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For the 2nd Week

Of

March 2021

(8th March to 13th March)

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1. Geography

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1. Arrange the ports from North to South as per their “Geographical Location “

1. Chittagong Port
2. Sittwe Port
3. Kyaukpyu Port

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

Answer: A

Explanation





2. Consider the following statements:

1. Jet streams occur in the Northern Hemisphere only.
2. Only some cyclones develop an eye.
3. The temperature inside the eye of a cyclone is nearly 10 deg C lesser than that of the surroundings.

Which of the following statements are true ?

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

Answer: C

Explanation

- The eye temperature may be 10°C warmer or more at an altitude of 12 km than the surrounding environment, but only 0-2°C warmer at the surface in the tropical cyclone.

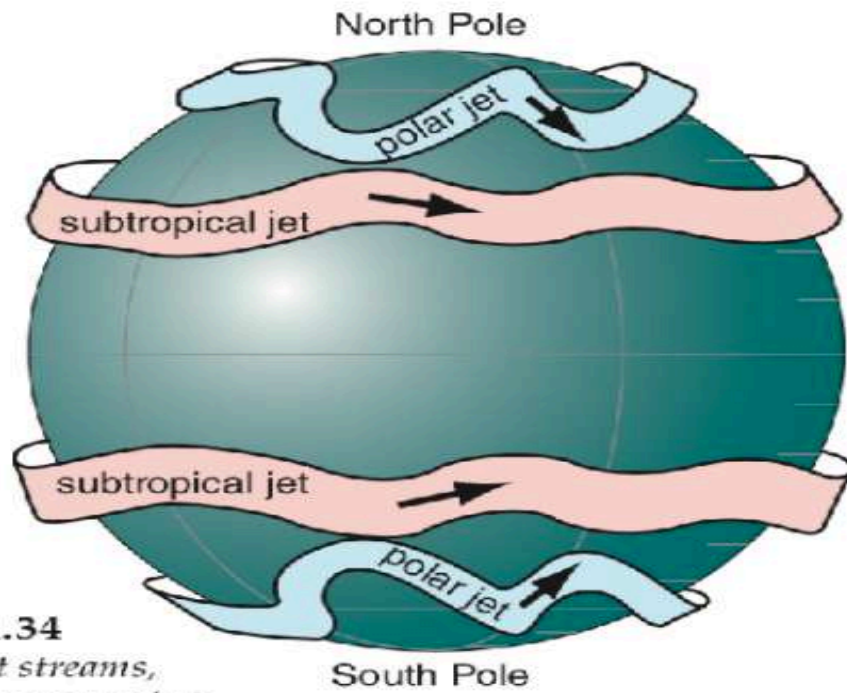


Figure 11.34
*Sketch of jet streams,
representing a snapshot.*

3. Recently the term “ Backstop Agreement “ was in news . It was in context of :

- A. TPP
- B. RCEP
- C. BREXIT
- D. MERCOSUR

Answer: C

Explanation



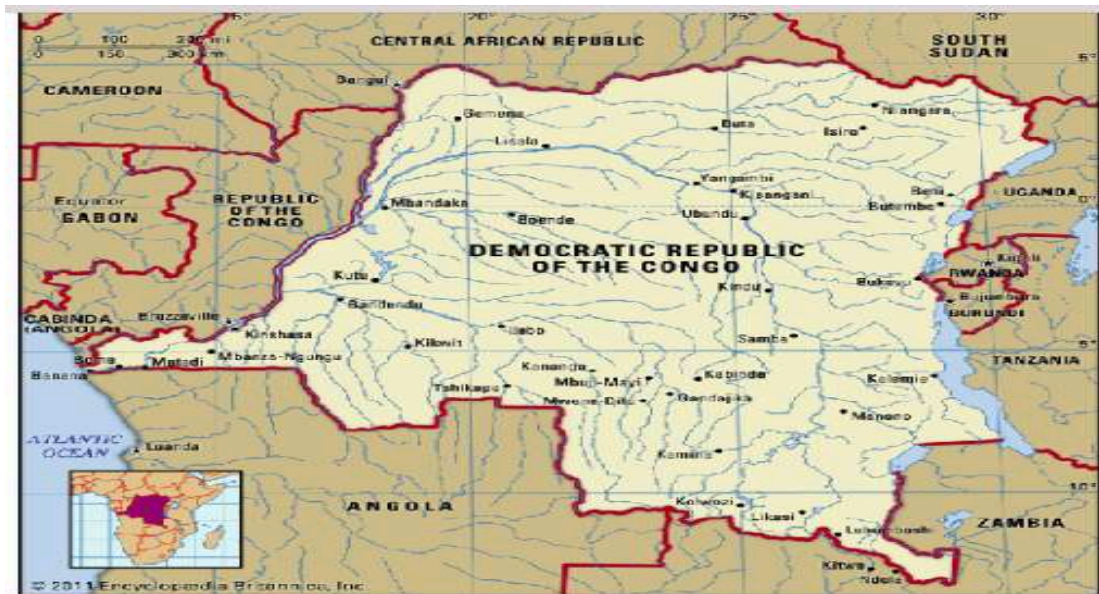
4. Boyoma Falls are a system of waterfalls that hold the record as the largest waterfall by volume of annual flow rate. It is located in which of the following country?

- A. Democratic Republic of Congo
- B. Nigeria
- C. Tanzania
- D. Uganda

Answer: A

Explanation

- They form the largest waterfall by volume of annual flow rate in the world, exceeding both the Niagara Falls and the Iguazu Falls.



5. Which part of the Sun is visible during a Total Solar Eclipse

- A. Photosphere
- B. Corona
- C. Heliosphere
- D. None of the above

Answer: B

Explanation

- The corona is the outermost layer of the Sun, starting at about 1300 miles (2100 km) above the solar surface (the photosphere). The temperature in the corona is 500,000 K (900,000 degrees F, 500,000 degrees C) or more, up to a few million K.
- The corona cannot be seen with the naked eye except during a total solar eclipse, or with the use of a coronagraph.

2. History

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

1. Khujli Ghar recently heard in news is associated with which of the following states?

- A. Nagaland
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Bihar
- D. West Bengal

Answer: A

Explanation

- Some villages in Nagaland are trying to revive a traditional form of punishment to reduce crime.
- Khujli ghar is a cramped, triangular cage made from the logs of Masang-fung. Masang-fung is a local tree that causes irritation.
- Social offenders of Naga customary laws dread this punishment due to humiliation within the community.
- Such itchy cages are referred to as khujli ghar in Nagamese
- The Aos, one of the major tribes of Nagaland, call it Shi-ki (flesh-house).
- The cage is usually placed at a central spot in the village, usually in front of the morung (bachelor's dormitory) for the inmate to be in full public view.
- It does not affect the palm but people who make the cages have to be careful.
- Article 371(A) of the Constitution guarantees the preservation of the Naga customary laws.
- The State also funds the customary courts in villages and towns where cases – mostly dealing with land litigation, money-lending and marital disputes – have a high rate of prompt disposal.

Article 371A

- Parliament cannot legislate in matters of Naga religion or social practices, the Naga customary law and procedure, administration of civil and criminal justice involving decisions according to Naga customary law.
- Parliament also cannot intervene in ownership and transfer of land and its resources, without the concurrence of the Legislative Assembly of the state.
- This provision was inserted in the Constitution after a 16-point agreement between the Centre and the Naga People's Convention in 1960, which led to the creation of Nagaland in 1963.

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

1. Houthi- Syria
 2. Hazara- Iran
 3. Cossacks- Ukraine
 4. Moor- Sudan
- A. 1 and 2 only
B. 2 and 3 only
C. 1, 3 and 4 only
D. 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer: B

Explanation

- Houthis - Yemen
- Cossacks - Ukraine and southern
- Russia Moor - Moroccan
- Hazara - Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran

3. Based on the following statements identify the temple?

1. The temple is dedicated to Maa Bagulamukhi Devi who is a powerful manifestation of Goddess Durga.
 2. It is believed that Raja Veersen, the then ruler of Dongargarh, in order to appease the Gods for his true successor, had built the temple 2200 years ago
 3. The temple is located near Durg in the state of Chattishgarh.
- A. Maa Vindhyaachal Vasini Temple
B. Maa Bamleshwari Devi Temple
C. Achru Mata Temple
D. Harsiddhi Durga Temple

Answer: B

Explanation

- Foundation Stone was laid down for development of Maa Bamleshwari Devi Temple, Dongargarh, Chhattisgarh under PRASHAD Scheme
- The temple here is dedicated to Maa Bagulamukhi Devi who is a powerful manifestation of Goddess Durga.

- 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive' (PRASHAD)
- It is a Central Sector Scheme
- Launched by: Ministry of Tourism in 2014-15
- Objective: Integrated development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations
- Aim: Infrastructure development such as entry points (Road, Rail and Water Transport), last mile connectivity, ATM/ Money exchange, area lighting and illumination with renewable sources, first aid centers, etc
- Till now, 13 projects have been successfully completed under PRASHAD Scheme.



4. The musical instrument Santoor is a traditional instrument of

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Odisha
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Jammu and Kashmir

Answer: D

Explanation

- In India, "Santoor" was used as an accompaniment instrument to the folk music of Kashmir.
- It was a 100-stringed instrument played in a style of music known as the Sufiana Mausiqi.
- The Sufi mystics used it as an accompaniment to their hymns.
- The original Sanskrit name of Santoor was "Shatha Tantri Veena" meaning a lute or a stringed instrument that has over hundred strings.
- Santoor is a Persian name to this same instrument "Shatha Tantri Veena" that has references back to Vedic literature.



5. Navjivan newspaper is associated with which of the following personalities?

- A. M.K. Gandhi
- B. Sunder Singh Lyallpuri
- C. Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi
- D. Tarak Nath Das

Answer: A

Explanation

- Navjivan India is an Indian newspaper published by The Associated Journals Ltd who began publishing the daily Navjivan on 1 November 1947.
- Earlier, a newspaper called Navjivan was published by Mohandas Gandhi, therefore with his permission, The Associate Journals started publishing Navjivan.
- Just like National Herald and Qaumi Awaz, Navajivan was also started with the intention to promote the principles of Mahatma Gandhi's freedom movement and Jawaharlal Nehru's vision of modern India.

3. Polity & Governance

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

1. The Opportunity Index 2021 report was recently released by

- A. Transparency International
- B. Google
- C. LinkedIn
- D. International Labour Organization

Answer: C

Explanation

Context

- It is a new report by LinkedIn.
- 9 in 10 or 89 per cent of women were negatively impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.
- About 85%, or four in five working women in India believe they have missed out on a raise, promotion, or work offer because of their gender. This average stands at 60% for the Asia Pacific (APAC) region.
- More women in India have experienced the impact of gender on career development when compared to the APAC region.

Challenges for women

- Lack of time and discrimination for family care.
- Gender is a barrier when it comes to attaining opportunities.
- Lack of guidance through networks.
- Workplace discrimination because of household responsibilities.

2. Which of the following statements regarding Registration of political parties are correct?

1. Registration of Political parties is governed by the provisions of Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951
2. To be eligible for a 'National Political Party of India', it should secure at least ten percent of the valid votes polled in any four or more states, at a general election to the House of the People or, to the State Legislative Assembly.

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- Context: The Election Commission has said it had reduced the public notice period for new political parties seeking registration from 30 days to seven days due to the delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The relaxation in notice period would remain in force till the last dates of nomination for the Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry and West Bengal elections, that is March 19 and April 7 respectively.
- According to guidelines, the applicants are supposed to publish the proposed name of their party in two national and local daily newspapers each on two days, seeking objections, if any, within 30 days.

Registration of political parties

- Registration of Political parties is governed by the provisions of Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- A party seeking registration under the said Section with the Election Commission has to submit an application to the Commission within the said period following the date of its formation as per guidelines prescribed by the Election Commission of India in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 324 of the Commission of India and Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

To be eligible for a 'National Political Party of India

- It secures at least six percent of the valid votes polled in any four or more states, at a general election to the House of the People or, to the State Legislative Assembly.
- In addition, it wins at least four seats in the House of the People from any State or States.
- It wins at least two percent seats in the House of the People (i.e., 11 seats in the existing House having 543 members), and these members are elected from at least three different States.

To be eligible for a 'State Political Party

- It secures at least six percent of the valid votes polled in the State at a general election, either to the House of the People or to the Legislative Assembly of the State concerned
- In addition, it wins at least two seats in the Legislative Assembly of the State concerned.
- It wins at least three percent (3%) of the total number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of the State, or at least three seats in the Assembly, whichever is more.

3. Which of the following statements regarding Insurance ombudsman are correct?

1. One can approach the Ombudsman with complaint only if the value of the claim including expenses claimed is not be above Rs 30 lakhs.
2. If a settlement by recommendation does not work, the Ombudsman will Pass an award within 3 months of receiving all the requirements from the complainant and which will be binding on the insurance company.

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

Answer: C

Explanation

Context: The government has amended insurance ombudsman rules.

- As per the new rules:
 - ✓ Insurance brokers are now covered under ombudsman rules.
 - ✓ Policyholders are now allowed to file online complaints.
 - ✓ The scope of complaints has been enlarged to ombudsmen from only disputes earlier to deficiencies in service on the part of insurers, agents, brokers and other intermediaries.
 - ✓ The ombudsman may use video-conferencing for hearings.
 - ✓ The Insurance Ombudsman scheme was created by the Government of India for individual policyholders to have their complaints settled out of the courts system in a cost-effective, efficient and impartial way.
 - ✓ Any person who has a grievance against an insurer, may himself or through his legal heirs, nominee or assignee, make a complaint in writing to the Insurance ombudsman.

4. Shekatkar Committee is related to which of the following:

- A. ISRO "frame-up" case
- B. Army pay scales
- C. Restructuring railways
- D. Border Infrastructure.

Answer: D

Explanation

- Context: Government has accepted and implemented three important recommendations of Committee of Experts (CoE) under the Chairmanship of Lt General D B Shekatkar (Retd) relating to border Infrastructure.
- Accepted recommendations:
 - ✓ Speeding up road construction,
 - ✓ Outsourcing road construction work beyond optimal capacity of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

- ✓ Mandatory to adopt Engineering Procurement Contract (EPC) mode for execution of all works costing more than Rs 100 crore.
- ✓ Delegating enhanced procurement powers from Rs 7.5 crore to Rs 100 crore to BRO, for domestic and foreign procurements.
- The land acquisition and all statutory clearances like forest and environmental clearance are also made part of approval of Detailed Project Report (DPR).
- With the adoption of EPC mode of execution, it is mandatory to award work only when 90 per cent of the statutory clearances have been obtained, implementing the recommendation of CoE regarding obtaining prior clearances before the commencement of the project.

Other reforms suggested

- India's defence budget should be in the range of 2.5 to 3 per cent of the GDP, keeping in mind possible future threats.
- A Joint Services War College for training middle-level officers should be established.
- The Military Intelligence School at Pune be converted to a tri-service intelligence training establishment.

5. Private property comes under which of the following?

- A. Human Right
- B. Legal Right
- C. Fundamental Right
- D. None of the above

Answer: A

Explanation

- Context: The Supreme Court recently held that a citizen's right to own private property is a human right and the state cannot take possession of it without following due procedure and authority of law.

Important observations made by the Court

- The state cannot trespass into the private property of a citizen and then claim ownership of the land in the name of 'adverse possession'.
- Grabbing private land and then claiming it as its own makes the state an encroacher.
- In a welfare state, right to property is a human right.
- A welfare state cannot be permitted to take the plea of adverse possession, which allows a trespasser i.e. a person guilty of a tort, or even a crime, to gain legal title over such property for over 12 years.
- The State cannot be permitted to perfect its title over the land by invoking the doctrine of adverse possession to grab the property of its own citizens.

- The Himachal Pradesh government forcibly took over four acres of land belonging to a person at Hamipur district to build a road in 1967.
- Even 52 years later, the state has failed to pay the compensation.
- The appellant was wholly unaware of her rights and entitlement in law, and did not file any proceedings for compensation of the land compulsorily taken over by the state.
- When her petition was turned down by the High Court, the appellant moved the Supreme Court.

4. Economy

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

1. Which of the following have MSP (Minimum Selling Price)?

1. Wheat
 2. Paddy
 3. Sugar
 4. Cotton
- A. 1, 2 & 3 only
B. 2, 3 & 4 only
C. 1 & 2 only
D. All of the above

Answer: D

Explanation

- Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices.
The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season for certain crops on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- MSP is price fixed by Government of India to protect the producer - farmers - against excessive fall in price during bumper production years.
The minimum support prices are a guarantee price for their produce from the Government.
- The major objectives are to support the farmers from distress sales and to procure food grains for public distribution.
In case the market price for the commodity falls below the announced minimum price due to bumper production and glut in the market, government agencies purchase the entire quantity offered by the farmers at the announced minimum price.
- Government announces minimum support prices (MSPs) for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane. The mandated crops are 14 crops of the kharif season, 6 rabi crops and two other commercial crops. In addition, the MSPs of toria and de-husked coconut are fixed on the basis of the MSPs of rapeseed/mustard and copra, respectively.
- The list of crops are as follows.
 - ✓ Cereals (7) - paddy, wheat, barley, jowar, bajra, maize and ragi
 - ✓ Pulses (5) - gram, arhar/tur, moong, urad and lentil
 - ✓ Oilseeds (8) - groundnut, rapeseed/mustard, toria, soyabean, sunflower seed, sesamum, safflower seed and nigerseed

- ✓ Raw cotton
- ✓ Raw jute
- ✓ Copra
- ✓ De-husked coconut
- ✓ Sugarcane (Fair and remunerative price)
- ✓ Virginia flu cured (VFC) tobacco

- To control the constant slide in ex mill prices of sugar, the central government had in June 2018 specified the concept of MSP for sugar. Back then the MSP was fixed at Rs 2,850/- per quintal which was subsequently raised to Rs 3,100/- per quintal.

2. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Anti-dumping Duty?

1. It is imposed in order to counter the negative impact of import subsidies to protect domestic producers.
2. A country is allowed to impose tariffs on dumped products to provide a level-playing field to domestic manufacturers.

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

Answer: B

Explanation

Context

- The U.S. Department of Commerce is preparing to tax aluminium sheet exporters from 18 countries including India after determining that they had benefited from subsidies and dumping.
- The US International Trade Commission (ITC), an independent body, must approve the final decision to impose anti-dumping or countervailing duties.
- In international trade practise, dumping happens when a country or a firm exports an item at a price lower than the price of that product in its domestic market.
- Dumping impacts the price of that product in the importing country, hitting margins and profits of local manufacturing firms.
- Anti-dumping duty is imposed to rectify the situation arising out of the dumping of goods and its trade distortive effect.
- According to global trade norms, including the World Trade Organization (WTO) regime, a country is allowed to impose tariffs on such dumped products to provide a level-playing field to domestic manufacturers.

- Anti-dumping duty is different from countervailing duty. The latter is imposed in order to counter the negative impact of import subsidies to protect domestic producers.
- Countervailing Duties (CVDs) are tariffs levied on imported goods to offset subsidies made to producers of these goods in the exporting country.
- CVDs are meant to level the playing field between domestic producers of a product and foreign producers of the same product who can afford to sell it at a lower price because of the subsidy they receive from their government.

3. Which of the following statements are correct about Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)?

- 1. It is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia and beyond.**
 - 2. The Bank has established an International Advisory Panel (IAP) to coordinate with World Bank and IMF on investment related projects worldwide and their impacts on Asian economy.**
- A. 1 only
B. 2 only
C. Both 1 and 2
D. Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A

Explanation

Context

- Centre has signed \$304 million pact with AIIB for power transmission network in Assam.
- The fund will be utilised for the 'Assam Intra- State Transmission System Enhancement Project', aiming to improve reliability, capacity and security of the power transmission network in the state.
- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia and beyond.
- The Parties (57 founding members) to agreement comprise the Membership of the Bank.
- It is headquartered in Beijing.
- It commenced operations in January 2016.
- By investing in sustainable infrastructure and other productive sectors today, it aims to connect people, services and markets that over time will impact the lives of billions and build a better future.
- There are more than 100 members now
- Fourteen of the G-20 nations are AIIB members including France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom.
- China is the largest shareholder with 26.61 % voting shares in the bank followed by India (7.6%), Russia (6.01%) and Germany (4.2 %).

- The regional members hold 75% of the total voting power in the Bank.

Various organs of AIIB

- Board of Governors: The Board of Governors consists of one Governor and one Alternate Governor appointed by each member country. Governors and Alternate Governors serve at the pleasure of the appointing member.
- Board of Directors: Non-resident Board of Directors is responsible for the direction of the Bank's general operations, exercising all powers delegated to it by the Board of Governors.
- International Advisory Panel: The Bank has established an International Advisory Panel (IAP) to support the President and Senior Management on the Bank's strategies and policies as well as on general operational issues.

4. Based on the following statements identify the type of curve?

1. It plots interest rates of bonds of equal credit and different maturities.
2. The three key types include normal, inverted and flat.
3. Upward sloping curve is where longer-term bonds have higher yields than short-term ones.
4. While normal curves point to economic expansion, downward sloping (inverted) curves point to economic recession.

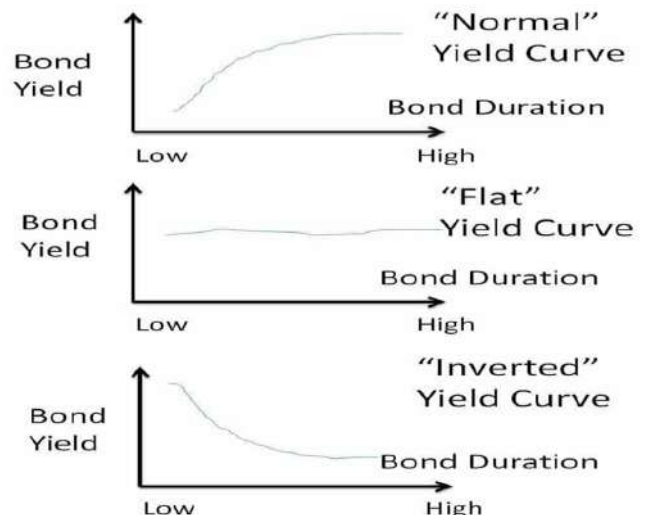
- A. Phillips Curve
- B. Rahn's Curve
- C. Wage Curve
- D. Yield Curve

Answer: D

Explanation

Context

- A yield curve is a line that plots yields (interest rates) of bonds having equal credit quality but differing maturity dates.
- The slope of the yield curve gives an idea of future interest rate changes and economic activity.
- There are three main types of yield curve shapes: normal (upward sloping curve), inverted (downward sloping curve) and flat.



- This yield curve is used as a benchmark for other debt in the market, such as mortgage rates or bank lending rates, and it is used to predict changes in economic output and growth.

5. Which one of the following statements appropriately describes the “fiscal stimulus”? (UPSC- 2011)

- A. It is a massive investment by the Government in manufacturing sector to ensure the supply of goods to meet the demand surge caused by rapid economic growth
- B. It is an intense affirmative action of the Government to boost economic activity in the country
- C. It is Government’s intensive action on financial institutions to ensure disbursement of loans to agriculture and allied sectors to promote greater food production and contain food inflation
- D. It is an extreme affirmative action by the Government to pursue its policy of financial inclusion.

Answer: B

Explanation

Context

- A ‘stimulus’ is an attempt by policymakers to kick- start a sluggish economy through a package of measures.
- A monetary stimulus will see the central bank expanding money supply or reducing the cost of money (interest rates), to spur consumer spending.
- A fiscal stimulus entails the Government spending more from its own coffers or slashing tax rates to put more money in the hands of consumers.
- With monetary policy, both conventional and unconventional, having reached the limits of its effectiveness in most of the advanced industrial countries, the only instrument left for boosting demand is fiscal policy.
- There are calls for a government stimulus package to revitalize the economy.

5. Environment

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

1. Based on the following statements identify the species

1. Also known as *Pterocarpus santalinus* is an endemic tree of South India
2. They are found in Tropical Dry Deciduous forest of the Palakonda and Seshachalam hill ranges of Andhra Pradesh and also found in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
3. It usually grows in the rocky, degraded and fallow lands with Red Soil and hot and dry climate.
4. IUCN has put it under the category of 'near threatened' species in the Red List due to the dwindling population because of illegal felling and smuggling.
5. Its export is banned in India in accordance with the CITES and Wildlife Protection Act 1972.
6. It is used for various purposes such as immunity medicine, furniture, radiation absorbent, musical instrument, food dyes and spices, Ayurveda and Siddha medicine, decorative and ornamental purposes etc.

- A. Amboyna wood
- B. Red Sanders
- C. Malabar kino
- D. Burma padauk

Answer: B

Explanation

- The Puttur sub-division police and Red Sanders Task Force personnel, in a joint operation, seized 2.5 tonnes of red sanders logs, worth ₹3 crore in the international market, at a forest location in KVB Puram mandal.
- Red Sanders Anti Smuggling Task Force
 - ✓ Andhra Pradesh Red Sanders Anti-Smuggling Task Force was set up in November 2014 with its base in Tirupati.
 - ✓ It claims to have curbed wood felling and smuggling to some extent in the last two years in Chittoor and Nellore districts.
- Red Sanders (Red sandalwood or Saunders wood)
 - ✓ The scientific name for Red Sanders is *Pterocarpus santalinus*.
 - ✓ It is a tree species endemic to South India (hot and dry climate).
 - ✓ It is valued for its colour.
 - ✓ It is medicinally, scientifically and ornamentally very important and essential tree.
 - ✓ It grows in rocky, degraded and fallow land with Red soil.

- Conservation status

- ✓ It is listed as an Near Threatened by the

- ✓ IUCN because of overexploitation of its timber in South India.

- ✓ It is also listed in the appendix II of the CITES which means that a certificate is required in order to export it.

- ✓ Certificate is granted only if the trade is not detrimental to the survival of the species.

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

1. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international regulatory treaty where wild species are categorised in Appendices I to III.

2. It is also known as Washington Convention.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A. 1 only

B. B. 2 only

C. Both of the above

D. None of the above

Answer: C

Explanation

- The world is observing and celebrating the World Wildlife Day 2021 on March 3, 2021.
- The day is being celebrated under the theme - Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet.
- This theme was decided by United Nations.
- The day is celebrated in order to raise awareness with respect to the issue around the wildlife.
- The day seeks to make people realize the importance of forests and ecosystems.
- The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has passed a resolution at its 68th session on December 20, 2013.
- In its resolution UN 68/205, the UNGA decided to proclaim the March 3 as World Wildlife Day.
- This proclamation was suggested by Thailand.
- March 3 was chosen because the day marks the “adoption of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)”.
- The CITES was adopted on March 3, 1972 to raise awareness and benefit the fauna and flora.
- This convention is also known as Washington Convention.
- It is a multilateral treaty that seeks to protect the endangered plants and animals.

- The convention was drafted after the adoption of a resolution in 1963 during a meeting of members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- The convention came into force in 1975.
- The convention works primarily through a system of
- classification and licensing.
- Wild species are categorised in Appendices I to III.
- This often reflects species' threat status on the Red List of the IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species first created in 1964.
- Appendix I prohibits trade in species classified as highly endangered.
- Appendix II allows trade under very specific conditions. This requires exporting countries obtain a permit, but not the importing country.
- Appendix III species require only a certificate of origin to be traded. National CITES management authorities may issue permits once scientific authorities show non-detriment findings.
- CITES is legally binding on state parties to the convention, which are obliged to adopt their own domestic legislation to implement its goals.

3. Which of the following statements about species recovery programme are correct ?

- 1. It is one of the components of the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH).**
- 2. It is meant for providing support to the species that are enlisted in the Red data book.**

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- The National Board for Wildlife and Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change last recently included the caracal, a medium-sized wildcat found in parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat, in the list of critically endangered species.
- The recovery programme for critically endangered species in India now includes 22 wildlife species.

Caracal

- Besides India, the caracal is found in several dozen countries across Africa, the Middle East, Central and South Asia.
- While it flourishes in parts of Africa, its numbers in Asia are declining.

- The wildcat has long legs, a short face, long canine teeth, and distinctive ears – long and pointy, with tufts of black hair at their tips.
- The iconic ears are what give the animal its name – caracal comes from the Turkish karakulak, meaning ‘black ears’.
- In India, it is called siya gosh, a Persian name that translates as ‘black Ear’.
- It finds mention in Abul Fazl’s Akbarnama, as a hunting animal in the time of Akbar (1556-1605).
- Descriptions and illustrations of the caracal can be found in medieval texts such as the Anvar-i-Suhayli, Tutinama, Khamsa-e-Nizami, and Shahnameh.

Species Recovery Programme

- It is one of the three components of the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH).
- IDWH was started in 2008-09 as a Centrally sponsored Scheme.
- It is meant for providing support to protected areas (national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, conservation reserves and community reserves except tiger reserves), protection of wildlife outside protected areas and recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats.



4. Filter feeder shark is also known as

- A. Blue Whale
- B. Basking Shark
- C. Greenland Whale
- D. Whale Shark

Answer: D

Explanation

- Fishers in Odisha rescued a whale shark for a second time in a week in Odisha. The Odisha coast is very important for marine megafauna like turtles, whales and sharks.
- The dotted whale shark is the largest fish in the ocean and often called ‘Gentle Giant’ in fishing parlance.
- Whale sharks are a protected species under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and also part of the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Red List.
- The whale shark is a ‘filter feeder shark’ which means it does not eat meat like other sharks.
- Whale sharks filter sea water and feed on tiny planktons.

- The largest whale shark aggregation in India is along the Gujarat coast.
- On the Bay of Bengal coast, the only whale shark aggregation is in Andhra Pradesh.
- Accidental entanglement in fishing nets is a major threat to this animal.
- Whale sharks have no commercial importance. However, fishers illegally extract their fins and livers.
- Gujarat Forest Department started a compensation programme in 2005, paying Rs 25,000 for every net damaged by a whale shark.

5. Food Waste Index Report-2021 was recently released by

- A. A. Food and Agriculture Organization
- B. United Nations Environment Programme
- C. The World Bank Group
- D. International Fund for Agricultural Development

Answer: B

Explanation

- The United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP) published the “Food Waste Index Report, 2021”.
- As per the UNEP report, estimated 931 million tonnes of food were wasted across the world 2019.
- The agency also highlighted that this amount of wasted food can circle the Earth seven times.
- The index report was published by the UNEP in collaboration with the partner organisation WRAP.
- Out of the total waste generation, households accounts for the sixty-one per cent of waste, food services accounts for 26 per cent from foo waste while, the retail accounts for 13 per cent waste.
- The report also highlights 17 per cent of total global food production is wasted.
- The agency further highlighted that, on the global per capita stage 121 kgs of consumer food is wasted per year out of which 74 kgs waste is generated from the households.

6. Science & Technology

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

1. Bhimbetka caves near Bhopal were in news recently for a fossil dating back about 550 million years. The fossil was of

- A. Spriggina
- B. Dickinsonia
- C. Pikaia
- D. Wiwaxia

Answer: B

Explanation

- Dickinsonia are the earliest known living animals.
- They belonged to the Ediacaran period of the earth's history named after Ediacara hills in South Australia.

2. Spitzer Space telescope, one of NASA's four Great Observatories, studied the universe by detecting

- A. X-rays
- B. Gamma rays
- C. Visible light
- D. Infrared rays

Answer: D

Explanation

- NASA decommissioned the Spitzer Space Telescope which studied the universe by detecting cosmic infrared radiations.
- It was launched in 2003, was one of NASA's four Great Observatories, along with the Hubble Space Telescope, the Chandra X-ray Observatory and the Compton Gamma Ray Observatory.

3. Which of the following are true regarding NISAR

1. It is a joint collaboration of NASA and European Space Agency for producing extremely high-resolution images for earth observation
2. NASA is providing the mission's high-rate communication subsystem and GPS receivers along with other equipment

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- ISRO has completed development of Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) capable of producing extremely high resolution images for a joint earth observation satellite mission with NASA
- NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR) is a joint collaboration for a dual-frequency L and S-band SAR for earth observation
- It will be the first satellite mission to use two different radar frequencies (L-band and S- band) to measure changes in our planet's surface less than a centimetre across
- NASA is providing the mission's L-band SAR, a high-rate communication subsystem for science data, GPS receivers, a solid-state recorder and payload data subsystem.
- ISRO is providing the spacecraft bus, the S-band radar, the launch vehicle and associated launch services for the mission, whose goal is to make global measurements of the causes and consequences of land surface changes using advanced radar imaging
- [Click here to learn more](#)

4. Which of the following correctly defines a Super-Earth?

- A. Exoplanet larger than Earth yet lighter than ice giants such as Neptune and Uranus
- B. They can be made of gas, rock or a combination of both
- C. Both A and B
- D. Neither A nor B

Answer: C

Explanation

- Super-Earths – a class of planets unlike any in our solar system – are more massive than Earth yet lighter than ice giants like Neptune and Uranus, and can be made of gas, rock or a combination of both
- They are between twice the size of Earth and up to 10 times its mass
- Super-Earth is a reference only to an exoplanet's size – larger than Earth and smaller than Neptune – but not suggesting they are necessarily similar to our home planet.

5. The terms 'Predator-B', 'SeaGuardian' refer to 'MQ-9B',

- A. Fighter jets
- B. Tanks
- C. Drones
- D. Ships

Answer: C

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