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For the 1st Week

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2021

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1. Geography

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

1. The Sinai Peninsula is surrounded by which of the following water bodies?

1. Mediterranean Sea
2. Gulf of Aqaba
3. Gulf of Suez
4. Red Sea

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

Answer: A

Explanation



2. With reference to the term 'Pesticide Treadmill', consider the following statements:

1. It means increasing the doses of pesticides to prevent the resurgence of the earlier controlled pest.
2. It yields counterproductive results as repeated spraying increase the vulnerabilities of the farming communities to debt and poor health.

3. It involves targeted spraying on pests so that no other insects which are harmless or beneficial to the crops get killed.

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

- A. 1 and 2 Only
- B. 1 and 3 Only
- C. 2 and 3 Only
- D. All of the Above

Answer: A

Explanation

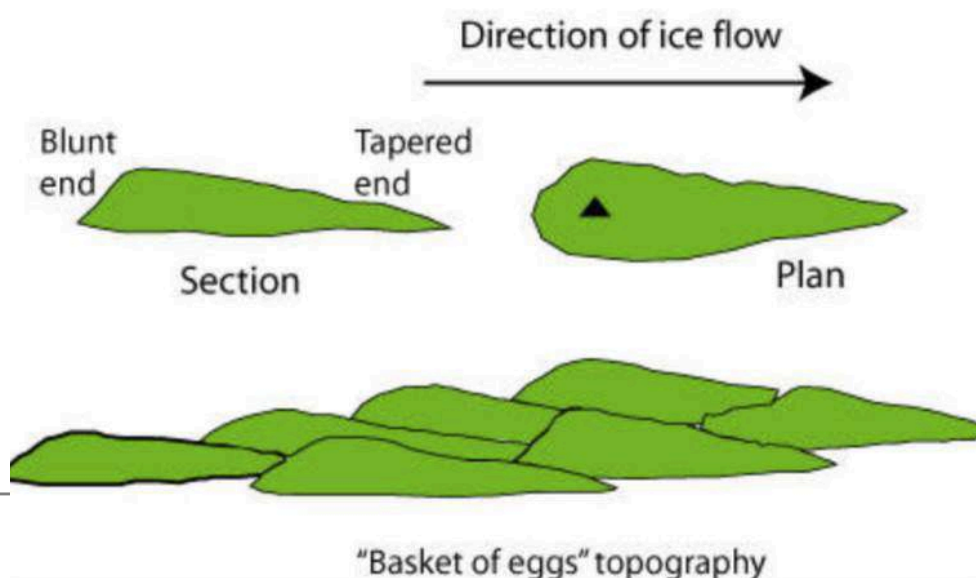
- The pesticide treadmill is a term indicating a situation in which it becomes necessary for a farmer to continue using pesticides regularly because they have become an indispensable part of an agricultural cycle. .
- An even more severe aspect of the pesticide treadmill is when it escalates. It can happen that the effective elimination of one target insect pest allows other insect pests to thrive, resulting in the farmer having to use other insecticides to eliminate the new pest problem. This can lead to more pests and the need for yet more insecticide types to deal with the additional problems. In starting to use any agricultural insecticide, the farmer should be aware of the danger of unintentionally ending up in a treadmill situation, which becomes self-perpetuating.

3. The terms “basket of eggs” topography is :

- A. Depositional landform formed by Glaciers
- B. Erosional landforms by Winds
- C. Depositional landforms by Water
- D. Erosional landforms by River

Answer: A

Explanation



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

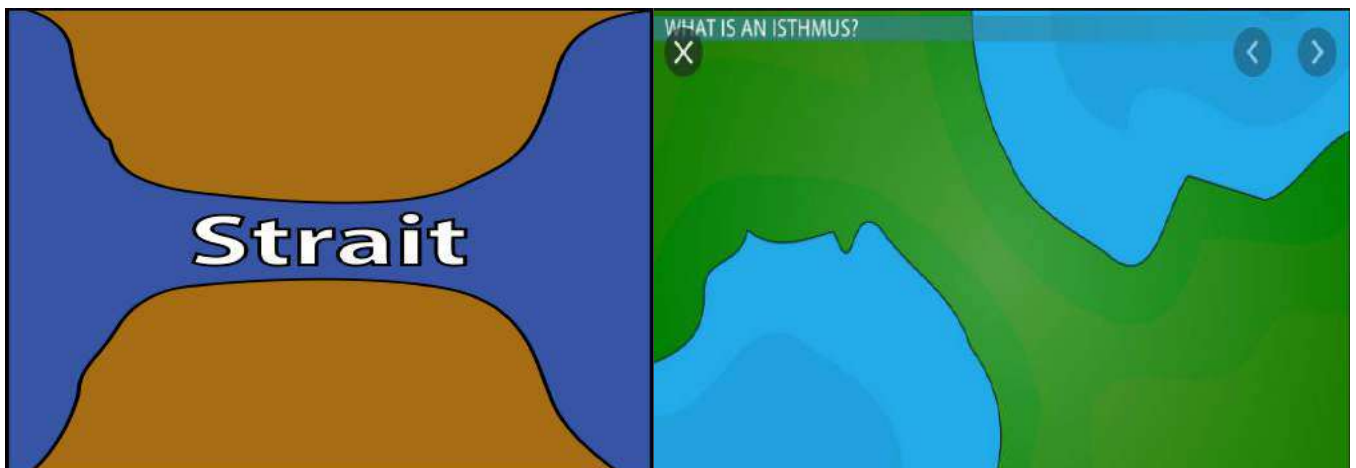
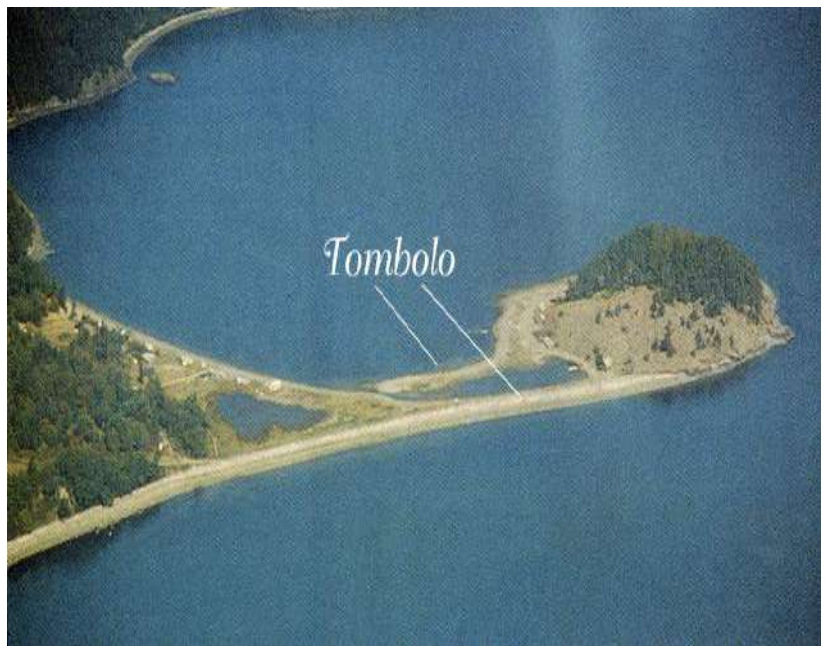
1. **Tombolo**: a narrow piece of land that connects a larger piece of land to a smaller piece of land.
2. **Isthmus** : a narrow strip of land with sea on either side, forming a link between two larger areas of water bodies.
3. **Strait** : a narrow channel of water connecting two larger bodies of land
4. **Peninsula** : a piece of land that is almost surrounded by water but connected to mainland

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- Isthmus is a narrow strip of land connecting two larger land areas, usually with water on either side.
- A peninsula is a piece of land that is almost surrounded by water but connected to mainland (via an isthmus). So a peninsula is often defined as land surrounded by water on three sides.
- Tombolo is a bar of sand or shingle joining an island to the mainland.
- Strait is a narrow passage of water connecting two seas or two other large areas of water.



- Peninsula



5. The Term “Bonn Challenge “ has been in news recently. It is associated with:

- A. Convention on Migratory Species
- B. Landscape Restoration
- C. Elimination of non-biodegradable waste
- D. Reduce the Green House Gases to half by 2030

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Bonn Challenge is a global goal to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030.

2. History

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

1. Parakram Diwas is celebrated to commemorate which of the following freedom fighters?

- A. Subhas Chandra Bose
- B. Chandrashekhar Azad
- C. Rani Lakshmi Bai
- D. Bhagat Singh

Answer: A

Explanation

- Context: The Union Culture Ministry has announced that January 23, birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose, would be celebrated as “Parakram Divas”, day of courage, every year.
- 2021 will be 125th birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose.
- Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had announced the establishment of the provisional government of Azad Hind in occupied Singapore
- Known as Arzi Hukumat-e-Azad Hind, it was supported by the Axis powers of Imperial Japan, Nazi Germany, the Italian Social Republic, and their allies.
- He had launched a struggle to free India from British rule under the banner of the provisional government-in exile during the latter part of the Second World War.
- Under his provisional government, the Indians living abroad had been united.
- Under the provisional government, Bose was the head of the state, the prime minister and the minister for war and foreign affairs.
- Subhash Chandra Bose was twice elected President of the Indian National Congress, (1938-Haripur and 1939-Tripuri).
- He resigned from the Congress Presidentship in 1939 and organized the All-India Forward Bloc a faction within the Congress in Bengal.

2. Based on the following statements identify the personality?

1. He was sentenced to 50 years in the Cellular Jail of Andamans, also known as Kala Pani for revolting against the Morley-Minto reforms (Indian Councils Act 1909).
2. Serving as the president of the Hindu Mahasabha political party, he opposed the Quit India movement in 1942.
3. In his book 'The History of the War of Indian Independence', he analyzed the circumstances of 1857 uprising.

4. The airport at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar's capital was renamed after him in 2002.

- A. Gopal Godse
- B. K.B Hedgewar
- C. Veer Savarkar
- D. M.S. Golwalkar

Answer: C

Explanation

- Veer Savarkar or VD Savarkar was born on May 28, 1883 in Bhagur, a city in Maharashtra's Nashik. Born and brought up in a Marathi family, Savarkar grew up to be an Indian freedom fighter, activist, politician, lawyer, writer and formulator of the
 - Hindutva philosophy.
 - Savarkar advocated Hindu religion and Hindutva.
- ✓ In his teenage, Savarkar formed a youth organization known as Mitra Mela (Group of Friends) to bring in national and revolutionary ideas.
- ✓ Savarkar was against foreign goods and propagated the idea of Swadeshi. In 1905, he burnt all the foreign goods in a bonfire on Dusehra.
- ✓ Savarkar championed atheism and rationality and disapproved orthodox Hindu belief. In fact, he even dismissed cow worship as superstitious.
- ✓ Savarkar studied at Gray's Inn College in London.
- ✓ In his book, The History of the War of Indian Independence, Savarkar wrote about the guerilla warfare tricks used in 1857 Sepoy Mutiny. While the book was banned by Britishers, Madama Bhikaji Cama published the book in Netherlands, Germany and France, which eventually reached many Indian revolutionaries.
- ✓ Savarkar was arrested in 1909 on charges of plotting an armed revolt against the Morle-Minto reforms. He also tried to escape by diving in the water but was arrested. He was sentenced to two life sentences, i.e. 50 years in the cellular jail of Andamans, also known as Kala Pani, in 1911.
- ✓ Though Savarkar was released in 1924 under strict conditions of not participating in politics for 5 years, he decided to work on abolishment of untouchability in Ratnagiri. Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar also compared his work to Lord Buddha.
- ✓ Veer Savarkar also founded the two-nation theory in his book 'Hindutva' calling Hindus and Muslims two separate nations. In 1937, Hindu Mahasabha passed it as a resolution.
- ✓ It was in year 1964, when Savarkar declared his wish to attain Samadhi and started hunger-strike on February 1, 1966 and passed away on February 26, 1966. He believed that his purpose of life is solved as India has gained Independence.
- ✓ In 2002, Port Blair airport at Andaman and Nicobar's Island was renamed after Veer Savarkar International Airport.

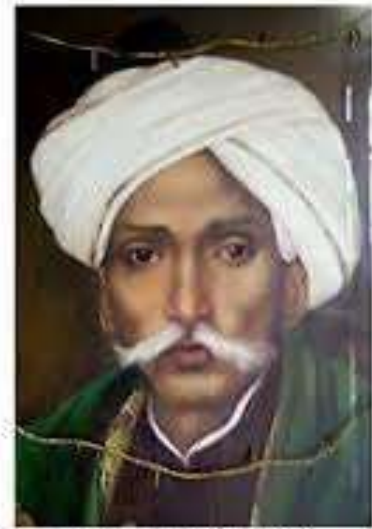
3. Kanyasulkam was written by which of the following?

- A. Kandukuri Veeresalingam
- B. Gurajada Apparao
- C. Devulapalli Krishnasastri
- D. Vemana

Answer: B

Explanation

- Context: PM quoted eminent Telugu writer Gurajada Apparao in COVID-19 vaccine rollout speech.
- Sontha labham kontha manuko, porugu vadiki thodu padavoy. Desamante matti kadoyi, desamante manushuloy - The quote translates into English as 'Forego your self- interest to some extent and help neighbours. Nation does not mean just mud and soil, but people.'
- Gurajada Venkata Apparao (21 September 1862 – 30 November 1915) was a noted Indian playwright, dramatist, poet, and writer known for his works in Telugu theatre.
- Rao wrote the play Kanyasulkam in 1892, which is often considered the greatest play in the Telugu language.
- One of the pioneers of Indian theatre, Rao holds the titles Kavisekhara and Abyudaya Kavitha Pithamahudu.
- In 1910, Rao scripted the widely known Telugu patriotic song "Desamunu Preminchumanna".
- Apparao (along with his brother Syamala Rao) wrote several English poems.
- His Sarangadhara, published in "Indian Leisure Hour", was well received.
- In 1891, Gurajada was appointed to the post of Epigraphist to the Maharaja of Vizianagaram.



Born: September 21, 1862
Yelamanchili, Visakhapatnam
Died: November 30, 1915

4. Which of the following statements about Somnath Temple are incorrect?

1. It is also known as the Deo Patan.
 2. It is also mentioned in Yajur Veda.
 3. It is built in Chalukya style and has a spectacular display of the art of Sompura artisans of Gujarat.
- A. 1 and 2 only
 - B. 2 and 3 only
 - C. 1 and 3 only
 - D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: B

Explanation

- Context: Prime Minister was unanimously chosen as the new chairman of the Somnath Temple trust which manages the world famous Somnath Temple at Prabhas Patan town in Gujarat's Gir-Somnath district, becoming the second PM to hold the post.
- After former PM Morarji Desai, Modi is the second Prime Minister who has been appointed the chairman of the temple trust.
- Somnath is a magnificent temple situated in Sagar Kant of Saurashtra in Gujarat state. It is also known as Deo Patan.
- One of the 12 holy Jyotirlingas of lord shiva is in jyotilinga here in Somnath.
- Somnath is also mentioned in Rigveda.
- This temple of Somnath has been very attractive in front of many destructive foreign invaders who want to lure and convert to the temple glory.
- Whenever the temple has tried to destroy it, then it all been built again.

Somnath

- Somnath's first temple is said to have existed 2000 years ago.
- In 649 CE, King Maitre of vallabhini built a second temple in place of the temple and renovated it.
- In 725, the old ruler of Sindh took his army and attacked the temple and destroyed the temple.
- Pratihtha King Nag Bhatt II constructed the temple for the third time in 815 using a red (Sandstone) stone.
- In 1026, Mahmud Ghazni lent the precious jewels and property of Somnath Temple.
- After looting, slaughtering innumerable pilgrims of the temple and burning the temple and destroying it.
- During 1026-1042 Solanki Raja Bhimdev built the fourth temple of Bhoj and Anhilwad Patan, Parmar King Malva.
- Somnath was destroyed when Delhi Sultanate occupied Gujarat in 1299.
- In 1394 it was destroyed again.
- In 1706 Mughal Ruler Aurangzeb again Demolished the temple.

Reconstruction

- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on November 13, 1947 promised to rebuild the temple.
- Today's Somnath Temple is built on its original site seventh time.

- The temples built under Shri Somnath Trust and this trust is now monitoring the temple.
- The Kailash Mahameru Prasad Temple, built by Chalukya style, has a spectacular display of the art of Sompura artisans of Gujarat.
- This type of construction has not happened in the last 800 years.
- According to the inscription written in Sanskrit on the coast, only the sea exists between the temple and the southern part of the planet and there is no land.

5. Khelo India Winter Sports and Youth Festival 2021 is being held

- A. Jammu and Kashmir
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Ladakh
- D. Sikkim

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Union Sports and Youth Affairs Minister launched the first ever Khelo India Zaskar Winter Sports Festival at Padum in Zaskar of Kargil district
- The festival is being organized by the Ladakh UT Administration to promote Zaskar as winter tourists' destination





- The main features of the 13-day festival are Ice Climbing, trekking on frozen Zaskar River, Ice Hockey, snow sculpture and ethnic food festival.
- Zaskar Winter Sports and Youth festival is being introduced as an annual event in Zaskar to showcase its potential in adventure tourism and sports.
- It is one of the major events planned to promote winter tourism in Ladakh.

3. Polity

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

1. **Samatha and State of Andhra Pradesh (1997) case is related to which of the following ?**

- A. Misuse of Article 356
- B. Hindu Marriage Act.
- C. Mining in Scheduled areas
- D. Right to die with dignity

Answer: C

Explanation

- The judgment was passed by the Supreme Court in 1997 on a petition filed by an Andhra Pradesh-based social organization of the tribal people, Samatha, against the state government for restricting transfer of government land to non-tribal people for mining and industrial purposes in the areas under Schedule V of the Constitution.
- This judgement nullified all mining leases granted by the Andhra Pradesh State government in the Scheduled areas and asked it to stop all mining operations.
- It declared that forest land, tribal land, and government land in scheduled areas could not be leased to private companies or non-tribal for industrial operations.
- Such activity is only permissible to a government undertaking and tribal people.

2. **Article 87 deals with which of the following?**

- A. President's address to both Houses of Parliament
- B. Duration of houses of parliament
- C. Assent to bills
- D. Council of ministers to aid and advise the president.

Answer: A

Explanation

- Context: As many as 18 Opposition parties have announced their decision to boycott President's address to the joint sitting of Parliament at the start of the Budget session, in solidarity with the farmers protesting against the three farm laws.
- Article 87(1) says: "At the commencement of the first session after each general election to the House of the People and at the commencement of the first session of each year the President shall address both Houses of Parliament assembled together and inform Parliament of the causes of its summons."

- Originally, the Constitution required the President to address both Houses of Parliament at the commencement of “every session”.
- This requirement was changed by the First Amendment to the Constitution.
- The President’s speech essentially highlights the government’s policy priorities and plans for the upcoming year.
- It is drafted by the Cabinet, and provides a broad framework of the government’s agenda and direction.
- The address is followed by a motion of thanks moved in each House by ruling party MPs.
- During the session, political parties discuss the motion of thanks also suggesting amendments.
- After the President or Governor delivers the address, a debate takes place not only on the contents of the address but also the broad issues of governance in the country.
- This then paves the way for discussion on the Budget.
- The President or a Governor cannot refuse to perform the constitutional duty of delivering an address to the legislature. But there can be situations when they deviate from the text of the speech prepared by the government.

3. Which of the following is true about Election Commission?

- 1. Article 324 deals with a permanent and independent body established by constitution of India for control of elections in the country.**
 - 2. Censure is a penalty which can only be imposed by the Election commission of India.**
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- Context: The Andhra Pradesh government has “objected” to the censure notices issued by State Election Commissioner to two senior IAS officials over preparations for the local body elections.
- The State Election Commissioner had censured Panchayat Raj Principal Secretary and PR Commissioner for their ‘failure’ to publish 2021 electoral rolls.
- In the censure proceedings, compulsory retirement of the two IAS officers was recommended.
- The State government has argued that this power is not in the domain of state election commissioner.
- As per the guidelines, Election Commission is empowered to suspend

- Any officer or police personnel working under the Central government or public sector undertaking or an autonomous body fully or partially funded by the government for insubordination or dereliction of duty, besides making recommendations to the competent authority for taking disciplinary action, while engaged in preparation of electoral rolls or election duty.
- Censure is a penalty classified under minor penalties and the State government is the competent authority to impose the said penalty on a member of service serving with the affairs of the State and it has to be imposed by following the procedure laid down under Rule 10 of the AIS (D&A) Rules, 1969.

4. Which of the following statements hold true for Official Secrets Act?

1. A person prosecuted under this Act can be charged with the crime even if the action was unintentional and not intended to endanger the security of the state.
2. The Act does not say what a “secret” document is. It is the government’s discretion to decide what falls under the ambit of a “secret” document

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- Context: Complaints have been filed with the Mumbai Commissioner of Police demanding action against a news channel Editor under the Official Secrets Act.
- There has been also a demand for registering cases for sedition against him for leak of sensitive information related to national security through WhatsApp chat.
- Official Secrets Act:
 - ✓ Originally enacted during the time of Lord Curzon, Viceroy of India from 1899 to 1905.
 - ✓ One of the main purposes of the Act was to muzzle the voice of nationalist publications.
 - ✓ The Act replaced the earlier Act, and was extended to all matters of secrecy and confidentiality in governance in the country.
- It broadly deals with two aspects:
 - ✓ Spying or espionage, covered under Section 3.
 - ✓ Disclosure of other secret information of the government, under Section 5.
- Punishments under the Act range from three to life imprisonment (if the intent is to declare war against India – section 5)
- A person prosecuted under this Act can be charged with the crime even if the action was unintentional and not intended to endanger the security of the state.

- The Act only empowers persons in positions of authority to handle official secrets, and others who handle it in prohibited areas or outside them are liable for punishment.
- The Act does not say what a “secret” document is.
- It is the government’s discretion to decide what falls under the ambit of a “secret” document.

5. Based on the following statements identify the scheme?

1. It is world’s largest health insurance/ assurance scheme fully financed by the government.
2. It provides cover of 5 lakhs per family per year, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empaneled hospitals in India.
3. Covers up to 3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days post-hospitalization expenses such as diagnostics and medicines.
4. Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country.
5. Services include approximately 1,393 procedures covering all the costs related to treatment, including but not limited to drugs, supplies, diagnostic services, physician’s fees, room charges, surgeon charges, OT and ICU charges etc.

- A. Atal Bima Yojna
- B. Aam Aadmi Bima Yojana
- C. Central Government Health Scheme
- D. Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

Answer: D

Explanation

- Context: Ayushman CAPF’ scheme was launched recently, extending the benefit of the central health insurance programme to the personnel of all armed police forces in the country.
- Under this scheme, around 28 lakh personnel of CAPF, Assam Rifles and National Security Guard (NSG) and their families will be covered by ‘Ayushman Bharat: Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana’ (AB PM-JAY)

PM-JAY

- The world’s largest health insurance/ assurance scheme fully financed by the government.
- It provides cover of 5 lakhs per family per year, for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empaneled hospitals in India.
- Coverage: Over 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable entitled families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) are eligible for these benefits.
- Provides cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service.

Eligibility

- No restrictions on family size, age or gender.
- All pre-existing conditions are covered from day one.
- Covers up to 3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days post-hospitalization expenses such as diagnostics and medicines.
- Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country.
- Services include approximately 1,393 procedures covering all the costs related to treatment, including but not limited to drugs, supplies, diagnostic services, physician's fees, room charges, surgeon charges, OT and ICU charges etc.
- Public hospitals are reimbursed for the healthcare services at par with the private hospitals.

4. Economy

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1. MITRA Scheme, recently in news, is meant for:

- A. Automobile Sector
- B. Construction Sector
- C. Agriculture Sector
- D. None of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- The Government has proposed a scheme of Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA) to enable the textile industry to become globally competitive, attract large investments, boost employment generation and exports.
- In Union Budget 2021-22, Union Finance announced that this will create world class infrastructure with plug and play facilities to enable create global champions in exports.
- MITRA will be launched in addition to the Production Linked Incentive Scheme(PLI).



The infographic is titled "Textile - Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA)". It features a background with various textile-related items like spools of thread, a loom, and fabric. The text is presented in a clean, modern font with orange and teal accents. It lists the aims and main features of the scheme.

Textile - Mega Investment Textiles Parks (MITRA)

Aims at making Textile Industry:

1. Globally competitive
2. Attract large investments
3. Boost employment generation & exports

Main features:

- To create a world class infrastructure with plug and play facilities to enable create global champions in exports
- 7 Textile Parks will be established over 3 years

2. Which of the following is correct in context of Development Financial Institutions (DFI):

1. They provide long term finance for development.
 2. NABARD, ICICI are DFIs.
- A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both are correct
 - D. None is correct

Answer: A

Explanation

- A DFI is defined as 'an institution promoted or assisted by Government mainly to provide development finance to one or more sectors or sub-sectors of the economy'.
- A Development Financial Institution (DFI) is an institution that provides long-term finance for development.
- The DFIs played a very significant role in rapid industrialisation of the Continental Europe and Japan.
- The success of these institutions provided strong impetus for creation of DFIs in India after independence in the context of the felt need for raising the investment rate.
- RBI was entrusted with the task of developing an appropriate financial architecture through institution building so as to mobilise and direct resources to preferred sectors as per the plan priorities.
- While the reach of the banking system was expanded to mobilise resources and extend working capital finance on an ever-increasing scale to different sectors of the economy, DFIs were established mainly to cater to the demand for long-term finance by the industrial sector.
- DFIs can be broadly categorised as All-India or State / regional level institutions depending on their geographical coverage of operation.
- Functionally, All-India institutions can be classified as
 - ✓ Term-lending institutions (IFCI Ltd., IDBI, IDFC Ltd., IIBI Ltd.) extending long-term finance to different industrial sectors
 - ✓ Refinancing institutions (NABARD, SIDBI, NHB) extending refinance to banking as well as non-banking intermediaries for finance to agriculture, SSIs and housing sector, respectively
 - ✓ Sector-specific / specialised institutions (EXIM Bank, TFCI Ltd., REC Ltd., HUDCO Ltd., IREDA Ltd., PFC Ltd., IRFC Ltd.),
 - ✓ Investment institutions (LIC, UTI, GIC, IFCI Venture Capital Funds Ltd., ICICI Venture Funds Management Co Ltd.). State / regional level institutions are various SFCs, SIDCs and NEDFi Ltd.
- Narasimham Committee on Financial Sector Reforms in the 1990s noted that the DFIs may not be viable, since these institutions were raising funds at the current market rates and lending to businesses with long gestation and often high risk of failure with high credit cost.
- Accordingly, the committee recommended that the DFIs be converted either into banks or NBFCs and should be subject to the full rigour of RBI regulations as applicable to the respective categories. Consequently, both ICICI and IDBI were converted into commercial banks and IFCI into an NBFC.
- The New Development Bank (NDB) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the world's youngest DFIs with participation from India, are a step in this direction.

3. Asset Reconstruction Company Limited and Asset Management Company will be set up to:

1. Consolidate existing stressed debt

2. Take over existing stressed debt

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both are correct

D. None is correct

Answer: C

Explanation

- Asset Reconstruction Company Limited and Asset Management Company will be set up to consolidate and take over existing stressed debt, and manage and dispose assets.
- It is like a bad bank that will mop up all the NPAs of the public sector banks.

4. In the year 2019-20, the highest proportion of subsidies has been allocated to:

A. Fertiliser

B. Food

C. Petroleum

D. None of the above

Answer: B

Explanation

Table 4: Subsidies in 2021-22 (Rs crore)

	Actuals 2019-20	Budgeted 2020-21	Revised 2020-21	Budgeted 2021-22	Change (Annualised) (Actuals 2019-20 to BE 2021-22)
Food subsidy	1,08,688	1,15,570	4,22,618	2,42,836	49%
Fertiliser subsidy	81,124	71,309	1,33,947	79,530	-1%
Petroleum subsidy	38,529	40,915	39,055	14,073	-40%
Other subsidies	33,963	34,315	53,116	33,460	-1%
Total	2,62,304	2,62,109	6,48,736	3,69,899	19%

Sources: Expenditure Profile, Union Budget 2020-21; PRS.

5. Which of the following is/are incorrect?

1. Out of the total tax collections under GST, 84% is expected to come from central GST and 16% from the GST compensation cess.

2. In the year 2019-20 Corporation Tax was lower than Taxes on Income.

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both are incorrect
- D. None is incorrect

Answer: B

Explanation

Table 2 : Break up of central government receipts in 2021-22 (Rs crore)

	Actuals 2019-20	Budgeted 2020-21	Revised 2020-21	Budgeted 2021-22	Change (Annualised) (Actuals 2019-20 to BE 2021-22)
Gross Tax Revenue	20,10,059	24,23,020	19,00,280	22,17,059	5%
<i>of which:</i>					
Corporation Tax	5,56,876	6,81,000	4,46,000	5,47,000	-1%
Taxes on Income	4,92,654	6,38,000	4,59,000	5,61,000	7%
Goods and Services Tax	5,98,750	6,90,500	5,15,100	6,30,000	3%
Customs	1,09,283	1,38,000	1,12,000	1,36,000	12%
Union Excise Duties	2,40,615	2,67,000	3,61,000	3,35,000	18%
Service Tax	6,029	1,020	1,400	1,000	-59%
A. Centre's Net Tax Revenue	13,56,902	16,35,909	13,44,501	15,45,397	7%

5. Environment

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1. Naku la recently heard in news is situated in

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- Naku La is a mountain pass in the Himalayas in North Sikkim .
- It connects the Sikkim with Tibet Autonomous Region.



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

1. Sundarbans Jungle has been named after the large mangrove trees Sundari (*Heritiera littoralis*).
2. It has unique Tidal Phenomenon twice a day – there are high tides when water level seems to rise around 6-10 feet and low tides when one can see the huge mud land area lying flat.

3. Sunderbans comprise of more than 100 islands.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- The name Sundarban (Sundarban) is derived from the number of Sundari pardo found in the Sunderbans, and in the Bengali language, it was named Sundarban, using Shundor.
- The history of the Sundarbans is believed to be around 200-300 AD, its evidence shows the remains found in Bagmara Forest Block..
- In 1757, East India Company took all rights of Sundarbans from Mughal Emperor Alamgir II. After this, after the establishment of forest department in Bengal after 1860, the British preserved the Sundarbans.
- The main rivers falling in the Bay of Bengal, through the Sundarbans, are the Ganges, Brahmaputra, Padma, and Meghna.
- The Sundarbans is spread over 10,000 sq km area, out of which 6000 sq km comes to Bangladesh. Out of this, 4110 sq km is coming from India.
- The Sundarbans is the world's largest Mangrove forest, meaning that this forest is always surrounded by swamps.
- Sundarban is the world's largest delta. This delta also called the Bengal Delta or Green Delta, is made from the integration of both the Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers
- The Sunderbans Delta is the world's widest, deepest and most active delta associated with the Bengal Basin, due to which there is variety in flora and fauna.
- The Sunderbans has the largest Fishery Board in India, where Sunderban Development Board runs Fishery Project in the area of 50 hectares.

3. Based on the following statements identify the (NP/BR/WLS)

1. In 1879 it was declared a reserve forest.
2. Hallon and Banjar were two sanctuaries into which this conservation reserve was earlier divided in the 1930s.
3. It is located in the Maikal Range of Satpuras.
4. Rudyard Kipling's 'The Jungle Book' is said to be inspired by it.
5. The two famous tribes of Gonda and Baigas originally inhabited the forest.
6. It is the first reserve of India to announce a mascot - 'Bhoorsingh, The Barasingha'

- A. Kanha Tiger Reserve
- B. Madhav National Park
- C. Pench National Park
- D. Sanjay-Dubri Tiger Reserve

Answer: A

Explanation

- Context: A tigress has died after getting stuck in a wire trap allegedly laid by poachers at Madhya Pradesh's Kanha Tiger Reserve.
- The feline, around two years old, was found dead on by some beat guards in Khapa forest range of the Kanha Tiger Reserve (KTR)
- A case has been registered against unidentified persons under the Wildlife Protection Act.
- An autopsy was conducted as per rules of the National Tiger Conservation Authority
- According to the 2018 tiger census, Madhya Pradesh is home to the highest number of tigers in the country, giving it the tag of "tiger state."
- The state has a number of tiger reserves, including Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Satpura and Panna.

4. India's first Lichen Park is situated in

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Kerela
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Punjab

Answer: C

Explanation

- Indicator of pollution levels in the Himalayas, Uttarakhand forest department has claimed to have developed country's first lichen park in Kumaon's Munsiyari area, spread over 1.5 acres with over 80 species of lichens collected from across the Himalayan state.
- Considered most significant bio-indicator of ecosystem fluctuations as they are more sensitive towards habitat and climate changes, lichen species are facing many threats and continue to decline from some areas of Himalayan regions because of overexploitation of natural resources, mounting pressures of urbanization, habitat-destruction,



deforestation and increasing pollution.

- Lichens found in the Himalayas up to 5000 metres, are important species as they are the best bioindicators of the pollution levels.
- Lichen need pure air to grow.
- If pollution levels increase in a certain area, the lichen species decline there.
- So it serves as a natural indicator of pollution levels in an area. And they are important to study in the Himalayas, given various threats to Himalayan environment and ecology
- Uttarakhand has more than 600 species of lichens followed by Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir with 503 and 386 species respectively.
- In Uttarakhand lichens are found in Chamoli, Champawat, Pithoragarh, Nainital, Dehradun region.
- Some lichen species found in the state include Parmotrema pertatum, Usnea lognissima, Lecanora subfuseescens, Sarcogyne privigna, Arthonia impolitella, Acarospora fusca, Acarospora oxytona, Polysporina dubia etc
- What is a lichen?
 - ✓ A lichen is a composite organism that arises from algae or cyanobacteria living among filaments of multiple fungi species in a mutualistic relationship. They come in many colours, sizes and forms.
 - ✓ The properties are sometimes plant-like but lichens are not plants. Lichens may have tiny, leafless branches, flat leaf-like structures.

5. Which of the following statements are correct about Meghalayan Age?

1. It is the most recent unit of the Geologic Time Scale in the 4.6 billion-year history of the Earth.
 2. It began 4,200 years ago and experienced an abrupt mega- drought and cooling around the globe.
 3. It resulted in the collapse of civilisations in Egypt, Greece, Syria, Palestine, Mesopotamia, the Indus Valley, and the Yangtze River Valley.
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Explanation

- Topic From 2018.
- Geologists have decided to classify the past 4,200 years as the Meghalayan Age.
- It is the most recent unit of the Geologic Time Scale in the 4.6 billion-year history of the Earth.

- Following this, the International Chronostratigraphic Chart, which depicts the timeline for Earth's history will be updated.

What is Meghalayan Age?

- The “Meghalayan Age” began 4,200 years ago and experienced an abrupt mega- drought and cooling around the globe.
- The drought and the cooling lasted two centuries and severely impacted agricultural-based societies that developed in several regions after the end of the last Ice Age.
- It resulted in the collapse of civilisations in Egypt, Greece, Syria, Palestine, Mesopotamia, the Indus Valley, and the Yangtze River Valley.
- Evidence of the 4,200-year climatic event has been found on all seven continents.
- This age is considered unique as this was the only age which began with a global cultural event produced by a global climatic event.

6. Science & Technology

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

1. Which of the following is/are correct about Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)?

1. TKDL is an Indian digital knowledge repository of medicinal plants and formulations used in Indian systems of medicine
 2. It is set up as a collaboration between CSIR and Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine & Storage.
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- TKDL completes two decades of safeguarding India's Traditional Knowledge
- In 2001, CSIR jointly with Department of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homeopathy (now Ministry of AYUSH) developed TKDL
- The initiative was a follow-up action to thwart misappropriation of India's valuable traditional knowledge, based on learnings from the patent battles with international
- patent offices over the grant of intellectual property rights on turmeric, neem,
- basmati rice and other such ancient knowledge and practices of the country.
- Its database contain around 4 lakh formulations from Indian systems of medicine (Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Sowa Rigpa) and Yoga.
- TKDL aims to promote traditional knowledge and emerge as a global repository, apart from safeguarding the information from misappropriation.

2. Which of the following is correct about 'Rudram'?

1. It is India's first indigenous Anti Radiation missile.
 2. It is integrated on Rafale fighter aircraft as the launch platform.
 3. The missile has INS-GPS navigation with Passive Homing Head for the final attack .
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1,2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation

- The New Generation Anti-Radiation Missile (Rudram-1) is India’s first indigenous anti-radiation missile developed by DRDO for the Indian Air Force.
- It is integrated on SU-30 Mki fighter aircraft as the launch platform.
- It has the capability of covering varied ranges based on the launch condition.
- The missile has INS-GPS navigation with Passive Homing Head for the final attack.
- The Passive Homing Head enables it to detect, classify and engage with targets across a wide band of programmed frequencies.
- The Rudram missile is a significant weapon for the Indian Air Force for suppression of enemy air defence effectively from large standoff ranges.

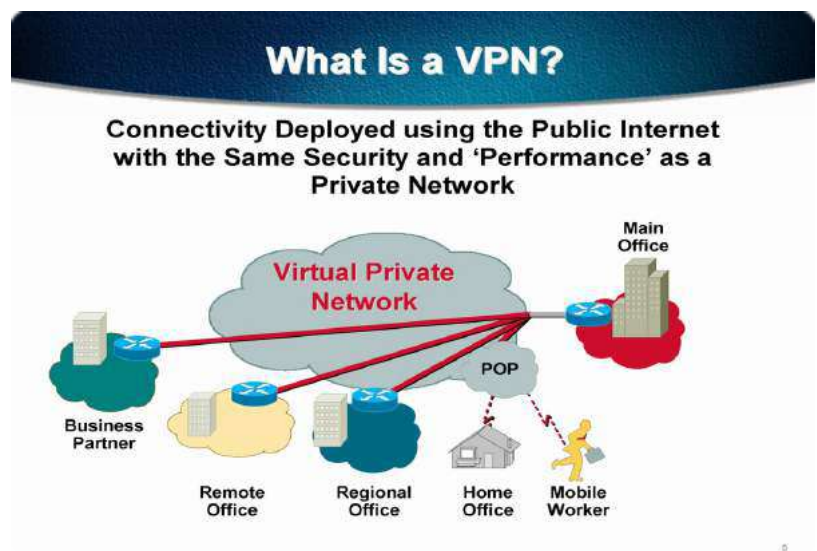
3. What is “Virtual Private Network”?

- A. It is a private computer network of an organization where the remote users can transmit encrypted information through the server of the organization
- B. It is a computer network across a public internet that provides users access to their organization’s network while maintaining the security of the information transmitted
- C. It is a computer network in which users can access a shared pool of computing resources through a service provider.
- D. None of the statements (a), (b) and (c) given above is a correct description of Virtual Private Network

Answer: B

Explanation

- A virtual private network (VPN) extends a private network across a public network and enables users to send and receive data across shared or public networks as if their computing devices were directly connected to the private network.
- Applications running across a VPN may therefore benefit from the functionality, security, and management of the private network.
- Encryption is a requirement of a VPN



- VPN technology was developed to provide access to corporate applications and resources to remote users, mobile users, and to branch offices.
- For security, the private network connection may be established using an encrypted layered tunneling protocol, and users may be required to pass various authentication methods to gain access to the VPN.

4. Which of the following pairs have been *incorrectly* matched?

1. eOffice : An integrated eService Delivery Framework
2. Darpan : Government Dashboard Platform
3. Service Plus : A Digital workplace solution
4. TEJAS : The visual intelligence tool

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICS), a Public Sector Enterprise under National Informatics Centre (NIC), Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), celebrated 25 years of its establishment During the event, following were launched:
 - ✓ TEJAS - The visual intelligence tool, through the collaborative effort of NIC and NICS (CEDA), is completely developed in-house using open source technologies and bringing together the best features comparable to market leading BI tools. The tool would be primarily used by Government Departments at various levels in the centre and state. It will provide State-of-the-art and powerful data analysis for officials to design analytical reports and turn data into accurate analysis and smart visualizations.
 - ✓ e-Auction India -It caters to the electronic forward and reverse auction requirements of the Government departments and organizations. It aims at transparency and non- discrimination amongst bidders, by allowing free access to auction documents, clarifications, online submission of quotes from any place on 24×7 basis, in a secured environment, adopting industry standard open technologies.
- Work from AnyWhere Portal - WAW (Work from AnyWhere) Portal will ease and enhance accessibility of key applications to the Government employees. WAW portal is built upon core workplace experience and creates a highly extensible environment for users to dynamically adapt to changing needs.

- The virtual work environment, provisioned by WAW portal, will empower employees with all the key resources enabling them to access organizations' applications and data and communicate with fellow officials. With the following objectives to achieve, WAW portal will facilitate quick transition to remote workplace environment, while maintaining secured access to departmental applications.
- NIC Products Portfolio- for International Offering to augment Digital India branding through promotion of productized software applications at global level. Product Offerings include, i) eOffice – A Digital workplace solution; ii) GePNIC – Government eProcurement System; iii) Service Plus – An integrated eService Delivery Framework; iv) e- Hospital – Simplifying Healthcare Service Delivery; v) BhuNaksha – A Solution for Cadastral Mapping; vi) ePrisons – IT Solution for Prison Management; vii) eCourts – A Justice Delivery System; viii) Darpan – Government Dashboard Platform.

5. Which of the following statements about Fission reactions are incorrect?

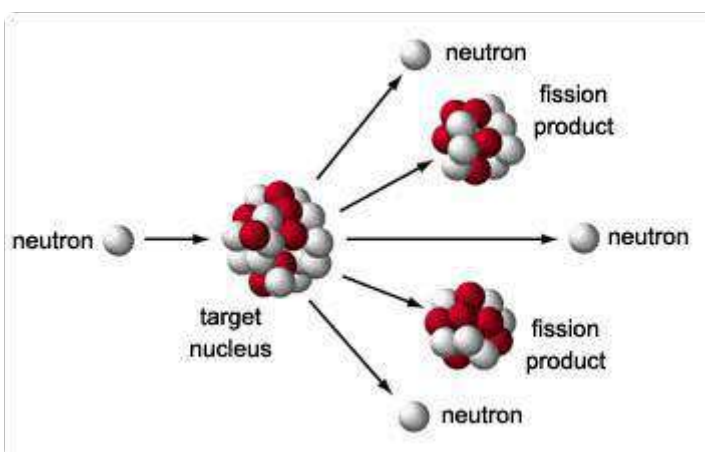
1. It is a reaction in which two or more atomic nuclei are combined to form one or more different atomic nuclei and subatomic particles (neutrons or protons).
2. It is a radioactive decay process
3. In this type of reaction released neutrons can induce a chain reaction.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- In nuclear physics, nuclear fission is a radioactive decay process in which the nucleus of an atom splits into smaller parts [lighter nuclei].
- The fission process often produces free neutrons and gamma photons [gamma rays], and releases a very large amount of energy [exothermic reaction].
- The nuclear fission process may take place spontaneously in some cases or may be
 - induced by the excitation of the nucleus with a variety of particles (neutrons, protons, deuterons, or alpha particles) or with electromagnetic radiation in the form of gamma rays.
 - In the fission process, radioactive products are formed, and several neutrons are emitted.
 - These neutrons can include fission in a nearby nucleus of fissionable material and release more neutrons causing a chain reaction.



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