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1. Geography

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1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Which of the following are Nordic countries?

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

Select the correct code.

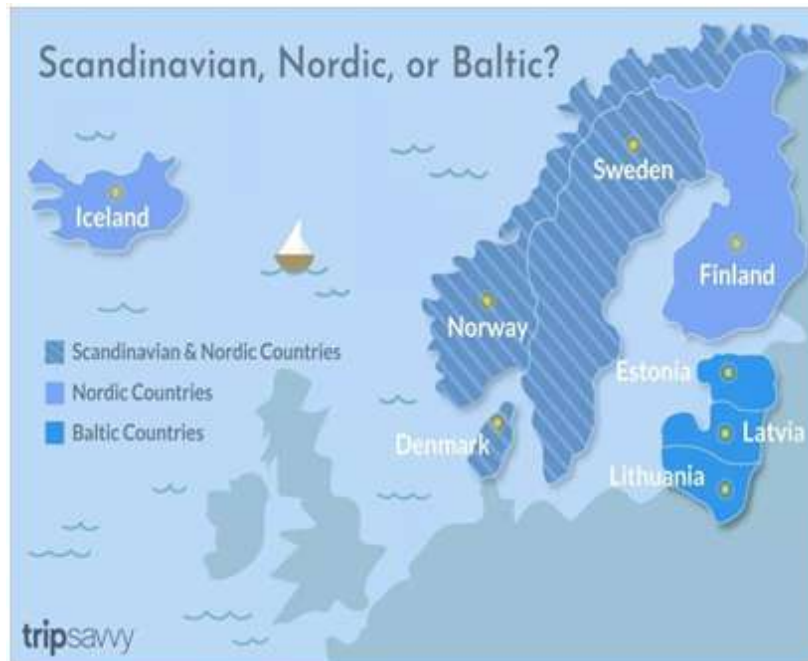
- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. All are Nordic countries

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.



4. 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.

5. 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.

2. History & Culture

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

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

3. Polity & Governance

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

1. 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 very 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 very 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

4. Economy

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

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. "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.

5. 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.

5. Environment

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

1. 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.

2. 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.

<p>LINKING HOPES</p> <p>THE PROJECT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Pattiseema, a lift irrigation project, interlinks Godavari and Krishna rivers through the Polavaram right canal ❑ The canal traverses for 174 km through West Godavari and Krishna districts in AP ❑ About 80 tmc ft of water will be pumped into the Polavaram canal. An additional 40 tmc ft water is tapped en route through seasonal streams linked to the canal ❑ It is a temporary project. Once the Polavaram dam is completed, the right canal will be linked to the dam ❑ Pattiseema is the first project to be completed under the revised national river interlinking project ❑ AP has earlier interlinked the Tungbhadra with the Pennar through the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal and the Krishna with the Pennar 	<p>WHAT'S GOOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ The Pattiseema scheme is largely beneficial to farmers in the Krishna delta – 13 lakh acres spread over Krishna, Guntur and Prakasam districts ❑ The AP government proposes to divert 80 tmc ft of water it saves from the Krishna river reservoirs (Nagarjunasagar and Srisailem) to the dry Rayalaseema region <p>THE COST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Pattiseema may prove to be harmful to the environment. Interlinking of rivers is fraught with ecological loss. Since the rivers have different environments, mixing water may affect aquatic life. ❑ The new canal will recharge the groundwater more than needed. This will lift up the water table abnormally, causing damage to the root system of the plants and crops all along the canal ❑ The Pattiseema is linked to the Budameru (river) diversion channel. If there's flooding in Budameru, Vijayawada, parts of Krishna and West Godavari districts may be affected ❑ Farmers in West Godavari fear that inflow into Godavari delta system will get reduced if water is diverted to Krishna 	
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3. 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.

4. 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.



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

5. 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.

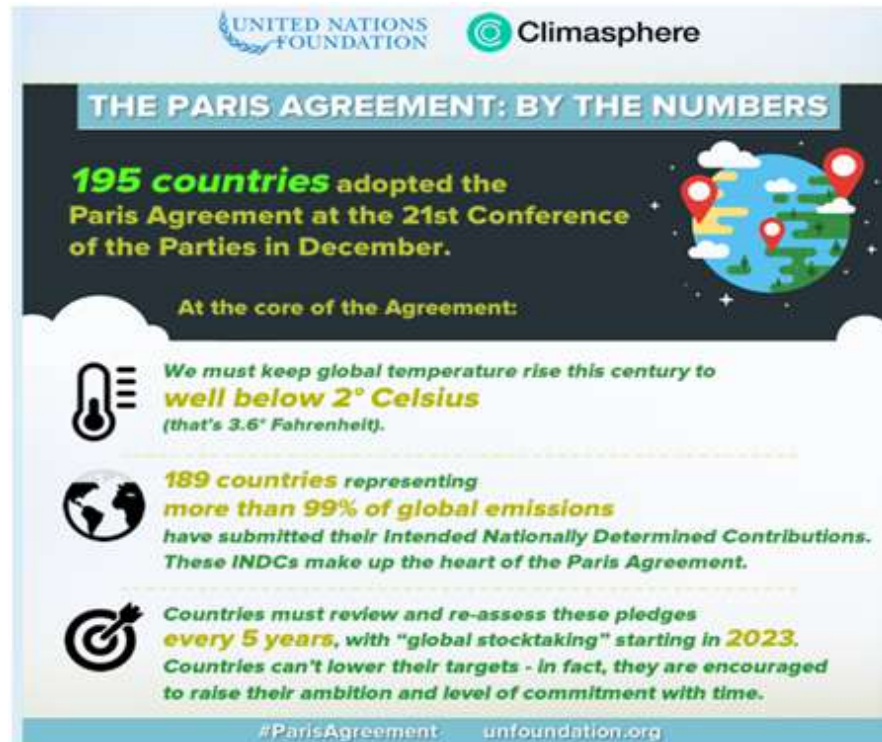
- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
- B. 2, 3 and 4 only
- C. 1, 2 and 4 only
- D. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only


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.






UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION  Climaspere

THE PARIS AGREEMENT: BY THE NUMBERS

195 countries adopted the Paris Agreement at the 21st Conference of the Parties in December.

At the core of the Agreement:

-  We must keep global temperature rise this century to **well below 2° Celsius** (that's 3.6° Fahrenheit).
-  **189 countries** representing **more than 99% of global emissions** have submitted their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions. These INDCs make up the heart of the Paris Agreement.
-  Countries must review and re-assess these pledges **every 5 years**, with “global stocktaking” starting in **2023**. Countries can't lower their targets - in fact, they are encouraged to raise their ambition and level of commitment with time.

#ParisAgreement unfoundation.org

6. Science & Technology

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

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.



5. 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.

