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Of

December

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(14th December to 19th December)

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Table of Contents

1. Geography.....	1
2. History.....	6
3. Polity.....	11
4. Economy.....	17
5. Environment.....	25
6. Science & Technology.....	30

1. Geography

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1. Which of the following statements are correct about The Lebanon Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF) recently heard in news?

1. It is part of a comprehensive response to the massive explosion on the Port of Afrin in 2020.
2. It is European Union, United Nations and World Bank Group launched an 18-month Reform Project.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- Afrin is in northwestern Syria, where also bombings took place.
- The Lebanon Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework (3RF) is part of a comprehensive response to the massive explosion on the Port of Beirut on August 4, 2020.
- It is a people-centered recovery and reconstruction framework focusing on a period of 18 months that will bridge the immediate humanitarian response and the medium-term recovery and reconstruction efforts to put Lebanon on a path of sustainable development.
- The 3RF aims to help Lebanon achieve three central goals in response to the Beirut port explosion.
- First, a people-centered recovery that returns sustainable livelihoods to the affected population; improves social justice for all, including women, the poor, and other vulnerable groups; and ensures participatory decision making.
- Second, the reconstruction of critical assets, services, and infrastructure that provides equal access for all to quality basic services and enables sustainable economic recovery.
- Third, the implementation of reform to support reconstruction and to help restore people's trust in governmental institutions by improving governance.

2. Which Union Territory has been recently given 100% organic status?

- A. Jammu and Kashmir
- B. Ladakh
- C. Lakshadweep
- D. Puducherry

Answer: C

Explanation

- Entire Lakshadweep group of islands has been declared as an organic agricultural area under the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) of India.
- Lakshadweep is the first Union Territory to become 100% organic as all farming is carried out without the use of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, providing access to safer food choices and making agriculture a more environmentally-friendly activity
- Earlier in 2016, Sikkim became India's first "100 percent organic" State.
- The entire 32 square kilometre geographical land area of the UT was declared as organic after receiving required certifications and declarations under Centre's Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (organic farming improvement programme).
- Earlier, the UT administration had imposed a formal uniform ban on sale, use and entry of synthetic chemicals for agriculture purposes from October 2017 onwards to make the islands a chemical-free zone.

Benefits

- Better marketing of organic products such as desiccated coconut and coconut milk.
- The organic tag will allow farmers to realize a premium for the farm produce.
- The island's coconut farmers are also expected to benefit from the Union government's One District One Product programme of food processing.
- Under it the entire island is being considered as a single district and coconut oil has been identified as the product.

Cropping Pattern

- Coconut is the only major crop on the islands and remains idle for six months.
 - ✓ The coconut processing industry works only for about six months. The period between May and December sees the industry come to a standstill.
 - ✓ The island administration plans to introduce dryers and other machinery to utilise the nuts even during this standstill period.

3. Northern Ireland Protocol recently heard in news is related to which of the following?

- A. Brexit
- B. Referendum regarding independence from UK
- C. Drug Expiry Standards
- D. Tackling Inequality- UN

Answer: A

Explanation

- Following Brexit, Northern Ireland's 310-mile border with the Republic of Ireland is the only land border between the UK and the European Union (EU).
- Under an arrangement known as the Northern Ireland protocol, goods will not need to be checked along the Irish border when the new UK-EU relationship begins, on 1 January
- The border is a sensitive issue because of the history of Northern Ireland and the agreements made to bring peace, which included the removal of visible signs of the border.
- The fear is if any infrastructure were to be installed, such as cameras or border posts, it could become a target and lead to political instability.

Irish border after Brexit



What's the plan to avoid checks?

- The Northern Ireland protocol, negotiated by UK Prime Minister last October, is part of the withdrawal agreement (which some called the "divorce deal") that saw the UK leave the EU on 31 January 2020.
- Under the protocol, Northern Ireland will continue to enforce the EU's customs rules and follow its rules on product standards (known as the single market on goods).
- And this will make checks on goods travelling from Northern Ireland (a non-EU country) into the Republic of Ireland (an EU country) unnecessary.
- The protocol is due to come into force on 1 January 2021 – the first day of the new EU-UK relationship.
- Until then, the UK remains in a transition period with the EU, meaning its trading relationship stays the same as before.
- While Northern Ireland will continue to follow these EU rules, the rest of the UK will stop doing so after 31 December.

- And that means, in order to comply with EU requirements, some checks will be needed on certain goods entering Northern Ireland from Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) – creating a regulatory and customs border in the Irish Sea.

4. Which of the following are South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) member states?

1. India
2. Afghanistan
3. Maldives
4. Pakistan
5. Bangladesh
6. Myanmar

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- 36th Charter Day anniversary of SAARC observed recently.
- The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of states in South Asia.
- Its member states are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- The Charter establishing the Association was signed on December 8, 1985 by the SAARC Heads of States/Governments during first Summit meeting in Dhaka.
- Afghanistan became the newest member of SAARC at the 13th annual summit in 2005.
- The Headquarters and Secretariat of the Association are at Kathmandu, Nepal.

Importance of SAARC:

- SAARC comprises 3% of the world's area, 21% of the world's population and 3.8% (US\$2.9 trillion) of the global economy.
- It is the world's most densely populated region and one of the most fertile areas.
- SAARC countries have common tradition, dress, food and culture and political aspects thereby synergizing their actions.

- All the SAARC countries have common problems and issues like poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, natural disasters, internal conflicts, industrial and technological backwardness, low GDP and poor socio-economic condition.

5. Which of the following statements are correct about 'Jagananna Jeeva Kranthi' scheme.?

1. It is launched by the state Govt Of Telengana.
2. It is a women empowerment initiative.
3. Under this Govt will distribute sheep and goat units at the budget outlay of total Rs.1,869 crore.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- Chief Minister Of Andhra Pradesh launched 'Jagananna Jeeva Kranthi' scheme to distribute 2,49,151 sheep and goat units.
- A total 1,869 crore is being spent for the purpose.
- The objective of scheme is to help the women stand on their own feet and support their families.
- Dairy and animal husbandry is an important avenue, which supports the farmers' families at the time of drought and famine and helps them sustain.
- Each unit will have 5-6 months old 14 ewe lambs and one breeding ram or 14 weaned does (female goats) and one breeding buck.
- Since it will take time to procure such a large number of sheeps and goats, they will be provided in three phases.
- Till March 2021, 20,000 units will be distributed and in the second phase, which will be from April 2021 to August 2021, 1.3 lakh units will be distributed and the remaining 99,151 units will be distributed in the third phase from September 2021 to December 2021.
- The women from SC, ST, BC and minorities, are being provided Rs. 75,000 over a period of four year for free, are being shown a way to use the amount as a capital investment for a stable recurring income source, he explained.
- The State government has also entered into an MoU with Allana Group to procure sheep and goats and market the meat products, so as to provide a stable market for the beneficiaries of the Jagananna Jeeva Kranthi

2. History

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1. Based on the following statements identify the Dynasty of Rulers?

1. Their kingdom was known as Jejakabhukti during 10th and 11th century.
2. Harshadeva was the founder of the dynasty.
3. The famous temples of Parasvanath and Vishwavanath were built during this time.
4. Paradidev (Parmadi) was the last king who fought with the Prithviraj Chauhan.

- A. Gupta Dynasty
- B. Maurya Dynasty
- C. Chandella Dynasty
- D. Khangar Dynasty

Answer: C

Explanation

- Modern Bundelkhand was known as Jejakabhukti during 10th and 11th century and was ruled by Chandellas.
- These Rajput emperors were fond of art and culture and the temples of Khajurao (Madhya Pradesh) were built during this time.
- Chandellas had maternal relations with Kalachuris.
- Kalinjar, Mahotsavanagar and Khajurao were the important cities of this dynasty.
- Harshadeva was the founder of the dynasty. He helped Mahipala of Kannauj in ruling his kingdom.
- He laid the foundation of Khajurao temples. 64 Yogini temples were constructed by Harshadeva.
- Yashovarman, son of Harshadeva took over the charge as warrior and made an independent state for Chandellas.
- However, the Chandellas gained full independence in the time of Dhanga, son and successor of Yashovarman.
- Dhanga made political alliances with other Hindu Rajas and helped them. Thus becoming stronger himself by building strong army.
- The famous temples of Parasvanath and Vishwavanath were built during this time.
- Ganda the son of Dhanga followed the path of his father. He also joined the group of Hindu Rajas to fight against Muhammad Ghazni.
- Vidyadhara, son of Ganda was the greatest ruler of Chandellas. He conquered Rajyapala in 1019. Kandariya Mahadev temple was built in this time.

- Kirtivarman the successor of Vidyadhara was a patron of the famous poet Krishna Mishra.
- He met with a Muslim invasion, yet somehow managed to escape from it.
- During the attack of Muhammad Ghazni, he could not defend himself and the dynasty almost came to an end.
- Paradidev (Parmadi) was the last king who fought with the Prithviraj Chauhan.
- The battle was battle of Mahoba in which Alha and Udal two warriors of the army sang the song of Bundelkhand.
- The story is written in Parmal Raso.

2. A geological feature consisting of a single massive stone or rock, such as some mountains, or a single large piece of rock placed as, or within, a monument or building is called a

- A. Megalith
- B. Monolith
- C. Cromlech
- D. Dolmen

Answer: B

Explanation

- A monolith is a geological feature consisting of a single massive stone or rock, such as some mountains, or a single large piece of rock placed as, or within, a monument or building.
- Erosion usually exposes the geological formations, which are often made of very hard and solid igneous or metamorphic rock.
- In architecture, the term has considerable overlap with megalith, which is normally used for prehistory, and may be used in the contexts of rock-cut architecture that remains attached to solid rock, as in monolithic church, or for exceptionally large stones such as obelisks, statues, monolithic columns or large architraves, that may have been moved a considerable distance after quarrying.
- It may also be used of large glacial erratics moved by natural forces.
- The word derives, via the Latin monolithus, from the Ancient Greek
- There has been a string of mysteriously appearing monoliths around the world.
- Two new metal structures recently appeared in in Poland.
- These structures are similar to those found in Utah, Romania, California and UK.
- One of the two monoliths was spotted at a nature reserve in the city of Kielce, and the other one on the riverbank in the Polish capital Warsaw.

3. Raut Nacha is associated with which of the following states?

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Gujrat
- C. Orissa
- D. Chattisgarh

Answer: D

Explanation

- Raut Nacha is a dance performed by Yadavas, a caste which considers themselves to be descendants of Krishna.
- For them it is as a symbol of worship to Krishna. They perform the dance at the time of 'dev udhni ekadashi'.
- This essentially "Lord Krishna dedicated" dance form, has originated from the state of Chhattisgarh. This dance is also said to closely resemble the "Ras Leela" which is considered to be the most popular Lord Krishna dance.
- This dance is performed usually after Diwali for about a week. In addition, it has been essentially created to celebrate the triumph of "good over evil".
- According to popular folklore, this dance was created to celebrate the victory of Lord Krishna and the Yadava clan over the evil king Kansa (who was also the uncle of Krishna).
- Initially this dance form was performed only by the Yadava/Raut clan but, due to the gradual increase in its popularity within the state of Chhattisgarh, this dance form is now performed by all communities.
- The costume used in this dance form is basically extremely "colourful", and include bells tied around the waist of the dancers.
- In addition, sticks and metal shields also form an essential component of this tribal dance since it is basically a "victory dance".
- The essence of the music involved in this dance form lies in the "dohes" mainly written by saints Tulsidas and Kabir which are recited by a singer during a performance.
- This dance form is performed in groups, with the dancers essentially enacting the battle between Lord Krishna and the evil king Kansa, via the use of sticks and metal shields.
- This is essentially a "tribal" dance form which is generally passed on from one generation to another.

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

1. Madras Courier - Richard Johnson
2. The Bengal Gazette- JK Hickey
3. Paridasak- Bipin Chandra Pal

4. **Sambad Parvakar - Raobahadur Narayan Dinanath Velkar**

5. **Mirat-ul-Akhbar – Raja Ram Mohun Roy**

6. **Som Prakash - VN Mandalik**

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- **Sambad Parvakar**

- ✓ Founded: 1832
- ✓ Founder: Ishwar Chandra Gupta
- ✓ Language: Bengali

- **Som Prakash**

- ✓ Founded: 1858
- ✓ Founding Editor: Dwarakanath Vidyabhusan
- ✓ Language: Bengali
- ✓ A weekly newspaper conceptualized by Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar. He also helped Dwarkanath Vidhyabhushan in editorials.

5. **The one having blue skin, with the right hand is held facing downward with fingers extended toward the ground, palm facing outward toward the viewer, a bowl of herbs rests in the left hand upon the lap, depicts which form of Buddha?**

- A. Teaching Buddha
- B. Reclining Buddha
- C. Medicine Buddha
- D. Earth-calling Buddha

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Medicine Buddha is depicted in paintings having blue skin, but whether shown in statue or painted form, the right hand is held facing downward with fingers extended toward the ground, palm facing outward toward the viewer, a bowl of herbs rests in the left hand upon the lap.

- It is believed by the Tibetans that the Buddha was responsible for delivering the knowledge of medicine to the people of the world, and in fact the right hand facing outward signifies "granting a boon" (meaning, giving a blessing) to mankind.
- This is a common hand gesture amongst both Buddhist and Hindu statues.
- The Medicine Buddha is venerated by those seeking health and is more commonly found in the Buddhist temples and communities of Nepal and Tibet.



3. Polity

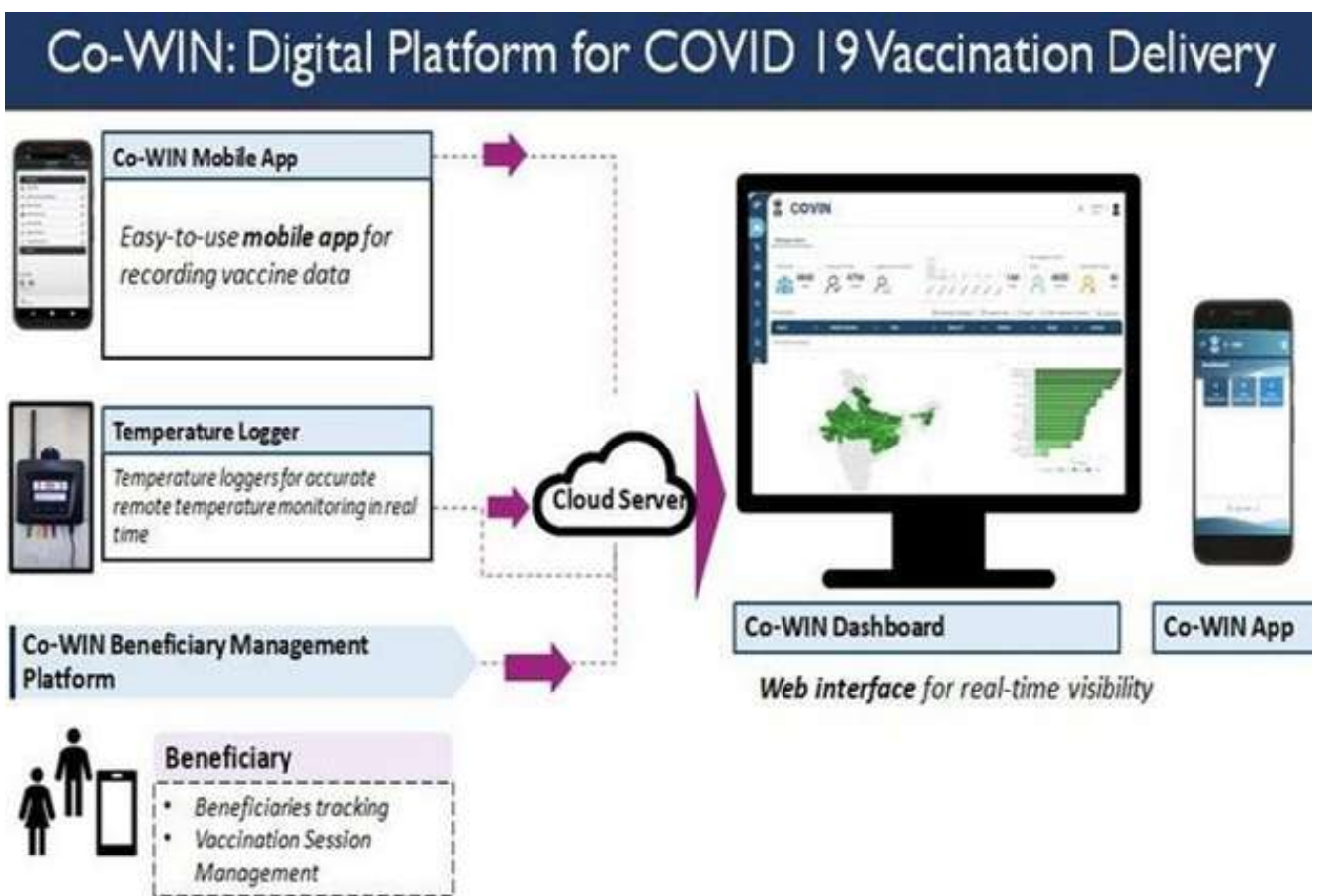
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1. CO-WIN, recently heard in news, is launched by which ministry?

- A. Ministry of AYUSH
- B. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- C. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- D. Ministry of Defence

Answer: B

Explanation



- Union Health Ministry has developed a digital platform 'Co-WIN' for real-time monitoring of COVID-19 vaccine.
- It will enable people to get themselves registered for vaccination.
- The platform includes a free downloadable mobile application which can help record vaccine data.
- One can register themselves on it if they want the vaccine
- There are five modules in Co-WIN platform, these are administrator module, registration module, vaccination module, beneficiary acknowledgement module and report module.

- The administrator module is for the administrators who will be conducting these vaccination sessions.
- Through these modules, they can create sessions and the respective vaccinators and managers will be notified.
- Registration module is for people to get registered themselves for vaccination.
- It will upload bulk data on co-morbidity provided by local authorities or by surveyors.
- Vaccination module will verify beneficiary details and update vaccination status while the beneficiary acknowledgement module will send SMS to beneficiaries and also generate QR(matrix barcode)-based certificates after one gets vaccinated.
- Report module will prepare reports of how many vaccine sessions have been conducted, how many people have attended those, and on how many people have dropped out.
- The mobile application will also send real-time data of temperature of the cold-storage facilities to the main server.

2. Koliwar Bridge, recently heard in news, is built over which river?

- A. Sone
- B. Mahanadi
- C. Chambal
- D. Betwa

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Koilwar Bridge also named as Abdul Bari Bridge, at Koilwar spans the River Sone.
- This rail-cum-road bridge connects Arrah with Patna, the capital of Bihar state in India.
- The bridge was named after Professor Abdul Bari, academic and social reformer.
- This is the oldest operational railway bridge in India standing since 04 November 1862.
- The bridge is shown in the 1982 Oscar winning film Gandhi, directed by Richard Attenborough.
- From 1862 to 1900, Koilwar bridge remained as the longest bridge in India.
- A two-lane road (Old NH 30) runs under the twin rail tracks.
- The Koilwar bridge was inaugurated by the then Viceroy of India Lord Elgin
- The bridge was designed by James Meadows Rendel and Sir Matthew Digby Wyatt.
- It remained the longest bridge in the Indian subcontinent till it was overtaken by the Upper Sone Bridge in 1900.
- Recently the three-lane Koilwar bridge on the Sone river in Bihar was inaugurated.
- The new bridge will replace the 138-year-old rail-cum-road bridge

- The new bridge will be known as 'Vashishtha Narayan Singh Bridge'. With this, the old Abdul Bari Bridge will now be used only for rail traffic.
- However, the Railways has already raised concerns over excessive load on the old bridge. It has written to the Bihar government as well as the Union surface transport ministry to search for an alternative.

3. Which of the following statements are incorrect about Partners in Population and Development Initiative?

1. It is related to Cairo Program of Action (POA).
 2. Recently Inter-Ministerial Conference by PPD was jointly organised by PPD, National Health Commission of China (NHC) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Explanation

Partners in Population and Development

- It is an intergovernmental initiative created specifically for the purpose of expanding and improving South-South Cooperation in the fields of reproductive health, population, and development.
- PPD was launched at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), when ten developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America formed an intergovernmental alliance to help implement the Cairo Program of Action (POA).
- The POA, endorsed by 179 nations, stresses the need to establish mechanisms to promote development through the sharing of experiences in reproductive health (RH) and family planning (FP) within and among countries.
- It is an alliance of 27 developing countries.
- India is a member country.
- Its Secretariat is in Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Inter-Ministerial Conference by PPD was jointly organised by PPD, National Health Commission of China (NHC) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
- The Objective is to Advocate and ensure political support and investment to address the effects of Covid-19 pandemic in the achievement of the Three Zeros by 2030, finalised under the Nairobi Summit 2019.

4. Which of the following statements regarding National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) are correct?

1. It was constituted under Chartered Accountants Act, 1949
 2. It hears appeals against the orders of The Competition Commission of India (CCI).
 3. Term of office of chairperson and members is 5 years and they can be reappointed for additional 5 years.
- A. 1 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

Explanation

- NCLAT was constituted under Companies Act, 2013.
- It hears appeals against the orders of:
 - ✓ NCLT under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).
 - ✓ Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.
 - ✓ The Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- The President of the Tribunal and the chairperson and Judicial Members of the Appellate Tribunal shall be appointed after consultation with the Chief Justice of India.
- The Members of the Tribunal and the Technical Members shall be appointed on the recommendation of a Selection Committee consisting of:
 - ✓ Chief Justice of India or his nominee—Chairperson.
 - ✓ A senior Judge of the Supreme Court or a Chief Justice of High Court— Member.
 - ✓ Secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs—Member.
 - ✓ Secretary in the Ministry of Law and Justice—Member.
 - ✓ Secretary in the Department of Financial Services in the Ministry of Finance— Member.
- Eligibility:
 - ✓ Chairperson - Should be/been judge of the Supreme Court or should be/been Chief Justice of the High Court.
 - ✓ Judicial Member - Is/has been a judge of a High Court or is a judicial member of a tribunal for 5 years or more.
 - ✓ Technical member- Person with proven ability, integrity and standing having special knowledge and experience of 25 years or more (in specified areas).
- Term:

✓ Term of office of chairperson and members is 5 years and they can be reappointed for additional 5 years.

5. Which of the following statements regarding the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA) are incorrect?

1. U. S. COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (USCIRF) is an independent U.S. federal government commission created by the 1998 International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA) that monitors the universal right to freedom of religion or belief abroad.
2. The US State Department has placed Pakistan and China among countries that are of particular concern (CPC) for violation of religious freedom.

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- The US State Department has placed various countries in different lists pursuant to the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA).
- Pakistan and China are among eight other countries that are of particular concern (CPC) for violation of religious freedom.
- Others include- Myanmar, Eritrea, Iran, Nigeria, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.
- Comoros, Cuba, Nicaragua and Russia on a Special Watch List (SWL) for governments that have engaged in or tolerated severe violations of religious freedom.
- Al-Shabaab, al-Qaida, Boko Haram, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the Houthis, ISIS, ISIS-Greater Sahara, ISIS-West Africa, Jamaat Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin and the Taliban are 'Entities of Particular Concern'
- The State Department did not accept the USCIRF recommendation that India, Russia, Syria and Vietnam be also designated as CPCs.
- USCIRF is an independent, bipartisan, U.S. federal government commission created by the 1998 International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA) that monitors the universal right to freedom of religion or belief abroad.
- USCIRF uses international standards to monitor religious freedom violations globally, and makes policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State, and Congress.
- The Office of International Religious Freedom (IRF) – also established under IRFA—is part of the U.S. State Department.
- Both USCIRF and the State Department release annual reports on international religious freedom, but each has different purposes.
- The State Department's report documents religious freedom violations in every country in the world.



- USCIRF's Annual Report, by statute, recommends countries to be designated as "countries of particular concern" which the Executive Branch must consider.
- Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that "everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest this religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."

4. Economy

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1. Which of the following statements are **incorrect** about Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY)?

1. It is to boost employment in formal sector under Atmanirbhar Bharat Package 3.0
 2. If ESIC-registered establishments take in new employees without ESIC registration or those who lost jobs earlier, the Yojana will benefit these employees.
 3. The scheme will be effective from October 1, 2020 and operational till 30th June 2021.
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Union Cabinet recently has given its approval for Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY).
- It is to boost employment in formal sector and incentivize creation of new employment opportunities during the Covid recovery phase under Atmanirbhar Bharat Package 3.0.



ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ROJGAR YOJANA 1/2

Salient Features

- Subsidy for two years in respect of new employees engaged on or after 1st October, 2020 and upto 30th June, 2021
- Payment of both 12% employees' contribution and 12% employers' contribution in respect of new employees in establishments employing upto 1000 employees for two years
- Payment of only employees' share of EPF contribution i.e. 12% of wages in respect of new employees in establishments employing more than 1000 employees for two years
- Employee drawing monthly wage of less than Rs. 15000/- who was not working in any establishment registered with EPFO before 1st October, 2020, will be eligible for the benefit



ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ROJGAR YOJANA

2/2

Salient Features

- Any EPF member possessing UAN drawing monthly wage of less than Rs. 15000/- who made exit from employment during COVID pandemic from 01.03.2020 to 30.09.2020, will also be eligible to avail benefit
- EPFO will credit the contribution in Aadhaar seeded account of members in electronic manner
- EPFO shall develop a software for the scheme and also develop a procedure which is transparent and accountable at their end
- EPFO shall work out modality to ensure that there is no overlapping of benefits provided under ABRY with any other scheme implemented by EPFO

2. Which of the following statements regarding the Bull Market are incorrect?

1. A bull market is the condition of a financial market in which prices are falling or are expected to fall.
 2. They tend to happen in line with strong gross domestic product (GDP) and a drop in unemployment and will often coincide with a rise in corporate profits.
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- A bull market is the condition of a financial market in which prices are rising or are expected to rise.
- The term "bull market" is most often used to refer to the stock market but can be applied to anything that is traded, such as bonds, real estate, currencies and commodities.
- Because prices of securities rise and fall essentially continuously during trading, the term "bull market" is typically reserved for extended periods in which a large portion of security prices are rising.
- Bull markets tend to last for months or even years.
- Bull markets generally take place when the economy is strengthening or when it is already strong.
- They tend to happen in line with strong gross domestic product (GDP) and a drop in unemployment and will often coincide with a rise in corporate profits.

- Investor confidence will also tend to climb throughout a bull market period.
- The overall demand for stocks will be positive, along with the overall tone of the market.
- In addition, there will be a general increase in the amount of IPO activity during bull markets.
- Supply and demand for securities will seesaw: supply will be weak while demand will be strong.
- Investors will be eager to buy securities, while few will be willing to sell.
- In a bull market, investors are more willing to take part in the (stock) market in order to gain profits.
- Investors who want to benefit from a bull market should buy early in order to take advantage of rising prices and sell them when they've reached their peak.



3. Which of the following statements are correct about Better Than Cash Alliance?

1. It was created in 2012 as a partnership of governments, companies and international organizations that accelerates the transition from cash to responsible digital payments.
2. The Alliance has 75 members which are committed to digitizing payments.
3. The United Nations (UN) Capital Development Fund serves as the secretariat.

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- India and UN-Based Better Than Cash Alliance organized a joint Peer learning exchange on fintech solutions for responsible digital payments at the last mile.
- It was created in 2012 as a partnership of governments, companies and international organizations that accelerates the transition from cash to responsible digital payments to advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

- The Alliance has 75 members which are committed to digitizing payments.
- India became a member of the Better Than Cash Alliance in 2015 to digitize payments to achieve financial inclusion
- The Alliance Secretariat works with members on their journey to digitize payments by:
 - ✓ Providing advisory services based on their priorities.
 - ✓ Sharing action-oriented research and fostering peer learning on responsible practices.
 - ✓ Conducting advocacy at the national, regional and global level.
- The United Nations (UN) Capital Development Fund serves as the secretariat.



India joins the UN's Better Than Cash Alliance


One year later:
Results from the
Pradhan Mantri
Jan Dhan Yojana

175 million
new accounts opened

\$3.4
billion deposits



\$2
billion transferred
by paying cooking
gas digitally

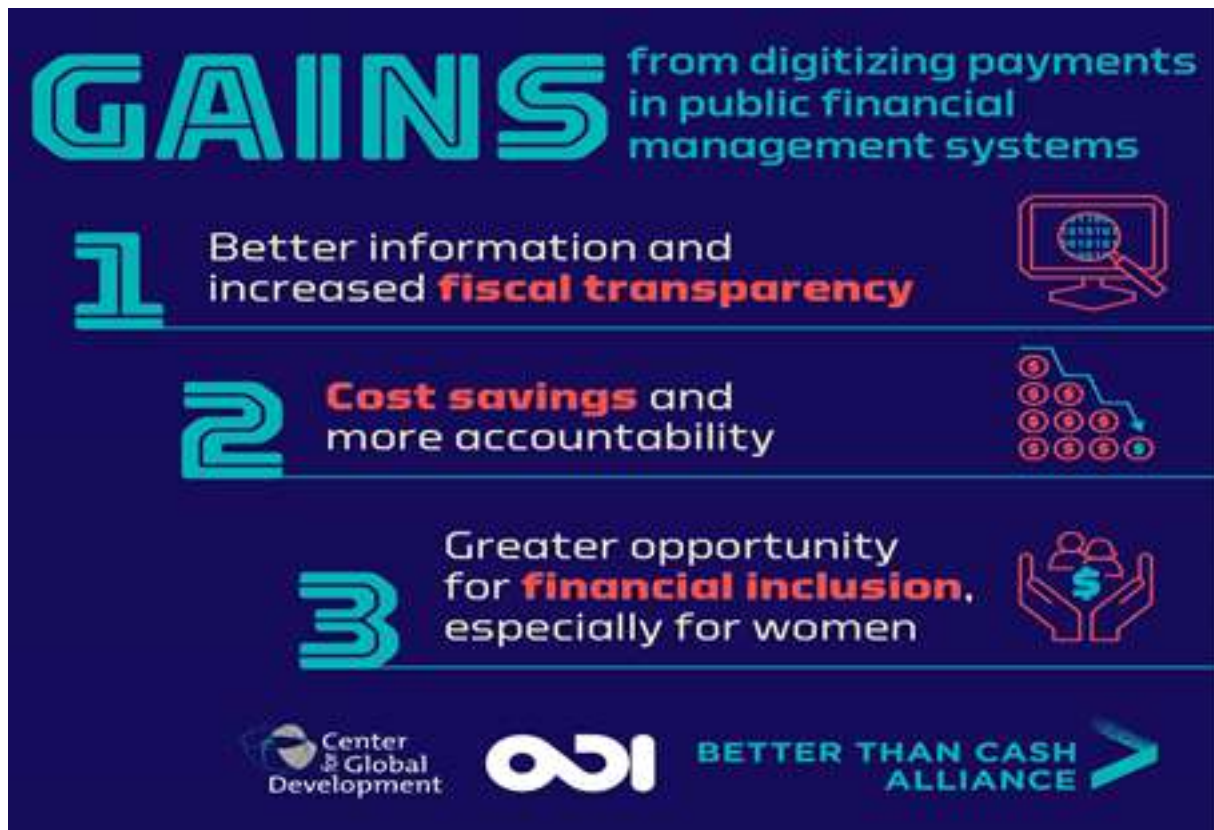
#JanDhan



BETTERTHANCASH
Accelerating Lives Through Digital Payments

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GAINS

from digitizing payments in public financial management systems

- 1** Better information and increased **fiscal transparency**
- 2** **Cost savings** and more accountability
- 3** Greater opportunity for **financial inclusion**, especially for women

Center for Global Development IBI BETTER THAN CASH ALLIANCE

4. Which of the following statements are correct about VISVAS Scheme?

1. The scheme is launched by ministry of social justice and empowerment.
2. The scheme is launched to address the gender pay gap and boost women empowerment.
3. It is an interest subvention scheme.

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- The ministry of social justice and empowerment has launched VISVAS or Vanchit Ikai Samooh aur Vargon ki Aarthik Sahayta scheme for self-help groups or SC and OBC households with an annual income of up to ₹3 lakh.
- The scheme aims to ensure more credit in the hands of the most-deprived households for productive and economic activities.
- With subvention of interest, banks too would be encouraged to lend to the disadvantaged sections.
- The Centre has already identified 3,28,500 beneficiaries for the first year.

- These include 1.98 lakh SC and 1.27 lakh OBC beneficiaries.
- Under the scheme, SC and OBC Self Help Groups (SHGs) and Individuals would be able to avail an interest subvention of 5% per annum on bank loans of up to ₹4 lakh per SHG and ₹2 lakh per individual.
- With this scheme, the government hopes to reduce interest burden on the underprivileged sections.
- The Centre is expected to infuse Rs 65 crore under the scheme which should enable provision of a 5% interest subvention to small loans extended to marginalised SCs and OBCs worth ₹1,075 crore.
- The scheme would help in immediate liquidity as it would entail direct beneficiary transfer mode of crediting the operational accounts of individuals and SHGs.
- Though approved for the first year 2020-21, it is expected that its continuation would benefit close to 22 lakh poor SC and OBC beneficiaries by enabling interest subvention on loans worth an anticipated ₹6,700 crore up to 2024-25.
- Recently The National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC) and the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) have signed agreements with Central Bank of India regarding the same.

Helping Hand

- ▶ VISVAS scheme to be introduced for most deprived SC & OBC households & self help groups
- ▶ It is an interest subvention scheme which would entail direct benefit transfer to eligible beneficiaries
- ▶ The scheme will be till 2024-25

Beneficiaries for first year		
Category	Number of beneficiaries	Loans subvented amount
SC	1,98,000	₹660 crore
OBC	1,27,500	₹425 crore

5. Diem recently heard in news is a

- GDP guidelines by IMF.
- A newly introduced banking software
- A Cryptocurrency
- Stock Exchange introduced in France.


Answer: C


Explanation

- Facebook's block-chain based payment system Libra, in its quest to get regulatory approval, is being rebranded as 'Diem'.


- The project was pushed back in April after regulatory banks raised concern that it would threaten financial institutions, monetary policy and privacy, is trying to show its organizational independence with this move of changing its name.
- Rebranding is a part of their move to lay focus on a simpler and revised structure.
- Libra' was associated with an early version of the project that was not received nicely by the regulators and hence they have revised their proposition.
- Libra, now Diem, was initially meant to be a single coin pegged to multiple currencies that could be traded in place of it.
- Later it was changed to multiple coins with each backed by a different currency.
- These crypto coins, however, will be a compliment and not a replacement of the domestic currency.
- Diem now proposes to launch a single dollar-backed digital currency.

What is Cryptocurrency?






Cryptocurrency is digital money created from code.




The cryptocurrency economy is monitored by a peer-to-peer internet protocol.




Cryptocurrency is an encrypted string of data or a hash, encoded to signify one unit of currency.


Examples of Cryptocurrency



Bitcoin Market Cap
\$127,331,758,431



Ethereum Market Cap
\$24,383,863,767



XRP Market Cap
\$18,187,690,567

9 BITCOIN STORIES AND FUN FACTS

1 SATOSHI NAKAMOTO IS THE NAME

USED BY THE UNKNOWN PERSON OR PEOPLE WHO DESIGNED BITCOIN. TO DATE, THE IDENTITY OF NAKAMOTO REMAINS A MYSTERY.



2 IN THE EARLY DAYS OF BITCOIN,

SATOSHI NAKAMOTO MINED MILLIONS OF BITCOINS IN HIS WALLET THAT STILL REMAINS UNTOUCHED.



3 THE FBI HAS ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST BITCOIN WALLETS (VALUED AT \$120 MILLION) FROM SHUTTING DOWN THE SILK ROAD, AN INTERNET BLACK MARKET, INADVERTENTLY BECOMING ONE OF THE WEALTHIEST BITCOIN OPERATORS IN THE WORLD.



4 LAMBORGHINI

IS THE FIRST CAR COMPANY THAT ACCEPTED THE USE OF BITCOINS.



5 NINE YEARS AGO, 10,000 BITCOINS WERE USED TO BUY \$25 WORTH OF PIZZA.



6 JAMES HOWELLS

MADE HEADLINES IN 2013 AFTER IT EMERGED HE HAD ACCIDENTALLY THROWN AWAY A COMPUTER HARD DRIVE CONTAINING 7,500 BITCOINS.



7 IN 2015, ONLY 802 PEOPLE



TOLD THE IRS ABOUT THEIR BITCOIN INCOME. 

8 IN 2016,

A 3D BITCOIN MODEL WAS TIED TO A WEATHER BALLOON AND SENT INTO OUTER SPACE BY GENESIS



9 CHINA OWNS ABOUT 60%



OF BITCOIN'S HASH POWER, MEANING THEY MINE ABOUT 60% OF ALL NEW BITCOINS.

Summary (TL;DR): Hold onto your Bitcoin. Anything can happen.

5. Environment

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

1. Which of the following recently heard in news is also known as 'Mini Kaziranga'?

- A. Marat Longri Wildlife Sanctuary
- B. Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary
- C. Borail Wildlife Sanctuary
- D. Manas National Park

Answer: B

Explanation

- Three one-horned rhinos have recently died in the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam.
- The sanctuary is often called 'Mini Kaziranga' because of similar landscape and a sizeable population of the one-horned rhino.
- In 2019, about 70 hatchlings of the rare Black Softshell and Indian Softshell turtles bred in the ponds of two temples in Assam were released in the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary.
- It is situated in the flood plains of Brahmaputra River and surrounded by tea-gardens and Amchang Wildlife sanctuary.
- Pobitora was announced a reserve forest in 1971 and wildlife sanctuary in 1987.
- The sanctuary is encircled by the Brahmaputra River and Kalang River and is particularly camouflaged by tall grass that is optimal for rhinos.
- It is located 48 km east of Guwahati.
- Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary has a small sanctuary with respect to other rhino sanctuaries of Assam yet the concentration of rhino is as high as 80 for an area of 15 sq kilometers.
- Being a marshy land Pobitora wildlife sanctuary is an impeccable dwelling best suited for rhinos and is enclosed by farmland villages.
- Pobitora also has other animals like jackal, wild boar and buffalo. It is also known for its affluent birdlife to a large number of bird species.
- Assam is the most species-rich State in India in terms of turtle diversity.

2. Which of the following states are covered under National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE)?

1. Jammu and Kashmir
2. West Bengal
3. Himachal Pradesh

4. Tripura

5. Nagaland

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- Recently Three Centres of Excellence were set up under NMSHE at Central Universities of Kashmir, Sikkim and Tezpur to drive climate change related research by Universities
- National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem was launched in Jun 2010.
- It received formal approval from the Union Government in 2014
- Objectives
 - ✓ To assess the vulnerability of the Himalayan ecosystem in the short term and long term due to variations in climate and weather, through scientific study.
 - ✓ Formulate policies to protect the fragile ecosystem based on the scientific study.
- States covered under this mission:
 - ✓ Jammu and Kashmir
 - ✓ Himachal Pradesh
 - ✓ Uttarakhand
 - ✓ Sikkim
 - ✓ Arunachal Pradesh
 - ✓ Nagaland
 - ✓ Manipur
 - ✓ Mizoram
 - ✓ Tripura
 - ✓ Meghalaya
 - ✓ Assam
 - ✓ West Bengal
- The Department of Science and Technology implements the NMSHE.

3. Which of the following statements are correct about GI indicator tag?

1. A GI or Geographical Indication is a name or a sign given to certain products that relate to a specific geographical location or origins like a region, town or country.

2. Geographical Indications are covered under the Paris Convention.

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- A GI or Geographical Indication is a name or a sign given to certain products that relate to a specific geographical location or origins like a region, town or country.
- Using Geographical Indications may be regarded as a certification that the particular product is produced as per traditional methods, has certain specific qualities, or has a particular reputation because of its geographical origin.
- GI Tag ensures that none other than those registered as authorised users are allowed to use the popular product name.
- In order to function as a GI, a sign must identify a product as originating in a given place.
- Geographical Indications are covered as a component of intellectual property rights (IPRs) under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property.
- At the International level, GI is governed by the World Trade Organisation's (WTO's) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).
- In India, Geographical Indications registration is administered by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 which came into force with effect from September 2003. It is issued by the Geographical Indications Registry (Chennai).
- The first product in India to be accorded with GI tag was Darjeeling tea in the year 2004-05.
- This year, many GI tags have been allocated - Kashmir saffron, Manipur black rice, Gorakhpur terracotta, Kovilpatti kadalai mittai, etc.
- Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Western Uttar Pradesh and select districts of Jammu and Kashmir have GI tagging for basmati. Madhya Pradesh has sought inclusion of its 13 districts for GI tagging for basmati.
- The Himachal Pradesh government is trying to obtain Geographical Indication for five products from the state – Karsog Kulth, Thangi of Pangi, Chamba Metal Crafts, Chamba Chukh, and Rajmah of Bharmour.

4. Kawal Tiger reserve is in which state?

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Telangana
- C. West Bengal
- D. Madhya Pradesh

Answer: B

Explanation

- Kawal Tiger Reserve is located at Jannaram mandal of Mancherial Mancherial District (Old Adilabad district) in Telangana.

- Govt of India declared Kawal wildlife sanctuary as Tiger Reserve in 2012.

- The reserve is the oldest sanctuary in the northern Telangana region of the state.

- It is well known for its abundant flora and fauna. This sanctuary is catchment for the rivers Godavari and Kadam, which flow towards the south of the sanctuary. The River Kadam is a tributary of Godavari.

- The KWS was established in 1965 and later declared as a Protected Area (PA) in 1999 under the WPA, 1972



Telangana (2)

- Kawal Tiger Reserve
- Amrabad Tiger Reserve

5. A transition area between two biological communities, where two communities meet and integrate is known as

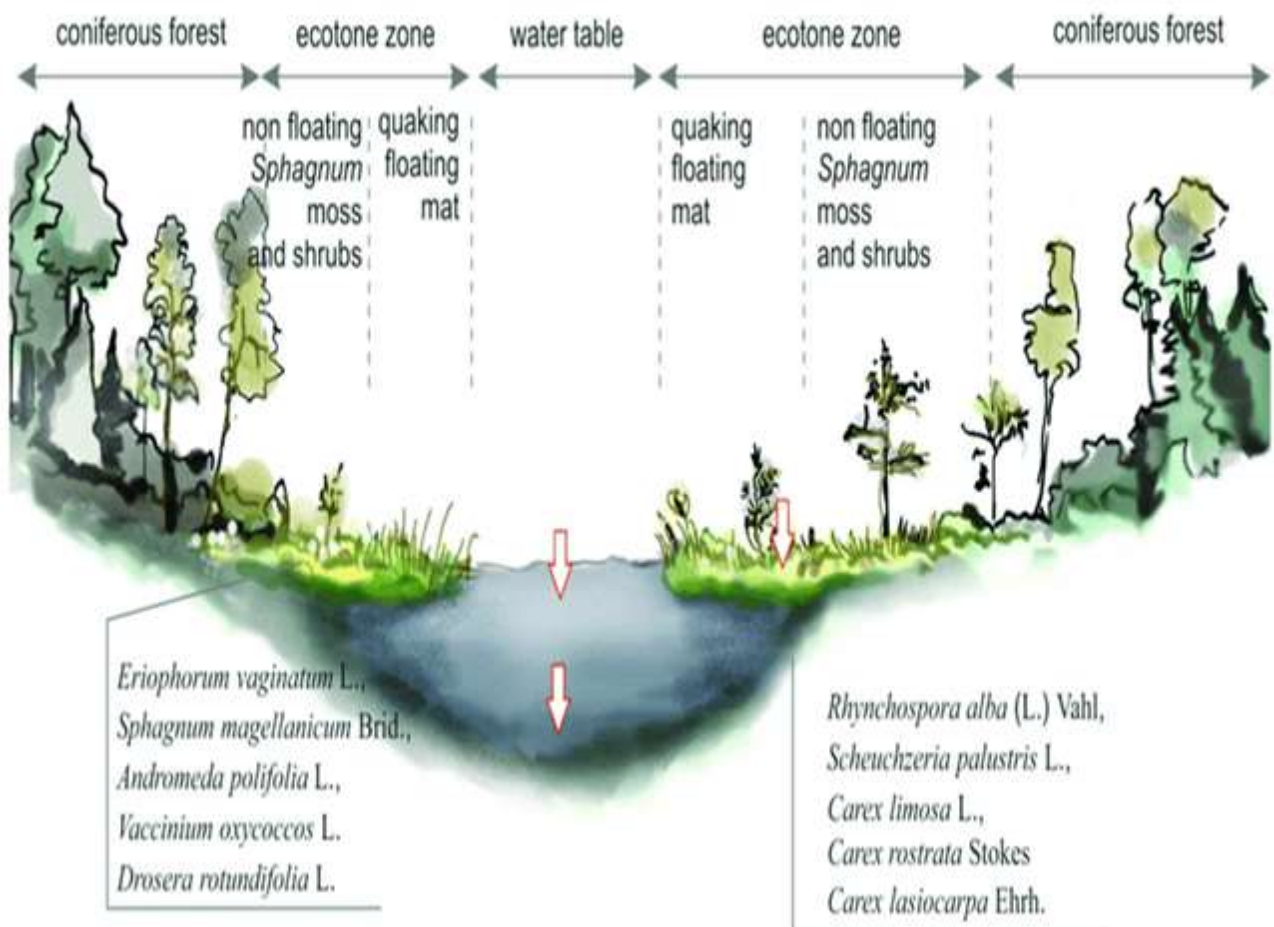
- A. Biome
- B. Entourage
- C. Ecocline
- D. Ecotone

Answer: D

Explanation

- An ecotone is an area that acts as a boundary or a transition between two ecosystems.

- A common example could be an area of marshland between a river and its riverbank.
- Ecotones are of great environmental importance. Because the area is a transition between two ecosystems or biomes, contains a large variety of species of fauna and flora as the area is influenced by both the bordering ecosystems.
- Key Features:
 - ✓ They have a greater variety of organisms.
 - ✓ They also offer a good nesting place for animals coming in search of a nesting place or food.
 - ✓ They serve as a bridge of gene flow from one population to another because of the larger genetic diversity present.
 - ✓ They can act as buffer zones offering protection to the bordering ecosystems from possible damage. For example, a wetland can absorb pollutants and prevent them from seeping into the river.
 - ✓ Ecotones are also a sensitive indicator of global climate change.
 - ✓ A shifting of boundaries between ecosystems is thought to be due to climate change.



6. Science & Technology

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

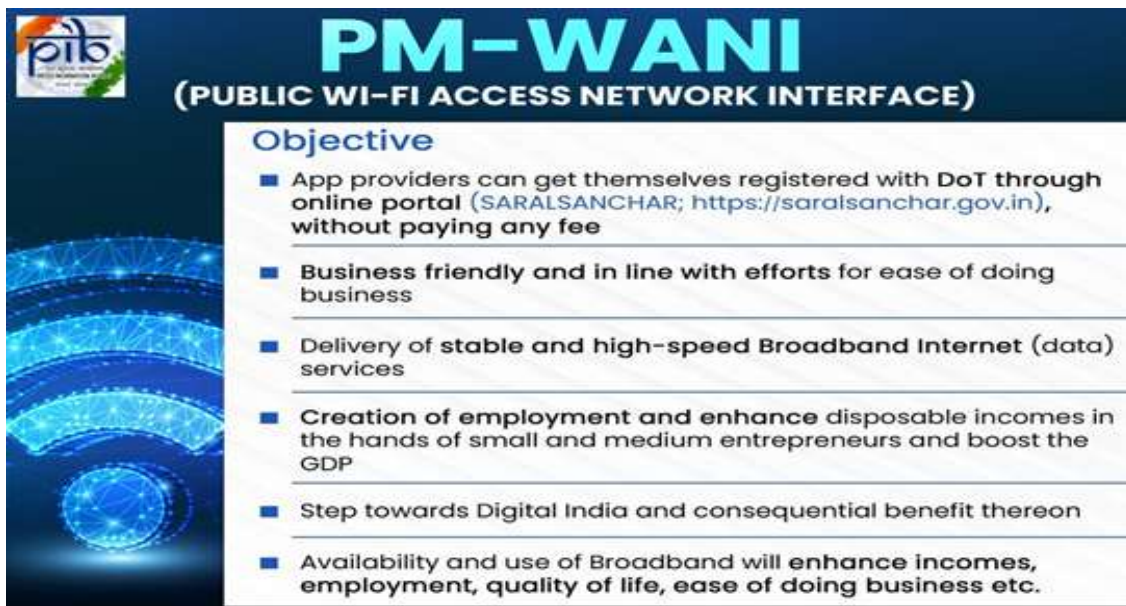
1. PM- WANI recently heard in news is related to which of the following?

- A. A covid -19 Awareness Campaign
- B. An Akashwani Program by Prasar Bharti
- C. A Wi-Fi plans
- D. An initiative by Ministry of Water Resources

Answer: C

Explanation

- Recently, in a bid to fuel broadband internet proliferation across the country, the Government of India launched PM WANI (Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface) Scheme.
- The scheme aims to bring large scale deployment of Wi-Fi hotspots through the country to drive up connectivity options and improve digital access.



PM-WANI
(PUBLIC WI-FI ACCESS NETWORK INTERFACE)

Objective

- App providers can get themselves registered with DoT through online portal (SARALSANCHAR; <https://saralsanchar.gov.in>), without paying any fee
- Business friendly and in line with efforts for ease of doing business
- Delivery of stable and high-speed Broadband Internet (data) services
- Creation of employment and enhance disposable incomes in the hands of small and medium entrepreneurs and boost the GDP
- Step towards Digital India and consequential benefit thereon
- Availability and use of Broadband will enhance incomes, employment, quality of life, ease of doing business etc.



PM-WANI (Public Wi-Fi Access Network Interface)

Salient Features

1. Public Data Office (PDO) will establish, maintain, and operate only WANI compliant Wi-Fi Access Points & deliver broadband services.
2. Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA) will be an aggregator of PDOs and perform functions relating to authorization and accounting.
3. App Provider will develop App to register users & discover WANI compliant Wi-Fi hotspots for accessing internet service.
4. Central Registry will maintain the details of App Providers, PDOAs, and PDOs.

2. Which of the following statements are correct about Gaganyaan?

1. Under the Gaganyaan schedule, three flights will be sent in orbit; there will be two unmanned flights and one human spaceflight.
2. GSLV Mk III, also called the LVM-3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3 will be used to launch Gaganyaan as it has the necessary payload capability.
3. India is the 4th nation to launch a manned spaceflight.

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

Answer: D

Explanation



GAGANYAAN
INDIA'S FIRST MANNED SPACE MISSION

COST: Less than **₹10,000cr**

LAUNCH: 2022

1 Indian would carry the **tricolor to space** to commemorate India's 75th year of Independence

ISRO will deploy its biggest rocket **GSLV Mk III** from Sriharikota to send the Gaganyaan space capsule into orbit

In its maiden mission, the **3.7-tonne capsule** will orbit the earth at an altitude of 400 km for up to 7 days, with a 3-person crew on board

India to be the **4th nation** to launch a manned spaceflight mission after the US, Russia and China

- Gaganyaan, planned for Dec 2020, may be delayed due to Covid-related disruptions
- It was part of the two unmanned missions to be undertaken by the Indian Space Research Organisation ahead of the planned launch of India's maiden human spaceflight under 'Gaganyaan' in December 2021.
- The likely delay in the first unmanned mission was recently conveyed to the Space Commission.
- The Gaganyaan mission aims to send a three-member crew to space for a period of five to seven days by 2022 when India completes 75 years of Independence.
- The ISRO had started planning for the mission accordingly. The first unmanned mission was planned in December 2020, the second unmanned mission in June 2021.
- The final and the main component, the manned mission of Gaganyaan, was scheduled six months later in December 2021, much before the 2022 deadline.
- ISRO had earlier indicated that there would be a delay in several missions as the space body's work has been hit by disruptions due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Among the major projects that have been affected are Chandrayaan-3 and Gaganyaan.
- Chandrayaan-3, the third mission to Moon, was scheduled later this year.
- The spacecraft will be placed in a low earth orbit of 300-400 kilometres. The total programme cost is expected to be less than ₹10,000 crores.

3. Which of the following statements are incorrect about Quantum key distribution?

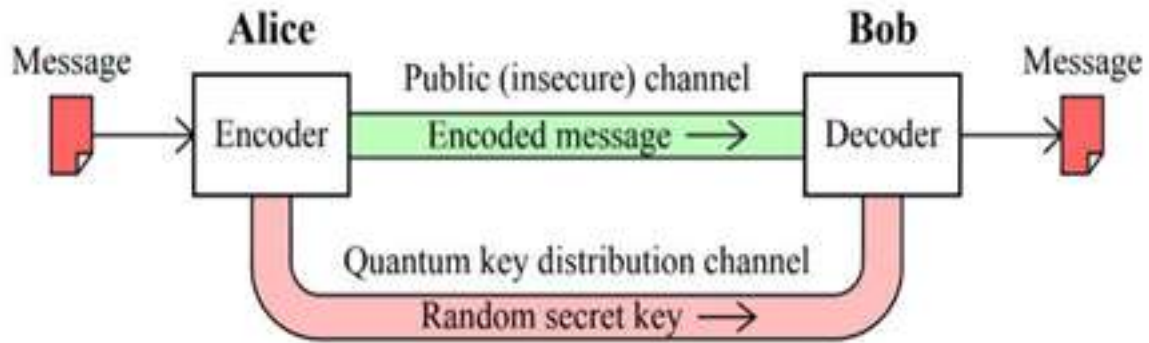
1. QKD works by using electrons.
 2. QKD allows two distant users, who do not share a long secret key initially, to produce a common, random string of secret bits, called a secret key.
 3. The encryption is "unbreakable"
- A. 1 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 2 only
D. 3 only

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully demonstrated communication between its two labs using Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) technology, which is a "robust" way to share encryption keys.
- In the QKD technology, encryption keys are sent as qubits in a fibre optic cable.
- Quantum computing uses qubits as basic resources, similar to how bits are used as basic resources in classical computing.

- The QKD is designed in a way that if an illegitimate entity tries to read the transmission, it will disturb the qubits - which are encoded on photons - and this will generate transmission errors, leading to legitimate end users being immediately informed.
- Quantum Communication using the time-bin QKD scheme was performed under realistic conditions.
- The setup also demonstrated the validation of detection of a third party trying to gain knowledge of the communication.



- The Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) and The Research Centre Imarat (RCI) were the two labs that participated in this demonstration.
 - Quantum computing refers to a new era of faster and more powerful computers, and the theory goes that they would be able to break current levels of encryption.
 - QKD works by using photons – the particles which transmit light – to transfer data.
 - QKD allows two distant users, who do not share a long secret key initially, to produce a common, random string of secret bits, called a secret key.
 - Using the one-time pad encryption this key is proven to be secure to encrypt and decrypt a message, which can then be transmitted over a standard communication channel.
 - The encryption is “unbreakable” and that’s mainly because of the way data is carried via the photon.
 - A photon cannot be perfectly copied and any attempt to measure it will disturb it.
 - This means that a person trying to intercept the data will leave a trace.
 - The implications could be huge for cybersecurity, making businesses safer, but also making it more difficult for governments to hack into communication.
4. Which of the following has developed a solar-powered Unmanned Autonomous Survey Craft for Indian ports?
- IIT Madras
 - IIT Bombay
 - IISER Bhopal
 - IISER Thiruvananthapuram

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras researchers have developed a Solar-powered Unmanned Autonomous Survey Craft for Indian Ports and Inland Waterways to undertake autonomous hydrographic and oceanographic surveys and to provide real-time data transmission over a long distance.
- The system can be equipped with an echo sounder, GPS System and broadband communication technology, capable of delivering precise depth measurements.
- In addition to echo sounder and GPS system, it is possible to add additional oceanographic payloads (current and velocity measurements), 360-degree Camera, LiDAR for seamless topography and bathymetry measurements.
- The craft had a successful field-test recently off the Chennai Coast at Kamarajar Port.
- Further field trials under harsher environments have been scheduled during November 2020 at Syama Prasad Mookerjee (SMP) Port, Kolkata.
- The craft is fully solar-powered. It can endure five to several more hours depending on user requirements.

5. India is not a signatory to which of the following?

- A. Wassenaar Arrangement
- B. Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)
- C. Australia Group
- D. Nuclear Suppliers Group

Answer: D

Explanation

- The Australia Group (AG) is an informal forum of countries which, through the harmonisation of export controls, seeks to ensure that exports do not contribute to the development of chemical or biological weapons.
 - ✓ The formation of the Australia Group (AG) in 1985 was prompted by Iraq's use of chemical weapons during the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988)
 - ✓ Coordination of National export control measures assists Australia Group members to fulfil their obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention and Biological & Toxin Weapons Convention.
 - ✓ The Australia Group has a list of 54 compounds that are identified to be regulated in global trade. This list includes more items than the Chemical Weapons Convention.
 - ✓ It has 43 members (including the European union). The members work on a consensus basis. The annual meeting is held in Paris, France.
 - ✓ India joined the Australia Group (AG) on 19 January 2018.

- ✓ The Australia Group decided to admit India as the Group's 43rd Participant through a consensus decision.

Wassenaar Arrangement Admits India As Member

The Wassenaar Arrangement, a multilateral export control regime, has decided to admit India as a member, a development that will help it acquire critical technologies and is being seen as a significant victory for the country's non-proliferation track record. The decision was taken at the two-day plenary meeting of the grouping in Vienna on Wednesday and Thursday. India is now a member of two of the four export control regimes, the other being Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), which the country had joined last year.

(Text by Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury)

THE WASSENAAR ARRANGEMENT was established in 1996 to contribute to regional and international security and stability by promoting transparency and greater responsibility in transfers of conventional arms and dual-use goods and technologies.

INDIA WILL BECOME the 42nd member of the Wassenaar Arrangement

EVERY 6 MONTHS MEMBER COUNTRIES exchange information on deliveries of conventional arms to non-Wassenaar Arrangement members

INFORMATION SHARING FALLS UNDER EIGHT BROAD WEAPONS CATEGORIES: battle tanks, armoured fighting vehicles, large-calibre artillery, military aircraft, military helicopters, warships, missiles or missile systems, and small arms and light weapons



India in Elite Missile Club

India is now part of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). The road to one of the four critical international groupings was long and shall have far reaching ramifications for the country.

MTCR Explained

- Membership will enable India to buy and sell high-end missile technology amongst members.
- It aims at restricting the proliferation of missiles, complete rocket systems, unmanned air vehicles and related technology.
- China, which stonewalled India's entry into the 48-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) at the just-concluded Seoul plenary, is not a member of the now 35-nation MTCR.



Road to MTCR

- 2005:** Then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh committed India's "harmonisation and adherence" to MTCR guidelines.
- 2008:** Then US President George W. Bush informed the US Congress that India was adhering to guidelines.
- 2010:** After India-US civil nuclear deal, US announced to work towards opening the doors for India to the four arms control regimes— MTCR, NSG, Australia Group and Wassenaar Arrangement.
- October 2015:** India's membership application to MTCR not accepted in Rotterdam plenary because of objection by Italy.
- May 2016:** Italy removed its virtual veto after the second Italian marine returned home in the fishermen murder case.
- June 2016:** India adhered voluntarily to the Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation.
- October 2016:** As a new member India will be entitled to "full participation" in organisational activities including the plenary of MTCR which will take place in South Korea.