



Sleepy Classes
Awakening Toppers

Pre-Mix
(International Relations)
Compilation
(September to December, 2022)

Questions for Today's

1. With reference to the report titled "India and international law" presented by the Parliamentary committee on external affairs, consider the following statements:

1. India follows the principle of dualism with respect to the international law.
2. Committee believes that Indian Judicial system digressed from the principle of dualism and moved towards monism with respect to the International customary law.

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

2. With reference to the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC), consider the following statements:

1. India will chair the UNSC Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) in 2022 for one year.
2. Counter Terrorism Committee was established after the 9/11 terror attack.

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

3. With reference to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, consider the following statements:

1. It is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia only.
2. India is the second largest shareholder of the Bank.
3. One Governor and one Alternate Governor is appointed by each member country in the Board of Governors.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

4. Consider the following statements with reference to the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO):

1. It is a Russia dominated security alliance.
2. It is based on the principle of collective security.
3. For the first time CSTO deployed troops to aid Kazakhstan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5. Oslo talks is being held between which of the following nations:

- A. Israel and the Palestinian
 - B. Russia and Ukraine
 - C. Afghanistan government and
Afghanistan Civil society
 - D. China and Taiwan
-

Answer with Explanation

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1. With reference to the report titled “India and international law” presented by the Parliamentary committee on external affairs, consider the following statements:

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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

Explanation

- The Standing Committee on External Affairs presented its report on ‘India and International Law including extradition treaties with foreign countries, asylum issues, international cyber-security and issues of financial crimes’ on September 10, 2021.
- The Committee’s examination, however, is limited to International Law as relates to Extradition, Asylum, Cyber-security and Financial Crime Laws.
- India is a party to more than one hundred and sixty treaties and conventions dealing with various fields of law like air law, space law and maritime law.
- The Government is responsible for implementation of the international treaties and agreements to which India is a party.

- The Legal & Treaties Division was established in the Ministry of External Affairs in 1957 as a nodal point to deal with all aspects of international law advice to the Government of India.
 - It advises the Ministry of External Affairs in particular and other Ministries and Departments on issues pertaining to international law and treaty, including treaty negotiations, practice and interpretations.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The committee observed that India follows the principle of “dualism”, that is, international law does not automatically get incorporated into the domestic legal regime. An act of Parliament is necessary to transform international law into municipal law as recognised by Article 253 of the Indian Constitution.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** However, the committee believes that the Supreme Court has digressed from the principle of dualism and moved towards monism by holding that customary international law (CIL), unless contradictory to domestic law, is part of the Indian legal regime even without an enabling legislation enacted by the Parliament.
- CIL refers to international law norms derived from a custom that is a formal source of international law.

Additional Information

- International customary law refers to **international law norms derived from a custom**. It derives from "a **general practice accepted as law**". Such practice can be found in **official accounts of military operations** but is also reflected in a variety of other official documents, including **military**

manuals, national legislation and case law.

- International customary laws are **binding legal rules** that have developed on global or region levels through continued practice. States recognize that treaties and customary international law are sources of international law and, as such, are binding. This is set forth, for example, in the Statute of the International Court of Justice.
- One example of the **binding nature of customary international law is its application by national and international courts and tribunals.**
- Supreme Court of India has been of the view that **customary international law (CIL)**, unless contradictory to domestic law, is **part of the Indian legal regime** even if the parliament has not enacted a law for that.
- In **Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India** it held that CIL which is not contrary to the municipal law shall be deemed to have been incorporated in India's domestic law.
- This principle has been affirmed in subsequent decisions like in **Research Foundation for Science v. Union of India**. Here, the SC, relying on the Vellore Citizen case, declared that the **precautionary principle**, an environmental law concept, is **part of CIL and thus part of Indian law.**

Reference:

- This question is based on the article "**How India has approached customary international law**" published in **The Indian express** on **11th Jan 2022**. Parliamentary committee on external affairs has presented a report titled "India and international law" in the Lok Sabha. The report discusses

how Indian courts have dealt with international law.

2. With reference to the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC), consider the following statements:

1. India will chair the UNSC Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) in 2022 for one year.
2. Counter Terrorism Committee was established after the 9/11 terror attack.

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

Explanation

- India will chair the Counter-Terrorism Committee of UNSC in January 2022 after 10 years. India will chair for one year.
- The Counter-Terrorism Committee was established by Security Council resolution 1373 adopted unanimously on 28 September 2001 in the wake of the 9/11 terror attacks in the US.

3. With reference to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, consider the following statements:

1. It is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia only.
2. India is the second largest shareholder of the Bank.
3. One Governor and one Alternate Governor is appointed by each member country in the Board of Governors.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Explanation

The AIIB, launched in Beijing in 2015, has approved more loans for India than any other member of the bank. China is its biggest shareholder and India is the second-largest. The U.S. and Japan are not among its 104 members.

- **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia and beyond.

Aim of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

- By investing in sustainable infrastructure and other productive sectors today, it aims to connect people, services and markets that over time will impact the lives of billions and build a better future and It is established by the AIIB Articles of Agreement (entered into force December 2015) which is a multilateral treaty.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is headquartered in Beijing (China) and began its operations in January 2016. There are more than 100 members now. China is the largest shareholder with 26.61 % voting shares in the bank followed by India (7.6%), Russia (6.01%) and Germany (4.2 %). The regional members hold 75% of the total voting power in the Bank.
- The U.S. and Japan are not among its 104 members.

Various organs of AIIB:

- **Statement 3 is correct:** Board of Governors:- The Board of Governors consists of one Governor and one Alternate Governor appointed by each member country. Governors and Alternate Governors serve at the pleasure of the appointing member.
- **Board of Directors :-** Non-resident Board of Directors is responsible for the direction of the Bank's general operations, exercising all powers delegated to it by the Board of Governors.
- **International Advisory Panel:-** The Bank has established an International Advisory Panel (IAP) to support the President and Senior Management on the Bank's strategies and policies as well as on general operational issues.

Additional Information

- The AIIB has approved more loans for India than any other member of the bank.

4. Consider the following statements with reference to the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO):

1. It is a Russia dominated security alliance.
2. It is based on the principle of collective security.
3. For the first time CSTO deployed troops to aid Kazakhstan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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Explanation

- Violent unrest has been **taken in Kazakhstan in January** after the increase in fuel prices.

The reasons for the crisis in Kazakhstan

- Rise in LPG prices
- Inflation
- Unrest against the authoritarian government.

What are the Consequences of the Protest?

- Killings of dozens of **security and police personnel** and arrest of over 2000 protesters.
- Possibility of **bringing disturbance in the Central Asian region**, especially after the Taliban takeover.
- It can **complicate India plans** to bring stability in the region.

What was The Response to the Protests?

- The Kazakh President **Kassym Jomart Tokayev** has called on the CSTO, for help to deal with the protests.
- The CSTO responded swiftly by sending around 2,500 troops on January 6, including **Russian paratroopers and Belarussian special troops**.
- This is the **first time** the CSTO has deployed troops under Article 4 of its treaty.
- This can be used in the case of attacks against **member states** which could affect their **stability or sovereignty**.

What is Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

- The CSTO is a **Russia-dominated security alliance** & Russia contributes 50% of its budget.
- Post the fall of USSR, some members of the **Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)** signed a mutual Defence treaty named **Collective Security Treaty**.

- Meant as a replacement for the **Warsaw Pact**, the Treaty came into force in 1994.
- The CSTO has six members today: **Russia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan**.
- **In 2002, CSTO came into existence.**

What do we Know About CSTO?

- CSTO is based on the principle of **collective security** or the idea of **“one for all and all for one”**.
- An **aggressor against any one state** in the organisation is considered to be an **aggressor against all other states**.
- All the members would **act together** to repel the aggressor.
- Collective Security is also the principle on which **NATO, the UN and earlier the League of Nations** were founded.

5. Oslo talks is being held between which of the following nations:

- A. Israel and the Palestinian
- B. Russia and Ukraine
- C. **Afghanistan government and Afghanistan Civil society**
- D. China and Taiwan

Explanation:

- **Oslo talks:** A Taliban delegation led by acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi on Sunday started three days of talks in Oslo with Western government officials and Afghan civil society representatives amid a deteriorating humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.
- **Oslo Accords** are a **series of agreements between Israel and the Palestinians** signed in the **1990s**.

Questions of Today

1. Recently "India Out" protests was seen in which of the following neighbouring countries:

- A. Maldives
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Pakistan
- D. Nepal

2. Consider the following statements with reference to the India-UAE relations:

- 1. UAE is India's third-largest trading partner.
- 2. Desert Eagle is the bilateral exercise between Air forces of both the countries.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

3. Consider the following with reference to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), 1970?

- 1. It requires countries to give up any present or future plans to build nuclear weapons in return for access to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
- 2. It focuses on both horizontal and vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons.
- 3. India, Pakistan, Israel, North Korea, and South Sudan are the countries that either did not sign the NPT or signed but withdrew later.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

4. Consider the following statements with reference to the UNESCO's pledge to map around 80% of the world's ocean floors by 2030:

- 1. At present, only 20% of the seabed has been mapped and studied.
- 2. The ocean floor mapping will help to identify the mechanism of transport of sediments.
- 3. UNESCO has launched Seabed 2030 Project in collaboration with the Nippon Foundation of Japan.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

5. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'REWARD Project':

- 1. It is a project signed between the Government of India, State Governments of Karnataka and Odisha and the World Bank.
- 2. The project aims to help national and state institutions adopt improved watershed management practices to help increase farmers' resilience to climate change.

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

Answers with Explanations

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1. Recently “India Out” protests was seen in which of the following neighbouring countries:

- A. Maldives
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Pakistan
- D. Nepal

Ans : A

Explanation

The India-Out Campaign

- Maldivian protesters recently demanded the Solih administration to ‘stop selling national assets to foreigners’, implying India.
- ‘India Out’ campaign in Maldives had started sometime last year as on-ground protests in the Maldives and later widely spread across social media platforms under the same hashtag.
- It is not related to people-to-people conflict (Indian diaspora) but is discontent on close relationship between Maldivian government & India.



2. Consider the following statements with reference to the India-UAE relations:

1. UAE is India’s third-largest trading partner.
2. Desert Eagle is the bilateral exercise between Air forces of both the countries.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Ans : C

Explanation

- Recently, the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) got finalised.
- CEPA provides for an institutional mechanism to encourage and improve trade between the two countries.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** From US\$ 180 million per annum in the 1970s, India-UAE bilateral trade has steadily increased to US\$ 60 billion (₹4.55 lakh crore) in FY 2019-20 making the UAE, India's third largest trading partner. With exports to the UAE valued at US\$ 29 billion for the year 2019-20, the UAE is also the second largest export destination of India, while Indian imports from the UAE were valued around US\$ 30 billion, including 21.83 MMT (US\$ 10.9 billion) of crude oil.
- The UAE is an important source of India’s energy supply and a key partner of India in the development of strategic petroleum reserves, upstream, and downstream petroleum sectors.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** With the UAE, India has In-UAE BILAT (bilateral naval exercise) as well as Desert Eagle-II (bilateral air force exercise).

Additional Information

What is CEPA?

- It is a kind of free trade pact that covers negotiation on the trade in services and investment, and other areas of economic partnership.
- It may even consider negotiation in areas such as trade facilitation and customs cooperation, competition, and IPR.



- Partnership agreements or cooperation agreements are more comprehensive than Free Trade Agreements.
- CEPA also looks into the regulatory aspect of trade and encompasses an agreement covering the regulatory issues.
- India has signed CEPAs with South Korea and Japan.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1810279>

3. Consider the following with reference to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT),1970?

1. It requires countries to give up any present or future plans to build nuclear weapons in return for access to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
2. It focuses on both horizontal and vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons.
3. India, Pakistan, Israel, North Korea, and South Sudan are the countries that either did not sign the NPT or signed but withdrew later.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Ans : A

Explanation

- Five permanent United Nations Security Council (P5) members have **pledged** to avoid the ongoing arms race and to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons. This pledge was made **ahead of a review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT),1970**.
- Non-Proliferation Treaty
 - The NPT is an **international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology**, to foster the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of disarmament.
 - The treaty was **signed in 1968 and entered into force in 1970**. Presently, it has 190 member states.
- India is not a member.

- It **requires countries to give up any present or future plans to build nuclear weapons** in return for access to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
- It represents the only binding commitment in a multilateral treaty to the goal of disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States.
- **Nuclear-weapon states parties** under the NPT are defined as those that manufactured and exploded a nuclear weapon or other nuclear explosive devices before 1st January, 1967.
- **India's Stand:**
 - India is **one of the only five countries that either did not sign the NPT** or signed but withdrew later, thus becoming part of a list that includes **Pakistan, Israel, North Korea, and South Sudan**.
 - India always considered the NPT as **discriminatory** and had refused to sign it.
 - India has **opposed the international treaties** aimed at non-proliferation since they were selectively applicable to the non-nuclear powers and legitimised the monopoly of the five nuclear weapons powers.
- **Non-Nuclear Weapon states (NNWS)** criticize the treaty to be discriminatory as it focuses on preventing only horizontal proliferation while there is no limit for vertical proliferation.
- **Vertical proliferation** can be defined as the advancement or modernization of a nation-state's nuclear arsenal, whereas **horizontal proliferation** is the direct or indirect transfer of technologies

from one nation-state to another, which ultimately leads to the more advanced development and proliferation of nuclear weapons.

- As there is **no explicit obligation on part of NWS to reduce their arsenal**, NWS have continued to expand their respective arsenals without any constraints.

Reference

- <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/why-uns-join-statement-on-nuclear-weapons-is-important-7750339/>
- <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/world-powers-vow-to-stop-spread-of-nuclear-weapons/article38102700.ece>

4. Consider the following statements with reference to the UNESCO's pledge to map around 80% of the world's ocean floors by 2030:

1. At present, only 20% of the seabed has been mapped and studied.
2. The ocean floor mapping will help to identify the mechanism of transport of sediments.
3. UNESCO has launched Seabed 2030 Project in collaboration with the Nippon Foundation of Japan.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Ans : B

Explanation

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has pledged to map around 80% of the world's ocean

floors by 2030. At present, only 20% of the seabed has been mapped and studied.

- The ocean floor will be mapped by Deploying a fleet of 50 dedicated mapping vessels, intensifying the use of sonar on autonomous vessels, the transmission of cartographic data archived by governments and corporations and using other tools.
- The ocean floor is being mapped and studied to identify the following: **a)** Location of ocean faults, **b)** Workings of ocean currents and **c)** tides and Transport of sediments.
- The ocean floor mapping will help us understand **seismic and tsunami risks**, sustainable fisheries resources, ways to **deal with oil spills**, air crashes and shipwrecks, **potential for offshore infrastructure** and in assessing the future effects of climate change, whether it be temperature increases or sea-level rise.

Seabed 2030 Project:

- It is a collaborative project between the Nippon Foundation of Japan and the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO).
- The project was launched at the United Nations (UN) Ocean Conference in 2017 and is aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 14 to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources.
- **Aim:** To bring together all available bathymetric data to produce the definitive map of the world ocean floor by 2030 and make it available to all.
- Bathymetry is the measurement of the shape and depth of the ocean floor.

• Significance:

- Knowing the depth and shape of the seafloor (bathymetry) is fundamental for understanding ocean circulation, tides, tsunami forecasting, fishing resources among others.
- The maps would also ensure a better understanding of climate change since floor features canyons and underwater volcanoes which influences the weather and climate.

Additional information:

- **Nippon Foundation:** It is a non-profit philanthropic organisation in Japan which is active around the world.
- **GEBCO:** It is an international group of mapping experts developing a range of bathymetric data sets and data products.
 - It operates under the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).
 - India is its member
 - GEBCO is the **only** intergovernmental organisation with a mandate to map the entire ocean floor.
- <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/mapping-the-ocean-floor-6473482/#:~:text=Importantly%2C%20the%20maps%20would%20also,thus%20influencing%20the%20weather%20and>
- <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/science-technology/understanding-oceans-why-unesco-wants-to-map-80-of-the-world-s-seabed-81525>

5. Consider the following statements with reference to the 'REWARD Project':

1. It is a project signed between the Government of India, State Governments of Karnataka and Odisha and the World Bank.
2. The project aims to help national and state institutions adopt improved watershed management practices to help increase farmers' resilience to climate change .

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

Ans : C

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The Government of India, State Governments of Karnataka and Odisha and the World Bank have signed a \$115 million REWARD Project. The REWARD project is being implemented in states such as Odisha and Karnataka.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** REWARD stands for Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development Programme. It aims to **help national and state institutions adopt improved watershed management practices** to help **increase farmers' resilience to climate change, promote higher productivity and better incomes.**

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1799348>

Questions for Today

1. Consider the following pairs:

Evacuation Operation	Evacuation from which country
Operation Ganga	Ukraine
Operation Samudra Setu	Sri Lanka
Operation Raahat	Yemen

Select the correct code:

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

2. Consider the following statements with reference to the MILAN exercise:

- 1. It is a biennial multilateral naval exercise.
- 2. It has been held at regular intervals since its inception by Indian Navy.

Select the correct code:

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

3. Annual Frontiers report has been published by:

- A. UNEP
- B. UNCTAD
- C. World Bank
- D. IMF

4. Consider the following Statements with reference to the Munich Security Conference:

- 1. It brings together the heads of state, diplomats and business leaders from the world's leading democracies only.
- 2. It has been conducted by Germany to discuss about the world's response to Ukrainian crisis.

Select the correct code:

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

5. Which of the following places were lit up to commemorate 30 years of diplomatic relations between India and Israel:

- 1. Masada Fortress
- 2. Gateway of India
- 3. Teen Murti Haifa Chowk

Select the correct code:

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

Answers with Explanations

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1. Consider the following pairs:

Evacuation Operation	Evacuation from which country
Operation Ganga	Ukraine
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Operation Raahat	Yemen

Select the correct code:

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

Operation Ganga (2022):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is an evacuation mission to bring back all the Indian nationals who are currently stranded in Ukraine. The tensions between Russia and Ukraine are currently heightened, with war erupting in Ukraine after the Russian military launched a series of attacks recently.
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Vande Bharat (2020):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When the Covid-19 pandemic hit the world, the Centre launched the Vande Bharat Mission to bring back Indian citizens stranded in foreign countries. In the multiple phases of the operation, about 60 lakh Indians were brought back as on 30th April, 2021
Operation Samudra Setu (2020):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was a naval operation as part of the national effort to bring home Indian citizens from Neighbouring Countries during the Covid-19 pandemic. It successfully brought back 3,992 Indian citizens to their homeland by sea. Indian Naval ships Jalashwa (Landing Platform Dock), and Airavat, Shardul and Magar (Landing Ship Tanks) participated in this operation which lasted over 55 days and involved traversing more than 23,000 km by sea.

Operation Samudra Setu 2 (2021)

- In support of the nation's fight against Covid-19 and as part of operation 'Samudra Setu II'.
- 7 Indian Naval ships-

Kolkata, Kochi, Talwar, Tabar, Trikanth, Jalashwa and Airavat have been deployed.

They will do shipment of liquid medical oxygen-filled cryogenic containers and associated medical equipment from various countries.

<p>Evacuation from Brussels (2016):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In March 2016, Belgium was hit by terrorist strikes at Brussels Airport in Zaventem, and one at Maalbeek Metro station in central Brussels. ▪ A total of 242 Indians, including 28 crew members, returned to India in a Jet Airways flight. 		<p>people from Yemen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The air evacuation by the Indian Air Force and Air India commenced on 3 April 2015 from Sana'a
<p>Operation Raahat (2015):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In 2015, a conflict raged between the Yemeni government and Houthi rebels. ▪ Thousands of Indians were stranded and Yemen was not accessible by air due to a no-fly zone announced by Saudi Arabia. ▪ Under Operation Raahat, India evacuated nearly 5,600 	<p>Operation Maitri (2015):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is the joint relief and rescue operation by the Indian government and the Indian Armed forces in the aftermath of the 2015 Nepal earthquake. ▪ The Joint Army-Air Force operation brought over 5,000 Indians back from Nepal by Air Force and civilian planes. ▪ The Indian army successfully evacuated 170 foreign nationals from the US, the UK, Russia and Germany.

2. Consider the following statements with reference to the MILAN exercise:

1. It is a biennial multilateral naval exercise.
2. It has been held at regular intervals since its inception by Indian Navy.

Select the correct code:

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

Explanation

- MILAN is a **biennial multilateral naval exercise** incepted by Indian Navy in **1995** at Andaman and Nicobar Command.
- Since its inception, the event has been held biennially **except for 2001, 2005, 2016 and 2020.**
- While the 2001 and 2016 editions were not held due to International Fleet Reviews.
- **2005 editions was rescheduled to 2006 due to the 2004 Tsunami.**
- 2020 edition of MILAN was postponed to 2022 due to COVID.
- **Starting with the participation of only 4 countries, viz Indonesia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand, in the 1995 edition.**
- The exercise has since transitioned leaps and bounds in terms of number of participants and complexity of exercises.
- Originally conceived in consonance with India's 'Look East Policy'.
- **MILAN expanded in ensuing years with the GOI's 'Act East policy' and Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) initiative.**
- This Exercise includes participation from Island nations in the Western IOR as also IOR littorals.

MILAN- 2022

- MILAN 22 will witness its largest ever participation, with **more than 40 countries sending their warships/** high level delegations.
- This edition of MILAN would be larger in 'scope and complexity' with **focus on exercises at sea** including exercises in surface, sub-surface and air domains and weapon firings.
- The Indian Navy's multilateral Exercise MILAN 2022 is scheduled to commence from **25th Feb 2022** in the 'City of Destiny', Visakhapatnam.
- 2020 edition of MILAN was postponed to 2022 due to Covid-19.
- **MILAN 2022: 'Camaraderie - Cohesion - Collaboration'.**

3. Annual Frontiers report has been published by:

- A. UNEP
B. UNCTAD
C. World Bank
D. IMF

Answer : A

Explanation

- **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** has released its Annual Frontiers Report named Noise, Blazes and Mismatches.

Additional Information

- The Frontiers report identifies and offers solutions to three environmental issues:
 - Urban Noise Pollution
 - Wildfires
 - Phenological Shifts that merit attention and action from **governments and the public at large.**

- These issues are urgent to address the Triple planetary crisis of-

Climate change, Pollution and Biodiversity loss.

4. Consider the following statements with reference to the Munich Security Conference:

1. It brings together the heads of state, diplomats and business leaders from the world's leading democracies only.
2. It has been conducted by Germany to discuss about the world's response to Ukrainian crisis.

Select the correct code:

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

Munich Security Conference- 18-20 February 2022

The latest edition of Munich Security Conference assumed significance as it was here that the Ukrainian President appealed for help ahead of the Russian invasion.

Background

- **The security conference set up by an anti-Hitler German** has come a long way over the last six decades.
- It was Established in 1963
- **59th MSC will be held between 17-19 February 2023.**
- **Munich gained a grim reputation during the 1972 Olympics** when the Israeli team was taken hostage by the Palestinian Black September group.
- **MSC is often remembered as the venue where the Russian President made his famous 2007 speech.**
- There he elaborated on the post-Cold War Russian security concerns and publicly opposed the expanding **footprint of North Atlantic Treaty**

Organization (NATO) and placing of nuclear-tipped missiles in Eastern Europe.

About MSC

- It is the **World's leading forum** for debating international security policy.
- It is a venue for diplomatic initiatives to address the **world's most pressing security concerns.**
- **It is held annually.**

Objectives

- The MSC's objective is to **build trust and to contribute** to the peaceful resolution of conflicts by sustaining a continuous, curated and **informal dialogue within the international security community.**
- The primary objective of the MSC was to make sense of international affairs in an age when **weapons of mass destruction** had become part of the game.
- **The MSC conceives of its conferences as a type of "marketplace of ideas".**
- In MSC Initiatives and solutions are developed, and opinions are exchanged.

Audience at MSC

- Senior decision-makers as well as thought-leaders from around the world.
- Heads of State & Ministers
- Leading personalities of International and NGO's.
- High-Ranking representatives of industry, media.
- Academia & Civil Society

Significance of MSC

- **The Munich Security Conference embraces a comprehensive definition of security.**

- Which encompasses not only traditional national or military security, but also takes into account among others the economic, environmental and human dimensions of security.
- **Over its 60 of existence**, the MSC would address the threats like terrorism, religious fanaticism, cyber warfare, electronic intelligence.
- Undoubtedly it has emerged as the ultimate platform for policy makers to exchange ideas in a friendly atmosphere.

5. Which of the following places were lit up to commemorate 30 years of diplomatic relations between India and Israel:

1. Masada Fortress
2. Gateway of India
3. Teen Murti Haifa Chowk

Select the correct code:

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

Answer : D

Explanation

- To mark the **occasion of 30 years of diplomatic ties**
- The Gateway of India in Mumbai and the Teen Murti Haifa Chowk in Delhi were lit up in the colours of India and Israel's flag.
- **Masada Fortress, which is in Israel, is a symbol of Jewish Heroism.**
- It was also illuminated with lights to commemorate the India-Israel Ties, as the two countries celebrate 30 years of diplomatic relations.

Additional Information

- The iconic **Teen Murti Chowk in central New Delhi** was renamed as Teen Murti-Haifa (in 2017) after Israeli City Haifa.

- This was **renamed in a solemn ceremony** attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu (January 2018)
- The renaming of the iconic war memorial is aimed at being **symbolic gesture of India's friendship with Israel**

Historical Background

- Teen Murti Chowk was named to mark role of the three cavalry regiments.
- **The three bronze statues at Teen Murti represent Hyderabad, Jodhpur and Mysore Lancers.**
- They were part of **15 Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade** in British Indian Army.
- The brigade had carried out victorious assault on fortified city of Haifa also known as **Battle for Haifa on September 23, 1918**, during World War I.
- The liberation of Haifa cleared supply route for Allies (Britain, France and Italy) to city through sea.
- **44 Indian soldiers made ultimate sacrifice during liberation of the city in WW I.**
- Till date, **61 Cavalry (Horse Mounted Unit)** celebrates September 23 as its Raising Day or "Haifa Day".
- As a Tribute to respect soldiers who lost their lives in battle and to mark **end of 400 years of Turkish control** over the city.



Questions for Today

1. Consider the following statements:

The India-Africa Summit

1. Is a forum to re-initiate and reboot relations between India and African countries.
2. It was held at New Delhi in 2008 for the first time.

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

2. "Bornholm" , an island recently in the news, is located in which country?

- a. Sweden
- b. Germany
- c. Denmark
- d. Finland

3. Consider the following statements,

1. The Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering was founded in 1989 on the initiative of G20.
2. Pakistan, Nicaragua and Tanzania have been removed from the FATF list

Which of these above statements is/are not correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. Both
- d. None of the above

4. In Context of International Tourist Levy, Consider Following statements

1. Sayonara tax charged by Japan is an example of departure tax, the fee paid by visitors for leaving the country.
2. Receipts of Sayonara tax were used by Japan for enhancing the infrastructure of the 2020 Summer Olympics.
3. Sustainable Development Fee is Levied by Nepal.

Which of these above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 & 2
- b. 2 & 3
- c. Only 3
- d. Only 1

5. In the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation, an initiative of six countries, which of the following is/are not a participant/participants?

1. Bangladesh
2. Cambodia
3. China
4. Myanmar
5. Thailand

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- a) 1 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 5

Answers with Explanations

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

1. Consider the following statements with reference to

India-Africa Summit

1. Is a forum to re-initiate and reboot relations between India and African countries.
2. It was held at New Delhi in 2008 for the first time.

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 : C

Explanation

- India-Africa Summit is a forum to re-initiate and reboot relations between India and African countries.
- **Statement 1 is correct**
- It started in 2008 with New Delhi as its first venue.
- Since then, the summit has been held every three years, alternately in India and Africa.
- **Hence statement 2 is correct**

2. "Bornholm", an island recently in the news, is located in which country?

- a. Sweden
- b. Germany
- c. **Denmark**
- d. Finland

Answer : C

Explanation

Nord Stream Pipeline Leakage

The Nord Stream pipeline leakages:

- Leaks were found in the Nord Stream pipelines located near **Bornholm Islands Denmark and Sweden.**
- The leaks happened just before the ceremonial launch of the **Baltic Pipe carrying gas from Norway to Poland,**
- This was an effort by Poland to **decrease its dependence** on Russia for energy.

Nord Stream Pipeline Leak

- Nord Stream is used by Russia to create pressure on the EU
- In June, it cut deliveries through the pipeline by 75% - from 170m cubic metres of gas a day to roughly 40m cubic metres.
- In July, **Russia shut it down for 10 days,** citing the need for maintenance.
- When it reopened, the **flow was halved to 20m cubic metres** a day.

Nord Stream pipelines from Russia
Leaks detected on both pipelines near Bornholm



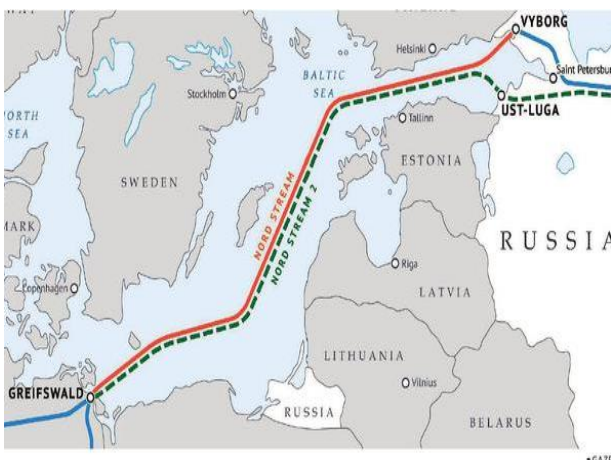
- In late August, **it shut down Nord Stream 1 entirely,** blaming problems with equipment.
- David Fyfe, chief economist with research firm Argus Media, says Russia may use the closure to put political pressure on Europe to **ask Ukraine to recognise territorial**

annexation in return for restoring the pipeline.

- Russia has been accused of leveraging Europe's dependency on its energy, **as retaliation against the Western sanctions** imposed on it since the Ukraine war began.

Nord Stream 2

- Nord Stream is a gas pipeline that **connects Russia to Germany via the Baltic Sea.**
- The **\$11-billion gas pipeline** project has already driven a wedge between Germany and the US
- The project, **owned by Russia's state-owned Gazprom**, runs from western Siberia to Germany.
- It has **double the capacity** of the already-in-use Nord Stream 1 pipeline. (110 billion cubic meters of gas)



- The US has viewed the pipeline as a **geopolitical tool for Russia** to increase **Moscow's leverage over Europe.**

You Must Know

- Nord Stream 1 was completed in 2011 and runs from Vyborg in Leningrad (Russia) to Lubmin near Greifswald, Germany.
- Nord Stream 2 which runs from Ust-Luga in Leningrad to Lubmin was completed in September 2021.

- The twin pipelines together can transport gas to Europe for at least 50 years.

3.Consider the following statements,

- The Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering was founded in 1989 on the initiative of G20.
- Pakistan, Nicaragua and Tanzania have been removed from the FATF list

Which of these above statements is/are not correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both**
- None of the above

Answer : C

Explanation

- FATF is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 during the **G7 Summit** in Paris.
- Assesses the strength of a country's anti-money laundering and anti-terror financing frameworks.
- Its Secretariat is located at the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** headquarters in Paris.

The 39 Members of the FATF

The FATF currently comprises 37 member jurisdictions and 2 regional organisations, representing most major financial centres in all parts of the globe.

>> FATF Heads of Delegation

Argentina	France	Japan	Russian Federation
Australia	Germany	Republic of Korea	Saudi Arabia
Austria	Greece	Luxembourg	Singapore
Belgium	Gulf Co-operation Council	Malaysia	South Africa
Brazil	Hong Kong, China	Mexico	Spain
Canada	Iceland	Netherlands, Kingdom of	Sweden
China	India	New Zealand	Switzerland
Denmark	Ireland	Norway	Turkiye
European Commission	Israel	Portugal	United Kingdom
Finland	Italy		United States

- The FATF currently has 39 members including two regional organisations - the European Commission and Gulf Cooperation Council.

Grey List:

- Countries that are **considered safe haven** for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list.
- This inclusion **serves as a warning** to the country that it may enter the blacklist.

Blacklist:

- Countries known as **Non-Cooperative Countries** or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the blacklist.
- These **countries support terror funding** and money laundering activities.
- The FATF revises the blacklist regularly, adding or deleting entries.
- **Myanmar has been placed on the blacklist from the grey list**
- Myanmar has failed to address a large number of strategic deficiencies in its anti-money laundering and counter terrorist-financing systems.
- **Myanmar has become the third country, after North Korea and Iran, to be blacklisted by the FATF.**
- The Global Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has removed **Nicaragua and Pakistan** from its 'grey list' of jurisdictions under increased monitoring.
- Noting their progress in improving their money-laundering prevention regimes.
- At the same time, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique and Tanzania** have been added to the FATF grey list.

Syria	
Tanzania	
Turkiye	
Uganda	
United Arab Emirates	
Yemen	
Jurisdictions with strategic deficiencies	
Albania	
Barbados	
Burkina Faso	
Cambodia	
Cayman Islands	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	
Gibraltar	
Haiti	
Jamaica	
Jordan	
Mali	
Morocco	
Mozambique	
Panama	
Philippines	
Senegal	
South Sudan	
Jurisdiction no longer subject to increased monitoring	
Nicaragua	
Pakistan	

- This now contains 23 jurisdictions including the Cayman Islands, Gibraltar, Panama and the United Arab Emirates.

3 Mandates of FATF

- This was set up in 1989 by the Group of Seven (G7) countries with the aim of setting global standards for countering the menace of money laundering.
- Following the terror attacks on September 11, 2001, the objective of countering the financing of terrorism was added to the FATF's mandate.
- Later, its objectives were further expanded to counter the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
- Anti-money laundering (AML)
- Combating financing of terrorism (CFT)
- Proliferation Financing (PF)

4. In Context of International Tourist Levy, Consider Following statements

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3. Sustainable Development Fee is Levied by Nepal.

Which of these above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 & 2
- b. 2 & 3
- c. Only 3
- d. Only 1

Answer : A

Explanation

Tourism Levy Bill- Bhutan

- In June 2022, the National Assembly of Bhutan passed the Tourism Levy Bill 2022.
- This requires all tourists entering Bhutan to pay a tourism tax, known as the Sustainable Development Fee, or SDF.

What is Sustainable Development Fee, or SDF?

- Since 1974 when Bhutan first opened its borders to foreign travellers to support its economy.
- The government of Bhutan has always taken a cautious approach to tourism activities to mitigate the negative effects of mass tourism.
- Hence the introduction of the high-value, low-volume tourism policy.
- The Tourism Levy Act of Bhutan 2022 describes SDF as the "Tourism levy on all leisure tourists per person per night and applicable throughout the year as a contribution towards sustainable

development initiatives undertaken by the government and to compensate for the negative environmental impacts associated with tourism."

- The revenue is used to develop roads, bridges, and schools, provide free education and health services.
- Promote and preserve culture and tradition and support the preservation of the natural environment in the country.

5. In the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation, an initiative of six countries, which of the following is/are not a participant/participant?

1. Bangladesh
2. Cambodia
3. China
4. Myanmar
5. Thailand

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- a) 1 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4
- c) 1 and 3
- d) 1, 2 and 5

Answer : C

Explanation

- **The Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) forum encompasses the six riparian countries of the Mekong and Ganga (Cambodia, India, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam).**
- *The original promoter was Thailand.*
- In 2000, the countries met in Vientiane and agreed to cooperate in the *fields of tourism, education, human resource development*, culture, communication, and transport.



About Mekong River

- The Mekong River is one of the world's great rivers.
- It is a Trans Boundary River in Southeast Asia
- Covering nearly 5,000 km from its source on the *Tibetan Plateau in China to the Mekong Delta*, the river flows through six countries:
- *China, Myanmar, Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia and Vietnam.*
- *Mekong River DOES NOT Enter India*

Mekong Ganga Cooperation

- **Both the Ganga and the Mekong are civilizational rivers, and the MGC initiative aims to facilitate closer contacts among the people inhabiting these two major river basins.**
- On July 21, 2021- 11th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) meeting was held.
- **S Jaishankar, India's External Affairs Minister had called for a "collective and collaborative" response to effectively deal with the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.**

Questions for Today

Q.1) With reference to the Council of Europe, consider the following statements:

1. The Council of Europe was founded in the wake of World War II.
2. The Council can make binding laws for their member countries.
3. The Council is an official United Nations Observer.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank:

1. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank.
2. India is the third largest shareholder voting shares in the bank followed by Russia.
3. The Board of Governors consists of two Governors and one Alternate Governor appointed by each member country.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding to International Finance Corporation:

1. It is a member of the International monetary fund (IMF).
2. The IFC is owned and governed by its member countries.
3. It advises governments on building infrastructure and partnerships to further support private sector development.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.4) With reference to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):

1. It helps countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable human development.
2. It promotes technical and investment cooperation among nations.
3. It is funded entirely by voluntary contributions from member nations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.5) Consider the following statements International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD):

1. It is a specialised United Nations agency.
2. The organisation is an outcome of World War II.
3. IFAD brings out the Rural Development Report every year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct:

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

Answers with Explanations

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Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : A

Explanation

- The Council of Europe has suspended Russia from its rights of representation in the Council.
- **However, Russia was not permanently removed from the council, thus obligated to follow its human rights provisions.**

The Council of Europe

- **Statement 1 is correct: The Council of Europe established in 1949 by the Treaty of London.**
- It is an international organisation founded in the **wake of World War II** to uphold human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe.

Statement 2 is incorrect:

- The council is distinct from the European Union(EU).
- Presently, it includes 46 member states (27 of which are EU members).

- The Council cannot make binding laws, but it does have the **power to enforce select international agreements** reached by European states on various topics.

Statement 3 is correct:

- The Council is also an official United Nations Observer.
- It headquarters in Strasbourg, France.

Functions of Council of Europe

- It advocates **freedom of expression and of the media**, freedom of assembly, equality, and the protection of minorities.
- It helps **member states fight corruption and terrorism** and undertake necessary judicial reforms.
- It promotes human rights through **international conventions**, such as the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women including Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) and the Convention on Cybercrime.
- It **monitors member states' progress** in these areas and makes recommendations through **independent expert monitoring bodies**.



- **Council of Europe member states no longer apply the death penalty.**

You Must Know

- **Russia was a member of the Council of Europe**, an international organization that focuses on the promotion of democracy and human rights, **from 1996 to 2022**.
- At the time of its accession, Russia did not meet the requirements of membership.
- But it was believed that joining would help Russia **improve its record on democracy** and human rights protection.
- In February 2022, **42 out of 47 member states** voted for Russia to be suspended from membership in reaction to the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- On 15 March, Russia formally announced its withdrawal from the organization.



- Russia's Membership was due to terminate on 31st December 2022.

Q.2) Consider the following statements regarding Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank:

1. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank.

2. India is the third largest shareholder voting shares in the bank followed by Russia.
3. The Board of Governors consists of two Governors and one Alternate Governor appointed by each member country.

Which of the statements given above is/are not correct?

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

Answer : C

Statement 1 is correct:

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a **multilateral development bank** with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia, began operations in January 2016.
- It aims to **stimulate growth and improve access** to basic services by furthering interconnectivity and economic development in the region through advancements in infrastructure.
- Headquartered in Beijing, it has more than 100 members now.

Statement 2 is incorrect:

- China is the largest shareholder with 26.61 % voting shares in the bank followed by India (7.6%), Russia (6.01%) and Germany (4.2 %).
- The regional members hold 75% of the total voting power in the Bank.

Statement 3 is Incorrect:

- **Board of Governors:** The Board of Governors consists of one Governor and one Alternate Governor appointed by each member country.

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

Additional Information

- The bank *currently has 105 members*, including 16 prospective members from around the world.
- The United Nations has addressed the launch of AIIB as having potential for "*scaling up financing for sustainable development*" and to improve the global economic governance.
- The *starting capital of the bank was US\$100 billion*, equivalent to 2/3 of the capital of the Asian Development Bank and about half that of the World Bank.
- *India is the 2nd largest shareholder of AIIB. India is also the largest Borrower from AIIB.*

Nonregional members		Regional members	
\$25 billion		\$75 billion	
Top-10 contributors		Top-10 contributors	
Germany	\$4.5 bil.	China	\$29.8 billion
France	3.4	India	8.4
Brazil	3.2	Russia	6.5
U.K.	3.1	South Korea	3.7
Italy	2.6	Australia	3.7
Spain	1.8	Indonesia	3.4
Netherlands	1.0	Turkey	2.6
Poland	0.8	Saudi Arabia	2.5
Switzerland	0.7	Iran	1.6
Egypt	0.7	Thailand	1.4
Others*	3.4	Others¹	11.4

- In 2018, *AIIB was granted Permanent Observer status* in the deliberations of both the *United Nations General Assembly* and the Economic and Social Council.

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding to International Finance Corporation:

1. It is a member of the International monetary fund (IMF).
2. The IFC is owned and governed by its member countries.
3. It advises governments on building infrastructure and partnerships to further support private sector development.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

Statement 1 is Incorrect:

- **International Finance Corporation is a member of the World Bank Group.**
- It is an international financial institution that offers investment, advisory, and asset management services to encourage private sector development in developing countries.
- It's Headquartered in Washington, D.C., United States.
- It was established in 1956 as the private sector arm of the World Bank Group to advance economic development
- For investing in **strictly for-profit and commercial projects** that purport to reduce poverty and promote development.

Statement 2 is Correct:

- The IFC is owned and governed by its member countries, but has its own executive leadership and staff that conduct its normal business operations.
- It is a corporation whose shareholders are member governments that provide paid-in capital and which have the right to vote on its matters.

Goals of IFC

- Increase sustainable agriculture opportunities
- Improve healthcare and education
- Increase access to financing for microfinance and business clients
- Advance infrastructure
- Help small businesses grow revenues
- Invest in climate health.

Q.4) With reference to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):

1. It helps countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable human development.
2. It promotes technical and investment cooperation among nations.
3. It is funded entirely by voluntary contributions from member nations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : D

Statement 1 is correct:

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Headquartered in New York City, formed in 1965.

- Aim was to help countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable human development.
- UNDP provides expert advice, training and grants support to developing countries, with an increasing emphasis on assistance to the least developed countries.

Statement 2 is Correct:

- It promotes technical and investment cooperation among nations.
- The UNDP Executive Board is made up of representatives from **36 countries around the world** who serve on a rotating basis.

Statement 3 is Correct:

- It is funded **entirely by voluntary contributions** from member nations.
- The UNDP is considered an executive board within the UNGA.
- **Report Published: The Human Development Report (HDR) is an annual report published by the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).**

Q.5) Consider the following statements International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD):

1. It is a specialised United Nations agency.
2. The organisation is an outcome of World War II.
3. IFAD brings out the Rural Development Report every year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct:

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

Answer : A

Explanation

Statement 1 is correct

- International Fund for Agricultural Development is a **specialised United Nations agency created in 1977** engaged in providing **grants and loans with low interest** for allied projects.

Statement 2 is Incorrect:

- The IFAD **works with rural people** allowing them to enhance their food security, **improve nutrition and raise their incomes.**
- It also helps people to expand their businesses.
- The organisation is an outcome of the World Food Conference of 1974.
- **India is a Key Founding Member of IFAD.**
- It is Headquartered in Rome.

Statement 3 is correct:

The Objectives of the IFAD are three-fold

- To Increase the productive capacity of poor people.
- To Increase benefits for them from market participation.
- To Strengthen the Environmental Sustainability & Climate Resilience of their economic activities
- **With 177 member countries IFAD brings out the Rural Development Report every year.**

Do You Know?

- The Government of Madhya Pradesh in partnership with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) proposed **Two inexpensive and ingenious ideas** to encourage women to cook balanced meals.

- **42% of children under five are malnourished in Madhya Pradesh.**
- Having **not received proper nutrition**, they are either stunted or short for their age and deep in tribal areas the numbers only get worse.

7 Days 7 Plots

- The first is called the '**7 days 7 plots**' programme, where women from the village are taught how to grow different **vegetables in their own gardens.**
- Seven to be exact, one for each day of the week.
- By the end of the week, the **first plot** is ready to be harvested again.
- This way, families get to eat fresh, affordable vegetables that they can consume for longer and in greater quantity.
- As against buying from the market and thereby reduce sickness.

Tiranga Thali

- Secondly, to **encourage a more balanced meal**, the project introduced the concept of the "Tiranga Thali".
- **Where each plate contains ingredients of the three colours from the Indian flag.**
- Saffron — All pulses like yellow split peas, pigeon peas, and split red lentils representing proteins
- White — Rice, milk and roti representing carbohydrates
- Green — Leafy vegetables representing vitamins and minerals.

Questions for Today

Q.1) Which of the following reports is/are released by the International Labour Organization?

1. World Employment
2. Social Outlook Trends 2022
3. World Social Protection Report
4. Global Wage Report

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Q.2) With reference to the New Development Bank (NDB), consider the following statements:

1. The New Development Bank established by the BRICS.
2. The NDB received observer status in the United Nations General Assembly in 2018.
3. The Bank will mobilise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects only in BRICS countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding to Indus Water Treaty:

1. It was brokered by the international monetary fund.

2. Under the Indus treaty, Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas were allocated to Pakistan.
3. Under the Indus treaty, India can use the water of Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab for non-consumptive needs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.4) With reference to the Chabahar Port, consider the following statements:

1. Chabahar Port is in south-eastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman.
2. Iran has given special incentives to increase trade cooperation activities between India and Iran through Chabahar port.
3. The Chabahar port connects Eurasia with the Indian Ocean Region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding to World Food Programme:

1. The World Food Programme (WFP) is addressing hunger and promoting food security.
2. It is a member of the United Nations Development Group.

3. The WFP is funded by the World Bank and the World Health organisation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answers with Explanations

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

Q.1) Which of the following reports is/are released by the International Labour Organization?

1. World Employment
2. Social Outlook Trends 2022
3. World Social Protection Report
4. Global Wage Report

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer : C

Explanation

- **Option C is correct:** The International Labour Organisation (ILO) was established in 1919 by the Treaty of Versailles as an affiliated agency of the League of Nations.
- ILO Became the first affiliated specialised agency of the UN in 1946.
- It is the only tripartite United Nation (UN) agency.
- It brings together governments, employers and workers of 187 member States (India is a member), to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.
- **Received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969. It's Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.**

Reports

- World of Work Report
- World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2022
- World Social Protection Report
- Social Dialogue Report
- Global Wage Report

Findings Related to India

- **The youth employment participation rate declined by 0.9 % over the first nine months of 2021 relative to its value in 2020.**
- While it increased by 2 % for adults over the same time period.
- The situation is particularly severe for very young people aged 15-20 years.
- Indian young women experienced larger relative employment losses than young men in 2021 and 2022.

Q.2) With reference to the New Development Bank (NDB), consider the following statements:

1. The New Development Bank established by the BRICS.
2. The NDB received Observer status in the United Nations General Assembly in 2018.
3. The Bank will mobilise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects only in BRICS countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The New Development Bank (NDB), formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). Headquartered in Shanghai, China.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It was agreed to by BRICS leaders at the 5th BRICS summit held in Durban, South Africa in 2013.
- It was launched in 2015, at the 6th BRICS Summit at Fortaleza, Brazil.
- **In 2018, the NDB received observer status in the United Nations General Assembly.**
- **Unlike the World Bank, which assigns votes based on capital share, in the New Development Bank each participant country will be assigned one vote, and none of the countries will have veto power.**

Roles & Functions

Statement 3 is not correct:

- The Bank will mobilise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies and developing countries, to supplement existing efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global growth and development.
- The New Development Bank (NDB) BRICS group of nations comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa .
- This was established in 2015.
- To begin with, the bank will start operating with \$50 billion in initial capital with the five BRICS contributing \$10 billion each.

- According to the pact, the *capital of the bank will be divided equally* among the five participating nations and *initially it will focus on infrastructure projects member countries.*
- *The headquarters of the bank will be located in Shanghai, China.*
- Eminent banker Kondapur Vamana Kamath was appointed as first President New Development Bank (NDB) of BRICS nations.
- *Bangladesh & UAE became members of NDB in September & October 2021 respectively.*

Q.3) Consider the following statements regarding to Indus Water Treaty:

1. It was brokered by the International monetary fund.
2. Under the Indus treaty, Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas were allocated to Pakistan.
3. Under the Indus treaty, India can use the water of Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab for non-consumptive needs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : A

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is not correct:** The Indus Waters Treaty, 1960 is a water distribution treaty between India and Pakistan.
- It was brokered by the World Bank.
- The Indus system comprises Indus, Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej.

- The Basin is mainly shared by India and Pakistan, with a small share for China and Afghanistan.

Statement 2 is not correct

- Under the Indus treaty, all the waters of three eastern rivers namely Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas were allocated to India for exclusive use.
- On the other hand, the waters of Western rivers namely Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab were allocated to Pakistan.

Statement 3 is correct

- But India can use the water in western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab) for non-consumptive needs like irrigation, storage, and even for electricity production.
- Thus, India has been given the right to generate hydroelectricity through a run of the river projects on the western rivers, subject to specific criteria for design and operation.

Permanent Indus Commission:

- The Permanent Indus Commission is a bilateral commission of officials from India and Pakistan, created to implement and manage goals of the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960.
- The Commission according to the treaty must meet regularly at least once a year, alternately in India and Pakistan.
- The Functions of the Commission includes
 - To study and report to the two Governments on any problem relating to the development of the waters of the rivers.
 - To solve disputes arising over water sharing.

- To arrange technical visits to projects' sites and critical river head works.
- To undertake, once in every five years, a general tour of inspection of the Rivers for ascertaining the facts.



HOW THE INDUS WATER TREATY OF SEPTEMBER 1960 DIVIDES THE SIX RIVERS:

EASTERN RIVERS (INDIA)
Ravi, Beas, Sutlej

WESTERN RIVERS (PAKISTAN)
Indus, Jhelum, Chenab



Provisions of IWT

- Around 33-million-acre feet (MAF) water of the Eastern rivers – Sutlej, Beas, and Ravi – is allocated to India for unrestricted use annually.
- About 135 MAF of Western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab) largely to Pakistan.

Dispute Resolution Mechanism

- Both sides can address their "issues" at the **Permanent Commission**, or they can advance to the inter-government level.
- If there are unresolved problems or "differences" between the countries on water-sharing, such as technical differences, any side might request that the **World Bank appoint a Neutral Expert (NE)** to help them reach a resolution.
- If either party is **not satisfied with the NE's decision** or in case of "disputes" in the interpretation and extent of the treaty, things can be moved to a **Court of Arbitration**

Differences- Objections by PAK

- Kishanganga (330 megawatts) and Ratle (850 megawatts) HEP.
- Located on Tributaries of **Jhelum & Chenab** Respectively.
- Kishenganga- project began in 2007 and was expected to be complete in 2016.
- Construction was Halted in 2011.
- In 2013 ,the PCA ruled that India could divert water for power generation.
- As per articles 3 and 7 of the treaty, India is permitted to construct HEP facilities on these rivers**

Q.4) With reference to the Chabahar Port, consider the following statements:

- Chabahar Port is in south-eastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman.
- Iran has given special incentives to increase trade cooperation activities

between India and Iran through Chabahar port.

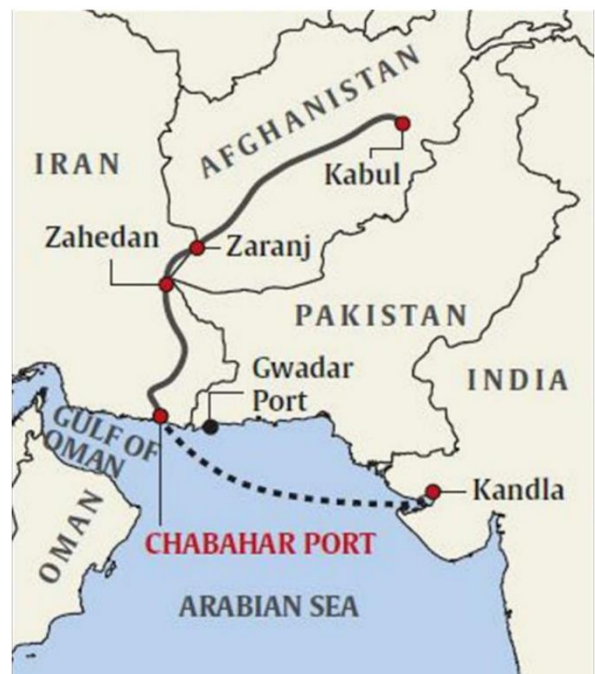
- The Chabahar port connects Eurasia with the Indian Ocean Region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 2 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

Answer: D

Explanation



Statement 1 is correct

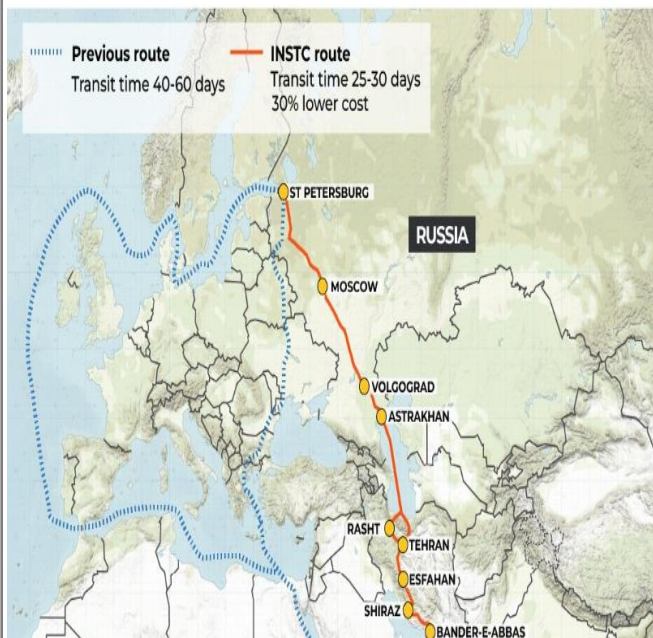
- Chabahar Port is a seaport in Chabahar located in south-eastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman.
- It serves as **Iran's only oceanic port**, and consists of two separate ports named **Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti**, each of which has five berths.
- Statement 2 is correct: The Chabahar port is a key pillar of **India's Indo-Pacific vision to connect with Eurasia with Indian Ocean Region.**

- The port will also be part of the International North South Transport Corridor network connecting India.

Statement 3 is correct:

- Iran has given special incentives to increase trade cooperation activities between India and Iran through Chabahar port.
- The Chabahar port is considered a gateway to golden opportunities for trade by India, Iran and Afghanistan with central Asian countries.

The INSTC could offer Russia an economic escape route to Asia at a time when sanctions are limiting its transit access through most of Europe.



Additional Information

- INSTC is a **7,200-km-long** multi-mode network of **ship, rail, and road route** for moving freight between India, Iran, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Russia, Central Asia and Europe.
- The route primarily involves moving freight from **India, Iran, Azerbaijan and Russia** via ship, rail and road.

Q.5) Consider the following statements regarding to World Food Programme:

1. The World Food Programme (WFP) is addressing hunger and promoting food security.

2. It is a member of the United Nations Development Group.
3. The WFP is funded by the World Bank and the World Health organisation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: B

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) has said that it is in discussions with India on procurement of wheat as several countries face food security challenges amid the Ukraine war. World Food Programme (WFP) Formed in 1961.
- The United Nations' World Food Programme (WFP) is the food assistance branch of the United Nations and the **world's largest humanitarian organisation addressing hunger** and promoting food security.
- WFP strives to **eradicate hunger and malnutrition**, with the ultimate goal in mind of **eliminating the need for food aid** itself.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is a member of the United Nations Development Group and part of its Executive Committee.
- WFP food aid is also directed to fight micronutrient deficiencies, **reduce child mortality, improve maternal health**, and combat disease, including HIV and AIDS.
- It works closely with the other two Rome-based UN agencies:

- The **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, which helps countries draw up policy and change legislation to support sustainable agriculture.
- The **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**, which finances projects in poor rural areas.

Statement 3 is not correct:

- The WFP has no independent source of funds, it is funded entirely by voluntary donations.
 - Its principal donors are governments, but the organisation also **receives donations from the private sector and individuals.**
-

Questions for Today

1. Consider the following statements regarding to India EU trade and technology council (TTC):

1. TTC will Provide political-level oversight to India-EU relationship.
2. India is the first country to establish diplomatic relations with the European Economic Community.
3. The European union as a block is India's largest trading partner.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

2. Consider the following statements regarding to World Meteorological Organization (WMO):

1. India is not a member of the World Meteorological Organization.
2. WMO is the specialised agency of the United Nations for meteorology.
3. World Meteorological Day is observed every year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. Consider the following countries:

1. Armenia
2. Belarus
3. Poland

4. Kyrgyzstan
5. Tajikistan
6. Ukraine

Which of the above are members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization?

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

4. With reference to the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), consider the following statements:

1. MRCCs are part of an international network under the UN's International Maritime Organisation to monitor the sea lanes.
2. The work of MRCCs is coordinated by the Navy and Coast Guard in each country.
3. The agreement appears to be part of India's SAGAR initiative in the Indian Ocean Region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

5. Consider the following pair:

Countries	Location
1. Senegal	: West Africa
2. Réunion.	: South Pacific Ocean
3. Saint Vincent	: Caribbean region
4. Odessa	: Russia

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

- A. Only one pair
- B. Only Two pair
- C. Only Three pairs
- D. All Four pairs

Answers with Explanations

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

1. Consider the following statements regarding to India EU trade and technology council(TTC):

1. TTC will Provide political-level oversight to India-EU relationship.
2. India is the first country to establish diplomatic relations with the European Economic Community.
3. The European union as a block is India's largest trading partner.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : D

Explanation

- **India EU Trade and Technology council** (TTC) strategic coordination mechanism will **allow both partners** to tackle **challenges at the nexus of trade**, trusted technology and security, and **thus deepen cooperation** in these fields between EU and India.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** 1st for India and 2nd for EU (after the US-EU TTC of 2021).
- TTC signifies enhanced political value of India in an uncertain global strategic environment.
- TTC will Provide political-level oversight to India-EU relationship.
- Resolve economic divergences for an early and comprehensive India-EU trade and investment agreement.

- Bring India-EU politically closer to address current challenges and geopolitical circumstances in Indo-Pacific region.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Better coordination in multilateral bodies such as G20, WTO etc. on issues of mutual interest.
- India-EU relations date to early 1960s, with India being amongst the first countries to establish diplomatic relations with the European Economic Community.

European Economic Community

- The European Economic Community (EEC) was a regional organization created by the **Treaty of Rome of 1957**.
- With the aim to **foster economic integration** among its member states.
- It was subsequently renamed the European Community (EC) upon **becoming integrated into the first pillar** of the newly formed European Union in 1993.
- In 2009, the **EC formally ceased to exist**, and its institutions were directly absorbed by the EU.
- This made the Union the **formal successor** institution of the Community.

Statement 3 is correct:

- EU as a block is India's largest trading partner.
- In 2004, the relationship was upgraded to a 'Strategic Partnership'.
- In 2020 'India-EU Strategic Partnership: A Roadmap to 2025' was adopted.

2. Consider the following statements regarding to World Meteorological Organization (WMO):

1. India is not a member of the World Meteorological Organization.
2. WMO is the specialised agency of the United Nations for meteorology.
3. World Meteorological Day is observed every year.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : B

Option B is Correct

- World Meteorological Organization is an **intergovernmental organisation** with a membership of 193 Member States and Territories.
- **India is a member of WMO.**
- It originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO).
- This was established after the 1873 Vienna International Meteorological Congress.
- Established by the ratification of the WMO Convention on 23rd March 1950.
- WMO became the specialised agency of the United Nations for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.'
- WMO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- World Meteorological Day is observed on March 23rd every year.

- It is observed to mark the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- **The Theme for 2022 is 'Early warning and Early action'.**

About International Maritime Organisation:

- It is a specialised agency of the United Nations which is responsible for measures to improve the safety and **security of international shipping** and to prevent pollution from ships.
- It is also involved in legal matters, including liability and compensation issues and the facilitation of international maritime traffic.
- It currently has 175 Member States & India is a member.

3. Consider the following countries:

1. Armenia
2. Belarus
3. Poland
4. Kyrgyzstan
5. Tajikistan
6. Ukraine

Which of the above are members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization?

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

Answer : A

Explanation

- **Option A is correct:** The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) marked its 30th year at an anniversary summit hosted by Moscow recently.



- It is an Intergovernmental military alliance (six countries) that came into effect in 2002.
- Its origin can be traced to the Collective Security Treaty, 1992 (Tashkent Treaty).
- Headquarters: The headquarters is located in the Russian capital of Moscow.
- **Current members are Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan.**
- **Objectives:** To strengthen peace, international and regional security including cybersecurity and stability, the protection on a collective basis of the independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the member states.

What is Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)

1. The CSTO is a **Russia-dominated security alliance** & Russia contributes 50% of its budget.
2. Post the fall of USSR, some members of the **Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)** signed a mutual Defence treaty named **Collective Security Treaty**.
3. Meant as a replacement for the **Warsaw Pact**, the Treaty came into force in 1994.
4. The CSTO has six members today: **Russia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan.**
5. **In 2002, CSTO came into existence.**



Timeline

- On 15 May 1992, six post-Soviet states belonging to the Commonwealth of Independent States – Russia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan—signed the Collective Security Treaty (also referred to as the Tashkent Pact or Tashkent Treaty).
- Three other post-Soviet states – Azerbaijan, Belarus, and Georgia – signed in 1993 and the treaty took effect in 1994.
- The CST was set to last for a 5-year period unless extended.

4. With reference to the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), consider the following statements:

1. MRCCs are part of an international network under the UN's International Maritime Organisation to monitor the sea lanes.
2. The work of MRCCs is coordinated by the Navy and Coast Guard in each country.
3. The agreement appears to be part of India's SAGAR initiative in the Indian Ocean Region.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : D

Explanation

- India and Sri Lanka have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) to set up a state-of-the-art Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Colombo. (April 2022)
- **Statement 1 is correct:** MRCCs are part of an international network under the UN's International Maritime Organisation to monitor the sea lanes.
- Objective is to provide **swift response to emergencies**, such as vessels in distress, rescue and evacuation of people, and prevention of and containing **environmental disasters such as oil spills**.

Statement 2 is correct: Each country is responsible for its own Search and Rescue Region.

- The work of MRCCs is coordinated by the Navy or Coast Guard in each country.
- **In India, the Coast Guard is the coordinating agency.**
- In Sri Lanka, it is the Navy

Statement 3 is correct: The agreement appears to be part of India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for all in the Region) initiative in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and will also help in enhancing maritime security in the region.

Oil Spill Disaster in Sri Lankan Waters

- X-Press Pearl was a Singapore-registered Super Eco 2700-class container ship.
- The vessel entered service in February 2021 and was around 186 metres (610 ft) long.
- **On 20 May 2021, X-Press Pearl caught fire off the coast of Colombo, Sri Lanka.**
- The vessel was engulfed in flames by 27 May and declared a total loss.

5. Consider the following pair:

Countries	Location
1. Senegal	: West Africa
2. Réunion.	: South Pacific Ocean
3. Saint Vincent	: Caribbean region
4. Odessa	: Russia

Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

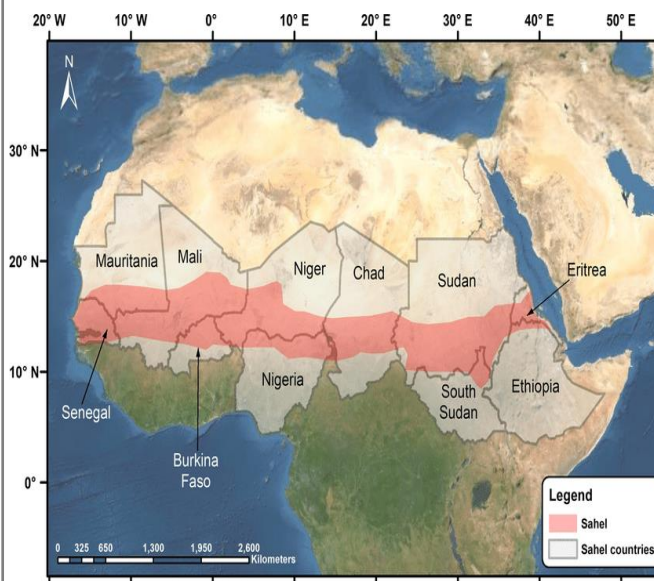
- A. Only one pair
- B. Only Two pair
- C. Only Three pairs
- D. All Four pairs

Answer : B

Explanation

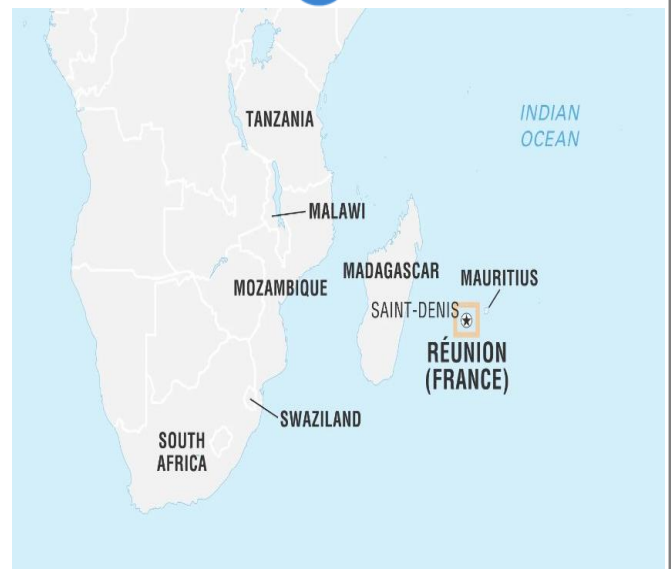
Pair 1 is correctly matched:

- Senegal is a country in West Africa.
- Senegal is bordered by Mauritania in the north, Mali to the east, Guinea to the southeast, and Guinea-Bissau to the southwest.
- Senegal's capital is Dakar.



Pair 2 is Incorrectly Matched:

- Réunion is a French overseas department and overseas region in the western Indian Ocean.
- It is located approximately 950km east of the island of Madagascar and 175 km southwest of the island of Mauritius.
- Réunion is an outermost region of the European Union and is part of the eurozone.



- Réunion and the fellow French overseas department of Mayotte are the only eurozone regions located in the Southern Hemisphere.

Pair 3 is Correctly Matched:

- St. Vincent & Grenadines is an island country in the Caribbean.
- It is located in the southeast Windward Islands of the Lesser Antilles.
- Which lie in the West Indies at the southern end of the eastern border of the Caribbean Sea where the latter meets the Atlantic Ocean.



Pair 4 is Incorrectly matched:

- Odessa is the third most populous city and municipality in Ukraine.
- It is a major seaport and transport hub located in the south-west of the country, on the north-western shore of the Black Sea.
- Odessa is a warm-water port.
- The city of Odessa hosts both the Port of Odessa and Port Yuzhne, a significant oil terminal situated in the city's suburbs.

Russian invasion of Ukraine



- Odessa is sometimes called the "Pearl by the Sea", the "Southern Capital", "Odessa-mama" and "The Humour Capital", as well as "Southern Palmyra".

Questions for Today

1. Consider the following pairs:

**Region often mentioned in the country :
Country**

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|---------|
| 1. Yankti Kuti valley | : | Nepal |
| 2. Sievierodonetsk | : | Russia |
| 3. Vale do Javari | : | Brazil |
| 4. Isle of Wight | : | England |

How many pairs given above are Correctly matched?

- A. Only one pair
- B. Only two pairs
- C. Only three pairs
- D. Only four pairs

2. With reference to the North Atlantic treaty organisation (NATO), consider the following statements:

- 1. NATO was formed to act as a deterrent to the threat of Soviet expansion in Europe.
- 2. It provides mutual defence through military and political means if a member state is threatened by an external or country.
- 3. Belgium, Luxembourg and Portugal are founding members of NATO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

3. Consider the following statements regarding to European Union (EU):

- 1. The European Council brings together the heads of state and decides on the political direction of the EU.
- 2. The European Commission is part of the law making process in the European Union.
- 3. The European Parliament is the only directly elected institution of the European Union.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

4. Recently the Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update Report was seen in the news, released by?

- A. World Wide Fund for Nature
- B. World Meteorological Organisation
- C. United Nations Environment Programme
- D. Greenpeace

5. With reference to the World Food Prize, consider the following statements:

- 1. It is the international honour recognizing the achievements of individuals.
- 2. It is an annual award that recognizes contributions in any field involved in the world food supply.
- 3. It is open for any individual without regard to race, religion, nationality or political beliefs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answers with Explanations

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

1. Consider the following pairs:

Region often mentioned in the country :
Country

1. Yankti Kuti valley : Nepal
2. Sievierodonetsk : Russia
3. Vale do Javari : Brazil
4. Isle of Wight : England

How many pairs given above are Correctly matched?

- A. Only one pair
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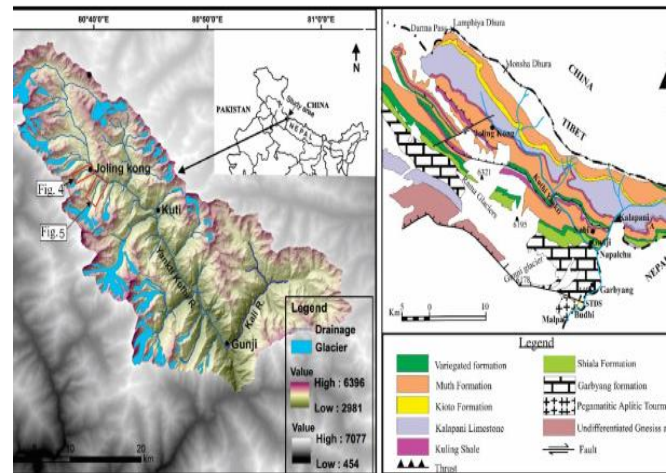
Answer : B

Explanation

Pair A is not correct:

- Yankti Kuti valley Located in **Uttarakhand**.
- It is the last valley before the border with Tibet.
- It runs along a NW to SE axis, formed by the river Kuti Yankti, which is one of the headwaters of the Kali River that forms the boundary between India and Nepal in this region.
- This valley is mainly dominated by Byansis, one of the four Bhotiya communities of Kumaon, with the others being Johar, Darmiya and Chaudansi.
- Multiple events of glacial advances have been witnessed from the Yankti Kuti valley situated in the extreme eastern part of Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand, since 52 thousand years.

- This synchronizes with climate variability, according to a new study.
- Recently, Scientists found that moisture-deficient valleys of semi-arid Himalayan regions respond sensitively to enhance precipitation.



Pair B is not correct:

- Administratively, Sievierodonetsk falls under Ukraine's Luhansk oblast.
- Sievierodonetsk is one of the largest cities of the Donbas region.
- It is located nearly 140 km south of the Russian border.
- It is located near the left bank of the Siverskyi Donets River, and has a population of over a lakh.
- The **Battle of Sievierodonetsk** was a military engagement in the wider battle of Donbas of the Eastern Ukraine offensive during the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- The city of Sievierodonetsk **acted as the administrative center** of Luhansk Oblast before the invasion.
- By May 2022, **Sievierodonetsk and the neighbouring city** of Lysychansk were the **only notable parts of the oblast** that remained under Ukrainian control.



- By 14 June 2022, **Russian forces gained control** of most of the city and cut off all escape routes.



- Vale do Javari forms part of an **international cocaine trafficking** route, with **gold** being exchanged for **drugs** and arms, consequently making it a hotspot for violent crimes.



Pair C is correct:

- Vale do Javari is the **western section** of the Brazilian Amazon rainforest.
- It is named after the **Javari River**, which forms the country's **border with Peru**.
- The region is home to the greatest concentration of isolated tribal groups in the Amazon and the world.
- The **area is home to 14 indigenous tribes** with nearly 6,000 inhabitants, who are **known to reject contact** with the outside world.
- The communities living in the Vale do Javari have been granted **exclusive territorial rights** in Brazil's 1988 constitution and then in 2001 **under the demarcation of indigenous territory**.

Pair D is Correct:

- Isle of Wight is a county and the **largest and second-most** populous island of England.
- It is **part of the historic county** of Hampshire.
- The island lies off the south coast of England in the English Channel.
- It is **separated from the mainland** by a deep strait known as The Solent.
- The **administrative centre of the unitary authority** of the Isle of Wight is Newport.



- The backbone of the island is formed by a chalk ridge that extends across the entire breadth of the island, from Culver Cliff in the east to the Needles in the west.
- It is designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.

2. With Reference to the North Atlantic treaty organisation (NATO), consider the following statements:

1. NATO was formed to act as a deterrent to the threat of Soviet expansion in Europe.
2. It provides mutual defence through military and political means if a member state is threatened by an external or country.
3. Belgium, Luxembourg and Portugal are founding members of NATO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : D

Explanation

- **Statement 1 is correct:** NATO was formed in 1949 with the aim of acting as a deterrent to the threat of Soviet expansion in Europe after World War II.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** Purpose: The organisation acts as a collective security alliance with the aim of providing mutual defence through military and political means if a member state is threatened by an external country. (Article 5 of the NATO charter).

- Article 5 has been invoked once, by the United States, in the wake of the 9/11 attacks in 2001.
- **Statement 3 is correct:** Founders: Its 12 founding members are the United States, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Portugal.
- Finland and Sweden are on the cusp of joining NATO.

Story of NATO Expansion

- The Soviet Union responded to NATO by creating its own military alliance with seven other Eastern European communist states in 1955, dubbed the Warsaw Pact.
- But after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, a number of former Warsaw Pact countries became NATO members.
- This includes Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia among others.
- The Most recent additions were Montenegro in 2017 and North Macedonia in 2020, bringing the total number of NATO member states to 30.
- NATO's Open door policy (Article 10 of the charter), allows any European country that can enhance and contribute "to the security of the North Atlantic area" to join.
- **Major Non-NATO Ally Status:** It is a designation given by the US government to **close allies that have strategic** working relationships with the US Armed Forces but are not members of NATO.
- The US has designated 30 other countries including Japan, South



Korea, Japan, Israel etc. as major non-NATO allies.

- The status confers a variety of military and financial advantages such as **participation in defence research projects** and **counter-terrorism initiatives**, buy depleted uranium ammunition etc. that otherwise are not obtainable by non-NATO countries.

3. Consider the following statements regarding to European Union (EU):

1. The European Council brings together the heads of state and decides on the political direction of the EU.
2. The European Commission is part of the law making process in the European Union.
3. The European Parliament is the only directly elected institution of the European Union.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : A

Explanation



- The European Union is a political and economic union of 27 sovereign Member States.

The Decisions are taken through a mixed of:

- Supranational institutions (i.e. institutions to whom Member States have delegated their powers)
- Intergovernmental negotiations (which concern areas in which Member States have not delegated their power, but make decisions together).

Statement 1 is correct:

- European Council: It brings together the heads of state or government of every EU country and decides on the political direction of the EU.

Statement 2 is not correct:

- European Commission: It is the EU's politically independent executive arm.
- It is alone responsible for drawing up proposals for new European legislation, and it implements the decisions of the European Parliament and the Council of the EU.

Council of the European Union:

- It Consists of one government minister from every member state.
- **The Council is part of the law making process in the European Union.**

Statement 3 is Correct:

- European Parliament: It is the only directly elected institution of the European Union.
- Together with the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament has legislative power (preparing and adopting the EU laws) but no power to initiate legislation.
- The European Commission, as the executive body of the EU, is accountable to the European Parliament.

4. Recently the Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update Report was seen in the news, released by?

- A. World Wide Fund for Nature
- B. **World Meteorological Organisation**
- C. United Nations Environment Programme
- D. Greenpeace

Answer : B

Explanation

- The global annual to decadal climate update report was recently released.
- It was released by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO).
- The annual update **harnesses the expertise of internationally** acclaimed climate scientists and the best prediction systems **from leading climate centres around the world** to produce actionable information for decision-makers.

- **India Specific Findings:** India could be among the few regions globally where **below normal temperatures** have been predicted for the year 2022 and the next four years.
- This may be because of the possible increase in rainfall activity in this decade.
- Many parts of India will receive above-normal rainfall.
- This will keep temperatures low.
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO) It is an intergovernmental organisation with a membership of 193 Member States and Territories. India is a member of WMO.
- It originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), which was established after the 1873 Vienna International Meteorological Congress.
- Established by the ratification of the WMO Convention on 23rd March 1950, WMO became the specialised agency of the United Nations for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.'
- WMO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- World Meteorological Day is observed on March 23rd every year.
- The Theme for 2022 is 'Early warning and Early Action'.

5. With reference to the World Food Prize, consider the following statements:

1. It is the international honour recognizing the achievements of individuals.

2. It is an annual award that recognizes contributions in any field involved in the world food supply.
3. It is open for any individual without regard to race, religion, nationality or political beliefs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer : C

Explanation

- **Cynthia Rosenzweig, a Nasa climate research scientist** who has spent much of her career explaining how global food production must adapt to a changing climate was awarded the World Food prize.
- **Statement 1 is correct:** The World Food Prize is the foremost international honour recognizing the achievements of individuals who have **advanced human development** by improving the **quality, quantity or availability of food** in the world.
- **Statement 2 is correct:** It is an annual award that recognizes contributions in any field involved in the world food supply including plant, animal and soil science; food science and technology; nutrition, rural development, etc.

Cynthia Rosenzweig



Statement 3 is Correct:

- **Eligibility:** It is open for any individual without regard to race, religion, nationality or political beliefs.
- **Cash Prize:** In addition to the cash award of \$2,50,000, the laureate receives a sculpture designed by the noted artist and designer, Saul Bass.