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# PRE-Mix

*(Compilations of the Multiple Choice Questions)*

*For the 2nd Week*

*Of*

# February 2021

*(8th February to 13th February)*

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# 1. Geography

**Click here to watch the following questions on YouTube**

1. **Which of the following best describes the word 'Possibilism' in context with Human Geography?**

   A. The Environment sets certain constraints or limitations, but culture is otherwise determined by social conditions.

   B. It explains how the physical environment predisposes societies and states towards particular development trajectories.

   C. It explores the new-found possibilities of Origin of Universe.

   D. None of the above

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Possibilism in Human geography is the theory that the environment sets certain constraints or limitations, but culture is otherwise determined by social conditions.

2. **Which of the following is/are the possible consequence(s) of heavy sand mining in riverbeds?**

   1. **Decreased salinity in the river**
   2. **Pollution of groundwater**
   3. **Lowering of the water-table**

   A. 1 only

   B. 2 and 3 only

   C. 1 and 3 only

   D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Excessive in-stream sand and gravel mining causes the degradation of rivers. Instream mining lowers the stream bottom, which may lead to bank erosion. Depletion of sand in the streamed and along coastal areas causes the deepening of rivers and estuaries and the enlargement of river mouths and coastal inlets.
- It may also lead to saline-water intrusion from the nearby sea.
- Instream sand mining results in the destruction of aquatic and riparian habitat through large changes in the channel morphology. Impacts include bed degradation, bed coarsening, lowered water tables near the streamed and channel instability.

- Excessive in-stream sand mining is a threat to bridges, river banks and nearby structures. Sand mining also affects the adjoining groundwater system and the uses that local people make of the river.

**3. Which of the following statements regarding Char Piya island recently heard in news are incorrect?**

**1. It is a remote uninhabited island located in the Bay of Bengal.**

**2. It is formed due to washing down and deposition of Himalayan silt.**

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- The Bhashan Char Island is a remote uninhabited island of Bangladesh, located in the Bay of Bengal. It is also known as Char Piya.
- Around thousands of Rohingyas from Cox's Bazar refugee camp are being shifted to the newly developed facility in the island.
- The Bashan Char Islands are also called the Floating Islands.
- They are formed from the Himalayan silt washed down from the Himalayas.
- The island was formed recently within 10 year of span. But according to the environmentalists, it is already eroding at the rate of half a kilometre per year. The environmentalists believe that the island is prone to cyclones and erosion.

**4. Which of the following belong to Quinary Activities?**

**1. Trade and Commerce.**

**2. Financial Banking**

**3. Consultants**

**4. Communication**

**5. Specialists**

**Select the correct code**

A. 1, 2 and 5 only

B. 2, 4 and 5 only

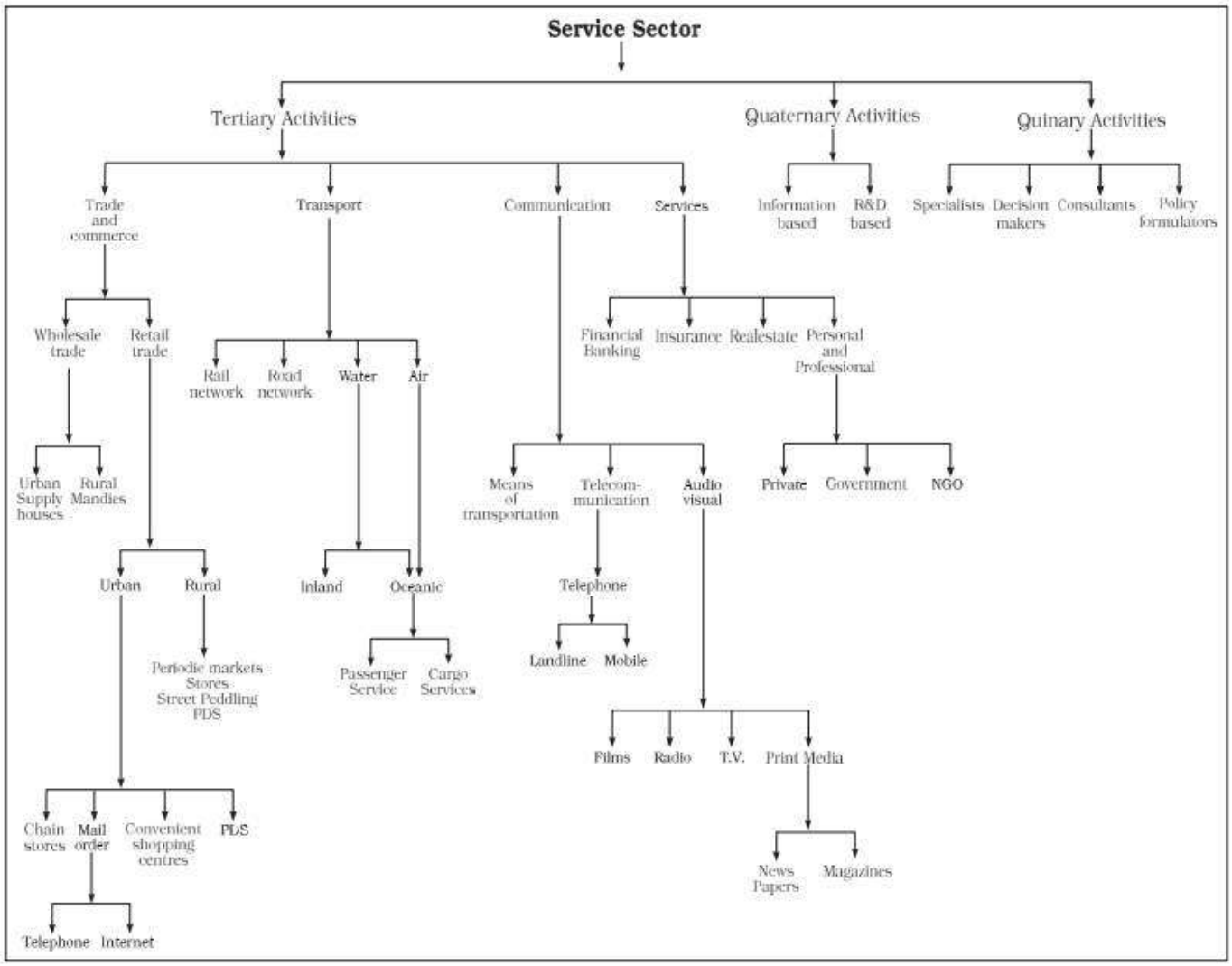
C. 3 and 5 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Quinary activities are services that focus on the creation, re-arrangement and interpretation of new and existing ideas; data interpretation and the use and evaluation of new technologies.




**5. Which of the following is not a closed Sea ?**

**1. Aegean Sea**

**2. Aral Sea**

**3. Red Sea**

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1,2 and 3

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

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MOLDOVA
UKRAINE
ROMANIA
Odessa
Rostov-on-Don
Sea of Azov
RUSSIA
SERBIA
Kerch
Sevastopol
Novorossiysk
Constanta
Yalta
BULGARIA
Varna
Black Sea
Sochi
MACEDONIA
Burgas
GEORGIA
Istanbul
Batumi
Zonguldak
Sea of Marmara
Samsun
Ordu
GREECE
Trabzon
Aegean Sea
TURKEY
Athens
NORTH
0
125
250
500
Kilometres
Mediterranean Sea

# 2. History

**Click here to watch the following questions on YouTube**

1. **Monpa recently heard in news is associated with which of the following states?**

   A. Arunachal Pradesh

   B. Manipur

   C. Karnataka

   D. Odisha

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Context: Prime Minister mentioning the 'Monpa handmade paper' of Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh in his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat' in January has led to a boost in its sales.
- In a statement, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) said that on the very first day of its launch, more than 100 sheets of Monpa handmade paper were sold.
- The KVIC, which revived this ancient art in Tawang on December 25 last year, has made Monpa handmade paper available online through its e-portal.
- Monpa handmade paper is not only supporting environment protection but has also opened new avenues of income for the local artisans.
- The handmade paper sheet measuring 24-inch in length and 16-inch in width is priced economically at Rs 50 per sheet.
- Monpa handmade paper is made from the bark of Shugu Sheng tree grown locally in Tawang and is identified by its distinctive translucent fibrous texture.
- The paper is weightless but its natural fibers add great tensile strength to this paper making it apt for various art works.
- Monpa handmade paper has been used for writing Buddhist scriptures, manuscripts and for making prayer flags.
- Writing on this paper is also known to be tamper-proof.
- The Monpa handmade paper industry set up in Tawang aims at engaging the local youth with this art professionally.

2. **Which of the following statements about Prabuddha Bharat are correct?**

   1. **It is a festival organized by Ministry of culture and Tibetan Government In-Exile to celebrate influence of Buddha on both the countries.**
   2. **The event is being organised by Advaita Ashrama, Mayavati in Uttarakhand.**


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A. 1 only

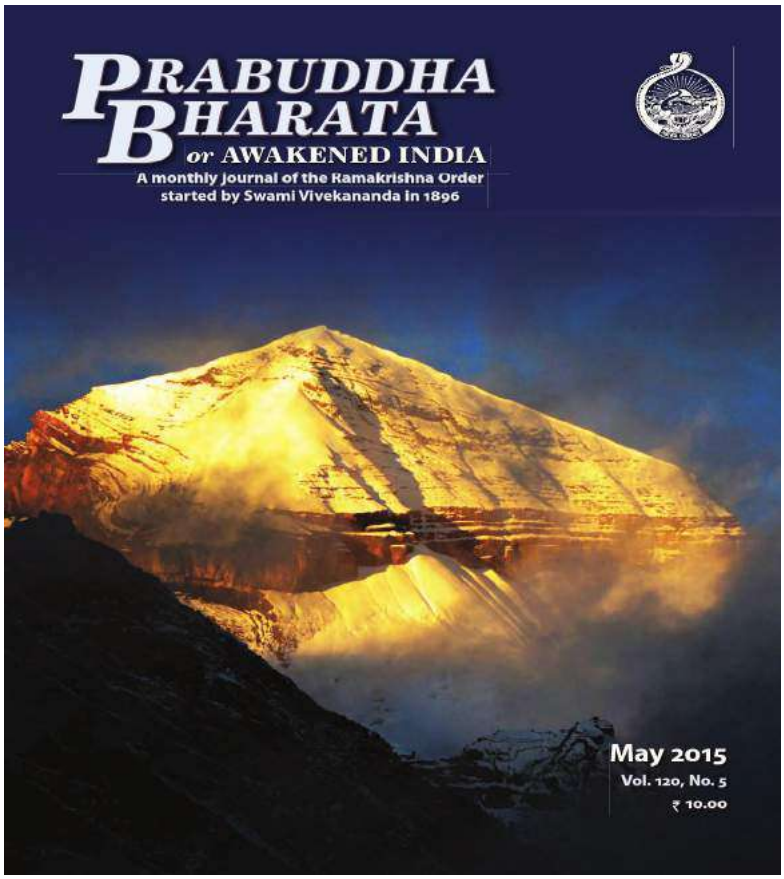
B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**




- Context: Prime Minister addressed the 125th-anniversary celebrations of 'Prabuddha Bharata', a monthly journal of the Ramakrishna Order, started by Swami Vivekananda.
- The event is being organised by Advaita Ashrama, Mayavati in Uttarakhand.
- The publication of the journal 'Prabuddha Bharata' was started from Chennai (erstwhile Madras) in the year 1896 where it continued to be published for two years, after which it was published from Almora.
- This magazine was founded in the year 1896 by P. Aiyasami, B. R. Rajam Iyer, G. G. Narasimhacharya, and B. V. Kamesvara Iyer under the guidance of Swami Vivekananda.
- Later, in April 1899, the place of publication of the journal was shifted to Advaita Ashrama and it has been continuously published from there since then.
- The journal has been an important medium for spreading the message of India's ancient spiritual wisdom.
- Many eminent personalities like Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Sister Nivedita, Sri Aurobindo, former president Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, among others have left their imprint over time in 'Prabuddha Bharata', through their writings on Indian culture, spirituality, philosophy, history, psychology, art, and other social issues.

**3. Matuas recently heard in news are inhabitants of which of the following states?**

A. Odisha

B. Jharkhand

C. Assam

D. West Bengal

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Context: The Matua community in West Bengal are upset about the cancellation of a rally by Union Home Minister .
- The Matua community has members on either side of the Bengal border.
- It is associated with a religious movement that begun in the 1870s by Harichand Thakur of a Namasudra (SC) family, who hailed from Safaldanga in East Bengal.
- In the early 20th century, his son Guruchand organised the movement socially and politically.
- Peasant members of the community started migrating from East Bengal in droves after 1950, which continued after the formation of Bangladesh.
- Today, Matuas constitute the second largest SC population of West Bengal.
- Mostly concentrated in North and South 24-Parganas, they also have a presence in other border districts such as Nadia, Howrah, Cooch Behar, and Malda.
- Government sources put their number at around 17% of the state's electorate.

**4. Based on the following statements identify the personality?**

1. **He was an Indian vocalist from Karnataka.**
2. **He is known for the khayal form of singing.**
3. **He belongs to the Kirana gharana of Hindustani Classical Music.**
4. **The event to celebrate his Birth Centenary is named as "SwarBhaskar 100".**
5. **He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 2009.**

A. Pandit Ravi Shankar

B. Jitendra Abhisheki

C. Pandit Bhimsen Joshi

D. Ustad Vilayat Khan

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Context: PM pays homage to Pandit Bhimsen Joshi on his birth anniversary.
- Bhimsen Gururaj Joshi was born on February 4, 1922, in the Dharwad district of Karnataka, in a Kannada Madhwa Brahmin family, to Gururaj Joshi and Godavaribai. He was the eldest of the 16 children born to the couple.
- He is famous for his known for the khayal form of singing.

- He also used to sing popular renditions of devotional music.
- He belongs to the Kirana gharana of Hindustani Classical Music.
- His concerts were advertised by posters in New York. This happened for the first time for a musician from India.
- He also organised the Sawai Gandharva Music Festival annually. This was organised as homage to his guru, Pandit Sawai Gandharva.
- A purist by belief, he hardly ever moved from the traditional compositions of the Kirana Gharana, occasionally employing sargam and tihais.
- Though he tended to favour a lot of complex and serious ragas, he remained loyal to Shuddha Kalyan, Miyan Ki Todi, Puriya Dhanashri, Multani, Bhimpalasi, Darbari, and Ramkali ragas which he employed fervently in his compositions.
- In addition to 'Mile Sur Mera Tumhara', he was part of the AR Rahman's 'Jana Gana Mana' feat which was created to celebrate the golden jubilee of Indian Republic.
- Throughout his life, he was conferred with numerous prestigious and highly esteemed awards, the most prolific amongst them being the national awards such as, 'Padma Shree', 'Padma Bhushan', 'Padma Vibhushan' and 'Bharat Ratna' in 1972, 1975, 1999 and 2009 respectively.

**5. Which of the following statements about Non-Cooperation Movement are *incorrect*?**

1. **In September 1920, in Congress session in Nagpur, the party introduced the Non-Cooperation programme.**
2. **Earlier the objective of the Congress was to attain self-Government by constitutional and legal means. The new aim of Congress was attainment of Swaraj by legitimate and peaceful means.**
3. **The Rowlatt Act and the Jallianwala Bagh massacre were the major reasons which gave push to the movement.**
4. **Gandhiji called off the movement in February 1922 in the wake of the Chauri Chaura incident.**

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 2 only

C. 3 and 2 only

D. 1 only

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- The non-cooperation movement was launched on 5th September 1920 by the Indian National Congress (INC) under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.
- In September 1920, in Congress session in Calcutta, the party introduced the Non-Cooperation programme
- The movement was essentially a peaceful and non-violent protest against the British government in India.
- Indians were asked to relinquish their titles and resign from nominated seats in the local bodies as a mark of protest.
- People were asked to resign from their government jobs.
- People were asked to withdraw their children from government-controlled or aided schools and colleges.
- People were asked to boycott foreign goods and use oy Indian-made goods.
- People were asked to boycott the elections to the legislative councils.
- People were asked not to serve in the British army.
- It was also planned that if the above steps did not bring results, people would refuse to pay their taxes.
- The INC also demanded Swarajya or self-government.
- Only completely non-violent means would be employed to get the demands fulfilled.
- The non-cooperation movement was a decisive step in the independence movement because, for the first time, the INC was ready to forego constitutional means to achieve self-rule.
- Gandhiji had assured that Swaraj would be achieved in a year if this movement was continued to completion.

# 3. Polity & Governance

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1. **Which of the following statements regarding The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Amendment Bill, 2020 are correct?**

   1. **The permissible termination of pregnancy's limit has been increased from 20 to 24 weeks in any given case.**
   2. **It also states that the "name and other particulars of a woman whose pregnancy has been terminated shall not be revealed", except to a person authorised in any law that is currently in force.**

   A. 1 only

   B. 2 only

   C. Both 1 and 2

   D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Context: The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Amendment Bill, 2020 was passed in Lok Sabha in March 2020, and is likely to be brought before Rajya Sabha during the ongoing Budget Session.
- The Bill proposes several amendments, including the constitution of a Medical Board in every State and UT.
- The board will decide on pregnancies beyond 24 weeks in cases of foetal abnormalities.
- Each board will have one gynaecologist, one radiologist or sonologist, one paediatrician, and other members prescribed by the State/UT government.
- As per the latest study, creation of this board is "unfeasible" as 82% of posts are lying vacant in the country.
- Highlights of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Amendment Bill, 2020:
  - ✓It seeks to extend the upper limit for permitting abortions from 20 weeks to 24 under special circumstances.
  - ✓The "special categories of women" include rape survivors, victims of incest, the differently abled and minors.
  - ✓The Bill proposes requirement of opinion of one registered medical practitioner (RMP) for termination of pregnancy up to 20 weeks of gestation.
  - ✓It also provides for the requirement of opinion of two RMPs for termination of pregnancy of 20 to 24 weeks.

| MTP Act 1971 | MTP amendment Bill 2020 |
|---|---|
| **One registered and recognized Medical Practitioner** in opinion to terminate the pregnancy along with the consent of the mother is required to Terminate the pregnancy **till 12th Week** | **One registered and recognized Medical Practitioner** in opinion to terminate the pregnancy along with the consent of the mother is required to Terminate the pregnancy **till 20th Week** |
| **Two or more registered and recognized Medical Practitioner** in opinion to terminate the pregnancy along with the consent of the mother is required to Terminate the pregnancy **12th to 20th Week** ( In case of Vulnerable women) | **Two or more registered and recognized Medical Practitioner** in opinion to terminate the pregnancy along with the consent of the mother is required to Terminate the pregnancy from **20th to 24th Week** ( in case of vulnerable women) |
| It doesn't mention clearly about the confidentiality and privacy of the women and the case | This amendment emphasizes to **protect the women's privacy and confidentiality** of the data related to termination of pregnancy |

**2. Corruption Perception Index 2020 is released by which of the following ?**

A. Transparency International

B. Anti- Corruption Commission

C. United States Inspector General

D. Economic Crime Office

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Context: Corruption Perception Index 2020 has been released by Transparency International.
- It is a composite index that draws from 12 surveys to rank nations around the globe
- It has become a benchmark gauge of perceptions of corruption and is used by analysts and investors.
- The index is also based on expert opinions of public sector corruption and takes note of range of factors like whether governmental leaders are held to account or go unpunished for corruption, the perceived prevalence of bribery, and whether public institutions respond to citizens' needs.
- It ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, according to experts and business people.
- It uses a scale of zero to 100, where zero is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.
- India slipped six places to 86th position this year.
- India's score is below the average score of the Asia-Pacific region (31 countries) and global average.
- India's overall score is also two points less than that of China, which docked at 78th position.

- The list was topped by New Zealand and Denmark (88 each).
- South Sudan and Somalia were at the bottom of the global ranking, with scores of 12 each.
- The latest edition of CPI highlighted the impact of corruption on government responses to COVID-19, comparing countries' performance in the index to their investment in health care and the extent to which democratic norms and institutions have been weakened during the pandemic.

**3. Which of the following conditions must hold true for a party to be a recognised party in India?**

1. **If it secures ten per cent of valid votes polled in any four or more states at a general election to the Lok Sabha or to the legislative assembly; and, in addition, it wins four seats in the Lok Sabha from any state or states**
2. **If it is recognised as a state party in at least six states.**

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Context: As per Association For Democratic Reforms (ADR)'s latest report:
- The contribution reports of only 78 (3.39%) of the total 2,301 registered unrecognised political parties are available in the public domain for 2018-19.
- The reports of only 82 such parties (3.56%) for 2017-18 are uploaded on the respective State Chief Electoral Officers' websites.
- The number of these parties increased two-fold in the last 10 years, from 1,112 in 2010 to 2,301 in 2019.
- Unrecognised political parties: Either newly registered parties or those which have not secured enough percentage of votes in Assembly or General Elections to become a State party or those which have never contested in elections since being registered are considered unrecognised parties. Such parties don't enjoy all the benefits extended to the recognised parties.
- There are 2,360 political parties registered with the Election Commission of India and 2,301 or 97.50% of them are unrecognised.
- Registration of Political parties is governed by the provisions of Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- A party seeking registration under the said Section with the Election Commission has to submit an application to the Commission within a period of 30 days following the date of its formation as per guidelines prescribed by the Election Commission of India in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 324 of the Commission of India and Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

- Conditions to be eligible for a 'National Political Party' of India:
- It secures at least six percent of the valid votes polled in any four or more states, at a general election to the House of the People or, to the State Legislative Assembly.
- In addition, it wins at least four seats in the House of the People from any State or States.
- It wins at least two percent seats in the House of the People (i.e., 11 seats in the existing House having 543 members), and these members are elected from at least three different States.
- To be eligible for a 'State Political Party:
  - ✓ It secures at least six percent of the valid votes polled in the State at a general election, either to the House of the People or to the Legislative Assembly of the State concerned
  - ✓ In addition, it wins at least two seats in the Legislative Assembly of the State concerned.
  - ✓ It wins at least three percent (3%) of the total number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of the State, or at least three seats in the Assembly, whichever is more.

**4. Munshi - Ayangar Formula, recently heard in news, is related to which of the following?**

A. Long Term Food Policy

B. Army Pay Scales

C. National Language

D. Small Scale Industries

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- In response to a question filed under RTI, Ministry of Home Affairs has said that the policy of three languages is not applicable to the offices of the central government.
- The issue at Shimoga district at Karnataka came up when the foundation stone was laid for the 97th battalion of the Rapid Action Force in Bhadravati on January 16.
- The content on the plaques were only in Hindi and English.
- Kannada was completely ignored as the banner for the occasion was also printed in Hindi.
- RTI was filed by questioning the reason for this to which ministry replied stating that, 'as per the provision of the Official Language Act, 1963, and the Official Language Rules, 1976, the provision of bilingual policy is applicable in the offices of the Central government.'
- Due to this an amendment has been demanded from article 343 to 351 that declare Hindi as an official language.
- The enforcement of the Hindi language is a subject matter that has great historical baggage in India.
- Anti-Hindi agitations had taken over south India from the 1930s to early 1960s. They went on to become one of the most important political tools for Dravidian parties at that time.

- The constituent assembly that framed the Indian Constitution to a great extent debated over whether Hindi could become a national language.
- However, it eventually settled for what is known as the "Munshi-Ayyanagar formula" that included Hindi as one of the many official languages of India.
- The two members of the assembly, K.M. Munshi and Gopalaswami Ayyangar, observed that the Hindi language not only has a limited appeal in large parts of India but also is comparatively inefficient to capture the technicalities of law and legislations being framed then for an independent India.
- However, the debate that was thought of as an issue that had been resolved came back with the release of the draft NEP with a controversial clause that called for compulsory teaching of Hindi.

**5. The Rome Statute governs which of the following?**

A. International Criminal Court

B. International Court of Justice

C. International Court of Human Rights

D. International Court of Crime

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Context: The International Criminal Court convicted a former commander (Dominic Ongwen) in the notorious Ugandan rebel group the Lord's Resistance Army of dozens of war crimes and crimes against humanity ranging from multiple murders to forced marriages.
- The International Criminal Court (ICC), located in The Hague, is the court of last resort for prosecution of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.
- It is the first permanent, treaty based, international court established to help end impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.
- Its founding treaty, the Rome Statute, entered into force on July 1, 2002.
- Although the Court's expenses are funded primarily by States Parties, it also receives voluntary contributions from governments, international organisations, individuals, corporations and other entities.
- The Court's management oversight and legislative body, the Assembly of States Parties, consists of one representative from each state party.
- Each state party has one vote and "every effort" has to be made to reach decisions by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, decisions are made by vote.
- The Assembly is presided over by a president and two vice-presidents, who are elected by the members to three-year terms.
- It does not have the capacity to arrest suspects and depends on member states for their cooperation.

- Critics of the Court argue that there are insufficient checks and balances on the authority of the ICC prosecutor and judges and insufficient protection against politicized prosecutions or other abuses.
- The ICC has been accused of bias and as being a tool of Western imperialism, only punishing leaders from small, weak states while ignoring crimes committed by richer and more powerful states.

## ICJ vs. ICC

| | International Court of Justice (ICJ)<br>La Cour Internationale de Justice (CIJ) | International Criminal Court (ICC)<br>La Cour pénale internationale (CPI) |
|---|---|---|
| **Year Court Established** | 1946 | 2002 |
| **UN-Relationship** | Official court of the U.N., commonly referred to as the "World Court." | Independent. May receive case referrals from the UN Security Council. |
| **Location** | The Hague, The Netherlands | The Hague, The Netherlands |
| **Types of Cases** | Contentious between parties & Advisory opinions | Criminal prosecution of individuals |
| **Subject Matter** | Sovereignty, boundary, & maritime disputes, trade, natural resources, human rights, treaty violations, treaty interpretation, and more. | Genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, crimes of aggression |
| **Funding** | UN-funded. | Assessed contribution from state parties to the Rome Statute; voluntary contributions from the U.N.; voluntary contributions from governments, international organizations, individuals, corporations and other entities. |

# 4. Economy

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**1. KAPILA recently heard in news is related to which of the following?**

A. Income tax

B. Patents

C. GST

D. Spectrum auctions

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Recently, the Union Minister of Education launched Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness Campaign (KAPILA).
- It is an intellectual property literacy campaign for creating patent awareness.
- The objectives of the scheme include:
  - ✓Creating awareness regarding Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Higher Education Institutions(HEIs);
  - ✓Enabling of IP protection of inventions originating from faculty and students of HEIs;
  - ✓Development of Credit Course on IPR;
  - ✓Training program on IPR for faculty and students of HEIs; and
  - ✓Sensitization and development of vibrant IP filing system
- Under this campaign, students pursuing education in higher educational institutions will get information about the correct system of application process for patenting their invention and they will be aware of their rights.
- The government has insisted upon that it is necessary not only to invent for the self-sufficiency of the country, but also to patent the inventions.
- India has a proud history of Nalanda and Takshila Universities and patent of inventions will lead India towards Self-Reliance.
- The recognition of international standards of copyright protection and incentives for intellectual property have helped India jump eight places to 36th position on the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index 2018.

**2. Which of the following is incorrect about Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) Act?**

**1. An LLP is a body corporate and legal entity separate from its partners.**

**2. LLP falls under the provisions of Indian Partnership Act, 1932.**

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- A Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) is a partnership in which some or all partners have limited liability. It therefore exhibits elements of partnerships and corporations
- In an LLP, one partner is not responsible or liable for another partner's misconduct or negligence.
- An LLP is a body corporate and legal entity separate from its partners. It has perpetual succession.
- Being the separate legislation (i.e. LLP Act, 2008), the provisions of Indian Partnership Act, 1932 are not applicable to an LLP and it is regulated by the contractual agreement between the partners.
- Every Limited Liability Partnership shall use the words "Limited Liability Partnership" or its acronym "LLP" as the last words of its name.
- Every LLP shall have at least two designated partners being individuals, at least one of them being resident in India and all the partners shall be the agent of the Limited Liability Partnership but not of other partners.
- LLP format is an alternative corporate business vehicle that provides the benefits of limited liability of a company but allows its members the flexibility of organizing their internal management on the basis of a mutually arrived agreement, as is the case in a partnership firm.
- This format would be quite useful for small and medium enterprises in general and for the enterprises in services sector in particular.
- Internationally, LLPs are the preferred vehicle of business particularly for service industry or for activities involving professionals.
- Recently the Corporate Affairs Ministry has planned to decriminalise 12 offences as well as omit a provision entailing criminal liability under the Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) Act, 2008, for greater ease of doing business for law-abiding LLPs.

**3. Which of the following statements are correct about Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna?**

**1. The payment of relief has been reduced to 25% of average of wages from earlier 50% of average wages payable upto maximum 90 days of unemployment.**

**2. Instead of the relief becoming payable 30 days after unemployment, it shall become due for payment after 90 days.**

A. 1 only

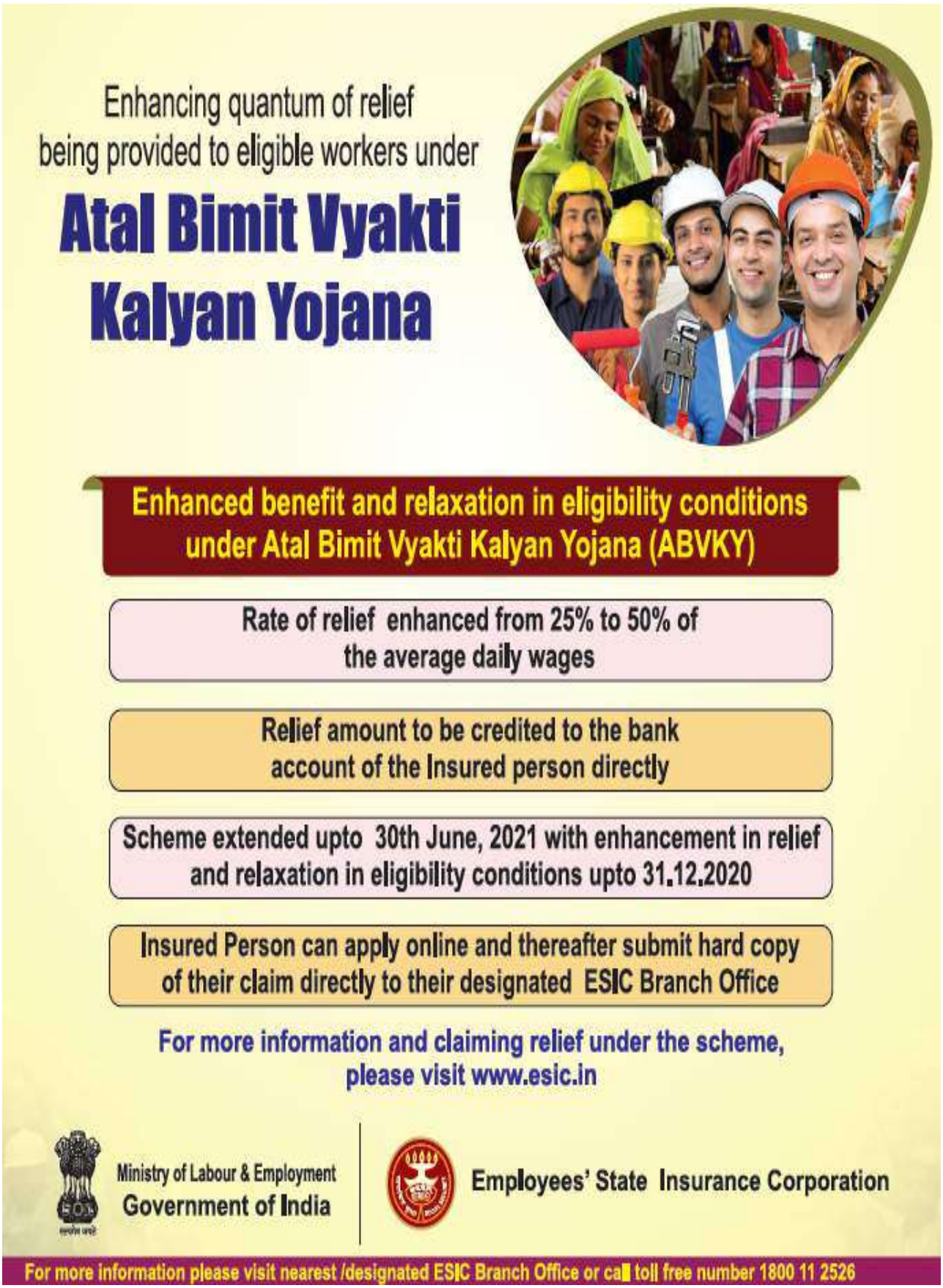
B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**



- **ABVKY**
  - ✓ It is a welfare measure being implemented by the Employee's State Insurance (ESI) Corporation.
  - ✓ It offers cash compensation to insured persons when they are rendered unemployed.
  - ✓ The Scheme was introduced in 2018.
- **The issue**
  - ✓ It was brought to the notice of ESIC that in some cases employers have struck off their employees from the rolls few months after actually terminating them from service.
  - ✓ During this period, ESI contribution was also not filed by the employers for these employees in the system.
  - ✓ As the relief under Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana is available only in case of unemployment of the Insured Persons, such employees though terminated from service became ineligible for relief under this scheme.
- In 2020, eligibility criteria for availing the relief were relaxed, as under:
  - ✓ The payment of relief has been enhanced to 50% of average of wages from earlier 25% of average wages payable upto maximum 90 days of unemployment.
  - ✓ Instead of the relief becoming payable 90 days after unemployment, it shall become due for payment after 30 days.
  - ✓ The Insured Person can submit the claim directly to ESIC Branch Office instead of the claim being forwarded by the last employer and the payment shall be made directly in the bank account of IP.
  - ✓ The Insured Person should have been insurable employment for a minimum period of 2 years before his/her unemployment and should have contributed for not les than 78 days in the contribution period immediately preceding to unemployment and minimum 78 days in one of the remaining 3 contribution periods in 02 years prior to unemployment.
- Recently: Employee's State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has decided that in cases where the employer has shown "Zero" contribution in respect of an employee for some months before exiting him from the system, the relief under ABVKY for such period of "Zero" contribution, shall also be allowed.

**4. The Neptune Declaration recently heard in news is related to which of the following?**

A. Outer space treaty

B. Intellectual property rights

C. Cryptocurrency

D. Maritime Vision

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- The Neptune Declaration was signed by more than 300 organizations.

- The declaration highlights the main actions that are required to be taken in order to resolve the crew change crisis.
- The daily lives and wellbeing of seafarers was highly impacted due to COVID-19 pandemic. It led to a humanitarian crisis at sea.
- This declaration has mentioned four main actions that is needful to address the crew change crisis:
  - ✓To recognize the seafarers as the key workers and provide them priority access to Covid-19 vaccines.
  - ✓To establish and implement the gold standard health protocols which are based on the existing best practice.
  - ✓To increase the collaboration between the ship operators and charterers so as to facilitate the crew changes.
  - ✓To ensure the air connectivity between the key maritime hubs for seafarers.
- The Marine Union of India is the oldest marine office.
  - ✓It represents the Merchant Navy Officers who are its members.
  - ✓The office is affiliated to the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), London, United Kingdom
  - ✓ It has around 700 unions that represents over 4.5 million transport workers from150 countries.
  - ✓ The office is also affiliated to the Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS), New Delhi.
  - ✓ The office work with the primary objective of working for and ensuring the fairness of work and wage conditions for the members.
  - ✓ It also has Branch office in Kolkata, Chandigarh, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, and Tuticorin.
  - ✓ The office also looks after the implementation of the international regulations such as Maritime Labour Convention (MLC), 2006

Recently, the Maritime body MUI urged the government to take cognisance of Neptune Declaration on Seafarer Wellbeing and Crew Change in order to formulate the Maritime India Vision 2030.

- The "Maritime India Vision 2030" will be formulated by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways of India.

**5. The growth theory in which growth is fueled by technological progress independent of economic forces is known as:**

A. Exogenous growth

B. Endogenous growth

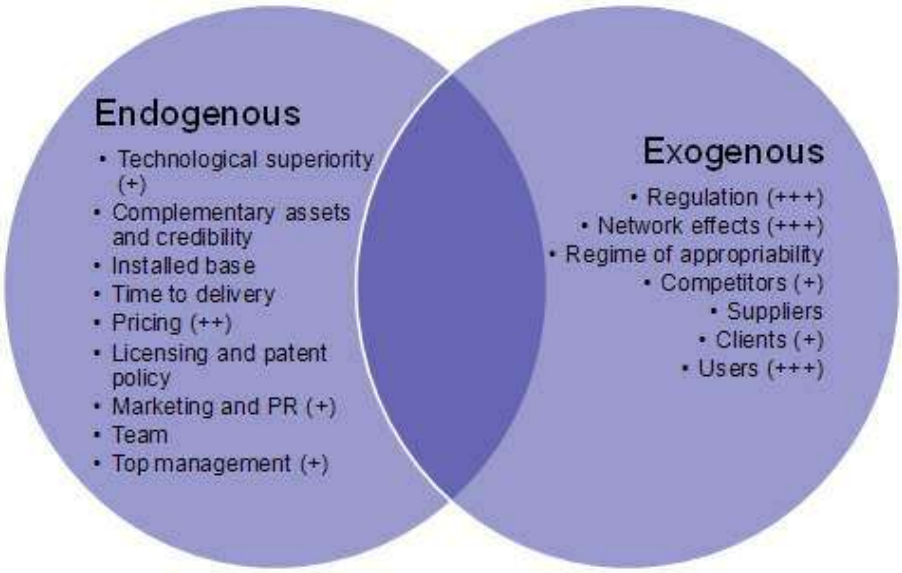
C. Classical Growth Theory

D. None of the above

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Exogenous growth, a key tenet of neoclassical economic theory, states that growth is fueled by technological progress independent of economic forces.
- Both the exogenous growth and endogenous growth theories are part of the neoclassical growth models.
- The exogenous growth model factors in production, diminishing returns of capital, savings rates, and technological variables to determine economic growth.
- While both the exogenous and endogenous growth models stress the role of technological progress in achieving sustained economic growth, the former posits that this key variable is born outside the economic system, whereas the latter suggests that the activities within the economic system result in its creation.





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# 5. Environment

**Click here to watch the following questions on YouTube**

1. **Based on the following statements identify the water body?**
    1. **It is the longest lake in India**
    2. **India's famous Nehru Trophy Boat Race is hosted on the waters of this lake, pulling in enthusiasts from all over the country and the world.**
    3. **This is the lake is also known as Punnamada Lake.**
    4. **The government of India has recognised the wetland under the National Wetlands Conservation Programme.**

    A. Chilika Lake

    B. Cholamu Lake

    C. Bahour Lake

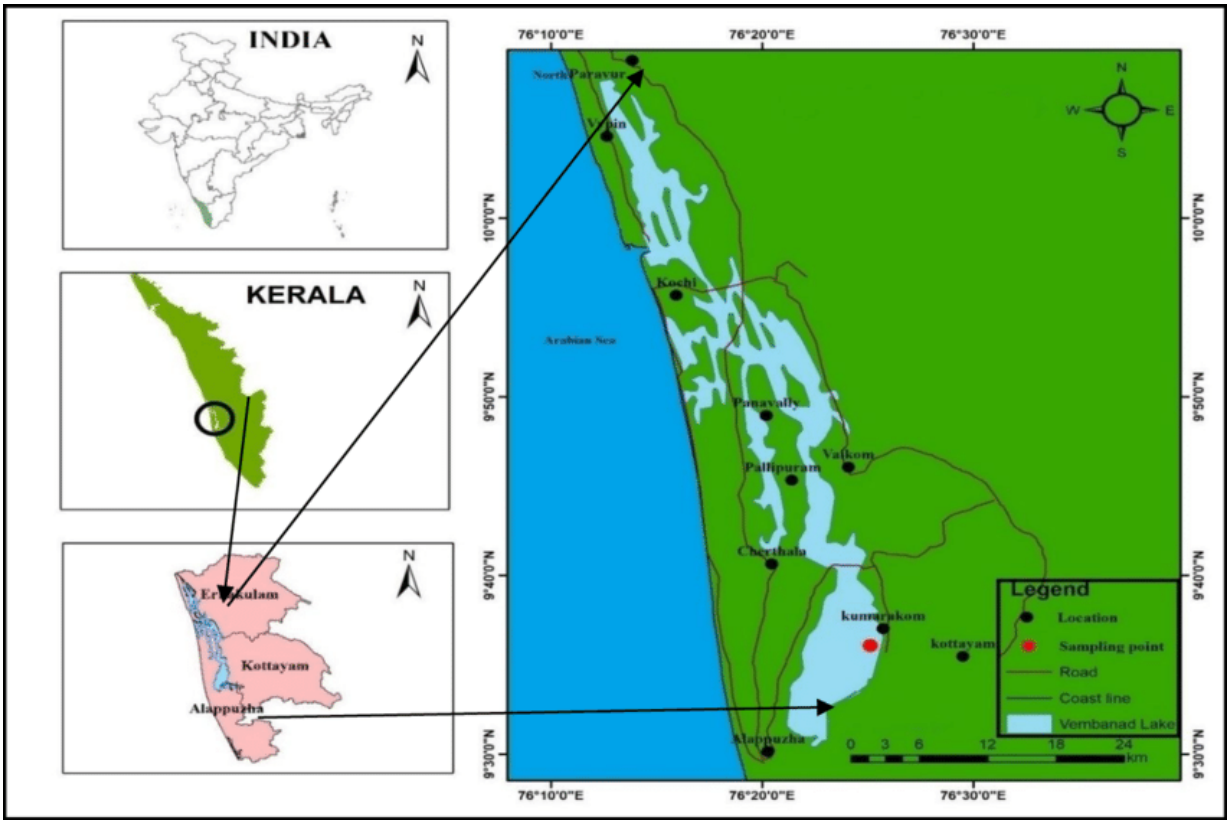
    D. Vembanad Lake

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Context: During Mann ki Baat address, Prime Minister has praised the efforts of a Kerala man. He engages in cleaning the Vembanad Lake despite his physical challenges.
- Vembanad Lake is the longest lake in India and the largest lake in the state of Kerala. The lake is situated at sea level and is separated from the Laccadive Sea by a narrow barrier island.
- The lake has its source in four rivers, Meenachil, Achankoil, Pampa and Manimala.
- The Vembanad Wetland System spans a mammoth area of 2033.02 sq km, and is thus the largest wetland system in India.
- It actually spans across several districts and is known by different names in different parts of Kerala. In Kotayam, it is called Vembanadu lake while those in Kuttanad call it the Punnamada lake. The part of Vembanad lake that is near Kochi is called Kochi lake.
- Significance: Vallam Kali (Nehru Trophy Boat Race) is a Snake Boat Race held every year in the month of August in Vembanad Lake.
- In 2002, the lake was included in the list of wetlands of international importance, as defined by the Ramsar Convention. It is the second-largest Ramsar site in India, only after the Sunderbans in West Bengal.
- The Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary is located on the east coast of the lake.
- Currently, the lake is declining in size and is facing a major ecological crisis, owing to land reclaiming. It is estimated to havereduced by 37% of its original size.10.

- One of the most outstanding features of this lake is the 1252 m long saltwater barrier, Thanneermukkom, which was built to stop saltwater intrusion into Kuttanad.
- According a study that maps the most polluted marine places in the world, it was found that microplastics were present in all the sediment samples taken from the Vembanad Lake.(2017)
- The researchers stated that this poses a risk of contaminating the food chain since the locals consume fishes and clams from the lake.
- A study conducted by the National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS) in 2016 stated that Vembanad lake may vanish in 50 years




**2. India's first Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM) on the occasion of World Wetland Day has been established in**

A. Odisha

B. West Bengal

C. Kerela

D. Tamil Nadu

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Context: The Union government has announced to establish India's first Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM) on the occasion of World Wetland Day.

- The CWCM would be annexed to the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM), Chennai, an institution under the Ministry of Forest and Climate Change (MoF&CC).
- The dedicated centre would address specific research needs and knowledge gaps and will aid in the application of integrated approaches for conservation, management and wise use of the wetlands
- As per records, nearly 4.6 per cent of the total land in India are identified as wetlands, covering an area of 15.26 million hectares.
- As many as 42 sites have been designated as wetlands of international importance, also called Ramsar sites, with a surface area of 1.08 million hectares.
- The CWCM will play a significant role to design and implement the regulatory frameworks and policies. It will also help in monitoring, management planning and targeted research in a bid to conserve the wetlands.
- The conservation centre will also act as a knowledge hub.
- It will enable the exchange between the wetland authorities in States or Union Territories, managers, wetland researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and users.
- The centre will further help in building the networks and partnerships with the relevant international and national agencies.

**3. Which of the following schemes are correct about Gobardhan Scheme?**

**1. The Jal Shakti Ministry recently launched a unified portal on the 'Gobardhan' scheme.**

**2. The scheme is being pursued as a priority programme under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)**

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

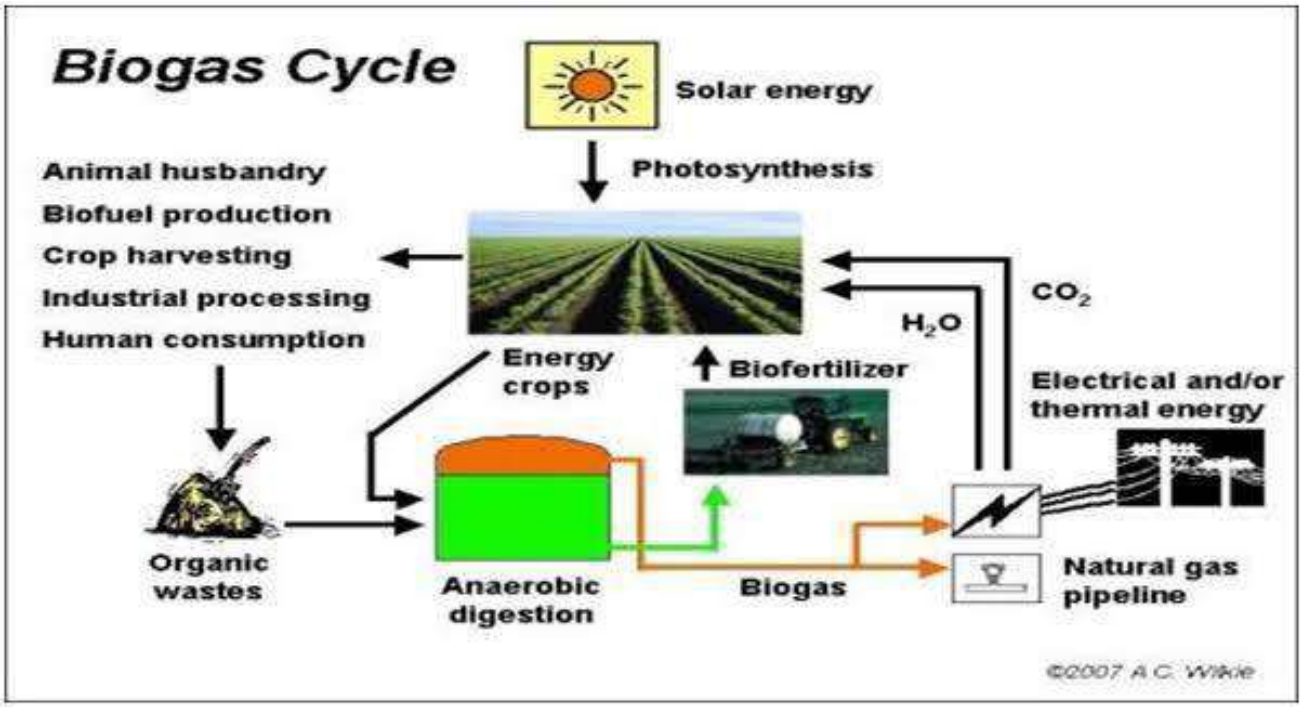
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Context: The Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched a unified portal on the government's 'Gobardhan' scheme.
- Farmers can earn Rs 1 lakh cr in 5 yrs from Jal Shakti ministry's Gobardhan scheme: Govt.
- The Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBAR-DHAN) scheme is implemented under the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin-Phase 2, by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Jal Shakti ministry.
- It was launched in 2018.
- The scheme aims to augment income of farmers by converting biodegradable waste into compressed biogas (CBG).

- The initiative aims at attracting entrepreneurs for establishing community-based CBG plants in rural areas.
- Benefits:
  - ✓Helpful for the country as India is home to the highest cattle population in the world, close to 300 million in number, with a daily output of 3 million tonnes of dung.
  - ✓Encourage farmers to consider dung and other waste not just as a waste but as a source of income.
  - ✓Benefits to the rural people. It will be easier to keep the village clean and sanitized, livestock health will improve and farm yields will increase.
  - ✓Increase self-reliance in energy utilized for cooking and lighting.
  - ✓Provides a stable fuel supply in the market for oil companies and accessible credit in the market through government schemes and banks for entrepreneurs.




**4. Which of the following statements about Wildlife Crime Control Bureau are correct?**

1. **It is a statutory multi-disciplinary body, established under the Ministry of Environment and Forests, to combat organized wildlife crime in the country.**
2. **The Bureau has its headquarters in New Delhi.**
3. **Under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, it is mandated to establish a centralized wildlife crime data bank.**

A. 1 and3 only

B. 2 and 3 only

C. 1 ,2 and 3

D. 1 and 2 only

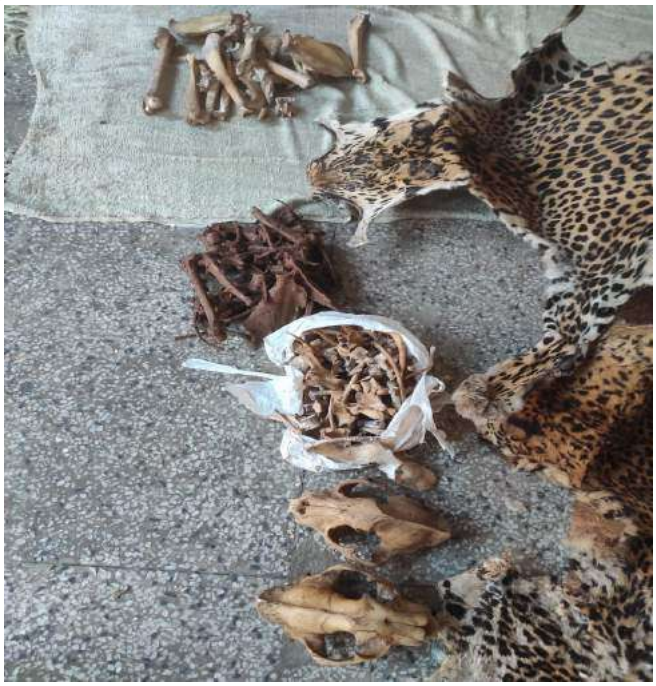
**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Context: In an unprecedented intelligence operation of the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB), New Delhi, two epicenters of illegal wildlife poaching and trade were identified in Anantnag area of Srinagar valley and Manwal in the Jammu region.
- In a joint operation of WCCB officers and officers of Jammu and Kashmir ,Chief Wildlife Warden and Police, simultaneous raids were conducted in both these places.
- In the raid in Anantnag, 08 leopard pelts, 38 bear biles, 04 musk pods were seized
- 05 Leopard pelts, 07 leopard nails, 08 canines, 02 molars, 02 leopard skulls and leopard bones (04 Jaw bones, 140 bones pieces), 01 musk teeth were seized in Manwal of Jammu region.
- The present seizure is one of the largest seizures in the recent past.
- Musk deer and Himalayan Black bear are endangered species and poached for musk pods, bear bile, which is used in Traditional Chinese Medicines (TCM).
- These poached animals – leopard, bear and musk deer are listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- As per the provisions of the Act, poaching of these animals and trading their by parts is punishable with minimum 03 years of imprisonment extendable up to 07 years.
- A case has been registered in police station Anantnag.

**WCCB**

- WCCB is statutory multi-disciplinary body under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to combat organized wildlife crime in the country.
- It was established in June 2007 by amending the Wildlife (Protection) Act (WLPA), 1972, a special Act to protect the wildlife and fauna in the country.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi and has five regional offices at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Jabalpur; three sub-regional offices at Amritsar, Guwahati, and Cochin; and five border.
  - ✓ Functions: Under Section 38 (Z) of WLPA, 1972, it is mandated to collect and collate intelligence related to organized wildlife crime and disseminate it to state and other enforcement agencies for immediate action.
  - ✓ It assist foreign authorities and international organization concerned to facilitate co-ordination and universal action for wildlife crime control.
  - ✓ It is tasked with capacity building of the wildlife crime enforcement agencies for scientific and professional investigation into wildlife crimes and assist states to ensure success in wildlife crimes prosecutions.
  - ✓ It advises Union Government on issues relating to wildlife crimes having national and international ramifications, relevant policy and laws.
- It also assists and advises the Customs authorities in inspection of the consignments of flora & fauna as per the provisions of Wild Life Protection Act, CITES and EXIM Policy governing such an item.



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

   1. **1st generation biofuels - produced from things like sugar, starch, or vegetable oil**
   2. **2nd generation biofuels- produced from sustainable feedstock**
   3. **3rd generation biofuels - crops that are genetically engineered**

   A. 3 only

   B. 2 and 3 only

   C. 2 only

   D. 1 and 2 only

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Context: Stardust 1.0 was launched on Jan 31st from Loring Commerce Centre in Maine, US.
- It has become the first commercial space launch powered by biofuel, which is non-toxic for the environment as opposed to traditionally used rocket fuels.
- Stardust 1.0 is a launch vehicle suited for student and budget payloads.

**What are Biofuels?**

- Any hydrocarbon fuel that is produced from an organic matter (living or once living material) in a short period of time (days, weeks, or even months) is considered a biofuel.
- Biofuels may be solid, liquid or gaseous in nature.

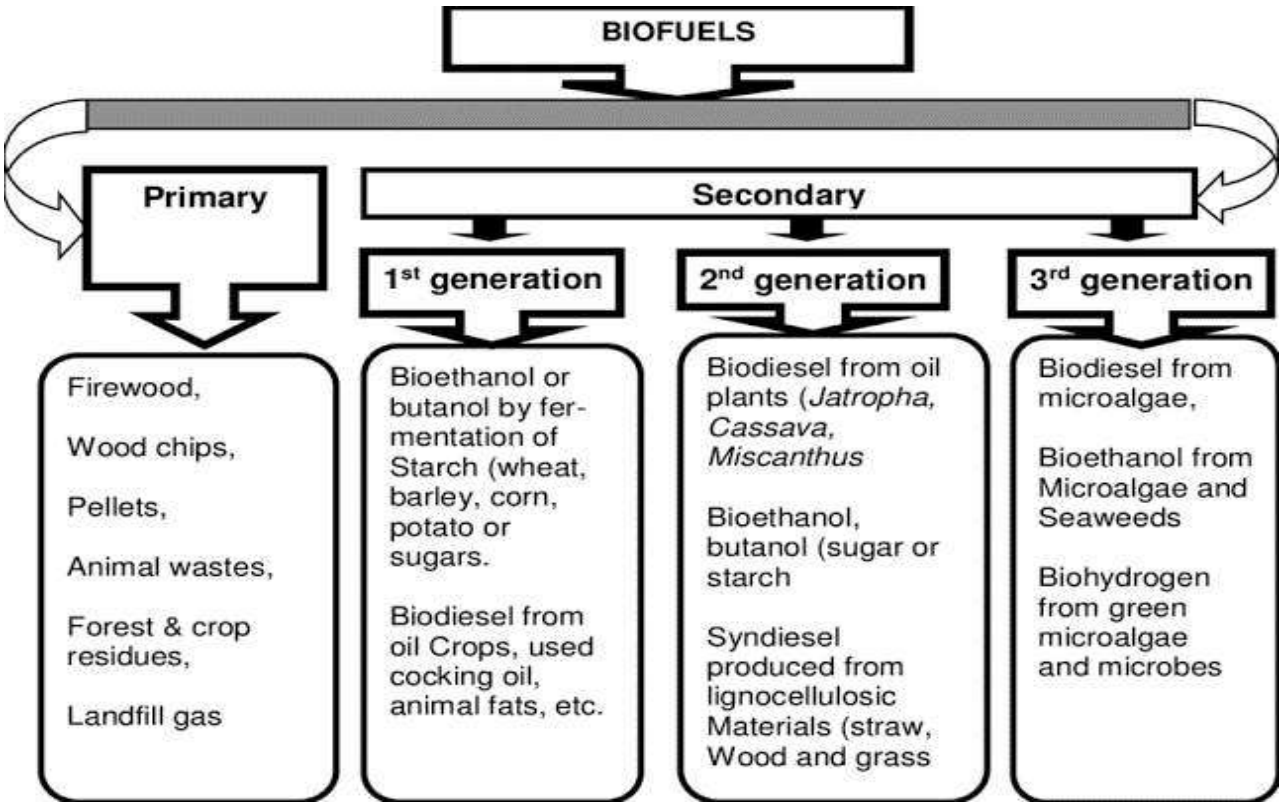
  ✓Solid: Wood, dried plant material, and manure.

✓Liquid: Bioethanol and Biodiesel.

✓Gaseous: Biogas.

**Classification of Biofuels:**

- 1st generation biofuels are also called conventional biofuels. They are made from things like sugar, starch, or vegetable oil. Note that these are all food products. Any biofuel made from a feedstock that can also be consumed as a human food is considered a first-generation biofuel.
- 2nd generation biofuels are produced from sustainable feedstock. The sustainability of a feedstock is defined by its availability, its impact on greenhouse gas emissions, its impact on land use, and by its potential to threaten the food supply. No second generation biofuel is also a food crop, though certain food products can become second generation fuels when they are no longer useful for consumption. Second generation biofuels are often called "advanced biofuels."
- 3rd generation biofuels are biofuel derived from algae. These biofuels are given their own separate class because of their unique production mechanism and their potential to mitigate most of the drawbacks of 1st and 2nd generation biofuels.
- 4th generation biofuels: In the production of these fuels, crops that are genetically engineered to take in high amounts of carbon are grown and harvested as biomass. The crops are then converted into fuel using second generation techniques.




- Government of India initiatives to promote the use of Biofuels:
- Since 2014, the Government of India has taken a number of initiatives to increase blending of biofuels.

✓The major interventions include administrative price mechanism for ethanol, simplifying the procurement procedures of OMCs, amending the provisions of Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 and enabling lignocellulosic route for ethanol procurement.

✓The Government approved the National Policy on Biofuels-2018 in June 2018. The policy has the objective of reaching 20% ethanol-blending and 5% biodiesel-blending by the year 2030.

✤Among other things, the policy expands the scope of feedstock for ethanol production and has provided for incentives for production of advanced biofuels.

✓The Government has also increased the price of C-heavy molasses-based ethanol.

# 6. Science & Technology

**Click here to watch the following questions on YouTube**

**1. Which of the following statements are incorrect regarding LCA Tejas?**

**1. It can attain a maximum speed of 1.8 Mach and is enabled with air-to-air refuelling capacity**

**2. It is developed by Aeronautical Development Agency**

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Both the statements are corrects
- Government will procure 83 Tejas Light Combat Aircraft from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.
- It is the smallest lightweight, multi-role, single-engine, supersonic tactical fighter aircraft •in the world and is being developed in single-seat fighter and twin seat trainer variants
- for the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy
- LCA programme was started by the Government of India in 1984 when they established the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) to manage the LCA programme
- It is designed by Aeronautical Development Agency under the Department of Defence •Research and Development and manufactured by State-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- It is capable for air to air refuelling, can attain maximum speed of 1.8 Mach and payload capacity of 4000 kg

**2. India's first thunderstorm research testbed will**

A. Tamil Nadu

B. Karnataka

C. Odisha

D. Puducherry

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- India's first thunderstorm research testbed will be established in Balasore, Odisha

✓It will be established in a collaboration among the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Ministry of Earth Sciences, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and India Meteorological Department (IMD).

- Objective : Minimise human fatalities and loss of property because of the lightening strikes.
- A monsoon Testbed will also be set up near Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh. The monsoon testbed would also be first -of-its -kind.

**3. Orobanche is a serious hidden parasitic weed found in**

A. Mustard

B. Brinjal

C. Cotton

D. Rice

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- It is a hidden parasitic weed in mustard and can cause severe yield loss up to 50% and there is no absolute control measures developed so far.

**4. Which of the following statements are correct regarding RNA?**

**1. It may have been the molecule used to store genetic blueprints in primitive organisms.**

**2. It is a double-stranded molecule consisting of long chain of nucleotides.**

**3. It is susceptible to UV damage.**

**4. It is self replicating.**

A. 1 and 2 only

B. 1 only

C. 3 and 4 only

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Only statement id correct.
- RNA is used to transmit genetic information in some organisms and may have been the molecule used to store genetic blueprints in primitive organisms
- It is a single strain helix consisting of shorter chains of nucleotides as compared to DNA
- It is synthesised from DNA on an as-needed basis

- It is relatively resistant to UV damage as compared to DNA

**5. Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?**

**1. Engorgement is a condition of insufficient breast milk production in women**

**2. Kerala is the first state to get a milk bank**

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

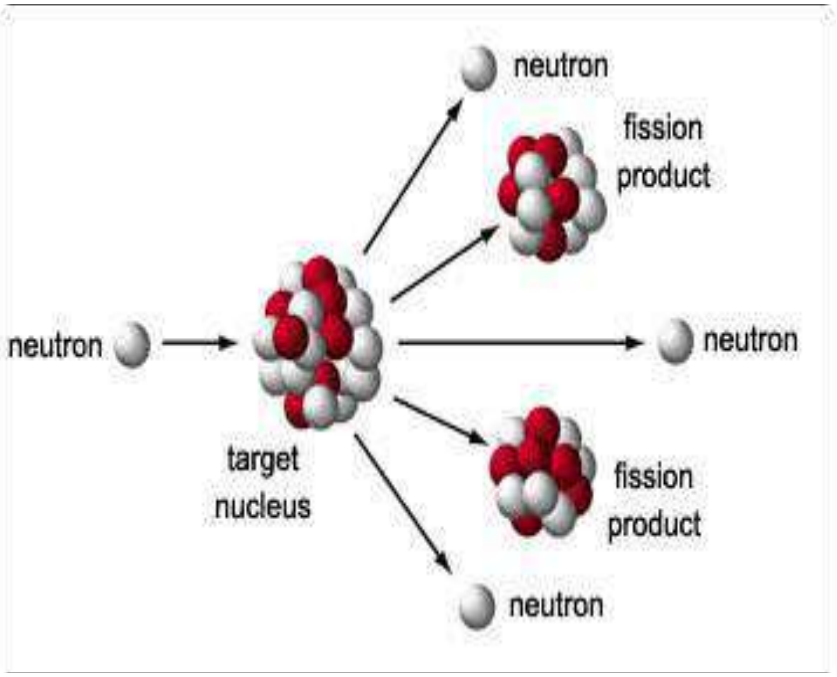
C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Both the statements are incorrect




- Engorgement is when the breast tissue overfills with milk, blood and other fluids. This causes your breasts to feel very full, to become hard and painful and your nipples to appear flattened and tight. Breast engorgement can be severe. It usually occurs if the baby is not feeding properly, so the milk builds up .
- The initiative of the Kerala government is to ensure that breast milk is made available to new born and infants who couldn't be breastfed by their mothers due to various reasons •such as sickness or low production of milk. This is a state-of-art facility that will be opened at the Ernakulam general hospital
- The concept of milk bank had come to India 32 years back but Kerala did not have a milk bank until now. The first human milk bank in the country, it was started on November 27, 1989. The first human milk bank in Asia was established in 1989 in Lokmanya Tilak General Hospital, Mumbai, India, by Dr. Armida Fernandez. Today, the country has 21 milk banks, mostly in the western region.

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