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For the Month

Of

December

2020

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1. Geography

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1. Shahtoot dam, recently heard in news, is in

- A. Pakistan
- B. Afghanistan
- C. India
- D. Bhutan

Answer: B

Explanation

- India will be constructing the Shahtoot Dam on Kabul River in Afghanistan and that the Governments of two nations have recently concluded an agreement for the same.
- The dam's construction would provide safe drinking water to two million residents of Kabul city which is the Afghan capital.
- The dam would come upon the Maidan River, tributary of Kabul River.
- The conversations for construction of the Shahtoot Dam had begun in 2016.



2. Which of the following have been correctly matched?

1. Ganga – Gangotri
2. Yamuna – Yamunotri
3. Rangeet – Rathong
4. Chambal – Janapav

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

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: C

Explanation

- Ganga originates from DevPrayag.



3. Which of the following statements regarding cyclones are correct?

1. Tropical cyclones originate and intensify over warm tropical oceans.
2. Presence of the Coriolis force is an essential condition for cyclone formation.
3. Nivar was a tropical cyclone which brought severe impacts to portions of Indonesia and Thailand.

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- Very Severe Cyclonic Storm Nivar was a tropical cyclone which brought severe impacts to portions of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.
- The seventh depression and fourth named storm of the 2020 North Indian Ocean cyclone season, Nivar originated from a disturbance in the Intertropical Convergence Zone.
- Tropical cyclones are violent storms that originate over oceans in tropical areas and move over to the coastal areas bringing about large scale destruction caused by violent winds, very heavy rainfall and storm surges.
- Tropical Cyclones are one of the most devastating natural calamities in the world.
- Tropical cyclones originate and intensify over warm tropical oceans. The conditions favourable for the formation and intensification of tropical storms are:
 - ✓ Large sea surface with temperature higher than 27° C.
 - ✓ Presence of the Coriolis force.
 - ✓ Small variations in the vertical wind speed.

- ✓ A pre-existing weak low- pressure area or low-level-cyclonic circulation.
- ✓ Upper divergence above the sea level system.

4. Which of the following statements regarding Trenches are correct?

1. Trenches are elevations in the deepest parts of the ocean.
 2. These are formed when old ocean crust from one tectonic plate is pushed beneath another plate, raising mountains, causing earthquakes, and forming volcanoes on the seafloor and on land.
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

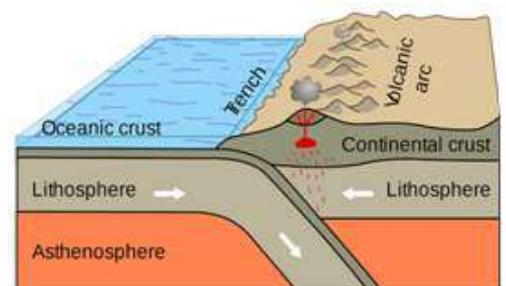
Answer: B

Explanation

- Recently China broke its own record for deepest manned dive into the world's oceans, sinking an estimated 10,909 meters (35,790 feet) into the Mariana Trench.
- Ocean trenches are steep depressions in the deepest parts of the ocean [where old ocean crust from one tectonic plate is pushed beneath another plate, raising mountains, causing earthquakes, and forming volcanoes on the seafloor and on land.
- The deepest parts of a trench, however, represent only about 1 percent or less of its total area.
- The vast submarine slopes and steep walls of trenches make up much of the hadal zone, where unique habitats extending across a range of depths are home to diverse number of species, many of which are new or still unknown to science.

How are trenches formed?

- Trenches are formed by subduction, a geophysical process in which two or more of Earth's tectonic plates converge and the older, denser plate is pushed beneath the lighter plate and deep into the mantle, causing the seafloor and outermost crust (the lithosphere) to bend and form a steep, V-shaped depression
- This process makes trenches dynamic geological features—they account for a significant part of Earth's seismic activity—and are frequently the site of large earthquakes, including some of the largest earthquakes on record.
- Subduction also generates an upwelling of molten crust that forms mountain ridges and volcanic islands parallel to the trench. Examples of these volcanic "arcs" can be seen in the Japanese Archipelago, the Aleutian Islands, and many other locations around this area called the Pacific "Ring of Fire."



5. BOGOR GOALS, recently heard in news, are related to

- A. BRICS
- B. SCO
- C. UNICEF
- D. APEC

Answer: D

Explanation

- Recently, a virtual meeting of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum was held.
- The meeting was hosted by Malaysia.
- New Zealand will also host next year's APEC meetings virtually due to the pandemic.
- Growth in the Asia-Pacific region expected to decline by 2.7% this year, from a 3.6% growth in 2019.
- APEC's focus was on accelerating economic recovery and developing an affordable vaccine.
- Focus Areas: Trade and investment, Digital Economy and Technology, Structural Reform, Economic and Technical Cooperation and Thematic and institutional matters.
- APEC leaders adopted the Putrajaya Vision 2040, a new 20-year growth vision to replace the Bogor Goals named after the Indonesian town where leaders agreed in 1994 to free and open trade and investment.
- Recognised the importance of a free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable trade and investment environment to drive economic recovery at such a challenging time (Covid-19).
- Discussed the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) agenda and the APEC Internet and Digital Economy Roadmap (AIDER).

6. MARCOS recently heard in news is a part of which branch

- A. Navy
- B. Army
- C. Airforce
- D. Territorial Army

Answer: A

Explanation

- The government has deployed the Marine Commandos (MARCOS) of the Indian Navy in the Pangong lake area in eastern Ladakh.
- The deployment comes after the stationing of Indian Air Forces Garud commandos and Indian Army Para Special Forces in the conflict zone for over more than past six months.

- The deployment of the MARCOS is to enhance the integration of the three services and provide the naval commandos exposure to extreme cold weather conditions.
- The Indian Navy has deployed teams of its MARCOS in the Wular lake area of Jammu and Kashmir to tackle terrorism there.
- MARCOS have also undertaken several operations against the LTTE in the 1990s ensuring India's dominance in the unpredictable Sri Lankan zone is kept under control.
- They were also deployed in Somalia in 1993 and they were deployed along with the Indian Army during the Kargil war in 1999.
- The commandos are trained to undertake anti-piracy operations which they have carried out with clinical precision in the Gulf of Aden which is the hotbed of pirates.
- It is the Special Forces unit of the Indian Navy that is responsible for conducting special operations.
- MARCOS was founded in February 1987.
- MARCOS are capable of operating in all types of environments; at sea, in air and on land.

7. Recently conducted Passex 2020 in IOR is an exercise between the navies of India and

- A. USA
- B. Russia
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Thailand

Answer: B

Explanation

- The navies of India and Russia began a two-day Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the East Indian Ocean Region (IOR) on Friday, coinciding with Navy Day on December 4.
- The exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability, improving understanding and imbibing best practices between both the friendly navies, and would involve advanced surface and anti-submarine warfare exercises, weapon firings, seamanship exercises and helicopter operations.
- Two warships from India and three ships from Russia are taking part in the PASSEX.
- This year, the Indian Navy has so far participated in 13 bilateral and multilateral exercises.
- In the first bilateral exercise since all such engagements were suspended due to COVID-19, India and Russia held Indra 2020 in the North Indian Ocean in September.
- The Navy has held a series of passage exercises in the IOR with major Navies since the COVID-19 lockdown
- In July, frontline warships of the Indian Navy conducted a passage exercise with US Navy's USS Nimitz carrier strike group near the Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) islands as it was transiting the Indian Ocean after conducting freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea.

- A PASSEX was also held with the Japanese Navy.

8. Which of the following statements are correct about Oman?

1. It is located in Arabian Peninsula.
2. It borders UAE, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Qatar.
3. The country holds four sea ports facing the Indian Ocean

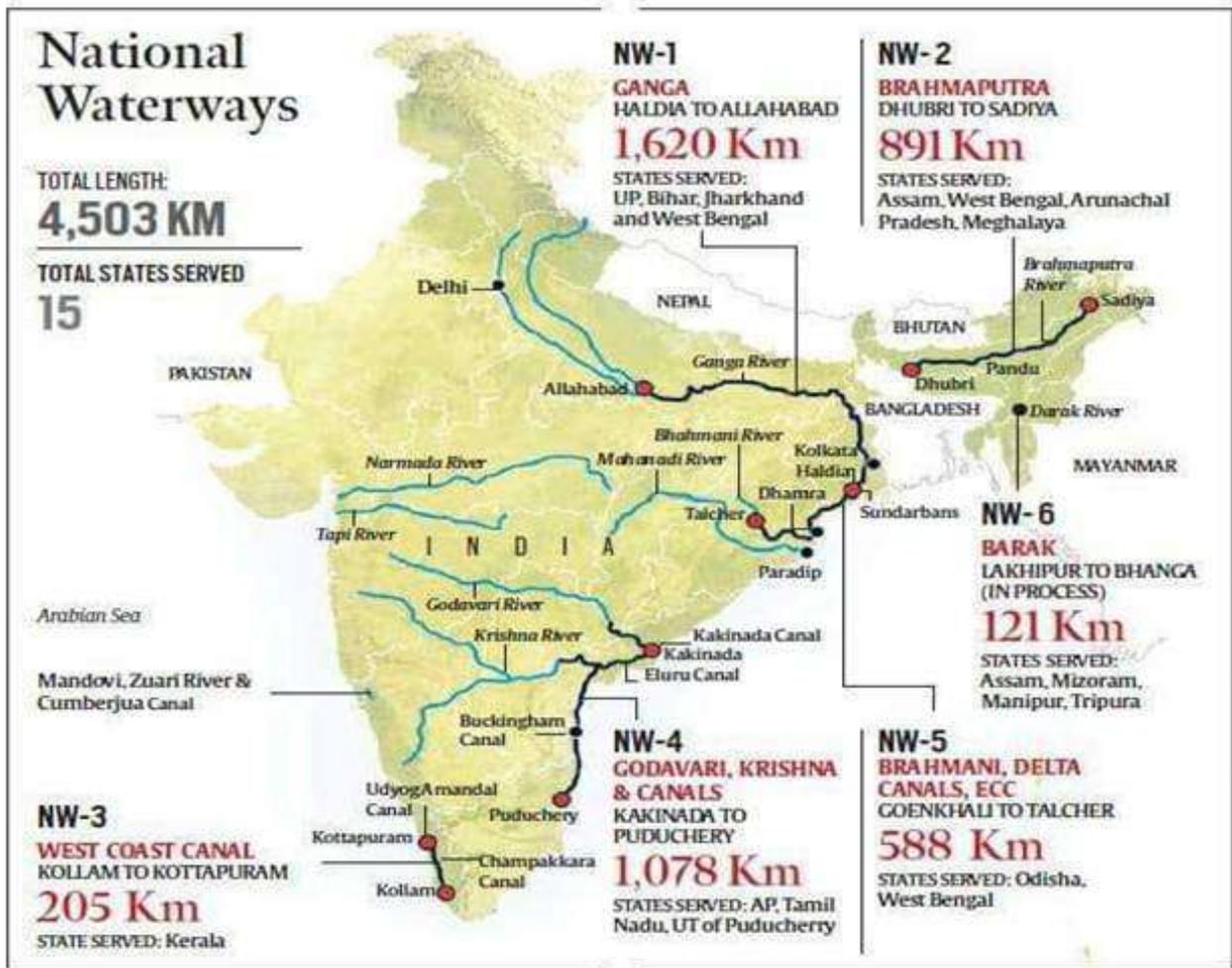
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation

- Oman borders Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen;
- It shares maritime borders with Iran and Pakistan.
- The country is bounded by the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Oman; at the Musandam Peninsula it borders the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf.
- The country holds four industrial free zones and four sea ports facing the Indian Ocean.
- Oman recently announced to establish Friendship association with India.
- This will be the first of such initiative in West Asia.
- It was announced during a bilateral discussion held between the foreign ministers of the country.
- During the bilateral discussion, the countries reviewed their economic cooperation, consular issue, capacity building and training programmes.
- The association will aim to provide a platform to promote matters of mutual interest, understanding between the business and social communities of the countries.





9. Which one of the following is National Waterway 1?

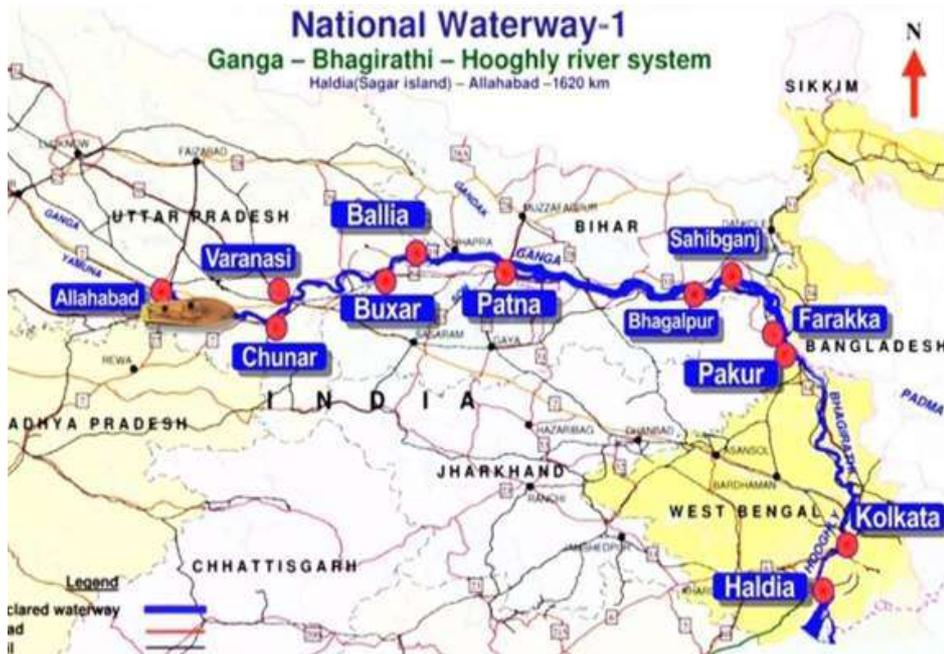
- A. Sadiya-Dhubri
- B. Kottapuram - Kollam
- C. Prayagraj - Haldia
- D. Kakinada-Puducherry

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has eased tender terms for privatising multi-modal terminals (MMT) at Varanasi, Haldia and Sahibganj on National Waterway (NW) 1.
- MMTs are being privatised on Equip, Operate and Transfer (EOT) basis. EOT model is used where infrastructure already exists and there is no need of capital investment.
- NW 1 is from Allahabad to Haldia that falls on Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system. It passes through UP, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- MMT use combination of at least two or more different modes (rail, road, waterways) to move cargo from a place to another place.

- MMTs are being built as part of Jal Marg Vikas Project that aims to develop stretch of River Ganga between Varanasi to Haldia for navigation of large vessels upto 1500-2000 tonnes weight.



10. Boko Haram, recently heard in news, is present in which country?

- A. Burkina Faso
- B. Gabon
- C. Libya
- D. Nigeria

Answer: D

Explanation

- An attack by the extremist group Boko Haram has left 110 farmers dead in Nigeria, according to the UN resident and humanitarian coordinator in Nigeria. The search for many missing victims is currently on, and the death toll is further expected to rise.
- Boko Haram, a jihadist group that has been operating in the region since 2009 to carve out a caliphate in north-east Nigeria, has claimed responsibility for the killings.
- Boko Haram, a Hausa term which loosely translates to 'Western education is forbidden', is infamous for its 2014 abduction of 276 schoolgirls from Chibok.
- It is vehemently opposed to Westernization of Nigeria and adheres to strict Sharia law. The killings were in retaliation for the capture of a jihadist soldier by the villagers.
- Fearing further retaliation, farmers have stopped going to their fields which is affecting Nigeria's grain stocks.
- Nigeria is soon likely to face food crisis.

- It is also reported that Nigeria's stocks have declined to less than 30,000 metric tons, which is a fraction of what the country of 200 million people needs to sustain themselves.
- It is also fuelling food inflation and vastly undermining the President's plans for making Nigeria's food security.

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

1. It is part of a comprehensive response to the massive explosion on the Port of Afrin in 2020.
 2. It is European Union, United Nations and World Bank Group launched an 18-month Reform Project.
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

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

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

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

D. Puducherry

Answer: C

Explanation

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

Benefits

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

Cropping Pattern

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

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

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

Answer: A

Explanation

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

Irish border after Brexit



What's the plan to avoid checks?

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

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

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

1. India
 2. Afghanistan
 3. Maldives
 4. Pakistan
 5. Bangladesh
 6. Myanmar
- A. 2, 3, 4 and 5
B. 1, 3, 5 and 6
C. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5
D. 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6

Answer: C

Explanation

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

Importance of SAARC:

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

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

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

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

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

Answer: B

Explanation

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

16. Pratas Island, recently heard in news, is located in

- A. South China Sea
- B. Bering Sea
- C. East Sea
- D. Sea of Okhotsk

Answer: A

Explanation



- The Pratas Islands are located in the northern part of the South China Sea under the jurisdiction of the Republic of China (Taiwan), closer to China's mainland coast than to the island of Taiwan.
- They are also known as the Dongsha Islands or Tungsha Islands and are a group of atolls, coral reefs and sea banks.
- If China controlled the Pratas Islands, the islands could function as a gatekeeper to monitor U.S. and other countries' ships and aircraft entering the South China Sea from the Pacific Ocean.

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

1. Bolide - A meteoroid that survives its passage through the Earth's atmosphere and lands upon the Earth's surface.
2. Meteoroid: A small particle from a comet or asteroid orbiting the Sun.
3. Comet: A relatively small, at times active, object whose ices can vaporize in sunlight forming an atmosphere (coma) of dust and gas and, sometimes, a tail of dust and/or gas.
4. Umbra: A half-shadow that occurs when a light source is only partly covered by an object

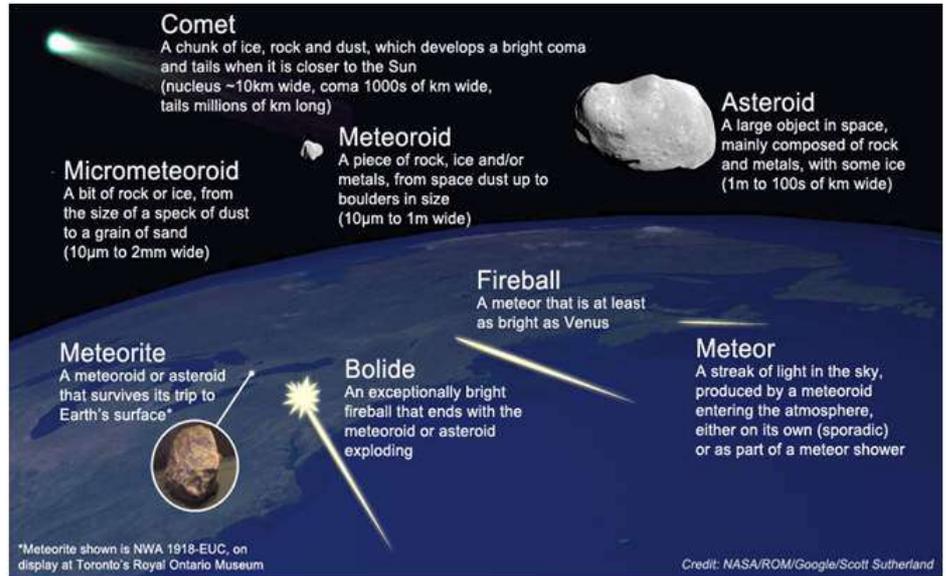
- A. 1 and 2
- B. 2 and 3
- C. 1 and 4

D. 3 and 4

Answer: C

Explanation

- The penumbra is a half-shadow that occurs when a light source is only partly covered by an object—for example, when the Moon obscures part of the Sun's disk. The other 2 areas are: Umbra - the shadow's dark center portion.



- Asteroid: A relatively small, inactive, rocky body orbiting the Sun.
- Comet: A relatively small, at times active, object whose ices can vaporize in sunlight forming an atmosphere (coma) of dust and gas and, sometimes, a tail of dust and/or gas.
- Meteoroid: A small particle from a comet or asteroid orbiting the Sun.
- Meteor: The light phenomena which results when a meteoroid enters the Earth's atmosphere and vaporizes; a shooting star.
- Meteorite: A meteoroid that survives its passage through the Earth's atmosphere and lands upon the Earth's surface.

18. Which of the following share a border with Uzbekistan?

1. Kyrgyzstan
 2. Aral Sea
 3. Caspian Sea
 4. Turkmenistan
 5. Tajikistan
 6. Russia
 7. Kazakhstan
- A. 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7
B. 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6
C. 1, 4, 5, 6 and 7

D. 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7

Answer: D

Explanation

- Recently the first virtual bilateral summit between Uzbekistan and India was held.
- The main emphasis was on closer connectivity, with Covid, culture and a personal declaration of intent to start more Ayurvedic practitioners.
- The summit was aimed to “further strengthen” strategic ties between the two countries.
- Nine MoUs have been signed including on solar energy, standardization of weights and measures as well as between police academics.
- India is also hoping to work out high impact community development projects in Uzbekistan.



19. Which of the following statements are correct about LOON, recently heard in news?

1. These are manufactured by Google.
2. These balloons reach up to 20 km above the Earth into the Mesosphere
3. The balloons are powered by solar panels and are controlled by software on the ground.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

What is Loon?

- Loons are high altitude balloons that provide internet to remote areas.
- It is the third layer of connectivity ecosystem to help places with minimum reach receive connectivity with the rest of the world.

- These balloons that reach the stratosphere and provide internet connections to regions that were once thought unservable.

Why in News?

- Loon's internet-beaming balloon has recently set a new flight duration record.
- It made the longest balloon flight in the Stratosphere for 312 days.
- Loon earlier held the record for the longest balloon flight in the Stratosphere which was for 223 days in 2018 – 2019.
- In May 2019, Loon's HBAL703 balloon took off from Puerto Rico (South America) and finally landed in Baja, Mexico, in March 2020 after taking one round of the planet. It also flew across the Pacific Ocean in its journey.
- These are manufactured by Alphabet, Google's parent company.
- These balloons reach up to 20 km above the Earth into the stratosphere
- They are the size of a mini aircraft when inflated
- The balloons are made from sheets of polyethylene and are the size of tennis courts.
- The balloons are powered by solar panels and are controlled by software on the ground
- The attachments include solar panels, antennas and various other electronics
- The balloons beam internet down to the earth to provide connectivity to remotest of areas
- It delivers 4G LTE and 5G connectivity to the areas it is assigned to and is capable of covering 200 times more areas than land cell towers.

20. Which of the following statements are correct about Chabahar Port?

1. It is located on the Gulf of Oman
 2. It is the only oceanic port of Iran.
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- The first trilateral Working Group meeting between India, Iran and Uzbekistan on the joint use of Chabahar port was held virtually, wherein participants held discussions on the use of the port for trade, transit and enhanced regional connectivity.
- All three sides also noted the significant role of the port to deliver humanitarian assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic.

- India proposed to hold "Chabahar Day" on the sidelines of the International Maritime Summit scheduled to be hosted by India in January 2021.
- In 2018, Iran and India had signed an agreement worth USD 85 million to develop the Chabahar Port in south-eastern Iran.
- The port is located in the Gulf of Oman, and provides an alternative route for trade between India and Afghanistan.
- The United States has provided a "narrow exemption" to India from sanctions on the Chabahar project in Iran as it plays a vital role in transporting India's humanitarian supplies to war-torn Afghanistan.



2. History & Culture

Click on the links given below to watch the following questions on YouTube

- [Video 1](#)
- [Video 2](#)
- [Video 3](#)
- [Video 4](#)

1. Which of the following statements regarding Constitution Of India are correct?

1. The basic structure of the Indian Constitution stands on the Government of India Act, 1935.
2. The preamble of the Indian Constitution has been amended thrice so far.
3. The Constitution was published in Dehradun and photo lithographed by the Survey of India.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Constitution of India has borrowed some of its features from 10 other countries, including Britain, Ireland, Japan, USA, South Africa, Germany, Australia, and Canada.
- The Constituent Assembly of India was established in 1946. It met for 166 days spread over 2 years, 11 months and 18 days.
- Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India, was elected as the President of the Constituent Assembly and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was the head of the drafting committee.
- The word “socialist” was added to the preamble of the Indian Constitution during emergency, by the 42nd amendment act of 1976.
- The original hand-written copies of the Constitution are preserved in helium-filled cases in the Library of Parliament House.
- The basic structure of the Indian Constitution stands on the Government of India Act, 1935.

Sources	Features Borrowed
1. Government of India Act of 1935	Federal Scheme, Office of governor, Judiciary, Public Service Commissions, Emergency provisions and administrative details.
2. British Constitution	Parliamentary government, Rule of Law, legislative procedure, single citizenship, cabinet system, prerogative writs, parliamentary privileges and bicameralism.
3. US Constitution	Fundamental rights, independence of judiciary, judicial review, impeachment of the president, removal of Supreme Court and high court judges and post of vice-president.
4. Irish Constitution	Directive Principles of State Policy, nomination of members to Rajya Sabha and method of election of president.
5. Canadian Constitution	Federation with a strong Centre, vesting of residuary powers in the Centre, appointment of state governors by the Centre, and advisory jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
6. Australian Constitution	Concurrent List, freedom of trade, commerce and intercourse, and joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament.
7. Weimar Constitution of Germany	Suspension of Fundamental Rights during Emergency.
Soviet Constitution	Fundamental duties and the ideal of justice (social,

- The preamble of the Indian Constitution has been amended only once so far on December 18 December 1976, during emergency.
- The original Constitution of India was handwritten by Prem Behari Narain Raizada in a flowing italic style with beautiful calligraphy.
- The Constitution was published in Dehradun and photo lithographed by the Survey of India.

2. Based on the following statements identify the personality?

1. He was a social reformer during the reign of the Kalachuri-dynasty king Bijjala I in Karnataka.
2. Some of the works credited to him are Shat-sthala-vachana, Kala-jnana-vachana, Mantra-gopya, Ghatachakra-vachana and Raja-yoga-vachana.
3. He is also known as Bhaktibhandari.
4. On 14 November 2015, the Prime Minister of India inaugurated his statue along the bank of the river Thames at Lambeth in London.

- A. Basavanna
- B. Thiruvalluvar
- C. Ayyankali
- D. Chinnaswami Subramanya Bharathi

Answer: A

Explanation

- Basavanna was a 12th century poet-philosopher who was the founding saint of the Lingayat sect
- A staunch follower of Shiva, Basava is believed to have born on the third day of Vaisakha month of the Anandanama (Samvatsara) in the year 1134 A.D.
- According to believers, the birth of the prophet Basavanna heralded a new era and people refer to the year as 'Basava Era' or 'Basaveshwar Era'
- He can be best described as a 12th-century philosopher, statesman, Kannada poet in the Shiva-focussed Bhakti movement and a social reformer during the reign of the Kalachuri-dynasty king Bijjala I in Karnataka.
- Some of the works credited to Basavanna include Vachana such as the Shat-sthala-vachana, Kala-jnana-vachana, Mantra-gopya, Ghatachakra-vachana and Raja-yoga-vachana.
- Basava advocated that every human being was equal, irrespective of caste and that all forms of manual labour were equally important.
- He advocated the wearing of Ishtalinga, a necklace with a pendant that contains a small Shiva Linga.
- On 14 November 2015, the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, inaugurated the statue of Basavanna along the bank of the river Thames at Lambeth in London.

- Furthermore, Basavanna is the first Kannadiga in whose honour a commemorative coin has been minted in recognition of his social reforms.
- He is also known as Bhaktibhandari (literally, the treasurer of devotion), or Basaveswara (Lord Basava).

3. Which of the pairs have been correctly matched?

1. Koya- Gujrat
2. Kurukh- Bihar
3. Sugalis – Andhra Pradesh
4. Lepcha- Sikkim

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- Koya are an Indian tribal group found in the states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. Koyas are commonly referred to as Koi, Koyalu, Koyollu, Koya Doralu, Doralu Sattam, etc.

4. The Gold coin “denarii” was first introduced in India by

- A. Kanishka
B. Balban
C. Bairam Khan
D. Iltutmish

Answer: A

Explanation

- Kanishka the Kushan introduced gold coins in India.
- Roman denarii were the first gold coins to appear in India, which had only seen copper and silver coins so far, though of course, gold jewellery had been around for ages.
- Soon the Indian rulers of the day copied the idea and gold coins were minted in India for the first time



- The Kushan empire extended from southern Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, through much of present-day Afghanistan and Pakistan, most of Northern India, including Kashmir, to Pataliputra, which is now known as Patna, the state capital of Bihar.
- The Kushan-period gold coins generally depicted iconography from Indian mythology, where Shiva, Buddha and Kartikeya were the major Indian deities portrayed.
- Other icons were drawn from Greek, Mesopotamian, and Zoroastrian mythologies, demonstrating the fusion of different religions of that period.
- Kanishka's coins from the beginning of his reign bear legends in the Greek language and script and depict Greek divinities.
- Later coins bear legends in Bactrian, the Iranian language that the Kushans spoke, and Greek divinities were replaced by the corresponding Iranian ones.

5. Thoda – A form of martial art is associated with which state?

- A. Jharkhand
- B. Kerala
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Himachal Pradesh

Answer: D

Explanation

- Thoda name is derived from the round wooden piece attached to the head of an arrow to minimise its lethal potential.
- It is a mixture of martial art, sport and culture.
- It takes place during Baisakhi every year.



- This martial art relies on a player's skill of archery and can be dated back at the time of Mahabharata where bows and arrows were used in the valleys of Kullu and Manali.
- In the game, there are 2 groups of 500 people each. All of them are not archers but dancers also who came with them to boost the morale of their respective teams.
- The two teams are called Pashis and Saathis, who believed to be the descendants of Pandavas and Kauravas of Mahabharata.

6. Based on the following statements identify the freedom fighter?

1. He was born in 1891, in Madhya Pradesh's Mhow.
2. He was the prime crusader in The Mahad Satyagraha of 1927.
3. Reserve Bank of India was conceptualised according to the guidelines presented by him to the Hilton Young Commission.
4. The Problem of the Rupee – Its Origin and Its Solution is one of the books written by him.
5. He changed the working hours from 12 hours to 8 hours as a part of labor reforms in 1942.

- A. Dhondo Keshav Karve
- B. Babasaheb Ambedkar
- C. Vinoba Bhave
- D. Ravishankar Shukla

Answer: B

Explanation

- He was the first Indian to pursue an Economics doctorate degree abroad, he is also the first Ph.D in Economics and the first double doctorate holder in Economics in South Asia.
- During his three years at Columbia University, Ambedkar took twenty nine courses in economics, eleven in history, six in sociology, five in philosophy, four in anthropology, three in politics and one each in elementary French and German.
- Reserve Bank of India was conceptualised according to the guidelines presented by Ambedkar to the Hilton Young Commission (also known as Royal Commission on Indian Currency and Finance) in his book, The Problem of the Rupee – Its Origin and Its Solution.
- The Mahadsatyagraha of 1927 was one of the defining moments in Ambedkar's political thought and action. Held in the small town of Mahad in Maharashtra, this satyagraha was held three years prior to Gandhi's Dandi march. While salt was at the centre of Gandhi's campaign, drinking water was at the core of Ambedkar's crusade.
- As the member for labour in the viceroy's council from 1942 to 1946, DrAmbedkar was instrumental in bringing about several labour reforms. He changed the working hours from 12 hours to 8 hours in the 7th session of Indian Labour Conference in New Delhi in November 1942.

- He also introduced several measures for workers like dearness allowance, leave benefit, employee insurance, medical leave, equal pay for equal work, minimum wages and periodic revision of scale of pay. He also strengthened trade unions and established employment exchanges across India.

7. Which of the following statements regarding Chardham Project are correct?

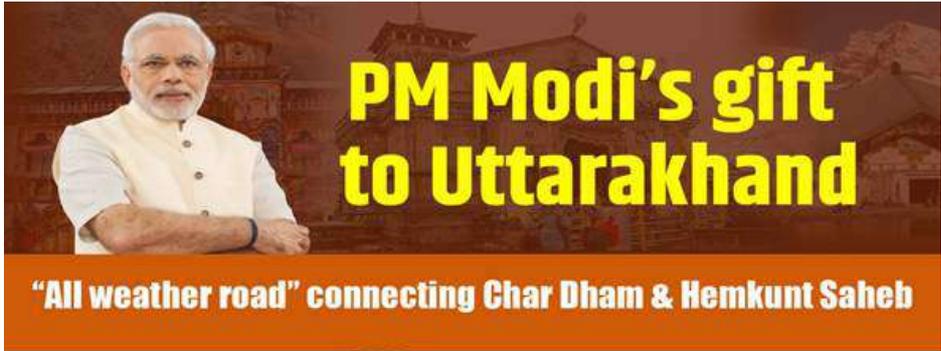
1. It is a Project under Ministry of culture.
2. BRO is building roads and tunnels in this project.
3. It is a programme taken up for connectivity improvement for Chardham (Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunotri and Gangotri) in Uttarakhand.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- Recently Environmentalists have alleged that the contractors deputed by the government to make roads as part of the Chardham project are violating the Supreme Court orders on the appropriate road width to be followed in mountainous terrain.
- It is a programme taken up by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for connectivity improvement for Chardham (Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunotri and Gangotri) in Uttarakhand.
- The cost of the project is around Rs. 12,000 Crore.
- It envisages improvement as well as development of 889 km length of national highways.
- Implementing Agencies are Uttarakhand State Public Works Department (PWD), BRO and the National Highway & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL)
- The work under the programme is being implemented on Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode.
 - ✓ Under the EPC mode, the project cost is completely borne by the government.
 - ✓ However, the contractor is directly responsible for ensuring quality of the work as well as rectification of defects and maintenance of the project stretch for a period of 4 years after completion of construction.
- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has completed construction of a 440 m long tunnel below the Chamba town on the Rishikesh-Dharasu road highway (National Highway - 94).



Project highlights:



Rs. 12,000 crore approved for the project

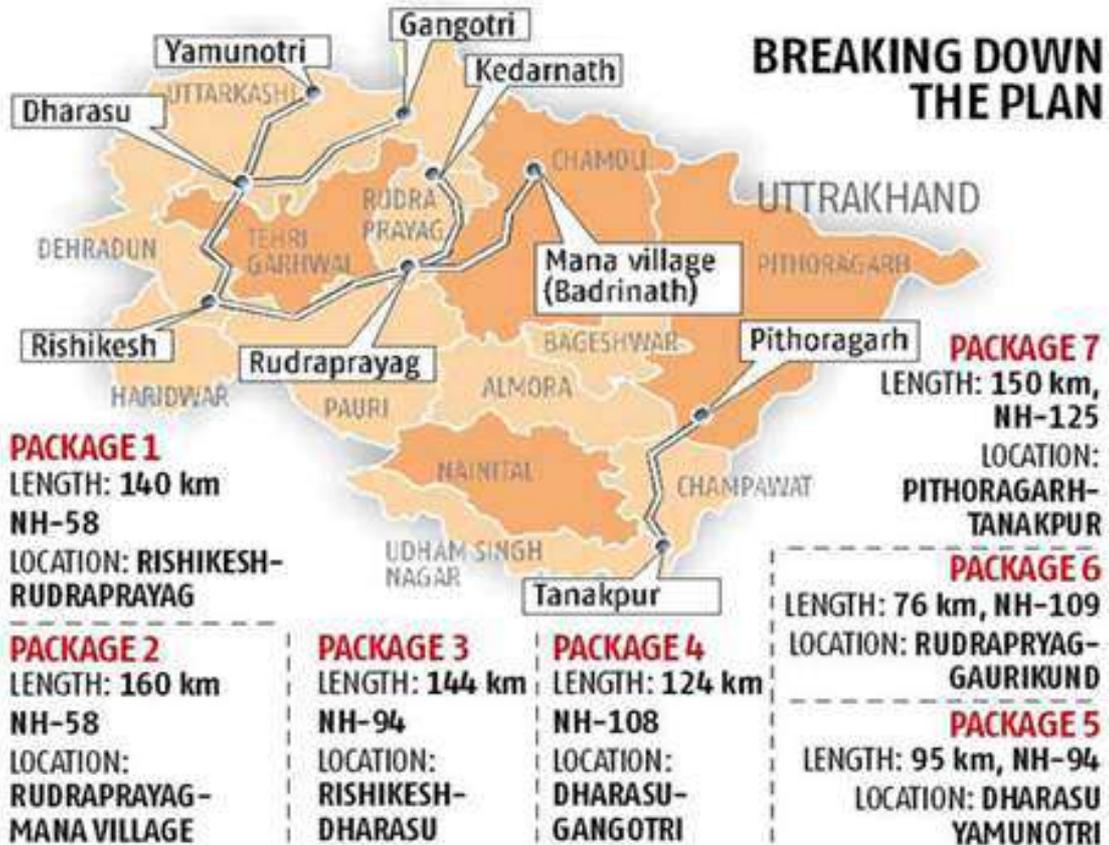
Road to be open during rain, flood & snowfall

Upgradation of 900 km highway connecting Char Dham

Project to be completed by 2020

Source : bit.ly/ConnectingCharDham

[f](#) [t](#) [v](#) [i](#) /BJP4India [+](#)BJP www.bjp.org



Source: Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways

8. **Nghah Lou Dawr** recently heard in news is associated with which of the following states?

- A. Mizoram
- B. Nagaland
- C. Sikkim
- D. Manipur

Answer: A

Explanation

- The culture is called 'Culture Of Mizoram' and it is a way of life in and around Selling.
- Locals set up shops with items for sale on display. While prices are mentioned there is complete trust as well.
- Passersby are trusted to pick up what they need and put the money in the box.
- If change is required, the buyers are encouraged to help themselves from the same container.
- The shops work on the principle of trust.
- The practice of trusting another teaches human beings generosity of spirit.

9. **Hindustan Dainik** - a newspaper in 1936 was started by

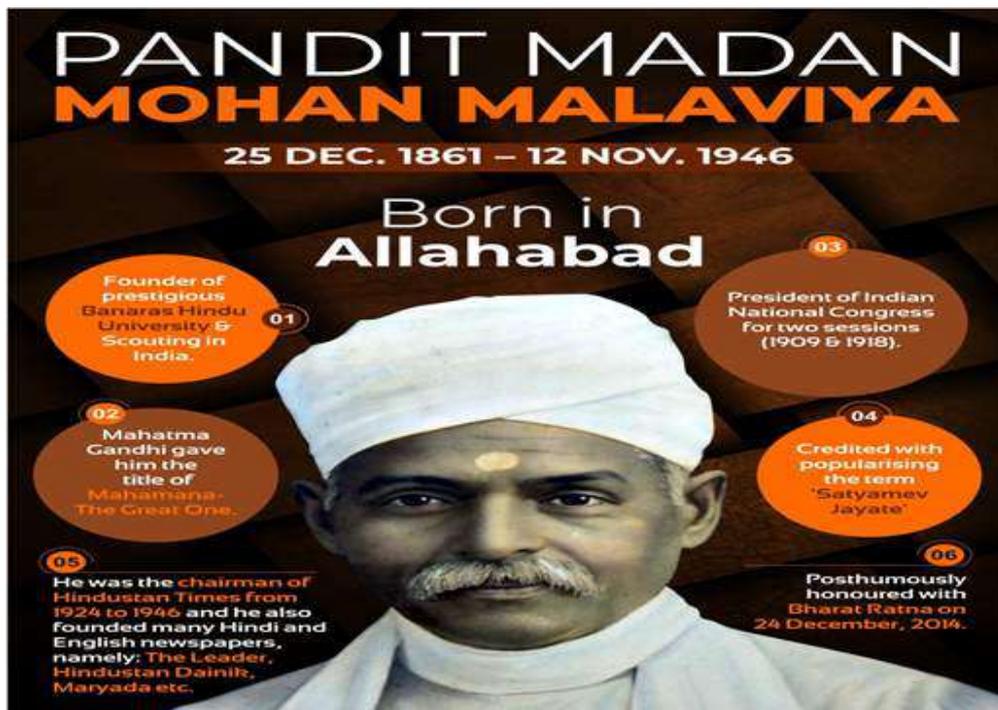
- A. Tarak Nath Das
- B. Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi
- C. M.M. Malviya
- D. B.G. Tilak

Answer: C

Explanation

- Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya passed away on this day, November 12, in the year 1946. He is known for his contribution in India's education system and his role in the Indian Independence movement.
- Hindustan Dainik or Hindustan Times today, was introduced by Madan Mohan Malaviya – who was awarded the Bharat Ratna, posthumously.
- Malaviya owned the paper during its critical initial years in the 1920s, and served as the chairman of HT from 1924 till his death in 1946.
- HT was originally the brainchild of the Akalis, who wanted an English language paper to communicate with others in the freedom movement and expand their reach.
- It was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi on September 26, 1924.
- Akalis had asked Krishan Das Kohli, who had participated in the Non-Cooperation Movement, to help set up the paper.

- The entire investment came to about ` 25,000. The money came from Sikhs in Canada.
- But as an essay by Prem Shankar Jha in ‘History in the Making: 75 Years of Hindustan Times’ points out, “Setting up a paper was one thing and running it, quite another... Within six months the paper was facing a financial crisis.”
- Both Motilal Nehru and Malaviya were keen to purchase the paper, but the Akalis preferred to sell it to Malaviya for `20,000.
- In 1925, he borrowed `40,000 from the Punjab National Bank through his friend, Lala Lajpat Rai, who was its chairman.
- Malaviya gave the Akalis half the amount to buy the paper, and the remaining to Kohli to run the paper.



10. Which of the following statements are correct about Delhi pact?

1. It reiterated the goal of 'Poorna Swaraj'.
 2. It was endorsed by the Congress in its Karachi Session on 29th March, 1931
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Explanation

- The British Government started to convince Congress to participate in the Second Round Table Conference in 1931.

- Therefore, the Government released all Congress leaders from prison on 25th January, 1931.
- Finally, Gandhiji was convinced to negotiate with the Viceroy Lord Irwin.
- So Gandhiji and Lord Irwin met on 19th February, 1931 and after discussion for fifteen days, they signed an agreement on 5th March, 1931 known as “Gandhi-Irwin Pact.”
- This pact included the following matters:
 - ✓ All political prisoners not convicted for violence, to be immediately released.
 - ✓ Return of confiscated lands not yet sold to Third Parties by the Government and remission of all fines not yet collected.
 - ✓ The Government employees who had resigned, to be treated leniently.
 - ✓ Confederation of right to make salt for consumption to villages along the Sea coast.
 - ✓ Right to peaceful and non-aggressive picketing.
- All these demands of Congress were accepted by the Government. But two demands were refused to accept:
 - ✓ A demand for a public inquiry into police excesses.
 - ✓ Commutation of death sentences of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru. On the other hand, Congress on its part agreed to:
 - ✓ Participate in the Second Round Table Conference,
 - ✓ Discontinue the Civil Disobedience Movement.
- This ‘Gandhi-Irwin Pact, also known as the ‘Delhi Pact’, was endorsed by the Congress in its Karachi Session on 29th March, 1931.
- It also reiterated the goal of ‘Poorna Swaraj’.

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

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

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- Modern Bundelkhand was known as Jejakabhukti during 10th and 11th century and was ruled by Chandellas.
- These Rajput emperors were fond of art and culture and the temples of Khajurao (Madhya Pradesh) were built during this time.
- Chandellas had maternal relations with Kalachuris.
- Kalinjar, Mahotsavanagar and Khajurao were the important cities of this dynasty.
- Harshadeva was the founder of the dynasty. He helped Mahipala of Kannauj in ruling his kingdom.
- He laid the foundation of Khajurao temples. 64 Yogini temples were constructed by Harshadeva.
- Yashovarman, son of Harshadeva took over the charge as warrior and made an independent state for Chandellas.
- However, the Chandellas gained full independence in the time of Dhanga, son and successor of Yashovarman.
- Dhanga made political alliances with other Hindu Rajas and helped them. Thus becoming stronger himself by building strong army.
- The famous temples of Parasvanath and Vishwavanath were built during this time.
- Ganda the son of Dhanga followed the path of his father. He also joined the group of Hindu Rajas to fight against Muhammad Ghazni.
- Vidyadhara, son of Ganda was the greatest ruler of Chandellas. He conquered Rajyapala in 1019. Kandariya Mahadev temple was built in this time.
- Kirtivarman the successor of Vidyadhara was a patron of the famous poet Krishna Mishra.
- He met with a Muslim invasion, yet somehow managed to escape from it.
- During the attack of Muhammad Ghazni, he could not defend himself and the dynasty almost came to an end.
- Paradidev (Parmadi) was the last king who fought with the Prithviraj Chauhan.
- The battle was battle of Mahoba in which Alha and Udal two warriors of the army sang the song of Bundelkhand.
- The story is written in Parmal Raso.

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

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

Answer: B

Explanation

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

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

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- Raut Nacha is a dance performed by Yadavas, a caste which considers themselves to be descendants of Krishna.
- For them it is as a symbol of worship to Krishna. They perform the dance at the time of 'dev udhni ekadashi'.
- This essentially "Lord Krishna dedicated" dance form, has originated from the state of Chhattisgarh. This dance is also said to closely resemble the "Ras Leela" which is considered to be the most popular Lord Krishna dance.
- This dance is performed usually after Diwali for about a week. In addition, it has been essentially created to celebrate the triumph of "good over evil".

- According to popular folklore, this dance was created to celebrate the victory of Lord Krishna and the Yadava clan over the evil king Kansa (who was also the uncle of Krishna).
- Initially this dance form was performed only by the Yadava/Raut clan but, due to the gradual increase in its popularity within the state of Chhattishgarh, this dance form is now performed by all communities.
- The costume used in this dance form is basically extremely “colourful”, and include bells tied around the waist of the dancers.
- In addition, sticks and metal shields also form an essential component of this tribal dance since it is basically a “victory dance”.
- The essence of the music involved in this dance form lies in the “dohes” mainly written by saints Tulsidas and Kabir which are recited by a singer during a performance.
- This dance form is performed in groups, with the dancers essentially enacting the battle between Lord Krishna and the evil king Kansa, via the use of sticks and metal shields.
- This is essentially a “tribal” dance form which is generally passed on from one generation to another.

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

1. Madras Courier - Richard Johnson
2. The Bengal Gazette- JK Hickey
3. Paridasak- Bipin Chandra Pal
4. Sambad Parvakar - Raobahadur Narayan Dinanath Velkar
5. Mirat-ul-Akhbar – Raja Ram Mohun Roy
6. Som Prakash - VN Mandalik

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- Sambad Parvakar
 - ✓ Founded: 1832
 - ✓ Founder: Ishwar Chandra Gupta
 - ✓ Language: Bengali
- Som Prakash
 - ✓ Founded: 1858

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

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

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Medicine Buddha is depicted in paintings having blue skin, but whether shown in statue or painted form, the right hand is held facing downward with fingers extended toward the ground, palm facing outward toward the viewer, a bowl of herbs rests in the left hand upon the lap.
- It is believed by the Tibetans that the Buddha was responsible for delivering the knowledge of medicine to the people of the world, and in fact the right hand facing outward signifies "granting a boon" (meaning, giving a blessing) to mankind.
- This is a common hand gesture amongst both Buddhist and Hindu statues.
- The Medicine Buddha is venerated by those seeking health and is more commonly found in the Buddhist temples and communities of Nepal and Tibet.



16. Which of the following statements are correctly matched?

1. Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh – Dr. Hedgewar
 2. Gyan Prasarak Mandali - Dadabai Nuroji
 3. Poona Sarvajanik Sabha – Mahatma Gandhi
 4. Women Indian Association - Sadashiva Iyengar
 5. Bhoodan - Acharya Vinoba Bhave
- A. 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- The Women's Indian Association (WIA) was founded at Adayar, Madras, in 1917 by Annie Besant, Margaret Cousins, Jeena Raja Dasa.
- It was to liberate women from the deplorable condition they suffered in socio-economic and political matters during the 19th and the early 20th century.

17. Based on the following statements identify the freedom fighter?

1. He became a member of the Hindustan Republican Association at a very young age.
2. He is known for having a confidential connection with Lala Har Dayal through his guru Swami Somdev, a preacher of Arya Samaj.
3. He published a pamphlet named 'A Message to My Countrymen'.
4. He participated in the Mainpuri Conspiracy of 1918.

- A. Ashfaqullah Khan
- B. Rajendra Nath Lahiri
- C. Sachindra Nath Sanyal
- D. Ram Prasad Bismil

Answer: D

Explanation

- Bismil, the Indian revolutionary who participated in the Mainpuri Conspiracy of 1918, and the Kakori Conspiracy of 1925, both against British Empire is remembered even today for his contribution to the Indian independence movement.
- It was through this revolutionary organisation that he came to know other freedom fighters like Chandrashekhar Azad, Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, Ashfaqulla Khan, Rajguru, Govind Prasad, Premkishan Khanna, Bhagawati Charan, Thakur Roshan Singh and Rai Ram Narain
- Bismil is known for having a confidential connection with Lala Har Dayal through his guru Swami Somdev, a preacher of Arya Samaj.
- The Kakori Conspiracy of August 9, 1925, as the incident popularly came to be known as, was the mastermind of Ram Prasad Bismil and his colleague Ashfaqullah Khan
- Bismil wrote a number of Hindi poems-- most of them patriotic
- The poem 'Sarfarooshi Ki Tamanna' is the most well-known poem attributed to Ram Prasad Bismil

- The practice of Brahmacharya inspired him a lot and he became an ardent follower of it.
- He got himself engaged in the volunteering of Shahjahanpur Seva Samithi.
- In order to get people's attention, he published a pamphlet named 'A Message to My Countrymen'.

18. Which of the following is not a Classical dance of India?

- A. Bharatanatyam
- B. Manipur
- C. Kudiyattam
- D. Sattriya

Answer: C

Explanation

Classical dances	State of Origin
Bharatnatyam	Tamil Nadu
Kathak	Uttar Pradesh
Kuchipudi	Andhra Pradesh
Odissi	Odisha
Kathakali	Kerala
Sattriya	Assam
Manipuri	Manipur
Mohiniyattam	Kerala



- Koodiyattam is a traditional performing art form in the state of Kerala.
- It is a combination of ancient Sanskrit theatre with elements of Koothu, an ancient performing art from the Sangam era.
- It is officially recognised by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

19. Inbuan is a Martial art associated with which of the following states?

- A. Sikkim
- B. Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Nagaland
- D. Mizoram

Answer: D

Explanation

- Inbuan is a form of wrestling native to the people of Mizoram
- Inbuan is said to have originated in the village of Dungle in 1750.
- It was recognized as a sport after the Mizo people migrated from Burma to the Lushai Hills.
- From 1871 to 1940, boys would gather after evening meal in village dormitory and played Inbuan almost every night.
- It was also played ceremonially between villages when a sick or dead person's body is carried from one village to another, which was called Hlanginchuh or Mizawninchuh.

Characteristics

- Inbuan involves very strict rules prohibiting kicking, stepping out of the circle and even bending of the knees.
- The contest is held in a circle 15–16 feet in diameter on carpet or grass.
- The objective is to lift one's opponent off his feet while strictly adhering to the rules.
- The matches are held in three rounds each of 30–60 seconds of duration, the match generally continues till a wrestler either breaks a rule or is lifted off his feet.
- Another feature of this form of wrestling is the catch-hold belt worn by the wrestlers around the waist.
- It has to remain tight all through the match.

20. Which of the following are correct about Jainism?

1. Jain doctrine holds that there is no creator god or a god as judge
2. Enlightenment in Jainism is actually particulate matter that attach to the soul.
3. In a swastika the four quadrants/dots represent the four gatis or states of existence.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- Jains believe that all living beings, from plants to animals to bacteria, have souls, and that, theoretically, all souls have the potential to attain nirvana
- Jain doctrine holds that Jainism has always existed and always will exist.
- There is no creator god or a god as judge, and Jains do not "worship" any particular being but admire and aspire to be like the liberated souls that have attained nirvana.

- Karma is the cause of suffering in the world, but it is not a form of judgment or punishment, simply the natural consequence of our thoughts, words, and actions, negative or positive.
- Jainism maintains that there are multiple universes. We live in Bharat Kshetra, which is one of the three universes that has the potential for religion. It is possible for us to be reborn in any of the universes.
- In Jainism, the swastika has a different meaning than it does in the other Indian religions. The four quadrants/dots represent the four gatis or states of existence (humans, heavenly beings, plants/animals/etc., and hellish beings). Souls can pass through any or all of the four gatis throughout the cycle of birth and death, and all are merely temporary states of being.
- This symbol of organized Jainism also represents the Jain conception of the universe. From top to bottom, there is moksha (the realm of liberated souls), devaloka (the realm of heavenly beings), the mid-level where Earth exists, and naraki (the realm of hellish beings). Apart from moksha, one's soul can expect to pass through any or all of these realms.
- Jains have a number of dietary restrictions which most Jains follow to whatever extent they desire. Aside from following strict vegetarianism, many Jains do not consume root vegetables, eggs, honey, mushrooms, unfiltered water, or mind-altering substances (drugs, alcohol)
- A small number of Jains in India voluntarily fast to the death, a practice known as santhara, which is the strongest example of Jain extremism.
- These individuals give up their own physical existence to avoid causing suffering to other beings (plants). This practice is not illegal in India but there's quite a bit of controversy around it
- In Jainism, each atman is said to be indescribably perfect and, when not obstructed by karma, existing in a state of perfect bliss and knowledge.
- Since all atman are identical, it follows that even though different living organisms are bound in different ways by karma, one must treat all living beings with kindness and respect. (Or at least, avoid harming them.)
- The way to reach moksha in Jainism requires not only ridding oneself of bad karma (paap) but also removing all good karma (punya).
- One of the main influences on Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of satyagraha was Shrimad Rajchandra, a Jain man who penned one of the most important recent Jain religious texts, Atmasiddhi.

3. Polity & Governance

Click on the links given below to watch the following questions on YouTube

- [Video 1](#)
- [Video 2](#)
- [Video 3](#)
- [Video 4](#)

1. Abhyam app, recently heard in news, is related to

- A. MSME sector
- B. Women safety
- C. Drug dead diction helpline
- D. Child trafficking

Answer: B

Explanation

- Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh recently launched “Abhayam” mobile phone application which helps women and children travelling in taxis and auto rickshaws to raise an alarm in case of any emergency.
- To start with, 1,000 auto rickshaws equipped with Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled GPS devices would be rolled out in Visakhapatnam city.
- About 5,000 vehicles would be brought on to the platform by February 1, 50,000 by July 1 and 1 lakh by November 2021 covering Vijayawada and Tirupati and other towns later.
- Launching the app the government accorded top priority to the safety of women and children and that Andhra Pradesh was the first State to bring out legislation (Disha Bill) for the security of women.
- Disha police stations were set up and steps were taken for establishing special courts and posting dedicated public prosecutors to ensure speedy disposal of cases of attack on women.
- Women police constables were being attached to every village and ward secretariat to help women in distress.

Alert to police

- To be operated by the Transport Department, the Abhayam app would help the women in alerting the police by pressing a panic button in the event of their landing in any trouble.
- Disha app is handled by the police
- The policemen would be able to reach out to the women in need in 10 minutes by virtue of the vehicle tracking facility provided by the IoT-based system.
- Passengers have to scan QR codes displayed on the vehicles to facilitate tracking.

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2. Which of the following statements about Poshan Abhiyan are correct?

1. Launched in 2018, it is the Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
 2. It is backed by a National Nutrition Strategy prepared by the NITI Aayog.
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

National Nutrition Mission

- It was Launched in 2018, it is the Government of India's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- It is backed by a National Nutrition Strategy prepared by the NITI Aayog with the goal of attaining "Kuposhan Mukt Bharat" or malnutrition-free India, by 2022.
- Recently, the NITI Aayog has released "Accelerating Progress On Nutrition In India: What Will It Take", the third progress report on the National Nutrition Mission or the Poshan Abhiyaan.

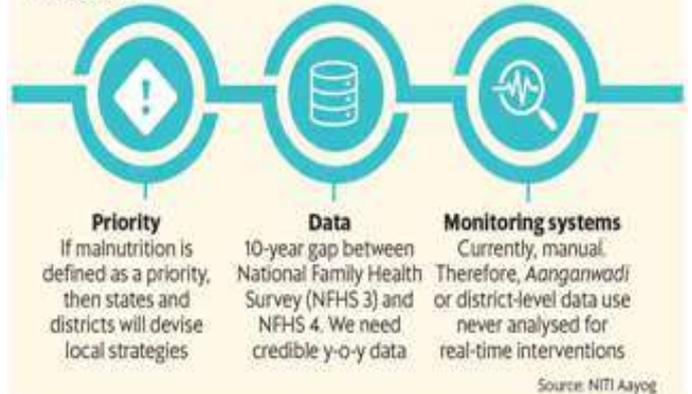
Lack of nutrition

According to NFHS-4 (2015-16), 38.4% of children under five years were stunted (low height-for-age) and 21% of them were wasted (low weight-for-height) in India

ALL FIGURES IN %

Indicator	NFHS-4 (2015-16)	NFHS-3 (2005-06)
Children under 5 years who are stunted (height-for-age)	38.4	48
Children under 5 years who are wasted (weight-for-height)	21	19.8
Children under 5 years who are severely wasted	7.5	6.4
Children under 5 years who are underweight (weight-for-age)	35.8	42.5

The gaps



Current status

- One** in every 2 women is anaemic
- One** in every 3 children is stunted
- One** in every 3 children is malnourished
- One** in every 5 children is wasted
- 37** of 1,000 babies do not live till the age of one year
- 167** maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births

Nutrition in India: Ground realities

The current nutrition level is the biggest development challenge.

- IT** has implications for current as well future generations
- IMPROVEMENT** seen in last decades, but still below acceptable standards
- MANY** well-funded programmes running. Hence, funding is not a critical problem

MINT GRAPHITI

National health: The big picture

National Nutrition Mission, or POSHAN Abhiyaan aims to reduce the level of stunting, under-nutrition, anaemia and low birth weight babies in India. The programme is running in convergence with various other government programmes and ministries.

Monitorable outcomes of National Nutrition Mission



3. Sahkar Pragma scheme has been recently launched by

- A. Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
- B. Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- C. Ministry of Labour and Employment
- D. Indian Ministry of Human Resource Development

Answer:

Explanation

- The Sahakar Pragma initiative is launched by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- As part of the initiative, 18 regional training centres and 45 training modules for primary cooperatives were launched.
- The NCDC will run these training centres across the country, along with the Laxmanrao Inamdar National Academy for Cooperative Research and Development (LINAC).
- The training modules aim to impart knowledge and organisational skills and attempt to prepare the primary cooperative societies across the country to be able to play a big role in the government's AtmaNirbhar Bharat initiative.

- Sahakar Pragya is part of a series of initiatives taken up by NCDC to strengthen India's cooperative societies.
- Earlier, the central body had launched the Sahakar Cooptube NCDC Channel with an aim to involve youngsters in the cooperative movement.

4. Which of the following statements regarding speaker of the Lok Sabha are correct?

- 1. Speaker's salary is charged on the consolidated Fund of India and the same is subject to vote of Parliament.**
 - 2. He is elected from all other members by a special majority.**
 - 3. The Speaker decides whether a bill brought to the house is a money bill or not.**
 - 4. The Speaker of Lok Sabha does not leave the office just after dissolution of the assembly.**
- A. 1, 2 and 3 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 3 and 4 only
D. 1, 3 and 4 only

Answer: C

Explanation

- The chairman or the Presiding Officer of Lok Sabha is called Speaker.
- Elected from all other members by simple majority.
- Speaker of Lok Sabha is basically the head of the house and presides over the sittings of Parliament and controls its working.
- The constitution has tried to ensure the independence of Speaker by charging his salary on the consolidated Fund of India and the same is not subject to vote of Parliament.
- While debating or during general discussion on a bill, the members of the parliament have to address only to the Speaker.
- Whenever there is a joint sitting of both houses of Parliament (Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha) the Speaker of the Lok Sabha presides over this meeting.
- The Speaker of Lok Sabha comes at sixth position in the Order of Precedence of Government of India.
- In the normal circumstances the Speaker does not casts his vote over any matter in Lok Sabha. But whenever there is a tie on votes between the ruling party and opposition, the Speaker at that time can exercise his vote.
- It is the Speaker who decides the agenda of various discussions.
- The speaker has the power to adjourn or suspend the house/meetings if the quorum is not met.
- The Speaker ensures the discipline and decorum of the house. If the speaker finds the behaviour and a Member of Parliament is not good, he/she can punish the unruly members by suspending.

- The Speaker decides whether a bill brought to the house is a money bill or not. In the case Speaker decides some bill as a money bill, this decision cannot be challenged.
- Speaker is the final and sole authority to allow different types of motions and resolutions such as No Confidence Motion, Motion of Adjournment, and Censure Motion etc.
- The Speaker of Lok Sabha does not leave the office just after dissolution of the assembly. He continues to be in the office till the newly formed assembly takes its first meeting and elects the new Speaker.

5. Which of the following statements regarding Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme is correct?

1. The scheme comes under the Ministry of Rural Development
2. It seeks to provide a mechanism for the Members of Parliament to recommend works of developmental nature for creation of durable community assets and for provision of basic facilities including community infrastructure, based on locally felt needs.
3. The annual MPLADS fund entitlement per MP constituency is Rs. 5 crore.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Bombay high court recently said the Union government was within its powers to suspend the MPLAD scheme and divert such funds to combat Covid-19.
- The HC, said, "This (Covid-19) is a disaster so the so the government will have to resort to Disaster Management Act. It is within its powers to invoke the Act
- The MPLAD scheme was formulated in 1993 to enable Members of Parliament (MPs) to recommend development works in their constituencies with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets based on the locally felt need.
- Durable assets of national priorities and community need viz. drinking water, primary education, public health, sanitation and roads, etc.
- Initially, the Scheme was under the control of the Ministry of Rural Development and Planning.
- In October, 1994, the scheme was transferred to the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.
- Under this scheme, every MP is entitled to spend Rs 5 crore annually.
- Similar to MPLADS, several states have enacted schemes called Member of Legislative Assembly Local Area Development Scheme (MLALADS) where funds are given to MLAs.

- According to the 'Guidelines on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)' published by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation in June 2016, the MPLAD funds can also be used for implementation of the schemes such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan), conservation of water through rain water harvesting and Sansad Aadarsh Gram Yojana, etc.

6. If someone is not wearing masks in public in the present Covid-19 scenario, they are violating

- A. Article 21
- B. Article 14
- C. Article 32
- D. Article 15

Answer: A

Explanation

- Context: The Supreme Court stayed the December 2 order passed by Gujarat high court mandating social service duty at Covid care centres for those found not wearing masks in public.
- SC held that the state must vigorously enforce the standard operating procedure (SOP) released by the Centre for mandatory wearing of masks and keeping social distancing to contain the spread of Covid 19 disease.
- People not wearing masks in public are violating the fundamental right (right to life and health) of other citizens.
- Solicitor general for Gujarat had opposed the high court order, calling it well-intentioned but claiming that the consequences of its implementation will be bad.
- Those violating mandatory wearing of masks are being fined Rs 1000 by the State Police.
- SC agreed to stay the interim direction of Gujarat HC on the appeal filed by the State stating that such a direction will cause more harm to people by exposing them to the risk of catching infection. However, it noted that wearing of masks is mandatory and state authorities shall take every action to punish violators, including levy of fine.

7. Gursimran Singh Narula vs Union of India recently heard in news is related to which of the following?

- A. Covid- 19
- B. Mining Leases
- C. Passive Euthanasia
- D. Section 377

Answer: A

Explanation

- Gursimran Singh Narula filed a petition in SC questioning the efficacy of disinfection tunnels, spraying of disinfectants and fogging as means to prevent coronavirus infection.
- Spraying of disinfectants on humans causes both physical and psychological harm, the Union Ministry of Health informed the Supreme Court.
- The Ministry said it had “nowhere issued any advisory/guidelines/SOPs for usage, installation, production, advertisement of disinfection tunnels to spray/fumigate chemical or organic disinfectants in workspace, public spaces, etc”.
- The government said spraying of chemical or organic disinfectants both indoors and outdoors hardly had any effect on the coronavirus.
- Spraying affected the skin and the respiratory tract.
- Disinfectants were deactivated the moment they touched dirt or debris.
- Streets and sidewalks were porous and the spray cannot reach everywhere.

8. Consider the following statements with respect to Atal Bhujal Yojana (AJY).

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Rural Development.
2. The project will be 100% funded by the World Bank.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) is a Central Sector Scheme to improve ground water management through community participation. The scheme has a total outlay of Rs.6000 crore and is to be implemented over a period of 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-25).
- Out of the total outlay of Rs. 6000 crore, 50% shall be in the form of World Bank loan, and be repaid by the Central Government. The remaining 50% shall be through Central Assistance from regular budgetary support. The entire World Bank's loan component and Central Assistance shall be passed on to the States as Grants.
- The scheme envisages undertaking this through various interventions, including awareness programmes, capacity building, convergence of ongoing/new schemes and improved agricultural practices etc.

- The scheme aims to improve ground water management through community participation in identified priority areas in seven States, viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- ATAL JAL has two major components:
 - ✓ Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building Component
 - ✓ Incentive Component

9. Which of the following are OIC - Organization of the Islamic Cooperation member countries?

1. Brunei
2. Maldives
3. Syria
4. Yemen
5. Somalia
6. UAE

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- Context: India strongly hit out at the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for making factually incorrect and unwarranted references to Jammu and Kashmir in resolutions adopted by the grouping at a meeting in Niger, and asserted that the union territory is an integral and inalienable part of the country.
- Organization of the Islamic Cooperation, is an Islamic organization established in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in May 1971, following summits by Muslim heads of state and government in 1969 and by Muslim foreign ministers in 1970.
- The membership includes Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, the Palestinian Authority (PA), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Syria (suspended), Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.
- The conference aims at promoting Islamic solidarity by coordinating social, economic, scientific, and cultural activities.
- Under the banner of strengthening the struggle of Muslims, the conference pledges to eliminate racial segregation and discrimination, especially in regard to the Palestinians.

- Projects include the International Islamic News Agency, the Islamic Development Bank, the Islamic Solidarity Fund, and the World Centre for Islamic Education.
- Egypt was suspended in 1979 after it signed the agreement known as the Camp David Accords with Israel; in 1984 it accepted an offer to rejoin the organization.
- Syria was suspended in 2012 as its crackdown on Arab Spring protesters evolved into civil war.



10. World Malaria Report 2020 was recently released by

- A. Lutheran World Relief
- B. GAVI – Global Vaccine Alliance
- C. WHO – World Health Organisation
- D. African Leaders Malaria Alliance

Answer: C

Explanation

- Recently, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has released the World Malaria Report (WMR) 2020.
- The report provides a comprehensive update on global and regional malaria data and trends including prevention, diagnosis, treatment, elimination and surveillance.
- It indicates that India has made considerable progress in reducing its malaria burden.
- Malaria cases globally numbered about 229 million, an annual estimate that has remained virtually unchanged over the last four years.
- In 2019, it claimed about 4,09,000 lives, compared to 4,11,000 in 2018.
- The report noted that the 11 highest-burden countries viz. Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, India, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Tanzania, account for 70% of the global estimated case burden and 71% of global estimated deaths from malaria.
- Countries in South-East Asia made particularly strong progress, with reductions in cases and deaths of 73% and 74%, respectively.
- India is the only high endemic country which has reported a decline of 17.6% in 2019 as compared to 2018.
- The Annual Parasite Incidence (API, the number of new infections per year per 1000 population) reduced by 18.4% in 2019 as compared to 2018.
- India has sustained API less than one since the year 2012

- India has also contributed to the largest drop in cases region-wide, from approximately 20 million to about 6 million.
- The percentage drop in the malaria cases was 71.8% and deaths were 73.9% between 2000 to 2019.
- India achieved a reduction of 83.34% in malaria morbidity and 92% in malaria mortality between the year 2000 and 2019, thereby achieving Goal 6 of the Millennium Development Goals.
- States of Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya and Madhya Pradesh (high endemic states) disproportionately accounted for nearly 45.47% of malaria cases in 2019.
- 63.64% of malaria deaths were also reported from these states.

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

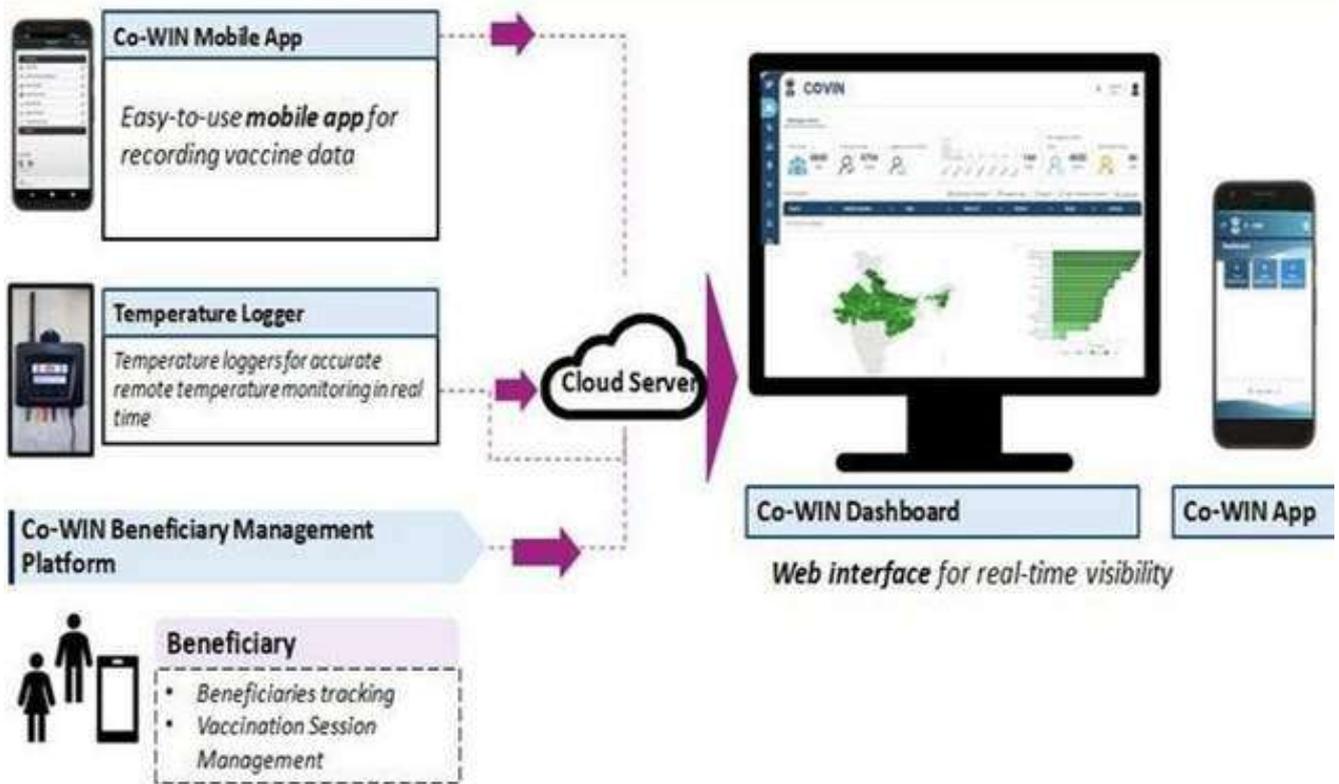
- A. Ministry of AYUSH
- B. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- C. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- D. Ministry of Defence

Answer: B

Explanation

- Union Health Ministry has developed a digital platform 'Co-WIN' for real-time monitoring of COVID-19 vaccine.
- It will enable people to get themselves registered for vaccination.
- The platform includes a free downloadable mobile application which can help record vaccine data.
- One can register themselves on it if they want the vaccine
- There are five modules in Co-WIN platform, these are administrator module, registration module, vaccination module, beneficiary acknowledgement module and report module.
- The administrator module is for the administrators who will be conducting these vaccination sessions.
- Through these modules, they can create sessions and the respective vaccinators and managers will be notified.
- Registration module is for people to get registered themselves for vaccination.
- It will upload bulk data on co-morbidity provided by local authorities or by surveyors.
- Vaccination module will verify beneficiary details and update vaccination status while the beneficiary acknowledgement module will send SMS to beneficiaries and also generate QR(matrix barcode)-based certificates after one gets vaccinated.
- Report module will prepare reports of how many vaccine sessions have been conducted, how many people have attended those, and on how many people have dropped out.
- The mobile application will also send real-time data of temperature of the cold-storage facilities to the main server.

Co-WIN: Digital Platform for COVID 19 Vaccination Delivery



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

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

Answer: A

Explanation

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

- It remained the longest bridge in the Indian subcontinent till it was overtaken by the Upper Sone Bridge in 1900.
- Recently the three-lane Koilwar bridge on the Sone river in Bihar was inaugurated.
- The new bridge will replace the 138-year-old rail-cum-road bridge
- The new bridge will be known as 'Vashishtha Narayan Singh Bridge'. With this, the old Abdul Bari Bridge will now be used only for rail traffic.
- However, the Railways has already raised concerns over excessive load on the old bridge. It has written to the Bihar government as well as the Union surface transport ministry to search for an alternative.

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

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

Answer: D

Explanation

Partners in Population and Development

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

- The Objective is to Advocate and ensure political support and investment to address the effects of Covid-19 pandemic in the achievement of the Three Zeros by 2030, finalised under the Nairobi Summit 2019.

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

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- NCLAT was constituted under Companies Act, 2013.
- It hears appeals against the orders of:
 - ✓ NCLT under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).
 - ✓ Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.
 - ✓ The Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- The President of the Tribunal and the chairperson and Judicial Members of the Appellate Tribunal shall be appointed after consultation with the Chief Justice of India.
- The Members of the Tribunal and the Technical Members shall be appointed on the recommendation of a Selection Committee consisting of:
 - ✓ Chief Justice of India or his nominee—Chairperson.
 - ✓ A senior Judge of the Supreme Court or a Chief Justice of High Court— Member.
 - ✓ Secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs—Member.
 - ✓ Secretary in the Ministry of Law and Justice—Member.
 - ✓ Secretary in the Department of Financial Services in the Ministry of Finance— Member.
- Eligibility:
 - ✓ Chairperson – Should be/been judge of the Supreme Court or should be/been Chief Justice of the High Court.

- ✓ Judicial Member – Is/has been a judge of a High Court or is a judicial member of a tribunal for 5 years or more.
- ✓ Technical member– Person with proven ability, integrity and standing having special knowledge and experience of 25 years or more (in specified areas).
- Term:
 - ✓ Term of office of chairperson and members is 5 years and they can be reappointed for additional 5 years.

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

1. U. S. COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (USCIRF) is an independent U.S. federal government commission created by the 1998 International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA) that monitors the universal right to freedom of religion or belief abroad.
 2. The US State Department has placed Pakistan and China among countries that are of particular concern (CPC) for violation of religious freedom.
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: D

Explanation

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

- USCIRF uses international standards to monitor religious freedom violations globally, and makes policy recommendations to the President, the Secretary of State, and Congress.
- The Office of International Religious Freedom (IRF) – also established under IRFA—is part of the U.S. State Department.
- Both USCIRF and the State Department release annual reports on international religious freedom, but each has different purposes.
- The State Department’s report documents religious freedom violations in every country in the world.
- USCIRF’s Annual Report, by statute, recommends countries to be designated as “countries of particular concern” which the Executive Branch must consider.
- Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that “everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest this religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.”

16. Maha Sharad, recently heard in news, is

- A. A moonlight festival organized by Ministry of Culture
- B. A new weather classification group launched by IMD
- C. A Divyang Portal
- D. A self-defense program by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Answer: C

Explanation

- Maharashtra Govt. launched Maha Sharad Portal for Donors / Divyang Registration.
- Maha Sharad means the Maharashtra System for Health and Rehabilitation Assistance of Divyang Portal, on which the Divyang and the donors are warmly welcomed.
- This portal is run on a completely transparent basis and for free.
- This portal works to bring the handicapped, non-governmental organizations, social workers and donors under one roof.
- People with disabilities, especially those mentioned in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, can seek assistance by registering details in government forums.
- This Sharad Abhiyan is a free link to the portal for the handicapped and philanthropists, social organizations and companies.
- Disabled persons can register for their needs, such as hearing aids, battery-powered wheelchairs, prostheses, Braille kits and other essential equipment.
- e-Barti Mobile App Download - This app has been developed for Babasaheb Ambedkar Research and Training Institute Pune (BARTI).

- All the schemes like M-Governance, e-Library, competitive exam guidance, scholarship scheme, including in BARTI can be accessed in one click with this app.
- This application will also prove to be very useful for collecting the necessary information for various caste surveys.
- It includes facilities like caste validity certificate verification, grievance redressal, feedback among others.

17. Article 246 of the Indian Constitution is related to

- A. Hindi as official language
- B. Repeals India Independence Act and Government of India Act, 1935
- C. Specifies the number of seats in the Rajya Sabha
- D. Division of powers between the union and the states.

Answer: D

Explanation

- Chairman of Fifteenth Finance Commission, N.K. Singh has called for a fresh look at the Constitution's Seventh Schedule, which forms the basis for allocating subjects to the Centre and States.
- It is necessary to give more flexibility to States in implementing centrally sponsored schemes and to reinforce trust in fiscal federalism.
- 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 has the subjects on which Parliament may make laws while the state list details those under the purview of state legislatures.
- The concurrent list has subjects in which both Parliament and state legislatures have jurisdiction.
- But the Constitution provides federal supremacy to Parliament on concurrent list items in case of a conflict.

18. Which of the following statements are correct about Delimitation commission?

1. Such commissions have been constituted twice in India –under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952 and 2011
 2. It is formally known as Boundary Commission.
 3. The Delimitation Commission has three members: a serving or retired judge of the Supreme Court as the chairperson, and the Chief Election Commissioner or Election Commissioner nominated by the CEC and the State Election Commissioner as ex-officio members.
- A. 1 and 2 only

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- Recently a paper was released by the Pranab Mukherjee Foundation (PMF) on the eve of his birth anniversary has suggested that the next delimitation exercise should be a two-step process:
 - ✓ A Delimitation Commission should be set up to redraw boundaries of constituencies on the basis of the 2031 Census.
 - ✓ A State Re-organisation Act be passed to split States into smaller ones.
- The 84th Amendment to the Constitution in 2002 had put a freeze on the delimitation of Lok Sabha and State Assembly constituencies till the first Census after 2026.
- While the current boundaries are drawn on the basis of the 2001 Census, the number of Lok Sabha seats and State Assembly seats remained frozen on the basis of the 1971 Census.
- The population according to the last census preceding the freeze was 50 crore, which in 50 years has grown to 130 crore.
- This has caused a massive asymmetry in the political representation in the country.
- Delimitation means the process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a state that has a legislative body.
- It is undertaken by Delimitation Commission or Boundary Commission.
- These bodies' orders have the force of law and they cannot be challenged before any court.
- Such commissions have been constituted four times in India – in 1952 under the Delimitation Commission Act, 1952; in 1963 under Delimitation Commission Act, 1962; in 1973 under Delimitation Act, 1972 and last in 2002 under Delimitation Act, 2002.
- The commissions' orders are enforced as per the date specified by the President of India.
- Copies of these orders are laid before the Lok Sabha or the concerned Legislative Assembly. No modifications are permitted.
- According to the Delimitation Commission Act, 2002, the Delimitation Commission appointed by the Centre has to have three members: a serving or retired judge of the Supreme Court as the chairperson, and the Chief Election Commissioner or Election Commissioner nominated by the CEC and the State Election Commissioner as ex-officio members.

19. The farmers protesting against The Farm Bills passed by the center fall under the category of

- A. Article 19
- B. Article 23

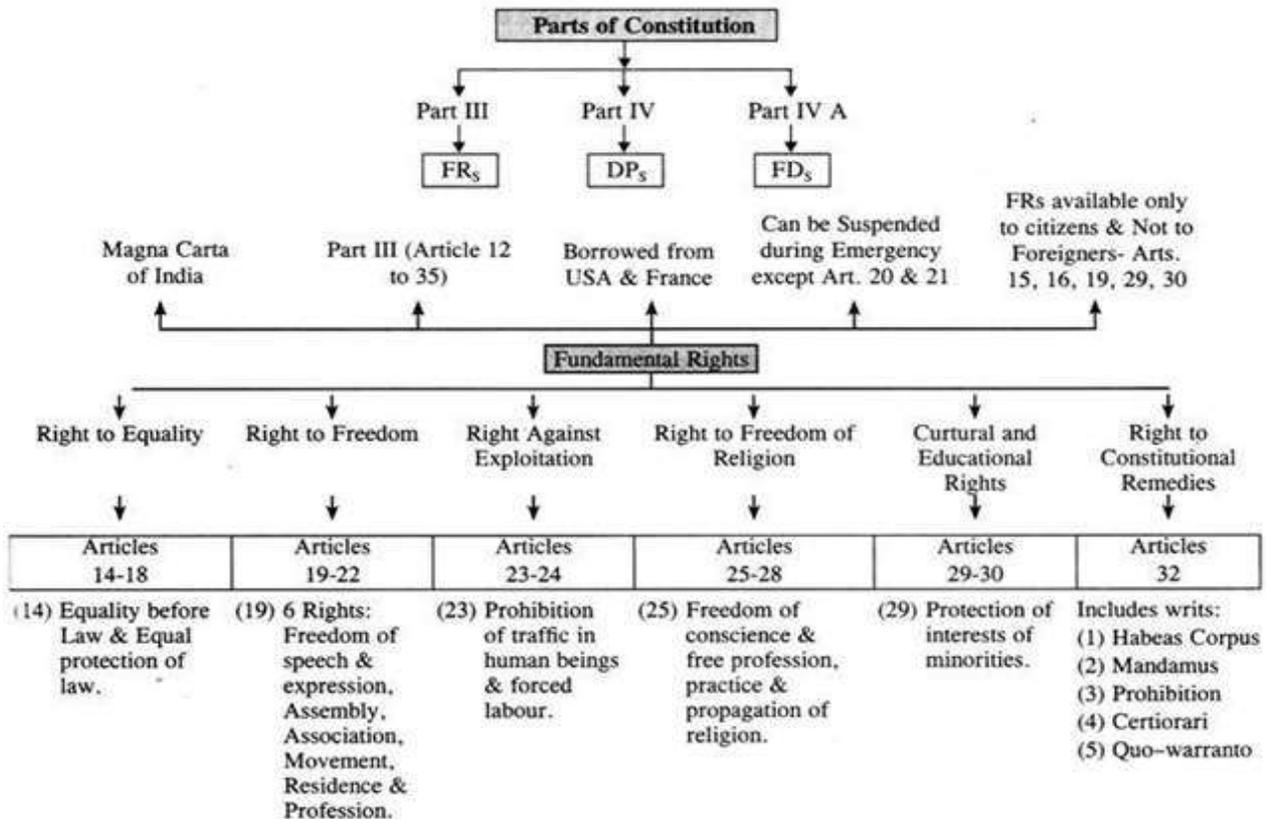
C. Article 27

D. Article 15

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Supreme Court said farmers have a constitutional right to continue with their “absolutely perfect” protest as long as their dissent against the three controversial agricultural laws did not slip into violence.



20. When the President of India resigns, he address' his resignation letter to

- A. Chairman of Rajya Sabha
- B. Speaker Of Lok Sabha
- C. Chief Justice of India
- D. Chief Election Commissioner

Answer: A

Explanation

- The President is elected by members of an electoral college consisting of elected members of both Houses of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies of the states in accordance with the system of proportional representation, by means of single transferable vote.
- To secure uniformity among state inter se, as well as parity between the states as a whole, and the Union, suitable weightage is given to each vote.

- The President must be a citizen of India, not less than 35 years of age, and qualified for election as member of the Lok Sabha.
- His term of office is five years, and he is eligible for re-election.
- His removal from office is to be in accordance with procedure prescribed in Article 61 of the Constitution.
- He may, by writing under his hand addressed to the Vice-President, resign his office.

4. Economy

Click on the links given below to watch the following questions on YouTube

- [Video 1](#)
- [Video 2](#)
- [Video 3](#)

1. An index of the prevailing direction of economic trends in the manufacturing and service sectors, that summarizes whether market conditions, as viewed by purchasing managers, are expanding, staying the same, or contracting is

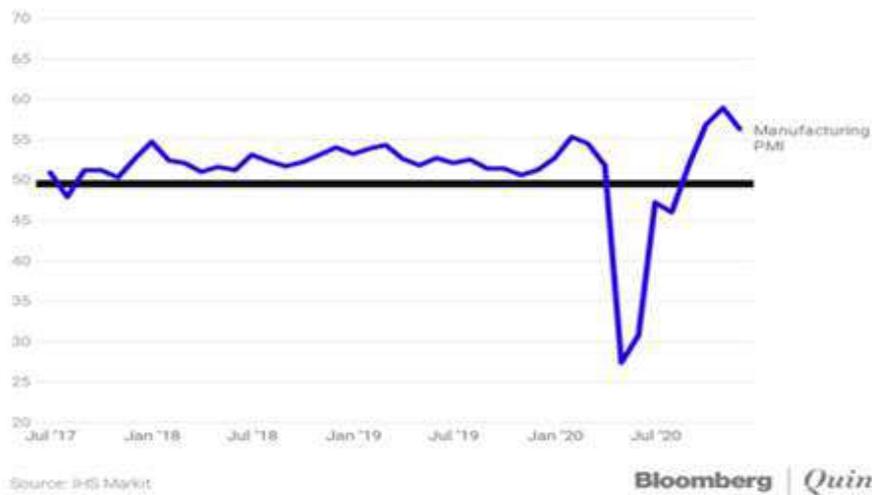
- A. Market Index
- B. Price Index
- C. Fiscal Performance Index
- D. Purchasing Managers Index

Answer: D

Explanation

- The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is an index of the prevailing direction of economic trends in the manufacturing and service sectors.
- It consists of a diffusion index that summarizes whether market conditions, as viewed by purchasing managers, are expanding, staying the same, or contracting.
- The purpose of the PMI is to provide information about current and future business conditions to company decision makers, analysts, and investors.
- The PMI dataset features a headline number, which indicates the overall health of an economy, and sub-indices, which provide insights into other key economic drivers such as GDP, inflation, exports, capacity utilization, employment and inventories.
- The PMI data are used by financial and corporate professionals to better understand where economies and markets are headed, and to uncover opportunities.
- Purchasing Managers' Index™ (PMI™) data are compiled by IHS Markit for more than 40 economies worldwide.
- Data released by the analytics firm IHS Markit showed India's PMI manufacturing dropped to 56.3 in November from an over 12-year high of 58.9 in October.
- Growth in the Indian manufacturing sector lost momentum in November with the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) falling to a three-month low.
- There were slower increases in factory orders, exports, buying levels and output while pandemic related restrictions caused a further drop in payroll numbers.
- Input costs and output charges rose at accelerated rates that nevertheless remained below their respective long-run averages.

Manufacturing PMI Eased To 56.3 In November 2020



- Softening of rates of expansion seen in the latest month does not represent a major setback, since these are down from over decade highs in October, a spike in covi-19 cases and the possibility of associated restrictions could undermine the recovery.

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

1. The economy quickly recoups lost ground and gets back to the normal growth trend-line – V shaped recovery
2. The growth falls and rises, but falls again before recovering – L shaped Recovery.
3. The economy quickly rises after an economic crash – Z shaped recovery.
4. A bit of unrealistic scenario, in which growth rises sharply from the lows much higher than the trend-line and stays there – W shaped recovery.

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

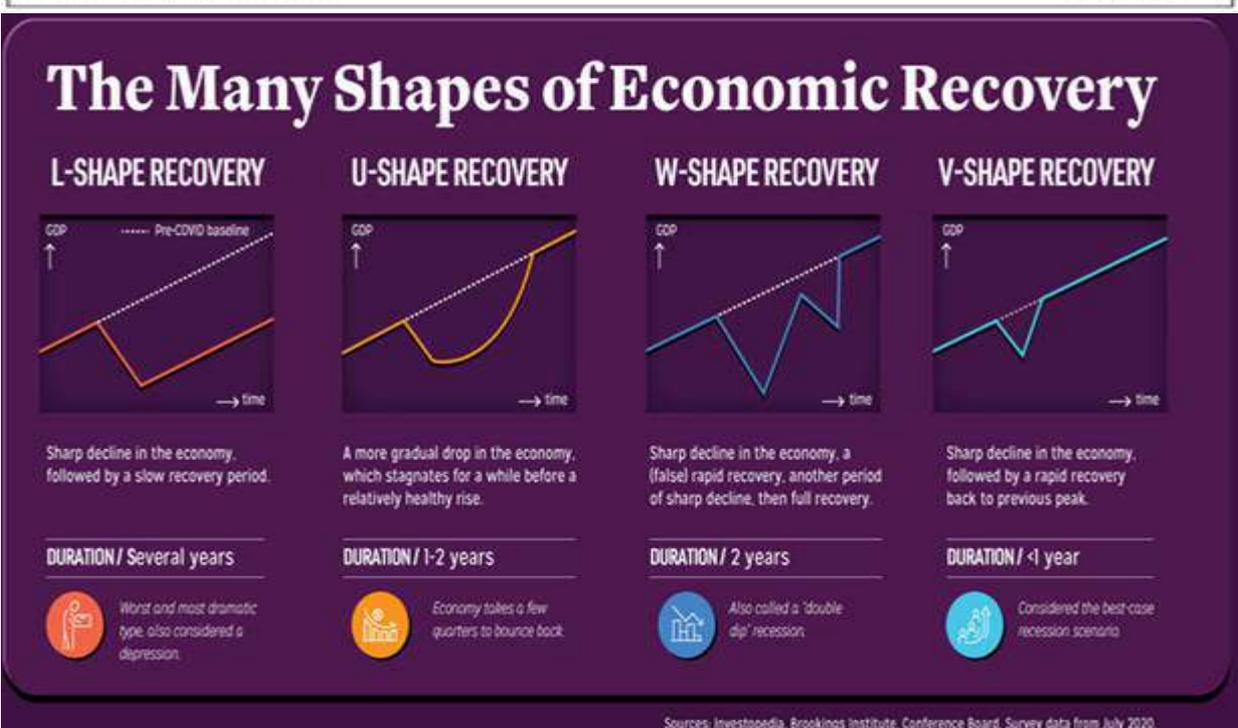
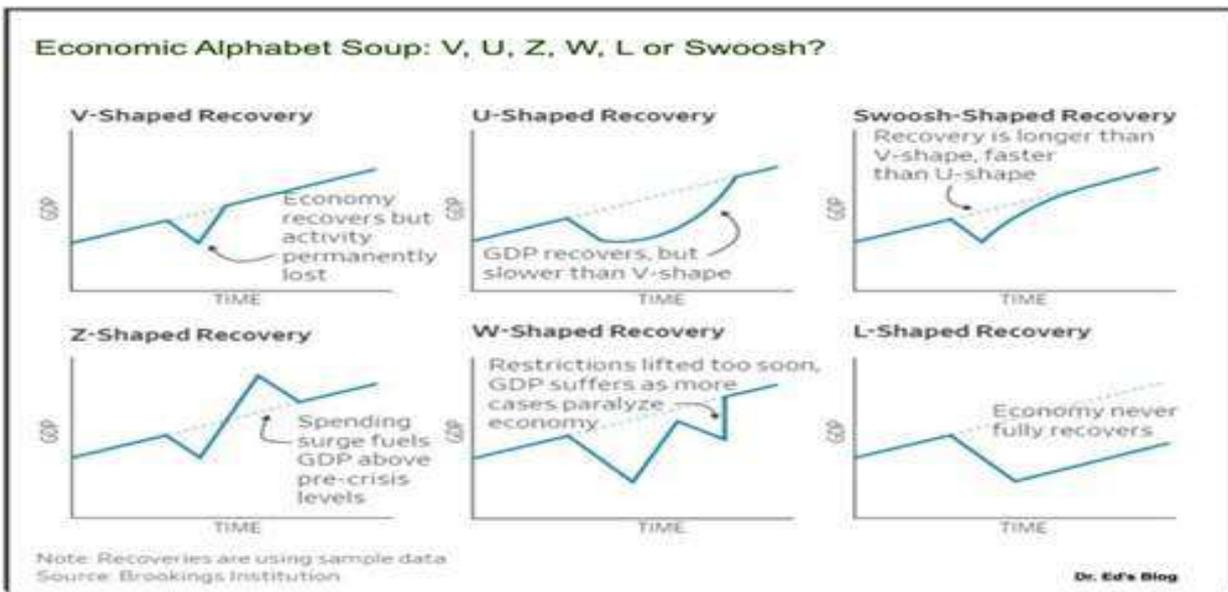
Answer: B

Explanation

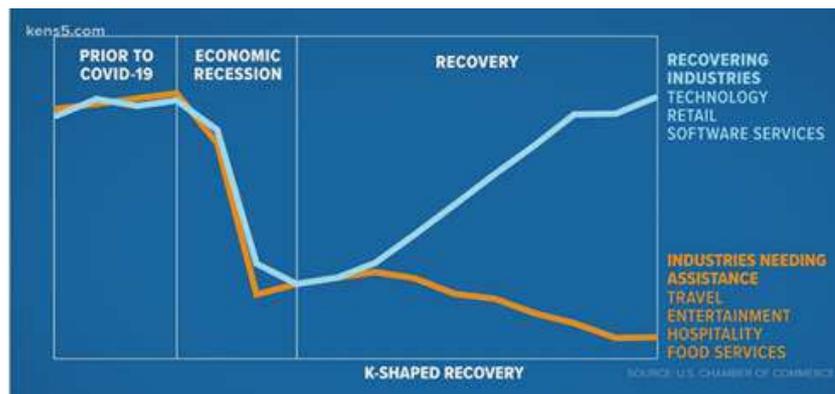
According to Ministry of Finance:

- India's economy is firmly on the path of a V-shaped recovery after the collapse in the first quarter.
- Further improvement is expected in the third quarter, 'notwithstanding some moderation' in November's indicators.
- The recovery is attributed to the unlocking process along with 'astute' stimulus measures.

- Z-shaped recovery the economy quickly rises like a phoenix after a crash. It more than makes up for lost ground before settling back to the normal trend-line, thus forming a Z-shaped chart.
- V-shaped recovery the economy quickly recoups lost ground and gets back to the normal growth trend-line.
- U-shaped recovery the economy, after falling, struggles and muddles around a low growth rate for some time, before rising gradually to usual levels.
- W-shaped recovery the economic growth falls and rises, but falls again before recovering yet again, thus forming a W-like chart.
- L-shaped recovery is the worst-case scenario, in which growth after falling, stagnates at low levels and does not recover for a long, long time.
- J-shaped recovery is a bit of unrealistic scenario, in which growth rises sharply from the lows much higher than the trend-line and stays there.



3. According to the following graph, which of the following statements are correct?



1. The K Curve depicts the inequality existing between different financial entities in terms of their attributes that determine their future growth and profitability.
2. Widening of the arms of the 'K' would imply that the inequality is decreasing, while narrowing of the span of the 'K' would mean the opposite.

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- The K Curve depicts the inequality existing between different financial entities in terms of their attributes that determine their future growth and profitability.
- A K-shaped recovery occurs when, following a recession, different parts of the economy recover at different rates, times, or magnitudes.
- A K-shaped recovery leads to changes in the structure of the economy or the broader society as economic outcomes and relations are fundamentally changed before and after the recession.
- This type of recovery is called K-shaped because the path of different parts of the economy when charted together may diverge, resembling the two arms of the Roman letter "
- Widening of the arms of the 'K' would imply that the inequality is increasing, while narrowing of the span of the 'K' would mean the opposite.

4. Global Wage Report 2020 was recently released by

- A. Industrial Workers of the World (IWW)
- B. International Centre for Trade Union Rights
- C. International Labour Organization (ILO)
- D. World Bank

Answer: C

Explanation

According to the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Global Wage Report 2020-2021:

- Women and lower-paid workers have disproportionately borne the brunt of the decrease in wages due to the COVID-19 crisis as their working hours were reduced.
- Global wage growth fluctuated between 1.6% and 2.2% in the four years preceding the pandemic, that is 2016 to 2019.
- The impact of the crisis had been different for women and men.
- Women workers in a selection of European countries would have faced an 8.1% reduction in wages between the first and second quarters of 2020, as opposed to 5.4% for men without payment of wage subsidies.
- Such a discrepancy was mainly caused by reduced working hours, more than by the difference in the number of lay-offs.
- The wage bill lost as a result of the drop in working hours was 6.9 per cent for women compared to 4.7 per cent for men.
- Lower-paid workers have also been disproportionately hit by the crisis, leading to an increase in inequality.
- The lowest-paid 50% of workers would have lost 17.3% of wages without wage subsidies, in comparison to 6.5% of all workers in selected European countries.

5. Which of the following statements are incorrect about Ayush Export promotion Council?

- 1. Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ministry of AYUSH have decided to set up an AYUSH Export Promotion Council to boost AYUSH exports.**
- 2. Ministry of AYUSH will work in collaboration with Bureau of Indian standards to develop international standards for AYUSH products as well as services.**

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ministry of AYUSH have decided to set up an AYUSH Export Promotion Council to boost AYUSH exports.
- Both Ministries will work together for establishing an AYUSH Export Promotion Council (AEPC).
- The proposed AEPC can be housed at Ministry of AYUSH.

- Standardization of HS code for AYUSH will be expedited.
- Ministry of AYUSH will work in collaboration with Bureau of Indian standards to develop international standards for AYUSH products as well as services.
- AYUSH industry will work on ensuring quality and standards of AYUSH products as well as to become price-competitive.
- AYUSH will also figure in the Brand India activities.

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

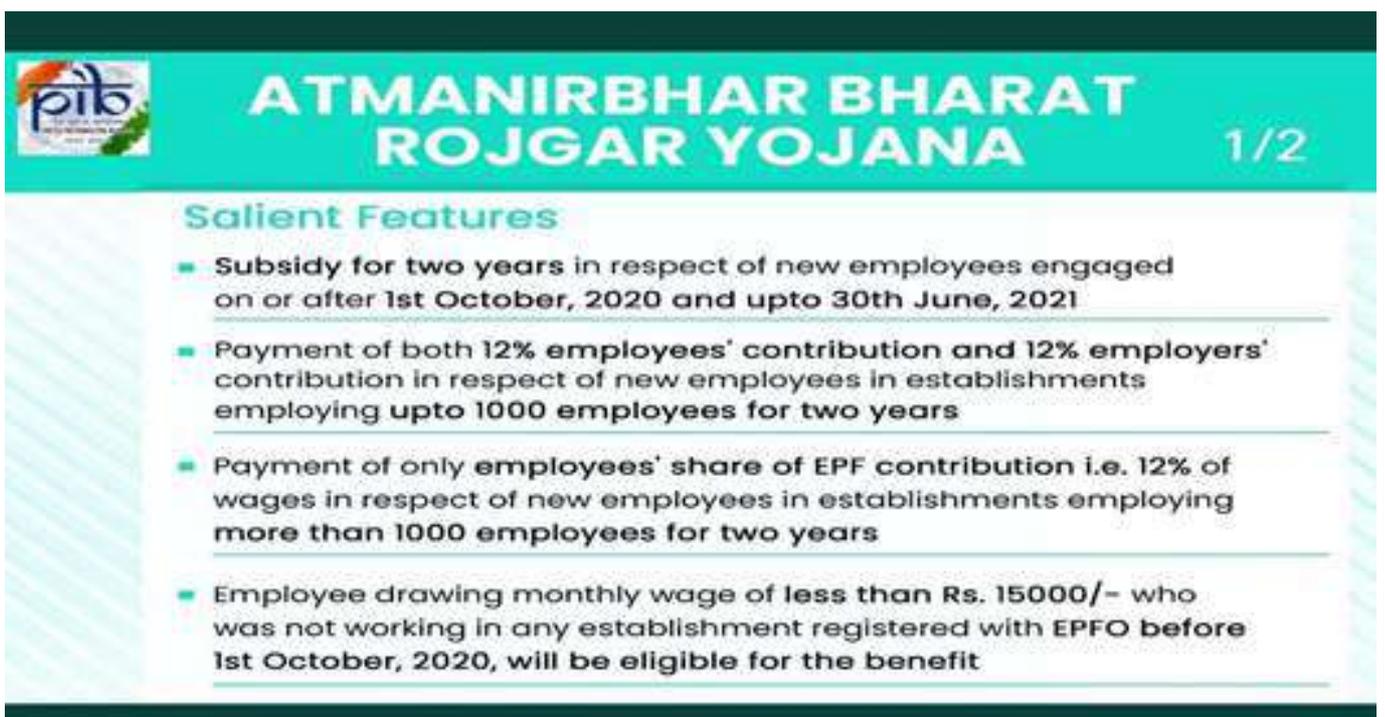
1. It is to boost employment in formal sector under Atmanirbhar Bharat Package 3.0
2. If ESIC-registered establishments take in new employees without ESIC registration or those who lost jobs earlier, the Yojana will benefit these employees.
3. The scheme will be effective from October 1, 2020 and operational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

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

Answer: C

Explanation

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



ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ROJGAR YOJANA 1/2

Salient Features

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



ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT ROJGAR YOJANA

2/2

Salient Features

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

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

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

Answer: A

Explanation

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

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



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

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

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

Answer: D

Explanation

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

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



India joins the UN's Better Than Cash Alliance

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

- 175 million new accounts opened
- \$3.4 billion deposits
- \$2 billion transferred by paying cooking gas digitally

#JanDhan



BETTERTHANCASH
A U N I T I M P R O V I N G L I V E S T H R O U G H D I G I T A L P A Y M E N T S

@BetterThan_Cash
@FinMinIndia

GAINS from digitizing payments in public financial management systems

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

Center & Global Development IBI **BETTER THAN CASH ALLIANCE**

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

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

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

Answer: A

Explanation

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

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

Helping Hand

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

Beneficiaries for first year

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

10. Diem recently heard in news is a

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

Answer: C

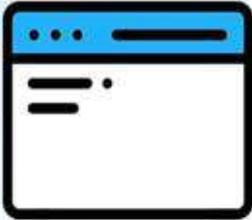
Explanation

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

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

What is Cryptocurrency?





Cryptocurrency is digital money created from code.



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



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

Examples of Cryptocurrency



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



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



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

11. A Market System that has only one buyer for a particular good or service, giving that buyer significant power in determining the price of the products produced is

- A. Oligopoly
- B. Monopsony
- C. Monopoly
- D. Monopolistic Competition

Answer: B

Explanation

- A monopsony is a market condition in which there is only one buyer, the monopsonist.
- Like a monopoly, a monopsony also has imperfect market conditions.
- The difference between a monopoly and monopsony is primarily in the difference between the controlling entities.
- A single buyer dominates a monopsonized market while an individual seller controls a monopolized market.
- Monopsonists are common to areas where they supply most or all of the region's jobs.
- In a monopsony, a large buyer controls the market.
- Because of their unique position, monopsonies have a wealth of power.
- For example, being the primary or only supplier of jobs in an area, the monopsony has the power to set wages.
- In addition, they have bargaining power as they are able to negotiate prices and terms with their suppliers.

12. Which of the following statements are correct about Exchange Traded Funds?

1. An exchange traded fund (ETF) is a basket of securities that trade on an exchange, just like a stock.
 2. ETF share prices do not fluctuate all day just like mutual funds that trade once a day after the market closes.
- A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. Both 1 and 2
 - D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

- An exchange traded fund (ETF) is a type of security that involves a collection of securities –such as stocks–that often tracks an underlying index, although they can invest in any number of industry sectors or use various strategies.
- ETFs are in many ways similar to mutual funds; however, they are listed on exchanges and ETF shares trade throughout the day just like ordinary stock.

DakPay App:
Transforming Banking Experience At The Last Mile

Department of Posts & India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has unveiled its new digital payment services app 'DakPay'

The app is a suite of digital financial & assisted banking services provided by India Post & IPPB through the postal network across the nation

One can now send money domestically, Scan QR code & make payment for services digitally by debit cards & UPI

It will enable a cashless ecosystem, providing interoperable banking services of any bank (AePS) & Utility Bill Payment services

- ETF share prices fluctuate all day as the ETF is bought and sold; this is different from mutual funds that only trade once a day after the market closes.
- ETFs can contain all types of investments including stocks, commodities, or bonds
- ETFs offer low expense ratios and fewer broker commissions than buying the stocks individually.
- ETFs tend to be more cost-effective and more liquid when compared to mutual funds.
- The government is likely to launch the third tranche of Bharat Bond ETF.
- Bharat Bond ETF, which is a debt exchange traded fund (ETF), offered maturity options of 5 and 12 years in its second tranche, while in the first tranche, maturity options were for 3 and 10 years.
- The ETF currently invests only in 'AAA' rated bonds of public sector companies.

13. Which of the following statements regarding Dakpay are incorrect?

1. It is launched by India Post Payments Bank (IPPB).
 2. Through 'DakPay', customers can send money to others by implementing International Money Transfers, scanning QR code as well as and make payment for services/merchants digitally through virtual debit card and with UPI.
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) along with Department of Posts (DoP) launched digital payment application 'DakPay' to facilitate easy digital transactions and other banking services.
- The app's features include digital financial and assisted banking services provided by India Post & IPPB through the trusted Postal ('Dak') network.
- Here are major feature and points on the newly launched 'DakPay' app by IPPB:
 - ✓ Through 'DakPay', customers can send money to others by implementing Domestic Money Transfers – DMT, scanning QR code as well as and make payment for services/merchants digitally through virtual debit card and with UPI.
 - ✓ The app will help enabling cashless ecosystem through biometrics, providing interoperable banking services to the customers of any banks and Utility Bill Payment services.

Department of Post
Ministry of Communications

**" THIS IS THE TIME TO ENSURE
SOCIAL DISTANCING AND
DIGITAL PAYMENTS HELP YOU DO THAT. "**

– Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India

**India Post Launches
DIGITAL PAYMENTS APP**

DakPay
DakPay UPI App enables user to register & create UPI ID, create UPI PIN, add multiple bank accounts into single mobile application.
This app facilitates banking features, fund transfer, merchant payments and offers postal products.

Dak Pay Services IPPB

- UPI** Fast and easy bank account to bank account payment transfers.
- VDC** Shop and make payments with digital form of a Debit Card powered by Rupay
- DMT** Instant Money Transfer to any bank account in the country .
- A@PS** Aadhaar enabled payment services empowers you avail banking services at your doorstep using biometric authentication.
- BILL PAYMENTS** Bill Payment Services: Now make Bill Payments to 470+ billers.
- POSTAL PRODUCTS** Postal Products: Customer can make payments for Postal Products like RD, PPF, Sukanya Samridhi Account etc.

Scan & Pay at any physical and online merchant websites.

[/RaviShankarPrasadOfficial](#) [@rprasad](#) [/RaviShankarPrasad](#) [/RaviShankarPrasadMP](#)

14. In Economic terms, the total market value of the investments that a person or entity manages on behalf of clients and is only one aspect used in evaluating a company or investment is known as

- A. Advisement
- B. Custody

- C. Committed Capital
- D. Asset under management

Answer: D

Explanation

Extent of negative impact by parameters influencing NBFC AUM						AUM growth		
Segment	Share in NBFC AUM	Underlying asset sales	Competition from banks	Tighter underwriting	Funding access challenges	FY19	FY20 [E]	FY 21 [P]
Home loans	35-40%	High	High	Low	Medium	15%	5-7%	0-2%
Vehicle finance	15-20%	High	High	Medium	Medium	18%	5-7%	(3-5%)
Real estate and structured credit	15-20%	High	Low	High	High	11%	(8-10%)	(10-12%)
MSME finance*	10-15%	-	Medium	High	Medium	16%	3-5%	(3-5%)
Unsecured loans	~5%	High**	Medium	High	Medium	42%	25-30%	3-5%
Gold loans	~5%	-	Medium	Low	Low	15%	22-24%	14-16%
Overall						15%	4-6%	(1-3%)

*Note: Figures in bracket represent de-growth for the segment; *MSME – micro, small and medium enterprise: includes only Loans against property (LAP) and unsecured business loans; **only for consumer durable financing. The negative impact by parameters influencing NBFC AUM represents the expected impact of factors which would pull down the AUM growth for NBFCs.*

E: Estimated; P: Projected

Source: CRISIL Ratings

- Assets under management (AUM) are the total market value of the investments that a person or entity manages on behalf of clients.
- Assets under management definitions and formulas vary by company.
- In the calculation of AUM, some financial institutions include bank deposits, mutual funds, and cash in their calculations.
- Others limit it to funds under discretionary management, where the investor assigns authority to the company to trade on his behalf.
- Overall, AUM is only one aspect used in evaluating a company or investment.
- It is also usually considered in conjunction with management performance and management experience.
- However, investors often consider higher investment inflows and higher AUM comparisons as a positive indicator of quality and management experience.
- AUM fluctuates daily, reflecting the flow of money in and out of a particular fund and the price performance of the assets.
- Funds with larger AUM tend to be more easily traded.
- A fund's management fees and expenses are often calculated as a percentage of AUM.
- Heading for a contraction in the current fiscal, the first time in more than a decade, assets under management (AUM) of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) are set to grow again at a relatively subdued 5-6% next fiscal.

15. Based on the following statements identify the working body?

1. It was constituted by an Executive Order of the Union Government as a non-statutory apex body under the Ministry of Finance in 2010.
 2. The Finance Minister is its Chairman.
 3. It deals with Macro-prudential and financial regularities in the entire financial sector of India.
 4. It co-ordinates India's international interface with financial sector bodies like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Financial Stability Board (FSB) etc.
- A. Central Economic Intelligence Bureau
B. Financial Stability and Development Council
C. Enforcement Directorate
D. Central Bureau of Narcotics Financial Intelligence Unit

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was constituted by an Executive Order of the Union Government as a non-statutory apex body under the Ministry of Finance in 2010.
- The members of the FSDC are:
 - The Finance Minister is the Chairman of the FSDC.
 - Members of FSDC include Heads of the Financial Sector Regulators listed below:
 - ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
 - ✓ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA)
 - ✓ Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
 - ✓ Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)
 - Other members are Finance Secretary, Chief Economic Advisor and Secretary of the Department of Financial Services.
 - The Financial Stability and Development Council was established as an autonomous body dealing with macroprudential and financial regularities in the entire financial sector of India.
 - The body envisages to strengthen and institutionalize the mechanism of maintaining financial stability, financial sector development, inter-regulatory coordination along with monitoring macro-prudential regulation of the economy.
 - No funds are separately allocated to the council for undertaking its activities.

Responsibilities of FSDC

- The FSDC's responsibilities are listed below:
 - ✓ Bringing about stability in the financial sector
 - ✓ Development of the Financial Sector

- ✓ Coordination of Inter-Regulatory bodies
- ✓ Promoting financial literacy
- ✓ Ensuring financial inclusion
- Macroprudential supervision of the economy including the functioning of large financial conglomerates.
- Coordinating India's international interface with financial sector bodies like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Financial Stability Board (FSB) and any such body as may be decided by the Finance Minister from time to time.

9 BITCOIN STORIES AND FUN FACTS

1 SATOSHI NAKAMOTO IS THE NAME

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



2 IN THE EARLY DAYS OF BITCOIN,

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



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



4 LAMBORGHINI

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




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



6 JAMES HOWELLS

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



7 IN 2015, ONLY 802 PEOPLE

IRS

TOLD THE IRS ABOUT THEIR BITCOIN INCOME. 



8 IN 2016, A 3D BITCOIN MODEL WAS TIED TO A WEATHER BALLOON AND SENT INTO OUTER SPACE BY GENESIS



9 CHINA OWNS ABOUT 60%

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




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



- FSDC headed by Finance Minister discussed the additional measures that could be taken by the government in the next Budget to accelerate growth while maintaining financial stability.
- The 2021-22 Union Budget will spell out the road map for the growth strategy for the next financial year. As per various estimates, India is expected to record a growth of 8% in 2021-22.
- Due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, the economy contracted by 23.9% during the first quarter of the current financial year. However, the pace of contraction narrowed in the second quarter to 7.5%.
- The Council also discussed the challenges involved in smooth transition of London Interbank Offer Rate (LIBOR) based contracts and noted that a multi-pronged strategy involving relevant stakeholder institutions and departments is required in this regard.

5. Environment & Ecology

Click on the links given below to watch the following questions on YouTube

- [Video 1](#)
- [Video 2](#)
- [Video 3](#)
- [Video 4](#)

1. A situation in which urgent action is required to reduce or halt climate change and avoid potentially irreversible environmental damage resulting from it is called

- A. Climate beneficiation
- B. Climate change adaptation
- C. Mitigation potential
- D. Climate Emergency

Answer: D

Explanation

- A climate emergency declaration or declaring a climate emergency is an action taken by governments and scientists to acknowledge humanity is in a climate emergency
- The first such declaration was made in December 2016.
- Since then over 1,400 local governments in 28 countries have made climate emergency declarations
- New Zealand recently promised its public sector would become carbon neutral by 2025 as it declared a climate emergency.
- Climate emergency declaration was based on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's findings that to avoid more than 1.5 degree Celsius rise in global warming, emissions would need to fall by around 45% from 2010 levels by 2023 and reach zero by around 2050.
- New Zealand has joined 32 other countries including Japan, Canada, France and Britain that have declared a climate emergency.
- New Zealand also passed Zero Carbon Bill, which sets the framework for net zero emissions by 2050 with an exemption for farming, and banned new offshore oil and gas exploration.

2. Based on the following statements identify the river?

1. The name of a missile—a joint venture between India and Russia—is derived from the names of this river and Moskva of Russia.
2. This is geologically the youngest of the major rivers in the world.
3. It originates in the Angsi Glacier in the Himalayas

4. **Raidak and Dhansiri are its two major tributaries.**
5. **The river has to its credit the world's smallest inhabited riverine island, the Umananda Island.**
- A. Penner
 - B. Brahmaputra
 - C. Brahmani
 - D. Subarnarekha

Answer: B

Explanation

- The name of the BrahMos missile—a joint venture between India and Russia—is derived from the names of two major rivers, the Brahmaputra of India and Moskva of Russia.
 - The upper course of the Brahmaputra was not explored until the mid-1880s, hence it is geologically the youngest of the major rivers in the world.
 - The Brahmaputra originates in the Angsi Glacier in the Himalayas, and flows through Tibet (an autonomous region of China), India, and Bangladesh, before emptying itself into the Bay of Bengal at the Ganges Delta.
 - It meets River Meghna (the main distributary of the Ganges River), and River Padma in Bangladesh, where the three rivers come together to form the largest delta in the world – the Ganges Delta or Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta.
 - The Brahmaputra is known by different names in different regions. It is known as the YarlungTsangpo River in Tibet, the Brahmaputra, Lohit, Siang, and Dihang in India, and the Jamuna in Bangladesh.
 - The major tributaries of the Brahmaputra river are Manas (234 mi), Raidak (230 mi), Dhansiri (219 mi), Teesta (192 mi), Kameng (164 mi), Dibang (121 mi), and Jaldhaka (119 mi).
 - A river is said to exhibit a tidal bore when incoming tides form waves that travel up the river against the current. These waves are known as tidal waves. The Brahmaputra is one of the few examples of rivers with a tidal bore.
 - The largest riverine island in the Brahmaputra is the Majuli Island, with a total area of 163 sq mi, as per 2001 data.
 - The river also has to its credit the world's smallest inhabited riverine island, the Umananda Island—also known as Peacock Island.
 - The Saraighat Bridge near Guwahati, Assam, which was opened in April 1962, was the first bridge to be built on the Brahmaputra.
3. **Which of the following statements regarding Mission Covid Suraksha are correct?**
- 1. **It will be implemented by a dedicated Mission Implementation Unit at the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).**
 - 2. **The mission aims at providing holistic covid test centers all over the country.**

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- The government on Wednesday launched 'Mission COVID Suraksha', which will help the development process of approximately five to six Covid-19 vaccine candidates.
- Mission Covid Suraksha entails a grant of Rs 900 crore.
- The department of biotechnology will get this grant.
 - ✓ It will be led by DBT and implemented by a dedicated Mission Implementation Unit at the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).
 - ✓ The existing activities under National Bio Pharma Mission (NBM) and Ind-CEPI Mission will provide complementary strengths to this Mission.
- The mission aims at providing end-to-end passage to vaccines – from preclinical stage to manufacturing.
- The Centre had announced this package during the third stimulus.
- The department is supporting the development of 10 vaccines. Five vaccine candidates are in human trials, including the Russian Vaccine Sputnik-V.
- The aim of the project is to also establish clinical trial sites and strengthen the existing immunoassay laboratories, central laboratories and suitable facilities for animal studies, production facilities and other test facilities to support Covid-19 vaccine development.

4. Mareel recently heard in news is a

- A. Newly discovered coral reef in Australia.
- B. A phenomenon in the ocean.
- C. A peacock softshell turtle (*Nilssonina hurum*) found in South Asia.
- D. An aggregation of galaxies comprising about 50 or fewer gravitationally bound members, each at least as luminous as the Milky Way.

Answer: B

Explanation

- Milky seas, also called mareel, is a luminous phenomenon in the ocean in which large areas of seawater (up to 6,000 sq mi or 16,000 km²) appear to glow translucently (in varying shades of blue).
- The phenomenon glow brightly enough at night to be seen by satellites orbiting Earth.

- It is caused by bioluminescent bacteria, billions of trillions of them that live throughout the water column from the surface to the sea floor.

5. Laokhowa-Burachapori Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state?

- A. Assam
- B. West Bengal
- C. Sikkim
- D. Mizoram

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Laokhowa and Burhachapori Wildlife Sanctuaries are two centrally located Protected Areas of Assam, surrounded by many key PAs like Kaziranga National Park to the east, Orang National park and Pobitora Wildlife sanctuaries to the west, Pakke-Nameri NPs to the north and the rich reserve Forests of Karbi Anglong to the south.
- The PAs act as connecting corridor for migration of animals between Kaziranga and Orang National parks and hence, has been identified as Buffer Zones of Kaziranga Tiger Reserve.
- The mighty Brahmaputra River flows through the northern boundary of the Burhachapori Wildlife Sanctuaries creating a large number of river islands.
- The rich ecosystem of the Laokhowa Burhachapori characterized by grasslands, woodlands and numerous wetlands along with the Brahmaputra River Islands are home to numerous species of endangered mammals, reptiles and birds.

6. Based on the following statements, identify the animal?

1. It is found mostly in evergreen and semi-evergreen forests, from plains to hills at elevations of 50 m to 1,500 m above sea level.
2. Globally it is distributed through Southern China, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Burma, the Malayan Peninsula, Sumatra, and Java.
3. In India, is found in the forests of Northeast and is currently found in parts of West Bengal, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Nagaland.
4. It is considered to be a forest health indicator species.
5. It has a dark upper body, pale under parts, and a long, bushy tail.
6. They are diurnal (active during the day), but arboreal (tree-dwelling) and herbivorous.
7. Its Scientific Name is *Ratufa bicolor*.

- A. *Tamias*
- B. Malayan Giant Squirrel

- C. Marmot
- D. Prairie Dog

Answer: B

Explanation

- Recently, the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has projected that numbers of the Malayan Giant Squirrel could decline by 90% in India by 2050, and it could be extinct by then if urgent steps are not taken.
- IUCN Red List: Near Threatened.
- CITES: Appendix II.
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I.



7. Siberian Primrose, recently heard in news, is a

- A. Migratory Bird
- B. A type of herb
- C. A unique fish found in the deep frozen waters.
- D. Penguin species

Answer: B

Explanation

- Researchers have found that the Siberian primrose, a plant endemic to the Nordic countries, could become extinct due to global warming.

- The primrose specialised in growing on seashore meadows with low vegetation, which were formed by the post-glacial isostatic rebound
 - It is a small perennial herb with low rosettes of green crinkled leaves and clusters of magenta pink flowers.
8. A salt-tolerant plant that grows in soil or waters of high salinity, coming into contact with saline water through its roots or by salt spray, such as in saline semi-deserts, mangrove swamps, marshes and sloughs and seashores is called a
- A. Glycophyte
 - B. Hygrophytes
 - C. Mesophytes
 - D. Halophytes

Answer: D

Explanation

- Halophytes are salt-tolerant or salt-resistant plants.
- They can thrive and complete their life cycles in soils or waters containing high salt concentrations.
- They constitute two per cent of terrestrial plant species.
- Halophytes plants are important in the context of increasing salinisation of land especially due sea level rise because of climate change and global warming.
- In recent times, alarming rise in the sea level has prompted agriculture scientists to call for the cultivation of saline-tolerant crops in light danger of sea intrusion.
- In future, anticipatory research of these plants could reap rich rewards to mitigate impact of climate change as they can provide food for people, fodder for livestock, bio fuel and also can be used for ornamental purposes.
- The world's first Genetic Garden of Halophytes (naturally occurring salt-tolerant plants) was inaugurated at the coastal town of Vedaranyam in Tamil Nadu in 2016.
- The garden has been set up by M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) founded by eminent agriculture scientist Prof M S Swaminathan, father of Indian Green Revolution.
- It will have over 1,600 species belonging to 550 genera and 117 families of Halophytes plants.
- Initially it will comprise halophytes occurring along the coasts of India including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Hygrophytes The plants of this group are invariably moisture and shade-loving.
- Mesophytes: The plant species that thrive best on a moderate supply of water.
- Glycophytes: plants growing in nonsaline soils and bodies of fresh water.

9. Hakki Habba is a

- A. A bird festival held in Karnataka
- B. A PVGT group from Malkangiri
- C. A medicinal root recently discovered in Annamalai Hills
- D. A sacrificial ritual in North East

Answer: A**Explanation**

- Hakki Habba is the Karnataka Bird Festival.
- It is organized by the Eco-Tourism Board of Karnataka to create awareness amongst people about the conservation of the birds.
- Nandi Hills, one of the most popular tourist attractions in Chikkaballapur district of Karnataka, hosted Hakki Habba for 2020.
- Nandi Hills is a familiar spot for migratory birds from the Himalayan region during the winter season. Tiny Himalayan warblers are one of the key attractions during the Hakki Habba Festival.
- Nandi Hills has traditional trekking path and different locations for birding.
- Several routes connect hillocks such as Nandi Hills and Skandagiri.
- Besides these paths, there are smaller unnamed hillocks located around these two famous hills.
- Pied warbler, booted warbler, Blyth read warbler and olive backed pipit are some of the winter migratory species that can be found during the season.

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

1. Hafong Lake – Sikkim
2. Kanwar Lake – Bihar
3. Thol Lake – Gujrat
4. Gobind Vallabh Pant Sagar – Himachal Pradesh
5. Kanjli - Punjab

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

Answer: B

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

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

Answer: B

Explanation

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

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

1. Jammu and Kashmir
 2. West Bengal
 3. Himachal Pradesh
 4. Tripura
 5. Nagaland
- A. 1, 2 and 3 only

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

Answer: D

Explanation

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

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

1. A GI or Geographical Indication is a name or a sign given to certain products that relate to a specific geographical location or origins like a region, town or country.
2. Geographical Indications are covered under the Paris Convention.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

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

14.Kawal Tiger reserve is in which state?

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- Kawal Tiger Reserve is located at Jannaram mandal of Mancherial Mancherial District (Old Adilabad district) in Telangana.
- Govt of India declared Kawal wildlife sanctuary as Tiger Reserve in 2012.
- The reserve is the oldest sanctuary in the northern Telangana region of the state.
- It is well known for its abundant flora and fauna. This sanctuary is catchment for the rivers Godavari and Kadam, which flow towards the south of the sanctuary. The River Kadam is a tributary of Godavari.
- The KWS was established in 1965 and later declared as a Protected Area (PA) in 1999 under the WPA, 1972



Telangana (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kawal Tiger Reserve• Amrabad Tiger Reserve
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15. A transition area between two biological communities, where two communities meet and integrate is known as

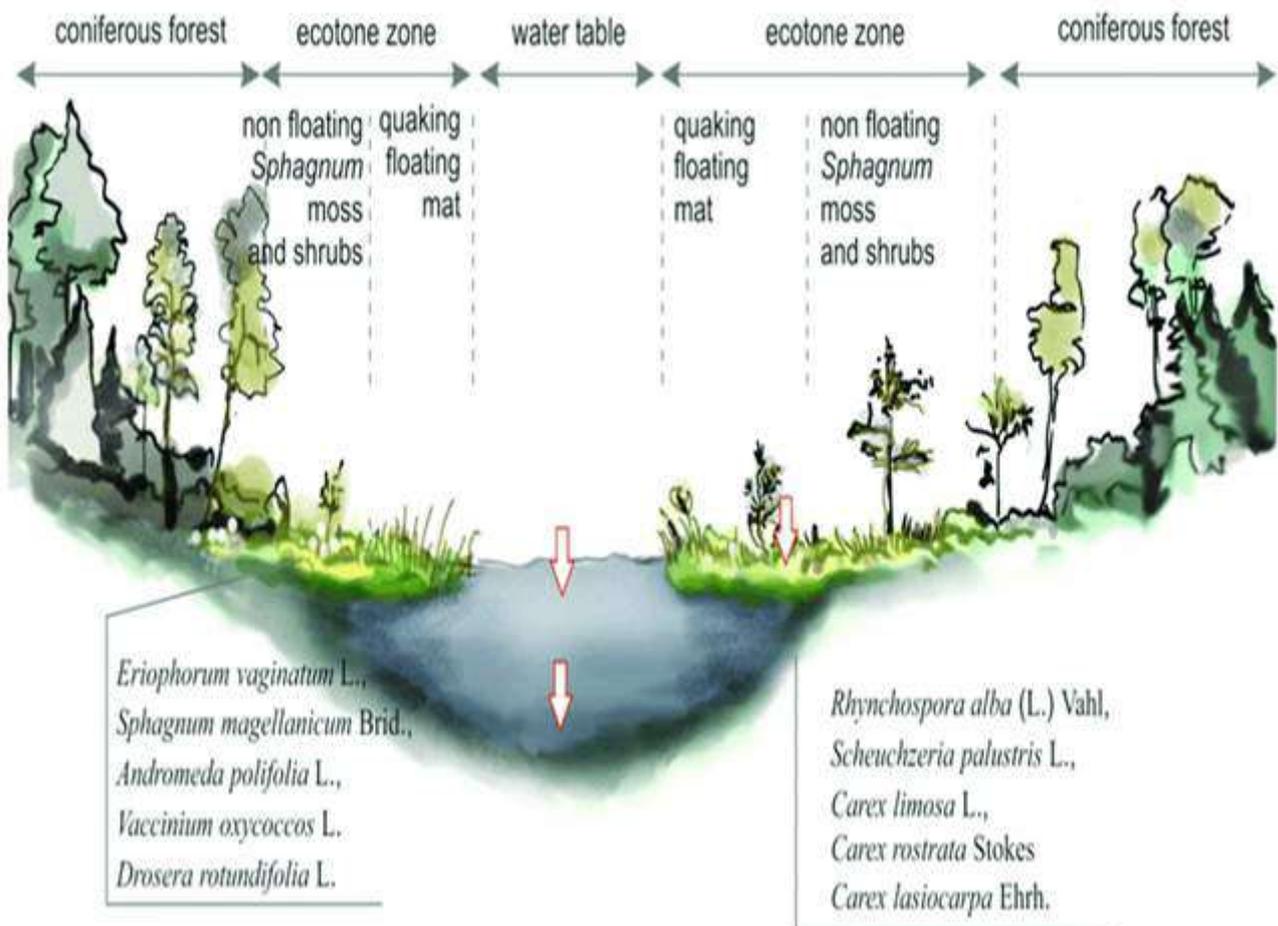
- A. Biome
- B. Entourage
- C. Ecocline
- D. Ecotone

Answer: D

Explanation

- An ecotone is an area that acts as a boundary or a transition between two ecosystems.
- A common example could be an area of marshland between a river and its riverbank.
- Ecotones are of great environmental importance. Because the area is a transition between two ecosystems or biomes, contains a large variety of species of fauna and flora as the area is influenced by both the bordering ecosystems.
- Key Features:
 - ✓ They have a greater variety of organisms.

- ✓ They also offer a good nesting place for animals coming in search of a nesting place or food.
- ✓ They serve as a bridge of gene flow from one population to another because of the larger genetic diversity present.
- ✓ They can act as buffer zones offering protection to the bordering ecosystems from possible damage. For example, a wetland can absorb pollutants and prevent them from seeping into the river.
- ✓ Ecotones are also a sensitive indicator of global climate change.
- ✓ A shifting of boundaries between ecosystems is thought to be due to climate change.



16. Based on the following statements identify the animal?

1. It is a resembling a cross between a goat, a donkey, a cow, and a pig.
2. It is a medium-sized mammal with a large head, thick neck, short limbs, long, mule-like ears, and a coat of dark hair.
3. It is a herbivore, and is typically found at altitudes between 2,000 metres and 4,000 metres (6,500 to 13,000 feet).
4. It is categorised as 'vulnerable' in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

A. Red Panda

- B. Himalayan Monal
- C. Himalayan Serow
- D. Himalayan Yak

Answer: C

Explanation

- Context: Himalayan serow has been sighted for the first time in the Himalayan cold desert region
- A Himalayan serow is a resembling a cross between a goat, a donkey, a cow, and a pig.
- It's a medium-sized mammal with a large head, thick neck, short limbs, long, mule-like ears, and a coat of dark hair.
- There are several species of serows, and all of them are found in Asia. The Himalayan serow, or *Capricornis sumatraensis* thar, is restricted to the Himalayan region.
- Taxonomically, it is a subspecies of the mainland serow (*Capricornis sumatraensis*).
- Himalayan serows are herbivores, and are typically found at altitudes between 2,000 metres and 4,000 metres (6,500 to 13,000 feet).
- They are known to be found in eastern, central, and western Himalayas, but not in the Trans Himalayan region.
- The animal was spotted by in Spiti, Himachal Pradesh
- This is the first recorded human sighting of the serow in Himachal Pradesh.

Why is the sighting of the serow unusual?

- Spiti lies in the cold mountain desert region of the western Himalaya, and its valley floor has an average elevation of 4,270 metres above sea level.
- Serows are generally not found at this altitude, and never before has a serow been seen in the Himalayan cold desert.
- Wildlife officials believe this particular animal may have strayed into the Spiti valley from the Rupi Bhaba Wildlife Sanctuary in adjoining Kinnaur.

Is the serow a threatened or endangered species?

- According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Himalayan serows have experienced significant declines in population size, range size and habitat in the last decade, and this is expected to continue due to intensive human impact.
- Previously assessed as 'near threatened', the Himalayan serow is now been categorised as 'vulnerable' in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- It is listed under Schedule I of The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, which provides absolute protection.
- Wildlife officials are trying to monitor the movement of the animal, and keep it safe from stray dogs.
- Himalayan serows are solitary by nature, and even though it has been sighted twice, it is "too clever" to be caught for rescue purposes.

17. Black Fungus recently heard in news is a

- A. An Exotic Edible mushroom.
- B. A Fungal Infection
- C. A narcotics operation by Interpol
- D. A herb used in Tibetan Medicine.

Answer: B

Explanation

- It is a serious but rare fungal infection, which has an overall mortality rate of 50%
- Mucormycosis infects people with a weak immune system and those with other existing illnesses.
- Recently Covid-19 patients in Ahmedabad and Rajkot were found infected with mucormycosis.
- This is not new but a rare infection and affects people who are under medication or are suffering from some illness as their immunity remains in a compromised state.
- The infection caused by a group of molds called mucormycetes.

Key Findings:

- It can occur in almost any part of the body. It can affect the sinuses or the lungs if the fungus enters through inhaling. It can also enter the skin through a cut, burn or any other type of skin injury.
- If not detected early, the infection – Mucormycosis also known as black fungus – can kill half the patients and lead to loss of vision or jaw in others.
- How does it affect the eyesight?
 - ✓ It enters through the nose and then spreads to the eyes, paralyses the muscles around the pupils which might lead to blindness. It may also cause meningitis if it spreads to the brain.
- This is not contagious.
- The connection between Covid-19 and Mucormycosis is the weakened immunity response.
- Many Covid-19 patients are given steroids and other drugs that might lower their immunity further, hence Greater risk for disease.
- One-sided facial swelling, headache, nasal or sinus congestion, black lesions on nasal bridge or upper inside of mouth, fever are symptoms of mucormycosis in sinus and brain.
- Fever, cough, chest pain, shortness of breath are the symptoms of mucormycosis in the lungs.
- Skin mucormycosis has symptoms like blisters or ulcers, blackening of a portion of skin or excessive redness, swelling around a wound etc.
- According to the advisory, people with diabetes or cancer, those who underwent organ transplant, stem cell transplant or people with too much iron in their body are at a greater risk of contracting this infection
- Mucormycosis cannot spread between people or between people and animals. People get mucormycosis through contact with fungal spores in the environment.

- The advisory has recommended some preventive measures, like wearing N95 masks but said they “have not been proven to prevent mucormycosis”.
- People should also avoid direct contact with a lot of dust, wear shoes, long pants and gloves while handling soil or moss, and clean skin injuries well with soap and water.

18. Which of the following statements are correct about Commission for Air Quality Management?

- 1. It was constituted by an ordinance brought by State Government.**
- 2. CAQM supersedes all existing bodies, including the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), as well as state governments in matters of air pollution mitigation.**

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- The central government notified an Ordinance to constitute a Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region (NCR) and Adjoining Areas.
- CAQM supersedes all existing bodies, including the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), as well as state governments in matters of air pollution mitigation
- Through the Ordinance, the Centre has dissolved the Environment Pollution Prevention and Control Authority (EPCA) for the NCR.
- Only the National Green Tribunal (NGT), and not civil courts, is authorised to hear cases where the Commission is involved.
- The Commission brings together the Centre, states, and other stakeholders on one collaborative platform.
- It will have a full-time chairperson “who is or has been Secretary to the Government of India or Chief Secretary to the Government of a state”.
- The chairperson will hold the post for three years or until s/he attains the age of 70 years.
- The Commission will also have five ex officio members who are either Chief Secretaries, or Secretaries in charge of the department dealing with environment protection in the States of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh
- Three full-time independent technical members with “specific scientific knowledge and experience in matters relating to air pollution”; a technical member each from the CPCB and nominated by ISRO, ex officio.
- Three representatives of NGOs with experience in combating air pollution
- It will have members from Niti Aayog and several Ministries

- The Supreme Court recently said it is not satisfied with the work done by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas, which has been constituted by the Centre to tackle air pollution
- On November 6, the apex court had asked the Centre to ensure there is no smog in Delhi as it was informed that the Commission has started functioning from that day.
- It had said that pollution problem has to be dealt with by the executive as it has the power, money and resources for this.

19. Based on the following statements identify the product

1. It is intended to be used in the production of carbon-neutral fertilizer products.
2. One way of making this product is by using hydrogen from water electrolysis and nitrogen separated from the air.
3. Haber-Bosch process is currently the only method used on a commercial scale for its production.
4. It is emerging as the most promising carbon-neutral energy carrier for several energy applications, such as decarbonized shipping fuel.

- A. Green Ammonia
- B. Ammonium Nitrate
- C. Calcium Nitrate
- D. Urea

Answer: A

Explanation

- Green ammonia is intended to be used in the production of carbon-neutral fertiliser products, decarbonising the food value chain, and also has potential as a future climate-neutral shipping fuel.
- Green ammonia production makes use of renewable energy sources such as hydro-electric, solar power or wind turbines.
- Unlike “brown” ammonia, which is made using fossil fuels (typically natural gas) as the feedstock, the raw materials for green ammonia are hydrogen obtained through the electrolysis of water, a process powered by renewable energy sources, and nitrogen obtained from the air using an air separation unit.
- Green ammonia can then be synthesised from nitrogen and hydrogen via various methods, with the Haber-Bosch process currently the only method used on a commercial scale.
- Similarly to fossil fuels, ammonia is both a chemical energy carrier and a potential fuel, where energy is released by the breaking of chemical bonds.
- Crucially, ammonia has the advantage of not releasing any carbon emissions if used as a fuel, and its green credentials can be enhanced even further if sustainable energy is used to power the production of ammonia.

'Green' Ammonia

Green ammonia is key to meeting the twin challenges of the 21st century.

Ammonia
Ammonia is a compound made of nitrogen and hydrogen. Chemical formula NH_3 . Ammonia's main use is in fertilizer.

Nitrogen is a harmless odourless gas that makes up 78% of the air around us.

Hydrogen is the most abundant element in the universe. There are 2 hydrogen atoms in every molecule of water.

By using water electrolysis and renewable electricity, ammonia production can be made completely carbon-free.

180 million Tonnes
Ammonia the world produces annually produces mainly fertilizer demand needs 7% each

But there is a problem
Today the most common way to get hydrogen is from natural gas but this produces carbon dioxide (CO_2) which is a major cause of man-made climate change.

Over 1%
requires energy, and today this energy also comes from fossil fuels. Together with the fossil hydrogen feedback, current ammonia production accounts for over 1% of global CO_2 emissions.

By switching to renewable electricity to make ammonia we could save over 40 million tons of CO_2 each year in Europe alone, or over 360 million tons worldwide. We can also burn ammonia to make electricity when the wind is not blowing.

When used in this way ammonia turns back into air and water, so doesn't pollute the atmosphere. Ammonia can even be made to clean up after itself by scrubbing any nitrogen oxides left after combustion. Ammonia is an easy to store safely as LPG. You can even run a car on ammonia.

- Ammonia is the second-most-widely produced commodity chemical globally
- Ammonia is mostly utilized in agriculture, a sector that is under increasing scrutiny due to its environmental impact, with 80% of global ammonia production going into fertiliser and 20% into industrial products.
- Green ammonia can be essential to enable sustainable food production, in addition, it is emerging as the most promising carbon-neutral energy carrier for several energy applications, such as decarbonized shipping fuel.

20. Which of the following statements are correct about Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)?

1. It was launched at Climate Action Summit in New York 2019.
2. CDRI is to be seen as an international knowledge platform.
3. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is operating as the interim secretariat of CDRI.

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

C. 1 and 3 only

D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Explanation

- It was launched by PM in September 2019 at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit in New York, US.
- It is a platform where knowledge is generated and exchanged on different aspects of disaster and climate resilience of infrastructure.
- It will create a mechanism to assist countries to upgrade their capacities and practices, with regard to infrastructure development in accordance with their risk context and economic needs.
- CDRI is envisaged as an international knowledge platform where countries can collaborate to make their existing and new infrastructure strong enough to withstand natural disasters.
- CDRI is an attempt to bring countries together to share and learn from the experiences of one another to protect their key infrastructure – highways, railways, power stations, communication lines, water channels, even housing – against disasters.

What it proposes:

- CDRI is to be seen as an international knowledge platform.
- Here, countries can collaborate to make their existing and new infrastructure strong enough to withstand natural disasters.
- It tries to bring countries together to share and learn from the one another's experiences to protect their infrastructure against disasters.
- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is operating as the interim secretariat of CDRI as of now.
- It will seek to identify and promote best practices, provide access to capacity building.
- It will work towards standardisation of designs, processes and regulations relating to infrastructure creation and management.
- It may identify and estimate the risks to, and from, large infrastructure in the event of different kinds of disasters in member countries.
- It may have countries, organisations like UN bodies, financial institutions, and other groups working on disaster management as its members.
- It seeks to help member countries integrate disaster management policies in all their activities.
- It will also help them in setting up institutions and regulatory provisions to ensure creation of resilient infrastructure, and identify and use affordable finance and technology.

6. Science & Technology

Click on the links given below to watch the following questions on YouTube

- [Video 1](#)
- [Video 2](#)
- [Video 3](#)
- [Video 4](#)

1. ART-PARK recently heard in news is a

- A. New Covid- 19 testing technique
- B. A new missile museum to be setup in Bangalore
- C. A collaboration of IISER and DRDO for manufacturing of defense equipment.
- D. Related to Artificial Intelligence.

Answer: D

Explanation

- An Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Technologies Park (ARTPARK), set up in Bengaluru, will promote technology innovations in AI and robotics.
- The government expects it will lead to a positive societal impact by executing ambitious mission-mode research and development (R&D) projects in healthcare, education, mobility, infrastructure, agriculture, retail, and cyber security, focusing on problems specific to India.
- ARTPARK is a not-for-profit foundation established by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru with support from AI Foundry in a public-private model.
- With seed funding of US\$ 22 million from the Department of Science & Technology (DST), under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), it will bring about a collaborative consortium of partners from industry, academia, and government bodies.
- This will lead to cutting-edge innovations in technologies, standards, products, services, and intellectual properties.
- ARTPARK will develop AI and robotics facilities to support technology innovations and capacity building through the advanced skills training of students and professionals in these areas.
- Some of these facilities will be key enablers for whole new sets of technologies, products, and services.
- It will develop DataSetu, which will enable confidentiality and a privacy-preserving framework to share data and run analytics spurring the data-sharing ecosystem and create a data marketplace, boosting AI applications and solutions.
- Another service will be BhashaSetu, which will enable real-time Indic language translation, of both speech-to-speech and speech-to-text.

- This will further unlock the economic potential of the country, allowing all Indian citizens to equitably participate in the economic progress, regardless of their language, the press release claimed.
- The National Mission ICPS with its 25 Hubs has a unique architecture that envisages a strong collaboration and co-ownership among the triple helix of industry, academia, and government with full flexibility.
- ARTPARK will also run a novel ARTPARK Venture Studio that will mentor technopreneurs who will take the outputs of the mission-mode projects to launch new startups.

2. Which of the following statements regarding Madras Atomic Power Station are correct?

1. It is country's first indigenously developed 500-megawatt (mw) prototype fast breeder reactor.
 2. It uses thorium, to breed new fissile material, in a sodium-cooled fast reactor design.
 3. Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam (Bhavini), a public sector company under DAE, has been given the responsibility to build the fast breeder reactors in the country.
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1 and 3 only
D. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: C

Explanation

● **Context**

- Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS) at Kalpakkam, 70 km away from Chennai on the east coast, is braced to face the Cyclone Nivar in the Bay of Bengal.
- The cyclone protection machinery of MAPS was activated and all the preparedness measures including placing sandbags on the coastal side, clearing of storm drains, and inspection of plant buildings and structures was done.
- Station authorities were on high alert, closely monitoring the weather bulletins and ready to take necessary actions when required.

About the plant

- It is country's first indigenously developed 500-megawatt (mw) prototype fast breeder reactor at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu.
- The indigenously developed prototype fast breeder reactor of 500 mw is now undergoing sodium commissioning.
- Achieving criticality means that the reactor is fully operational and safe.

About Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)

- The Kalpakkam PFBR is using uranium-238 not thorium, to breed new fissile material, in a sodium-cooled fast reactor design.
- The power island of this project is being engineered by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, largest power equipment utility of India.
- The surplus plutonium (or uranium-233 for thorium reactors) from each fast reactor can be used to set up more such reactors and grow the nuclear capacity in tune with India's needs for power.
- India has the capability to use thorium cycle based processes to extract nuclear fuel.
- This is of special significance to the Indian nuclear power generation strategy as India has one of the world's largest reserves of thorium, which could provide power for more than 10,000 year.
- Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam (Bhavini), a public sector company under DAE, has been given the responsibility to build the fast breeder reactors in the country.

3. Sanitation and hygiene fund was recently launched by

- A. United Nations
- B. Blue Planet Network
- C. World Bank – Water and Sanitation Program
- D. World Vision

Answer: A

Explanation

- The United Nations earlier this month launched the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund to provide accelerated funding to countries with the heaviest burden of diseases stemming from lack of sanitation services and have the least ability to respond to them.
- It also aims to raise \$2 billion over the next five years for these countries.
- The novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has blown the lid off poor sanitation and hygiene practices.
- The key to keeping the virus at bay is hand-washing – a facility inaccessible to three billion people across the globe.
- The fund is hosted by the UN Office for Project Services, which provides technical advice and project implementation to the UN and its partners.
- The objectives of the Fund are:
 - ✓ Expanding household sanitation
 - ✓ Ensuring menstrual health and hygiene
 - ✓ Providing sanitation and hygiene in schools and healthcare facilities
 - ✓ Supporting innovative sanitation solutions

4. Which of the following statements are correct about National Medicinal Plant Board?

1. Its mandate is to promote the medicinal plant's sector by developing a suitable mechanism which will support policies and programs for the cultivation and export of medicinal plants.

2. It works under Ministry of AYUSH.

A. 1 only

B. 2 only

C. Both 1 and 2

D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C

Explanation

- The National Medicinal Plants Board was established by the Government of India in 24th November 2000.
- Its mandate is to promote the medicinal plant's sector by developing a suitable mechanism which will support policies and programs for the cultivation and export of medicinal plants.
- The growing demand for medicinal plants is met by the NMBP's focus on conservation and augmentation of local medicinal plants and spices of significance.
- The NMPB encourages research and development, capacity building through training and promotion of activities such as the creation of herbal gardens at the home and school levels.
- The board also supports programs for quality assurance, which institute a credible mechanism for the certification of quality raw drugs, seed and planting material.
- Functions of the NMPB:
 - ✓ Advice concerned Ministries and State/ Union Territory Governments on policy matters relating to schemes and programs for the development of medicinal plants.
 - ✓ Identification, Inventorisation and Quantification of medicinal plants.
 - ✓ Promotion of co-operative efforts among collectors and growers and assisting them to store, transport and market their products effectively.
 - ✓ Setting up of data-base system for incentivisation, dissemination of information and facilitating the prevention of Patents being obtained for medicinal use of plants which is in the public domain.
 - ✓ Undertaking and awarding Scientific, Technological research and cost-effectiveness studies.
 - ✓ Development of protocols for cultivation and quality control.
 - ✓ Encouraging the protection of Intellectual Property Rights.

5. National Portal for transgender persons comes under

- A. Ministry of Home Affairs
- B. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- C. Ministry of Women & Child Development
- D. Ministry of Minority Affairs

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry launched a national portal for transgender persons to apply for certificates and identity cards.
- The portal had been developed within two months of the Ministry notifying the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Rules, 2020.
- The portal would help transpersons in applying for certificate and ID cards digitally without having to visit any government office.
- Through the portal, they can monitor the status of their application that ensures transparency in the process.
- The issuing authorities are also bound by strict timelines to process the applications and issue certificates and identity cards without any necessary delays.
- Once the certificate and I-card are issued, the applicant can download them from the portal itself.
- Under the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, trans-persons can apply for an ID card based on their self-perceived identity.
- The portal – transgender.dosje.gov.in – would enable the applicant to track their application and register their grievances in case of delays.

6. Based on the following statements, identify the observatory?

1. It was the world's second-largest single-dish radio telescope.
 2. It was also known as the National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center (NAIC).
 3. It was situated in Puerto Rico.
 4. It was owned by the US National Science Foundation (NSF).
 5. It was frequently used for finding asteroids that are swinging close to Earth.
- A. Gemini Observatory
 - B. Uraniborg
 - C. Roque de los Muchachos Observatory
 - D. Arecibo Observatory

Answer: D

Explanation

- Puerto Rico's Arecibo Observatory violently collapsed on December 1.
- Engineers had been planning to dismantle the radio telescope since a support cable snapped in November.
- But before that could happen, the telescope's 900-ton suspended platform crashed into the bowl-shaped disk below, destroying the facility.
- Maxar imaging satellites in low-Earth orbit photographed Arecibo at various stages of its destruction.
- The destruction of Puerto Rico's Arecibo Observatory has been photographed from space.
- The telescope collapsed earlier this month, following damage inflicted by Tropical Storm Isaias in August.
- Before engineers could repair that cable, another snapped in November. Soon afterward, the National Science Foundation decided to decommission and dismantle the structure in a controlled manner.
- Arecibo was one of only two radio telescopes of its kind in the world - China's FAST is the other. But its death could lead to a more powerful US replacement in the future.

7. 100 Octane, recently heard in news is

- A. A type of gasoline
- B. Mountain-sized object 4 billion miles from Earth discovered by New Horizon
- C. A commercial spaceship designed for NASA astronauts.
- D. Newly discovered Antarctic and Greenland ice sheets.

Answer: A

Explanation

- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) launched the nation's first 100 Octane petrol, helping India join a select league of nations globally that have such superior quality fuel

What is 100 Octane fuel?

- Premium fuel (gasoline or petrol) is also commonly referred to as high octane fuel.
- The Octane rating is the ability of the fuel to resist engine knock – the engine pinging or rattling sound that comes as a result of premature ignition of the compressed fuel in one or more cylinders.

Uses of high octane fuel:

- High octane fuels are used in high-performance engines such as turbocharged cars.
- In such machines, high octane fuels are required as they do not burn prematurely.
- Some car owners choose high octane fuel for use in their non-turbo powered vehicle but that is not advisable unless your car explicitly needs the high octane fuel.
- High-octane petrol used in regular engines

- Experts warn that if you put premium fuel in a regular engine, it may even find that your vehicle's engine is having a harder time burning it and the adverse effects may scare you about the health of your car's engine.

IIT-B RANKING OF INDIAN CITIES

Index	Highest ranked	Lowest ranked
Basic amenities	Pune	Patna
Economic development	Mumbai	Patna
Safety and security	Kolkata	Patna
Transportation access	Delhi	Indore
Environmental impact	Mumbai	Lucknow
Infrastructure development	Kolkata	Patna
Gender role	Chennai	Patna

8. Which of the following are the parameters of Urban Quality Index?

1. Basic amenities
2. Economic development
3. Social Infrastructure
4. Transportation access
5. Education
6. Gender role

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- It is compiled by the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B).
- The study quantifies the relative holistic urban development of 14 cities in India using 29 indicators grouped into seven components
- Top city: Mumbai
- The other top cities: Delhi, Kolkata and Chennai.

9. Havana syndrome recently heard in news is a

- A. Psychological Disorder
- B. Cardiology Disorder
- C. Blood Disorder
- D. DNA Mutation Disorder

Answer: A

Explanation

- In 2016, the US Diplomats and intelligence officials placed in Havana reported to hear strange sounds

and physical sensations in their homes and hotel rooms.

- The strange physical sensations were accompanied with severe headache, nausea, dizziness, fatigue, hearing loss and sleep problems.
- Since then the condition came to be known as Havana syndrome.
- So far more than two dozen American diplomats and their family members in China and Cuba have reported to have experienced such symptoms.
- Microwave weapons that are direct energy weapons which produce highly focused energy in the form of laser or microwaves.
- The victims of these weapons report a buzzing sound or a clicking sound constantly coming from the inside of their head.
- These weapons have long-term and acute damages without any signs of physical damage.
- The National Academy of Sciences report said that there are four possibilities that might have caused the symptoms.
- They are chemicals, infection, psychological factors and microwave energy.
- However, the report concluded that the most plausible mechanism that might have caused the syndrome is the directed pulse radiofrequency energy.
- By using the words directed and pulsed, the report concludes that the victims were targeted and were not affected from a common source of microwave energy.

10. Which of the statements are correct about Climate Change Performance Index?

1. It was recently released by - (UNEP) United Nations Environment Programme.
 2. According to the report none of the countries are in the path of meeting their Paris Agreement commitment.
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Global Climate Change Performance Index was recently released by the New Climate Institute, Germanwatch and CAN (Climate Action Network).
- The index has been rating the fifty-seven greenhouse emitters in the world since 2005.
- These countries account to 90% of global emissions.
- The index aims to enable comparison of mitigation efforts, enhance transparency in international climate politics.

- India remained in the top ten in the Climate Change Performance Index for the second consecutive year.
- China, one of the largest contributors of greenhouse gases ranked 33rd.
- In 2020, India slid a position to the tenth. India was at 31st rank in 2014.
- According to the index, only two G20 countries India and UK were among the high rankers.
- The rest of the six such as Saudi Arabia, USA, South Korea, Australia and Russia were at the bottom of the index.
- None of the countries were in top three ranks.
- This was because none of the countries were in the path of meeting their Paris Agreement commitment.
- Sweden was at fourth place followed by UK, Denmark, Morocco, Norway, Chile.
- The index is prepared by assessing the performance of fifty-seven countries in four categories namely renewable energy, GHG emissions, climate policy and energy use.

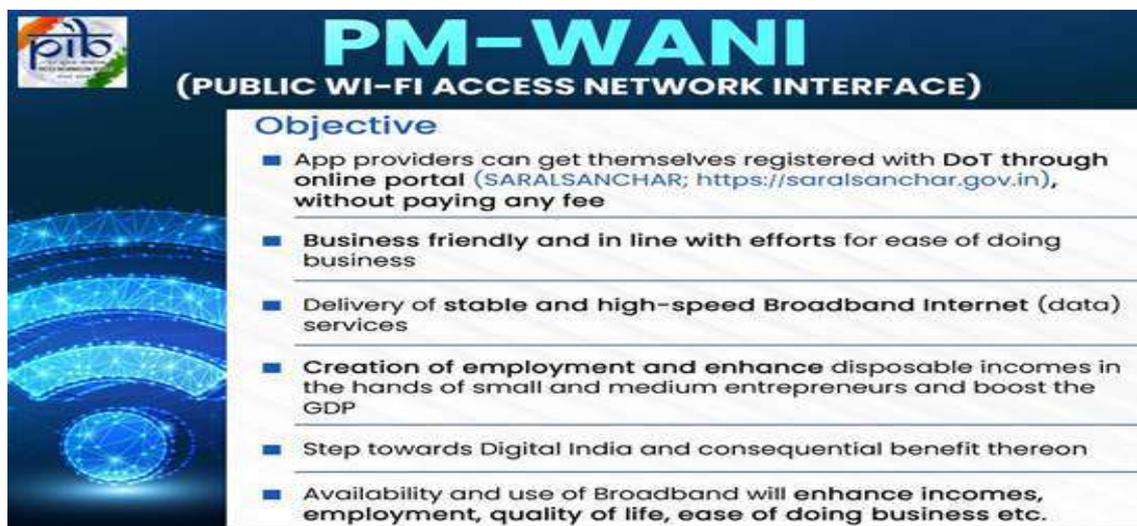
11.PM- WANI recently heard in news is related to which of the following?

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

Answer: C

Explanation

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



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

Objective

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



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

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

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

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

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- Gaganyaan, planned for Dec 2020, may be delayed due to Covid-related disruptions
- It was part of the two unmanned missions to be undertaken by the Indian Space Research Organisation ahead of the planned launch of India's maiden human spaceflight under 'Gaganyaan' in December 2021.
- The likely delay in the first unmanned mission was recently conveyed to the Space Commission.
- The Gaganyaan mission aims to send a three-member crew to space for a period of five to seven days by 2022 when India completes 75 years of Independence.
- The ISRO had started planning for the mission accordingly. The first unmanned mission was planned in December 2020, the second unmanned mission in June 2021.
- The final and the main component, the manned mission of Gaganyaan, was scheduled six months later in December 2021, much before the 2022 deadline.

- ISRO had earlier indicated that there would be a delay in several missions as the space body's work has been hit by disruptions due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Among the major projects that have been affected are Chandrayaan-3 and Gaganyaan.
- Chandrayaan-3, the third mission to Moon, was scheduled later this year.
- The spacecraft will be placed in a low earth orbit of 300-400 kilometres. The total programme cost is expected to be less than ₹10,000 crores.



GAGANYAAN
INDIA'S FIRST MANNED SPACE MISSION

COST: Less than **₹10,000cr**

LAUNCH: 2022

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

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

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

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

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

1. QKD works by using electrons.
2. QKD allows two distant users, who do not share a long secret key initially, to produce a common, random string of secret bits, called a secret key.
3. The encryption is “unbreakable”

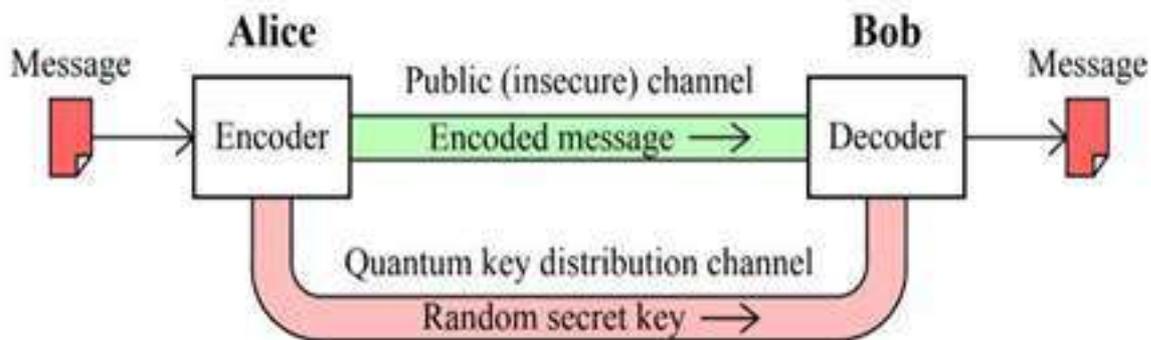
A. 1 only

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully demonstrated communication between its two labs using Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) technology, which is a “robust” way to share encryption keys.
- In the QKD technology, encryption keys are sent as qubits in a fibre optic cable.
- Quantum computing uses qubits as basic resources, similar to how bits are used as basic resources in classical computing.
- The QKD is designed in a way that if an illegitimate entity tries to read the transmission, it will disturb the qubits - which are encoded on photons - and this will generate transmission errors, leading to legitimate end users being immediately informed.
- Quantum Communication using the time-bin QKD scheme was performed under realistic conditions.
- The setup also demonstrated the validation of detection of a third party trying to gain knowledge of the communication.



- The Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) and The Research Centre Imarat (RCI) were the two labs that participated in this demonstration.
- Quantum computing refers to a new era of faster and more powerful computers, and the theory goes that they would be able to break current levels of encryption.
- QKD works by using photons – the particles which transmit light – to transfer data.
- QKD allows two distant users, who do not share a long secret key initially, to produce a common, random string of secret bits, called a secret key.
- Using the one-time pad encryption this key is proven to be secure to encrypt and decrypt a message, which can then be transmitted over a standard communication channel.
- The encryption is “unbreakable” and that’s mainly because of the way data is carried via the photon.
- A photon cannot be perfectly copied and any attempt to measure it will disturb it.

- This means that a person trying to intercept the data will leave a trace.
- The implications could be huge for cybersecurity, making businesses safer, but also making it more difficult for governments to hack into communication.

14. Which of the following has developed a solar-powered Unmanned Autonomous Survey Craft for Indian ports?

- A. IIT Madras
- B. IIT Bombay
- C. IISER Bhopal
- D. IISER Thiruvananthapuram

Answer: A

Explanation

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

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

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- The Australia Group (AG) is an informal forum of countries which, through the harmonisation of

export controls, seeks to ensure that exports do not contribute to the development of chemical or biological weapons.

- ✓ The formation of the Australia Group (AG) in 1985 was prompted by Iraq's use of chemical weapons during the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988)
- ✓ Coordination of National export control measures assists Australia Group members to fulfil their obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention and Biological & Toxin Weapons Convention.
- ✓ The Australia Group has a list of 54 compounds that are identified to be regulated in global trade. This list includes more items than the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- ✓ It has 43 members (including the European union). The members work on a consensus basis. The annual meeting is held in Paris, France.
- ✓ India joined the Australia Group (AG) on 19 January 2018.
- ✓ The Australia Group decided to admit India as the Group's 43rd Participant through a consensus decision.

Wassenaar Arrangement Admits India As Member

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

(Text by Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury)

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

INDIA WILL BECOME the 42nd member of the Wassenaar Arrangement



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

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



India in Elite Missile Club

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

MTCR Explained




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

Road to MTCR

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

16. Which of the following statements are correct about Chang'e-5?

1. It made China the first country to successfully retrieve lunar samples since the 1970s.
2. It is an unmanned spacecraft.
3. It comprises of four parts: an orbiter, a returner, an ascender and a lander.

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

Answer: D

Explanation

- Chinese spacecraft carrying rocks and soil from the moon has returned back to Earth, putting China to become the first country to successfully retrieve lunar samples since the 1970s.
- The Chang'e-5 was launched on Nov. 24 and a lander vehicle touched down on the moon on Dec. 1.
- The mission was expected to take around 23 days in total.
- The objective of the mission was to bring back lunar rocks, the first attempt by any nation to retrieve samples from the moon in four decades.
- It is an unmanned spacecraft by China.
- The probe is named after the mythical Chinese moon goddess.
- The rocket comprises of four parts: an orbiter, a returner, an ascender and a lander.
- The Chang'e-5 mission is expected to realize four "firsts" in China's space history:
 - ✓ The first time for a probe to take off from the surface of the Moon.
 - ✓ The first time to automatically sample the lunar surface.



- ✓ The first time to conduct unmanned rendezvous and docking in lunar orbit.
- ✓ The first time to return to Earth with lunar soil samples in escape velocity.

17. Himgiri, recently heard in news, is a

- A. Seed Vault of India
- B. Indian Navy Ship
- C. Climate change alliance
- D. A book about Tundra regions in India

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) recently launched a new Project 17A ship called Himgiri for the Indian Navy.
- The ship was launched into the waters of Hooghly river.
- It is a Nilgiri-class Stealth Frigate.

Project 17A

- The project was approved by the Government of India in 2015.
- Under the project, a total of seven advanced frigates are to be delivered to the Indian Navy.
- Four of these are to be constructed by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited and three are to be launched by GRSE.
- The Project 17A ships are guided missile frigates.
- Each of these ships are 149 meters long.
- They have displacement of approximately 6,670 tonnes and a speed of twenty-eight knots.
- The ships are built using indigenously developed steel.
- They are integrated with indigenous sonar system and weapons such as BrahMos missile, LRSAM.

Himgiri

- It is the first of the three ships built by GRSE.
- The Project 17A ships are fitted with advanced sensors, indigenous weapons and is equipped with gas turbine propulsion.
- Earlier Himgiri was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1974 and decommissioned in 2005.
- A new ship is now being launched in 2020.
- In 1976, Himgiri was the first ship of Indian Navy to shoot a pilotless aircraft.

Nilgiri-class Frigates

- They are the updated class of Leander class.
- Frigate is a type of warship that has different roles over time.
- Frigates are of various sizes.
- The Nigiri class Frigates of Indian Navy are Himgiri, Dunagiri, Udaygiri, Vindhyagiri and Taragiri.
- The ships have been named after the hills in India.

18.IND-INDO CORPAT recently heard in news is a naval exercise between India and

- A. Indonesia
- B. Ireland
- C. West Indies
- D. Malaysia

Answer: A

Explanation

- The 35th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy was conducted from 17 to 18 December 2020.
- The 35th IND – INDO CORPAT will contribute towards the Indian Navy's efforts to consolidate interoperability and forge strong bonds of friendship across the Indo Pacific.
- Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kulish, an indigenously built missile corvette along with P8I Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) will undertake coordinated patrol with Indonesian Naval Ship KRI Cut NyakDien, a KapitanPattimura (Parchim I) class corvette and an MPA of the Indonesian Navy.

19.Asia-Pacific Vaccine Access Facility has recently been launched by

- A. World Bank
- B. World Health Organization
- C. Shanghai Cooperation Organization
- D. Asian Development Bank

Answer: D

Explanation

- The Asian Development Bank recently launched Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility to provide equitable support to the developing countries as they procure and deliver vaccines.
- The bank has allocated 9 billion USD for the scheme.
- It will support developing countries in Asia and will put in efforts to procure vaccines against deadly virus.

- If a country has to obtain finances under APVAX, then it should fulfil the following criteria
- It must be procured through COVAX.
- It should be prequalified by World Health Organization
- It should be authorized by a stringent regulatory authority.
- COVAX is one of the three pillars of the ACT Accelerator launched by World Health Organization.
- The COVAX facility aims to make sure that all the people in the world will get equal access to COVID-19 vaccine.
- The initial aim of the facility is to ensure that two billion doses are available by the end of 2021.
- It is co-led by GAVI (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization) and Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).
- ACT is a framework of collaboration that aims to accelerate production, development and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccine.
- The ACT Accelerator was launched by WHO, France and European Commission.
- It is built on three main pillars namely Therapeutics, Vaccines (COVAX) and Diagnostics.

20. Which of the following statements are incorrect about Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA)?

1. It is India's own rating system.
2. It jointly developed by TERI and the Ministry of Power.
3. The GRIHA Rating System contains 34 evaluation criteria with 100 points.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- 12th GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) Summit was recently held.
- It was organized by GRIHA Council from Hyderabad.
- Theme was Rejuvenating Resilient Habitats.
- It aims to serve as a platform to deliberate on innovative technologies and solutions which shall help in creating robust mechanisms for developing sustainable and resilient solutions for the benefit of the entire community.
- The Vice President also launched the SHASHWAT magazine and the book '30 Stories Beyond Buildings' during the event

Components of the CCPI



GHG = Greenhouse Gases | TPES = Total Primary Energy Supply

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- Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) is India's own rating system jointly developed by TERI and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
- It is a green building design evaluation system where buildings are rated in a three-tier process.
- The GRIHA Rating System contains 34 evaluation criteria with 100 points.
- These criteria have been categorized into
 - ✓ Site Planning including conservation and efficient utilization of resources, health and wellbeing during building planning and construction stage.
 - ✓ Water Conservation.
 - ✓ Energy Efficiency including energy embodied & construction and renewable energy.
 - ✓ Waste Management including waste minimization, segregation, storage, disposal and recovery of energy from waste and
 - ✓ Environment for good health and wellbeing.
- It is the National Rating System Of India for any completed building construction.



- GRIHA is recognized as India's own green building rating system in India's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- GRIHA Council has developed the Building Fitness Indicator (BFI) tool - a free-to-use self-assessment tool that allows organizations to measure the preparedness of workplaces to prevent exposure to COVID-19.