



Sleepy Classes
Free. Regular. Quality.

PRE-Mix

(Compilations of the Multiple Choice Questions)

For the 2nd Week

Of

January
2021

(11th January to 16th January)

Visit our website www.sleepyclasses.com or

our [YouTube channel](#) for entire GS Course **FREE** of cost

Also Available: Prelims Crash Course || Prelims Test Series

Table of Contents

1. Geography.....	1
2. History.....	4
3. Polity.....	8
4. Economy.....	13
5. Environment.....	18
6. International Relations and Science & Technology.....	23

1. Geography

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

1. Find the correct statement in context with “Debt-for-Nature Swap”?

1. Agreement that reduces a developed country’s debt stock or service in exchange for a commitment to protect nature from the debtor Govt.
2. It is a voluntary whereby donor(s) cancel the debt owned by developing country’s government.
3. The savings from reduced debt service are invested in conservation projects.

- A. Only 1
B. Only 2
C. Only 3
D. None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation

- Agreement that reduces a developing country’s debt stock or service in exchange for a commitment to protect nature from the debtor Govt.
- It is a WEF mandated transaction whereby donor(s) cancel the debt owned by developing country’s government.
- The savings from reduced debt service are invested in conservation projects to seep into the ground in many areas, leading to increased run-off.

2. Lake Kivu, a deep lake, is situated in which of the following continents?

- A. Asia
B. Africa
C. Antarctica
D. Australia

Answer: B

Explanation

- Lake Kivu is one of Africa’s strangest bodies of water. Kivu doesn’t behave like most deep lakes. Typically, when water at the surface of a lake is cooled – by winter air temperatures or rivers carrying spring snowmelt, for example – that cold, dense water sinks, and warmer, less dense water rises up from deeper in the lake. This process, known as convection, generally keeps the surfaces of deep lakes warmer than their depths.

- But at Lake Kivu, circumstances have conspired to block this mixing, giving the lake unexpected qualities – and surprising consequences.
- Straddling the border between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kivu is one of a string of lakes lining the East African Rift Valley where the African continent is being slowly pulled apart by tectonic forces. The resulting stresses thin the Earth's crust and trigger volcanic activity, creating hot springs below Kivu that feed hot water, carbon dioxide and methane into the lake's bottom layers.

3. Which of the following are included in Cryosphere?

1. Sea Ice
2. Glaciers
3. Ice Shelves
4. Frozen Ground
5. Lake Ice

Choose the correct option.

- A. 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- B. 1, 2 and 3 only
- C. 2 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- The cryosphere is the frozen water part of the Earth system.
- "According to the 5th Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the cryosphere, comprising snow, river and lake ice, sea ice, glaciers, ice shelves and ice sheets, and frozen ground, plays a major role in the Earth's climate system through its impact on the surface energy budget, the water cycle, primary productivity, surface gas exchange and sea level and is a fundamental control on the physical, biological and social environment over a large part of the Earth's surface.

4. Which of the following is the longest National Highway (NH) in India?

- A. NH 44
- B. NH 27
- C. NH 52
- D. NH 30

Answer: A

Explanation

- National Highway 44 – It is the longest national highway in India with a length of 3,745 kilometers running from Srinagar in the north to Kanyakumari in the South.
- National Highway 27 – This longest national highway of India is 3,507 Km long and connects the eastern part of India with the western part easily. It is also considered as the financial pulse of India as it connects 7 states and 47 cities with each other.

5. The Term “20CD3” is associated with :

- A. COP- Conference of Parties
- B. Coalition for Disaster Resilience Infrastructure
- C. Asteroid Orbiting Earth – Mini Moon
- D. UNCCD

Answer: C

Explanation

- Astronomers have observed a small object orbiting Earth, which they have dubbed a “mini-moon” or the planet’s “second moon”. It is actually an asteroid, about the size of a car; its diameter is about 1.9-3.5 m.
- And unlike our permanent Moon, the mini-moon is temporary; it will eventually break free of Earth’s orbit and go off on its own way.

2. History

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

1. Where is Central Braille Plant located?

- A. Kolkata
- B. Dehradun
- C. Delhi
- D. Shimla

Answer: B

Explanation

- World Braille Day is celebrated on January 4 as it marks the birthday of Louis Braille, the creator of this writing system.
- The first World Braille Day was celebrated in 2019
- Braille is the representation of alphabetic and numerical symbols using six dots.
- The dots represent the letters and numbers and mathematical, musical and scientific symbols as well.
- India adopted the uniform Braille codes for different languages in 1951.
- India established the first ever Braille plant called Central Braille Plant in Dehradun.
- In 1954, Central Braille press was established to manufacture Braille appliances.
- The press produces simple equipment such as Braille slate, stylus and arithmetic Braille slate.
- The Govt enacted the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995.
- The act provides special category called 'low vision' along with blind. Also, the act meets the stipulations of the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- India accepted several United Nations resolutions on disabled people.
- This includes Observance of International Year of Disabled Persons in 1981, observance of UN Decade for the disabled 1983-92.
- India also observed Asia-Pacific Decade for the Disabled declared by ESCAP - Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (a regional think-tank that provides analytical opinions on social, economic and environmental dynamics in the region.)

2. Which of the following statements regarding Central Vista Project are incorrect?

1. It is regarding the renovation of Indian parliament only.
2. This plan has been challenged in court against Article 21 of the Indian constitution.

- A. 1 only

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Central Vista project aims to renovate 86 acres of land in the Lutyen's Garden in New Delhi.
- It includes Landmark structures of Indian government such as Rashtrapati Bhavan, Parliament, India Gate and North and South Block.
- In April 2020, a petition was filed in the Supreme Court challenging the proposed project.
- According to the petitioner, the decision violated the Right to Life of citizens guaranteed under article 21.
- This is because the plan deprived people of open and green spaces. Also, the petition argued that the plan violated the Master plan of Delhi 2021.
- The Supreme Court heard the challenge on the basis of three main grounds - violations of Municipal Law, change of land use and violations of environmental law.
- The current Parliament was built in 1927.
- It was not intended to house a bicameral legislature. Rather it was built to house Legislative Council.
- Also, the current Parliament House signifies an Imperial origin.
- The existing building also does not abide by safety norms and is not earthquake proof.
- The 2001 parliamentary attack is the best example questioning the safety of the current parliamentary building.

3. C. G. Krishna Reddy committee recently heard in news is related to which of the following?

- A. Smuggling of ancient artifacts
- B. Ladakh
- C. Forced labour
- D. Freedom fighters' reservation proposal

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Government of India recently formed a committee to protect language, land, culture of Ladakh and ensure participation of citizens in the development of Union Territory.
- The Committee is to be headed by Minister of State for Home G Kishan Reddy.
- It will include elected representatives from Ladakh, central government and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development council.

- A ten-member delegation from Ladakh met Home Minister to express their concerns about the threat to the unique culture, language and demography of the region in the development process.
- Concerns have also been raised about the rights and demand for the inclusion in the sixth schedule.
- Earlier, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes had recommended the inclusion of Ladakh under the sixth schedule.
- More than 90% of Ladakh population is tribal.
- The primary Scheduled Tribes of Ladakh are Bot, Balti Beda, Brokpa, Changpa, Mon, Garra and Purigpa.
- Including Ladakh in the sixth schedule will help to enhance the transfer of funds for speedy development of the region.

4. "Muchchangam" refers to

- A. A style of temple construction
- B. Function of finance
- C. Academy of poets
- D. A group of hundred village

Answer: C

Explanation

- The period roughly between the 3rd century B.C. and 3rd century C.E. in South India (the area lying to the south of river Krishna and Tungabhadra) is known as Sangam Period.
- It has been named after the Sangam academies held during that period that flourished under the royal patronage of the Pandya kings of Madurai.
- At the sangams eminent scholars assembled and functioned as the board of censors and the choicest literature was rendered in the nature of anthologies.
- These literary works were the earliest specimens of Dravidian literature.
- According to the Tamil legends, there were three Sangams (Academy of Tamil poets) held in the ancient South India, popularly called Muchchangam.
- The First Sangam, is believed to be held at Madurai, attended by gods and legendary sages.
- No literary work of this Sangam is available.
- The Second Sangam was held at Kapadapuram, only Tolkappiyam survives from this.
- The Third Sangam was also held at Madurai.
- A few of these Tamil literary works have survived and are a useful sources to reconstruct the history of the Sangam period.

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

- 1. Paika Rebellion- West Bengal**
- 2. Vaikom Satyagraha - Kerela**
- 3. Tana Bhagat movement - Punjab**
- 4. The Santhal Rebellion - Rajmahal hills**

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- Vaikom Satyagraha (1924–25) was a satyagraha (social protest) in erstwhile Travancore (now part of Kerala, India) against untouchability and caste discrimination in Hindu society of Kerala. The movement was centered around the Sri Mahadeva Temple at Vaikom, in the present-day Kottayam district.
- Santhal Rebellion (1855-56) occurred in the Rajmahal hills of the Santhal region under the leadership of Sidhu and Kanhu. It began as a reaction against the outsiders, particularly landlords, police and moneylenders.
- Jatra Bhagat and Tana Bhagat Movement (1914) movement was started by Jatra Bhagat in 1914. It was a tribal uprising of a section of the Tana Bhagats and Oraons under the leadership of Jatra Oraon occurring during the late colonial period in the Chhotanagpur region of Bihar. It was a movement for monotheism, abstention from meat, liquor and tribal dance. The Jatra Bhagat and Tana Bhagat movements stressed both anti-colonialism and internal reforms.
- Paika rebellion was an armed rebellion against the British East India Company's rule in 1817. The Paikas rose in rebellion under their leader Bakshi Jagabandhu. The Paiks of Odisha were the traditional landed militia ('foot soldiers' literally) and enjoyed rent free land tenures for their military service and policing functions on a hereditary basis. The English Company's conquest of Odisha in 1803, and the dethronement of the Raja of Khurda had greatly reduced the power and prestige of the Paiks. Further, the extortionist land revenue policy of the Company caused resentment among zamindars and peasants alike.

3. Polity

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

1. Which of the following statements regarding sessions of the parliament are incorrect?

1. Article 85 states that there should not be a gap of more than six months between two sessions of Parliament.
2. Parliament should at least meet for 25 days as enumerated in the constitution.
3. The session every year starts with the Speakers' Address to both Houses.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- Context: The budget session of Parliament is expected to be held under similar COVID-19 safety measures and restrictions, including strict physical distancing norms, that were in place for the monsoon session.
- There is no clarity on whether the Question Hour which was suspended during the monsoon session as part of the COVID-19 restrictions will resume in the budget session or not.
- Article 85 requires that there should not be a gap of more than six months between two sessions of Parliament.
- The Constitution does not specify when or for how many days Parliament should meet.
- This session every year starts with the President's Address to both Houses.

2. Judicial review in India derives its power from which of the following articles?

1. Article 13
 2. Article 32
 3. Article 136
 4. Article 142
 5. Article 147
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2, 3 and 4 only
C. 1, 4, 3 and 5 only

D. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Answer: D

Explanation

- Context: The Supreme Court has refused to treat the Central Vista project as a unique one requiring greater or “heightened” judicial review.
- Judicial review is the power of Judiciary to review any act or order of Legislative and Executive wings and to pronounce upon the constitutional validity when challenged by the affected person.
- A majority view of the Supreme Court said the government was “entitled to commit errors or achieve successes” in policy matters without the court’s interference as long as it follows constitutional principles.
- It is not the court’s concern to enquire into the priorities of an elected government.
- Judicial review is never meant to venture into the mind of the government and thereby examine validity of a decision.
- The power of Judicial Review comes from the Articles 13, 32, 136, 142 and 147.
- The power of judicial review is evoked to protect and enforce the fundamental rights guaranteed in Part III of the Constitution.
- A13 - Laws inconsistent with or in derogation of the fundamental rights. (1) All laws in force in the territory of India immediately before the commencement of this Constitution, in so far as they are inconsistent with the provisions of this Part, shall, to the extent of such inconsistency, be void.
- A32 falls under Part III of the Constitution that includes the fundamental rights of individuals. It allows an individual to approach the Supreme Court if she or he believes that her or his fundamental rights have been violated or they need to be enforced.
- A136 - The Supreme Court, at its discretion, may grant special leave to appeal from any judgement, decree, determination, sentence or order, in any cause or matter passed or made by any court or tribunal in the territory of India.
- A142- Article 142 of the Constitution allows the Supreme Court to pass any order necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it.
- Article 147 - To clarify that reference to any substantial question of law as to interpretation of the Constitution covers interpretation of the Government of India Act 1935, the Indian Independence Act 1947 or any orders made thereunder.

3. Preeti Pant panel, recently heard in new, has been constituted by which of the following?

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Railways
- C. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- D. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Answer: C

Explanation

- Context: The Health and Family Welfare Ministry has set up a technical expert group to examine the adverse findings from the National Family Health Survey-5.
- The committee is chaired by Joint Secretary Preeti Pant and includes experts from medicine and nutrition.
- It is to recommend programmatic and policy interventions to improve” indicators pertaining to malnutrition, stunting, anaemia, and C-section.
- Findings of NFHS 5
 - ✓ The survey provides data of States and UTs on over 130 parameters. On various parameters, major number of states have worsened over the last round of survey (NFHS 4 – 2015-16).
 - ✓ The children born between 2014 and 2019 are more malnourished than the previous generation.
- Infant and child mortality declined in most of the Indian states.
- Sikkim, Assam, Goa and Jammu & Kashmir witnessed a steep decline in Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Under-Five Mortality Rate (U5MR).
- Meghalaya, Manipur and Andaman & Nicobar Island reported increase in all the three categories of child mortality – NMR, IMR and U5MR.
- Among all the surveyed states and UTs, Bihar displayed the highest prevalence in Infant and child mortality in all three categories, while the lowest death rate was reported in Kerala.
- Massive increase in child malnutrition and rising levels of anemia in women and pregnant ladies clearly imply that the children born during 2015-2019 might be suffering from deficiencies.

4. The concept of Fundamental Rights in Indian constitution has been borrowed from:

- A. USA
- B. France
- C. Japan
- D. Germany

Answer: A

Explanation

- The model for Fundamental Rights in India has been taken from the Constitution of the USA. Fundamental rights are basic rights provided to the people in order to live with dignity and integrity. They are enshrined in Part III of the Indian Constitution.

BORROWED FEATURES OF INDIAN CONSTITUTION



UNITED STATES

- Preamble
- Written Constitution
- Federal structure of Government
- Fundamental Rights
- Functions of the President & the Vice- President
- Independence of Judiciary
- Judicial review
- Removal of Supreme court & High court Judges



UNITED KINGDOM

- Nominal Head – President
- Designation of Prime Minister
- Cabinet System of Ministers
- Parliamentary form of government
- Bicameralism
- Speaker in Lok Sabha
- Single citizenship



AUSTRALIA

- Concurrent list
- Language of the preamble
- Provision regarding commerce, trade & intercourse



CANADA

- Idea of federation with a strong centre
- Distribution of powers between centre & the states
- Residuary Powers with the centre



IRELAND

- Directive Principles of State Policy
- Election of President
- Nomination of members in the Rajya Sabha



JAPAN

- Procedure Established by law



RUSSIA (USSR)

- Five year Plan
- Fundamental Duties



WEIMAR CONSTITUTION (GERMANY)

- Suspension of Fundamental Rights during the emergency

5. Saurav Yadav versus State of Uttar Pradesh case, recently heard in news, is related to

- Same sex Marriage
- Reservations
- Conversion Laws
- Pollution in Ganga

Answer: B

Explanation

- Context: Saurav Yadav versus State of Uttar Pradesh dealt with issues arising from the way different classes of reservation were to be applied in the selection process to fill posts of constables in the state.
- The case was on the technicalities that form a substantial question of law.

- Sonam Tomar and Rita Rani had secured 276.5949 and 233.1908 marks respectively.
- They had applied under the categories of OBC-Female and SC-Female respectively.
- OBC and SC are vertical reservation categories, while Female is a horizontal reservation category.
- The two candidates did not qualify in their categories.
- The question before the court was that if the underlying criterion for making selections is “merit”, should Tomar be selected under General-Female quota instead of the OBC-Female category for having secured a higher score
- The court ruled against UP Government.

4. Economy

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

1. Which of the following statements are correct about International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)?

1. It is the international organization that brings together the world's securities regulators, covering more than 95% of the world's securities markets, and is the global standard setter for the securities sector.
2. Its enforcement role extends to matters of interpretation of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), where it maintains a (confidential) database of enforcement actions taken by member agencies.
3. The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) is its associate member.

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- Context: The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has become an Associate Member of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO).
- IFSC in India:
 - ✓ The first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in the country has been set up at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) in Gandhinagar.
 - ✓ To regulate such institutions, the government established IFSCA with its head office in Gandhinagar.
 - ✓ Parliament passed a bill to set up a unified authority for regulating all financial activities at IFSCs in the country.
- About IOSCO:
 - ✓ It is the international organization that brings together the world's securities regulators, covering more than 95% of the world's securities markets, and is the global standard setter for the securities sector.
 - ✓ It works closely with the G20 (Group of Twenty) and the Financial Stability Board (FSB) in setting up the standards for strengthening the securities markets.
 - ✓ The FSB is an international body that monitors and makes recommendations about the global financial system.

✓ The IOSCO Objectives and Principles of Securities Regulation have been endorsed by FSB as one of the key standards for sound financial systems.

✓ IOSCO's enforcement role extends to matters of interpretation of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), where IOSCO maintains a (confidential) database of enforcement actions taken by member agencies.

✓ IFRS is an accounting standard that has been issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) with the objective of providing a common accounting language to increase transparency in the presentation of financial information.

● **Members:**

✓ Founded: April 1983

✓ Headquarters: Madrid, Spain

✓ IOSCO Asia Pacific Hub is located in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

✓ Its membership regulates more than 95% of the world's securities markets in more than 115 jurisdictions; securities regulators in emerging markets account for 75% of its ordinary membership.

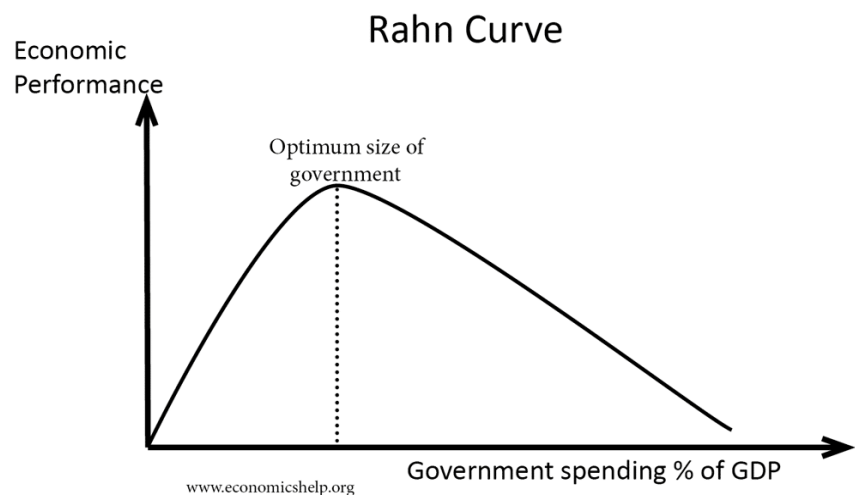
2. It is the graph which suggests that there is an optimal level of government spending which maximises the rate of economic growth. Identify the same.

- A. Laffer Curve
- B. Phillips Curve
- C. Rahn Curve
- D. Kuznets Curve

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Rahn Curve suggests that there is an optimal level of government spending which maximises the rate of economic growth.
- Initially, higher government spending helps to improve economic performance.
- But, after exceeding a certain amount of government spending, government taxes and intervention diminishes economic performance and growth rates.



- Reasons moderate levels of government spending increase economic growth:
 - ✓ Governments can spend on infrastructure ignored by free-market, e.g. road, railways. This helps to reduce the cost for business and improve productivity.
 - ✓ Governments can support education which helps to increase labour productivity and economic growth
 - ✓ Governments can spend money to provide law and order and help improve social and political stability which is necessary for economic growth.
- Why government spending can start to hold back rates of economic growth:
 - ✓ Higher spending requires higher tax rates. Higher tax rates can create disincentives to work and disincentives for entrepreneurs to take risks.
 - ✓ Higher government spending may crowd out private sector spending. Private sector spending and investment is likely to be more efficient because of the profit incentive to be efficient, whereas government spending is more prone to inefficiency and misplaced spending due to poor information.
 - ✓ Nationalisation of key industries can lead to greater inefficiency due to problems of government managing business.
 - ✓ A generous welfare state can create disincentives to work.
 - ✓ Government regulation of industry can create additional costs to business.
 - ✓ Proponents of the Rahn curve tend to use it as a tool to argue that beyond a certain level – high levels of government spending hinders economic growth.

3. Atanu Chakraborty taskforce is related to which of the following?

- A. Money market in India
- B. Review of Income Tax rebates
- C. Unemployment and Public Welfare
- D. National infrastructure pipeline

Answer: D

Explanation

- Context: Finance minister reviewed the progress of 34 projects in the health and water resources sectors involving investments of Rs 3.6 lakh crore under the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP).
- While 24 of these projects worth Rs 80,915 crore are under the supervision of the health ministry, the department of water resources, rural development & Ganga rejuvenation oversees 10 large projects worth Rs 2,79,604 crore.

- With the economy battered by the pandemic, a government task force had in April firmed up a road map for capital investments of Rs 111 lakh crore in infrastructure under the NIP over six years through FY25, pledging 71 per cent of the expenditure for energy, roads, urban development and railways, and envisaging a key role for private investors.
- Important recommendations and observations made by Atanu Chakraborty taskforce:
 - ✓ Investment needed: ₹111 lakh crore over the next five years (2020-2025) to build infrastructure projects and drive economic growth.
 - ✓ Energy, roads, railways and urban projects are estimated to account for the bulk of projects (around 70%).
 - ✓ The centre (39 percent) and state (40 percent) are expected to have an almost equal share in implementing the projects, while the private sector has 21 percent share.
 - ✓ Aggressive push towards asset sales.
 - ✓ Monetisation of infrastructure assets.
 - ✓ Setting up of development finance institutions.
 - ✓ Strengthening the municipal bond market.

4. Based on the following statements identify the type of instrument

1. These are shares of a company's stock with dividends that are paid out to shareholders before common stock dividends are issued.
2. If the company enters bankruptcy, its stockholders are entitled to be paid from company assets before common stockholders.
3. There are four types of them - cumulative (guaranteed), non-cumulative, participating and convertible.
4. These are ideal for risk-averse investors and they are callable

- A. Preference shares
- B. Equity shares
- C. Debentures
- D. Bonds

Answer: A

Explanation

- Preference shares, more commonly referred to as preferred stock, are shares of a company's stock with dividends that are paid out to shareholders before common stock dividends are issued.
- If the company enters bankruptcy, preferred stockholders are entitled to be paid from company assets before common stockholders.
- Most preference shares have a fixed dividend, while common stocks generally do not.

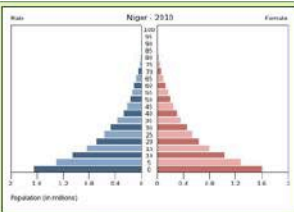
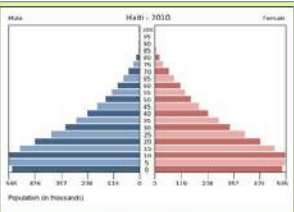
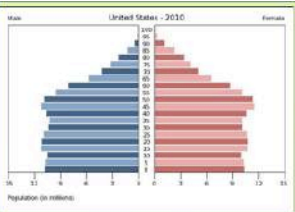
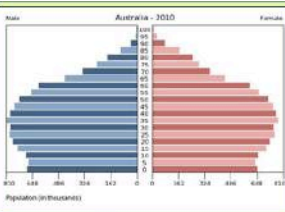
- Preferred stock shareholders also typically do not hold any voting rights, but common shareholders usually do.
- Preference shares fall under four categories: cumulative preferred stock, non-cumulative preferred stock, participating preferred stock and convertible preferred stock.
- Preference shares are ideal for risk-averse investors and they are callable (the issuer can redeem them at any time).

5. Stage 2 of a population pyramid depicts

- A. High Birth rate and low Death rate
- B. Low Birth rate and high Death rate
- C. Low Birth rate and low death rate
- D. High Birth rate and high Death rate

Answer: A

Explanation

			
Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
Expansive.	Expansive.	Stationary.	Contractive.
Concave sides.	Straight sides.	Convex sides.	Convex sides.
High birth rate.	Still high birth rate.	Declining birth rate.	Very low birth rate.
High death rate.	Falling death rate.	Low death rate.	Low death rate.
Short life expectancy.	Slightly longer life expectancy.	Long life expectancy.	Longer life expectancy.
Rapid fall in each upward age group due to high DR.	Fall in DR so more people living into middle age.	An increasing proportion of the population is in the 65+ age group.	Higher dependency ratio.
Niger	Haiti	Morocco	Australia

5. Environment

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

1. Which of the following statements regarding Asian Waterbird Census are correct?

1. The AWC is a part of the global waterbird monitoring programme, the International Waterbird Census (IWC).
2. It is coordinated by Wetlands International.
3. The Asian Waterbird Census-2021 was held in Kerala under the aegis of Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS).

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- Context: The two-day Asian Waterbird Census-2020 commenced in Andhra Pradesh under the aegis of Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), covering at least two dozen sites, including Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Kolleru Lake and Krishna Sanctuary.
- The Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) is part of the global International Waterbird Census (IWC).



Wetlands INTERNATIONAL JOIN US FOR
THE ASIAN WATERBIRD CENSUS 2021

Be the part of a **Global Programme** to assess the status as well as **Conservation** of our wetlands

Join us by

- Simply visiting a **wetland near by** and **count the birds** there
- Upload your data in **eBird** and fill out **wetland assessment form 2021**
- share ur checklist to eBird username **awcindia & awckasaragod**

Choose your dates between **2 - 18 January 2021** and
join this **citizen science event**

Observe Covid Protocols while birding. Counts from any dates in January and February are welcomed.
for more information visit <https://birdcount.in/event/awc2021/>

 **eBird**  

- This citizen-science programme is supporting conservation and management of wetlands and waterbirds worldwide.
- It was initiated in 1987 in the Indian subcontinent and has grown rapidly to cover major regions of Asia, from Afghanistan eastwards to Japan, Southeast Asia and Australasia.
- The census covers the entire East Asian - Australasian Flyway and a large part of the Central Asian Flyway.
- The East Asia - Australasia Flyway extends from Arctic Russia and North America to the southern limits of Australia and New Zealand.
- It encompasses large parts of East Asia, all of Southeast Asia and includes eastern India and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- The Central Asian Flyway (CAF) covers a large continental area of Eurasia between the Arctic and Indian Oceans and the associated island chains.

2. Which of the following is India's observatory in the Arctic region?

- A. Bharti
- B. Dakshin Gangotri
- C. IndArc
- D. Maitri

Answer: C

Explanation

- Context: After a gap of a year due to COVID-19 pandemic, India's annual expedition to the Arctic will resume this year in the month of June.
- IndARC is India's first underwater moored observatory in the Arctic region. It was deployed in 2014 at Kongsfjorden fjord, Svalbard, Norway which is midway between Norway and North Pole. Its research goal is to study the Arctic climate and its influence on the monsoon.
- Himadri is India's first permanent Arctic research station located at Spitsbergen, Svalbard, Norway. It is located at the International Arctic Research base, Ny-Ålesund. It was inaugurated on the 1st of July, 2008 by the Minister of Earth Sciences. It was set up during India's second Arctic expedition in June 2008.
- About 150-200 crew from India would be participating in the expedition in the batches of 10 at a time.
- India embarked upon the Arctic research by launching first scientific expedition to Arctic in August, 2007, using the international research facility in the Spitsbergen Island of Norway.
- Subsequently, India has been sending scientific teams every summer and winter for carrying out studies in the Arctic, primarily in the fields of glaciology, hydrochemistry, microbiology, and atmospheric sciences.

- There's a science village in the Arctic where representatives of seven countries would stay together.
- India has one Arctic observation station, set up in 2015, halfway between Norway and the North Pole called IndARC
- India is already an observer at the Arctic Council – a forum of countries that decides on managing the region's resources and popular livelihood.

3. Based on the following statements identify the water body?

- 1. In native language its name translates to “inhabited by elephants”.**
- 2. It is Assam's only Ramsar site.**
- 3. It is categorised as representative of the wetland type under the Burma monsoon forest biogeographic region.**
- 4. It is a permanent freshwater lake, in a former channel of the Brahmaputra River, to the south of the main river.**

- A. Hafong Lake
- B. Deepor Beel
- C. Chandubi Lake
- D. Padum Phukuri

Answer: B

Explanation

- Context: The Assam government has imposed Section 144 CrPC prohibiting assembly of more than five persons in and around Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary for community fishing from January 1 to January 31, 2021 .
- The prohibitory order under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 has been imposed .
- Villagers from the areas around Deepor Beel take part in the community fishing in the wetland at this time to welcome the New Year.
- The Deepor Beel is a large and prominent floodplain lake located in the south-west of Guwahati city in Assam.
- It is a Wildlife Sanctuary of the Government of Assam and an important and only Ramsar site in Assam (2002)
- Its basin is drained by a system of rivulets and hill streams that connect the neighbouring hills and the forests to the river Brahmaputra through an outlet called the Khanajan.
- In 2004, Birdlife International declared the wetland an important bird area (Mahabahu Brahmaputra n.d.).
- The name Deepor Beel means the ‘lake of elephants’–a Beel in Assamese and Bodo dialects is a lake, and the word Deep-or is said to have derived from the word for elephants in one of the indigenous dialects.

- Historically, Bodo, Karbi, Garo, Rabha and Khasi tribes, and Assamese-speaking, fishing and other communities lived around the place.
- Its shape somewhat resembled an elephant's footprint, although this shape is being increasingly modified and the relationship with the elephants is becoming increasingly fraught, due to land reclamations for urbanisation.
- In the famous Battle of Saraighat, the Ahom armies strategically used the natural fortresses offered by the rise and fall of these waters and routed an invading naval and land army of the Mughals for the final time.

4. Which of the following Ministry recently launched Indian scientific expedition to Antarctica?

- A. Ministry of Earth Sciences
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs
- C. Ministry of Science and Technology
- D. Ministry of External Affairs

Answer: A

Explanation

- Context: Ministry of Earth science launched the Indian scientific expedition to Antarctica in Ice class vessel MV Vasily Golovin.
- The expedition will take a team of 40 members to Antarctica and return by April 2021
- Indian Antarctica expedition has been Limited due to existing challenges of covid-19.
- It will mainly focus on ongoing scientific projects on ocean observations, climate change, electric and magnetic flux measurements, geology, Re supplying of food, environmental monitoring, fuel, and accomplish the return of the winter crew
- Indian scientific expedition to Antarctica began in 1981.
- Dakshin Gangotri, Bharti, Maitri are Indian Research base stations in Antarctica.
- Dakshin Gangotri in Antarctica was the first permanent settlement of India built in 1983. It was excavated in 1989 and is being used as supply base and transit camp.
- Maitri was the second permanent settlement of India in Antarctica. The station is located close to Lake Priyadarshini. It accomplished the mission of geomorphological mapping of Schirmacher Oasis.
- Bharti was established in 2015.
- It will collect evidence of Continental break up to reveal the 120-million-year-old Ancient History of Indian subcontinent.
- National Centre for polar and ocean research located in Goa, manages the Indian research base stations in Antarctica
- The Indian Antarctic program was launched in 1981 after India signed the Antarctic treaty

- The Treaty was signed in 1961. Currently there are 54 signatories to the Treaty. It is an arms control Treaty signed during cold war.

5. Caracal Recently heard in news is a

- A. An Orange coloured legume
- B. A type of cat
- C. A shrub from Nilgiris
- D. A type of exotic Indian Mushroom

Answer: B

Explanation



TENIKWA
Wildlife Awareness Centre

CARACAL
Felis caracal caracal
Rooikat Nghawa

Shoulder Height : 40cm Mass : 16kg

The Caracal is wide spread in Africa but absent from the tropical forest belt and the Sahara as well as the skeleton coast of Namibia. Habitat ranges from semi-desert, savannah and some forested areas.

Heavily persecuted in agricultural areas, and rare in populated areas. Hunted for bushmeat and fur trade.

Active towards dark and early hours of the morning. Bulk of Prey is under 3kg weight - rats, mice game birds, monkeys but can take prey of up to 40kg. Known to prey on livestock in areas of transformed habitat

Solitary and territorial. Gestation period 75 days. Average litter of 2 cubs

RED LIST
THE IUCN RED LIST OF THREATENED SPECIES

NOT EVALUATED	DATA DEFICIENT	LEAST CONCERN	NEARLY THREATENED	VULNERABLE	ENDANGERED	CRITICALLY ENDANGERED	EXTINCT IN THE WILD	EXTINCT
NE	DD	LC	N	VU	EN	CR	EW	EX

- Context: The Standing Committee of National Board of Wildlife (SC-NBWL) in its 60th meeting has approved the inclusion of Caracal into the list of critically endangered species for taking up conservation efforts with financial support under Centrally sponsored Scheme-Development of Wildlife Habitat.
- The caracal is a medium-sized wild cat native to Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, and India.
- It is characterised by a robust build, long legs, a short face, long tufted ears, and long canine teeth.
- Its coat is uniformly reddish tan or sandy, while the ventral parts are lighter with small reddish markings.

6. International Relations and Science & Technology

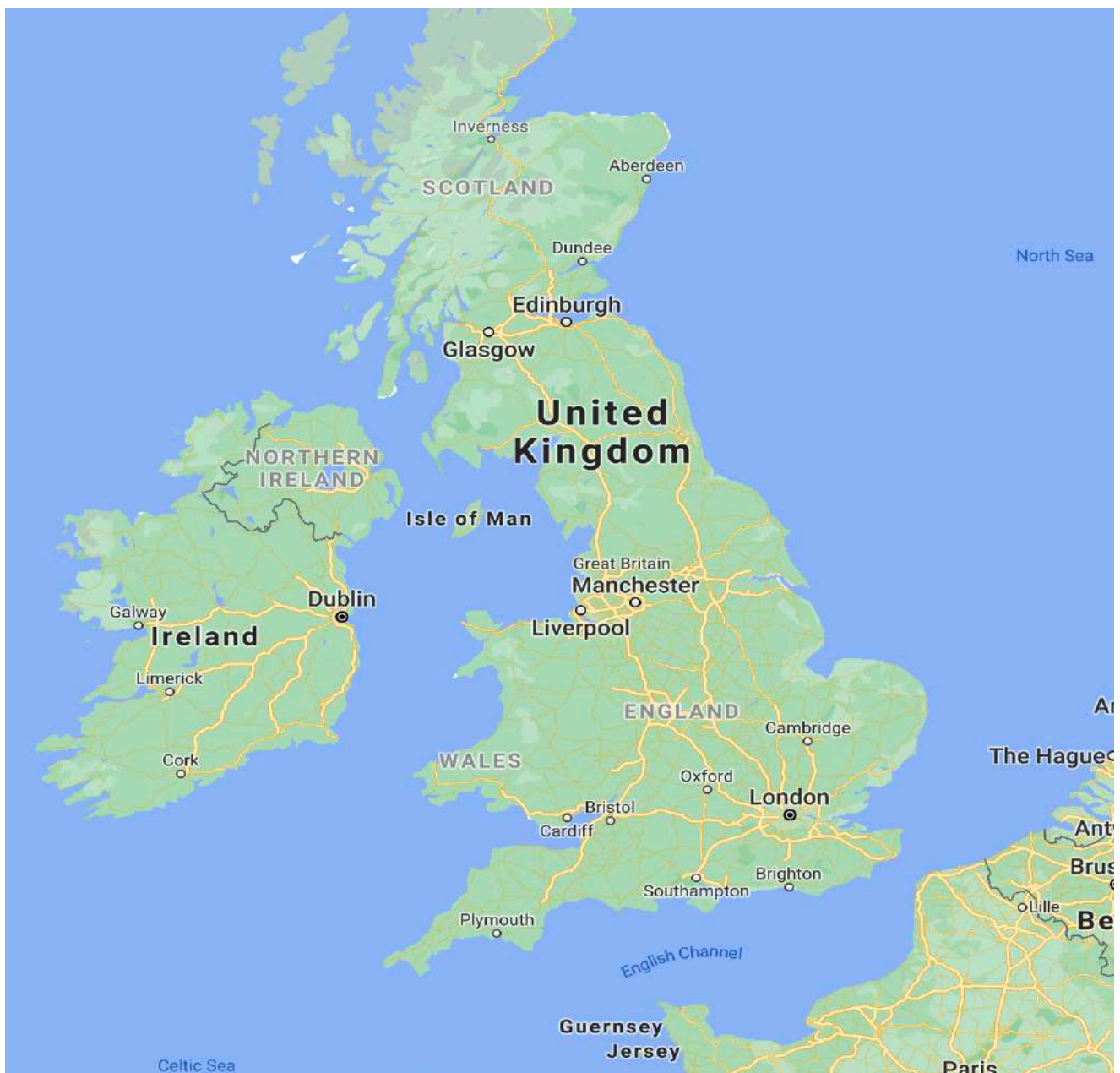
Click [here](#) to watch the following questions on YouTube

1. Isle of Man is situated in which of the following

- A. Irish Sea
- B. North Sea
- C. English Channel
- D. Celtic Sea

Answer: A

Explanation



2. Which of the following is true about Hayabusa-2 spacecraft?

- 1. It is a Japanese probe which visited Asteroid Benu**
- 2. The mission ended successfully in 2020**

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Japanese space probe Hayabusa-2, launched in 2014, successfully landed in Australia in 2020 carrying the first extensive samples of Ryugu asteroid
- It seeks to answer some fundamental questions about the origins of the solar system and where molecules like water came from
 - ✓ Asteroids are believed to have formed at the dawn of the solar system, and scientists say this one may contain organic matter that may have contributed to life on Earth

3. Which of the following is not true about AlphaFold

- 1. It is an artificial intelligence initiative of Microsoft**
- 2. It predicts the 3-D shape of proteins**

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- AlphaFold is an artificial intelligence program developed by Google's DeepMind which performs predictions of protein structure

4. Which of the following are correctly matched

- 1. Covaxin : Attenuated virus**
- 2. Covishield : Dead virus**
- 3. Pfizer's BNT162b2 : mRNA**

Answer: C

Explanation

- Bharat Biotech's Covaxin is based on dead virus
- AstraZaneca's Covishield is based on attenuated or weakened adenovirus
- Pfizer's BNT162B2 is a mRNA

5. Based on the following statements identify the organisation

- 1. It is the measurement standards laboratory of India**
- 2. It was designated by the union environment Ministry as the national verification agency for certifying instruments and equipment for monitoring emissions and ambient air**
- 3. It maintain standards of SI units in India and calibrates the national standards of weights and measures**

- A. Bureau of Indian Standards
- B. National Physical Laboratory
- C. Indian Institute of Legal Metrology
- D. National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories

Answer: B