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# **PRE-Mix**

*(Compilations of the Multiple Choice Questions)*

*For the Month*

*Of*

# April

# 2021

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# 1. Geography

To watch the following questions on YouTube, click on the links given below

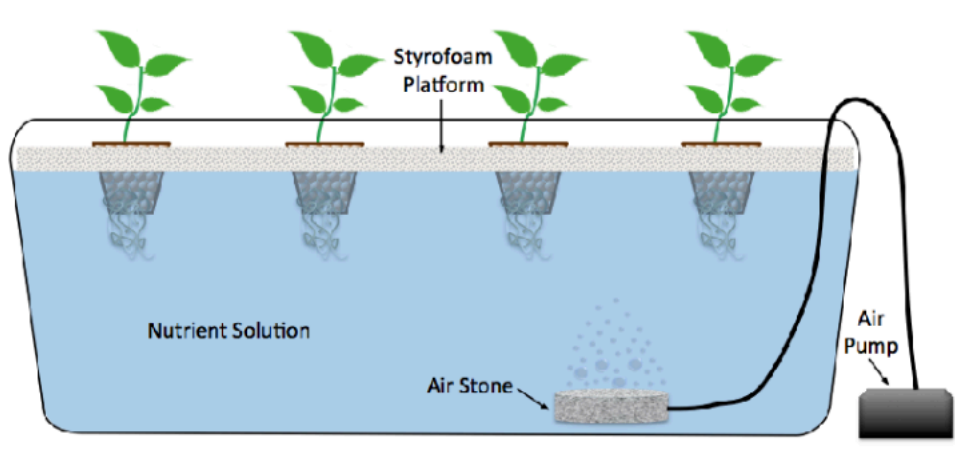
- [Video 1](#)
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- [Video 4](#)

1. Which of the following is true about hydroponics?

1. It is a method of growing plants without water.
  2. Plants grown hydroponically grow faster and healthier as compared to normal methods.
- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. 1 and 2 only  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**



## Hydroponics

- Hydroponics is a method of growing plants, usually crops, without soil. In this method, the crops/plants are grown on water, rich in essential nutrients.
- According to studies, plants grown hydroponically grow faster and healthier than plants in the soil since they are being provided with required nutrients directly to their roots through the water.

## Benefits

- Less water

- Bigger harvest + Lack of pests & diseases
- Clear and healthier foods + less chemicals
- all the year round + fights climate change
- Proximity + Less space+ indoors

**2. Choose the correct statements:**

1. Low-pressure systems are usually associated with an abundance of cloud and precipitation.
2. The atmosphere in this circumstance is said to be unstable.

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- The stability of air in the atmosphere depends on the temperature of rising air relative to the temperature of the stationary surrounding air that it passes through, which varies from place to place and with changing atmospheric conditions.
- If the temperature of the surrounding air falls more quickly with increasing altitude, the packet of air will continue to rise. The atmosphere in this circumstance is said to be unstable.
- Low-pressure systems are usually associated with an abundance of cloud and precipitation.
- If the temperature of the surrounding air does not fall as quickly with increasing altitude, the air packet will quickly become colder than the surrounding air, lose its buoyancy, and sink back to its original position. In this case the atmosphere is said to be stable.

**3. Port Said is located in which of the following ?**

- A. Red Sea
- B. Gulf of Aqaba
- C. Mediterranean Sea
- D. Indian Ocean

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- The canal extends from the northern terminus of Port Said to the southern terminus of Port Tewfik at the city of Suez.





4. With reference to the management of minor minerals in India, consider the following statements:

1. Sand is a 'minor mineral' according to the prevailing law in the country.
2. State Governments have the power to grant mining leases of minor minerals, but the powers regarding the formation of rules related to the grant of minor minerals lie with the Central Government.
3. State Government have the power to frame rules to prevent illegal mining of minor minerals.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A

Explanation

- Sand is a minor mineral, as defined under section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act).
- State Governments have been empowered to frame rules in respect of minor minerals for regulating the grant of quarry leases, mining leases or other mineral concessions in respect of minor minerals and for purposes connected therewith

**5. Which of the following statements are incorrect about Marrakech Compact on Migration?**

1. It is an intergovernmental negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, that describes itself as covering "all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner".
  2. It is a legally binding agreement with India being the latest signatory to it.
- A. Only 1  
B. Only 2  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The GCM is a voluntary, non-binding document that introduces no additional obligations to states. It is a global agreement setting out a common framework, shared principles and best practices on international migration.
- As the Compact is not an international treaty, it will be non-binding under international law.

**6. Tajikistan is bordered by which of the following countries?**

1. Uzbekistan
2. China
3. Kyrgyzstan
4. Kazakhstan
5. Afghanistan
6. Pakistan

**Select the correct answer using the code below -**

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

**Answer: A**

## Explanation

- Context - Recently, External Affairs Minister reached Tajikistan's capital to attend the 9th Heart of Asia - Istanbul Process ministerial conference on Afghanistan.
- The Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process (HoA-IP) is an initiative of Afghanistan and Turkey, which was officially launched at a conference hosted by Turkey in Istanbul in 2011.
- Since then, Afghanistan supported by 14 Participating Countries of the Heart of Asia Region, 16 Supporting Countries beyond the region and 12 Regional and International Organizations are leading and coordinating this Process.
- It is a platform for promoting regional security, economic and political cooperation centred on Afghanistan through dialogue and a set of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs).
- The Directorate General for Regional Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan is the De facto Secretariat.
- The geographical area covering the 15 Participating Countries of the HoA-IP is defined as the Heart of Asia Region.
- It is one of the biggest regions in the world with a collective geographical area covering around 27% of the land area of the Earth.
- As the lead country for Trade, Commerce and Investment Confidence Building Measure under HoA-IP, India has made concerted efforts for strengthening regional connectivity for the greater economic integration of Afghanistan with the region.
- A dedicated Air Freight Corridor between cities of India and Afghanistan and operationalisation of Chabahar Port in Iran are steps in that direction.
- External affairs minister also visited the Dushanbe-Chortut Highway Project and lauded the work being done by Border Roads Organisation under Indian grant assistance.



7. Which of the following statements are correct regarding The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC)?

1. It is a regional organization comprising eleven Member States lying in the areas of the Bay of Bengal.
2. This organization came into being through the Bangkok Declaration.

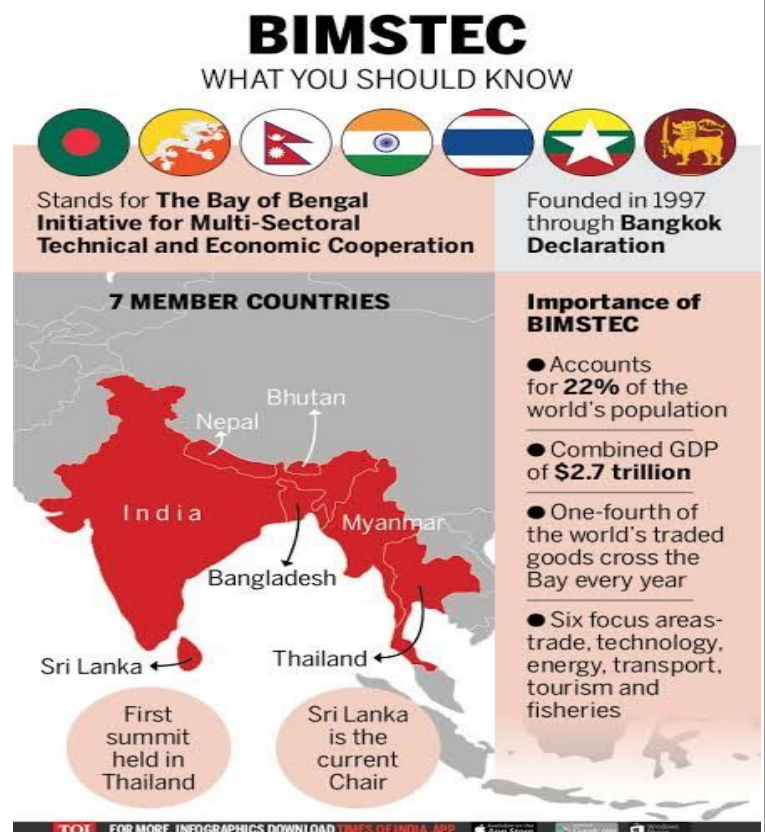
Select the correct answer using the code below -

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Context -17th BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi- Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) Ministerial meet, chaired by Sri Lanka, was held recently.
- The meeting drew participation from all the seven-member States, including Myanmar which is witnessing a large- scale crackdown against anti-military protesters.
- In an effort to integrate the region, the grouping was formed in 1997, originally with Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand, and later included Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan.
- BIMSTEC, which now includes five countries from South Asia and two from ASEAN, is a bridge between South Asia and Southeast Asia. It includes all the major countries of South Asia, except Maldives, Afghanistan and Pakistan.



- Over one-fifth (22%) of the world's population live in the seven countries around it, and they have a combined GDP close to \$2.7 trillion.
- The Bay also has vast untapped natural resources. One- fourth of the world's traded goods cross the Bay every year.
- BIMSTEC connects not only South and Southeast Asia, but also the ecologies of the Great Himalayas and the Bay of Bengal.

- For India, it is a natural platform to fulfil our key foreign policy priorities of 'Neighborhood First' and 'Act East'.
- For New Delhi, one key reason for engagement is in the vast potential that is unlocked with stronger connectivity.
- Almost 300 million people, or roughly one-quarter of India's population, live in the four coastal states adjacent to the Bay of Bengal (Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal).
- From the strategic perspective, the Bay of Bengal, a funnel to the Malacca straits, has emerged a key theatre for an increasingly assertive China in maintaining its access route to the Indian Ocean.
- As China mounts assertive activities in the Bay of Bengal region, with increased submarine movement and ship visits in the Indian Ocean, it is in India's interest to consolidate its internal engagement among the BIMSTEC countries.

**8. Which of the following statements correctly describes planetesimals ?**

- A. Smaller bodies which exists at an early stage of the planet formation.
- B. It is the study of planet's internal structure.
- C. It is a localised lumps of gas within a nebula.
- D. It refers to type of galaxies which contains a large number of planets.

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Planetesimal, one of a class of bodies that are theorized to have coalesced to form Earth and the other planets after condensing from concentrations of diffuse matter early in the history of the solar system.
- According to the nebular hypothesis, part of an interstellar cloud of dust and gas underwent gravitational collapse to form a primeval solar nebula.
- Clumps of interstellar matter left behind in the midplane of the solar disk as it contracted toward its centre gradually coalesced, through a process of accretion, to form grains, pebbles, boulders, and then planetesimals measuring a few kilometres to several hundred kilometres across.
- These larger building blocks then combined under the force of gravity to form protoplanets, which were the precursors of most of the current planets of the solar system.

**9. Consider the following statements with reference of variability of rainfall in India consider the following statements -**

1. Although Western Ghats receive high rainfall there is no rainfall variability.
2. Although Rajasthan receives low rainfall, there is a high rainfall variability.

**Choose the correct statement -**

- A. 1 only



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

**Answer: B**

### Explanation

- The monsoon of South Asia is among several geographically distributed global monsoons.
- There is great regional and temporal variation in the distribution of rainfall.
- Over 80% of the annual rainfall is received in the four rainy months of June to September.
- A characteristic feature of rainfall in India is its variability. The variability of rainfall is computed with the help of the following formula:

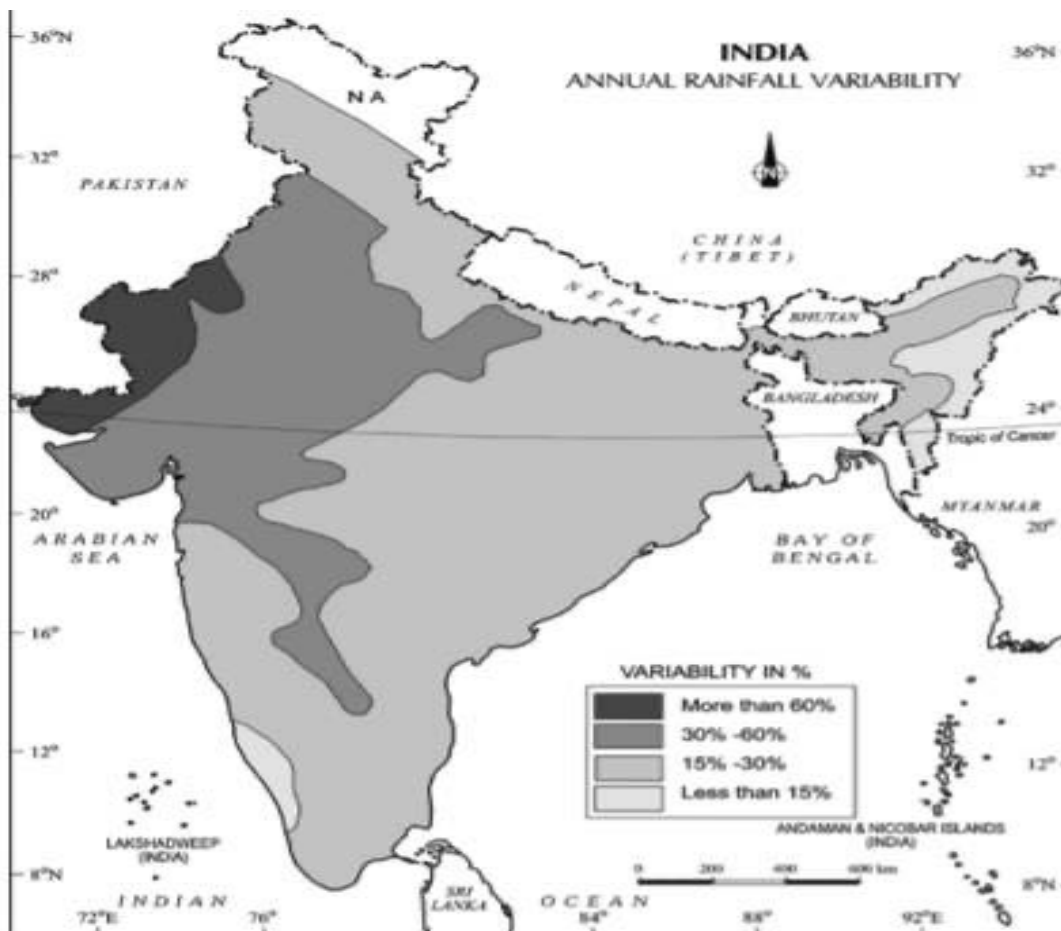


Figure 4.12 : India : Variability of Annual Rainfall

- $C.V. = (\text{Standard Deviation} / \text{Mean}) \times 100$ , where C.V. is the coefficient of variation.

- The values of coefficient of variation show the change from the mean values of rainfall.
- The actual rainfall in some places deviates from 20-50 percent.
- The values of coefficient of variation show variability of rainfall in India.
- A variability of less than 25 percent exists on the western coasts,
- Western Ghats, northeastern Peninsula, Eastern Plains of the Ganga, northeastern India, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh and south- western part of Jammu and Kashmir.
- These areas have an annual rainfall of over 100 cm.
- Availability of over 50 percent exists in the western part of Rajasthan, the northern part of Jammu and Kashmir and interior parts of the Deccan plateau.
- These areas have an annual rainfall of less than 50 cm. Rest of India have a variability of 25-50 percent and these areas receive an annual rainfall between 50 -100 cm.

**10. In relation to geomorphology of the Earth, diastrophism may lead to**

1. Formation of fold mountains.
2. Warping of a large part of earth's crust.
3. Minor Earthquakes.

**Choose the correct statements**

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Diastrophism, also called tectonism, large-scale deformation of Earth's crust by natural processes, which leads to the formation of continents and ocean basins, mountain systems, plateaus, rift valleys, and other features by mechanisms such as lithospheric plate movement (that is, plate tectonics), volcanic loading, or folding.
- The study of diastrophism encompasses the varying responses of the crust to tectonic stresses.
- These responses include linear or torsional horizontal movements (such as continental drift) and vertical subsidence and uplift of the lithosphere (strain) in response to natural stresses on Earth's surface such as the weight of mountains, lakes, and glaciers.

**11. Identify the favorable conditions for Temperature Inversion?**

1. Long Winter Night
2. Cloudless and Clear Sky
3. Snow Covered Ground surface

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Temperature inversion, a reversal of the normal behaviour of temperature in the troposphere (the region of the atmosphere nearest the Earth's surface), in which a layer of cool air at the surface is overlain by a layer of warmer air. (Under normal conditions air temperature usually decreases with height.)

**Favourable Conditions For Temperature Inversion**

- Long winter night : Loss of heat by Terrestrial radiation from the ground surface during night may exceed the amount of insolation received and thus the ground surface becomes too cold. –
- Cloudless and clear sky : Loss of heat through Terrestrial radiation proceeds more rapidly without any obstruction Cloud absorb Terrestrial radiation and hence return loss of heat from earth surface.
- Snow covered ground surface Maximum reflection of insolation

**12. Which of the following is matched incorrectly?**

1. Guam Islands : Pacific Ocean
2. Agalega Islands : Indian Ocean
3. Azores Island : Atlantic Ocean

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**





13. Which one of the following pairs of islands is separated from each other by the 'Ten Degree Channel'? (2014)

- A. Andaman and Nicobar
- B. Nicobar and Sumatra
- C. Maldives and Lakshadweep
- D. Sumatra and Java

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**



14. Which of the following statements about Gobi Desert are correct?

- 1. It is spread over China, Mongolia and Kazakhstan.
  - 2. It is a rain shadow desert.
- A. Only 1
  - B. Only 2
  - C. Both 1 and 2
  - D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- It covers parts of Northern and Northeastern China and of Southern Mongolia.

- The Gobi is a rain shadow desert, formed by the Tibetan Plateau blocking precipitation from the Indian Ocean reaching the Gobi territory.



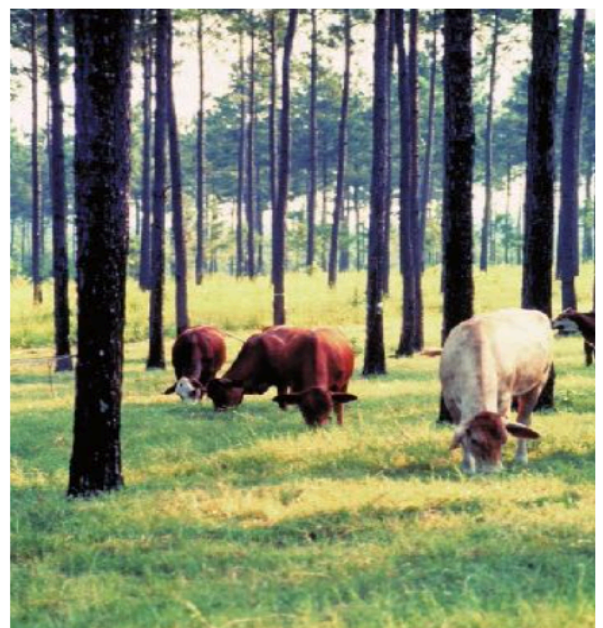
**15. Silvopastoral system is a method associated with**

- A. Agro Forestry
- B. Irrigation system
- C. Bee Keeping
- D. Silk- Production

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Silvopasture (Latin, silva forest) is the practice of integrating trees, forage, and the grazing of domesticated animals in a mutually beneficial way.
- It utilizes the principles of managed grazing, and it is one of several distinct forms of agroforestry.
- Properly-managed silvopasture can increase overall productivity and long-term income due to the simultaneous production of tree crops, forage, and livestock, and can provide environmental benefits such as carbon sequestration.
- Silvopasture is not the same as unmanaged grazing in woodlands, which has many known negative environmental consequences.







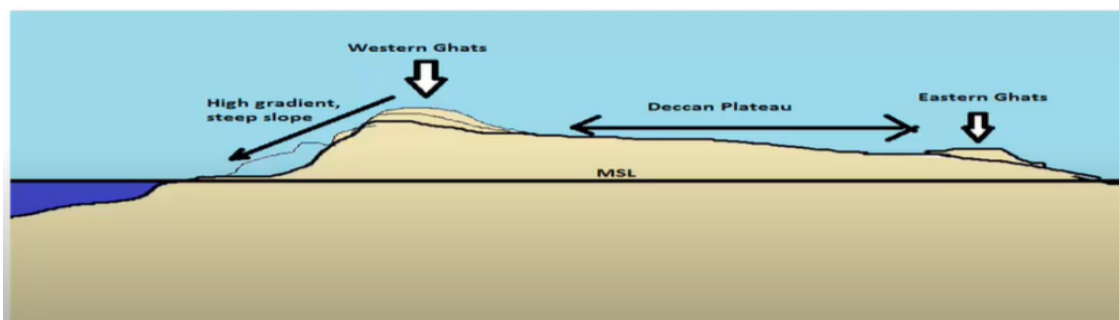
16. Consider the following statements about Western Coastal Plains. Which of the following are correct?

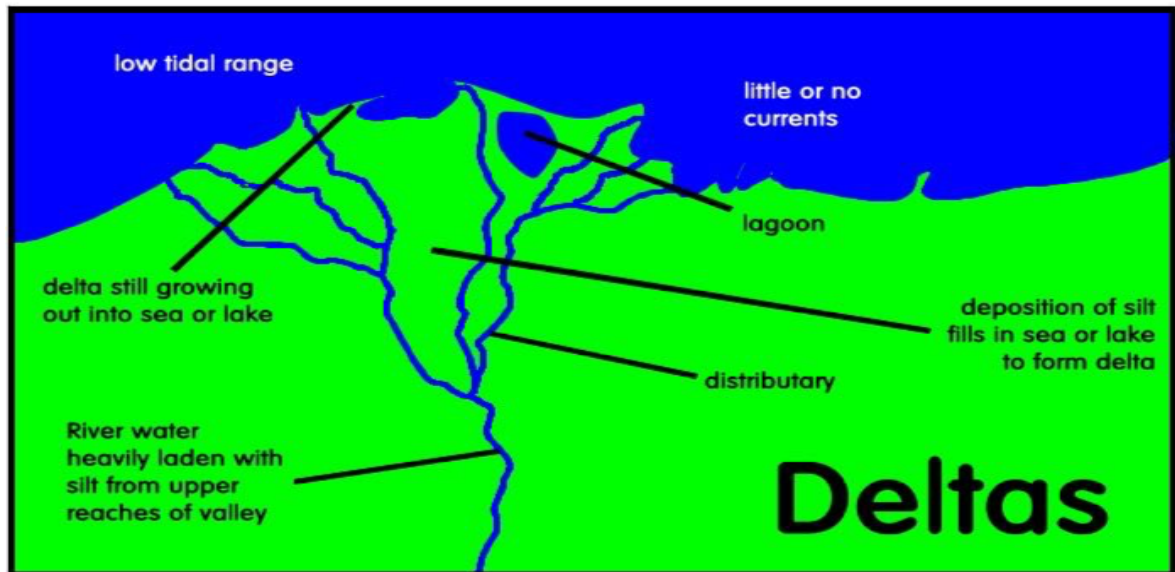
1. The western coastal plains are narrow in the middle and get broader towards north and south.
2. The rivers flowing through this coastal plain do not form any delta.
3. The continental shelf extends up to 500 km into the sea, which makes it difficult for the development of good ports and harbours.

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**





- The western coastal plains are an example of submerged coastal plain. Because of this submergence it is a narrow belt and provides natural conditions for the development of ports and harbours. The western coastal plains are narrow in the middle and get broader towards north and south. The rivers flowing through this coastal plain do not form any delta.

- As compared to the western coastal plain, the eastern coastal plain is broader and is an example of an emergent coast. It is wider than Western Coastal Plain because the rivers like Godavari, the Krishna and the Kaveri formed the delta over there. There are well developed deltas here. The continental shelf extends up to 500 km into the sea, which makes it difficult for the development of good ports and harbours.

**17. Halaib Triangle is disputed between**

- A. Sudan and Egypt
- B. Sudan and Ethiopia
- C. Ethiopia and Eritrea
- D. Eritrea and Djibouti

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**



**18. On the planet earth, most of the freshwater exists as ice caps and glaciers. Out of the remaining freshwater, the largest proportion (2013)**

- A. is found in atmosphere as moisture and clouds
- B. is found in freshwater lakes and rivers
- C. exists as groundwater
- D. exists as soil moisture

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**



**Table 13.1 : Water on the Earth's surface**

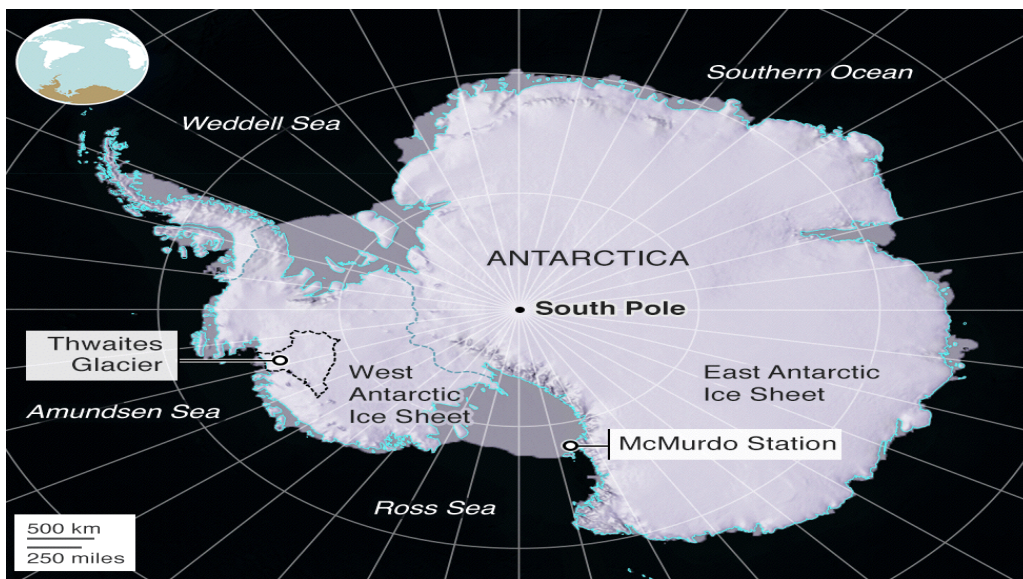
Reservoir	Volume (Million Cubic km.)	Percentage of the Total
Oceans	1,370	97.25
Ice Caps and Glaciers	29	2.05
Groundwater	9.5	0.68
Lakes	0.125	0.01
Soil Moisture	0.065	0.005
Atmosphere	0.013	0.001
Streams and Rivers	0.0017	0.0001
Biosphere	0.0006	0.00004

19. "Doomsday news lies in Glacier" recently heard in news lies in

- A. Antractica
- B. Arctic
- C. Greenland
- D. None of the above

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**



Source: Esri/Antarctic REMA Explorer

BBC

20. Which of the following is matched incorrectly?

- 1. Great Victoria Desert : Australia
- 2. Atacama Desert : South America
- 3. Mojave Desert : North America

A. Only 1

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- It is associated with the national effort to repatriate Indian citizens abroad during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Landing Platform Dock INS Jalashwa and Landing Ship Tanks INS Airavat, Shardul and Magar participated in this operation
- The greatest challenge for the Indian Navy was to avoid any incident of outbreak of infection on board the ships during the evacuation operation. Rigorous measures were planned and medical/safety protocols unique to the operating environment of ships were implemented



## 2. History

To watch the following questions on YouTube, click on the links given below

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

1. Newspaper “Sambad Prabhakar” was published by -

- A. Ishwar Chandra Gupta
- B. Raja Ram Mohan Roy
- C. Keshari Nath Tripathi
- D. Debashis Chakraborty

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

**Ishwar Chandra Gupta**

- Sambad Prabhakar was a Bengali daily Newspaper founded by Ishwar Chandra Gupta.
- It began as weekly newspaper in 1831 and became a daily eight year later in 1839.
- It was the first Bengali Daily Newspaper.
- It covered news on India and abroad and put forward its views on religion, politics, society and literature.
- It was influential in the Bengali Renaissance and in building public sentiment leading to Indigo revolt.
- He was a Bengali Sanskrit pundit, educator, social reformer, writer and philanthropist one of the greatest intellectuals and activists of the 19th century.
- He was bestowed the title of Vidyasagar in 1839 for his mastery over Sanskrit and philosophy.
- At the age of twenty one, Ishwar Chandra joined the Fort William College as the head of the Sanskrit department.
- Michael Madhusudan - famous Bengali poet gave him the title of Dayasagar.

**Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar**

- Principal of Sanskrit College from 1851 to 1858, and he believed that Vidyasagar strongly believed that everyone irrespective of caste or gender, had the right to education and thus opened the premises for lower caste.


- Principal of Sanskrit College from 1851 to 1858, and he believed that Vidyasagar strongly believed that everyone irrespective of caste or gender, had the right to education and thus opened the premises for lower caste.
- He brought about a revolution in the Bengali education system by changing the way Bengali language was written and taught.
- Credited with reconstructing the Bengali Alphabet and wrote a book - "Borno Porichoy" meaning introduction to the letter for the same.

### Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, As a Social Reformer


- Actively worked towards changing the status of Women in India.
- Result of his untiring struggle that the then Government of India passed the Widow Remarriage Act in 1856.
- One unique feature - He sought to reform the society from within.
- Fought for women education and battled against the practice of Child Marriage determined battle against the then prevailing social custom of Kulin Brahmin polygamy.
- He was a man that was beyond his times.

### Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Significant Works

- Wrote a number of biographical notes - Betaal Panchavinsati (1847), Banglar Itihaas (1848), Jivancharita (1849), Shakuntala (1854), Mahabharata (1860), Seetar Vanavas (1860), Bhrantivilaas (1869), Oti Alpa Hoilo (1873), Aabaar Oti Alpa Hoilo (1873), Brajavilaas (1884), Ratnopariksha (1886).
- Works on Social Reforms - 'Bidhobabivah' on widow's right to remarry (1855), 'Bahubivah' on banning of polygamy (1871) and Balyabivah on the flaws of child marriage.


  
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# EDUCATOR EXTRAORDINAIRE



**A key figure of the Bengal Renaissance, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar was born on Sept 26, 1820**

<p>Philosopher, academic, educator, writer, translator, printer, publisher, entrepreneur, reformer and philanthropist</p>	<p><b>Introduced the practice of widow remarriages.</b> Pushed the Widow Remarriage Act XV of 1856</p> <p><b>Reconstructed the Bengali alphabet.</b> Reformed Bengali typography into an alphabet of 12 vowels and 40 consonants</p> <p><b>Rabindranath Tagore, on Vidyasagar's death</b></p> <p><i>"One wonders how God, in the process of producing 40 million Bengalis, produced a man!"</i></p>
---	---

**2. Festival Shigmo is associated with which of the following states ?**

- A. Manipur
- B. Mizoram
- C. Goa
- D. Andhra Pradesh

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

**Shigmo Festival**

- Shigmo is a colored festival celebrated by Hindu Community in Indian state Goa in the month of “Falgun” (March month) as per Saka Calendar. It is five-day festival of colours considered as the spring festival of Goa. Its celebrations begin with the Holi, the festival of colours celebrated across the country.



- The festival commemorates the homecoming of the warriors who had left their homes and families at the end of Dussera to fight the invaders.
- During Shigmo festival ripening of the winter crop is also included as a reason for the festivities. Artists display the martial dances like ‘Ghode- morni’ or the horse dance, with main figures in display of legendary rulers of the area like the Rashtrakuts, Kadambs, Portuguese etc.
- The themes are mostly from Hindu scriptures. Sita-haran ; Draupadi’s vastraharan and Lord Krishna coming to her help; Luv-Kush taking on Lord Rama by trying to tame the horse after the Ashwamedh Yajna; the conquest of Ravana’s Lanka; etc.
- There are two variants of Shigmo festival: Dhakto Shigmo (“small Shigmo”) and Vhadlo Shigmo (“big Shigmo”).
- Dhakto Shigmo is generally celebrated by farmers, the labour class and the rural population, while Vhadlo Shigmo is of greater consequence and is celebrated by everyone together.

**3. Which of the following statements about Kondane cave art is/ are correct ?**

1. They are pictorial depictions of Jataka stories.
2. The Buddhist rock-cut architecture found in these caves belongs to the Mahayan phase of Buddhism.

**Choose the correct option**

- A. 1 only

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Kondane cave art depicts myth and daily life. ● Archaeologists discovered around 40 rock paintings in Kondane caves in Raigarh district in Maharashtra a few years ago.
- These paintings include a hunter standing with a bow and arrow, a Barasingh, footprints, palm impressions and some trees.
- The images were found in both natural caverns and man-made caves.
- The man-made caves also feature Buddhist architecture such as a 'chaitya' (prayer hall) and a monastery.
- A striking image found was that of a mythical figure, perhaps a demon. Other paintings reflected everyday life and occupations such as hunting deer.
- The Buddhist rock-cut architecture found in these caves belongs to the Hinayana phase of Buddhism.



**4. Which of the following pairs have been correctly matched**

1. Hindi - Devangiri
2. Nastaliq - Kashmiri
3. Kalinga - Oriya
4. Vatteluttu - Konakni

**Choose the correct Option**

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

**Answer: A**

**5. Which of the following statements are Nayanars are correct?**

1. The Nayanars were a group of 63 saints living in Tamil Nadu during the 3rd to 8th centuries CE who were devoted to the Hindu god Vishnu.
2. The names of the Nayanars were first compiled by Sundarar.

**Choose the correct answer**

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

**Nayanars**

- The Nayanars were a group of 63 saints living in Tamil Nadu during the 3rd to 8th centuries CE who were devoted to the Hindu god Shiva.
- Along with the Alvars, their contemporaries who were devoted to Vishnu, they influenced the Bhakti movement in early medieval South India.
- The names of the Nayanars were first compiled by Sundarar.
- The list was expanded by Nambiyandar Nambi during his compilation of material by the poets for the Tirumurai collection, and would include.
- In the 10th century, king Raja Raja Chola I collected the volumes of Tevaram after hearing excerpts of the hymns in his court.
- His priest Nambiyandar Nambi began compiling the hymns into a series of volumes called the Tirumurai.
- He arranged the hymns of three saintpoets Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar as the first seven books which he called the Tevaram.
- He compiled Manikkavasakar's Tirukovayar and Tiruvasakam as the eighth book, the 28 hymns of nine other saints as the ninth book, the Tirumandiram of Tirumular and 40 hymns by 12 other poets as the tenth book.
- The Nayanars were from various backgrounds, including Channars, Vanniyar, Vellalas, Idayars, Kurumbar, Thevars, oilmongers, Brahmins, Washermen, Harijan, and nobles.
- Along with the twelve Vaishnava Alvars, they are regarded as the important Hindu saints from South India.

6. Regarding 'Atal Pension Yojana', which of the following statements is/are correct? (2016)
1. It is a minimum guaranteed pension scheme mainly targeted at unorganized sector workers.
  2. Only one member of a family can join the scheme.
  3. Same amount of pension is guaranteed for the spouse for life after subscriber's death.

Select the correct answer using the code below -

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

**Answer: C**

7. Consider the following statements -

1. Aadhaar card can be used as a proof of citizenship or domicile.
2. Once issued, Aadhaar number cannot be deactivated or omitted by the Issuing authority.

Choose the correct options

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

**Answer: D**

8. Consider the following statements -

1. Capital Adequacy Ratio is the amount that banks have to maintain in the form of their own funds to offset any loss that banks incur if the account-holders fail to repay dues.
2. CAR is decided by each individual bank.

Choose the correct statement

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

**Answer: A**



9. The staple commodities of export by the English East Indian Company from Bengal in the middle of the 18th century were-

- A. Raw cotton, oil-seeds and opium
- B. . Sugar, salt, zinc and lead
- C. Copper, silver, gold, spices and tea
- D. Cotton, silk, saltpetre and opium

**Answer: D**

10. With reference to agricultural soils, consider the following statements:

- 1. A high content of organic matter in soil drastically reduces its water holding capacity.
- 2. Soil does not play any role in the sulphur cycle.
- 3. Irrigation over a period of time can contribute to the salinization of some agricultural lands.

Choose the correct statement -

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

**Answer: B**

11. Regarding Wood's Dispatch, which of the following statements are true ?

- 1. Grant-in-Aid system was introduced.
- 2. Establishment of universities was recommended.
- 3. English as a medium of instruction at all levels of education was recommended.

Select the correct answer

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

**Answer: A**

**12. The demand for the Tebhaga Peasant Movement in Bengal was for (UPSC 2013) Select the correct answer using the code below -**

- A. The reduction of the share of the landlords from one-half of the crop to one-third.
- B. The grant of ownership of land to peasants as they were the actual cultivators of the land.
- C. The uprooting of Zamindari system and the end of serfdom.
- D. Writing off all peasant debts.

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

### **Tebhaga Movement**

- The Tebhaga movement was led by the share croppers of the Bengal region against the oppressive jotedars in 1946-47.
- The uprising was due to the share cropping system that prevailed in the Bengal.
- During the early nineteenth century a new class of rich peasants known as jotedars emerged in the Bengal region.
- The jotedars collected huge tracts of land in rural areas.
- They also controlled the local markets, money lending activities, exercised control over the poor cultivators.
- In rural villages these jotedars exercised more control than the Zamindars, who often lived in urban areas.
- The large agricultural areas under the jotedars were cultivated through sharecroppers (also known as bhagadars), who handed over half of the crop after the harvest to the jotedars.
- The jotedars were mainly concentrated in the North Bengal, whereas in other parts of the Bengal they are known as haoladars, gantidars, or mandals.
- In late 1946, the bhagadars challenged the prevailed system of share cropping.
- They asserted that they would not pay half of the produce but only one-third of the produce and also before the share of the produce, it should be stored in their godowns (also called as khamars) and not that of jotedars.
- The sharecroppers were encouraged by the Floud Commission which had already recommended their demand to the government.
- The movement was led by the All India Kisan Sabha, the peasant wing of CPI. Initially only few peasants were participated but in January 1947, the Bengal Bargadars Temporary Regulation Bill incorporated the demand of the Sharecroppers.
- This encouraged the movement and led to the increased participation of the peasants from rural areas. At the request of the jotedars, the police suppressed the sharecroppers.
- By March 1947, the movement slowly disappeared due to government promises. But the government failed to pass the bill immediately and it was only in 1950, the bill was passed.



13. Which of the following statements are correct about Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple ?

1. Padmanabhaswamy Temple is a Hindu temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva and is located in Tamil Nadu.
2. The temple is amongst the 108 principal Divya Desams in Vaishnavism and is glorified in the Divya Prabandha.
3. Marthanda Varma surrendered the Ahom Kingdom to Padmanabha Swamy (deity of the temple) and pledged that he and his descendants will be the agents of the deity.

Select the correct answer using the code below

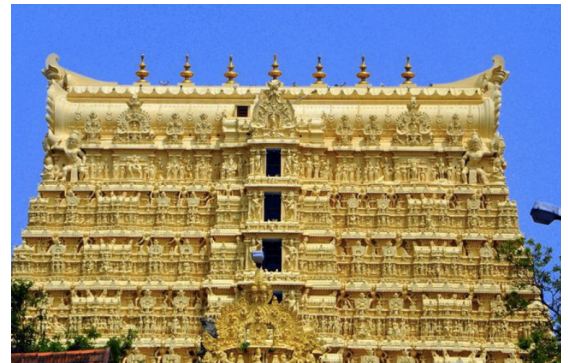
- A. 1 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 3 only
- D. All of the above

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

**Padmanabhaswamy Temple**

- The Padmanabhaswamy Temple is a Hindu Vishnu temple located in Kerala, India. Several Hindu texts such as Brahma Purana, Matsya Purana, Varaha Purana, etc. have mentioned this shrine.
- As per several historians, the temple was called "The Golden Temple" as it was wealthy at that time. In addition to this, Tamil literature has mentioned that the walls of the temple and the city has been made of gold.
- The Ananthapuram temple in Kasaragod is believed to be the original seat of Padmanabhaswamy.
- The temple is amongst the 108 principal Divya Desams in Vaishnavism and is glorified in the Divya Prabandha
- It is believed that Parasurama has placed the idol of Sree Padmanabha in Dwapara Yuga.
- At the beginning of the 18th century, Anizham Thirunal Marthanda Varma succeeded his uncle Rama Varma as king at the age of 23.
- On January 17, 1750, Anizham Thirunal Marthanda Varma
- surrendered the Travancore Kingdom to Padmanabha Swamy (deity of the temple) and pledged that he and his descendants will be the agents of the deity, serving the kingdom as Padmanabha Dasa.
- The male members of the family were known as Sree Padmanabha Dasa while the female members were known as Sree Padmanabha Sevinis.
- Royal Family of Travancore holds the Shebait rights of this temple.



**14. Which of the following statements are correct about Utkal Diwas?**

1. The day is celebrated in the memory of the struggle for achieving a separate identity for the state that was once part of Kalinga ruled by emperor Ashok, and later by Kharavela.
2. This region became India's first independent province on a language basis on April 1, 1936.

**Choose the correct statement -**

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Context - Odisha will celebrate its 85th foundation day of the state on April 1. The day is also known as 'Utkal Divas'. The day marks the date when the state became independent in the year 1936.
- Utkal Divas or Utkala Dibasa or Odisha Day is celebrated on April 1 every year.
- The day is celebrated in the memory of the struggle for achieving a separate identity for the state that was once part of Kalinga ruled by emperor Ashok, and later by Kharavela.
- Odisha became India's first independent state on a language basis on April 1, 1936, i.e. 85 years ago.
- After a long struggle of more than three centuries, Odisha became a separate province.
- The state was carved out of the combined Bengal-Bihar-Orissa province.
- The day is usually celebrated through various public events. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has affected the celebrations this year and the day will be celebrated in a low-key manner.

**15. Which of the following statements are correct about Dada Saheb Phalke Award?**

1. It is India's highest award in cinema and is presented annually by Ministry of Culture.
2. The award comprises a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl, and a cash prize of Rs. 10 Lakh.
3. Recently famous actor Shahrukh Khan has been chosen to be honoured with Dadasaheb Phalke award.

**Choose the correct statement -**

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Context: The Dadasaheb Phalke Awards is India's highest award in cinema and is presented annually at the National Films Awards ceremony by the Directorate of Film Festivals, an organisation set up by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- The very first recipient of this award was Devika Rani who received it in 1969 on the occasion of the 17th National Films Awards.
- Dadasaheb Phalke is known as the 'Father of Indian Cinema'.
- He made India's first full-length feature film Raja Harishchandra in 1913.
- Hence, to commemorate Dadasaheb Phalke, the Government of India has started the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 1969.
- The recipients are honoured for their outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema.
- The winners of the Dadasaheb Phalke award is selected by a committee consisting of eminent personalities from the Indian film industry.
- The award comprises a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl, and a cash prize of Rs. 10 Lakh.

**16.What is/are the most likely advantages of implementing 'Goods and Services Tax (GST)'? (PYQ)**

1. It will replace multiple taxes collected by multiple authorities and will thus create a single market in India.
2. It will drastically reduce the 'Current Account Deficit' of India and will enable it to increase its foreign exchange reserves.
3. It will enormously increase the growth and size of the economy of India and will enable it to overtake China in the near future.

**Select the correct answer**

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

**Answer: A**

**17.Buddha's teachings are the four noble truths. In regard to the same, what does "Samudaya" mean?**

**Select the correct answer using the code below -**

- A. Cause of suffering

- B. Path to cessation of suffering
- C. Cessation of suffering
- D. Truth of Suffering

**Answer: A**

### **Explanation**

#### **4 Noble Truths of Buddhism**

- In Buddhism there are 4 noble truths, considered to be the first teaching of Buddha and the most important ones.
- They are called “Noble Truths” because as Buddha says - “they are real, infallible and do not change”.
- As the Buddha articulated them, the four noble truths are central and universal events regardless of time and space.
- Dukkha - All beings experience pain and unhappiness during their lifetime.

“Birth is pain, old age is pain, sickness is pain, death is pain; sadness, grief, ache, sorrow and anxiety are pain. Contact with the unpleasant is pain. Separation from pleasure is pain. Not getting what one wants is pain. In short, the five aggregates of the mind and matter that are subject to attachment are pain”.

- Samudaya - The origin of pain and misery is due to a specific cause.

“It is desire that leads to rebirth, accompanied by pleasure and passion, seeking pleasure here and there; that is, the desire for pleasure, the desire for existence, the desire for non-existence”.

- Nirodha- The cessation of pain and suffering can be achieved as follows -

“By the complete non-passion and cessation of this very desire, by abandoning it and giving it up, by being released and free from it”

- Eightfold Path - The method we must follow to stop pain and misery .

- ✓ The right understanding
- ✓ The right thought
- ✓ The right speech
- ✓ The right action
- ✓ The right livelihood
- ✓ The right effort
- ✓ The right memory
- ✓ The right mindfulness.

**18. Who among the following founded the Bharat Mahila Parishad ? Select the correct answer using the code below -**

- A. Rama Bai Ranade

- B. Pandita Ramabai Saraswati
- C. Tarabai Premchand
- D. Sarla Devi Chadhrani

**Answer: A**

### **Explanation**

#### **Ramabai Ranade**

- The Mahadev Govind Ranade and his wife Ramabai also contributed greatly to the cause of women.
- In 1869, Ranade founded the Widow Remarriage Association and encouraged widow remarriage and female education and opposed child marriage.
- He founded the National Social Conference, which became a pre- eminent institution for social reform.
- Pandita Ramabai (1858-1922) was also a pioneer in women's education and a rebel champion of women's rights.
- She founded the Sharda Sadan, a school for widows, in Bombay and at Mukti, near Pune.
- Her greatest legacy was her effort, the first in India, to educate widows.
- Bharat Mahila Parishad was a part of the National Social Conference to provide a forum for the discussion of social issues.

### **19. Standstill Agreement is related to which of the following ?**

**Choose the correct statement -**

- A. 1857 Sepoy Revolt
- B. Princely States Reorganisation
- C. Swadeshi Movement
- D. Macdonald's Communal Award

**Answer: B**

### **Explanation**

#### **Standstill Agreement**

- A standstill agreement was an agreement signed between the newly independent dominions of India and Pakistan and the princely states of the British Indian Empire prior to their integration in the new dominions.
- The form of the agreement was bilateral between a dominion and a princely state.

- It provided that all the administrative arrangements then existing between the British Crown and the state would continue unaltered between the signatory dominion and the princely state, until new arrangements were made.

**20. Based on the following statements identify the personality -**

1. He was an Indian political leader, planner of the municipal charter for Bombay (now Mumbai).
2. He was also the founder of the English-language newspaper Bombay Chronicle (1913).
3. He presided over the sixth session of the Indian National Congress in 1890.
4. In 1911 he helped found the Central Bank of India, financed and controlled by Indian interests.

**Choose the correct statement -**

- A. Pherozshaha Mehta
- B. Dadabhai Naroji
- C. Womesh Chandra Banarjee
- D. Gopal Krishna Gokhale

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Sir Pherozeshah Mehta, (born Aug. 4, 1845, Bombay [now Mumbai], India—died Nov. 5, 1915, Bombay), Indian political leader, planner of the municipal charter for Bombay (now Mumbai) and founder of the English-language newspaper Bombay Chronicle (1913).
- The son of a middle-class Parsi foreign trader, Mehta studied law in England for four years, was called to the bar in 1868, and then returned home.
- During a legal defense of a Bombay commissioner, Arthur Crawford, he noted the need for municipal government reforms and later drew up the Municipal Act of 1872, for which he was called the “father of municipal government in Bombay.”
- He became a commissioner himself in 1873 and served as chairman in 1884–85 and in 1905.
- A member of the Bombay Legislative Council from 1886, he was elected to the governor-general's Supreme Legislative Council in 1893.
- He presided over the sixth session of the Indian National Congress in 1890.
- He was knighted in 1904.
- After a trip to England in 1910, Mehta was appointed a vice chancellor of the University of Bombay (now University of Mumbai).
- In 1911 he helped found the Central Bank of India, financed and controlled by Indian interests.



## 3. Polity & Governance

To watch the following questions on YouTube, click on the links given below

- [Video 1](#)
- [Video 2](#)
- [Video 3](#)
- [Video 4](#)
- [Video 5](#)

1. Which of the following statements are correct about the GNCTD Amendment Act 2021?

1. It changes the number of members of the legislative assembly of Delhi.
2. It clarifies that the term 'government' in law with reference to Delhi means the Council of Ministers headed by CM
3. It renders void legislative committees made on administrative issues

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Act, 2021 modifies the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991.
- The Amendment Act clarifies that the expression "Government" in the context of legislation to be passed by the Legislative Assembly of Delhi to "mean the Lieutenant Governor" as consistent with the status of Delhi as a Union Territory.
- The amendment prohibits the Legislative Assembly from making any rule to enable itself or its Committees to:
  - ✓ consider the matters of day-to-day administration of the NCT of Delhi and
  - ✓ conduct any inquiry in relation to administrative decisions.

Further, the amendment provides that all such rules and committees made before its enactment will be void.

**2. Which of the following is correct about the electoral bonds scheme?**

- 1. The Electoral bonds” as interest-free bearer instruments that will be available for purchase from the State Bank of India within a designated window of 10 days in every quarter of the financial year.**
  - 2. It allows individuals and domestic companies to present these bonds – issued in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 1 crore – to political parties of their choice.**
  - 3. The beneficiary political party is not required to reveal the identity of the entity that has given it the bond(s) nor do buyers have to fulfil KYC details.**
- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 2 and 3 only  
C. 1 and 3 only  
D. All of the Above

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- The Finance Bill, 2017 introduced “Electoral bonds” as interest-free bearer instruments (like Promissory Notes) that will be available for purchase from the State Bank of India within a designated window of 10 days in every quarter of the financial year.
- The scheme, which was notified on January 2, 2018, allows individuals and domestic companies to present these bonds – issued in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10 lakh, and Rs 1 crore – to political parties of their choice, which have to redeem them within 15 days.
- There is no limit on the number of bonds an individual or company can purchase. SBI deposits bonds that a political party hasn’t encashed within 15 days into the Prime Minister’s Relief Fund.
- Buyers of the bonds have to submit full KYC details at the time of buying. But the beneficiary political party is not required to reveal the identity of the entity that has given it the bond(s).
- Before the introduction of electoral bonds, political parties had to disclose details of all its donors, who have donated more than Rs 20,000. According to transparency activists, the change infringes the citizen’s ‘Right to Know’ and makes the political class even more unaccountable.

**3. Which of the following are correct with respect to the Bihar Police Bill?**

- 1. The Bill renames the Bihar Military Police as the Bihar Special Armed Police, and gives the force more teeth, on the lines of the Central Industrial Security Force.**
  - 2. The Bill allows the Special Armed Police officers to carry out searches and arrests without a warrant for security of notified premises only.**
- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2



D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- According to the Bihar government's press statement on the legislation, it "aims to develop the Bihar Military Police into a well-trained and fully equipped armed police force with multi-domain expertise to cater to the development needs and the larger interest of the state."
- The new Bill renames the Bihar Military Police as the Bihar Special Armed Police, and gives the force more teeth, on the lines of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), so it can better secure the commercial and industrial assets of the state.
- The press statement says the mandate of the force will be the "maintenance of public order, combating extremism, ensuring the better protection and security of specified establishments in such manner as may be notified and perform such other duties, as may be notified."
- The Bill allows the Special Armed Police officers to carry out searches and arrests without a warrant. This is on par with CISF, which can arrest people, including on suspicion, "without any order from a magistrate and without a warrant", according to The Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968.
- The powers of search and arrest without warrant are already available to the district police (in their jurisdiction) in all states as per provisions of section 41, 165 etc. of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.
- This Act however gives such powers of search and arrest without warrant to the Special Armed Police Officers only for the purposes of security of notified premises." The government statement also adds that provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 relating to searches will apply under the new legislation, ensuring that the "rights of citizens remain fully protected."

**4. Which of the following are correct about the anti-defection law in India?**

1. The law specifies that within six months of being nominated to the House, they can choose to join a political party, after which joining any party will lead to disqualification due to defection.
  2. For defection, the changing a party or joining another does not have to be a formal act but can also be interpreted through an MP's actions, on a case-by-case basis.
- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- In 1985 the Tenth Schedule, popularly known as the anti-defection law, was added to the Constitution. The law specifies the circumstances under which changing of political parties by MPs invite action under the law.

- The law covers three types of scenarios with respect to an MP switching parties. The first is when a member elected on the ticket of a political party “voluntarily gives up” membership of such a party or votes in the House contrary to the wishes of the party.
- The second possibility is when an MP who has won his or her seat as an independent candidate after the election joins a political party. In both these instances, the MP lose the seat in the House on changing (or joining) a party.
- The third scenario relates to nominated MPs. In their case, the law specifies that within six months of being nominated to the House, they can choose to join a political party.
- The time is given so that if a nominated MP is not a member of a political party, they can decide to join one if they want. But if they don't join a political party during the first six months of their tenure, and join a party thereafter, then they lose their seat in Parliament.
- In 2021, nominated MP Swapan Dasgupta resigned from Rajya Sabha after he was fielded as BJP candidate for Tarakeswar constituency in the West Bengal Assembly elections.

**5. Which of the following is correct with respect to Original Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of India?**

1. It includes any dispute between the Indian Government and one or more States, between the Indian Government and one or more States on one side and one or more States on the other side or between two or more States.
  2. Article 32 of the Constitution provides original jurisdiction to the SC for matters regarding the enforcement of Fundamental Rights.
  3. The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 gives SC the authority to initiate international commercial arbitration which is also its original jurisdiction.
- A. 1 only  
B. 1 and 2 only  
C. 1 and 3 only  
D. All of the above

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Original jurisdiction of a court refers to a matter for which the particular court is approached first. In the case of the Supreme Court in India, its original jurisdiction is covered under Article 131. It involves the following cases:
  - ✓ Any dispute between the Indian Government and one or more States, between the Indian Government and one or more States on one side and one or more States on the other sides or between two or more States.
  - ✓ Article 32 of the Constitution provides original jurisdiction to the SC for matters regarding the enforcement of Fundamental Rights. The SC can issue writs, directions, or orders including writs in the nature of mandamus, habeas corpus, quo warranto, prohibition and certiorari.

- ✓ The SC also has the power to direct the transfer of a criminal or civil case from the High Court in one State to the High Court in another State. It can also transfer cases from one subordinate court to another State High Court.
- ✓ If the SC deems that cases involving the same questions of law are pending before it and one or more High Courts, and that these are significant questions of law, it can withdraw the cases before the High Court or Courts and dispose off all these cases itself.
- ✓ The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 gives SC the authority to initiate international commercial arbitration.

**6. Which of the following statements are correct about tribal areas in India?**

1. Schedule VI provides for creation of autonomous states for administration of tribal areas in states of Assam, Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya.
2. Schedule areas under inheritance, collect land VI allows for autonomy with regard to laws in respect of their jurisdiction, which cover the land, forest, cultivation, indigenous customs and traditions of tribals, etc. and also to revenues and certain other taxes.

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The Sixth Schedule was originally intended for the predominantly tribal areas (tribal population over 90%) of undivided Assam, which was categorised as “excluded areas” under the Government of India Act, 1935 and was under the direct control of the Governor.
- The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution provides for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram to safeguard the rights of the tribal population in these states.
  - ✓ This special provision is provided under Article 244(2) and Article 275(1) of the Constitution. The
  - ✓ Sixth Schedule provides for autonomy in the administration of these areas through Autonomous District Councils (ADCs).
  - ✓ Article 244 (A) empowers Parliament to enact a law for constituting an autonomous State within the State of Assam and also to provide the autonomous State with Legislature or a Council of Ministers or both with such powers and functions as may be defined by that law.
- These councils are empowered to make laws in respect of areas under their jurisdiction, which cover the land, forest, cultivation, inheritance, indigenous customs and traditions of tribals, etc. and also to collect land revenues and certain other taxes. ADCs have specific powers and responsibilities in respect of all the three arms of governance: Legislature, executive and judiciary.

**7. Which of the following is correct about PMSVANidhi Scheme?**

1. It is a microcredit facility plan to provide affordable loans to street vendors.
  2. The Scheme is under the aegis of Ministry of Finance and implemented by the Small Industries Development Bank of India- SIDBI
  3. The scheme is applicable to hawkers, vendors, rehriwalas, liphadwalas etc in urban areas, including those belonging to the surrounding peri-urban and rural areas.
- A. 1 only  
B. 1 and 2 only  
C. 1 and 3 only  
D. All of the above

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs launched a scheme PM Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) to empower Street Vendors by not only extending loans to them, but also for their holistic development and economic upliftment.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will be the implementation partner of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for scheme administration. SIDBI will leverage the network of lending Institutions including the SCBs, RRBs, SFBs, Cooperative Banks, NBFCs & MFIs for scheme implementation.
- The scheme intends to facilitate collateral free working capital loans of up to INR10,000/- of one-year tenure, to approximately 50 lakh street vendors, to help resume their businesses in the urban areas, including surrounding peri-urban/rural areas.

**8. Which of the following statements are correct about the Military Farm Services?**

1. Military Farms were established in 1889 at Allahabad by the British with the
  2. aim to ensure nutritious milk supply to the troops deployed in India.
  3. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Military Farms undertook 'Project Frieswal' one of the largest cross-cattle breeding programmes in the country
  4. In 2021 the Indian Army closed the Military Farms Service which administered the 130 military farms all across the country due to proliferation of dairy business in the country
- A. 1 only  
B. 1 and 2 only  
C. 1 and 3 only  
D. All of the Above

**Answer: D**

### Explanation

- The first Military Farm was established in 1889 at Allahabad by the British. The basic aim with which these farms were subsequently set up across the length and breadth of the country was to ensure nutritious milk supply to the troops deployed in India.
- Gradually, the role of Military Farms had expanded from only milk production to artificial insemination of cows too and the first pioneering steps in this regard were taken as early as in 1925. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Military Farms undertook 'Project Frieswal' one of the largest cross-cattle breeding programmes in the country.
- The project was launched by Military Farms in collaboration with the ICAR and the aim was to develop milch cattle by cross-breeding which would suit the tropical climate of countries like India. According to the Indian Army, its aim was "to produce and rear Holstein Friesian cross breed with Sahiwal breed for high milk productivity".
- It was in June 2013 that the Quarter Master General's branch of the Army Headquarters, under which Military Farms fell, issued a direction that the farms will be closed in a phased manner. The proliferation of dairy business in the country had ensured that fresh milk could be procured in every corner of the country and there was no longer any forced dependence on Military Farms. In 2016, a committee under Lt Gen DB Shekatkar (retd) submitted a report on reorganisation of several branches of the Army in which it was recommended that the Military Farms be closed down.
- In April 2021, the Indian Army formally closed the Military Farms Service which administered the 130 military farms all across the country.

### 9. Consider the following statements about the Code of Ethics for digital media:

1. OTT platforms, also called the publishers of online curated content will be follow Cable Television Networks Regulation Act that will classify its content
2. The publishers of news on digital media would be required to observe Norms of Journalistic Conduct of the Press Council of India and the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: B**

### Explanation

- This Code of Ethics prescribes the guidelines to be followed by OTT platforms and online news and digital media entities that will be administered by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

- To start with, OTT platforms, also called the publishers of online curated content in the rules, would have to self-classify the content into five age-based categories- U (Universal), U/A 7+, U/A 13+, U/A 16+, and A (Adult). Platforms would be required to implement parental locks for content classified as U/A 13+ or higher, and reliable age verification mechanisms for content classified as "A".
- On the other hand, publishers of news on digital media would be required to observe Norms of Journalistic Conduct of the Press Council of India and the Programme Code under the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act thereby providing a level playing field between the offline (Print, TV) and digital media.

**10. Which of the following statements are correct about RTI?**

1. Right to Information is a statutory and not fundamental right in India
  2. Under the provisions of RTI Act, any citizen of India may request information from a "public authority" which is required to reply expeditiously or within thirty days
  3. In case of matter involving a petitioner's life and liberty, the information has to be provided within 48 hours
- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. 2 and 3 only  
D. All of the above

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Right to Information (RTI) is an act of the Parliament of India which sets out the rules and procedures regarding citizens' right to information. The RTI Bill was passed by Parliament of India on 15 June 2005 and came into force with effect from 12 October 2005. The right to information has been recognised as a fundamental right under Part III of the Constitution by the Supreme Court (Subhash Chandra Agarwal case 2010) under Article 19 (1) of freedom of speech and expression.
- Under the provisions of RTI Act, any citizen of India may request information from a "public authority" (a body of Government or "instrumentality of State") which is required to reply expeditiously or within thirty days. In case of matter involving a petitioner's life and liberty, the information has to be provided within 48 hours.
- The Act also requires every public authority to computerize their records for wide dissemination and to proactively publish certain categories of information so that the citizens need minimum recourse to request for information formally. A PIO can refuse information on 11 subjects that are listed in section 8 of the RTI Act. These include information received in confidence from foreign governments, information prejudicial to security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the country, breach of privilege of legislatures, etc.

**11. Which of the following statements are correct about Tribunals in India?**

1. The Constitutional originally did not contain provisions pertaining to tribunals and they were added later by the 44th Amendment act.
  2. Article 323 A empowers the Parliament to provide for the establishment of administrative tribunals to adjudicate disputes regarding service conditions of both central and state public services.
- A. 1 Only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The original Constitution did not contain provisions with respect to tribunals. The 42nd Amendment Act of 1976 added a new Part XIV-A to the Constitution. This part is entitled as 'Tribunals' and consists of only two Articles—Article 323 A dealing with administrative tribunals and Article 323 B dealing with tribunals for other matters
- Article 323 A empowers the Parliament to provide for the establishment of administrative tribunals for the adjudication of disputes relating to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services of the Centre, the states, local bodies, public corporations and other public authorities.

**12. Which of the following is correct about the appointment process of Chief Justice of India?**

1. The Constitution of India does not have any specific provision for criteria and procedure for appointing the CJI
  2. With respect to the appointment of CJI, the the government cannot send the recommendation of the CJI (or the collegium) back to them for reconsideration.
- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- The Constitution of India does not have any specific provision for criteria and procedure for appointing the CJI and it relies predominantly on custom and convention.
- The procedure to appoint the next CJI is laid out in the Memorandum of Procedure (MoP) between the government and the judiciary:



- ✓ The procedure is initiated by the Law Minister seeking the recommendation of the outgoing CJI at the 'appropriate time', which is near to the date of retirement of the incumbent CJI.
- ✓ The CJI sends his recommendation to the Law Ministry; and in the case of any qualms, the CJI can consult the collegium regarding the fitness of an SC judge to be elevated to the post.
- ✓ After receiving recommendation from the CJI, the law minister forwards it to the Prime Minister who then advises the President on the same.
- ✓ The President administers the oath of office to the new CJI.
- Vis-à-vis the appointment of the CJI and the appointment of SC judges, the key difference is that in the former, the government cannot send the recommendation of the CJI (or the collegium) back to them for reconsideration; while in the latter, the government can do so. However, if the collegium reiterates those names, then the government cannot object any further.

### 13. Which of the following statements are correct about the Places of Worship Act, 1991?

1. The Act declares that the religious character of a place of worship shall continue to be the same as it was on August 15, 1947.
  2. Its objective is to provide for the maintenance of the religious character of such a place of worship as on that day.
  3. Ancient, historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains are also covered under it.
- A. 1 only  
B. 1 and 3 only  
C. 1 and 2 only  
D. All of the Above

**Answer: D**

#### Explanation

- Experts have pointed out that the Places of Worship Act, 1991, prohibited inquiry into religious places such as Kashi and Mathura. This comes after a Varanasi court recently ordered an ASI enquiry at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple-Gyanvapi Mosque premises. Experts have also questioned if a civil court judge was competent to give such a direction against a law upheld by a Constitutional bench of the Supreme Court.

#### Objectives

- ✓ To freeze the status of any place of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947.
- ✓ To provide for the maintenance of the religious character of such a place of worship as on that day.
- ✓ To pre-empt new claims by any group about the past status of any place of worship and attempts to reclaim the structures or the land on which they stood.

- The Act also does not apply to the place of worship commonly referred to as Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid in Ayodhya. This law will have overriding effect over any other law in force. Ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains that are covered by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 are also beyond its purview.

**14. Which of the following bodies was set up by the Government on the recommendations of the Santhanam Commission?**

- A. The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)
- B. Central Information Commission (CIC)
- C. Atomic Energy Commission of India
- D. Telecom Commission

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has modified the guidelines pertaining to the transfer and posting of officials in the vigilance units of government organisations.
- The CVC was set up by the Government in February, 1964 on the recommendations of the Committee on Prevention of Corruption, headed by Shri K. Santhanam.
- In 2003, the Parliament enacted CVC Act conferring statutory status on the CVC. The CVC is not controlled by any Ministry/ Department. It is an independent body which is only responsible to the Parliament.

**15. Which one of the following first suggested that the Governor should be an eminent person from outside the State and should be a detached figure without intense political links or should not have taken part in politics in the recent past?**

- A. First Administrative Reforms Commission (1966)
- B. Rajamannar Committee (1969)
- C. Sarkaria Commission (1983)
- D. National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2000)

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Sarkaria Commission on inter-state relations in its report dealt with the role of Governors. It first suggested that in choosing a Chief Minister the Governor should be guided by the following principles:
  - ✓ The party or combination of parties which command the widest support in the legislative assembly should be called upon to form the Government.

- ✓ The Governors task is to see that a government is formed and not to try to form a government which will pursue policies which he approves.
- ✓ If there is a single party having absolute majority the leader of that party should automatically be invited to become the Chief Minister.
- ✓ If there is no such party the Governor has to invite:
  - ♣ An alliance of parties formed before the elections.
  - ♣ The largest single party which is able to gain the support of other members to command majority.
  - ♣ A post electoral coalition which has the required members.
  - ♣ A post electoral coalition in which partners will not join the government but are willing to support the government from outside.

**16. Which of the following statements are correct about Model Code of Conduct in India?**

1. Kerala was the first state to adopt the model code of conduct for political parties in its election.
  2. MCC remains in force from the date the elections are announced by the Commission till the voting is finished.
  3. The MCC is enforceable by law and ECI has judicial ability to penalise the violators of the Model Code of Conduct
- A. 1 Only  
B. 2 only  
C. 1 and 2 only  
D. 2 and 3 only

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- The MCC is a set of guidelines issued by the Election Commission to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections, to ensure free and fair elections. This is in keeping with Article 324 of the Constitution, which gives the Election Commission the power to supervise elections to the Parliament and state legislatures.
- MCC is operational from the date that the election schedule is announced till the date that results are announced. A form of the MCC was first introduced in the state assembly elections in Kerala in 1960. It was a set of instructions to political parties regarding election meetings, speeches, slogans, etc.
- In the 1962 general elections to the Lok Sabha, the MCC was circulated to recognised parties, and state governments sought feedback from the parties. The MCC was largely followed by all parties in the 1962 elections and continued to be followed in subsequent general elections.

- The MCC is not enforceable by law. However, certain provisions of the MCC may be enforced through invoking corresponding provisions in other statutes such as the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, and Representation of the People Act, 1951. The ECI has argued against making the MCC legally binding; stating that elections must be completed within a relatively short time (close to 45 days), and judicial proceedings typically take longer, therefore it is not feasible to make it enforceable by law.

**17. Which of the following is incorrect about the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)?**

1. The Scheme is available to people in the age group 18 to 70 years with a bank account who give their consent to join.
  2. The scheme is available to both Indian residents and NRIs.
  3. The scheme also covers death due to suicide, alcohol, drug abuse
- A. 2 only  
B. 3 only  
C. 1 and 3 only  
D. 2 and 3 only

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) is a government- backed accident insurance scheme in India. It was originally mentioned in the 2015 Budget speech by Finance Minister Late Arun Jaitley in February 2015.
- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana is available to people (Indian Resident or NRI) between 18 and 70 years of age with bank accounts. It has an annual premium of ₹12 (17¢ US) exclusive of taxes. The GST is exempted on Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana.
- The amount is automatically debited from the account. This insurance scheme can have one year cover from 1 June to 31 May and would be offered through banks and administered through public sector general insurance companies.
- In case of unexpected death or full disability, the payment to the nominee will be ₹2 lakh and in case of partial Permanent disability ₹1 lakh. Further, death due to suicide, alcohol, drug abuse, etc. are not covered.

**18. Which of the following statements are correct about trust vote in Indian parliamentary system?**

1. Trust vote is also known as confidence motion, or a vote of confidence and is a motion through which the government of the day seeks to know whether it still enjoys the confidence of parliament.
2. If a government loses a trust vote and resigns, the president will ask it to continue as a caretaker government.

**3. Nominated MPs and MLAs can't participate in a no-confidence motion.**

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 3 only
- C. 1 and 2 only
- D. All of the Above

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- A trust vote is a motion through which the government of the day seeks to know whether it still enjoys the confidence of parliament.
- A trust vote is sought either during the first session of a newly-elected Lok Sabha if it is not clear whether a party or a grouping of parties command a majority in the house, or at any time during the five-year tenure of the house if it becomes apparent that the government of the day has lost its majority.
- The government would be expected to resign if it loses a trust vote. If it refuses, the president has the power to remove the prime minister. If a government loses a trust vote and resigns, the president will ask it to continue as a caretaker government, with theoretically the same powers it had before the vote.
- In 2018, the Supreme Court considered whether the nominated members had the power to vote on the Budget and on the no-confidence motion against the government. It held that the 1963 law did not distinguish between elected and nominated MLAs – so, they enjoyed voting powers at par with elected MLAs, and were empowered to vote in no-confidence motions.

**19. Which of the following is correct about the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2021?**

1. The amendment specifies that a stay on the arbitral award can be provided if the court is satisfied that the relevant arbitration agreement or contract, or the making of the award, was induced, or effected by fraud or corruption.
  2. The changes with respect to stay on arbitral award will apply retrospectively from 2015 when the previous amendment to the Arbitration act was enacted.
- A. 1 only
  - B. 2 only
  - C. Both 1 and 2
  - D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- The Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2021 seeks to amend the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. The Act contains provisions to deal with domestic and international arbitration and defines the law for conducting conciliation proceedings.
- The 2021 act replaces an Ordinance with same provisions promulgated on November 4, 2020. The 1996 Act allowed a party to file an application to set aside an arbitral award (i.e., the order given in an arbitration proceeding).
- In 2015, the Act was amended to state that an arbitral award would not be automatically stayed merely because an application is made to a court to set aside the arbitral award.
- The 2021 amendment specifies that a stay on the arbitral award can be provided (even during the pendency of the setting aside of the application) if the court is satisfied that: (i) the relevant arbitration agreement or contract, or (ii) the making of the award, was induced, or effected by fraud or corruption. This change will be effective from October 23, 2015.

**20. Which one of the following is correct about the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Act, 2020?**

1. It amends the 1971 Act to increase the upper limit for termination from 20 to 24 weeks for certain categories of women.
2. The Amendment act sets up state level Medical Boards to decide if a pregnancy may be terminated after 24 weeks in cases of substantial foetal abnormalities.

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- The 1971 The Act regulates the conditions under which a pregnancy may be aborted. The 2020 amendment increases the time period within which abortion may be carried out. Currently, abortion requires the opinion of one doctor if it is done within
  - 12 weeks of conception and two doctors if it is done between 12 and 20 weeks.
- The amendment allows abortion to be done on the advice of one doctor up to 20 weeks, and two doctors in the case of certain categories of women between 20 and 24 weeks. However it does not specify the categories of women who may terminate pregnancies between 20-24 weeks and leaves it to be prescribed through Rules. It may be argued that such matters should be specified by Parliament and not delegated to the government.
- The 2020 amendment act sets up state level Medical Boards to decide if a pregnancy may be terminated after 24 weeks in cases of substantial foetal abnormalities. The Act (and the amendment) require abortion to be performed only by doctors with specialisation in gynaecology or obstetrics. As there is a 75% shortage of such doctors in community health centers in rural areas, pregnant women may continue to find it difficult to access facilities for safe abortions.

**21. Which of the following statements are correct about cVIGIL App?**

1. It is an initiative of Ministry of Home Affairs
  2. The App allows citizens to keep a vigil for the protection of women in public spaces and immediately report incidents of violation for prompt response.
- A. 1 Only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Election Commission of India had launched the Mobile App “cVIGIL” to enable citizens to report on violation of election code of conduct.
- “cVIGIL” will allow anyone in the election-bound state to report violations of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) that comes into effect from the date of announcement of elections and goes on till a day after the polls. By using this app, citizens can immediately report on incidents of misconduct within minutes of having witnessed them and without having to rush to the office of the returning officer to lodge a complaint.
- The vigilant citizen has to click a picture or record a video of upto two minutes’ duration of the scene of violations of the model code. The photo or video is to be uploaded on the app. The automated location mapping will be done by the app using the Geographic Information System.
- After its successful submission through the app, the vigilant citizen gets a Unique ID to track and receive the follow up updates on her or his mobile. A citizen can report many incidents in this manner and will get a unique id for each report for follow up updates. The identity of the complainant will be kept confidential.
- Once the complaint is lodged, the information beeps in the District Control Room from where it is assigned to a Field Unit. A field unit consists of Flying Squads, Static Surveillance Teams, Reserve teams etc. Each Field Unit will have a GIS-based mobile application called ‘cVIGIL Dispatcher’, which allows the unit to directly reach the location through navigation technology and take action.

**22. Which of the following is incorrect about the Van Dhan Vikas Yojana?**

1. The Scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED
  2. It seeks to improve tribal incomes through value addition of tribal products that is MFPs
  3. Training and technical support is provided by National Skill Development Corporation
- A. 2 only  
B. 3 only  
C. 1 and 3 only



D. 2 and 3 only

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The Van Dhan Scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED. It was launched on 14th April, 2018 and seeks to improve tribal incomes through value addition of tribal products. Minor Forest Produce (MFP) is a major source of livelihood for tribals living in forest areas.
- The scheme will be implemented through Ministry of Tribal Affairs as Nodal Department at the Central Level and TRIFED as Nodal Agency at the National Level.
- At State level, the State Nodal Agency for MFPs and the District collectors are envisaged to play a pivot role in scheme implementation at grassroot level. Locally the Kendras are proposed to be managed by a Managing Committee (an SHG) consisting of representatives of Van Dhan SHGs in the cluster.
- At unit level, aggregation of produce would be done by SHGs having about 30 members each forming Van Dhan Vikas 'Samuh'. The SHGs would also undertake primary value addition of the MFPs using equipment such as small cutting and sieving tools, decorticator, dryer, packaging tool etc based on MFPs available in the area.

**23. Which of the following statements are correct about Inter-State Council?**

1. Article 263 contemplates the establishment of an Inter-State Council to effect coordination between the states and between Centre and states
2. Created in 1990, the Inter-State Council is a permanent, Constitutional Body
3. The Council's functions are complementary to the Supreme Court's jurisdiction under Article 131

- A. 1 only  
B. 1 and 3 only  
C. 1 and 2 only  
D. All of the Above

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Article 263 contemplates the establishment of an Inter- State Council to effect coordination between the states and between Centre and states. Thus, the President can establish such a council if at any time it appears to him that the public interest would be served by its establishment.
- The Inter-State Council is a non-permanent constitutional body set up by a presidential order on the basis of provisions in Article 263 of the Constitution of India.
- The body was formed by a Presidential Order dated 28 May 1990 on recommendation of Sarkaria Commission.

- The council's function to enquire and advice upon inter- state disputes is complementary to the Supreme Court's jurisdiction under Article 131 to decide a legal controversy between the governments.

**24. Which of the following is incorrect about the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019?**

1. With regards to employment, the act protects transgenders against government institutions but not private ones.
  2. The Act also provides for National Council for Transgender persons headed by Union Minister for Women and Child development.
  3. The act provides transgenders with the right to residence.
- A. 2 only  
B. 1 and 2 only  
C. 3 only  
D. 2 and 3 only

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The Social Justice Ministry notified the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019 which was passed in November 2019. The Act seeks to benefit a large number of transgender persons, mitigate the stigma, discrimination and abuse against this marginalized section and bring them into the mainstream of society.
- The Act defines a transgender person is somebody “whose gender does not match the gender assigned to that person at birth and includes trans-men or trans- women, persons with intersex variations, gender-queers, and persons having socio-cultural identities such as kinnar, hijras, aravani, and jogta”.
- The Act provides right of residence- Every transgender person shall have a right to reside and be included in his household. If the immediate family is unable to care for the transgender person, the person may be placed in a rehabilitation centre, on the orders of a competent court.
- With regard to employment, the act provides that no government or private entity can discriminate against a transgender person in employment matters, including recruitment, and promotion. Every establishment is required to designate a person to be a complaint officer to deal with complaints in relation to the Act.
- The Act also provides for the creation of National Council for Transgender persons (NCT) which was constituted in 2020 headed by Union Minister for Social Justice.

25. Which one of the following is correct about the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020?

1. The Act allows barrier-free trade of farmers' produce outside the physical premises of notified APMCs.
2. It allows barrier-free intra-state but not inter-state trade of farmers' produce.

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 seeks to allow barrier-free trade of farmers' produce outside the physical premises of the markets notified under the various state Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee laws (APMC Acts).
  - ✓ The Act will prevail over the APMC Acts in the area outside such markets. Under the Act, farmers' produce means:
    - ✓ food items, including cereals, pulses, fruits, vegetables, edible oilseeds, oils, sugarcane, spices, nuts, and products of poultry, piggery, goatery, fishery and dairy, raw cotton and jute and cotton seeds, and cattle fodder, including oilcakes and other concentrates.
    - ✓ The Act also defines the agricultural produce regulated under any APMC Act as scheduled farmers' produce.
- The Act allows barrier-free intra-state and inter-state trade of farmers' produce outside: (i) the physical premises of market yards and sub-yards run by the state APMCs and (ii) other markets notified under the state APMC Acts, such as private market yards and sub-yards, collection centres, and farmer-consumer markets. Under the Act, farmers' produce may be traded anywhere outside such markets, such as in places of production, collection, and aggregation, including: (i) farm gates, (ii) factory premises, (iii) warehouses, (iv) silos, and (v) cold storages.

## 4. Economy

To watch the following questions on YouTube, click on the links given below

- [Video 1](#)
- [Video 2](#)
- [Video 3](#)
- [Video 4](#)
- [Video 5](#)

1. Which of the following statements regarding National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Bill, 2021 are correct?

1. The bill seeks to establish a National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development to support 'infrastructure financing' across the country.
2. NBFID will be set up as a corporate statutory body.
3. NBFID will be answerable to Parliament.

- A. 1 only  
B. 1 & 2 only  
C. 2 only  
D. All of the above

**Answer: D**

### Explanation

- Parliament passed "National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development Bill, 2021" (NBFID Bill)
- The bill seeks to establish a National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development to support 'infrastructure financing' across the country.
- NBFID would work as a principal development financial institution (DFIs).
- It includes development of bonds and derivatives markets which are required for infrastructure financing.
- NBFID will be set up as a corporate statutory body.
- It will have the authorized share capital of one lakh crore rupees along with financial and developmental objectives.
- It will act as a catalyst for the ecosystem of infrastructure funding.
- NBFID will be answerable to Parliament.

- It will be managed by chairman & board nominated professionals who will be appointed by Government.
- Shares of NBFID can be held by central government, financial institutions, pension funds, insurers, multilateral institutions, Banks, sovereign wealth funds, and other institution prescribed by central government.
- Financial objectives of NBFID - to lend, invest or pull investments directly or indirectly for infrastructure projects entirely or partly in India.
- Developmental objectives include- to facilitate development of market for bonds, loans and derivatives to finance the infrastructure.
- DFIs are set up to provide long-term finance for those segments of economy where risks involved are beyond acceptable limits of commercial banks and other financial institutions.
- DFIs do not accept deposits from people.
- Instead, they source funds from market, government and multi-lateral institutions. They are often supported by government guarantees.

**2. Based on the following statements identify the type of fund settlement system:**

1. It is a funds transfer system that allows for the instantaneous transfer of money and/or securities.
  2. It is the continuous process of settling payments on an individual order basis without netting debits with credits across the books of a central bank.
  3. Once completed, payments under this system are final and irrevocable.
  4. There is no upper limit on the value of funds that can be transferred via this system.
- A. National Electronic Funds Transfer  
B. Real Time Gross Settlement System  
C. Immediate Payment Service  
D. Cheque truncation system

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Governor of Reserve Bank of India has called for effective regulation which should help innovation in fintech space.
- According to RBI Governor, Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) has multi-currency capabilities. So, there is scope to explore if it can be expanded beyond India.

**Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS)**

- Real Time Gross Settlement systems are specialist funds transfer systems in which transfer of money or securities is done from one bank to another bank in "real-time" and on a "gross" basis.

- It is the fastest possible money transfer system among the banking channel. Real-Time Settlement means a payment transaction is not subjected to 'waiting period'.
- In such system, transactions are settled as and when they are processed.
- While, the "Gross settlement" means transaction is settled on one-to-one basis. RTGS System is used for high-value transactions.
- Banks are also free to use balances maintained under cash reserve ratio (CRR) and intra-day liquidity (IDL) to be supplied by central bank, to meet any eventuality arising out of this payment system.
- RBI also fixed IDL limit for banks to three times their net owned fund.
- This system is monitored by RBI which has stopped levying any charges on transactions made through RTGS from July 2019.

**3. Which of the following statements regarding currency options is/are correct ?**

1. Currency options give investors the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell a particular currency at a pre-specific exchange rate before the option expires.
  2. They allow market to hedge currency risk or to speculate on currency moves.
- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. None of the above

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- A currency option (also known as a forex option) is a contract that gives the buyer the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell a certain currency at a specified exchange rate on or before a specified date. For this right, a premium is paid to the seller.
- Currency options are one of the most common ways for corporations, individuals or financial institutions to hedge against adverse movements in exchange rates.
- Investors can hedge against foreign currency risk by purchasing a currency put or call.
- Currency options are derivatives based on underlying currency pairs.
- Trading currency options involves a wide variety of strategies available for use in forex markets.
- The strategy a trader may employ depends largely on the kind of option they choose and the broker or platform through which it is offered.
- The characteristics of options in decentralized forex markets vary much more widely than options in the more centralized exchanges of stock and futures markets.



4. Pillars of Financial Inclusion include:

1. Public Finance
2. Financial Education
3. Investment Instruments
4. Tax Planning Instruments
5. Consumer Protection
6. Distribution Channel

- A. 1, 3, 5 only
- B. 2, 4 and 5 only
- C. 1, 3 and 4 only
- D. All of the above

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**



5. A situation where import duty on finished goods is low compared to the import duty on raw materials that are used in the production of such finished goods is known as:

- A. Protective duty
- B. Special additional duty
- C. Inverted duty structure
- D. True countervailing duty

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Inverted duty structure is a situation where import duty on finished goods is low compared to the import duty on raw materials that are used in the production of such finished goods.
  - For example, suppose the tariff (import tax) on the import of tyres is 10% and the tariff on the imports of natural rubber which is used in the production of tyres is 20%; this is a case of inverted duty structure.
  - When the import duty on raw materials is high, it will be more difficult to produce the concerned good domestically at a competitive price. Several industries depend on imported raw materials and components.
  - High tax on the raw materials compels them to raise price.
  - On the other hand, foreign finished goods will be coming at a reduced price because of low tax advantage.
  - In conclusion, manufactured goods by the domestic industry becomes uncompetitive against imported finished goods.
  - It discourages the local production of goods using the imported raw materials as the price of imported finished goods may seem more attractive.
  - The disadvantage of the inverted duty structure increases with the increased use of imported raw materials. An inverted duty structure discourages domestic value addition.
  - For India, there are several examples of inverted duty structure especially after the signing of the India- ASEAN FTA.
6. Which of the following statements are correct about Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)?
1. The scheme was launched as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package announced in May 2020 to mitigate the distress caused by coronavirus- induced lockdown, by providing credit to different sectors, especially Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
  2. 2 Loans and 100% guarantee coverage is being provided by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company
  3. The credit will be provided in the form of a Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL) facility
- A. 1 and 3 only  
B. 2 only  
C. 2 and 3 only  
D. 3 only

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- The government has extended the ₹3-lakh-crore emergency credit line guarantee scheme by another three months till June 30 and also widened its scope to new sectors, including hospitality, travel and tourism.

- ECLGS 3.0 would involve extending credit of up to 40% of total credit outstanding across all lending institutions as on February 29, 2020.
- The tenor of loans granted under ECLGS 3.0 would be 6 years, including a moratorium period of 2 years.
- The scheme was launched as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package announced in May 2020 to mitigate the distress caused by coronavirus-induced lockdown, by providing credit to different sectors, especially Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- 100% guarantee coverage is being provided by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company, whereas Banks and Non Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) provide loans.
- The credit will be provided in the form of a Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL) facility.
- No Guarantee Fee shall be charged by NCGTC from the Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) under the Scheme. Interest rates under the Scheme shall be capped at 9.25% for banks and FIs, and at 14% for NBFCs.

### Eligibility

- Borrowers with credit outstanding up to Rs. 50 crore as on 29th February, 2020, and with an annual turnover of up to Rs. 250 crore are eligible under the Scheme.
- On 1st August 2020, the government widened the scope of the Rs. 3 lakh crore-ECLGS scheme by doubling the upper ceiling of loans outstanding and including certain loans given to professionals like doctors, lawyers and chartered accountants for business purposes under its ambit.
- The scheme is expected to provide credit to the sector at a low cost, thereby enabling MSMEs to meet their operational liabilities and restart their businesses.
- By supporting MSMEs to continue functioning during the current unprecedented situation, the Scheme is also expected to have a positive impact on the economy and support its revival.

### 7. Which of the following statements about Harmonized System of Nomenclature Code are incorrect?

1. HS is a six-digit identification code. Of the six digits, the first two denote the HS Chapter, the next two give the HS heading, and the last two give the HS subheading.
2. It is developed under flagship initiative of Ministry of Commerce and Industry to promote Ease of doing Business.

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- It has been made mandatory for a GST taxpayer having a turnover of more than Rs 5 crore in the preceding financial year, to furnish 6 digits HSN Code (Harmonized System of Nomenclature Code).
- This comes into effect from April 1.
- HS is a six-digit identification code. Of the six digits, the first two denote the HS Chapter, the next two give the HS heading, and the last two give the HS subheading.
- Developed by the World Customs Organization (WCO).
- Called the “universal economic language” for goods.
- It is a multipurpose international product nomenclature.
- The system currently comprises of around 5,000 commodity groups.
- Over 200 countries use the system as a basis for their customs tariffs, gathering international trade statistics, making trade policies, and for monitoring goods.
- The system helps in harmonising of customs and trade procedures, thus reducing costs in international trade.

**8. E9 initiative, recently heard in news, is related to which of the following?**

- A. Customs
- B. Intellectual Property Rights
- C. WTO Reforms
- D. Education

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Consultation meeting of Education Ministers of E9 countries on E9 initiative is scheduled to be held.
- The consultation is the first of a three-phased process to co-create an initiative on digital learning and skills, targeting marginalised children and youth, especially girls.
- E9 initiative aims to accelerate recovery and advance the Sustainable Development Goal 4 agenda by driving rapid change in education systems in three of the 2020 Global Education Meeting priorities:
  - ✓ Support to teachers
  - ✓ Investment in skills
  - ✓ Narrowing of the digital divide.
- Spearheaded by the UN, the E9 countries include Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria and Pakistan.
- The project is building on the established partnership of E9 countries allows these nine countries the opportunity to benefit from this global initiative and accelerate progress on digital learning and skills towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 4 – Quality Education.

**9. Which of the following statements are correct about Receivables Exchange of India?**

- 1. It is a joint venture between Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and National Stock Exchange of India Limited.**
  - 2. It operates TReDS.**
  - 3. It was the first entity to receive approval from RBI to launch the first TreDS Exchange of India.**
- A. 2 and 3 only  
B. 1 and 3 only  
C. 1, 2 and 3  
D. 1 and 2 only

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- RXIL is Receivables Exchange of India.
- Recently RXIL has become the first TReDS platform to cross monthly throughput of Rs 1000 crores.
- The transaction volume in the platform grew from Rs 69 crores in April 2020 to Rs 1,105 crores in March 2021.
- This shows economic recovery in the country. Also, it shows that the MSME sector that was badly hit during COVID-19 is getting revived.
- RXIL was incorporated in 2016.
  - ✓ It is a joint venture between Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and National Stock Exchange of India Limited.
  - ✓ It operates TReDS.
  - ✓ It was the first entity to receive approval from RBI to launch the first TreDS Exchange of India.
- RXIL is an integrated provider of financial platform that supports growth and development of MSMEs.
- TReDS is an electronic platform that facilitates financing of MSMEs through multiple financiers.
- The main three participants in the TreDS are MSMEs (sellers), financiers and Corporate entities (buyers).
- According to RBI, only MSMEs can participate as sellers in TReDS.
  - ✓ TReDS can help the MSMEs unlock their working capital.
  - ✓ It ensures higher efficiency and capital management.
  - ✓ The RBI granted permission for the operation of TReDS in the country based on the guidelines under Payment and Settlement System Act, 2007.

**10. Women and Men in India report has been recently released by**

- A. The National Statistical Office
- B. Labour Bureau
- C. The National Statistical Commission
- D. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- The National Statistical Office operating under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) recently released the Women and Men in India report.
- The report consolidates the crucial socio-economic indicators that portray gender situation in the country.
- This is the twenty second issue in its series. The report is published annually by the MoSPI. The projected population of India in 2021 is 136.13 crores.
- Sex ratio has increased from 933 in 2001 to 943 in 2011.
- Delhi recorded the highest increase in sex ratio followed by Chandigarh, Arunachal Pradesh. On the other hand, Daman and Diu had the highest decline in sex ratio.
- The Age Specific Fertility Rate for the females belonging to the age group 25-29 years was the highest at 146.4.
- The Infant Mortality Rate decreased from 39 in 2014 to 32 in 2018.
- The Maternal Mortality Rate decreased from 212 in 2007-09 to 113 in 2016-18.
- The Total Fertility Rate of rural India was 2.3 in 2018. It was 1.7 in urban areas in 2018. The Adolescent Fertility Rate declined from 13 in 2017 to 12.2 in 2018.

**Other important things to remember**

- According to National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5), almost 100% institutional delivery was observed in the states of Goa, Kerala, Lakshadweep.
- The HIV incidence per 1000 people decreased from 0.07 in 2017 to 0.05 in 2019.
- The literacy rate of India increased from 73 in 2011 to 77.7 in 2017.
- The Gender gap in literacy rates was the highest in Rajasthan, Bihar, UP.
- Only 8.3% of females of age 15 years had completed graduation. On the other hand, 12.8% of males of the same age had completed graduation.
- 8% of female students were pursuing education up to tenth standard.
- According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey, 2018-19, the worker population ratio in rural sector was 52.1 for males and 19 for females.
- In urban areas, it was 52.7 for males and 14.5 for females.



- The average wage per hour earned by female population in the age group of 15 years was highest in Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Rs 147 per hour).
- It was followed by Lakshadweep, Nagaland. The lowest was in the states/UTs of Daman and Diu, Odisha.
- The average wage per hour earned by male population in the age group of 15 years was the highest in Lakshadweep (Rs 121 per hour).
- The representation of women in the Central Council of Ministers is 9.26% in 2020.
- In 2019 Lok Sabha election, there were 437.8 million women electors. This is higher as compared to that of the 2014 election (397 million).
- Highest women participation in the Panchayati Raj institutions was observed in the states of Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh.

**11. Which of the following statements about National Bank For Agriculture & Rural Development are correct?**

1. It is an apex development and specialized bank but not yet statutory in nature.
  2. It was established based on the recommendations of the Committee set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under the chairmanship of Shri B. Shivaraman.
  3. It replaced the Agricultural Credit Department (ACD) and Rural Planning and Credit Cell (RPCC) of Reserve Bank of India, and Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation (ARDC).
- A. 1 and 2 only  
B. 1 and 3 only  
C. 2 and 3 only  
D. All of the above

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Recently, to help mitigate the impact of the pandemic and aid economic revival, the RBI said it would extend fresh support of ₹50,000 crore to the All India Financial Institutions for new lending in FY22.
- Accordingly, NABARD will be provided a special liquidity facility (SLF) of ₹25,000 crore for one year to support agriculture and allied activities, the rural non-farm sector and non-banking financial companies-micro finance institutions.
- An SLF of ₹10,000 crore will be extended to the National Housing Bank for one year to support the housing sector.
- SIDBI will be provided ₹15,000 crore under this facility for up to one year for funding of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

## NABARD

- It is an apex development and specialized bank established on 12 July 1982 by an act by the parliament of India.
- Its main focus is to uplift rural India by increasing the credit flow for elevation of agriculture & rural non farm sector.
- It was established based on the recommendations of the Committee set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under the chairmanship of Shri B. Shivaraman.
- It replaced the Agricultural Credit Department (ACD) and Rural Planning and Credit Cell (RPCC) of Reserve Bank of India, and Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation (ARDC).
- It has been accredited with “matters concerning policy, planning and operations in the field of credit for agriculture and other economic activities in rural areas in India”.
- It provides refinance support for building rural infrastructure.
- It prepares district level credit plans to guiding and motivating the banking industry in achieving these targets.
- It supervises Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and helping them develop sound banking practices and integrate them to the CBS (Core Banking Solution) platform.
- It provides training to handicraft artisans and helps them in developing a marketing platform for selling these articles.

### 12. Consider the following statements about SDR :

1. The Special Drawing Rights is an international reserve asset.
2. The value of Special Drawing Rights is based on five currencies of the world i.e. US dollars, Japanese Yen, Chinese Renminbi, British pound sterling and Euro.
3. The SDR is neither a claim on the IMF nor a currency.

Which of the following are correct regarding the same?

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

**Answer: D**

### Explanation

- The G20 Finance Ministers recently nodded to the International Monetary Fund to provide fresh Special Drawing Rights to its member countries.

- The IMF has been permitted to provide SDR of worth 650 million USD to the member countries. This will help boost the reserves of all nations and will avoid pushing low-income countries into further distress.

### Special Drawing Rights

- The Special Drawing Rights is an international reserve asset. It was created by the IMF in 1969 to supplement the official reserves of its member countries.
- The value of Special Drawing Rights is based on five currencies of the world. They are US dollars, Japanese Yen, Chinese Renminbi, British pound sterling and Euro.
- In 2009, the IMF allocated 182.6 billion USD of SDR in the wake of global financial crisis.
- The SDR is neither a claim on the IMF nor a currency. It is a potential claim on the freely usable currencies of IMF members.
- The value of SDR is calculated every day.
- The voting power of a member country in IMF is based on the quota that is measured in terms of SDR. It is primarily based on the economic position of a country.
- The G20 Finance Ministers including India opposed the general allocation of new Special Drawing Rights by the IMF. This is because this will not ease financial pressures created by COVID-19.
- The new Special Drawing Rights is being issued by the International Monetary Fund to help the least developed and developing countries that are facing high foreign exchange crisis due to COVID-19.
- The SDR is mainly used as a unit of account for internal accounting purposes. It helps the IMF manage exchange rate volatility of any single currency.
- When SDRs are allocated to an IMF member country, the members are given two positions: They are the SDR allocations and SDR holdings.
- The countries receive interest on their SDR holdings and pay interest based on their SDR allocations.

**13. Which of the following statements are correct regarding the recent changes in the changes in Post Office Savings Account Scheme, 2019?**

1. A beneficiary of Government welfare scheme can open a basic savings bank account with any post office in the country.
  2. The deposit required to open this account is NIL.
- A. 1 only  
B. B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- The Ministry of Finance recently notified changes in Post Office Savings Account Scheme, 2019.
- The ministry notified that a beneficiary of Government welfare scheme can open a basic savings bank account with any post office in the country.
- The accounts can be opened in an India Post Payment Bank or a Scheduled Commercial Bank. The deposit required to open this account is NIL.
- The account shall be opened by a beneficiary of any Government Welfare Scheme. The account shall also be opened by a beneficiary who is a minor. However, it is mandatory for the minor to assign a guardian.
- The Basic Savings Accounts that were opened under Post Office Savings Account Rules, 1981 are not covered under the new notification.

### Basic Savings Account

- The Basic Savings Account is very much like that of the Basic Saving Bank Deposit Account.
- However, the Basic Savings Account has certain conditions of operations:
  - ✓ The beneficiary can open the Basic Savings Account only in a post office or in a bank.
  - ✓ According to the RBI Guidelines to the Basic Savings Bank Deposit Accounts, the users can deposit or withdraw money from these accounts any number of times in a month.
  - ✓ On the other hand, in a Basic Savings Account, withdrawal can be made only four times per month.
  - ✓ The accounts opened under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana are Basic Savings Account. So far 42.2 crores of such accounts have been opened. They currently hold Rs 1.45 lakh crores of balance.
  - ✓ The Post Office Savings Account is also a Basic Savings Account.
  - ✓ It shall be opened with a minimum amount of Rs 500.
  - ✓ It allows to deposit a minimum of Rs 10 and there is no maximum deposit limit.

**14. The total liabilities of the Union government that have to be paid from the Consolidated Fund of India and involves various factors such as debt-to-GDP ratio, and sustainability and sources of government debt, is known as:**

- A. Public Debt
- B. National Debt
- C. External Commercial Borrowing
- D. Twin Deficit

**Answer: A**

### Explanation

- The International Monetary Fund recently announced that the debt to GDP ratio of India increased from 74% to 90% due to COVID-19 crisis. This is to increase to 99% in 2021.

- The international financial organisation has also stated that this is to reduce to 80% after economic recovery.
- The Debt to GDP ratio is the ratio between the debt of the Government measured in the units of its currency to the GDP measured in the same unit.
- When the Debt to GDP ratio is low, it means that the country produces and sells goods and services that are sufficient to pay back debts without incurring further debts.
- The Debt to GDP ratio of India has remained 70% since 1991. The current increase is mainly due to COVID-19 crisis.

### **Public Debt**

- The Public Debt in India is the total liability of the Union Government that must be paid from the Consolidated Fund of India.
- Almost one-fourth of the government expenditure goes into the interest payment.
- The study of public debt involves the study of various factors such as debt-to-GDP ratio, and sustainability and sources of government debt.
- The Union government broadly classifies its liabilities into two broad categories. The debt contracted against the Consolidated Fund of India is defined as public debt and includes all other funds received outside Consolidated Fund of India under Article 266 (2) of the Constitution, where the government merely acts as a banker or custodian.
- The second type of liabilities is called public account.

### **Public Debt Management Agency**

- It was established in 2016 by the Ministry of Finance.
- The Public Debt Management Agency streamlines the borrowings of the Government and helps in achieving better cash management.
- It was an interim arrangement in the RBI itself.
- However, it was provided a separate statutory status from that of RBI.
- The PDMA plans government borrowings.
- It manages the liabilities of the Government.
- It monitors cash balances and improves forecasting of cash.
- The agency will work towards enhancing the liquidity and efficiency of the market.

**15. Which of the following statements are incorrect about Copyrights ?**

- 1. It is a type of intellectual property.**
  - 2. Copyright protects the Economic rights and moral rights.**
- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry recently notified Copyright (Amendment) rules, 2021.
- The amendment has been made to bring the existing Copyright rules in the country with parity with the other relevant legislations.
- Currently, the Copyright regime of India is governed by Copyright Act, 1957 and the Copyright rules 2013.
- The main objective of the amendment of Copyright Rules is to ensure smooth and flawless compliance in the light of technological advancement in digital era.
- The new rules will help India adopt towards electronic means as primary mode of communication. It is highly important to achieve the goals of Digital India.
- The Copyright societies will have to make an Annual Transparency Report for each financial year.
- The amendments have harmonised the Copyright rules with the provisions of Finance Act, 2017. This has been achieved by merging Copyright Board with the Appellate Board.
- The compliance requirements of registration works have been largely reduced. The applicant now has the liberty to file the first ten and last ten pages of source code with no blocked out or redacted portions.
- The time limit of the Central Government to respond to an application has been extended. When an applicant applies to get registered as a copyright society, the central government shall now respond in one hundred and eighty days. This has been done to provide enough time so that the application can be comprehensively examined.
- Copyright is a type of intellectual property.
- It gives the owner exclusive right to make copies of his or her creative work. It can be education, artistic, literary or music. According to World Intellectual Property Organisation, Copyright protects two types of rights.
- They are Economic rights and Moral rights.
- Economic rights allow the owners to derive financial reward from the use of their works.
- On the other hand, the moral rights allow authors to take certain actions to protect their link with their work.

**16. Which of the following statements about The Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell are correct?**

1. The Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) was created in after dismantling the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector.
2. The PPAC assists the Ministry of Petroleum in administering subsidies on domestic LPG, kerosene, and freight subsidies for far flung areas
3. The expenditure of PPAC is jointly borne by Central and State government.

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Context: The Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell operating under Ministry of Petroleum recently released a report on petroleum consumption of India.
- According to the report, fuel consumption of the country reduced by 9.1% in the year 2020-21 as compared to that of the previous year. This is the first time the petroleum consumption contracted to the highest since 1998-99.

**Key Findings of the report**

- Diesel Consumption fell 12% and petrol consumption fell to 6.7%.
- The Diesel consumption in 2020-21 was 72.72 million tonnes and petrol consumption was 27.95 million tonnes.
- Overall, India consumed 194.63 tonnes of petroleum products as compared to 214.12 million tonnes the previous year.
- The jet fuel consumption fell by 53.6% as the airlines remained shut for most of the period throughout the year.
- Domestic cooking gas, LPG was the only fuel whose consumption increased in 2020-21. The consumption of LPG increased by 4.7%. In 2019-20, the LPG consumption was 26.33 million tonnes and in 2020-21 the LPG consumption was 27.59 million tonnes.

**Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell**

- The Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) was created in 2002.
- It was created after dismantling the Administered Pricing Mechanism in the petroleum sector.
- Also, the Oil Coordination Committee was abolished and replaced with PPAC.
- The PPAC assists the Ministry of Petroleum in administering subsidies on domestic LPG, kerosene, and freight subsidies for far flung areas. Also, it assists in maintaining data or information to deal with emergencies and unforeseen situations.



- The expenditure of PPAC is borne by Oil Industry Development Board.
- The main objectives of PPAC are as follows:
- To make sure, if the subsidy schemes of Govt are implemented properly.
- To analyse the trends in prices of petroleum products and crude oil.
- To collect data on domestic oil and gas sector.

**17. Which of the following are the components of Gross Collection of Direct Taxes?**

1. Corporation Tax
2. Personal Income Tax
3. Advance Tax
4. Tax deducted at Source
5. Self-Assessment Tax
6. Regulator Assessment Tax
7. Dividend Distribution Tax

- A. 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 only  
B. 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 only  
C. 2, 3, 5 and 6 only  
D. All of the above

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Context: The Ministry of Finance recently released the tax collection figures for the financial year 2020-21. According to the ministry, the direct tax collections for the financial year 2020-21 are Rs 9.45 lakh crores.
- The Direct Tax Collections include Personal Income Tax collections and Corporation Tax collections.
- The Personal Income Tax collected for the year 2020-21 was Rs 4.88 lakh crores.
- The Corporation Tax (or Corporate Tax) collected for the year 2020-21 was Rs 4.57 lakh crores.
- The Gross Collection of Direct Tax for the year 2020-21 was Rs 12.06 crores. The gross collection of direct tax is the net amount before adjusting refunds.

**The other components of Gross Collection of Direct Tax are as follows:**

- Corporation Tax: Rs 6.31 lakh crores
- Personal Income Tax: Rs 5.75 lakh crores
- Advance Tax: Rs 4.95 lakh crores

- Tax deducted at Source: Rs 5.45 lakh crores
- Self-Assessment Tax: Rs 1.07 lakh crores
- Regulator Assessment Tax: Rs 42,372 crores
- Dividend Distribution Tax: Rs 13,237 crores

#### Refunds Issued

- In 2020-21, the Gol refunded Rs 2.61 lakh crores.
- This is 42.1% higher than that of 2019-20. In 2019-20, the Gol refunded Rs 1.83 lakh crores.

#### Taxes

- Corporate Tax: It is the tax levied on profits of the companies.
- Personal Income Tax: It is the tax levied on salaries, wages, and other types of income of a person.
- Advance Tax: It is the income tax that should be paid in advance instead of lump sum payment at year end. The Advance Tax is also called earn Tax. It is the income tax a person must pay if his payable tax exceeds Rs 10,000. In such cases, the taxpayer pays in instalments.
- Tax Deducted at Source (TDS): It is the tax deducted from the money paid at the time of making specified payments such as commission, rent, salary, professional fees, etc.

#### 18. Which of the following statements are correct about Special Drawing Rights?

1. Special drawing rights (SDR) are an artificial currency instrument created by the IMF, which uses them for internal accounting purposes.
2. The SDR interest rate (SDRi) provides the basis for calculating the interest rate charged to member countries when they borrow from the IMF and paid to members for their remunerated creditor positions in the IMF.

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

**Answer: C**

#### Explanation

- Context: The G20 Finance Ministers recently nodded to the International Monetary Fund to provide fresh Special Drawing Rights to its member countries.
- The IMF has been permitted to provide SDR of worth 650 million USD to the member countries.
- This will help boost the reserves of all nations and will avoid pushing low-income countries into further distress.

#### Special Drawing Rights

- The Special Drawing Rights is an international reserve asset.
- It was created by the IMF in 1969 to supplement the official reserves of its member countries.
- The value of Special Drawing Rights is based on five currencies of the world. They are US dollars, Japanese Yen, Chinese Renminbi, British pound sterling and Euro.
- In 2009, the IMF allocated 182.6 billion USD of SDR in the wake of global financial crisis.
- The SDR is neither a claim on the IMF nor a currency. It is a potential claim on the freely usable currencies of IMF members.
- The value of SDR is calculated every day.
- The voting power of a member country in IMF is based on the quota that is measured in terms of SDR. It is primarily based on the economic position of a country.
- The G20 Finance Ministers including India opposed the general allocation of new Special Drawing Rights by the IMF.
- This is because this will not ease financial pressures created by COVID-19.
- The new Special Drawing Rights is being issued by the International Monetary Fund to help the least developed and developing countries that are facing high foreign exchange crisis due to COVID-19.
- The SDR is mainly used as a unit of account for internal accounting purposes. It helps the IMF manage exchange rate volatility of any single currency.
- When SDRs are allocated to an IMF member country, the members are given two positions.
- They are the SDR allocations and SDR holdings.
- The countries receive interest on their SDR holdings and pay interest based on their SDR allocations.

**19. Which of the following statements are correct about Angel Tax?**

1. Angel Tax is the 10% Tax that are levied over the funding received by the startups from an external investor.
  2. It is levied only when the startups receive angel funding higher than its "fair market value".
- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Context: The HDFC Bank recently announced the winners of the SmartUp Grants, 2021. This is the fourth edition of **the SmartUp Grants of HDFC**.

**Key Highlights**

- Around twenty-one startups that are working in the social sector have been selected to receive the grants.
- The startups were selected through rigorous screening of three hundred applications received from different parts of the country.

### SmartUp Grants

- The SmartUp Grants was first instituted in 2017.
- In the last four years, HDFC has supported more than eighty-seven startups. It has disbursed Rs 19.4 crores under this initiative.
- HDFC provides preference to the startups working in the field of skill development and education.
- To shortlist the winner, the HDFC bank has partnered with IIT Delhi, IIM Kashipur, AIC-BIMTECH, IIT BHU, GUSEC, C-CAMP, Banasthali University, etc.
- The criteria used to evaluate the startups are sustainability of the idea, how does the idea benefit the society, potential to scale up and uniqueness of the project.
- Startup face pressure over controversies in tax, especially in Angel Tax.
- Angel Tax is the 30% Tax that are levied over the funding received by the startups from an external investor.
- This tax was introduced in 2012 mainly to fight money laundering.
- However, it is levied only when the startups receive angel funding higher than its “fair market value”.
- The issue around Angel Tax is that there is no objective way to measure “fair market value” of a startup.

### 20. Which of the following statements are correct regarding Copyright (Amendment) Rules, 2011?

1. The Copyright societies will have to make an Annual Transparency Report for each financial year.
2. The amendments have harmonised the Copyright rules with the provisions of Intellectual Property Act, 2017
3. When an applicant applies to get registered as a copyright society, the central government shall now respond in one hundred and eighty days.

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

**Answer: C**

### Explanation

- Context: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry recently notified Copyright (Amendment) rules, 2011.

- The amendment has been made to bring the existing Copyright rules in the country with parity with the other relevant legislations.
- Currently, the Copyright regime of India is governed by Copyright Act, 1957 and the Copyright rules 2013.
- The main objective of the amendment of Copyright Rules is to ensure smooth and flawless compliance in the light of technological advancement in digital era.
- The new rules will help India adopt towards electronic means as primary mode of communication.
- It is highly important to achieve the goals of Digital India.
- The Copyright societies will have to make an Annual Transparency Report for each financial year.
- The amendments have harmonised the Copyright rules with the provisions of Finance Act, 2017. This has been achieved by merging Copyright Board with the Appellate Board.
- The compliance requirements of registration works have been largely reduced. The applicant now has the liberty to file the first ten and last ten pages of source code with no blocked out or redacted portions.
- The time limit of the Central Government to respond to an application has been extended.
- When an applicant applies to get registered as a copyright society, the central government shall now respond in one hundred and eighty days. This has been done to provide enough time so that the application can be comprehensively examined.

### Copyright

- Copyright is a type of intellectual property.
- It gives the owner exclusive right to make copies of his or her creative work. It can be education, artistic, literary or music.
- According to World Intellectual Property Organisation, Copyright protects two types of rights. They are Economic rights and moral rights. Economic rights allow the owners to derive financial reward from the use of their works. On the other hand, the moral rights allow authors to take certain actions to protect their link with their work.

### 21. The monetized fiscal deficit (FD) refers to

- A. The part of FD which is covered by external borrowing.
- B. The part of FD covered by borrowing from RBI.
- C. The increased FD due to demonetization.
- D. None of the above

**Answer: B**

### Explanation

- Monetised deficit is the monetary support the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extends to the Centre as part of the government's borrowing programme.

- In other words, the term refers to the purchase of government bonds by the central bank to finance the spending needs of the government.
- Also known as debt monetisation, the exercise leads to an increase in total money supply in the system, and hence inflation, as RBI creates fresh money to purchase the bonds.
- The same bonds are later used to bring down inflation as they are sold in the open market. This helps RBI suck excess money out of the market and rein in rising prices.

### **What is monetization?**

- Most of the time, governments have two basic choices for financing their deficits: they can borrow (issue debt) or raise taxes. Monetization represents a third, unconventional choice that governments may consider in crises like the current one.

### **What is it?**

- Simply put, monetization—also known as “money-financed fiscal programs” or “money-printing”—occurs when the government finances itself by issuing non-interest-bearing liabilities: that is, either currency in circulation or central bank reserves, if the central bank can avoid paying interest on those reserves.

## **22. Which of the following statements regarding of Asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) are correct?**

1. The asset reconstruction companies or ARCs are registered under the RBI.
  2. As per amendment made in the SARFAESI Act in 2016, an ARC should have a minimum net owned fund of Rs. 1000 crores.
- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: A**

### **Explanation**

- Context: The RBI has set up a committee headed by Sudarshan Sen to undertake a comprehensive review of the working of asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) in the financial sector ecosystem and recommend suitable measures for enabling them to meet the growing requirements.
- To review the existing legal and regulatory framework applicable to ARCs and recommend measures to improve efficacy of ARCs.
- To review the role of ARCs in the resolution of stressed assets, including under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IB. BC), The asset reconstruction companies or ARCs are registered under the RBI.
- To give suggestions for improving liquidity in and trading of security receipts.

Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) is a specialized financial institution that buys the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) from banks and financial institutions so that they can clean up their balance sheets.

- This helps banks to concentrate in normal banking activities. Banks rather than going after the defaulters by wasting their time and effort, can sell the bad assets to the ARCs at a mutually agreed value.
- The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act, 2002 provides the legal basis for the setting up of ARCs in India
- The SARFAESI Act helps reconstruction of bad assets without the intervention of courts.
- Since then, a large number of ARCs were formed and were registered with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) which has got the power to regulate the ARCs.
- As per amendment made in the SARFAESI Act in 2016, an ARC should have a minimum net owned fund of Rs. 2 crores.
- The RBI raised this amount to Rs. 100 crores in 2017.
- The ARCs also have to maintain a capital adequacy ratio of 15% of its risk weighted assets.

**23. Which of the following statements regarding Startup India Seed Fund are correct?**

1. The Fund aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry, and commercialization.
  2. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade is the Nodal Department for the scheme.
- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Minister of Railways, Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs and Food & Public Distribution launched the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS).
- SISFS will Secure seed funding, Inspire innovation, Support transformative ideas, Facilitate implementation, and Start startup revolution. He said that this Scheme will create a robust startup ecosystem, particularly in Tier 2 and Tier 3 towns of India, which are often deprived of adequate funding.
- The Fund aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry, and commercialization.
- The Scheme was announced by the Prime Minister on 16th January 2021 in his address of 'Prarambh: StartupIndia International Summit', marking the five-year anniversary of the Startup India initiative.
- Rs. 945 Crore corpus will be divided over the next 4 years for providing seed funding to eligible startups through eligible incubators across India.



- The scheme is expected to support an estimated 3,600 startups through 300 incubators.
- DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) will take care of the implementation of the scheme.

**24. To facilitate confirmation of receivables that act as an evidence of receivables, and to avoid disputes later, the concept of Information Utility (IU) was introduced under the legal framework of the:**

- A. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
- B. SARFAESI Act.
- C. RBI Act, 1938.
- D. Banking Act, 1949.

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- To facilitate confirmation of receivables that act as an evidence of receivables, and to avoid disputes later, the concept of Information Utility (IU) was introduced under the legal framework of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).
- IU is a platform to submit commercial information of a debtor by a creditor and acts as a repository of information to substantiate the contract, transaction, and debt.
- The primary objective is to facilitate and automate the process of verifying the existence of debt and confirming the record of default.
- IU serves two primary services — to record and provide access to reliable financial information and initiate insolvency proceedings in India by evidencing the record of default.
- National E-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL) is India's first IU registered under the IBC that provides this service.

**25. With reference to "GST APPELATE TRIBUNAL" consider the following statements?**

1. It is a quasi-judicial body that mediates in indirect tax disputes between states and the centre.
2. The Union Finance Minister is the ex-officio head of the tribunal.

**Which of the following statements are correct?**

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**



- The features of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) are:
- The National Bench of the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal will be situated in New Delhi.
- The National Bench of GSTAT would consist of President and comprise of one technical member from the centre and one technical member from the state.
- The National Bench of GSTAT will serve as a forum for the second appeal in GST laws and the first common forum for dispute resolution between Centre and States.
- The first appeal against the decisions of the Appellate Authorities under the Central and State GST Acts lie before the National Bench.
- National Bench of GSTAT will ensure uniformity in redressal of disputes arising under GST, and therefore, in the implementation of GST across the country.
- Chapter XVIII of the CGST Act provides for the Appeal and Review Mechanism for dispute resolution under the GST.
- Section 109 of Chapter XVIII Chapter of CGST Act empowers the Central Government to constitute an Appellate Tribunal known as the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal for hearing on the recommendation of Council, by notification, with effect from such date as may be specified therein on the recommendation of GST Council.

## 5. Environment

To watch the following questions on YouTube, click on the links given below

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

1. Which of the following statements are correct about Sabarmati River?

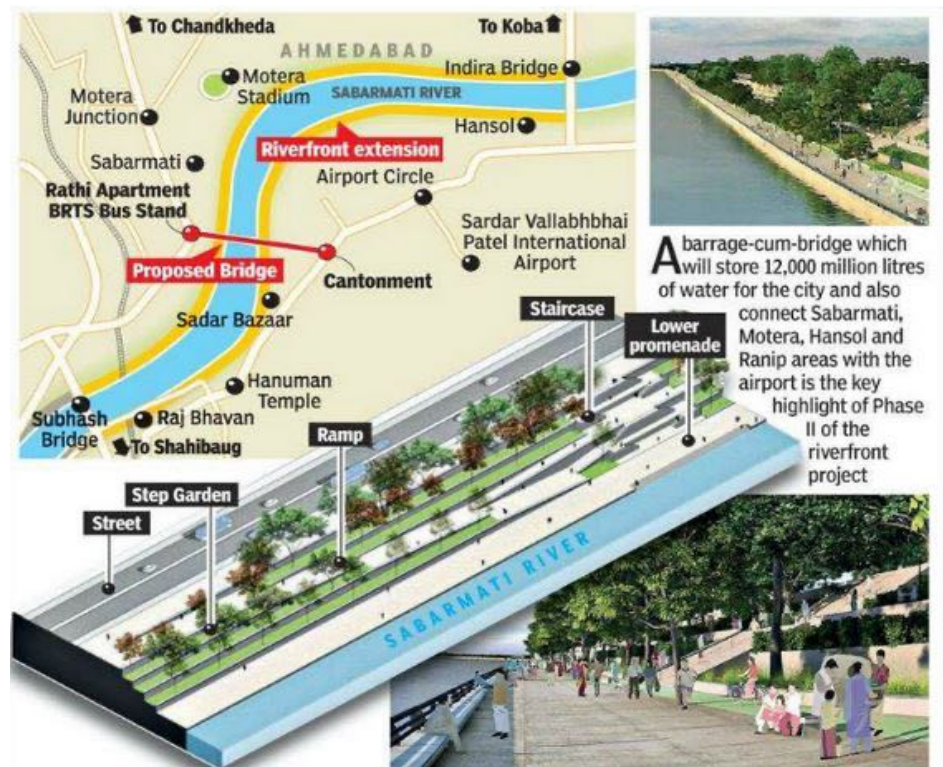
1. It Originates from Aravalli hills near Tepur village in Gujrat.
2. It flows through South East direction.
3. Kakrapar Project is built on this river.

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, in its draft budget for 2021-22, has set aside Rs 1050 crore for the Sabarmati River Front Development phase 2, work on which is to begin soon.
- Sabarmati Riverfront Development Project.
- The SRDP is an environmental improvement, social uplift and urban rejuvenation project that will renew Ahmedabad.
- The project is being developed by the Sabarmati Riverfront Development Corporation Ltd. (SRFDCL), a company wholly owned by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation.



- The project will reclaim approximately 200 hectares of land from the riverbed.
- To reclaim the land, protect low lying developments from floods, and prevent erosion of the river banks, retaining walls have been built on both sides of the river.
- Since Sabarmati is a seasonal river, water is channelled into the river from the Narmada canal, which intersects the river upstream from Ahmedabad and is retained in the river using the Vasna Barrage which is located downstream.
- The project has won Prime Minister's National Award for Excellence in Urban Planning and Design in the year of 2003.

### Sabarmati River

- It is one of the west flowing rivers along with Narmada and Tapi.
- It Originates from Aravalli hills near Tepur village in Udaipur Dist of state Rajasthan. It flows through South West direction.
- Mouth of the river : Gulf of Cambey ( Khambhat)
- Ahmedabad city is located along the bank of this river.

### Tributaries

- Right Tributaries :

- ✓ Sei
- ✓ Siri
- ✓ Dhamni

- Left Tributaries

- ✓ Wakal
- ✓ Harnav
- ✓ Hathmati
- ✓ Khari
- ✓ Watrak



- The river runs through two states Rajasthan and Gujarat .
- The basin is bounded by: Aravalli hills on the north and North East, Rann of Kutch on the west ,Gulf of Khambhat on the south.
- The river basin is roughly triangular in shape.

- Most of its tributaries rises from Aravalli hills and joins with Sabarmati river at different points .
- Harnav river rises at Kulalia hills in the state of Rajasthan.
- Watrak River rises at Panchara hills in the state of Rajasthan
- Dharoi Dam is located on the Main Sabarmati River .
- Other Dams
  - ✓ Hathmati Dam
  - ✓ Harnav Dam
  - ✓ Guhai Dam
  - ✓ Meshvo Reservoir
  - ✓ Mazam Dam
  - ✓ Watrak Dam.

## 2. Asia's Largest Tulip Garden is situated in

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Jammu Kashmir
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Sikkim

**Answer: B**

### Explanation

- Asia's largest Tulip Garden in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir, is scheduled to be opened for general public and tourists from March 25, 2021.
- Tulip flowers have blossomed in the lap of Zabarwan Hills along the banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar city.
- Around 15 lakh flowers of more than 64 varieties are in full bloom nowadays in the garden
- Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden : The garden was previously known as Model Floriculture Center. It is the largest tulip garden in Asia spread over an area of 74 acres.
- It is situated on the foothills of Zabarwan Range in Dal Lake of Srinagar.
- Tulip garden was inaugurated in 2007 with the aim of boosting floriculture and tourism in Kashmir Valley.
- It is built on a sloping ground in terraced fashion comprising of seven terraces.
- Many other species of flowers like daffodils, hyacinths, and ranunculus have also been added to the garden.
- Tulip festival is an annual celebration that showcase the range of flowers in tulip garden as a part of tourism efforts by the state Government.

- Festival is organized on the onset of spring season in Kashmir valley.
- Tulips are a genus of spring-blooming perennial herbaceous bulbiferous geophytes.
- Tulips are generally large, showy and brightly coloured.
- They have a different coloured blotch at the base of their tepals internally. The flower is a member of lily family called Liliaceae.

### **Zabarwan Range**

- It is a 32 km long sub-mountain range between Pir Panjal and Great Himalayan Range located in central part of Kashmir Valley. It borders central part of Kashmir Valley to the east.
- It is surrounded specifically by Sind Valley in North, Lidder Valley in south, Zaskar Range in east and Jehlum Valley in west.
- Shankaracharya Temple is built on edge of the central part of Zabarwan Range.
- Highest peak of the range is Mahadev Peak.

### **3. The term “Phumdis” is related to which of the following lakes**

- A. Sangetsar Lake
- B. Loktak Lake
- C. Umiyam Lake
- D. Palak Lake

**Answer: B**

### **Explanation**

Loktak lake

- It is the largest freshwater lake in North -East India and is famous for the phumdis (heterogeneous mass of vegetation, soil and organic matters at various stages of decomposition) floating over it.
- Keibul Lamjao is an integral part of the lake and is the only floating national park in the world.
- It is located near Moirang in Manipur.
- The etymology of Loktak is Lok = “stream” and tak = “the end”.
- The largest of all the phumdis covers an area of 40 km<sup>2</sup> (15 sq mi) and is situated on the southeastern shore of the lake.
- This ancient lake plays an important role in the economy of Manipur.
- It serves as a source of water for hydropower generation, irrigation and drinking water supply.
- The lake is also a source of livelihood for the rural fishermen who live in the surrounding areas and on phumdis and catch their fish by using various nets and indigenous traps.
- Human activity has led to severe pressure on the lake ecosystem.



- There are 55 rural and urban hamlets around the lake which have a population of about 100,000 people.
- There have been rising urbanisation and land-use change over the years in and around the Loktak Lake.
- The lake has become a dump-yard for the city's municipal waste, ranging from plastic refuse to chemical runoff from farming.
- The situation worsens during years of floods.
- Though the Loktak Lake is yet to see worrying levels of pollution, early signs suggest that there is a need to be wary.
  - ✓ Major Pollutant Instead of Carbon Dioxide, Nitrogen is a major pollutant in the lake.
  - ✓ pH of the lake: The pH of the lake, as per measurements so far, varies from 6.8-7.2 (ideally the pH of a healthy lake should be slightly below 7).
- However, studies of ocean acidification have shown that even a 0.1 increase in pH can cause (harmful) decalcification.

#### Calcium anomalies

- There are signs of calcium anomalies in some of the mollusc and other aquatic life in the lake.
- This is similar to the phenomenon of coral bleaching in oceans, where rising sea surface temperature cause organisms that live on corals to disengage, thereby killing the corals themselves.

#### Effect on Phumdis

- The health of the lake also affects the Phumdis (the unique 'floating islands') of the Loktak lake.
- These islands are made of a mix of vegetation and soil.
- These coalesce to form a thick mat that, for centuries, have hosted huts and fishing settlements.
- Considering the ecological status and its biodiversity values, the lake was initially designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention on 23 March 1990.
- It was also listed under the Montreux Record on 16 June 1993.
- Montreux Record is a record of Ramsar sites where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring or are likely to occur.

#### 4. State of the Global Climate report is released by

- A. United Nations Environment Programme
- B. The International Union for Conservation of Nature
- C. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- D. World Meteorological Organization

**Answer: D**



### Explanation

- The World Meteorological Organization(WMO) releases the annual State of Global Climate Report to keep a track of global warming.

### Key Highlights from the 2020 report

- Hottest Year: 2020 will be one of the three hottest years just behind 2016 and 2019.
- Rise in Global Temperature: The global mean surface temperature for January-October 2020 was 1.2 degree Celsius higher than the pre-industrial baseline (1850-1900).For that period, 2020 is the second- warmest year on record.
- High Temperature over Ocean Surfaces: 80% of ocean areas have experienced at least one marine heat wave (MHW) so far in 2020.
- Global sea-level rise was also similar to 2019 value.This was mainly due to the increased melting of the ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica.
- Consequences: Extreme weather events such as tropical cyclones, floods, heavy rainfall and droughts were the consequence of global warming that impacted many parts of the world.
- World Meteorological Organization(WMO):
  - ✓ It is an intergovernmental organization established by the ratification of the WMO Convention in 1950.
  - ✓ Members: 193 Member States and Territories.
  - ✓ Significance: It is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN).
  - ✓ Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.

### 5. Which of the following statements are correct about Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) ?

1. Mulching is associated with ZBNF.
2. Vermicomposting is an integral part of ZBNF.

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

**Answer: A**

### Explanation

- Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) is a type of chemical-free farming where the total cost of growing and harvesting plants comes out to be zero (taking into consideration the costs incurred by the farmers are recovered through inter-cropping) .
- The topic, 'Zero Budget Natural Farming,' gained prominence when Finance Minister mentioned it in her 2019 budget speech, speaking of it as a source of doubling farmers' income.

- Subash Palekar (Indian Agriculturist and Padma Shri Recipient) is the father of Zero Budget Natural Farming.
- He developed it in the mid-1990s as an alternative to the Green Revolution methods.
- Jeevamrutha' is applied in farming. Jeevamrutha is the mixture of:
  - ✓ Fresh desi cow dung
  - ✓ Aged desi cow urine
  - ✓ Jaggery
  - ✓ Pulse flour Water and Soil
- It helps in the addition of nutrients in the soil and also in catalysing the microbial activities in the soil.
- A mixture called 'Bijamrita' ('Bija' stands for seed) is used for the treatment of seeds while another mixture of neem leaves and pulp, tobacco and green chillies is used as an insecticide
- Acchadana is Mulching, associated with Zero Budget Natural Farming while Whapasa is a condition where there is a presence of both air molecules and water molecules in the soil.
- Whapasa helps in reducing irrigation requirements.
- Apart from the least cost incurred in this type of farming, the Zero Budget Natural Farming also promotes:
  - ✓ Soil aeration
  - ✓ Minimal watering
  - ✓ Intercropping
  - ✓ Bunds and
  - ✓ Topsoil mulching
- Intensive irrigation and deep ploughing is not promoted in Zero Budget Farming.
- Vermicomposting which is a method of using earthworms as a means to enhance organic waste conversion; is not supported in Zero Budget Natural Farming.
- Palekar mentioned that European Red Wiggler (Most common composting Earthworm) that are used in vermicomposting absorb toxic metal and poison the soil.

**6. Based on the following statements, identify the reserve**

1. It is located in the Vindhya Hills of the Umaria district in Madhya Pradesh.
2. It is known for the Royal Bengal Tigers.
3. It was declared as a national park in 1968.
4. Its name has been derived from the most prominent hillock of the area of Umaria.
5. It consists of mixed vegetation ranging from tall grasslands to thick Sal forest.

**6. It resides on the extreme north eastern border of Madhya Pradesh and the northern edges of the Satpura mountain ranges.**

- A. Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve
- B. Bandhavgarh National Park
- C. Kanha National Park
- D. Madhav National Park

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The wildfire was reported a few days back in parts of the
  - Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve (BTR) located in Umaria district.
  - Burning of leaves to collect Mahua flowers, lighting a fire to keep wild elephants away or a burning cigarette butt left by someone may have caused the recent blaze in Madhya Pradesh's Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve.
  - Bandhavgarh National Park is spread at Vindhya hills in Madhya Pradesh.
  - It is known for the Royal Bengal Tigers.
  - The density of the Tiger population at Bandhavgarh is the highest known in India.
  - Bandhavgarh National Park consists of mixed vegetation ranging from tall grasslands to thick Sal forest and so is the perfect habitat of variety of animals and birds.
  - Bandhavgarh was declared a national park in 1968 and then became Tiger Reserve in 1993.
  - The word Bandhavgarh is a combination of two words: Bandhav+ Garh where Bandhav means brother and Garh means Fort.
  - The name Bandhavgarh given to the reserve is due to the presence of an ancient fort in the hillock of the Vindhya ranges of Umaria.
  - It has been believed that Lord Rama gifted this amazing fort to his younger brother Lakshmana.
  - In the 2019 census Madhya Pradesh state recorded the most number of estimated tigers at 526, thus earning the title "Tiger State".
- 7. Which of the following hold true about the criterion to declare a protected area as a Biosphere Reserve?**
- 1. A site must contain a protected and minimally disturbed buffer area of value of nature conservation.
  - 2. Core area must be a bio-geographical unit and should be large enough to sustain a viable populations representing all trophic levels.
  - 3. The involvement of local communities and use of their knowledge in biodiversity preservation.

**4. Areas potential for preservation of traditional tribal or rural modes of living for harmonious use of the environment.**

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- The Odisha government has proposed a second biosphere reserve in the southern part of the state at Mahendragiri, a hill ecosystem having rich biodiversity.
- The 5,569-square kilometre Similipal Biosphere Reserve is Odisha's first such reserve and was notified May 20, 1996.
- Mahendragiri Biosphere Reserve is around 470,955 hectares and is spread over Gajapati and Ganjam districts in the Eastern Ghats.
- The hill ecosystem acts as a transitional zone between the flora and fauna of southern India and the Himalayas, making the region an ecological estuary of genetic diversities.
- Mahendragiri is inhabited by the Soura people, a particularly vulnerable tribal group as well as the Kandha tribe.
- Biosphere Reserve (BR) is an international designation by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for representative parts of natural and cultural landscapes extending over large areas of terrestrial or coastal/marine ecosystems or a combination of both.
- Biosphere Reserves tries to balance economic and social development and maintenance of associated cultural values along with the preservation of nature.
- The concept of Biosphere Reserves was launched in 1971 as a, part of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)'s 'Man and Biosphere Programme'.

**Aim of Biosphere Reserve**

- conservation of genetic resources, species, and ecosystems; scientific research and monitoring; and
- Promoting sustainable development in communities of the surrounding region.

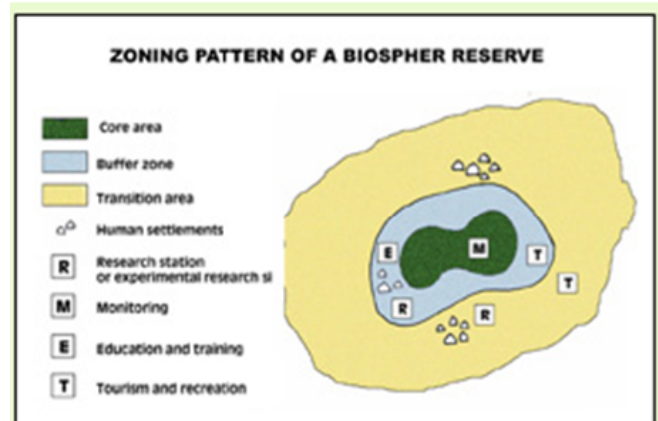
**Zonation:**

- Core Areas:
  - ✓ Includes protected areas-these act as reference points on the natural state of the ecosystems represented by the biosphere reserves
  - ✓ non-destructive research and other low-impact activities(such as ecotourism) are generally undertaken
- Buffer Zone:

- ✓ Surrounds or is contiguous to the core area.
- ✓ Activities are organized so they do not hinder the conservation objectives of the core area, but rather help to protect it.
- ✓ It is used for cooperative activities compatible with sound ecological practices Human activities are less intensive than that in the transition zone

● **Transition Zone or Area of Cooperation:**

- ✓ May contain a variety of agricultural activities, settlements and other uses and in which local communities, management agencies, scientists, NGOs, and other stakeholders work together to manage and sustainably develop the area's resources.
- ✓ The term 'area of cooperation' underscores the role of cooperation as the main tool to achieve the objectives of the biosphere reserve.



**8. National Wildlife Genetic Resource Bank is located in**

1. Goa
2. Chennai
3. Dehradun
4. Hyderabad

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- National Wildlife Genetic Resource Bank was inaugurated at Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology's (CCMB) Laboratory of Conservation of Endangered Species (LaCONES) facility in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- It is India's first genetic resource bank where genetic material will be stored for posterity which will further the cause of conservation of endangered and protected animals.
- It is equipped with sophisticated equipment to preserve the genetic resources that could be utilised to virtually resurrect an animal species in case it goes extinct.
- It will cryopreserve living cell lines, gametes and embryos of endangered wild animal species in India.
- For cryogenic preservation, researchers at CCMB-LaCONES will use liquid Nitrogen that is cooled down to as low as minus 195 degrees Celsius.
- It will aid wild life conservation efforts by taking up artificial reproduction, conducting studies in evolution biology and wildlife medicine.
- Thus, it will also help in protecting India's biodiversity and environment.

- So far this bank has collected and preserved genetic resources of 23 species of Indian wild animals.

**9. Which of the following statements about REDD+ are correct**

1. It is a mechanism developed by Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
2. It creates an ecological value for the carbon stored in forests by offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development.
3. Developing countries receive results-based payments for results-based actions.

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- A new study by Delhi-based non-profit Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has revealed that Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), the programme initiated by the United Nations in 2005 to mitigate climate change through enhanced forest management in developing countries, has largely failed to achieve its objectives. (news from 2018)
- Large-scale finance for REDD+ has been a major issue as carbon markets have not materialised and international funding commitments for REDD+ have been much lower than expected.
- REDD+ implementation costs have been high and benefits for local communities from REDD+ projects have been minimal.
- There is need to rethink the REDD+ mechanism based on these experiences and the findings emerging from new research on the potential of forests to mitigate climate change.
- India's REDD+ strategy Complying with the UNFCCC decisions on REDD+, India has prepared its National REDD+ Strategy.
- The Strategy builds upon existing national circumstances which have been updated in line with India's National Action Plan on Climate Change, Green India Mission and India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to UNFCCC.
- The strategy report has been prepared by Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE), Dehradun.

**REDD+**

- In simple terms, REDD+ means "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation", conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

- REDD+ is a mechanism developed by Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- It creates a financial value for the carbon stored in forests by offering incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development.
- Developing countries would receive results-based payments for results-based actions.
- REDD+ goes beyond simply deforestation and forest degradation and includes the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.
- Since its formalisation in 2006, REDD+ had emerged as the most prominent global mechanism to integrate the role of forests in climate change.
- It was touted as a win-win situation for biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration and local livelihoods.
- More than 300 REDD+ initiatives have taken off since 2006.
- The mechanism has been enshrined in the Paris Agreement of 2015, and its implementation is transitioning from smaller, isolated projects to larger, jurisdictional programmes with support from bilateral and multilateral agencies.

#### 10. Consider the following

1. Left Tributaries – Burhner , Banjar, Sher, Shakkar, Dudhi, Tawa, Ganjal, Kundi, Goi, Karjan
2. Right Tributaries – Hiran , Tendoni, Barna, Kolar, Man, Uri , Hatni, Orsang
3. It is bounded by - the Vindhya on the north, the Maikala range on the east, the Satpuras on the south, the Arabian Sea on the west.

Identify the river

- A. Chambal
- B. Narmada
- C. Betwa
- D. Godavari

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Narmada is the largest west flowing river of the peninsular India.
- Narmada basin lies in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.
- The total area of this river basin is 98,796 Sq.km. It is bound by -
  - ✓ the Vindhya on the north,
  - ✓ the Maikala range on the east,



- ✓ the Satpuras on the south
- ✓ the Arabian Sea on the west.
- It rises from Maikala range near Amarkantak in Anuppur district of Madhya Pradesh. Narmada drains into the Arabian Sea through the Gulf of Khambhat.
- The major part of basin is covered with agriculture accounting to 56.90%.



#### Left Tributaries

- The Burhner
- The Banjar
- The Sher
- The Shakkar
- The Dudhi
- The Tawa
- The Ganjal
- The Kundi
- The Goi
- The Karjan

#### Right Tributaries

- The Hiran
- The Tendoni
- The Barna
- The Kolar

- The Man
- The Uri
- The Hatni
- The Orsang

The major Hydro Power Project in the basin are Indira Sagar, Sardar Sarovar, Omkareshwar, Bargi & Maheshwar.

- Dams in Narmada river -
  - ✓ Sardar Sarovar Dam- Gujarat
  - ✓ Indira Sagar Dam – Madhya Pradesh
  - ✓ Omkareshwar Dam – Madhya Pradesh
  - ✓ Maheshwar Dam – Madhya Pradesh
  - ✓ Bargi Dam – Madhya Pradesh
  - ✓ Maan Dam – Madhya Pradesh
  - ✓ Jobat Dam – Madhya Pradesh
  - ✓ Tawa Dam – Madhya Pradesh

#### 11. Consider the following

1. Bio-venting
2. Bio-augmentation
3. Bio-reactors

Which of the above is/are In-situ bio-remediation techniques?

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

**Answer: A**

#### Explanation

- Bioremediation techniques are destruction techniques to stimulate the growth of micro-organisms, using the contaminants as a food and energy source.
- These techniques have been successfully used to remediate soils/sludges & groundwater contaminated by petroleum hydrocarbons, solvents, pesticides, wood preservatives, and other organic chemicals.
- Oxygen, water & nutrients are added, and the temperature and pH are controlled.

- In situ
  - ✓ Bio Sparging
  - ✓ Bio-venting
  - ✓ Bioslurping
  - ✓ Phyto-remediation
- Ex situ
  - ✓ Bio-reactor
  - ✓ Land farms
  - ✓ Bio- piles

**12. Which of the following are the Ecological Causes of Coral Bleaching?**

1. Xenobiotics
2. Temperature
3. Sedimentation
4. Epizootics

**Choose the correct option from below**

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Coral Bleaching Bleaching, or the paling of coral colour occurs when
  - ✓ the densities of zooxanthellae decline and
  - ✓ the concentration of photosynthetic pigments within the zooxanthellae fall.
- Ecological causes of coral bleaching -
  - ✓ Temperature (Major Cause)
  - ✓ Sub aerial Exposure-Sudden exposure of reef flat corals to the atmosphere during events such as extreme low tides,
  - ✓ ENSO-related sea level drops or tectonic uplift can potentially induce bleaching.
  - ✓ Sedimentation

- ✓ Fresh Water Dilution
- ✓ Inorganic Nutrients(e.g. ammonia and nitrate)
- ✓ Xenobiotics
- ✓ Zooxanthellae loss occurs during exposure of coral to elevated Concentrations of various chemical contaminants, such as Cu, herbicides and oil.
- ✓ Epizootics

**13.Forest-PLUS 2.0 has been launched by**

- A. India's Ministry of Environment and UNFCCC
- B. World Bank and UNFCCC
- C. World Bank and US Agency for International Development
- D. India's Ministry of Environment and US Agency for International Development

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- US Agency for International Development (USAID) and India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) officially launched Forest-PLUS 2.0 on September 25, 2019.
- It is a five-year programme initiated in December 2018 that focuses on developing tools and techniques to bolster ecosystem management and harnessing ecosystem services in forest landscape management.
- Tetra Tech ARD, a consulting and engineering company headquartered in the US, was given the contract to implement the programme and IORA Ecological Solutions, a New Delhi-based environmental advisory group, is its implementation partner.
- Forest-PLUS 2.0, the second set of pilot projects, is meant to enhance sustainable forest landscape management after Forest-PLUS completed its five years in 2017.
- The programme's first set focused on capacity building to help India participate in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+).
- It included four pilot projects in Sikkim, Rampur(HP), Shivamogga( Karnataka) and Hoshangabad(MP).

**14.Consider the following statements with respect to N<sub>2</sub>O emission.**

1. It has the highest concentration in our atmosphere among greenhouse gases responsible for global warming.
2. As per recent study, a major proportion of the N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in the last four decades came from the agricultural sector.

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

- A. 1 only

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- It has the third-highest concentration — after CO<sub>2</sub> and methane — in our atmosphere among greenhouse gases responsible for global warming.
- As per recent study, a major proportion of the N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in the last four decades came from the agricultural sector.
- The research was conducted through an international collaboration between the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI) and the Global Carbon Project of Future Earth, a partner of the World Climate Research Programme.
- This is the most comprehensive study of global nitrous oxide emissions ever published, as it combines both natural and anthropogenic (man-made) sources.
- The study found that 43% of the total emissions came from human sources and most N<sub>2</sub>O emissions came from emerging countries like India, China and Brazil.
- A major proportion of the N<sub>2</sub>O emissions in the last four decades came from the agricultural sector, mainly because of the use of nitrogen-based fertilisers.

**15. Consider the following statements with respect to Brown to Green Report**

1. The Brown to Green Report is the world's most comprehensive review of BRICS climate action.
  2. The report is been published by Climate Transparency. Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- A. 1 only
  - B. 2 only
  - C. Both 1 and 2
  - D. None of the above

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The Brown to Green Report is the world's most comprehensive review of G20 climate action.
- The report is been published by Climate Transparency.
- It provides concise and comparable information on G20 country mitigation action, finance and adaptation.

- Developed by experts from 14 research organisations and NGOs from the majority of the G20 countries, the report covers 80 indicators.
- It informs policy makers and stimulates national debates.
- The Summary Report 2019 provides a comprehensive overview of all G20 countries, whether – and how well – they are doing on the journey to transition towards a net-zero emissions economy. The report draws on the latest emissions data from 2018 and covers 80 indicators on decarbonisation, climate policies, finance and vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. Providing country ratings, it identifies leaders and laggards in the G20.
- India's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are – per capita – far below the G20 average.

**16. Which of the following statements are correct about National Level Climate Vulnerability report?**

- 1. The Common Framework for Vulnerability Assessment was created based on the Assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.**
  - 2. It is being released by The Department of Science and Technology.**
- A. 1 only  
B. 2 only  
C. Both 1 and 2  
D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- The Department of Science and Technology is to release a National Level Climate Vulnerability report.
- The title of the report is “Climate Vulnerability Assessment for Adaptation Planning in India using a Common Framework”.
- The report was generated based on a joint exercise by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and Department of Science and Technology.
- The report identifies the most vulnerable states and districts to climate change. Around 24 states and two Union territories participated in the nation-wide exercise.
- Several climate vulnerability assessments for different states and districts already exists.
- However, these assessments cannot be compared with each other as the framework used for the assessment is different.
- This limits the decision-making capabilities at administrative and policy levels. Thus, a Common vulnerability Framework was created.
- The Common Framework for Vulnerability Assessment was created based on the fifth Assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.
- This framework was developed by IISc Bangalore, IIT Guwahati and IIT Mandi.

- The framework was applied to the Indian Himalayan regions involving twelve states.
- It was highly successful. Thus, the framework was rolled out based on the framework for the entire country.
- This vulnerability is highly important, especially in developing countries like India. It will help to develop suitable adaptation projects and programmes.
- The report will help policy makers to initiate appropriate climate actions. The DST is implementing two main national missions.
- They are National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change and National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem.

**17. Based on the following statements, identify the river?**

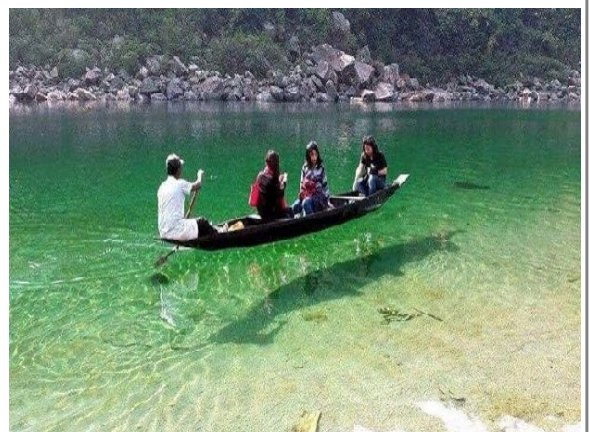
1. It is a river in Meghalaya.
2. It is considered to be India's clearest river.
3. The river attracts many tourists to Dawki bordering Bangladesh.
4. The river is the natural boundary between Jaintia Hills and Khasi Hills.

- A. Umngot
- B. Thenad
- C. Dihing
- D. Tlawng

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- There is a stiff resistance from at least 12 villages in Meghalaya on a 210 MW hydroelectric project on Umngot.
- The villages are near the border with Bangladesh in East Khasi Hills district but the dam is proposed upstream in the adjoining West Jaintia Hills district.
- The locals fear that the project, if executed, would cause irreparable losses by wiping out their areas from the tourism map, besides affecting many villages in the downstream areas dependent on the Umngot.
- The project documents say people of 13 villages along the Umngot are likely to lose 296 hectares of land due to submergence if the dam comes up.
- Not all villages are opposed to the project, though. People of at least four of them have mobilised support for the dam.
- The Umngot river attracts many tourists to Dawki bordering Bangladesh.





- The water of the river is so clear that boats seem to rest on a crystal glass surface besides casting their shadows on the river bed.

**18. Which of the following statements are correct about One Horned Rhinos?**

1. These are the only Rhinos found in India.
2. It is the largest of the rhino species.
3. IUCN Red List - Endangered.
4. They are the only Omnivorous Rhinos.

- A. 1, 2 and 3 only  
B. 1 and 2 only  
C. 3 and 4 only  
D. None of the above

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Two adult one-horned rhinos were recently translocated from Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary to Manas National Park, under the aegis of the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (IRV 2020).
- With this last leg of wild-to-wild translocation under IRV2020, a total of 22 rhinos have been translocated from Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary (12) and Kaziranga National Park (10) to Manas National Park.
- About the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (IRV 2020)
  - ✓ It was launched in 2005.
  - ✓ IRV 2020 is an initiative led by the Forest Department, Government of Assam, in partnership with WWF India, International Rhino Foundation, and several other organizations.
  - ✓ The goal of IRV2020 was to increase the rhino population in Assam to 3,000 by establishing populations in new areas.
  - ✓ Rhinos are now found in four Protected Areas in Assam - Pobitora Wildlife Reserve, Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park, Kaziranga National Park, and Manas National Park.

**One- horned rhinos**

- Only the Great One-Horned Rhino is found in India.
- Also known as Indian rhino, it is the largest of the rhino species.
- It is identified by a single black horn and a grey-brown hide with skin folds.



- They primarily graze, with a diet consisting almost entirely of grasses as well as leaves, branches of shrubs and trees, fruit, and aquatic plants
- IUCN Red List: Vulnerable.
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES): Appendix I (Threatened with extinction and CITES prohibits international trade in specimens of these species except when the purpose of the import is not commercial, for instance for scientific research).
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I.
- The five rhino range nations (India, Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia) have signed a declaration 'The New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019' for the conservation and protection of the species.
- The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has begun a project to create DNA profiles of all rhinos in the country.
- National Rhino Conservation Strategy: It was launched in 2019 to conserve the greater one-horned rhinoceros.

**19. Mettur-Sarabanga lift irrigation project is being built in which state?**

- A. Karnataka
- B. Telangana
- C. Kerala
- D. Tamil Nadu

**Answer: D**

#### **Explanation**

- National Green Tribunal has allowed the Tamil Nadu government to proceed with the Mettur-Sarabanga lift irrigation project and has dismissed an application seeking a stay on the project.
- The application claimed that prior environmental clearance was not obtained before work for the project commenced.
- It also alleged irregularity in the construction of the project and said the project was envisaged in total disregard of riparian rights of the delta farmers.
- Also, since the project involved the interests of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala, clearance from the Central government was required.

#### **NGT Ruling**

- The proposed irrigation area under the project was 4,238 acres of land, which was less than 2,000 hectares and as per the amended 2018 EIA Notification, the project fell under the category of minor irrigation systems that are expressly exempted from the requirement of environmental clearance.
- Besides, the water received from Karnataka was only being regulated and that water from the Mettur dam was not being shared by any two States and was being utilised only for the benefit of Tamil Nadu. Hence, there was no necessity for obtaining permission from any other authorities.

### About the Project

- Being implemented by Tamil Nadu Government.
- The project is aimed at irrigating 4,200 acres of land in Edappadi, Omalur, Sankagiri and Mettur taluks, diverting surplus water from Mettur reservoir through 100 tanks, lakes and ponds.

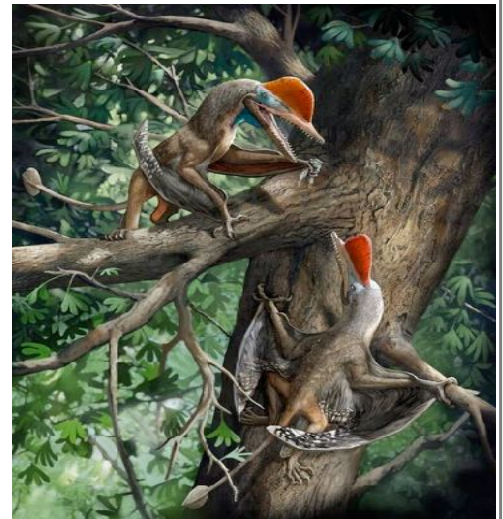
20. Recently heard in news, Monkeydactyl is related to which of the following?

- A. Zoonosis
- B. African Fever
- C. Reptile
- D. Lantana

**Answer: C**

### Explanation

- It is a flying reptile with the 'oldest opposable thumbs'.
- The new pterosaur fossil was discovered in the Tiaojishan Formation of Liaoning, China, and is believed to be 160 million years old.
- It has been named *Kunpengopterus antipollicatus*, also dubbed "Monkeydactyl".
- The pterosaur species were reptiles, close cousins of dinosaurs and the first animals after insects to evolve powered flight
- Opposability of the thumb is being able to "simultaneously flex, abduct and medially rotate the thumb" in a way that one is able to bring the tip of the thumb to touch the tips of the other fingers.
- Along with humans, some ancient monkeys and apes also had opposable thumbs.



## 6. International Relation

To watch the following questions on YouTube, click on the links given below

● **Video 1**

**1. Strait of Dardanelles connects**

- A. Sea of Marmara and Aegean Sea
- B. Sea of Marmara and Black Sea
- C. Aegean Sea and Mediterranean Sea
- D. Aegean Sea and Ionian Sea

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**



**2. Which of the following ethnic groups are correctly matched with the countries they live in?**

- 1. Hazaras - Pakistan
- 2. Yazidis - Iraq
- 3. Ahmadiyas - Afghanistan
- 4. Tatars - Crimea

- A. 1 and 3 only
- B. 2 and 4 only
- C. All of the above
- D. None of the above

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Hazaras — Persian speaking ethnic group native to mountainous central Afghanistan
- Yazidis — Religious minority in Iraq combining elements from, among others, Christianity and Islam
- Tatars — Turkic group of Sunni Muslims in Crimea

3. Natanz has been in new recently. It is located in

- A. Syria
- B. Italy
- C. Iran
- D. China

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**



4. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was recently awarded 'Legion of Merit' award by \_\_\_\_\_

- A. United Nations
- B. Republic of Korea
- C. Afghanistan
- D. United States

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the 'Legion of Merit' by U.S. President Donald Trump in December 2020 for his role in advancing the India-U.S. relationship
- The award was also presented to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison

- The Legion of Merit, instituted in 1942 by former U.S President Franklin D. Roosevelt, is awarded to members of the U.S. armed forces and also members of foreign (i.e., non-U.S.) armed forces and sometimes heads of state or government.
- The award is presented to foreign recipients in four categories: Chief Commander, Commander, Officer and Legionnaire. Field Marshal K.M. Cariappa who received the Legion of Merit (Degree: Chief Commander) in 1949 from then U.S. President Harry S. Truman

**5. Operation Samudra Setu is associated with**

- A. Widening of the Suez Canal
- B. Repatriate Indian citizens abroad during Covid-19 pandemic
- C. Ensuring free sea lanes of communication
- D. Gathering polymetallic nodules

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- It is associated with the national effort to repatriate Indian citizens abroad during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Landing Platform Dock INS Jalashwa and Landing Ship Tanks INS Airavat, Shardul and Magar participated in this operation
- The greatest challenge for the Indian Navy was to avoid any incident of outbreak of infection on board the ships during the evacuation operation. Rigorous measures were planned and medical/safety protocols unique to the operating environment of ships were implemented

## 7. Science & Technology

To watch the following questions on YouTube, click on the links given below

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

1. Which of the following statements about NISAR are correct?

1. NASA will provide one of the radars for the satellite, a high- rate communication subsystem for science data, GPS receivers and a payload data subsystem.
2. SAR here refers to the synthetic aperture radar that NASA will use to measure changes in the surface of the Earth.

Select the correct code.

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Context: NASA and ISRO are collaborating on developing a satellite called NISAR.

**About NISAR**

- The satellite will be launched in 2022 from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, India, into a near-polar orbit.
- It will scan the globe every 12 days over the course of its three-year mission of imaging the Earth's land, ice sheets and sea ice to give an "unprecedented" view of the planet.
- It will detect movements of the planet's surface as small as 0.4 inches over areas about half the size of a tennis court.
- NASA will provide one of the radars for the satellite, a high-rate communication subsystem for science data, GPS receivers and a payload data subsystem.
- ISRO will provide the spacecraft bus, the second type of radar (called the S-band radar), the launch vehicle and associated launch services.



- NISAR will be equipped with the largest reflector antenna ever launched by NASA and its primary goals include tracking subtle changes in the Earth's surface, spotting warning signs of imminent volcanic eruptions, helping to monitor groundwater supplies and tracking the rate at which ice sheets are melting.

### **Synthetic aperture radar**

- The name NISAR is short for NASA-ISRO-SAR.
- SAR here refers to the synthetic aperture radar that NASA will use to measure changes in the surface of the Earth.
- Essentially, SAR refers to a technique for producing high-resolution images.
- Because of the precision, the radar can penetrate clouds and darkness, which means that it can collect data day and night in any weather.

### **2. Which of the following statements are incorrect about Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs)?**

1. The ejections from the Sun are technically called Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs).
2. The plasma is released into the solar wind, and can not be observed by any means possible even today

### **Select the correct code**

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

**Answer: B**

### **Explanation**

- Context: Scientists have developed a new technique for tracking the huge bubbles of gas threaded with magnetic field lines that are ejected from the Sun, disrupting space weather and causing satellite failures, geomagnetic storms, and power outages.
- The ejections from the Sun are technically called Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs).
- These cause several disturbances to the space environment and thus forecasting their arrival time is very crucial.
- A coronal mass ejection (CME) is a significant release of plasma and accompanying magnetic field from the solar corona. They often follow solar flares and are normally present during a solar prominence eruption. The plasma is released into the solar wind, and can be observed in coronagraph imagery. The forecasting accuracy is however hindered by limited CME observations in interplanetary space.

### Computer Aided CME Tracking Software (CACTus)

- Computer Aided CME Tracking Software (CACTus) is a software-based on computer vision algorithm that was so far used to detect and characterize such eruptions automatically in the outer corona where these eruptions cease to show accelerations and propagate with an almost constant speed.
- However, due to the vast acceleration experienced by these eruptions, this algorithm could not be applied to the inner corona observations. This problem limited the capability to track the eruptions as CMEs accelerate in the lower corona.
- In addition to this, with the advancement in space technology, there has been a tremendous increase in the amount of data obtained from spacecraft.
- Thus, it can become a tedious task to identify and track the solar eruptions in a huge number of images if done manually.

### 3. Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant is being developed by India and

- A. Nepal
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Bhutan

**Answer: C**

#### Explanation

- Context: Recently, India signed a deal with Bangladesh where Indian companies will develop the transmission lines of Bangladesh Rooppur Nuclear power plant. Some facts about Rooppur Nuclear power plant.
- It is an under-construction 2.4 GWe nuclear power plant in Bangladesh.
- It is being constructed at Rooppur (Rupppur) in the Pabna District of Bangladesh, on the bank of Padma River.
- There are two units of plants which are expected to be completed in 2022 and 2024 respectively. Each will produce 1200MW of electricity.
- It has significance as it will be the Bangladesh's first nuclear power plant.
- The Rooppur project is the first initiative under the Indo-Russian deal to undertake atomic energy projects in third countries.
- A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in March 2018, was signed at Moscow, Russia between Russia, Bangladesh and India for the Rooppur Nuclear Power Project.
- It is to be built by the Russian Rosatom State Atomic Energy Corporation.
- In June 2018, Infrastructure major, Hindustan Construction Company Ltd. (HCC) was given contract for Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.

- The Russian side is making the project on “turnkey” basis which says, the contractor will be liable for any problems that arise in the plant.
- It will be for the first time when any Indian company will be involved in any nuclear project out of the country. Since India is not a Nuclear Supplier group (NSG) member, it cannot participate directly in construction of Atomic power reactors.

**4. Based on the following statements identify the INS.**

1. It was commissioned to the Indian Coast Guard recently
2. It is sixth in series of seven Off shore Patrol Vessel and is constructed by M/s Larsen & Toubro Ltd
3. It has been designed to carry one twin-engine helicopter and four high speed boats.
4. It can be used in Search & Rescue operations, Law Enforcement and Maritime Patrol.
5. The ship is also capable of carrying Pollution Response Equipment for oil spill response at Sea.
6. It will be deployed to conducts surveillance in exclusive economic zones of Indian Coastal region.

- A. INS Vajra
- B. ICGSVikram
- C. INS Samatha
- D. INS Sarthak

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

Context: Indian Coast Guard Ship Vajra was commissioned to the Indian Coast Guard,

- INS Vajra was sixth in series of seven Offshore Patrol Vessel and was constructed by M/s Larsen & Toubro Ltd at Kattupalli.
- It is a 98-meter ship and is fitted with state-of-the-art Navigation & Communication Equipment, machinery and Sensors.
- It has been designed to carry one twin-engine helicopter and four high speed boats.
- It also carries two Rigid Hull Inflatable Boats for swift Boarding Operations.
- Vajra is based at Tuticorin under the Operational and Administrative Control of Coast Guard District (Tuticorin).
- INS Vajra can be used in Search & Rescue operations, Law Enforcement and Maritime Patrol.
- The ship is also capable of carrying Pollution Response Equipment for oil spill response at Sea.
- It will be deployed to conduct surveillance in exclusive economic zones of Indian Coastal region.
- EEZ is prescribed by United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982.
- It is an area of sea in which sovereign state enjoys special or ‘sovereign’ rights of exploring & using marine resources and producing energy from water & wind.

- EEZ stretches from baseline to 200 nautical miles (nmi) from the coast of the state.
- It is also called as maritime continental margin.
- It does not include territorial sea or continental shelf beyond 200 nmi.
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) is an international agreement signed during third United Nations Conference on Law of the Sea during 1973 and 1982.
- The Convention defines rights and responsibilities of nations regarding the use of world's oceans, environment, establishing guidelines for businesses and management of marine natural resources.
- It came into effect in 1994.
- 167 countries and European Union have joined this Convention, as of 2016.

**5. Which of the following statements about La Perouse are correct?**

1. It is the France-led naval war game.
2. It will be organised in Bay Of Bengal.
3. India will be participating in it first time ever.

**Select the correct code**

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Context: India to participate in the France-led naval war game "La Perouse" for the first time in the Bay of Bengal.
- Australia, Japan and the US will also participate in La Perouse, but India's first-ever participation is seen as a significant step. The exercise is scheduled between April 5 and 7.
- After La Perouse, another important naval exercise, the India-French Varuna exercise, will also take place.
- This time, it will also include the United Arab Emirates
- This will take place in the last week of April in the Western Indian Ocean
- India's maritime diplomacy involves naval exercises with several friendly countries keeping in mind China's increasing influence in the Indian Ocean Region.
- The inclusion of more navies in exercises is part of a similar diplomatic outreach of several nations in wake of Chinese aggression in the waters and increasing forays in the Indian Ocean Region.

- In the Malabar Exercise, last November, navies of all the Quad nations -India, US, Japan and Australia were participating.
- After the Malabar Exercise, the Indian Navy carried out war games with the navies of Singapore and Thailand in the Andaman Sea.
- As part of maritime cooperation, the Indian and Vietnamese navies carried out a Passage Exercise in the South China Sea in December 2020. Besides improving inter-operability between the friendly navies, the joint drills are aimed at strengthening mutual confidence and develop common understanding and procedures towards enhancing the overall maritime security.

**6. Which of the following is/are correct about Xenobots?**

1. These are living robots created from the stem cells of humans
2. They are created using CRISPR Cas9

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Statement 1 is incorrect: Xenobots are living robots created from stem cells of frogs and are capable of healing themselves and recording memories
- Statement 2 is incorrect: They are created by microengineering amphibian eggs with RNA

**Additional Information**

- They are used to detect diseases and deliver drugs to specific areas of the body
- Capable of joining up together to act collectively
- They can move small objects by harnessing their cellular energy for a maximum of 10 days

**7. Which of the following is/are correct about the Ingenuity Helicopter**

1. It is developed by Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency to study Mars
2. Surviving temperatures as low as – 130 deg F is a major challenge for it
3. It is powered by solar energy

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

D. 2 and 3 only

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Statement 1 is incorrect: It is developed by NASA and has been dropped on the surface of Mars by the Perseverance rover. It is a technology demonstration of powered flight in another planet
- Statement 2 is correct : In fact the helicopter has survived the temperatures.
- Statement 3 is correct : Solar energy will power the helicopter and also keep it warm during night.

**8. Which of the following are true regarding Chaff Technology**

1. It is used worldwide to guard border terrains that are difficult to be guarded by the armed forces
2. Idea of using Chaff technology developed during the second World War

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Statement 1 is incorrect: It is used in naval ships to self-defend against enemy radar and radio frequency missile seekers.
- Statement 2 is correct: Originally called Window, the idea to develop Chaff originated during the Second World War.

**Additional Information**

- DRDO has developed three variants of the Advanced Chaff Technology which uses very less chaff material to deflect enemy missiles.
- Technology is now ready to mass production.

**9. 'Shantir Ogroshena' is related to which of the following**

- A. Military exercise  
B. New plant species  
C. Paramilitary force of Bangladesh  
D. Island in Bay of Bengal

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- It is a multinational military exercise to commemorate the birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
- Countries like Sri Lanka, Bhutan including India are participating along with observers such as UK, USA, Saudi Arabia etc.

**10. An Anti-microbial Protein has been extracted from \_\_\_\_\_ which can be used as an alternative to antibiotics**

- A. Pangolin
- B. Echidna
- C. Armadillo
- D. Sloth

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Anti-microbial protein (AMP) is identified in the milk secreted by the anteater or Echidna.
- This protein creates punctures in the cell membranes of multiple bacterial species, thus warding off threat to the young ones.
- Ways to produce AMP in large quantities using E coli has also been found.

**11. The Large Hadron Collider is the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator. What among the following has been its most prominent discovery?**

- A. Measure of mass of Proton
- B. Sighting of the Higgs Boson
- C. Evidence of Supersymmetry
- D. Detection of gravitational waves

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- In 2012, the Higgs boson, which gives mass to the heavy elementary particles was detected for the first time at the Large Hadron Collider
- Large Hadron Collider
  - ✓ It is the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator and consists of a 27 km ring of superconducting magnets with a number of accelerating structures to boost the energy of the particles along the way
- Higgs boson was the final puzzle piece in the Standard Model theory which tries to account for all known particles and forces (except gravity) and their interactions.



**12. Bluetooth works on which of the following**

1. It uses the same radio frequency as the Wi-Fi
2. Signals for Bluetooth require more power as compared to Wi-Fi
3. Issues for interference are more in Bluetooth than Wi-Fi

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Both Bluetooth and Wi-Fi use the same short-range radio frequency waves i.e., 2.4 GHz.
- Bluetooth signals just require 1 mW (very weak).
- Wi-Fi is more prone to interference from other radio signals as compared to Bluetooth.

**13. Which of the following is/are false**

1. Dead bodies cannot spread Covid-19
2. Dead bodies cannot produce new viruses

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

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- Virus Production needs ATP, but once a person is dead, cells stop making it, due to unavailability of oxygen. Thus it is biochemical reality that a dead body cannot produce new viruses
- The primary route of transmission is through droplets expelled while talking,
- coughing or sneezing. Since dead bodies do not breathe, chances of droplet infection from the dead is non-existent
- However, a dead body often has fluids like saliva, phlegm and blood oozing out and these could be a source of virus

**14. Which of the following is/are correct?**

1. **Bombay blood is a result of extensive inbreeding within the same lineage such that the gene pool is greatly restricted**
  2. **The compatibility between RBCs and the plasma is what makes each blood type special**
- A. 1 only  
 B. 2 only  
 C. Both 1 and 2  
 D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- RBCs and WBCs float in a fluid called plasma. Red blood cells carry on their surface a set of markers with which the plasma interacts. This compatibility or cross-talk between the cell and the plasma is what makes each blood type special. The markers on the cell are determined by a master type called H, out of which are generated types A, B, AB and AO.
- Bombay doctors found that the hh type (Bombay type people) can accept only from other hh type, and also can receive only from the hh types. This makes the Bombay Blood types a very special and rare category of people.
- It is largely because of extensive inbreeding within the same lineage or close- community marriages, often consanguineous, such that the 'blood type' or the gene pool is greatly restricted. Such intra-community marriages have happened in small isolated communities such as the gypsies, Russian Jewish or Parsi communities.

**15. An adjuvant is a substance added to a vaccine to improve its efficiency. The adjuvant boosts the reaction of the immune system to the antigen. Which of the following has adjuvant properties?**

- A. Silicon  
 B. Carbon  
 C. Aluminium  
 D. Iron

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Adjuvants also enhance the sustainability of the global vaccine supply on account of their antigen-sparing effect
- Aluminium hydroxide adjuvant, widely used in the development of SARS-CoV-2 vaccines, is known to induce Th2-based response, which is important for the eradication of extracellular parasites and bacterial infection

**16. Consider the following statements regarding 'Carbon Nanotube'**

1. It is an alloy of carbon and chromium.
2. It exhibits extraordinary strength and is an efficient conductor of heat

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- Carbon Nanotubes (CNTs) are allotropes of carbon with a cylindrical nanostructure.
- Carbon nanotubes have varied structures, differing in length, thickness, and number of layers.
- The characteristics of nanotubes can be different depending on how the graphene sheet has rolled up to form the tube.
- The nanotube's structure allows it to be used as a container for transporting a drug in the body.
  - ✓ A molecule of the drug can be placed inside the nanotube cage.
  - ✓ This keeps the drug 'wrapped up' until it reaches the site where it is needed.

**17. Exercise Khanjar is conducted between, India and**

- A. Kyrgyzstan
- B. Uzbekistan
- C. Afghanistan
- D. Saudi Arabia

**Answer: A**

**Explanation**

- India and Kyrgyzstan Special Forces have started a military exercise named Exercise Khanjar in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- The exercise was started in the year 2011. This is the Eighth Edition of the Exercise.
- The exercise aims to boost the strategic partnership between India and Kyrgyzstan.
- It also focuses on high-altitude, mountains and counter-extremism drills.

**18. With reference to magnetic field, consider the following statements**

1. The relative strength of a magnetic field is shown by the degree of closeness of the field lines.
2. Magnetic field is a quantity that has both direction and magnitude.
3. Magnetic field lines do not cross each other. Which of the given statements are correct?

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

**Answer: D**

**Explanation**

- Magnetic field lines are a visual tool used to represent magnetic fields. They describe the direction of the magnetic force on a north monopole at any given position
- The density of the lines indicates the magnitude of the field.  
Taking an instance, the magnetic field is stronger and crowded near the poles of a magnet.
- As we move away from the poles it is weak and the lines become less dense.

**Properties of Magnetic Field Lines**

- Magnetic field lines never cross each other
- The density of the field lines indicates the strength of the field
- Magnetic field lines always make closed-loops
- Magnetic field lines always emerge or start from the north pole and terminate at the south pole.

**19. Consider the following statements regarding Global Carbon Project?**

1. It is a Global research project of UNEP in collaboration with IUCN.
2. It works with the international science community to establish mutually agreed knowledge base to stop the increase of GHG's.

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation**

- The Global Carbon Project was formed in 2001 to help the international science community to establish a common, mutually agreed knowledge base that supports policy debate and action to slow the rate of increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
- It is a Global Research Project of Future Earth and a research partner of the World Climate Research Programme.
- It was formed to work with the international science community to establish a common and mutually agreed knowledge base to support policy debate and action to slow down and ultimately stop the increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.
- The Global Carbon Project works collaboratively with the International Geosphere- Biosphere Programme, the World Climate Programme, the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change and Diversitas, under the Earth System Science Partnership.

**20. Consider the following statements regarding Halogens.**

1. They are non-metallic elements which produce sodium salts of similar properties.
2. Because of their great reactivity, the free halogen elements are not found in nature.

**Which of the following statements given above are correct?**

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

**Answer: C**

**Explanation**

- Halogens are non-metals.
- At room temperature, fluorine and chlorine are gases and bromine is a liquid.
- Iodine and astatine are solids.
- Halogens are very reactive, the reactivity decreases from fluorine to astatine.
- Halogens do not exist in the elemental form in nature.
- Astatine isotopes are radioactive with short half-lives.