



INSIGHTSIAS

SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

INSTA CURRENT AFFAIRS QUIZ

AUGUST 2020

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INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM
PREPARATION

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1. Economy

1) Consider the following statements regarding Alternate Investment Fund.

1. AIFs are funds established or incorporated in India for the purpose of pooling in capital from Indian and foreign investors for investing as per a pre-decided policy.
2. AIF include funds covered under the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996.
3. Venture capital funds including Angel Funds and Infrastructure funds are considered as AIF.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: b)

Alternative Investment Fund or AIF means any fund established or incorporated in India which is a privately pooled investment vehicle which collects funds from sophisticated investors, whether Indian or foreign, for investing it in accordance with a defined investment policy for the benefit of its investors. **AIF does not include funds covered under the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996, SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999 or any other regulations of the Board to regulate fund management activities.**

Applicants can seek registration as an AIF in one of the following categories, and in sub-categories thereof, as may be applicable:

- Category I AIF:
 - o Venture capital funds (Including Angel Funds)
 - o SME Funds o Social Venture Funds
 - o Infrastructure funds
- Category II AIF
- Category III AIF

What are Category I AIFs?

AIFs which invest in start-up or early stage ventures or social ventures or SMEs or infrastructure or other sectors or areas which the government or regulators consider as socially or economically desirable and shall include venture capital funds, SME Funds, social venture funds, infrastructure funds and such other Alternative Investment Funds as may be specified.

What are Category II AIFs?

AIFs which do not fall in Category I and III and which do not undertake leverage or borrowing other than to meet day-to-day operational requirements and as permitted in the SEBI (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012. Various types of funds such as real estate funds, private equity funds (PE funds), funds for distressed assets, etc. are registered as Category II AIFs.

What are Category III AIFs?

AIFs which employ diverse or complex trading strategies and may employ leverage including through investment in listed or unlisted derivatives.

Source

2) Consider the following statements regarding Operation Twist.

1. 'Operation Twist' is when the central bank uses the proceeds from sale of short-term securities to buy long-term government debt papers, leading to easing of interest rates on the long-term papers.
2. It will make savings less desirable as it doesn't pay much interest.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only

- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: c)

RBI recently launched US-style 'Operation Twist' to bring down interest rates.

'Operation Twist' is when the central bank uses the proceeds from sale of short-term securities to buy long-term government debt papers, leading to easing of interest rates on the long-term papers.

The objective behind such an operation is management of the yield curve.

It will help to make loans less expensive with those looking to buy homes, cars and make savings less desirable as it doesn't pay much interest.

Other central banks, including the US Federal Reserve, have used similar measures. This is the first time RBI has undertaken such an unconventional policy measure with the aim of flattening the yield curve by lowering longer rates to boost lending and growth.

Source

3) Consider the following statements regarding Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF).

1. Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF) is constituted by RBI to examine bank fraud of over ₹50 crore and recommend action.
2. It would function as the first level of examination before references are made to the investigative agencies.
3. The board's jurisdiction would be confined to those cases involving the level of officers of General Manager and above in the Public Sector Banks in respect of an allegation of fraud in a borrowal account.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 2, 3
- c) 1, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: b)

The **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** has constituted an '**Advisory Board for Banking Frauds (ABBF)**' to examine bank fraud of over ₹50 crore and recommend action.

Headquartered in Delhi, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will provide required secretarial services, logistic and analytical support along with the necessary funding to the board.

Besides the chairman, the Board consists of three other members.

Functions:

- The board's jurisdiction would be confined to those **cases involving the level of officers of General Manager and above in the Public Sector Banks** in respect of an allegation of fraud in a borrowal account.
- It would function as the **first level of examination of all large fraud cases** before recommendations or references are made to the investigative agencies by the respective public sector banks (PSBs).
- Lenders would refer all large fraud cases above ₹50 crore to the board and on receipt of its recommendation or advice, the bank concerned would take further action in such matter.
- The **Central Bureau of Investigation may also refer any case or matter to the board** where it has any issue or difficulty or in technical matters with the PSB concerned.
- It would also periodically carry out **frauds analysis in the financial system** and give inputs for policy formulation related to the fraud to the RBI.

[Source](#)

4) Which of the following products have received Geographical indication (GI) tag.

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1. Kangra Tea
2. Dindigul lock
3. Kandhamal Haldi
4. Bababudangiri Arabica Coffee

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2, 3
- b) 2, 3, 4
- c) 1, 3, 4
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Solution: d)

In a bid to find best possible ways to stop Coronavirus from spreading or reducing its impact on humans, the Ministry of Science and Technology in a release says that consuming Kangra tea is better at boosting one's immune system.

Kangra tea is a tea from the Kangra district in Himachal Pradesh. Both black tea and green tea have been produced in the Kangra Valley since the mid-19th century. **Kangra tea was given the Geographical Indication status in 2005.**

Dindigul lock from Tamil Nadu are known throughout world for their superior quality and durability. The abundance of iron in this region is main reason for growth of this industry.

Kandhamal Haldi a variety of turmeric indigenous to southern Odisha earns Geographical indication (GI) tag.

The Geographical Indications Registry has approved the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for coffee varieties viz. Coorg Arabica Coffee, Wayanad Robusta Coffee, Chikmagalur Arabica Coffee, Araku Valley Arabica Coffee and Bababudangiri Arabica Coffee.

Source

5) Consumer Protection Act, 2019 provides which of the following rights to the consumers.

1. Right to Safety
2. Right to be Informed.
3. Right to Choose.
4. Right to Consumer Education.

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2, 3
- b) 1, 3, 4
- c) 2, 3, 4
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Solution: d)

Six consumer rights have been defined in the act, including the right to:

Right to Safety.

Right to be Informed.

Right to Choose.

Right to be heard.

Right to seek Redressal.

Right to Consumer Education.

6) Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR) sometimes seen in news is

- a) Financing received from IFC Masala bonds
- b) Resources raised by the PSUs through loans and equity.
- c) Monetization of deficit through Forex Reserves

d) Basel III Capitalization of Commercial Banks

Solution: b)

A big part of the Union government spending comes from outside the budget which is referred as extra-budgetary resources.

IEBR constitutes the resources raised by the PSUs through profits, loans and equity.

7) Consider the following statements with reference to the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).

1. It is a statutory body.
2. A Farmer Connect Portal has been set up by APEDA for providing a platform for Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) to interact with exporters.
3. It is situated under the aegis of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: a)

The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was established by the Government of India under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act 1985.

The Authority replaced the Processed Food Export Promotion Council (PFEPCC).

APEDA, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industries, promotes export of agricultural and processed food products from India.

A Farmer Connect Portal has also been set up by APEDA on its website for providing a platform for Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) to interact with exporters.

8) National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) acts as the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against the orders passed by

1. National Company Law Tribunal(s)
2. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
3. Competition Commission of India (CCI)

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1, 2
- c) 1, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013.

Functions:

- It hears appeals against the orders of **National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT)**, with effect from 1st June, 2016.
- It is the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).
- It is the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India** under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.

- It is the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the **Competition Commission of India (CCI)**.
- 9) Consider the following statements regarding Special Drawing Right (SDR).
1. The Special Drawing Right (SDR) is an interest-bearing international reserve asset created by the IMF.
 2. The value of the SDR is not set by IMF, rather it is directly determined by supply and demand in the market.
 3. It can be held and used by member countries, private entities or individuals.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 2 only
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 3

Solution: c)

The Special Drawing Right (SDR) is an **interest-bearing international reserve asset** created by the IMF in 1969 to supplement other reserve assets of member countries.

- The SDR is based on a basket of international currencies comprising the **U.S. dollar, Japanese yen, euro, pound sterling and Chinese Renminbi**. It is not a currency, nor a claim on the IMF, but is potentially a claim on freely usable currencies of IMF members. **The value of the SDR is not directly determined by supply and demand in the market, but is set daily by the IMF** on the basis of market exchange rates between the currencies included in the SDR basket.

- It can be held and used by member countries, the IMF, and certain designated official entities called "prescribed holders"—**but it cannot be held, for example, by private entities or individuals**. Its status as a reserve asset derives from the commitments of members to hold, accept, and honor obligations denominated in SDR. The SDR also serves as the unit of account of the IMF and some other international organizations.

[Source](#)

10) Housing prices index, sometimes seen in news is released by

- a) Niti Ayog
- b) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- c) Reserve Bank of India
- d) Real Estate Regulatory Authority

Solution: c)

All-India housing prices index rose by 3.9 per cent during the fourth quarter of 2019-20 compared to the year ago period, but contracted 0.2 per cent compared to the previous quarter.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** released its quarterly house price index (HPI) for the fourth quarter of 2019-20. The HPI is calculated on base year 2010-11.

The index is based on transaction level data received from housing registration authorities in ten major cities (viz., Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Jaipur, Kanpur, Kochi, Kolkata, Lucknow and Mumbai).

[Source](#)

11) Under Priority Sector Lending guidelines, banks have to set aside a specific portion of bank lending to which of these sectors

1. Agriculture
2. Education
3. Startups
4. Housing

5. Renewable Energy

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

The Reserve Bank of India has assigned priority sector lending (PSL) status to India's startup sector.

Under PSL guidelines, banks have to set aside a specific portion of bank lending to **sectors deemed important by the central bank.**

The PSL status was till now reserved for sectors such as micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), agriculture, education, Export Credit, Social Infrastructure, Renewable Energy and housing.

All scheduled commercial banks and foreign banks with a sizeable presence in India are mandated to set aside 40% of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANDC) for lending to these sectors.

The limits for renewable energy, including solar power and compressed bio-gas plants, are being increased.

[Source](#)

12) Consider the following statements regarding International Platform on Sustainable Finance (IPSF).

- 1. The IPSF is part of IPCC's ongoing work to support a global transition to a low-carbon, more resource-efficient and sustainable economy.
- 2. Its objective is to exchange and disseminate information to promote best practices in environmentally sustainable finance.
- 3. India is the member of International Platform on Sustainable Finance.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

The IPSF is part of the European Commission's ongoing work to support a global transition to a low-carbon, more resource-efficient and sustainable economy.

What is the scope and objectives of the IPSF?

The ultimate objective of the IPSF is to scale up the mobilisation of private capital towards environmentally sustainable investments.

Operationally, the IPSF will pursue three objectives:

Exchange and disseminate information to promote best practices in environmentally sustainable finance;

Compare the different initiatives and identify barriers and opportunities to help scale up environmentally sustainable finance internationally;

While respecting national and regional contexts, enhance international coordination where appropriate on environmentally sustainable finance issues. In addition, where appropriate, some willing members could strive to align initiatives and approaches.

The members of the IPSF are jurisdictions willing to advance on environmentally sustainable finance. The members of the IPSF are the European Union and relevant authorities from Argentina, Canada, Chile, China, India, Kenya, and Morocco.

[Source](#)

- 13) India received the highest inflow of FDI from which of the following countries in the financial year 2018-19?
- a) Singapore
 - b) United States of America
 - c) Japan
 - d) Mauritius

Solution: a)

After coming in second to Mauritius for two years, **Singapore regained top spot as India's largest source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the 2018-19 financial year.**

Mauritius, which came in second with USD 8 billion of investments in 2018-19, was the top source of FDI for financial years 2016-17 and 2017-18 with USD 15.7 billion and USD 15.9 billion respectively.

The last time Singapore emerged as the top investment source was in 2015-16 with USD 13.7 billion.

For the fiscal year 2018-19, the next three positions are occupied by the Netherlands with USD 3.9 billion, United States with USD 3.1 billion and Japan with USD 3 billion.

The main reason Mauritius dominates investment inflows into India is because of its status as a tax haven.

[Source](#)

- 14) The term "Revenue neutral rate" sometimes seen in news is used in the context of
- a) Goods and Services Tax (GST)
 - b) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
 - c) Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)
 - d) Disinvestment of Public Sector Units (PSUs)

Solution: a)

The tax collection for state governments can be lower under the GST regime due to tax credit mechanism, removal of cascading effect etc.

Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR) is the tax rate that allows the state government to receive the same amount of money despite of changes in tax laws.

Therefore, an adjustment in tax rate is required to avoid reduction in revenue of the government. This adjusted Rate is termed as Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR). It is the rate at which tax revenue will remain same, despite allowing input tax credit and other factors.

- 15) Which of these types of financial companies are not regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?
- 1. Merchant Banking Companies
 - 2. Venture Capital Fund Companies
 - 3. Insurance companies
 - 4. Chit Fund Companies

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2, 3
- b) 2, 3, 4
- c) 1, 3, 4
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Solution: d)

Merchant Banking Companies, Stock Exchanges, Companies engaged in the business of stock-broking/sub-broking, Venture Capital Fund Companies, Nidhi Companies, Insurance companies and Chit Fund Companies are

NBFCs but they have been exempted from the requirement of registration under the RBI Act subject to certain conditions.

Merchant Banker/Venture Capital Fund Company/stock-exchanges/stock brokers/sub-brokers are regulated by Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Insurance companies are regulated by Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority.

Similarly, Chit Fund Companies are regulated by the respective State Governments and Nidhi Companies are regulated by Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India.

Companies that do financial business but are regulated by other regulators are given specific exemption by the Reserve Bank from its regulatory requirements for avoiding duality of regulation.

In August 2019, the RBI took over the regulations of the housing finance companies (HFC) from the National Housing Bank (NHB).

16) Consider the following statements regarding Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).

1. SFIO comes under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).
2. It received statutory powers under the Companies Act, 2013.
3. Cases are assigned to the SFIO based on the scale of financial misappropriation or extent of public interest that is at stake.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 2, 3
- c) 1, 2, 3
- d) 1, 3

Solution: c)

SFIO, under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), is a multi-disciplinary organisation that investigates and guides prosecution in white-collar fraud requiring expertise in forensic auditing, corporate law, information technology, capital markets, taxation, and other allied fields.

It was established in 2003, based on recommendations by the Naresh Chandra Committee on Corporate Audit and Governance. It received **statutory powers under the Companies Act, 2013**.

Cases are assigned to the SFIO based on the scale of financial misappropriation or extent of public interest that is at stake.

The SFIO will normally take up for investigation only such cases, which are characterized by –

- i) complexity and having inter-departmental and multi-disciplinary ramifications;
- ii) substantial involvement of public interest to be judged by size, either in terms of monetary iii) the possibility of investigation leading to or contributing towards a clear improvement in systems, laws or procedures.

[Source](#)

17) Consider the following statements regarding sugarcane pricing.

1. The fair and remunerative price (FRP) is the minimum price that sugarcane farmers are legally guaranteed to get from sugar mills.
2. Major Sugarcane producing states fix their own sugarcane price called 'state advisory prices' (SAPs), which are usually higher than the Centre's FRP.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: c)

The Cabinet recently approved the fair and remunerative price (FRP) of sugarcane.

The FRP, which is provided for by the **Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966** is the minimum price that **sugarcane farmers are legally guaranteed to get from sugar mills**.

Sugarcane producing states such as Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana fix their own sugarcane price called '**state advisory prices**' (SAPs), which are usually higher than the Centre's FRP.

[Source](#)

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2. Ecology and Environment

- 1) Consider the following statements regarding Green Credit scheme.
1. The scheme allows “forests” to be traded as a commodity.
 2. Under the scheme, the Forest Department to outsource one of its responsibilities of reforestation to non-government agencies.
 3. It will encourage plantation by individuals outside the traditional forest area.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

Forest Advisory Committee has approved the implementation of Green Credit scheme.

Key features of the scheme:

- It allows “forests” to be traded as a commodity.
- It allows the Forest Department to outsource one of its responsibilities of reforestation to non-government agencies.

The scheme allows agencies — they could be private companies, village forest communities — to identify land and begin growing plantations.

After three years, they would be eligible to be considered as compensatory forest land if they met the Forest Department’s criteria.

An industry needing forest land could then approach the agency and pay it for parcels of such forested land, and this would then be transferred to the Forest Department and be recorded as forest land.

Such a scheme will encourage plantation by individuals outside the traditional forest area and will help in meeting international commitments such as sustainable development goals and nationally determined contributions.

[Source](#)

- 2) The Great Green Wall Initiative, sometimes seen in news aims to restore the degraded land in
- a) India
 - b) Brazil
 - c) Africa
 - d) Australia

Solution: c)

The Great Green Wall is a symbol of hope in the face of one of the biggest challenges of our time – desertification. Launched in 2007 by the African Union, this game-changing African-led initiative aims to restore Africa’s degraded landscapes and transform millions of lives in one of the world’s poorest regions, the Sahel. Once complete, the Wall will be the largest living structure on the planet – an 8,000 km natural wonder of the world stretching across the entire width of the continent.

The Great Green Wall is now being implemented in more than 20 countries across Africa.

The Centre is mulling an ambitious plan to create a green wall on North- Western part of India.

It will be a 1,400km long and 5km wide green belt from Gujarat to the Delhi-Haryana border, on the lines of the “Great Green Wall” running through the width of Africa

SHIELD AGAINST DESERT



- Forest belt likely to run roughly **from Porbandar to Panipat**, covering entire Aravali range and beyond
- 'Green wall' will act as barrier for dust from west and check eastward march of Thar desert
- It will check desertification by **restoring degraded land through massive afforestation**
- Project yet to get formal nod, details to be worked out

3) Consider the following statements regarding Urban heat island (UHI).

1. An urban heat island (UHI) is an urban area that is significantly warmer than its surrounding rural areas due to human activities.
2. The effect of Urban heat island is more severe during daytime than in night time.
3. The UHI decreases air quality by increasing the production of pollutants such as ozone, and decreases water quality.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: b)

An urban heat island (UHI) is an urban area or metropolitan area that is significantly warmer than its surrounding rural areas due to human activities. The temperature difference is usually larger at night than during the day, and is most apparent when winds are weak. UHI is most noticeable during the summer and winter. The main cause of the urban heat island effect is from the modification of land surfaces.

The UHI decreases air quality by increasing the production of pollutants such as ozone, and decreases water quality as warmer waters flow into area streams and put stress on their ecosystems.

Mitigation of the urban heat island effect can be accomplished through the use of green roofs and the use of lighter-colored surfaces in urban areas, which reflect more sunlight and absorb less heat.

Concerns have been raised about possible contribution from urban heat islands to global warming.

4) Consider the following statements regarding Green-Ag Project.

1. The Green-Ag Project is funded by the World Bank and it seeks to integrate biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land management objectives and practices into Indian agriculture.
2. In India, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation, and Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW) is the national executing agency.
3. In India the project is implemented in all the biodiversity rich areas.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 3 only
- d) 2, 3

Solution: b)

The Union government on July 28, 2020, launched the Green-Ag Project in Mizoram, to reduce emissions from agriculture and ensure sustainable agricultural practices.

Mizoram is one of the five states where the project will be implemented. Other states include Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Uttarakhand.

About the Project:

The Green-Ag Project is funded by the Global Environment Facility, while the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation, and Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW) is the national executing agency.

Other key players involved in its implementation are Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

The project seeks to integrate biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land management objectives and practices into Indian agriculture.

Pilot project:

The pilot project is supposed to end on March 31, 2026, in all states.

It aims to cover 35 villages and includes two protected areas — the Dampa Tiger Reserve and the Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary.

Targets:

Achieve multiple global environmental benefits in at least 1.8 million hectares (ha) of land in five landscapes, with mixed land use systems.

Bring at least 104,070 ha of farms under sustainable land and water management.

Ensure 49 million Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂eq) sequestered or reduced through sustainable land use and agricultural practices.

5) Consider the following statements regarding Green India Mission.

1. Green India Mission is one of the eight missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).
2. It is aimed at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's diminishing forest cover by a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures.
3. It aims to increase forest-based livelihood incomes.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

Green India Mission is one of the eight missions launched under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

GIM, launched in February 2014, is aimed at protecting, restoring and enhancing India's diminishing forest cover and responding to climate change by a combination of adaptation and mitigation measures.

Objectives of the Mission:

- To protect, restore and enhance India's falling forest cover.
- To respond to climate change through a combination of adaptation as well as mitigation measures.
- To increase forest-based livelihood incomes.
- To enhance annual Carbon sequestration by 50 to 60 million tonnes in the year 2020.

6) Basel Ban Amendment sometimes seen in news is related to

- a) Banning fire crackers that release dangerous toxins
- b) Global ban on single use plastic
- c) Regulation of banks
- d) Global waste dumping prohibition

Solution: d)

The 1995 Basel Ban Amendment, a global waste dumping prohibition, has become an international law after Croatia ratified it on September 6, 2019.

Croatia became the 97th country to ratify the ban, which was adopted by the parties to the Basel Convention in 1995, to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes, according to Basel Action Network (BAN).

BAN is a United States-based charity organisation and is one among the organisations and countries, which created the Basel Ban Amendment — hailed as a landmark agreement for global environmental justice.

Source

7) Which of the following are the contributors to nitrogen emissions in India.

1. Burning of crop residue
2. Agricultural soils
3. Sewage and fossil-fuel burning
4. Poultry industry

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2, 3
- b) 1, 3, 4
- c) 1, 2, 4
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Solution: d)

Nitrogen particles make up the largest fraction of PM_{2.5}, the class of pollutants closely linked to cardiovascular and respiratory illness, says the first-ever quantitative assessment of nitrogen pollution in India.

While the burning of crop residue is said to be a key contributor to winter smog in many parts of North India, it contributes over 240 million kg of nitrogen oxides (NO_x: a generic term for the nitrogen oxides that are most relevant for air pollution, namely nitric oxide and nitrogen dioxide) and about 7 million kg of nitrous oxide (N₂O) per year.

Though agriculture remains the largest contributor to nitrogen emissions, the non-agricultural emissions of nitrogen oxides and nitrous oxide are growing rapidly, with sewage and fossil-fuel burning — for power, transport and industry — leading the trend.

Indian NO_x emissions grew at 52% from 1991 to 2001 and 69% from 2001 to 2011.

As fertilizer, nitrogen is one of the main inputs for agriculture, but inefficiencies along the food chain mean about 80% of nitrogen is wasted, contributing to air and water pollution plus greenhouse gas emissions, thereby causing threats for human health, ecosystems and livelihoods.

Agricultural soils contributed to over 70% of N₂O emissions from India in 2010, followed by waste water (12%) and residential and commercial activities (6%). Since 2002, N₂O has replaced methane as the second largest Greenhouse Gas (GHG) from Indian agriculture.

Chemical fertilizers (over 82% of it is urea) account for over 77% of all agricultural N₂O emissions in India, while manure, compost and so on make up the rest. Most of the fertilizers consumed (over 70%) go into the production of cereals, especially rice and wheat, which accounts for the bulk of N₂O emissions from India.

The poultry industry recorded an excretion of reactive nitrogen compounds of 0.415 tonnes in 2016.

Source

8) Which of the following are the Tiger Reserves located in Arunachal Pradesh.

1. Pakke Tiger Reserve
2. Nameri Tiger Reserve
3. Namdhapa Tiger Reserve
4. Kamlang Tiger Reserve

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2, 3
- b) 1, 3, 4
- c) 1, 2, 4
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Solution: b)

Nameri Tiger Reserve is in Assam.

9) Consider the following statements.

1. Today India has 90% of the world's tiger population.
2. MSTripES is a Digital India programme for Smart Patrolling of Tigers.
3. MSTripES is used across all national Tiger reserves of India.
4. India's percentage share in the World's biodiversity is more than its percentage share in the world's land mass.

land mass.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2, 3
- b) 1, 3, 4
- c) 2, 3, 4
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Solution: c)

India is home to the largest tiger habitat in the world. Today, **the country has 70% of the world's tiger population and the tally stands at 2,967.**

We have only 2.5% of the world's land mass and 4% of fresh rain water resources, while 16% of the world's human and cattle population resides in our country. Still, **India has 8% of the world's biodiversity.**

Recently, India's latest Tiger Census was included in the Guinness World Records for having laid over 25,000 camera traps and having more than 35 million pictures. All were scanned with the aid of AI. This was the largest counting exercise ever taken up by any country across the globe. India had taken a vow in the 2010 St Petersburg Declaration to double the tiger population, but it achieved the target four years in advance.

An ambitious Digital India programme for Smart Patrolling Protocol of Tigers, Monitoring System for Tiger's Intensive Protection and Ecological Status (MSTripES) has also been initiated by the government. This has been scaled up to an Android platform and has been extended to all the 50 tiger reserves.

Source

10) Consider the following statements regarding National Board for Wildlife.

1. National Board for Wildlife is a Statutory Organization constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
2. It has the power to review all wildlife-related matters and approve projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries.
3. The NBWL is chaired by the Union Environment Ministry.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 3
- b) 2, 3
- c) 1, 2
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

National Board for Wildlife:

- It is a "Statutory Organization" constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- Its role is "advisory" in nature and advises the Central Government on framing policies and measures for conservation of wildlife in the country.
- Primary function of the Board is to promote the conservation and development of wildlife and forests.
- It has power to review all wildlife-related matters and approve projects in and around national parks and sanctuaries.
- No alteration of boundaries in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries can be done without approval of the NBWL.
- Composition: The NBWL is chaired by the Prime Minister.

11) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

Bird Sanctuary

1. Kulik Bird Sanctuary
2. Ousteri lake bird sanctuary
3. Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary

State

- West Bengal
- Tamil Nadu
- Kerala

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 3
- b) 1, 2
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: b)

Recently the Union environment ministry has notified a buffer zone of 9.068sqkm around the boundary of **Ousteri lake bird sanctuary** in Villupuram district in Tamil Nadu as an eco-sensitive zone, banning both new and expansion of polluting industries like mining, stone quarrying and crushing units.

Located 12km from Puducherry, **the inter-state lake** was notified as a bird sanctuary in 2008 and 2014 by the Puducherry and Tamil Nadu governments respectively.

The Bombay Natural History Society, a member of Birdlife International, has designated Ousteri as an Important Bird Area (IBA) of India.

"The lake has also been identified as a heritage site by International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, ranking it among the most important wetlands of Asia.

The Asian Wetland Bureau has declared Ousteri as one of the 115 significant wetlands in Asia. Migratory birds moving from North Asia, Africa and Europe to Point Calimere fly along Ousteri corridor during winter.

Raiganj Wildlife Sanctuary (also known as Kulik Bird Sanctuary) is situated near Raiganj in Uttar Dinajpur district in West Bengal.

Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary is located in Tamil Nadu.

Source

12) In India, fishing cats are mainly found in

- a) Mangrove forests of the Sundarbans
- b) Foothills of the Himalayas
- c) Western Ghats

d) All of the above

Solution: d)

Wetlands are the favourite habitats of the fishing cat. In India, fishing cats are mainly found in the **mangrove forests of the Sundarbans, on the foothills of the Himalayas along the Ganga and Brahmaputra river valleys and in the Western Ghats.**

Source

13) Consider the following statements regarding Irrawaddy dolphin.

1. Irrawaddy dolphins are found in coastal areas in South and Southeast Asia.
2. It lives in brackish water near coasts, river mouths, and estuaries.
3. In India, Irrawaddy dolphins are found in Chilika Lake.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

Irrawaddy dolphins are found in coastal areas in South and Southeast Asia, and in three rivers: the Ayeyarwady (Myanmar), the Mahakam (Indonesian Borneo) and the Mekong.

Although sometimes called the Irrawaddy river dolphin, it is not a true river dolphin, but an oceanic dolphin that **lives in brackish water near coasts, river mouths, and estuaries.** It has established subpopulations in freshwater rivers, including the Ganges and the Mekong, as well as the Irrawaddy River from which it takes its name.

The worldwide population appears to be over 7,000.

Odisha Forest Department officials, wildlife experts and researchers recently sighted 146 endangered **Irrawaddy dolphins in Chilika Lake**, which boasts of the highest single lagoon population of the aquatic mammal in the world.

It is endangered as per IUCN Red List.



[Source](#)

14) Consider the following statements regarding Microplastics.

1. Microplastics are synthetic or semi-synthetic, solid, water insoluble plastic particles of a size range below 5 mm.
2. Because of its size, most of the microplastics are biodegradable.
3. Microplastics are also considered as airborne pollutant.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1, 2

- c) 1, 3
d) 2, 3

Solution: c)

Microplastics are synthetic or semi-synthetic, solid, water insoluble, high polymer plastic particles of a size range below 5 mm. They are both used as a raw material for a number of products and produced from degradation of any plastic product. Their small size allows them to pass through wastewater treatment plants and reach the oceans through surface waterbodies and rivers. **Microplastics are non-biodegradable and persistent in marine and freshwater**

Plastic particles generally of size below $1\mu\text{m}$ are called **nanoplastics**. They pose higher risk to the environment because of their reduced size which is 1000 times smaller than an algal cell.

Microplastics undergo various processes of physical, enzymatic and microbial degradation in nature, but do not get completely broken down.

Microplastics can absorb extremely harmful hydrophobic organic pollutants. **Removal of microplastics from aquatic environment is extremely difficult** as that could lead to the elimination of all plankton size organisms.

Microplastics exist in air as airborne pollutants originating from the plastic textile fiber production.

Microplastics used as abrasives in personal care and cosmetic products (PCCP) are commonly known as **microbeads**. Mostly of spherical shape, these, are used in both leave-on lotions and rinse-off products.

[Source](#)

15) Consider the following statements regarding *United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)*.

1. In 2019, for the first time India hosted the Conference of Parties of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

2. UNCCD is the only convention stemming from a direct recommendation of the Rio Conference's Agenda 21.

3. To help publicise the Convention, 2019 was declared "International Year of Deserts and Desertification".

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 3
b) 2, 3
c) 1, 2
d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

For the first time ever India hosted the 14th session of Conference of Parties (COP-14) of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in September 2019, to address the issue of land degradation and desertification.

India took over *the Presidency of the COP from China*.

About UNCCD:

- Established in 1994.
- It is the **sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management**.
- It is the **only convention stemming from a direct recommendation of the Rio Conference's Agenda 21**.
- To help publicise the Convention, **2006 was declared "International Year of Deserts and Desertification"**.
- Focus areas: The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found.

- The end goal is to protect land from over-use and drought, so it can continue to provide food, water and energy.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the nodal Ministry for this Convention.

16) Lead is a naturally occurring toxic metal found in the Earth's crust. Its widespread use has resulted in extensive environmental contamination, human exposure and significant public health problems in many parts of the world. Which of the following can contribute to Lead pollution?

1. Mining
2. Paints
3. Batteries of motor vehicles
4. Jewellery
5. Cosmetics and traditional medicines

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

Lead is a naturally occurring toxic metal found in the Earth's crust. Its widespread use has resulted in extensive environmental contamination, human exposure and significant public health problems in many parts of the world. Important sources of environmental contamination include **mining, smelting, manufacturing and recycling activities**, and, in some countries, the continued use of **leaded paint, leaded gasoline, and leaded aviation fuel**. More than three quarters of global lead consumption is for the manufacture of lead-acid batteries for motor vehicles. Lead is, however, also used in many other products, for example **pigments, paints, solder, stained glass, lead crystal glassware, ammunition, ceramic glazes, jewellery, toys and in some cosmetics and traditional medicines**. Drinking water delivered through lead pipes or pipes joined with lead solder may contain lead. Much of the lead in global commerce is now obtained from recycling.

[Source](#)

17) Consider the following statements regarding UN-REDD Programme.

1. UN-REDD Programme assists countries to develop the capacities needed to meet the UNFCCC's REDD+ requirements, so that they can qualify to receive results-based payments under the convention.
2. UN-REDD Programme promotes the involvement of indigenous people and other forest dependent communities in national and international REDD+ implementation.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: d)

FAQ: What's the difference between REDD+ and the UN-REDD Programme?

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

REDD+ is a climate change mitigation solution being developed by Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

REDD+ incentivizes developing countries to keep their forests standing by offering results-based payments for actions to reduce or remove forest carbon emissions.

UN-REDD PROGRAMME

The UN-REDD Programme assists countries to develop the capacities needed to meet the UNFCCC's REDD+ requirements, so that they can qualify to receive results-based payments under the Convention.

The UN-REDD Programme supports nationally-led REDD+ processes and promotes the informed and meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities.

Learn more at www.un-redd.org

Source

18) Compensatory Afforestation Fund can be utilised for which of the following activities?

1. Wildlife Management
2. Forest Fire Prevention and Control Operations
3. Payment of salary and medical expenses of those working in forest areas
4. Monitoring of CAMPA works

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2, 3
- b) 1, 2
- c) 1, 2, 3, 4
- d) 1, 2, 4

Solution: d)

The Environment Minister emphasized that the **CAMPA funds cannot be used for payment of salary, travelling allowances, medical expenses, etc.**

“Important activities on which the fund will be utilised will be for the Compensatory Afforestation, Catchment Area Treatment, Wildlife Management, Assisted Natural Regeneration, Forest Fire Prevention and Control Operations, Soil and Moisture Conservation Works in the forest, Improvement of Wildlife Habitat, Management of Biological Diversity and Biological Resources, Research in Forestry and Monitoring of CAMPA works etc”.

Source

19) Consider the following statements regarding Sambhar Lake.

1. Sambhar Lake is India's largest inland salt lake located in Gujarat.
2. The lake is surrounded by the Aravali hills on all sides.

3. It has been designated as a Ramsar site because it is a key wintering area for tens of thousands of pink flamingos and other birds.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

The Sambhar Salt Lake, India's largest inland salt lake, is located in Rajasthan.

The lake receives water from five rivers: Medtha, Samaod, Mantha, Rupangarh, Khari, and Khandela.

It is surrounded by the Aravali hills on all sides.

Sambhar has been designated as a Ramsar site (recognized wetland of international importance) because the wetland is a key wintering area for tens of thousands of pink flamingos and other birds that migrate from northern Asia and Siberia. The specialized algae and bacteria growing in the lake provide striking water colours and support the lake ecology that, in turn, sustains the migrating waterfowl.

20) Consider the following statements regarding Environment Impact Assessment (EIA).

1. Environment Impact Assessment in India is statutory backed process by the Environment Impact Assessment Act, 1986.
2. It identifies the environmental, social and economic impacts of a project prior to taking a decision on its implementation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: b)

Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) is a formal process used to predict the environmental consequences of any development project. **Environment Impact Assessment in India is statutory backed by the Environment Protection Act in 1986**, which contains various provisions on EIA methodology and process.

Rationale behind EIA: EIA looks into various problems, conflicts and natural resource constraints which may not only affect the viability of a project but also predict if a project might harm to the people, their land, livelihoods and environment. Once these potential harmful impacts are predicted, the EIA process identifies the measures to minimize those impacts.

The objective of the EIA is to: Identify the environmental, social and economic impacts of a project prior to taking a decision on its implementation. Mitigation of harmful impacts and maximizes the beneficial effects. Once the assessment is complete, the EIA findings are communicated to all stakeholders viz. developers, investors, regulators, planners, politicians, affected communities etc. On the basis of the conclusion of EIA process, the government can decide if a project should be given environment clearance or not. The developers and investors can also shape the project in such a way that its harms can be mitigated and benefits can be maximized.

21) Third generation biofuels are biofuel derived from

1. Algae
2. Food crops
3. Methane

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1 only
- b) 1, 2
- c) 1, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: a)

3rd generation biofuels are biofuel derived from algae.

22) India's first online waste exchange platform to handle liquid waste, hazardous, and non-hazardous solid waste and air pollutants was launched by which state?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Andhra Pradesh
- d) Karnataka

Solution: c)

Andhra Pradesh launched an online waste management platform to handle liquid waste, hazardous, and non-hazardous solid waste and air pollutants. The Andhra Pradesh Environment Management Corporation (APEMC), which will handle the platform, will be responsible for safe disposal of all industrial waste generated in the state.

The APEMC will streamline collection of the waste from industries, sort and streamline the waste as hazardous or non-hazardous or e-waste according to category, and scientifically dispose it off at various waste disposal centres.

[Source](#)

23) Consider the following statements regarding National Policy on Biofuels-2018.

1. The National Policy on Biofuels-2018 envisages an indicative target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol and 5% blending of bio-diesel in diesel by 2030.
2. The Policy envisages the use of only molasses and damaged food grains for ethanol production.
3. The policy encourages biodiesel production from used cooking oil.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: b)

The National Policy on Biofuels-2018 envisages an indicative target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol and 5% blending of bio-diesel in diesel by 2030.

National Policy on biofuels- salient features:

- **Categorization:** The Policy categorises biofuels as "Basic Biofuels" viz. First Generation (1G) bioethanol & biodiesel and "Advanced Biofuels" – Second Generation (2G) ethanol, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to drop-in fuels, Third Generation (3G) biofuels, bio-CNG etc. to enable extension of appropriate financial and fiscal incentives under each category.
- **Scope of raw materials:** The Policy expands the scope of raw material for ethanol production by allowing use of Sugarcane Juice, Sugar containing materials like Sugar Beet, Sweet Sorghum, Starch containing materials like Corn, Cassava, Damaged food grains like wheat, broken rice, Rotten Potatoes, unfit for human consumption for ethanol production.

- **Protection to farmers:** Farmers are at a risk of not getting appropriate price for their produce during the surplus production phase. Taking this into account, the Policy allows use of surplus food grains for production of ethanol for blending with petrol with the approval of National Biofuel Coordination Committee.
- **Viability gap funding:** With a thrust on Advanced Biofuels, the Policy indicates a viability gap funding scheme for 2G ethanol Bio refineries of Rs.5000 crore in 6 years in addition to additional tax incentives, higher purchase price as compared to 1G biofuels.
- **Boost to biodiesel production:** The Policy encourages setting up of supply chain mechanisms for biodiesel production from non-edible oilseeds, Used Cooking Oil, short gestation crops.

24) Which of the following Acts come under the purview of National Green Tribunal (NGT).

1. Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
2. Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
3. Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991
4. Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2, 3
- b) 1, 3, 4
- c) 2, 3, 4
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Solution: d)

Any person seeking relief and compensation for environmental damage involving subjects in the legislations mentioned in Schedule I of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 may approach the Tribunal.

The statutes in Schedule I are:

- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974;
- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977;
- The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;
- The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;
- The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;
- The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991;
- The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

The Tribunal has jurisdiction over all civil cases involving a substantial question relating to environment and the question. Additionally, any person aggrieved by an order/direction of any of the Appellate Authorities under the legislations mentioned above can also challenge them before the National Green Tribunal.

25) Which of the following are the functions of National Tiger Conservation Authority?

1. Preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan.
2. Laying down audit report regarding Tiger Conservation before Parliament.
3. According approval for declaring new Tiger Reserves.

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

The **National Tiger Conservation Authority** is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

It was constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation.

Set up under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Environment and Forests. The Authority will have eight experts or professionals having qualifications and experience in wildlife conservation and welfare of people including tribals, apart from three Members of Parliament of whom two will be elected by the House of the People and one by the Council of States.

Functions of NTCA are as follows:

- Ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management.
- Preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan.
- Laying down annual/ audit report before Parliament.
- Instituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.
- According approval for declaring new Tiger Reserves.

26) Consider the following statements regarding Asiatic cheetah.

1. Asiatic cheetah is believed to survive today only in China.
2. It is classified as a “critically endangered” species by the IUCN Red List.
3. Asiatic cheetah which once roamed India’s vast forests and grasslands, was declared extinct in India in 1950’s

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

The Asiatic cheetah, which once roamed India’s vast forests and grasslands, was declared extinct here in 1952, after decades of human intervention, hunting and habitat degradation. **The IUCN Red List classifies the species as critically endangered globally.**

The Asiatic cheetah is now found only in Iran.

The Asiatic cheetah is arguably the most distinct of the cheetah subspecies. It is lighter in weight, has a smaller head and shorter legs. It faces many threats, including persecution killing, habitat loss (prey depletion), targeted poaching for skins, body parts and live trade, and even road-kill.

Cheetahs are fairly adaptable and present across varied climate and habitats in their extant range. However, they require specialized prey and do not tolerate landscapes that have medium to high human populations.

Cheetahs have wide climatic tolerances but the impacts of climate change and increasing human populations are placing pressure on cheetah habitats.

[Source](#)

27) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the E-Waste Management Rules, 2016 in supersession of the e-waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 2011. Which of the following statements are correct regarding E-Waste Management Rules, 2016?

1. Pan India Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Authorization by CPCB has been introduced.
2. Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) and mercury containing lamp has been removed under the purview of rules.
3. State Governments must ensure safety, health and skill development of the workers involved in the dismantling and recycling operations of E-Waste.

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2
- b) 2, 3

- c) 1, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) and other mercury containing lamp brought under the purview of rules.

Provision for Pan India EPR Authorization by CPCB has been introduced replacing the state wise EPR authorization.

The roles of the State Government has been also introduced in the Rules in order to ensure safety, health and skill development of the workers involved in the dismantling and recycling operations.

[Source](#)

28) Consider the following statements regarding National Green Tribunal.

1. National Green Tribunal is a statutory body equipped with expertise solely for the purpose of adjudicating environmental cases in the country.
2. The decision of the NGT is binding on the parties, unless they approach the Supreme Court in appeal.
3. NGT cannot grant relief in the form of compensation and damages to affected persons.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: a)

The National Green Tribunal, established in 2010, as per the **National Green Tribunal Act** is a specialised judicial body equipped with expertise solely for the purpose of **adjudicating environmental cases** in the country.

The Tribunal is tasked with providing effective and expeditious remedy in cases relating to environmental protection, conservation of forests and other natural resources and enforcement of any legal right relating to environment. **The Tribunal's orders are binding and it has power to grant relief in the form of compensation and damages to affected persons.**

The Tribunal has a presence in five zones- North, Central, East, South and West. The Principal Bench is situated in the North Zone, headquartered in Delhi.

The decisions of the Tribunal are binding. The Tribunal's orders are enforceable as the powers vested are the same as in a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908.

The Tribunal has powers to review its own decisions. If this fails, **the decision can be challenged before the Supreme Court within ninety days.**

The Tribunal is an open court and its proceedings can be attended in person.

[Source](#)

29) World's first sanctuary for White Tigers is located in which of the following states?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Assam
- c) Madhya Pradesh
- d) Uttarakhand

Solution: c)

In India, white tigers are predominantly found in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh.

In 2016, world's first White Tiger Safari was inaugurated in **Satna district of Madhya Pradesh**.

According to the scientists, white tigers lack **pheomelanin**, which is responsible for the red-yellow hue in the skin coat.

30) Consider the following statements regarding Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats' (IDWH).

1. IDWH is meant for providing support to protected areas like national parks and wildlife sanctuaries and protection of wildlife outside protected areas.
2. It includes recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: d)

Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (IDWH) Started in 2008-09, is meant for providing support to protected areas (national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, conservation reserves and community reserves except tiger reserves), protection of wildlife outside protected areas and recovery programmes for saving critically endangered species and habitats.

[Source](#)

31) The Global Tiger Initiative (GTI) is a program of the

- a) World Bank
- b) International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- c) Conservation International
- d) United Nations Environmental Program

Solution: a)

The Global Tiger Initiative (GTI) was launched in 2008 as a global alliance of governments, international organizations, civil society, the conservation and scientific communities and the private sector, with the aim of working together to save wild tigers from extinction. In 2013, the scope was broadened to include Snow Leopards.

The GTI's founding partners included the World Bank, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Smithsonian Institution, Save the Tiger Fund, and International Tiger Coalition (representing more than 40 non-government organizations). The initiative is led by the 13 tiger range countries (TRCs).

[Source](#)

32) Which of the following National parks are part of Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve?

1. Nagarhole National Park
2. Mudumalai National Park
3. Bandipur National Park
4. Eravikulam National Park

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2, 3
- b) 1, 3, 4
- c) 1, 2, 4
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Solution: a)

The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve is an International Biosphere Reserve in the Western Ghats and Nilgiri Hills ranges of South India. The Nilgiri Sub-Cluster is a part of the Western Ghats, which was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2012. It includes the Aralam, Mudumalai, Mukurthi, Nagarhole, Bandipur and Silent Valley national parks, as well as the Wayanad and Sathyamangalam wildlife sanctuaries.

33) Which of the following states have declared a state butterfly

1. Tamil Nadu
2. Uttarakhand
3. Karnataka
4. Gujarat
5. Kerala

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: c)

Tamil Nadu declared **Tamil Yeoman** (*Cirrochroa thais*) as the state butterfly to symbolise its rich natural and cultural heritage.

With this, **Tamil Nadu** became *fifth Indian state to declare its state butterfly*. **Maharashtra** was the first state to officially declare **Blue Mormon** (*Papilio polymnestor*) as its state butterfly in 2015 followed by **Uttarakhand** (Common peacock), **Karnataka** (Southern bird wings) and **Kerala** (Malabar banded peacock).

34) FOREST PLUS 2.0, recently seen in news, is a joint initiative of

1. India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)
2. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
3. US Agency for International Development (USAID)

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2
- b) 2, 3
- c) 1, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

US Agency for International Development (USAID) and India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) have launched Forest-PLUS 2.0.

Forest-PLUS 2.0 is a five-year programme initiated in December 2018 that focuses on developing tools and techniques to bolster ecosystem management and harnessing ecosystem services in forest landscape management.

Forest-PLUS 2.0 comprises pilot project in three landscapes — Gaya in Bihar, Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala and Medak in Telangana. The choice of these sites was driven by the contrast in their landscapes – Bihar is a forest deficit area, Telangana is a relatively drier area where there is ample scope for community livelihood enhancement and Kerala is rich in biodiversity.

35) Consider the following statements.

1. The 1995 Basel Ban Amendment prohibits all export of hazardous wastes from the wealthiest countries of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to non-OECD countries.

2. Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal aims to prevent transfer of radioactive waste from developed to least developed countries (LDCs).

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2 only
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: b)

- The **1995 Basel Ban Amendment, a global waste dumping prohibition**, became an international law after Croatia ratified it on September 6, 2019.
- Croatia became the 97th country to ratify the ban, which was adopted by the parties to the Basel Convention in 1995, to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes, according to Basel Action Network (BAN).
- BAN is a United States-based charity organisation and is one among the organisations and countries, which created the Basel Ban Amendment — hailed as a landmark agreement for global environmental justice.
- The Ban Amendment prohibits all export of hazardous wastes, including electronic wastes and obsolete ships from 29 wealthiest countries of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to non-OECD countries.

Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal:

- Opened for signature on 22 March 1989
- entered into force on 5 May 1992
- Parties — 187.
- It is an international treaty that was designed to reduce the movements of hazardous waste between nations, and specifically to prevent transfer of hazardous waste from developed to less developed countries (LDCs).
- **It does not address the movement of radioactive waste.**

36) UN Environment Programme (UNEP) member states recently adopted the “Colombo Declaration” which calls for tackling global nitrogen challenge. Consider the following statements about it.

1. It calls for halving nitrogen waste by 2030.
2. A campaign on sustainable nitrogen management called “Nitrogen for Life” is to be launched.
3. It makes the “Sustainable Nitrogen Management Resolution” (UNEP) binding on certain member nations.

nations.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2, 3
- b) 2, 3
- c) 1 only
- d) 1, 2

Solution: d)

Key Highlights of the declaration:

- The Colombo Declaration has been developed with the technical support of the International Nitrogen Management System (INMS), a joint activity of the UNEP and the International Nitrogen Initiative supported by the Global Environmental Facility.
- The aim is to halve nitrogen waste by 2030.
- A campaign on sustainable nitrogen management called “Nitrogen for Life” is to be launched. It stems from the Sustainable Nitrogen Management Resolution (not binding at all for the recent declaration)

which was adopted during the fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly held from 11 – 15 March 2019 at the UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

37) Which of the following countries is/are members of the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)?

1. United States
2. Japan
3. Russia
4. France
5. Sweden

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

CAFF is the biodiversity working group of the Arctic Council and consists of National Representatives assigned by each of the eight Arctic Council Member States.

These are **Canada, Greenland/Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Russian Federation and United States**. Moreover, Representatives of Indigenous Peoples' organizations are also Permanent Participants to the Council.

The Arctic Council and other such organizations play a crucial role in the meetings of the organization.

CAFF's mandate is to address the conservation of Arctic biodiversity, and to communicate its findings to the governments and residents of the Arctic, helping to promote practices which ensure the sustainability of the Arctic's living resources.

[Source](#)

38) Olive Ridley Turtles are naturally found in India in

1. Maharashtra coast
2. Odisha coast
3. Andhra Pradesh coast

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

The olive ridley sea turtle has been listed on Schedule - I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (amended 1991).

Olive Ridley turtle is the smallest and most abundant of all sea turtle found in the world.

It is found in **warm waters of the Pacific and Indian oceans**.

The Gahirmatha Beach in Kendrapara district of **Odisha**, which is part of the Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, is the largest breeding ground for these turtles.

Green turtles and olive ridleys are known to nest in **Maharashtra** in small numbers. Goa has records of three species of sea turtles: olive ridley, leatherback and green turtles.

Recently many of these turtles were found dead near the **Andhra Pradesh coast**.

39) Consider the following statements regarding Uranium contamination of groundwater in India.

1. Uranium is a naturally occurring element in ocean water.

2. Indian Standard IS 10500: 2012 for Drinking Water specification has not specified the maximum acceptable limits for Uranium in drinking water.

3. North-eastern region of India is witnessing the most Uranium contamination of groundwater in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 2, 3
- c) 1, 3
- d) 1 only

Solution: d)

Uranium is weakly radioactive and remains so because of its long physical half-life (4.468 billion years for uranium-238).

Uranium is a naturally occurring metal, which is widespread in nature. It is present in the ocean and certain types of soils and rocks, especially granite.

The biological half-life (the average time it takes for the human body to eliminate half the amount in the body) for uranium is about 15 days.

This is the highest-numbered element to be found naturally in significant quantities on earth.

A report on Uranium Contamination in ground water in Parliament was tabled recently.

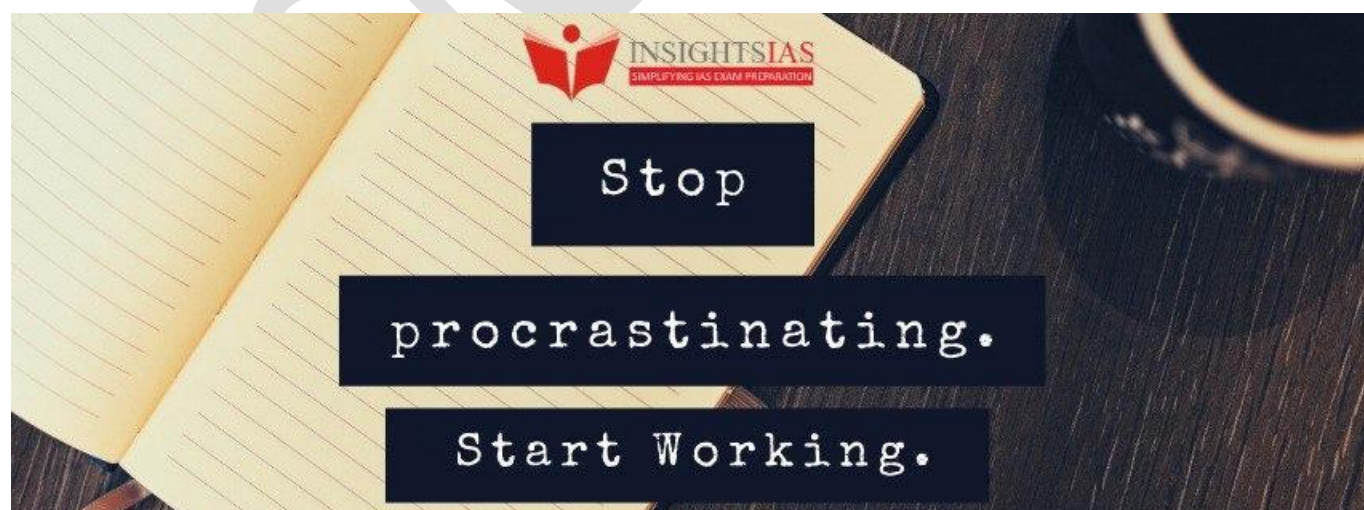
The Indian Standard IS 10500: 2012 for Drinking Water specification has specified the maximum acceptable limits for radioactive residues as alpha and beta emitters, values in excess of which render the water not suitable.

These requirements take into account all radioactive elements including uranium. No individual radioactive elements have been specifically identified.

As per Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS), maximum permissible limit of Uranium is 0.03 mg/l (as per WHO provisional guidelines) in all drinking water standards after following due process.

Affected states:

A report brought out by Duke University, USA in association with Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water departments states that Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir have localised occurrence of Uranium concentration.



3. Government Schemes and Programmes

1) Consider the following statements regarding New National Education Policy 2020.

1. National Education Policy 2020 is the second education policy approved by the Government after Independence.

2. The National Education Policy has been drafted by a committee headed by former ISRO chief Kasturirangan.

3. In India, Education is a concurrent subject and both the Centre and the state governments can make laws on it.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

A new NEP usually comes along every few decades. India has had three to date. The first came in 1968 and the second in 1986, under Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi respectively; the NEP of 1986 was revised in 1992 when P V Narasimha Rao was Prime Minister. The third is the NEP released Wednesday under the Prime Ministership of Narendra Modi.

The NEP only provides a broad direction and is not mandatory to follow. Since education is a concurrent subject (both the Centre and the state governments can make laws on it), the reforms proposed can only be implemented collaboratively by the Centre and the states.

The new *National Education Policy* has been *drafted* by a committee headed by former ISRO chief *Kasturirangan*.

[Source](#)

2) Consider the following statements regarding Jal Jeevan Mission.

1. The chief objective of the Mission is to provide piped water supply to all households by 2024.

2. It aims to create local infrastructure for rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household waste water for reuse in agriculture.

3. Jal Jeevan Mission will converge with other Central and State Government Schemes to achieve its objectives of sustainable water supply management.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 2, 3
- c) 1, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: b)

The Mission was announced in August 2019.

The chief objective of the Mission is to provide piped water supply (Har Ghar Jal) to all rural households by 2024.

Key features:

- It aims to create local infrastructure for rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household waste water for reuse in agriculture.
- The Jal Jeevan Mission is set to be based on various water conservation efforts like point recharge, desilting of minor irrigation tanks, use of greywater for agriculture and source sustainability.
- The Jal Jeevan Mission will converge with other Central and State Government Schemes to achieve its objectives of sustainable water supply management across the country.



[Source](#)

- 3) Consider the following statements regarding Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA).
1. Central Consumer Protection Authority is a statutory body that aims to protect the rights of the consumer by cracking down on unfair trade practices.
 2. CCPA can inquire or investigate into matters relating to violations of consumer rights or unfair trade practices suo motu.
 3. CCPA cannot impose any penalties on endorsers or publishers of misleading advertisements.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1, 2
 - b) 1, 3
 - c) 2, 3
 - d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: a)

The Consumer Affairs Ministry recently announced key appointments and operationalisation of the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA).

CCPA has been mandated to enforce and protect consumer rights and has been set up under the newly notified Consumer Protection Act, 2019

The CCPA will begin functioning in the premises of the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi. The CCPA have the powers to inquire or investigate into matters relating to violations of consumer rights or unfair trade practices suo motu, or on a complaint received, or on a direction from the central government. It can also order recall of unsafe goods and services, order discontinuation of unfair trade practices and misleading advertisements, impose penalties on manufacturers/endorsers/publishers of misleading advertisements.

[Source](#)

- 4) National Health Profile, 2019 was released by
- a) National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO)
 - b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 - c) Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI)
 - d) World Health Organization (WHO) – India

Solution: c)

Prepared by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI), NHP Covers comprehensive information on demographic, socio-economic health status, health finance indicators, health infrastructure and health of human resources in the country.

5) Consider the following statements regarding National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons.

1. All workers in the informal sector are eligible under this pension scheme.
2. It is a voluntary scheme where the Central government and respective state governments also contribute equally.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: c)

National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons is a pension scheme for the **Vyaparis (shopkeepers/retail traders and self-employed persons)** with annual turnover not exceeding Rs 1.5 crore.

It is a **voluntary** and contributory pension scheme.

The enrolment under the scheme is free of cost for the beneficiaries.

The enrolment is based upon self-certification.

It has a provision for minimum assured pension of Rs 3,000/- monthly on attaining the age of 60 years.

The **Central Government shall give 50 % share of the monthly contribution and remaining 50% contribution shall be made by the beneficiary.**

Eligibility:

Beneficiary is required to have an Aadhaar card and a saving bank/ Jan-dhan Account passbook only.

He/ She should be within 18 to 40 years of age group.

GSTIN is required only for those with turnover above Rs. 40 lakhs.

The beneficiary should not be income tax payer and also not a member of EPFO/ESIC/NPS (Govt.)/PM-SYM.

6) National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO) is under the aegis of

- a) Ministry of Earth Sciences
- b) Department of Science and Technology
- c) Ministry of Home Affairs
- d) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Solution: b)

National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO) is the premier agency of applied Geo-Spatial technology and pioneer in Thematic Mapping and Atlas Cartography under **Department of Science & Technology (Ministry of Science & Technology)** engaged in preparing different thematic maps and atlases and other documents on national, state, district, block level and many other monograms. The contribution made by NATMO in developing the thematic maps/ data is being regularly used by the decision makers in the entire country at districts and sub-divisions levels for implementing the developmental schemes as well as by the researchers, students and common people.

NATMO has recently walked ahead to prepare **Braille atlases for visually impaired persons**. NATMOs long effort from metallic tactile maps to silk-screen printing technology to prepare a full volume of atlas is perhaps unique in the World.

[Source](#)

- 7) Consider the following statements regarding the Dispute Resolution Committee of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
1. Dispute Resolution Committee of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is tasked with resolving disputes between solar/wind power developers and NTPC/Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).
 2. The decision of the DRC shall be binding on the parties and they can appeal only to the Supreme Court.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: a)

The Dispute Resolution Committee of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) is tasked with **resolving disputes between solar/wind power developers and NTPC/Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI).**

The Committee was formed to resolve unforeseen disputes between renewable energy players and government agencies.

It covers all projects that would be implemented through or by SECI and NTPC.

The DRC is to examine all such cases referred to it, including the cases where the developer is not satisfied with the decision of SECI or NTPC and it decides to appeal after paying the required fee. **The recommendations of the DRC, along with the MNRE's observations, will be placed before the new and renewable energy minister for final decision.**

To arrive at any decision, the Committee will be free to interact with the relevant parties of the case and shall record their views. No lawyer shall be permitted to present the case before the DRC

[Source](#)

- 8) Consider the following statements regarding Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO).
1. The Drugs Prices Control Order is issued by the Government of India under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
 2. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has been entrusted with the task of fixation/revision of prices of pharmaceutical products and enforcement of provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
 - b) 2 only
 - c) Both 1 and 2
 - d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: b)

The Drugs Prices Control Order is an order issued by the Government of India under **Sec. 3 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955** to regulate the prices of drugs.

The Order inter alia provides the list of price-controlled drugs, procedures for fixation of prices of drugs, method of implementation of prices fixed by Govt., penalties for contravention of provisions etc.

For the purpose of implementing provisions of DPCO, powers of Govt. have been vested in National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA).

National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), was established on 29th August 1997 as an independent body of experts as per the decision taken by the Cabinet committee in September 1994 while reviewing Drug Policy.

Functions: The Authority, inter alia, has been entrusted with the **task of fixation/revision of prices of pharmaceutical products** (bulk drugs and formulations), enforcement of provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order and monitoring of the prices of controlled and decontrolled drugs in the country.

9) Consider the following statements regarding National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP).

1. National Agricultural Higher Education Project aims to develop resources and mechanism for supporting infrastructure, faculty and student advancement at agricultural universities.
2. NAHEP has got financial assistance from World Bank.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: c)

NAHEP has been formulated by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for five years starting from 2017-18. The project is proposed on **50:50 cost sharing basis between the World Bank and the Government of India**, implemented at the Education Division, ICAR, New Delhi.

Overall, the project aims to develop resources and mechanism for supporting infrastructure, faculty and student advancement, and providing means for better governance and management of agricultural universities, so that a holistic model can be developed to raise the standard of current agricultural education system that provides more jobs and is entrepreneurship oriented and on par with the global agriculture education standards.

The project would benefit all the Agricultural Universities (AUs), i.e. 63 State Agricultural Universities modelled on the US Land Grant University pattern, 5 Deemed to be Universities (DUs), three Central Agricultural University (CAUs) and four Central Universities (CUs) with Agriculture Faculty.

Source

10) Which of the following are the objective of the Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC)?

1. Providing employment in rural areas.
2. Providing salable articles.
3. Creating self-reliance amongst people and building up a strong rural community spirit
4. Establishing a major khadi industry in every village

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 3, 4
- b) 1, 2, 4
- c) 1, 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Solution: c)

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament (Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956). In April 1957, it took over the work of former All India Khadi and Village Industries Board.

Functions: It is an apex organization under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, with regard to khadi and village industries within India, which seeks to – “plan, promote, facilitate, organise and assist in the establishment and development of khadi and village industries in the rural areas in coordination with other agencies engaged in rural development wherever necessary.”

The Commission has three main objectives which guide its functioning. These are:

- The Social Objective – Providing employment in rural areas.

- The Economic Objective – Providing salable articles.
- The Wider Objective – Creating self-reliance amongst people and building up a strong rural community spirit.

Establishing a major khadi industry in every village is not a listed objective and may not be economically feasible as well.

11) National Landslide Susceptibility Mapping is under taken by

- Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)
- Geological Survey of India
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- Both a and b

Solution: b)

GSI has launched and undertook a national programme on landslide susceptibility mapping - **National Landslide Susceptibility Mapping (NLSM)**.

Aims and Objectives

- To create a dynamic National Landslide Susceptibility Geodatabase for India
- To prepare GIS - based seamless Landslide Susceptibility Maps of India on 1:50,000 scale
- To prepare a nation-wide repository on GIS-based Landslide Inventory

[Source](#)

12) As per the recent (fifth) edition of Wasteland Atlas released by the Ministry of rural development, consider the following statements.

- One-third of the country is wasteland.
- The per capita availability of agriculture land in India is lesser than that of world per capita agriculture land.
- The wastelands mapping exercise was carried out using the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite data.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

Ministry of rural development releases fifth edition of Wasteland Atlas. The last edition was published in 2011.

Key findings:

- **Spatial extent of wastelands in India is 55.76 Mha (16.96 per cent of geographical area of the country i.e. 328.72 Mha) for the year 2015-16** as compared to 56.60 Mha (17.21 per cent) in the year 2008-09.
- As per the Atlas, during this period 1.45 Mha of wastelands are converted into non-wastelands categories.
- India with 2.4 per cent of total land area of the world is supporting 18 per cent of the world's population. **The per capita availability of agriculture land in India is 0.12 ha whereas world per capita agriculture land is 0.29 ha.**
- The new wastelands mapping exercise was carried out by NRSC using the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite data.

[Source](#)

4. Science and Technology

1) Consider the following statements about Poliomyelitis.

1. It is a highly infectious viral disease, which mainly affects young children.
2. The virus is transmitted by person-to-person and spread through contaminated water or food.
3. With latest developments in medicine, Polio disease can be cured.
4. India became the first country globally to introduce fractional doses of IPV in childhood immunisation programme.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2, 3
- b) 1, 4
- c) 1, 3, 4
- d) 1, 2, 4

Solution: d)

Poliomyelitis (polio) is a highly infectious viral disease, which mainly affects young children. The virus is transmitted by person-to-person spread mainly through the faecal-oral route or, less frequently, by a common vehicle (e.g. contaminated water or food) and multiplies in the intestine, from where it can invade the nervous system and can cause paralysis.

Initial symptoms of polio include fever, fatigue, headache, vomiting, stiffness in the neck, and pain in the limbs. In a small proportion of cases, the disease causes paralysis, which is often permanent. There is no cure for polio, it can only be prevented by immunization.

Source

2) Consider the following statements regarding Plague.

1. Plague is a zoonotic disease transmitted by fleas from rodents to other animals and to humans.
2. Direct person-to-person transmission occurs when respiratory droplets transfer the infection from the patient to others in close contact.
3. After Independence, there are no outbreaks of Plague in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: a)

Plague is a zoonotic disease affecting rodents and transmitted by fleas from rodents to other animals and to humans. Direct person-to-person transmission does not occur except in the case of pneumonic plague, when respiratory droplets may transfer the infection from the patient to others in close contact.

Plague is caused by the bacteria *Yersinia pestis*, a zoonotic bacteria usually found in small mammals and their fleas.

Plague occurs in three main clinical forms:

Bubonic plague, Septicaemic plague and Pneumonic plague.

Without prompt and effective treatment, 50–60% of cases of bubonic plague are fatal, while untreated septicaemic and pneumonic plague are invariably fatal.

The 1994 plague in India was an outbreak of bubonic and pneumonic plague in south-central and western India from 26 August to 18 October 1994.

Source

- 3) Consider the following statements about Trans-fats.
1. Trans-fat is a type of unsaturated fat.
 2. Trans fats also occur naturally.
 3. Trans fats give food a desirable taste and texture.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 2, 3
- c) 1, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

Trans fat, also called trans-unsaturated fatty acids or trans fatty acids, is a type of unsaturated fat that occurs in small amounts in nature, but became widely produced industrially from vegetable fats starting in the 1950s for use in margarine, snack food, packaged baked goods, and for frying fast food.

Naturally-occurring trans fats are produced in the gut of some animals and foods made from these animals (e.g., milk and meat products) may contain small quantities of these fats. Artificial *trans* fats (or *trans* fatty acids) are created in an industrial process that adds hydrogen to liquid vegetable oils to make them more solid.

Trans fats are easy to use, inexpensive to produce and last a long time. *Trans* fats give foods a desirable taste and texture.

Source

- 4) Consider the following statements about Hepatitis C.
1. Hepatitis C is a liver disease.
 2. The most common modes of infection are through exposure to small quantities of blood.
 3. Hepatitis C also spreads through breast milk, food and water.
 4. People with HIV infection are at increased risk of Hepatitis C virus infection.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2, 4
- b) 1, 3, 4
- c) 2, 3, 4
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Solution: a)

Hepatitis C is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis C virus: the virus can cause both acute and chronic hepatitis, ranging in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious, lifelong illness.

The hepatitis C virus (HCV) is a bloodborne virus and the **most common modes of infection** are through **exposure to small quantities of blood**. This may happen through **injection drug use, unsafe injection practices, unsafe health care, and the transfusion of unscreened blood and blood products**.

There is currently **no vaccine for hepatitis C**; however research in this area is ongoing.

HCV can also be **transmitted sexually** and can be **passed from an infected mother to her baby**; however these modes of transmission are much less common.

Hepatitis C is not spread through breast milk, food, water or by casual contact such as hugging, kissing and sharing food or drinks with an infected person.

Populations at increased risk of HCV infection include:

- people who inject drugs;

- people who use intranasal drugs;
- recipients of infected blood products or invasive procedures in health-care facilities with inadequate infection control practices;
- children born to mothers infected with HCV;
- people with sexual partners who are HCV-infected;
- people with HIV infection;
- prisoners or previously incarcerated persons; and
- people who have had tattoos or piercings.

Source

5) Which of the following are the vaccine-preventable diseases.

1. Dengue
2. Rubella
3. Haemophilia
4. Poliomyelitis
5. Common cold

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: b)

A vaccine-preventable disease is an infectious disease for which an effective preventive vaccine exists. If a person acquires a vaccine-preventable disease and dies from it, the death is considered a vaccine-preventable death.

The WHO lists 27 diseases for which vaccines are available. They are:

Cholera
Dengue fever
Diphtheria
Haemophilus influenzae type b
Hepatitis A
Hepatitis B
Hepatitis E
Human papilloma-virus
Influenza
Japanese encephalitis
Malaria
Measles
Meningococcal disease
Mumps
Pneumococcal disease
Pertussis
Poliomyelitis
Rabies
Rotavirus gastroenteritis
Rubella
Tetanus
Tick-borne encephalitis
Tuberculosis
Typhoid fever
Varicella

Yellow fever
Shingles (Herpes Zoster)

Vaccination is not there for genetic disorders like haemophilia, colour blindness; these are not caused by bacteria or viruses.

Common cold can be caused by more than 100 different viruses. Hence, vaccine for common cold will not work because a specific antibody is effective only against a specific kind of virus or bacterium.

[Source](#)

- 6) Which of the following best describes the term "herd immunity".
- When a large percentage of a population has lost immunity to an infection.
 - Increasing the immune system in a community by providing drugs and medicines.
 - A high percentage of people in a given community is immune to a disease.
 - None of the above

Solution: c)

Since the coronavirus pandemic began, the term "herd immunity" has been flung around as one solution to the devastating virus ravaging countries all over the globe. The term explains the situation in which a **high percentage of people in a given community (a city, state or entire country) is immune to a disease**, either through vaccination or because those people have been exposed to the virus and their immune systems have built antibodies to protect them from it.

- 7) Blue sky research, sometimes seen in news is related to
- Research on solar geoengineering for reducing heat-trapping clouds
 - Deep oceanic study on Polymetallic nodules
 - Scientific research without a clear goal
 - None of the above

Solution: c)

Blue skies research (also called blue sky science) is scientific research in domains where "real-world" applications are not immediately apparent. It has been defined as "research without a clear goal" and "curiosity-driven science".

Proponents of this mode of science argue that unanticipated scientific breakthroughs are sometimes more valuable than the outcomes of agenda-driven research, heralding advances in genetics and stem cell biology as examples of unforeseen benefits of research that was originally seen as purely theoretical in scope.

- 8) Consider the following statements regarding Rice Fortification.
- Rice fortification is the practice of increasing the content of essential micronutrients in rice and to improve the nutritional quality, the look and taste of the rice.
 - Consuming fortified food can also increase the content of vitamins in breast milk.
 - In India, 'Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations' set the standards for food fortification, distribution, sale and consumption of fortified foods.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

Fortification is *the practice of deliberately increasing the content of an essential micronutrient*, i.e. vitamins and minerals (including trace elements) in a food, so as to improve the nutritional quality of the food supply and provide a public health benefit with minimal risk to health. Rice fortification is the practice of increasing the content of essential micronutrients in rice and to improve the nutritional quality of the rice.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has formulated a comprehensive regulation on fortification of foods namely '*Food Safety and Standards (Fortification of Foods) Regulations, 2016*'. These regulations set the standards for food fortification and encourage the production, manufacture, distribution, sale and consumption of fortified foods.

Fortification can be an excellent way of increasing the content of vitamins in breast milk and thus reducing the need for supplementation in postpartum women and infants.

Source

- 9) The 'Restore-L Project' sometimes seen in news is related to
- Climate change mitigation
 - Preservation of ancient monuments
 - In-orbit satellite servicing
 - Protection of earth from Asteroids

Solution: c)

OSAM-1 (short for On-orbit Servicing, Assembly, and Manufacturing 1), a robotic spacecraft equipped with the tools, technologies and techniques needed to extend satellites' lifespans - even if they were not designed to be serviced on orbit.

During its mission, the OSAM-1 servicer will rendezvous with, grasp, refuel and relocate a government-owned satellite to extend its life. But OSAM-1's effect will not end there.

The benefits are many. OSAM-1's capabilities can give satellite operators new ways to manage their fleets more efficiently, and derive more value from their initial investment. These capabilities could even help mitigate the looming problem of orbital debris.

Up until April 2020, **OSAM-1 was called Restore-L** to highlight how servicing capabilities can return a satellite to its original capability.

Source

- 10) Assisted reproductive technology (ART) includes which of the following medical procedures
- In-vitro fertilization
 - Cryopreservation
 - Surrogacy

Select the correct answer code:

- 1, 2
- 1, 3
- 2, 3
- 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) comprises procedures such as in-vitro fertilisation (IVF), intra-uterine insemination (IUI), oocyte and sperm donation, cryopreservation and includes surrogacy as well. Although not all surrogacy arrangements involve ART.

The technology works to remove an egg from a woman's body and fertilize it with a man's sperm to make an embryo.

11) Consider the following statements regarding Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) that is being used for service delivery in India.

1. USSD is a Long-term evolution (LTE) based service.
2. USSD can be used for mobile-money services and location-based content services.
3. USSD based services are more responsive than SMS based services.

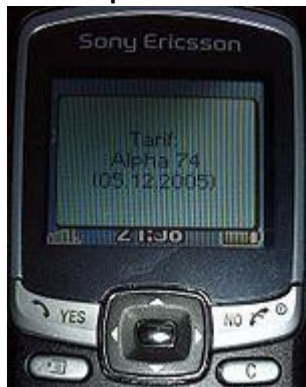
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 3 only

Solution: c)

Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD), sometimes referred to as "Quick Codes" or "Feature codes", is a **communications protocol used by GSM cellular telephones** to communicate with the mobile network operator's computers. USSD can be used for WAP browsing, prepaid callback service, **mobile-money services, location-based content services**, menu-based information services, and as part of configuring the phone on the network.

Unlike Short Message Service (SMS) messages, **USSD messages create a real-time connection** during a USSD session. The connection remains open, allowing a two-way exchange of a sequence of data. This makes **USSD more responsive than services that use SMS**.



12) Consider the following statements regarding Japanese Encephalitis (JE).

1. JE primarily affects children.
2. Individuals cannot develop natural immunity against JE.
3. JE transmission mainly intensifies during the rainy season.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: b)

Japanese encephalitis (JE) is a mosquito-borne (often found in rice fields) flavivirus. It belongs to the same genus as dengue, yellow fever and West Nile viruses. **JE primarily affects children.**

Most adults in endemic countries have natural immunity after childhood infection, but individuals of any age may be affected. Major JE outbreaks occur every 2-15 years.

JE transmission mainly intensifies during the rainy season, during which vector populations increase.

There is no specific therapy for JE. Intensive supportive therapy is indicated.

[Source](#)

13) The "Red Line Campaign" sometimes seen in news is related to

- a) Commercial Surrogacy
- b) Left Wing Extremism
- c) Climate Change
- d) Antibiotics

Solution: d)

The Red Line Campaign was launched in 2016 by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to tackle the problem of growing misuse of antibiotics across the country.

Its aim was to **curb irrational use of antibiotics** and create awareness on the side effects of taking antibiotics without prescription.

Under it, all prescription only antibiotics should be marked with a vertical red line on the packets. The red line antibiotics packets should be consumed on doctor's advice and the patients need to complete the full course prescribed by the doctor.

14) Consider the following statements regarding Asteroid Impact Deflection Assessment (AIDA).

- 1. It is a joint research mission between NASA and SpaceX.
- 2. It aims to study the viability of diverting an asteroid by crashing a spacecraft into its surface.

Which of the above is/are correct?

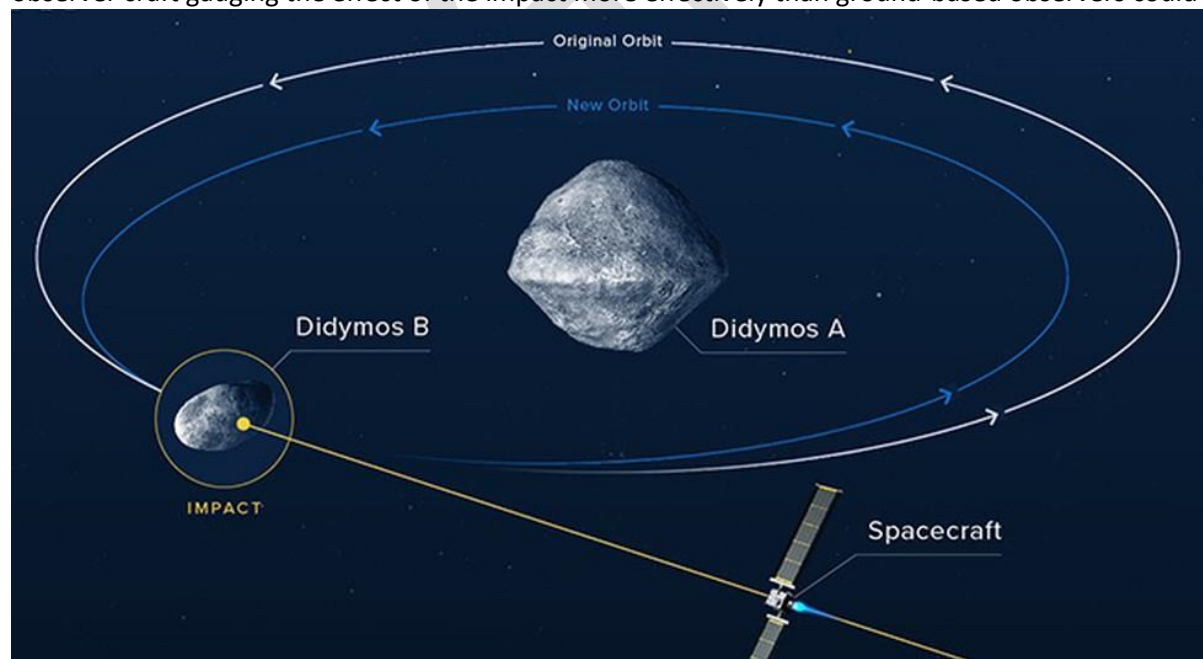
- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) None of the above

Solution: b)

Asteroid Impact Deflection Assessment (AIDA) is a joint research mission between NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA) teams.

It aims to study the viability of diverting an asteroid by crashing a spacecraft into its surface.

The project aims to deflect the orbit of one of the two Didymos asteroids between Earth and Mars, with an observer craft gauging the effect of the impact more effectively than ground-based observers could manage.



15) Consider the following statements.

- 1. The Government of India has made 2030 as its target to eliminate tuberculosis (TB) from the country, based on the global target set by the UN.

2. TB is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality among People Living with HIV and those with HIV are more likely to contract TB than non-HIVs.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: b)

United Nations has marked 2030 as a global target to eliminate TB worldwide but the Government of India has made 2025 as its target to eliminate tuberculosis from the country.

Why is Tuberculosis a major cause of concern?

- TB is one of the leading causes of death worldwide and the leading cause from a single infectious agent, ranking above HIV/AIDS.
- TB is an infectious disease caused by the bacillus *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.
- It typically affects the lungs (pulmonary TB) but can also affect other sites.
- The disease is spread when people who are sick with pulmonary TB expel bacteria into the air, for example by coughing.

India TB report 2019- key findings:

- The number of HIV-infected people who go on to develop Tuberculosis (TB) is increasing in India.
- **TB is the leading cause of morbidity and mortality among People Living with HIV (PLHIV).** This group is 21 times more likely to develop TB than persons without the virus.
- The co-morbidity of TB don't come in form of HIV only. Diabetes and tobacco-related ailments too play a role.
- Percentage of pediatric tuberculosis (TB among the population aged less than 15 years) cases have also slightly gone up.

5. International Relations and Organisations

1) Which of the following countries are the members of ASEAN.

1. Singapore
2. Myanmar
3. Vietnam
4. Philippines
5. New Zealand

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: c)



2) NASAMS air defence system will be sold by which of these countries to India?

- a) Russia
- b) Israel
- c) USA
- d) France

Solution: c)

The U.S. Department of State has approved the potential sale of a \$1.867 billion Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) to India.

The **Integrated Air Defence Weapon System**, also known as the **National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System (NASAMS)**, provides integrated air missile defence and is currently deployed around Washington, DC.

The IADWS system includes radar, launchers, targeting, and guidance systems, advanced medium-range air-to-air missile (AMRAAM) and Stinger missiles, and related equipment and support.

Source

3) Consider the following statements.

1. The FATF monitors the progress of its members in implementing necessary measures, reviews money laundering and terrorist financing techniques.
2. Once a country is blacklisted, FATF urges all member countries to put economic sanctions on the blacklisted country.
3. Gulf Cooperation council has membership of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: b)

Financial Action Task Force(FATF) was established in 1989 on the initiative of the G7. It is a “policy-making body” which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in various areas. The FATF Secretariat is housed at the OECD headquarters in Paris.

Objectives: The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.

There are currently 39 members of the FATF; 37 jurisdictions and 2 regional organisations (the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Commission). These 39 Members are at the core of global efforts to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. There are also 31 international and regional organisations which are Associate Members or Observers of the FATF and participate in its work.

Although the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a full Member of the FATF, the individual Member countries of the GCC (of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates) are not.

Functions: The FATF monitors the progress of its members in implementing necessary measures, reviews money laundering and terrorist financing techniques and counter-measures and promotes the adoption and implementation of appropriate measures globally. In collaboration with other international stakeholders, the FATF works to identify national-level vulnerabilities with the aim of protecting the international financial system from misuse.

FATF maintains two different lists of countries: those that have deficiencies in their Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing (AML/CTF) regimes, but they commit to an action plan to address these loopholes, and those that do not end up doing enough. The former is commonly known as **grey list** and latter as **blacklist**.

Once a country is blacklisted, FATF calls on other countries to apply enhanced due diligence and counter measures, increasing the cost of doing business with the country and in some cases severing it altogether.

4) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) does not cover which of these rights?

- a) Freedom of assembly
- b) Right to fair trial
- c) Electoral rights
- d) Right to livelihood and employment

Solution: d)

The **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)** is a multilateral treaty adopted by United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2200A (XXI) on 16 December 1966, and in force from 23 March 1976 in accordance with Article 49 of the covenant.

The covenant commits its parties to respect the **civil and political rights of individuals, including the right to life, freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, electoral rights and rights to due process and a fair trial.**

The ICCPR is part of the International Bill of Human Rights, along with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

The ICCPR is monitored by the United Nations Human Rights Committee (a separate body to the United Nations Human Rights Council), which reviews regular reports of States parties on how the rights are being implemented.

India is a party to the convention.

5) ASEAN Plus Three (APT) includes which of following nations as members?

1. China
2. India
3. Russia
4. South Korea

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 4
- b) 1, 3, 4
- c) 1, 2
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Solution: a)

ASEAN Plus Three is a forum that functions as a coordinator of co-operation between the **ASEAN and the three East Asian nations of China, South Korea, and Japan.** It was created in 1997. The ASEAN Plus Three is the latest development of Southeast Asia-East Asia regional co-operation.

The group became ASEAN Plus Six with Australia, New Zealand, and India.

Source

6) Consider the following statements regarding International Smart Grid Action Network (ISGAN).

1. International Smart Grid Action Network, is a Technology Collaboration Programme (TCP) of the International Energy Agency (IEA).
2. It acts as a platform for the development and exchange of knowledge and expertise on smarter, cleaner, and more flexible and resilient electricity grids.
3. India is one of the founding Member of ISGAN.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

ISGAN, the International Smart Grid Action Network, is a Technology Collaboration Programme (TCP) of the International Energy Agency (IEA). The co-operative programme was formally established in 2011 and is also an initiative of the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM).

ISGAN is an international platform for the **development and exchange of knowledge and expertise on smarter, cleaner, and more flexible and resilient electricity grids ("Smart Grids").** ISGAN provides an important channel for the communication of experience, trends, lessons learned, and visions in support of global, national and regional clean energy objectives as well as new flexible and resilient solutions for Smart Grids.

India is one of the founding Member of ISGAN and Joint Secretary (Distribution), Ministry of Power, is the member representative of India.

Source

7) Consider the following statements regarding Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP).

1. ReCAAP is the first regional government-to-government agreement to promote and enhance cooperation against piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.
2. International Maritime Organization (IMO) is a partner organization of ReCAAP.
3. India is a member of ReCAAP.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 2, 3
- c) 1, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

The Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) is the first regional government-to-government agreement to promote and enhance cooperation against piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia.

The ReCAAP Agreement was launched in November 2006 with 14 Asian Contracting Parties including North, Southeast, and South Asian countries. It has 20 Contracting Parties today, including Europe (Norway, the Netherlands, Denmark, and the United Kingdom), India, Australia, and the United States.

Some of its partner organizations include IMO, INTERPOL, IFC, INTERTANKO, IFC etc.

[Source](#)

8) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

1. Umbrella Movement: Political movement during the Hong Kong democracy protests.
2. Yellow vests movement: Protest movement for economic justice that began in China.
3. Fridays for Future Movement: Global student movement pushing for action on climate change.

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1 only

Solution: b)

The Umbrella Movement was a political movement that emerged during the Hong Kong democracy protests of 2014. Its name arose from the use of umbrellas as a tool for passive resistance to the Hong Kong Police's use of pepper spray to disperse the crowd.

The yellow vests movement or yellow jackets movement is a popular grassroots protest movement for economic justice that began in France in October 2018.

Fridays for Future is a dynamic global student movement pushing for immediate action on climate change through active campaigning and advocacy. It was chosen as Champion of the Earth for inspiration and action because of its role in highlighting the devastating effects of climate change. The movement was inspired by Swedish teenager Greta Thunberg.

[Source](#)

9) Which of these have been created as Whale sanctuaries for the protection of whales in the ocean?

1. Indian Ocean Whale Sanctuary
2. Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary
3. Pacific Ocean Whale Sanctuary

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2, 3
- c) 1, 2
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

Two Sanctuaries are currently designated by the International Whaling Commission, both of which prohibit commercial whaling. The first of these, the **Indian Ocean Sanctuary**, was established in 1979 and covers the whole of the Indian Ocean south to 55°S.

The second was adopted in 1994 and covers the waters of the Southern Ocean around Antarctica.

An additional proposal for a Sanctuary in the South Atlantic Ocean has been repeatedly submitted to the Commission in recent years. To date it has not achieved the three-quarters majority of votes needed to amend the Schedule and thus become designated by the IWC.

10) India-Canada 'IMPACTS' centre focuses on

- a) Clean Water technology
- b) Uranium testing
- c) Solid Waste Management
- d) Electric Vehicles Manufacturing

Solution: a)

IC-IMPACTS (the India-Canada Centre for Innovative Multidisciplinary Partnerships to Accelerate Community Transformation and Sustainability) is the first, and only, Canada-India Research Centre of Excellence established through the Canadian Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) as a new Centre dedicated to the development of research collaborations between Canada and India.

The Department of Biotechnology and Department of Science and Technology are collaborating with Canada through the India-Canada Centre for Innovation Multi-disciplinary Partnerships to Accelerate Community Transformation and Sustainability (IC-IMPACTS), on programme focusing on **Clean Water technology**.

[Source](#)

11) Recently, India joined a global initiative 'Christchurch call to action' which essentially tackles the issue of

- a) Combat terrorism and extremism online
- b) Limiting the spread of nuclear weapons
- c) Safe and Environmentally sound recycling of Ships
- d) Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms

Solution: a)

India has joined a major global initiative to combat terrorism and extremism online and secure the internet.

The initiative -- 'Christchurch call to action' -- has been named after the New Zealand city where 51 people were killed in an attack on mosques.

The declaration on Christchurch call to action said a free, open and secure internet is a powerful tool by which to promote connectivity, enhance social inclusiveness and foster economic growth.

Source

www.insightsonindia.com

12) Consider the following statements with reference to E-2020 initiative.

1. E-2020 is the initiative supported by WHO where countries were identified as having the potential to become malaria-free by 2020.
2. The *Global technical strategy for malaria 2016-2030*, calls for the elimination of malaria in at least 10 countries by the year 2020.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: c)

Four countries from Asia — China, Iran, Malaysia and Timor-Leste — and one from Central America — El Salvador — reported no indigenous cases of malaria in 2018, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). The countries were part of the global health body's E-2020 initiative, launched in 2016, working in 21 countries, spanning five regions, to scale up efforts to achieve malaria elimination by 2020.

Creating a malaria-free world is a bold and important public health and sustainable development goal. It is also the vision of the ***Global technical strategy for malaria 2016-2030, which calls for the elimination of malaria in at least 10 countries by the year 2020.***

[Source](#)

13) Consider the following statements regarding Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD).

1. The Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) is an integration of international non-governmental organizations in the region that promote Asian cooperation at a continental level.
2. It aims to expand the trade and financial market within Asia and enhance Asia's economic competitiveness in the global market.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: b)

The Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) is an inter-governmental organization created on 18 June 2002 to promote Asian cooperation at a continental level and to help integrate separate regional organizations such as ASEAN, SAARC, the Gulf Cooperation Council, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the Eurasian Economic Union.

One of the objectives of ACD is to Expand the trade and financial market within Asia and increase the bargaining power of Asian countries in lieu of competition and, in turn, enhance Asia's economic competitiveness in the global market.

14) The Ashgabat Agreement aims to

- a) Build the shortest trade route between South Asia and Persian Gulf
- b) Build a gas pipeline connecting all Central Asian and South Asian states
- c) Both a and b
- d) None of the above

Solution: d)

The Ashgabat agreement is a Multimodal transport agreement between Oman, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and India for creating an **international transport and transit corridor facilitating transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf**.

India formally joined Ashgabat agreement on 2nd February 2018.

Accession to the Agreement would diversify India's connectivity options with Central Asia and have a positive influence on India's trade and commercial ties with the region.

For enhanced connectivity, the Ashgabat agreement will also synchronize with the International North–South Transport Corridor encompassing ship, rail including Trans-Caspian railway, and road route for moving freight between India, Russia, Iran, Europe and Central Asia. The route primarily involves moving freight from India, Iran, Azerbaijan and Russia via ship, rail and road.

15) Consider the following statements regarding International Charter "Space and Major Disasters".

1. The Charter is a worldwide collaboration, through which satellite data are made available for the benefit of disaster management.
2. Only agencies that possess and are able to provide satellite-based Earth observation data can be members of the International Charter.
3. India is a member of the Charter.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

India, by virtue of **being a member of the International Charter 'Space and Major Disasters'** had received a satellite data related to the Assam floods from other member nations including France, Russia and China.

About International Charter 'Space and Major Disasters':

- It is a non-binding charter.
- It provides for the charitable and humanitarian related acquisition of and transmission of **space satellite data to relief organizations in the event of major disasters**.
- Initiated by the European Space Agency and the French space agency CNES after the UNISPACE III conference held in Vienna, Austria in July 1999.
- It officially came into operation on November 1, 2000 after the Canadian Space Agency signed onto the charter on October 20, 2000.
- **Only agencies that possess and are able to provide satellite-based Earth Observation data can be members of the International Charter.** The members cooperate on a voluntary basis.

Source

16) Consider the following statements.

1. India became the member of the United Nations after getting Independence from the British Raj.
2. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit was elected the first woman President of the UN General Assembly.
3. United Nations Security Council is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 2, 3
- c) 1, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: b)

India was a founding member of the United Nations, joining in October 1945, two years before acquiring independence from the British Raj.

UNSC is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states.

In 1953, the chief delegate of India at the time, **Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit** was elected the first woman President of the UN General Assembly.

[Source](#)

17) Consider the following statements regarding Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN).

1. Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is a non-profit corporation working to promote the stability and integrity of the Internet.
2. Making rules for online financial transactions and Internet content control are the core functions of ICANN.
3. ICANN implemented a Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP), which has been used to resolve disputes over the rights to domain names.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 2, 3
- c) 1, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is an internationally organized, non-profit corporation that has responsibility for Internet Protocol (IP) address space allocation, protocol identifier assignment, generic (gTLD) and country code (ccTLD) Top-Level Domain name system management, and root server system management functions. These services were originally performed under U.S. Government contract by the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) and other entities. ICANN now performs the IANA function.

As a private-public partnership, ICANN is dedicated to **preserving the operational stability of the Internet**; to promoting competition; to achieving broad representation of global Internet communities; and to developing policy appropriate to its mission through bottom-up, consensus-based processes.

ICANN is responsible for **coordinating the management of the technical elements of the DNS** to ensure universal resolvability so that all users of the Internet can find all valid addresses. It does this by overseeing the distribution of unique technical identifiers used in the Internet's operations, and delegation of Top-Level Domain names (such as .com, .info, etc.).

Other issues of concern to Internet users, such as the **rules for financial transactions, Internet content control, unsolicited commercial email (spam), and data protection** are outside the range of ICANN's mission of technical coordination.

Among ICANN's recent accomplishments:

- ICANN established market competition for generic domain name (gTLD) registrations resulting in a lowering of domain name costs by 80%.
- ICANN implemented a **Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP)**, which has been used to resolve more than 5000 disputes over the rights to domain names. The UDRP is designed to be efficient and cost effective.
- ICANN adopted guidelines for the deployment of **Internationalized Domain Names (IDN)**, opening the way for registration of domains in hundreds of the world's languages.

[Source](#)

18) Consider the following statements.

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1. The Resident Coordinator (RC) system encompasses all organizations of the United Nations system dealing with operational activities for development.

2. India has recently contributed a large sum to the UN Special Purpose Trust Fund for the Resident Coordinator System.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: c)

India has contributed \$1 million to the UN Special Purpose Trust Fund for the Resident Coordinator System.

About SPTF:

The Special Purpose Trust Fund (SPTF) is a specific fund housed within the UN Secretariat.

It has been established to receive, consolidate, manage and account for all contributions and financial transactions of the Resident Coordinator (RC) system, in a transparent and effective way.

THE UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR:

- The UN Resident Coordinator (RC) system encompasses all organizations of the United Nations system dealing with operational activities for development, regardless of their formal presence in the country.
- The RC system aims to bring together the different UN agencies to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of operational activities at the country level.
- Role: Resident Coordinators lead UN country teams in 129 countries and are the designated representatives of the Secretary-General for development operations.

19) Consider the following statements regarding Indian Ocean Commission.

- 1. Indian Ocean Commission is an intergovernmental organization that links African Indian Ocean nations.
- 2. China and India are the observers in the Indian Ocean Commission.
- 3. The Indian Ocean Commission has funded a number of regional and national conservation and alternative livelihoods projects through Regional Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Coastal Zones of the Countries of the Indian Ocean.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

The Indian Ocean Commission (COI) is an intergovernmental organization that links African Indian Ocean nations: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion (an overseas region of France), and Seychelles. There are also five observers: China, India, Malta, the European Union and the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie.

The commission was created in 1982 in Port-Louis, Mauritius, and institutionalised in 1984. The secretariat is based in Mauritius. The current secretary-general is Hamada Madi.

Objectives:

- Political and diplomatic cooperation,
- Economic and commercial cooperation
- Sustainable development in a globalisation context, cooperation in the field of agriculture, maritime fishing, and the conservation of resources and ecosystems

- Strengthening of the regional cultural identity, cooperation in cultural, scientific, technical, educational and judicial fields.

ReCoMAP:

The Indian Ocean Commission has funded a number of regional and national conservation and alternative livelihoods projects through ReCoMAP, Regional Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Coastal Zones of the Countries of the Indian Ocean (PROGECO in French). This project ended in 2011.

[Source](#)

20) Consider the following statements regarding United Nations specialized agencies.

1. Specialized Agencies are legally independent international organizations with their own rules, membership, organs and financial resources.
2. None of these agencies existed before the First World War, but some were associated with the League of Nations.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: a)

Specialized Agencies are legally independent international organizations with their own rules, membership, organs and financial resources, were brought into relationship with the United Nations through negotiated agreements. **Some of the agencies existed before the First World War**, some were associated with the League of Nations, others were created almost simultaneously with the United Nations and yet others were created by the United Nations itself to meet emerging needs.

[Source](#)

21) Consider the following statements.

1. The International Labour Organization (ILO) became the first specialised agency of the United Nations.
2. Food and Agriculture Organization aims to secure improvements in food production and distribution and better the conditions of rural people.
3. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is the UN specialised agency responsible for the safety of life at sea, maritime security and the protection of the marine environment.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

The International Labour Organization (ILO) was founded in 1919, its Constitution forming part of the Treaty of Versailles. The **ILO became the first specialised agency of the UN in 1946**.

The aim of the Food and Agriculture Organization, as defined in its Constitution, is to: raise levels of nutrition and standards of living; secure improvements in food production and distribution; better the conditions of rural people and; contribute toward an expanding world economy and ensure freedom from hunger.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is the UN specialised agency responsible for the safety of life at sea, maritime security and the protection of the marine environment through prevention of sea pollution caused

by ships. It facilitates cooperation among governments to achieve the highest practicable standards of maritime safety and security, and efficiency in navigation.

[Source](#)

22) Which of the following nations are part of both G7 and G20?

1. Canada
2. Australia
3. Italy
4. Japan

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 4
- b) 1, 3, 4
- c) 1, 2, 4
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Solution: b)



23) Consider the following statements regarding Global Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Development Hub.

1. Global Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Development Hub is aimed at helping countries decide the allocation of resources for research and development (R&D) on antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
2. India is a member of Global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Research and Development (R&D) Hub.
3. India is among countries with the highest bacterial disease burden in the world.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

India, which is among countries with the highest bacterial disease burden in the world, became part of the Global Antimicrobial Resistance Research and Development Hub on September 12, 2019.

The hub, which was launched during the 71st session of the World Health Assembly in 2018, is aimed at helping countries decide the allocation of resources for research and development (R&D) on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) by identifying gaps and overlaps. It will also promote coordination among governments in the fight against AMR.

The global partnership includes 16 countries, the European Commission, two philanthropic foundations and four international organisations (as observers). With India as a member, the Hub now represents more than half the world's population.

[Source](#)

24) Which of the following United Nations Specialised agencies work towards reducing or eradicating poverty.

1. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
2. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
3. UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** works to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and **reduce poverty**.

The **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)** is an international financial institution and UN specialised agency dedicated to **eradicating poverty** in rural areas of developing countries. The Fund was established in 1977 as one of the major outcomes of the 1974 World Food Conference.

The **UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)** is the UN specialized agency mandated to promote industrial development and international industrial cooperation. The Organization's mission statement is: Partner for prosperity: UNIDO aspires to **reduce poverty** through sustainable industrial development. we want every country to have the opportunity to grow a flourishing productive sector, to increase their participation in international trade and to safeguard their environment.

[Source](#)

25) The International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR) is an initiative launched by

- a) World Bank
- b) UNESCO
- c) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- d) United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

Solution: b)

ICCAR is an initiative launched by UNESCO in March 2004 to establish a network of cities interested in sharing experiences in order to improve their policies to fight racism, discrimination, xenophobia and exclusion. The role of city authorities as policy-makers at the local level, is considered here as the key to create dynamic synergies.

The ultimate objective is to involve the interested cities in a common struggle against racism through an international coalition. In order to take into account the specificities and priorities of each region of the world, regional coalitions are being created with their respective programme of action in Africa, Arab Region, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America.

[Source](#)

26) Consider the following statements regarding PACEsetter Fund.

1. It is a fund jointly capitalized by the Governments of India and Japan.
2. It provides early-stage grant funding to accelerate the commercialization of innovative off-grid clean energy products.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: b)

Ministry of New and Renewable Energy awards grants to four projects in second round of PACEsetter Fund programme.

PACEsetter Fund was Constituted by India and the USA in 2015.

It is an INR 50 crore (USD 7.9 million) fund jointly capitalized by the Governments of the Republic of India and the United States of America.

It is a joint fund to provide **early-stage grant funding to accelerate the commercialization of innovative off-grid clean energy products, systems, and business models.**

The Fund's main purpose is to improve the viability of off-grid renewable energy businesses that sell small scale (under 1 megawatt) clean energy systems to individuals and communities without access to grid connected power or with limited/intermittent access. (less than 8 hours per day).

[Source](#)

27) Consider the following statements regarding Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG).

1. India is a member of APG, which is one of the regional affiliates of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
2. It works to ensure that FATF's recommendations on money laundering are implemented by the concerned countries.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: d)

Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG):

1. FATF Asia-Pacific Group is one of the **regional affiliates of the Financial Action Task Force.**
2. The Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering works to ensure that all the countries adopt and **implement the anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing standards** that are set out in the FATF's 40 Recommendations and Eight Special Recommendations.
3. APG assists countries in implementing laws to deal with crime, assistance, punishment, investigations; provides guidance in setting proper reporting systems and helps in establishing financial intelligence units.
4. At present, there are 41 members of APG.

28) Consider the following statements regarding the goals of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

1. Promoting effective cooperation between members in politics, trade, economy, research, technology and culture.
2. Strengthening mutual trust and neighbourliness among the member states.

3. Maintaining peacekeeping forces in member nations on the request of an individual member country.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 2, 3
- c) 1, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: a)

The SCO's main goals are: **strengthening mutual trust and neighbourliness among the member states**; promoting their effective **cooperation in politics, trade, the economy, research, technology and culture**, as well as in education, energy, transport, tourism, environmental protection, and other areas; making joint efforts to maintain and ensure peace, security and stability in the region; and moving towards the establishment of a democratic, fair and rational new international political and economic order.

29) Countries of Particular Concern (CPC) and Priority Watch List, as classified by the USA, often seen in news is with reference to

- 1. Indicators of Religious freedom
- 2. Intellectual property rights deficiencies
- 3. Openness of the Economy

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2
- b) 2, 3
- c) 1, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: a)

CPC: The US State Department had unveiled its list of countries designated as the worst offenders against religious liberty. These countries are labelled as CPC.

A country is labelled as a CPC, by USA, after it engages in "systemic, ongoing, [and] egregious" violations of religious liberty. This declaration is in accordance with the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

The governments that have been designated as CPCs are subject to 'Presidential Actions', such as sanctions, which may include economic or political measures directed against a government to encourage it to improve the state of religious freedom in its country.

Priority Watch List: The Special 301 Report is prepared annually by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR)

The reports identify trade barriers to U.S. companies and products due to the intellectual property laws, such as copyright, patents and trademarks, in other countries

These are some of the designations given to countries:

- PFC: Priority Foreign Country
- PWL: Priority Watch List (India was given this designation)
- WL: Watch list

30) Consider the following statements regarding Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

- 1. The East Asia Summit (EAS) involves all the ASEAN members.
- 2. It has an observer status at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- 3. The 'ASEAN Way' refers to a multi-modal trade corridor developed by ASEAN along the old Silk Route.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 3
- b) 1, 2
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: b)

The East Asia Summit (EAS) is a pan-Asian forum held annually by the leaders of eighteen countries in the East Asian region, with ASEAN in a leadership position. Membership was initially all ten members of ASEAN plus China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia, and New Zealand, but was expanded to include the United States and Russia at the Sixth EAS in 2011.

In 2006, ASEAN was given observer status at the United Nations General Assembly. In response, the organisation awarded the status of "dialogue partner" to the UN.

The 'ASEAN Way' refers to a methodology or approach to solving issues that respects the cultural norms of Southeast Asia. It is described as a working process or style that is informal and personal.

31) Consider the following statements regarding Amnesty International.

1. It conceptualized and introduced the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
2. It is the oldest working international organization to uphold human rights in the world.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: c)

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted by the UNGA in 1948 itself, whereas the Amnesty International was found in 1961.

In the field of international human rights organisations, Amnesty has the second longest history, after the International Federation for Human Rights and broadest name recognition, and is believed by many to set standards for the movement as a whole.

32) SuM4All initiative, sometimes seen news is related to which of the following global initiatives?

- a) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- b) World Bank's Multi-Country AIDS Programme
- c) Climate Action Plan (CAP)
- d) None of the above

Solution: a)

Not a single country — developed or developing — is on track to achieve sustainability in the transportation sector and attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) mandated by the United Nations, according to a [report](#) by **Sustainable Mobility for All (SuM4All) initiative**.

The SuM4All initiative, launched in 2017, is an umbrella platform that brings together 55 public and private organisations and companies to act collectively to **implement the SDGs and transform the transport sector**.

The report, charted a **Global Roadmap for Action (GRA)**, which provides a catalogue of policy measures that have been used and tested around the world to achieve four policy goals — universal access, efficiency, green mobility and safety.

[Source](#)

33) Consider the following statements regarding Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

1. IORA grants approvals for sourcing minerals from Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and continental shelves of the Indian Ocean.
2. It is based on the principles of Open Regionalism for strengthening Economic Cooperation as well as Social Development of the region.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

Solution: a)

The Indian Ocean Rim is rich in strategic and precious minerals, metals and other natural resources, marine resources and energy, all of which can be sourced from Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ), continental shelves and the deep seabed.

However, **approvals are granted by International Seabed Authority** for minerals in international waters. States are free to extract resources within EEZ.

The **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**, formerly known as the Indian Ocean Rim Initiative and the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC), is an international organisation consisting of 22 states bordering the Indian Ocean.

The IORA is a regional forum, tripartite in nature, **bringing together representatives of Government, Business and Academia**, for promoting co-operation and closer interaction among them.

It is based on the principles of **Open Regionalism for strengthening Economic Cooperation particularly on Trade Facilitation and Investment, Promotion as well as Social Development of the region.**

The Coordinating Secretariat of IORA is located at Ebene, Mauritius.

6. Polity

1) Consider the following statements regarding Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act, 2019.

1. Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act, 2019 introduces 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of society for admission to Central Government-run educational institutions and private educational institutions, and for employment in Central Government jobs.
2. It is not mandatory for the State Governments to provide reservation in State Government-run educational institutions or State Government jobs.
3. It amended Articles 15 and 16 of the constitution of India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

The Constitution (One Hundred and Third Amendment) Act, 2019, introduces **10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of society** for admission to Central Government-run educational institutions and private educational institutions (except for minority educational institutions), and for employment in Central Government jobs. **The Amendment does not make such reservations mandatory in State Government-run educational institutions or State Government jobs.** However, some states have chosen to implement the 10% reservation for economically weaker sections.

Persons belonging to communities that already have reservations such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the "creamy layer" of Other Backward Classes are also not eligible for reservation under this quota.

The Act amends **Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution** by adding clauses empowering the government to provide reservation on the basis of economic backwardness.

7. History, Art and Culture

1) Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

Product	Associated State
1. Telia Ruma	Rajasthan
2. Kandangi sarees	Tamil Nadu
3. Tirur betel Leaf	Kerala

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

The Government of India recently provided GI Tag to **Telia Ruma of Telangana**.

Telia Ruma cloth involves intricate handmade work with cotton loom displaying a variety of designs and motifs in three particular colours — red, black and white,”

Telia Ruma can only be created using the traditional handloom process and not by any other mechanical means as otherwise, the very quality of the Ruma would be lost.

Telia Rumas were worn as a veil by princesses at the erstwhile court of the Nizam of Hyderabad; and as a turban cloth by Arabs in the Middle East.



Kandangi sarees are manufactured in entire Karaikudi taluk in Sivaganga district of **Tamil Nadu**. They are made up of high quality cotton from Coimbatore. The main characteristic of these sarees are its bright colours that hold strong.



Tirur betel Leaf (Kerala): It is mainly cultivated in Tirur, Tanur, Tirurangadi, Kuttippuram, Malappuram and Vengara block panchayaths of Malappuram District of Kerala. It is valued both for its mild stimulant action and medicinal properties.

Source

2) Which of the following were the *literary works* by B. R. Ambedkar?

1. Annihilation of Caste
2. The Buddha and His Dhamma
3. India of my Dreams
4. Bahishkrut Bharat

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2, 4
- b) 1, 3, 4
- c) 2, 3, 4
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Solution: a)

India Of My Dreams is written by Mahatma Gandhi.

8. States

- 1) Which among the following states became the first state to hand over urban forest land rights, under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act 2006, to tribals.
- a) Madhya Pradesh
 - b) Odisha
 - c) Chhattisgarh
 - d) Jharkhand

Solution: c)

Chhattisgarh became the first state to hand over urban forest land rights, under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act 2006, to tribals.

Jagdalpur Municipal Corporation (JMC) is the first in the country to provide land entitlement under ST and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, to urban tribal residents.

[Source](#)

9. Maps / Places

- 1) The Arctic Circle passes through
- 1. Russia
 - 2. Iceland
 - 3. Sweden
 - 4. Denmark

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2, 3
- b) 1, 3, 4
- c) 2, 3, 4
- d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Solution: d)

The Arctic Circle passes through the Arctic Ocean, the Scandinavian Peninsula, North Asia, Northern America, and Greenland. **The land within the Arctic Circle is divided among eight countries:** Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, the United States (Alaska), Canada (Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut), Denmark (Greenland), and Iceland (where it passes through the small offshore island of Grimsey).

Which countries lie within the Arctic Circle?



- 2) Dead Sea lies between
- Israel and Egypt
 - Israel and Jordan
 - Syria and Jordan
 - Syria and Lebanon

Solution: b)

Dead sea is a salt lake bordered by Jordan to the east and Israel and the West Bank to the west. It lies in the Jordan Rift Valley, and its main tributary is the Jordan River.



- 3) The region that is closest to the shores of both the Mediterranean Sea and Black Sea is
- Rostov
 - Athens
 - Istanbul
 - Beirut

Solution: c)



- 4) Arrange the following ports from North to South.
- Kyaukpyu Port
 - Gwadar Port
 - Sabang Port

Select the correct answer code:

- 1-3-2
- 1-2-3
- 2-1-3
- 2-3-1

Solution: c)

Gwadar Port is the deepest sea port of the world, situated on the Arabian Sea at Gwadar in Balochistan province of Pakistan.

Kyaukpyu is a major town in Rakhine State, in western Myanmar.

India is developing its maiden deep-sea port in Indonesia's Sabang close to Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

- 5) Sinjar Mountains, sometimes seen in news lies in
- Iraq and Iran
 - Iraq and Syria
 - Iraq and Jordan
 - Syria and Turkey

Solution: b)

Sinjar Mountains are a 100-kilometre-long mountain range that runs east to west, rising above the surrounding alluvial steppe plains in north-western Iraq. The western and lower segment of these mountains lies in Syria. These mountains are regarded as sacred by the Yazidis.

- 6) The countries bordering Black Sea are
- Ukraine
 - Turkey
 - Georgia
 - Russia

Select the correct answer code:

- 1, 2, 3
- 2, 3, 4
- 1, 2, 3, 4
- 1, 3, 4

Solution: c)

The Black Sea is bordered by Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Georgia, and Russia.

The Black Sea drains into the Mediterranean Sea, via the Aegean Sea and various straits, and is navigable to the Atlantic Ocean.

The Bosphorus Strait connects it to the Sea of Marmara, and the Strait of the Dardanelles connects that sea to the Aegean Sea region of the Mediterranean. The Black Sea is also connected, to the north, to the Sea of Azov by the Kerch Strait.



- 7) Borneo Island is politically divided among
- Malaysia
 - Brunei
 - Indonesia

Select the correct answer code:

- 1, 2
- 1, 3
- 2, 3
- 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

Borneo Island is the third-largest island in the world and the largest in Asia. The island is politically divided among three countries: Malaysia and Brunei in the north, and Indonesia to the south.



8) Consider the following statements regarding Sinai Peninsula.

1. It is located in Africa.
2. It is situated between the Mediterranean Sea to the north and the Red Sea to the south.
3. It acts as a land bridge between Asia and Africa.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: c)

The Sinai Peninsula is a peninsula in Egypt, and the only part of the country located in Asia. It is situated between the Mediterranean Sea to the north and the Red Sea to the south, and is a land bridge between Asia and Africa.



9) Arrange the following Islands from North to South

1. Paracel Islands
2. Kuril Islands
3. Senkaku Islands
4. Chagos Islands

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 2-3-1-4
- b) 3-2-1-4
- c) 2-3-4-1
- d) 3-2-4-1

Solution: a)

Kuril Islands is a volcanic archipelago in Russia's Sakhalin Oblast that stretches approximately 1,300 km northeast from Hokkaido, Japan to Kamchatka, Russia, separating the Sea of Okhotsk from the north Pacific Ocean. Here there is dispute between Russia and Japan.

Senkaku Islands are a group of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea. Here there is dispute Japan and China.

Paracel Islands are a disputed archipelago in the South China Sea.

Chagos Islands are a group of seven atolls comprising more than 60 individual tropical islands in the Indian Ocean about 500 kilometres south of the Maldives archipelago.

10. Miscellaneous

1) Which of the following tribes is/are present in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

1. Jarawa
2. Sentinelese
3. Shompen

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1, 2
- b) 1, 3
- c) 2, 3
- d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

The Andaman Islands are home to four 'Negrito' tribes – the **Great Andamanese, Onge, Jarawa and Sentinelese**. The Nicobar Islands are home to two 'Mongoloid' tribes – the **Shompen and Nicobarese**.

The 'Negrito' tribes are believed to have arrived in the islands from Africa up to 60,000 years ago. All are nomadic hunter-gatherers, hunting wild pig and monitor lizard, and catching fish with bows and arrows. They also collect honey, roots and berries from the forest.

The 'Mongoloid' tribes probably came to the islands from the Malay-Burma coast several thousand years ago.

[Source](#)



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