) and herbivorous.
7. Its Scientific Name is *Ratufa bicolor*.

- A. *Tamias*
- B. Malayan Giant Squirrel
- C. Marmot
- D. Prairie Dog

Answer: B

Explanation

LIFESPAN
18 YEARS
in captivity

SIZE:
Length
254-457 mm;
tail, same
length

**PROTECTION
STATUS**
NEAR
THREATENED
on the IUCN
Red List.

**GEOGRAPHIC
RANGE**
Sikkim, Northern
West Bengal,
and Northeast
India

WEIGHT
1.5-2 kg, can
go up to
3 kg

HABITAT
Deciduous
semi-evergreen
and evergreen
forests.

MALAYAN GIANT SQUIRREL *Ratufa bicolor*

FEED ON
Seeds, pine cones, fruits, and leaves.

FEATURES
Malayan giant squirrels are deep brown on the back and creamy buff on the underside. They have large black ears with hairy tufts, a black tail, and black markings on the face below the eyes. Colour varies widely within species with latitude and/or climate.

BEHAVIOUR
Active in the day (diurnal). Live in the trees, sometimes descending to feed. Restrict themselves to the middle or upper canopy. Giant squirrels are solitary or found in pairs. They remain hidden in dense forest vegetation. May let out a harsh call when alarmed or angry.

ROLE IN ECOSYSTEM
The presence or absence of giant squirrels is useful in assessing the quality of a habitat. It is an 'indicator species' because of its ecological requirements: dependence on canopy continuity, and on fruits and seeds for food. It is an indicator of a healthy forest system and also tells us about the density of forests and the kind of flora in the region.

FAMILY
Female has a litter of 1-2 young ones, raises babies in a drey (nest), often located within a hollow space on a tree. Reported gestation is 28-35 days.

THREATS
In recent times, their habitat has been encroached by human settlements, the timber industry, and agriculture. They have also been subject to overhunting by humans, resulting in the downfall of their population.

- Recently, the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has projected that numbers of the Malayan Giant Squirrel could decline by 90% in India by 2050, and it could be extinct by then if urgent steps are not taken.
- IUCN Red List: Near Threatened.
- CITES: Appendix II.
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I.

2. Siberian Primrose, recently heard in news, is a

- A. Migratory Bird
- B. A type of herb
- C. A unique fish found in the deep frozen waters.
- D. Penguin species

Answer: B

Explanation

- Researchers have found that the Siberian primrose, a plant endemic to the Nordic countries, could become extinct due to global warming.
- The primrose specialised in growing on seashore meadows with low vegetation, which were formed by the post-glacial isostatic rebound
- It is a small perennial herb with low rosettes of green crinkled leaves and clusters of magenta pink flowers.

3. A salt-tolerant plant that grows in soil or waters of high salinity, coming into contact with saline water through its roots or by salt spray, such as in saline semi-deserts, mangrove swamps, marshes and sloughs and seashores is called a

- A. Glycophyte
- B. Hygrophytes
- C. Mesophytes
- D. Halophytes

Answer: D

Explanation

- Halophytes are salt-tolerant or salt-resistant plants.
- They can thrive and complete their life cycles in soils or waters containing high salt concentrations.
- They constitute two per cent of terrestrial plant species.

- Halophytes plants are important in the context of increasing salinisation of land especially due sea level rise because of climate change and global warming.
- In recent times, alarming rise in the sea level has prompted agriculture scientists to call for the cultivation of saline-tolerant crops in light danger of sea intrusion.
- In future, anticipatory research of these plants could reap rich rewards to mitigate impact of climate change as they can provide food for people, fodder for livestock, bio fuel and also can be used for ornamental purposes.
- The world's first Genetic Garden of Halophytes (naturally occurring salt-tolerant plants) was inaugurated at the coastal town of Vedaranyam in Tamil Nadu in 2016.
- The garden has been set up by M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) founded by eminent agriculture scientist Prof M S Swaminathan, father of Indian Green Revolution.
- It will have over 1,600 species belonging to 550 genera and 117 families of Halophytes plants.
- Initially it will comprise halophytes occurring along the coasts of India including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Hygrophytes The plants of this group are invariably moisture and shade-loving.
- Mesophytes: The plant species that thrive best on a moderate supply of water.
- Glycophytes: plants growing in nonsaline soils and bodies of fresh water.

4. Hakki Habba is a

- A. A bird festival held in Karnataka
- B. A PVGT group from Malkangiri
- C. A medicinal root recently discovered in Annamalai Hills
- D. A sacrificial ritual in North East

Answer: A

Explanation

- Hakki Habba is the Karnataka Bird Festival.
- It is organized by the Eco-Tourism Board of Karnataka to create awareness amongst people about the conservation of the birds.
- Nandi Hills, one of the most popular tourist attractions in Chikkaballapur district of Karnataka, hosted Hakki Habba for 2020.
- Nandi Hills is a familiar spot for migratory birds from the Himalayan region during the winter season. Tiny Himalayan warblers are one of the key attractions during the Hakki Habba Festival.
- Nandi Hills has traditional trekking path and different locations for birding.
- Several routes connect hillocks such as Nandi Hills and Skandagiri.
- Besides these paths, there are smaller unnamed hillocks located around these two famous hills.

- Pied warbler, booted warbler, Blyth read warbler and olive backed pipit are some of the winter migratory species that can be found during the season.

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

1. Hafong Lake - Sikkim
 2. Kanwar Lake - Bihar
 3. Thol Lake - Gujrat
 4. Gobind Vallabh Pant Sagar - Himachal Pradesh
 5. Kanjli - Punjab
- A. 1, 2 and 3
B. 2, 3 and 5 only
C. 1, 2 and 4 only
D. 3, 4 and 5 only

Answer: B

6. Science & Technology

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

1. Based on the following statements, identify the observatory?
 1. It was the world's second-largest single-dish radio telescope.
 2. It was also known as the National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center (NAIC).
 3. It was situated in Puerto Rico.
 4. It was owned by the US National Science Foundation (NSF).
 5. It was frequently used for finding asteroids that are swinging close to Earth.
- A. Gemini Observatory
B. Uraniborg
C. Roque de los Muchachos Observatory
D. Arecibo Observatory

Answer: D

Explanation

- Puerto Rico's Arecibo Observatory violently collapsed on December 1.
- Engineers had been planning to dismantle the radio telescope since a support cable snapped in November.
- But before that could happen, the telescope's 900-ton suspended platform crashed into the bowl-shaped disk below, destroying the facility.
- Maxar imaging satellites in low-Earth orbit photographed Arecibo at various stages of its destruction.
- The destruction of Puerto Rico's Arecibo Observatory has been photographed from space.
- The telescope collapsed earlier this month, following damaged inflicted by Tropical Storm Isaias in August.
- Before engineers could repair that cable, another snapped in November. Soon afterward, the National Science Foundation decided to decommission and dismantle the structure in a controlled manner.
- Arecibo was one of only two radio telescopes of its kind in the world - China's FAST is the other. But its death could lead to a more powerful US replacement in the future.

2. 100 Octane, recently heard in news is
 - A. A type of gasoline
 - B. Mountain-sized object 4 billion miles from Earth discovered by New Horizon
 - C. A commercial spaceship designed for NASA astronauts.

D. Newly discovered Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets.

Answer: A

Explanation

- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) launched the nation's first 100 Octane petrol, helping India join a select league of nations globally that have such superior quality fuel

What is 100 Octane fuel?

- Premium fuel (gasoline or petrol) is also commonly referred to as high octane fuel.
- The Octane rating is the ability of the fuel to resist engine knock – the engine pinging or rattling sound that comes as a result of premature ignition of the compressed fuel in one or more cylinders.

Uses of high octane fuel:

- High octane fuels are used in high-performance engines such as turbocharged cars.
- In such machines, high octane fuels are required as they do not burn prematurely.
- Some car owners choose high octane fuel for use in their non-turbo powered vehicle but that is not advisable unless your car explicitly needs the high octane fuel.
- High-octane petrol used in regular engines
- Experts warn that if you put premium fuel in a regular engine, it may even find that your vehicle's engine is having a harder time burning it and the adverse effects may scare you about the health of your car's engine.

3. Which of the following are the parameters of Urban Quality Index?

1. Basic amenities
2. Economic development
3. Social Infrastructure
4. Transportation access
5. Education
6. Gender role

- A. 1, 3, 4 and 6 only
- B. 2, 3, 5 and 5 only
- C. 1, 2, 4 and 6 only
- D. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

Answer: C

Explanation

- It is compiled by the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B).

- The study quantifies the relative holistic urban development of 14 cities in India using 29 indicators grouped into seven components
- Top city: Mumbai
- The other top cities: Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai.

IIT-B RANKING OF INDIAN CITIES

Index	Highest ranked	Lowest ranked
Basic amenities	Pune	Patna
Economic development	Mumbai	Patna
Safety and security	Kolkata	Patna
Transportation access	Delhi	Indore
Environmental impact	Mumbai	Lucknow
Infrastructure development	Kolkata	Patna
Gender role	Chennai	Patna

4. Havana syndrome recently heard in news is a

- Psychological Disorder
- Cardiology Disorder
- Blood Disorder
- DNA Mutation Disorder

Answer: A

Explanation

- In 2016, the US Diplomats and intelligence officials placed in Havana reported to hear strange sounds and physical sensations in their homes and hotel rooms.
- The strange physical sensations were accompanied with severe headache, nausea, dizziness, fatigue, hearing loss and sleep problems.
- Since then the condition came to be known as Havana syndrome.
- So far more than two dozen American diplomats and their family members in China and Cuba have reported to have experienced such symptoms.
- Microwave weapons that are direct energy weapons which produce highly focused energy in the form of laser or microwaves.
- The victims of these weapons report a buzzing sound or a clicking sound constantly coming from the inside of their head.
- These weapons have long-term and acute damages without any signs of physical damage.
- The National Academy of Sciences report said that there are four possibilities that might have caused the symptoms.
- They are chemicals, infection, psychological factors and microwave energy.
- However, the report concluded that the most plausible mechanism that might have caused the syndrome is the directed pulse radiofrequency energy.
- By using the words directed and pulsed, the report concludes that the victims were targeted and were not affected from a common source of microwave energy.

5. Which of the statements are correct about Climate Change Performance Index?

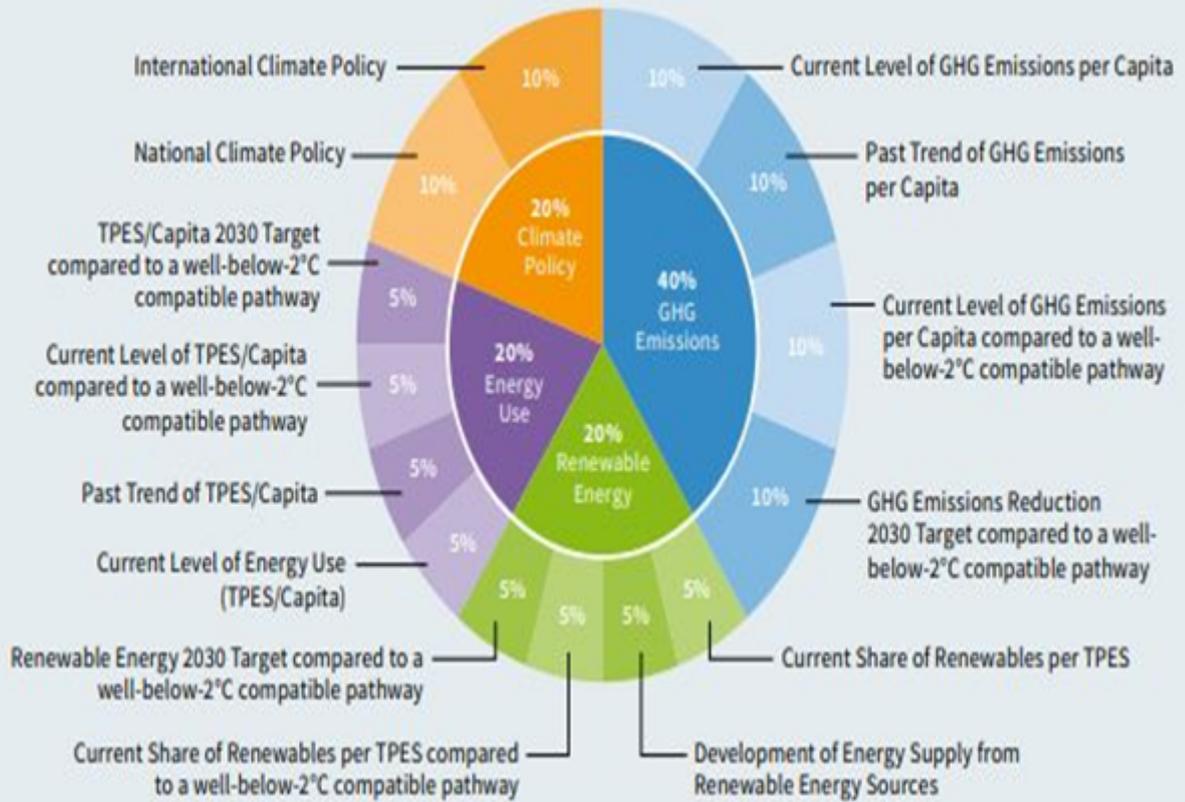
1. It was recently released by – (UNEP) United Nations Environment Programme.
 2. According to the report none of the countries are in the path of meeting their Paris Agreement commitment.
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Global Climate Change Performance Index was recently released by the New Climate Institute, Germanwatch and CAN (Climate Action Network).
- The index has been rating the fifty-seven greenhouse emitters in the world since 2005.
- These countries account to 90% of global emissions.
- The index aims to enable comparison of mitigation efforts, enhance transparency in international climate politics.
- India remained in the top ten in the Climate Change Performance Index for the second consecutive year.
- China, one of the largest contributors of greenhouse gases ranked 33rd.
- In 2020, India slid a position to the tenth. India was at 31st rank in 2014.
- According to the index, only two G20 countries India and UK were among the high rankers.
- The rest of the six such as Saudi Arabia, USA, South Korea, Australia and Russia were at the bottom of the index.
- None of the countries were in top three ranks.
- This was because none of the countries were in the path of meeting their Paris Agreement commitment.
- Sweden was at fourth place followed by UK, Denmark, Morocco, Norway, Chile.
- The index is prepared by assessing the performance of fifty-seven countries in four categories namely renewable energy, GHG emissions, climate policy and energy use.

Components of the CCPI



GHG = Greenhouse Gases | TPES = Total Primary Energy Supply

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