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# **PRE-Mix**

*(Compilations of the Multiple Choice Questions)*

*For the 1st Week*

*Of*

# January

# 2021

*(4th January to 9th January)*

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# 1. Geography

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

1. The highest meteorological centre in India has been which has been recently inaugurated is situated in

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

**Answer: B**

## Explanation

- Context: Union Minister of Earth Sciences, Science and Technology and Health and Family Welfare, inaugurated the India Meteorological Department's centre at Leh in Ladakh via video conferencing.
- Ladakh region has lofty mountains with high slopes and no vegetation and a lot of loose soil and debris making the region vulnerable to various kinds of natural hazards like cloud burst (of 2010), flash floods, avalanches and glacial lake outbursts, among other things.
- To avert losses due to such weather events in future, the Government felt the need to establish a state of the art Meteorological (Met) Centre at Leh in 2020 to strengthen weather-related early warning system in Ladakh.
- Located at a height of 3500 meters, Meteorological Centre Leh will be the highest meteorological centre in India.
- To help the administration and the people of Ladakh, IMD will provide a range of weather forecast services, ranging from short (three days) and medium (twelve days) to extended (one month) period to all the stakeholders on a daily basis for both the districts (Leh and Kargil).
- Apart from district level forecast, IMD will provide a forecast for important tourist places like Nubra, Changthang, Pangong Lake, Zaskar, Kargil, Drass, Dha-Baima (Aryan valley), Khalsi, among other places.
- Some of the important services to be made available are highway forecast, forecast for mountaineering, trekking, agriculture, flash flood warning, low and high temperatures among others.
- The Met Center will be a world-class facility for high altitude meteorology and will cater to the various kinds of weather and climate needs of the people and the administration of Ladakh.

2. 'Pedalandariki Illu' – housing for poor scheme has been recently launched by the state government of

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Karnataka

- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Kerala

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister launched the flagship programme of Navaratnalu 'Pedalandariki Illu,' (housing for poor)
- About 30.75 lakh beneficiaries have been identified across the State, of which 28.30 lakh houses will be given under 17,000 YSR Jagananna layouts and another 2.62 lakh are of Township and Infrastructure Development Corporation (TIDCO) flats.
- The government will take up the construction of 28.30 lakh houses at a total cost of ₹50,940 crore.
- In the first phase 15.60 lakh houses will be taken up at a cost of ₹28,000 crore and the work on the remaining 12.70 lakh house will commence from next year.
- The Chief Minister said that the government had acquired 68,361 acres of land worth ₹23,535 crore, where each beneficiary will receive a land costing around ₹4 lakh.
- Referring to the TIDCO housing, he said that for the first time in the country, a house site patta is being given for just one rupee to the beneficiaries.
- The entire TIDCO housing burdens the government of ₹4,237 crore and another ₹3,000 crore for creating basic infrastructure facilities.

3. 'Duare Sarkar' and 'Paray Paray Samadhan' are the grievance redressal programme of which state?

- A. Odisha
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Jharkhand
- D. West Bengal

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Context: Through 'Duare Sarkar', the West Bengal government aims to enable left-out eligible beneficiaries to avail 11 state-run schemes.
- West Bengal Chief Minister announced a new initiative 'Paray Paray Samadhan', under which local neighbourhood grievances will be redressed.
- The programme will be launched on January 2 and will continue till February 15.
- This will not address major infrastructural gaps but will address municipal, local or service gaps through specific mission mode to reach out to the neighbourhood.
- This will be supplementary of 'Duare Sarkar' which has reached out to crores of people.

- While 'Duare Sarkar' is an individual-oriented programme, neighbourhood problems will be addressed by this scheme.
- A separate task force comprising a principal secretary and a secretary has been appointed for 'Paray Paray Samadhan'."
- 'Duare Sarkar', 'Paray Paray Samadhan' will also operate on real-time mode and applicants will be able to track their applications.
- Through 'Duare Sarkar', the West Bengal government aims to enable left-out eligible beneficiaries to avail 11 state-run schemes.
- The programme has started on December 1 and will continue till January 30.

#### 4. E-Sampada web portal has been recently launched by

- A. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- B. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
- C. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- D. Ministry of Culture

**Answer: C**

#### **Explanation**

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on December 25, 2020, launched a new web portal and mobile app, e-Sampada to boost transparency and accountability while ensuring ease of living for the citizens of India.
- The website and mobile app were inaugurated by Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs on the birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee on December 25 which is celebrated annually as Good Governance Day.
- Launch of e-Sampada is a significant step towards the promotion of e-governance for boosting transparency and accountability in providing different estate services such as regularization, retention, allotment, no dues certificate, etc.
- E-Sampada aims to provide 'One Nation, One System', the four websites (eawas.nic.in, grpa.nic.in, holidayhomes.nic.in and states.gov.in) and the two mobile apps (m-Awas and m-Ashoka5) of the Directorate of Estates have been integrated into one paving the way for all the services on the same platform.
- The new application will be providing a single window for all the services which includes office space allotment to government organizations in 45 office complexes in 28 cities, allotment for over one lakh government residential accommodations, booking of 5, Ashoka Road, and 1,176-holiday homes for the social functions, etc.
- The web portal and mobile app have been developed by NIC.
- E-Sampada mobile app will be available for Android as well as iOS platforms.

**5. Which of the following statements regarding Proxima Centauri are correct?**

- 1. It is the nearest star to the sun.**
  - 2. Red dwarfs like Proxima Centauri burn their fuel at a much lower rate and can therefore exist far longer.**
  - 3. The star Proxima Centauri was discovered in 1915 by the Scottish born astronomer Robert Innes.**
- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 2 and 3 only  
C. 1 and 3 only  
D. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer:D**

**Explanation**

- Context: Scientists studying archival data collected by the Parkes radio telescope in Australia found a radio signal that came from the direction of Proxima Centauri, the closest star to Earth.
- Proxima Centauri has at least one planet that may be habitable to life as we know it. There is a slim chance that the signal came from extraterrestrial beings, though other explanations are far more likely.
- Proxima Centauri is a red dwarf, these stars have less than half the mass of our sun.
- At 4.2 light years away Proxima Centauri is the nearest star to the sun, but as it is so small and dim it cannot be viewed with the naked eye.
- The star can be found in the Centaurus constellation, a centaur is a Greek mythological half man half horse creature, proxima is Latin for next or nearest.
- The red dwarf Proxima Centauri is part of the three star Alpha Centauri system, the other two stars, Alpha Centauri A and B, are similar to our own sun.
- Proxima Centauri is extremely distant from its two companions, orbiting them at a distance of around 1.2 trillion miles (1.9 trillion km).
- Stars like our sun exist for a few billion years, red dwarfs like Proxima Centauri burn their fuel at a much lower rate and can therefore exist far longer.
- In August 2016 it was announced that an Earth sized planet had been discovered orbiting the habitable zone around Proxima Centauri, the planet named Proxima b could possibly have liquid water on its surface.
- Proxima b is the closest known planet outside our solar system.
- The star Proxima Centauri was discovered in 1915 by the Scottish born astronomer Robert Innes.

## 2. History & Culture

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

1. Which of the following is not a classical language?

- A. Tamil
- B. Prakrit
- C. Odia
- D. Telugu

Answer: B

Explanation

- Currently, six languages enjoy the 'Classical' status: Tamil (declared in 2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014).

### ACID TEST

**The criteria for a language to get the "classical" tag**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Its early texts or recorded history must be at least 1,500 years old</li><li>● It must have a body of ancient literature or other texts that are/were considered a valuable heritage by generations of its speakers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● The language has to be original, not borrowed (derived) from another speech community</li><li>● If the classical form of the language and its literature is distinct from its current form, that's no bar</li></ul>
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2. Which of the following statements regarding Kumbh Mela are correct?

1. It has been listed as an Intangible Cultural Heritage under UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation).
  2. It is held every four years by rotation at four different religious cities.
  3. It can be traced back in history through the writings of Hueing Tsang in 7th century.
- A. 1 and 2 only
  - B. 2 and 3 only
  - C. 1 and 3 only
  - D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

### Explanation

- The Intergovernment Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage under UNESCO had inscribed 'Kumbh Mela' on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity during its 12th session held at Jeju, South Korea in December 2017.
- This inscription is the third following the inscriptions of 'Yoga' and 'Norouz' in December 2016.
- The founding myth of the Kumbh Mela points to the puranas (compilation of ancient legends).
- It recounts how gods and demons fought over the sacred kumbh (pitcher) of amrit (nectar of immortality) called the Ratna of Samudra Manthan.
- It is widely believed that Lord Vishnu (disguised as the enchantress 'Mohini') whisked the kumbh out of the grasp of the covetous demons who had tried to claim it.
- As he took it towards heaven, a few drops of the precious nectar fell on four sacred sites, which we now know as Haridwar, Ujjain, Nashik and Prayag.
- The flight and the following pursuit is said to have lasted 12 divine days, which is equivalent to twelve human years, and therefore, the mela is celebrated every 12 years, staggered at each of the four sacred sites in this cycle.
- The corresponding rivers are believed to have turned into amrit at the cosmic moment, giving pilgrims the chance to bathe in the essence of purity, auspiciousness, and immortality.

### 3. Based on the following statements identify the monument?

1. It was built in 1105 CE during the reign of King Kyanzittha of the Pagan Dynasty.
  2. It houses four standing Buddhas, each one facing the cardinal direction of East, North, West and South.
  3. The temple layout is in a cruciform with several terraces leading to a small pagoda at the top covered by an umbrella known as hti, which is the name of the umbrella or top ornament found in almost all pagodas in Myanmar.
  4. The Archaeological Survey of India has carried out structural conservation and chemical preservation work of this temple.
- A. Gawdawpalin Temple  
B. Shwesandaw Pagoda  
C. Ananda Temple  
D. Mahabodhi Temple

**Answer: C**

### Explanation

- Bagan, formerly known as 'Pagan' was the capital of the present-day Myanmar in the 9th to 13th.
- It is in the Mandalay Region of Myanmar.



- Bagan's collapse occurred in 1287 CE, after Mongols invaded the Kingdom of Pagan for political reasons, which resulted in a drastic decrease of the number of residents living in the city.
- The Buddhist temple Ananda is one of the four main temples remaining in Bagan, Myanmar.
- It was built in the Pagan Dynasty during the reign of King Kyanzittha in 1105 CE.
- The inspiration for the temple originated from the tales of Indian monks.
- According to the legend, eight monks came to meet King Kyanzittha and gave him a description of a temple in the Himalayas, the Nandamula Cave temple, where they meditated.
- With their psychic skills, they vividly explained to the king the landscape of where they lived.
- Amazed by their skills, the King requested the monks to build the temple in Bagan.
- After the construction had been completed, the monks were killed because King Kyanzittha wanted to retain the uniqueness of the temple and didn't want them to build a similar temple anywhere else.
- The architectural style shows Mon and North Indian influence.
- It is known as the largest and the best-preserved temple of Bagan.
- The word "Ananda" translated from Sanskrit means "bliss" which is a popular Hindu and Buddhist name.
- The name of the temple comes from Ananda, Buddha's first cousin, and a devout attendant.
- The layout of the temple is in a cruciform, and it has several terraces which lead to a small pagoda at the top.
- The small gilded *sikhara* is the most distinctive feature of the temple and is visible from miles away because of its reflection.
- At the center of the terraces is the core part of the temple built in the shape of a cube and is the most remarkable part because of its four 9.5 meters standing Buddha statues.
- Each of the sculptures faces one of the 4 cardinal directions, and all of them are adorned with gold leaf. The sculptures facing north, and south are said to be original, and the eastern and western sculptures were made later in the Mandalay style.
- Within the precincts of the temple, there is a monastery called Ananda Oakyaung built with red bricks.
- Built in 1137 CE, the walls of the monastery are filled with paintings of the 18th century and the monastery is best known as the home of a well-known monk, Shin Thuddhamma Linkara, who lived there.
- The temple is located to the southeast of the only surviving gate of the ancient Bagan city, the Tharabha Gate, which dates back to 849 CE.



- Today, there is a museum near the temple for the purpose of studying the artefacts of the temple.
- Prime Minister of India also visited the Ananda Temple, at Bagan in Myanmar.
- The Archaeological Survey of India has carried out structural conservation and chemical preservation work of this temple.
- Restoration work is being carried out after damage during the earthquake.
- The Prime Minister signed the visitors' book at the Temple, and unveiled a plaque signifying the contribution of India, in the restoration of the Ananda Temple.

**4. Comrade, a weekly English newspaper was started by**

- A. Abul Kalam Azad
- B. Maulana Mohammad Ali Jauhar
- C. Girish Chandra Ghosh
- D. Tarak Nath Das

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Mohammad Ali Jauhar was an Indian activist, journalist and a poet, and was among the leading figures of the Khilafat Movement.
- Mohammad Ali Jauhar was a product of the Aligarh Movement.
- In 1911, he started his first newspaper 'Comrade' in English, which was well received by all sections of the society including the ruling class.
- This, however, was banned in 1914 for publishing an article 'Choice of Turks' in 1913.
- Its publication was resumed with great difficulty in 1924 but again discontinued in 1926.
- His Urdu newspaper 'Hamdard' which started in 1913 was equally popular.
- This too met the same fate, and publication of its anti-British articles resulted in frequent imprisonment of the defiant editor.
- Maulana Mohammad Ali Jauhar started his political career as a member of Muslim League in 1906.
- In 1917 he was unanimously elected as President of Muslim League, while he was still under detention.
- He joined Indian National Congress in 1919 and became its National President in 1923.
- He was a staunch supporter of freedom of India and a torch bearer of Khilafat Movement.
- He led a delegation to London for Khilafat movement in 1920.
- On his return from England, he established 'Jamia Millia Islamia' in 1920 at Aligarh, which was later shifted to Delhi and is now a leading institution of higher learning in the form of a Central University.
- 2020 marked 100 years of the same.

**5. Charyapada heard in the medieval history refers to**

- A. Minister for royal correspondence
- B. Collection of poems
- C. A grain market
- D. Towers of Temple

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The Charyapada is a collection of mystical poems, songs of realization in the Vajrayana tradition of Buddhism from the tantric tradition in Assam, Bengal, Bihar and Odisha.
- It was written between the 8th and 12th centuries in an Abahatta that was the ancestor of the Assamese, Bengali, Bhojpuri, Sylheti, Odia, Magahi, Maithili, and many other Eastern Indo-Aryan languages, and it is said to be the oldest collection of verses written in those languages.
- Charyapadas written in the script resembles the closest form of Assamese language used today.
- A palm-leaf manuscript of the Charyapada was rediscovered in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century by Haraprasad Shastri at the Nepal Royal Court Library
- The Charyapada was also preserved in the Tibetan Buddhist canon.
- As songs of realization, the Charyapada were intended to be sung.
- These songs of realisation were spontaneously composed verses that expressed a practitioner's experience of the enlightened state.
- Songs of realization were an element of the ritual gathering of practitioners in a ganachakra.

### 3. Polity & Governance

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

1. National registry on sex offenders comes under

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- C. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- D. Ministry of Personnel, Pension & Public Grievances

Answer: A

Explanation

- The national registry on sex offenders – comprising those convicted on charges of rape, gang rape, child sex abuse and eve teasing - has crossed 1 million names
- It is an initiative under the National Mission for Safety of Women. It is maintained by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Union Home Ministry.
- The National Database of Sexual Offenders (NDSO) has names and aliases, travel and immigration documents, employment information, professional licenses, vehicle information, criminal history, photograph, fingerprints, DNA samples, Aadhaar card numbers and voter IDs, they added.



**Tightening the grip**  
A lowdown on the National Sex Offenders Registry, which is aimed at curbing crimes against women and children

**Who will maintain the database?**  
The National Crime Records Bureau will store the data. It can be accessed only by the law enforcement agencies and will be out of bounds for the general public

**Which other countries have similar database?**  
The U.S., the U.K., Canada, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, and Trinidad & Tobago

**What are the details stored with the registry?**  
Name, address, photograph and fingerprint details of those convicted in sexual assault cases

**How long will the data be stored by the NCRB?**  
Will be stored for 15 years for those posing low danger, 25 years for those posing moderate danger, and lifetime for habitual offenders involved in violent crimes like gang-rapes

**How many entries have been made so far?**  
4.4 lakh entries of convicts from year 2005 have been included in the registry till date

2. Shantilal Shah committee was constituted in regard with

- A. Chemical Castration of Sex Offenders
- B. Domestic Abuse
- C. Abortion laws
- D. Education in religious institutions

Answer: C

Explanation

- The MTPA, 1971, came into force, following the recommendation of the Shantilal Shah Committee Report in 1966 that stated that abortion and reproductive rights need to be regulated by law.
- The MTPA was amended in 2002 that decentralised the law of abortion by allowing penal sanctions for unapproved forms of abortion, and the formulation of MTP rules in 2003.
- In 2006, in Nand Kishore Sharma v Union of India, the MTPA was challenged on the grounds that it violates the right to life and dignity of Article 21 of the Constitution.
- The Court, in this judgement, stated that the relevant provision of the MTPA was not unconstitutional and was in consort with Article 21.
- The Court, however, did not opine about whether the Act is in violation of the right to life of the foetus, stating that it would be difficult to pinpoint when the life of the foetus begins.

### 3. Tourism in India is listed under which of the following?

- A. State list
- B. Concurrent list
- C. Centre list
- D. None of the above

**Answer:D**

#### **Explanation**

- Context: The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has sought the inclusion of tourism in the concurrent list to enable the Centre and States to effectively regulate the sector as well as frame policies for growth.
- In Oct 2019 Pahle India Foundation in its study report titled "An Integrated Value Chain Approach to Ease of Doing Business: A Case Study of Sugar, Alco-Bev, and Tourism" recommended that the government should bring the tourism industry under the 'concurrent list' by amending Schedule VII of the Constitution.
- Tourism is currently not mentioned in either Central, State, or Concurrent List.
- The report recommends that tourism should be included under the concurrent list since both the state tourism boards and central ministry have responsibilities in their respective domains.
- The major budgetary allocations are made by the Centre while States have a larger role in implementation.
- CEO, NITI Aayog, launched the report and said that the report would be shared with all state governments by NITI Aayog to enable them to make structural reforms in each of the three sectors included in the report.
- The seventh schedule under Article 246 of the constitution deals with the division of powers between the union and the states.
- It contains three lists- Union List, State List and Concurrent List.

- The union list details the subjects on which Parliament may make laws while the state list details those under the purview of state legislatures.
  - The concurrent list on the other hand has subjects in which both Parliament and state legislatures have jurisdiction. However the Constitution provides federal supremacy to Parliament on concurrent list items in case of a conflict.
4. **The act of abstaining from participation in an official action such as a legal proceeding due to a conflict of interest of the presiding court official or administrative officer is known as**
- A. Judicial Review
  - B. Judicial Conduct
  - C. Judicial disqualification
  - D. Judicial Contempt

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Context: Andhra High Court has rejected plea for recusal of judge from hearing petitions filed against the proposed sale of government land in Guntur and Visakhapatnam districts under “Mission Build A.P.”
- Judicial disqualification, referred to as recusal, is the act of abstaining from participation in an official action such as a legal proceeding due to a conflict of interest of the presiding court official or administrative officer.
- Grounds for Recusal:
  - ✓ The judge is biased in favour of one party, or against another, or that a reasonable objective observer would think he might be.
  - ✓ Interest in the subject matter, or relationship with someone who is interested in it.
  - ✓ Background or experience, such as the judge’s prior work as a lawyer.
  - ✓ Personal knowledge about the parties or the facts of the case.
  - ✓ Ex parte communications with lawyers or non-lawyers.
  - ✓ Rulings, comments or conduct.
- There are no definite rules on recusals by Judges.
- However, In taking oath of office, judges, both of the Supreme Court and of the high courts, promise to perform their duties, to deliver justice, “without fear or favour, affection or ill-will”.

5. Which of the following statements regarding the Sethusamudram project are incorrect?

1. Sethusamudram Corporation Ltd SCL is a statutory body set up under the Companies Act in 2004, with the Cabinet's approval, to raise funds and implement the Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project (SSCP).
  2. It is a shorter shipping route connecting India and Sri- Lanka.
  3. It was billed as India's Suez Canal.
- A. 1 only  
B. 1 and 2 only  
C. 3 only  
D. 2 and 3 only

**Answer:B**

**Explanation**

- Context: Sethusamudram Corporation Ltd (SCL) is set to be wound up, bringing to end an ambitious maritime project that turned controversial over religious sentiments.
- Sethusamudram Corporation has passed a resolution seeking additional grant of ₹115.72 crore from the government to settle the dues of Dredging Corporation of India (DCI) for the works carried out at the project site along with a proposal to the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways for winding up SCL.
- SCL is a special purpose vehicle (SPV) set up under the Companies Act in 2004, with the Cabinet's approval, to raise funds and implement the Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project (SSCP) – a shorter shipping route between the east and west coasts of the country.
- The SPV was formed with equity participation from state-run firms such as Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), DCI, Vizag Port Trust, Kamarajar Port, Chennai Port Trust, Paradip Port Trust and VO Chidambaranar Port Trust. SCI and DCI had invested ₹50 crore and ₹30 crore, respectively, as equity in the project.
- Billed as India's Suez Canal, the ₹2,427.40-crore project was to reduce the voyage time between India's western and eastern coasts by as much as 36 hours and distance by up to 424 nautical miles (1 nautical mile = 1.82 km), by creating a channel between the Indian mainland and Sri Lanka.
- Shipping companies would save on bunker (ship fuel) while India's exporters-importers would reduce maritime transportation costs.
- Ships now take a detour around Sri Lanka.
- In the absence of a continuous navigational channel connecting the east and west coasts, the ships sailing between the two coasts of India and along the international shipping routes have to circumnavigate Sri Lanka, due to the presence of a reef, known as Adam's Bridge, located south-east of Rameswaram near Pamban in Tamil Nadu.
- An ambitious scheme was formulated to create a continuous navigational channel around the Indian coast to overcome the hurdle.

- The SPV has so far spent ₹836.35 crore on the project, which involved boring a new shipping lane connecting the Gulf of Mannar and the Bay of Bengal through Palk Straits and Palk Bay.

### Supreme Court's stay

- Dredging work in Adam's Bridge area, the controversial part of the project, was stopped from September 2007 in the wake of an interim stay granted by the Supreme Court on a petition.

### Ecology and faith

- In his petition to the SC, the project was opposed stating it would destroy a rock-and-sand ridge built by Lord Rama.
- Since July 2009, all work has been stopped at the project site, pending a final decision on an alternative alignment.
- At least two experts said the alternative was not "economically and ecologically feasible".
- The final hearing in the matter has been "withheld indefinitely" by the Supreme Court.





## 4. Environment

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

1. Dibru Saikhowa National Park is situated in

- A. Assam
- B. Manipur
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Meghalaya

**Answer: A**

### Explanation

- Context: The Gauhati High Court has stayed the environmental clearance given to Oil India Limited (OIL) for extended-reach drilling (ERD) operations at seven locations beneath the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park in eastern Assam.
- Dibru-Saikhowa National Park is a national park in Assam.
- It was designated a Biosphere Reserve in July 1997
- The park is bounded by the Brahmaputra and Lohit Rivers in the north and Dibru river in the south.
- It mainly consists of moist mixed semi-evergreen forests, moist mixed deciduous forests, canebrakes and grasslands.
- It is the largest salix swamp forest in north-eastern India, with a tropical monsoon climate with a hot and wet summer and cool and usually dry winter.

2. Based on the following statements identify the water body

1. It is the largest freshwater lake in Israel
  2. It is also known as Kinneret.
  3. Jesus's Sermon on the Mount, one of his best-known discourses, is believed to have been delivered on a small hill on the its north-western shore.
  4. Its closest major city is Tiberias, which is along the its west edge and is considered one of Israel's holy cities
  5. It is located in northeastern Israel, near the borders with Jordan and Syria.
- A. Sea of Galilee
  - B. Nahal Sorek
  - C. Nahal Taninim
  - D. Amud Stream

**Answer: A**

### Explanation

- It's the largest freshwater lake in Israel
- The Sea is known by many names and is referred to by Israelis as the "Kinneret," which is Hebrew for "violin," considered to be the shape resembled by the lake.
- Jesus's Sermon on the Mount, one of his best-known discourses, is believed to have been delivered on a small hill on the lake's north-western shore.
- It is Israel's largest source of fresh drinking water, supplying about one-third of the nation's annual water requirement.
- The Sea has become a pilgrimage site for many Christians and is believed to be where Jesus walked on water.
- Its closest major city is Tiberias, which is along the lake's west edge and is considered one of Israel's holy cities.
- The Talmud holy scriptures are believed to have been written in Tiberias.
- The Sea is located in northeastern Israel, near the borders with Jordan and Syria.
- Visitors often also stop by ancient natural hot springs that are nearby and are believed to have healing effects.
- The Sea is a significant source of commercial fishing and the surrounding area grows cotton, alfalfa, bananas and dates.
- The Sea of Galilee, well-known in Jewish, Christian and Islamic lore, has swelled up due to recent rains.
- The lake lies in northern Israel, between the occupied Golan Heights and the Galilee region.
- It is fed by underground springs but its major source is the Jordan river.
- The lake, rose to 209.905 metres below sea level December 17, 2020 due to heavy rainfall in the surrounding areas
- The Jordan flows into the lake, Israel's largest freshwater body and then exits it before ending in the Dead Sea, the saltiest and the lowest point on the planet.
- The region the lake is located in, had been suffering from drought till 2018.
- However, the winters of 2018, 2019 and of this year so far have been wet and have led to the lake swelling up.



- Water is not extracted from the Sea of Galilee. But it is considered to be an important barometer of the water situation in Israel.
- If the lake swells up further, the Israeli administration will open up the sluice gates of the Degania Dam, which is on the Jordan, just south of the lake.
- The last time such an action was taken was in 1992.

**3. Dzukou valley, recently heard in news, is shared by**

- A. Mizoram – Tripura
- B. Meghalaya – Assam
- C. Nagaland – Manipur
- D. Arunachal Pradesh- Assam

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- The Dzüko Valley is a valley located at the borders of the states of Nagaland and Manipur in Northeast India.
- A huge wildfire in Dzukou valley located on the Manipur-Nagaland border caused severe damage to the environment.



**4. Consortia for medicinal plants has been launched by**

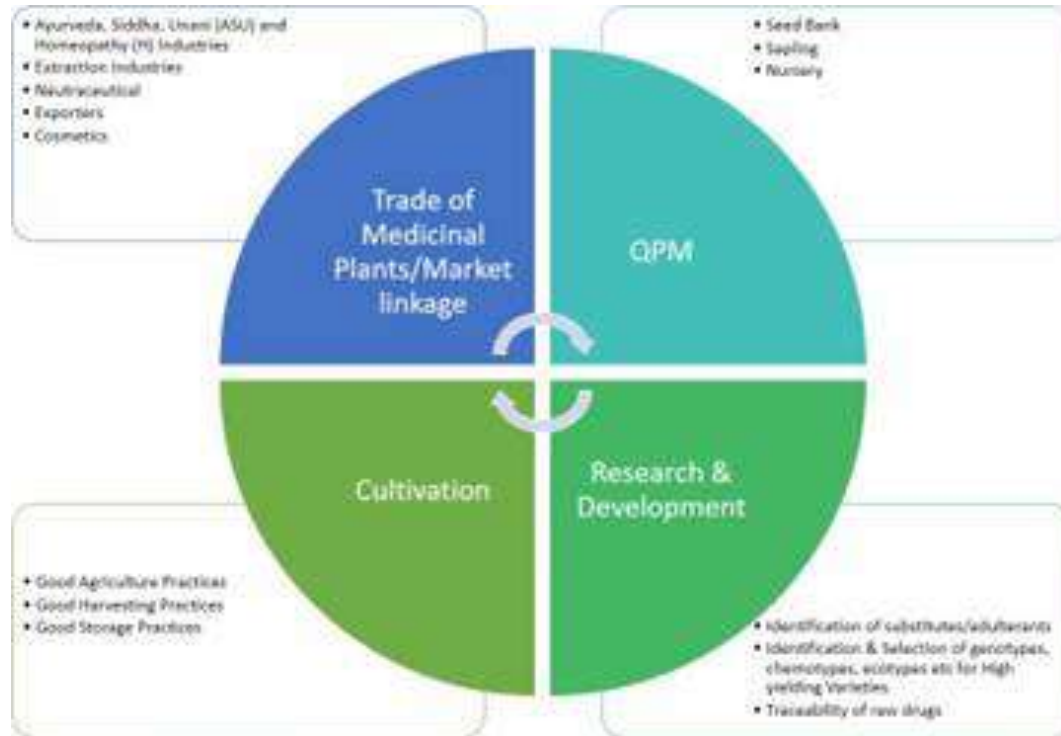
- A. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- B. Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- C. Ministry of AYUSH
- D. The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Context: The Ministry of AYUSH has launched consortia for medicinal plants, envisaging the necessity of connectivity between stakeholders in the supply chain and value chain of medicinal plants.
- NMPB Consortia will address/deliberate (not limited to) on quality planting material, R&D, cultivation, trade of medicinal plants/market linkage etc., informed a press release from the AYUSH Ministry.
- To establish linkage between the farmers and manufacturers, a 'Seed to Shelf' approach is being introduced, wherein, aspects related to Quality Planting Materials (QPM), Good Agriculture Practices (GAPs), Good Post Harvest Practices (GPHPs) would be addressed.

- In the first phase, NMPB consortia is proposed for medicinal plant species – Ashwagandha (*Withania somnifera*), Pippali (*Piper longum*), Aonla (*Phyllanthus emblica*), Guggulu (*Commiphora wightii*), Satavari (*Asparagus racemosus*).



**5. Blue Flag certification is accorded by**

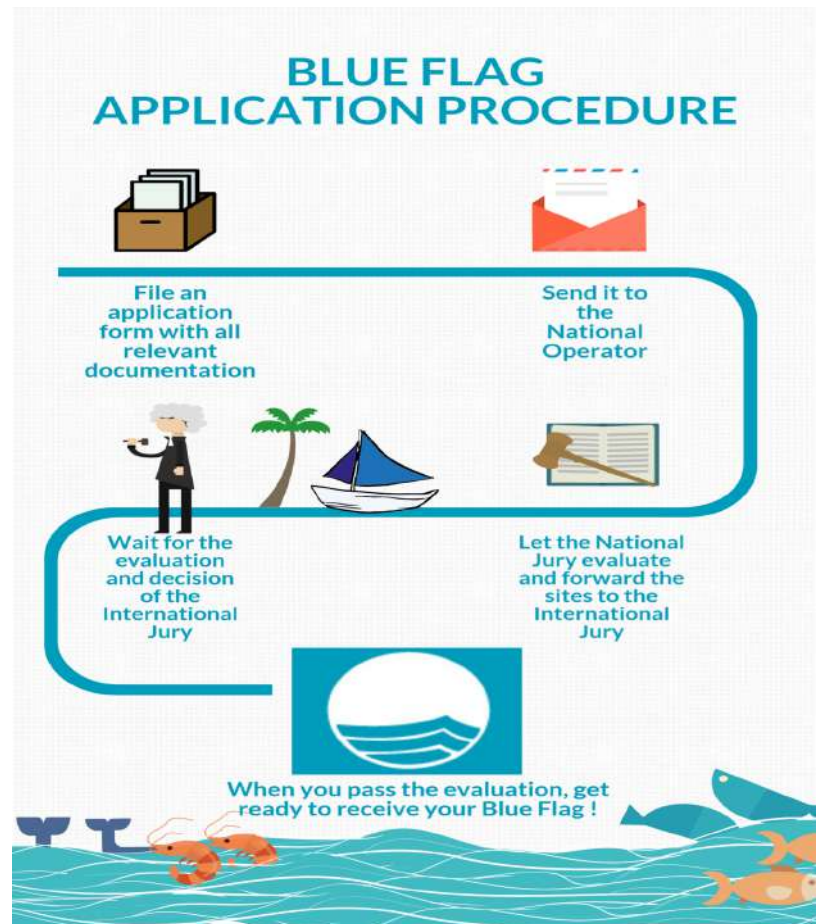
- Surfrider Foundation
- Foundation for Environment Education
- Green Peace
- The Environmental Defense Fund

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Context : Union Environment Minister virtually hoisted the international blue flags in eight beaches across the country.
- These beaches are Kappad (Kerala), Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), Golden (Odisha) and Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands).
- India secured the International Blue Flag Certification for these beaches on 6 October when an International Jury comprising of member organizations UNEP, UNWTO, UNESCO, IUCN, ILS, FEE etc. announced the award at Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Blue Flag certification is a globally recognised eco-label accorded by "Foundation for Environment Education in Denmark" based on 33 stringent criteria.
- Neat and clean beaches are an indicator that the coastal environment is in good health and the Blue Flag certification is a global recognition of India's conservation and sustainable development efforts.

- The Environment Minister informed that hundred more such beaches will be made Blue Flag in the coming 3-4 years and highlighted that cleaning beaches needs to be a made a "Jan Andolan" not only for its aesthetic value and tourism prospects but more importantly towards reducing the menace of marine litter and making coastal environment sustainable.
- The government had on September 18 recommended these eight beaches for the coveted international eco-label.
- Japan, South Korea and the UAE are the only other Asian nations who have been conferred with a couple of Blue Flag beaches.
- A Blue Flag beach is an eco-tourism model endeavouring to provide the tourists or beachgoers clean and hygienic bathing water, facilities, safe and healthy environment and sustainable development of the area.
- Blue Flag beaches are considered the cleanest beaches of the world, the ministry had said earlier.
- India began its journey in 2018 for development of pilot beaches (one each in coastal states/UTs) and presented the first set of eight beaches for the certification for the ensuing tourist season 2020.



<b>FIGHTING FOR THE FLAG</b>		THE 'BLUE FLAG' CERTIFICATE IS AWARDED BY DENMARK-BASED FOUNDATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (FEE)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Beaches have to comply with 33 environment and tourism related norms to get the Blue Flag certificate</li> <li>➤ The environment ministry embarked on the Blue Flag project in 2017</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Pune-based BVG Constructions is the contractor for development of Rushikonda beach</li> <li>➤ Blue Flag certification will help woo more foreign tourists</li> </ul>	<p>Vizianagaram attracted around <b>53 lakh</b> domestic and 3,512 foreign visitors in 2018</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The criteria for getting the certification include, the beach being plastic and pollution free, equipped with waste management system, ensured safety of visitors, bathing showers with clean water, cafeteria, parking space and environmental education for beach users</li> <li>➤ Visakhapatnam attracted over 2.01 crore domestic tourists and 89,680 foreign tourists in 2018</li> </ul>

## 5. Science & Technology

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

1. Based on the following statements identify the missile?

1. This is surface to air anti-aircraft missile with a strike range of 25 km and capability to carry warhead of 60 kilogram.
2. It can reach an altitude of 18 km and can be fired from both tracked and wheeled platforms.
3. The missile is guided by a phased array fire control radar called 'Rajendra' which is termed as Battery Level Radar (BLR) with a tracking range of about 60 km.
4. It is capable of striking down enemy fighter jets and drones very effectively and accurately.
5. This surface-to-air missile was designed to intercept enemy aircraft and missiles from a distance of 18 to 30 km.

- A. Akash
- B. Prithvi
- C. Nag
- D. Dhanush

**Answer: A**

### Explanation

- Context: In an effort to achieve the target of \$5 billion defence exports and improving strategic relations with friendly foreign countries, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has approved the export of the indigenous 'Akash' surface to air missile system.
- The CCS chaired by Prime Minister has for faster approvals for export of the indigenous 'Akash' missiles, and other weapons systems and air platforms approved set up a high-level committee. This will comprise of the defence minister, External Affairs Minister and National Security Advisor.
- Several friendly nations including the ASEAN nations Vietnam, the Philippines, and UAE in the Middle East have shown interest in buying the indigenous 'Akash' missile system.

### Role of the Special Committee

- It will authorize exports of major indigenous platforms to friendly nations.
- And would explore various options including the Government-to-Government route.
- The 'Akash' missile system which is going to be exported will be different from the one which the Indian armed forces are using.

### What has been exported previously?

- The Akash Missile system will be the first-ever weapons platform to be exported.

- But India has been building fast patrol boats, helicopters and ammunition and radars for global customers.
- The Missile is already inducted in the Indian Air Force (2014) and the Indian Army (2015).
- It has a range of 25 km which helps to keep the helicopters, fighters and drones from attacking critical installations.
- Almost 96 per cent of the system is manufactured indigenously.
- It has the capability to engage multiple targets in Group Mode or Autonomous Mode, simultaneously.
- It comes with built-in Electronic Counter-Counter Measures (ECCM) features.
- The whole system has been configured on mobile platforms.
- It has been designed by DRDO and has been produced by defence PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL).
- Several countries have expressed interest in buying other major platforms including the radars, surveillance systems as well as air platforms.
- Countries from South America, Middle East as well as ASEAN nations have expressed interest in the Indo-Russian BrahMos missile too.
- The UAE is also looking at the indigenous Astra 70-kilometre range air-to-air missile.

## 2. Web based Digital Ocean app for information sharing has been launched by

- A. Ministry of Science and Technology
- B. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- C. Ministry of Earth Sciences
- D. Ministry of Defence

**Answer: C**

### Explanation

- Context: INCOIS, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), has launched a web based application Digital Ocean to share information on marine data and forecast services.
- Indian National Centre for Ocean Information provides ocean information and advisory services to various stakeholders including data based on oceanographic research, advisory services such as fishing zone advisories, ocean state forecast, high wave alerts, tsunami early warnings, storm surge and oil-spill.
- It depends upon the oceanographic and marine meteorological data received from a wide variety of in situ and remote sensing ocean observing platforms in real-time established by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- The Digital Ocean platform ([www.do.incois.gov.in](http://www.do.incois.gov.in)) includes a set of applications developed to organise and present heterogeneous oceanographic data by adopting rapid advancements in geospatial technology.

- The platform will serve as a one stop-solution for all the data related needs of a wide range of users including research institutions, operational agencies, strategic users, academic community, maritime industry, policy makers and the public.
- It will play a central role in sustainable management of our oceans and expanding our “Blue Economy” initiatives.
- It is a first of its kind platform for ocean data management and contributes to the Digital India programme and is expected to bring a sea change in how the oceanographic data is served for a better understanding of the oceans.

**3. Which of the following is not a part of Five eyes?**

- A. Canada
- B. Germany
- C. Australia
- D. USA

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Five Eyes is a network of five nations -- Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand and the US who collaborated to better respond to increasing threats by North Korea and China.
- Japan is on its way to become the ‘sixth eye’.



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

1. It is caused by a parasite called Leishmania, which is transmitted through the bite of sand flies.
2. Signs and symptoms include fever, weight loss, fatigue, anemia, and substantial swelling of the liver and spleen



3. It is a neglected tropical disease
  4. In India, the only parasite that causes this disease is *Leishmania donovani*
- A. La Crosse Encephalitis
  - B. Lymphatic filariasis
  - C. Japanese encephalitis
  - D. Kala Azar

Answer: D

**Explanation**

- Context: Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare today chaired an event to review the status of the disease Kala-Azar in the four states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

<b>WHAT IS KALA-AZAR</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A slow progressing indigenous disease</li> <li>▪ Caused by protozoan parasite of genus <i>Leishmania</i></li> <li>▪ In India, <i>Leishmania donovani</i> is the only parasite causing the disease</li> <li>▪ The parasite primarily infects reticuloendothelial system</li> </ul>	<p><b>Signs &amp; Symptoms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➔ Recurrent fever</li> <li>➔ Loss of appetite</li> <li>➔ Weakness</li> <li>➔ Spleen enlargement</li> <li>➔ Anaemia</li> </ul>
<b>Transmission</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sandfly of genus <i>Phlebotomus argentipes</i> only known vector of kala-azar in India</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Indian kala-azar has a unique epidemiological feature of being anthroponotic</li> <li>▪ Female sandflies pick up parasite while feeding on infected human host</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Parasite undergoes morphological change to become flagellate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Healthy human hosts get infection when an infective sandfly vector bites them</li> </ul>

5. Which of the following have been correctly matched

1. BepiColombo - Mercury
2. Akatsuki- Venus
3. Chang'e-5 - Moon
4. Perseverance rover- Jupiter
5. Dragonfly - Saturn

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

D. 1, 2, 3, and 4 only

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- NASA's Dragonfly launches in 2027 to explore Saturn's moon Titan.
- NASA's Perseverance rover exploring Mars lands in February to search for past life and collect samples for return to Earth.
- China's Chang'e-5 returned lunar samples to Earth in 2020, and is on an extended mission to study the Sun and possibly asteroids.
- Japan's Akatsuki studies the Venus' dynamic atmosphere.
- Europe and Japan's BepiColombo launched in 2018 and arrives at Mercury in 2025.