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SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

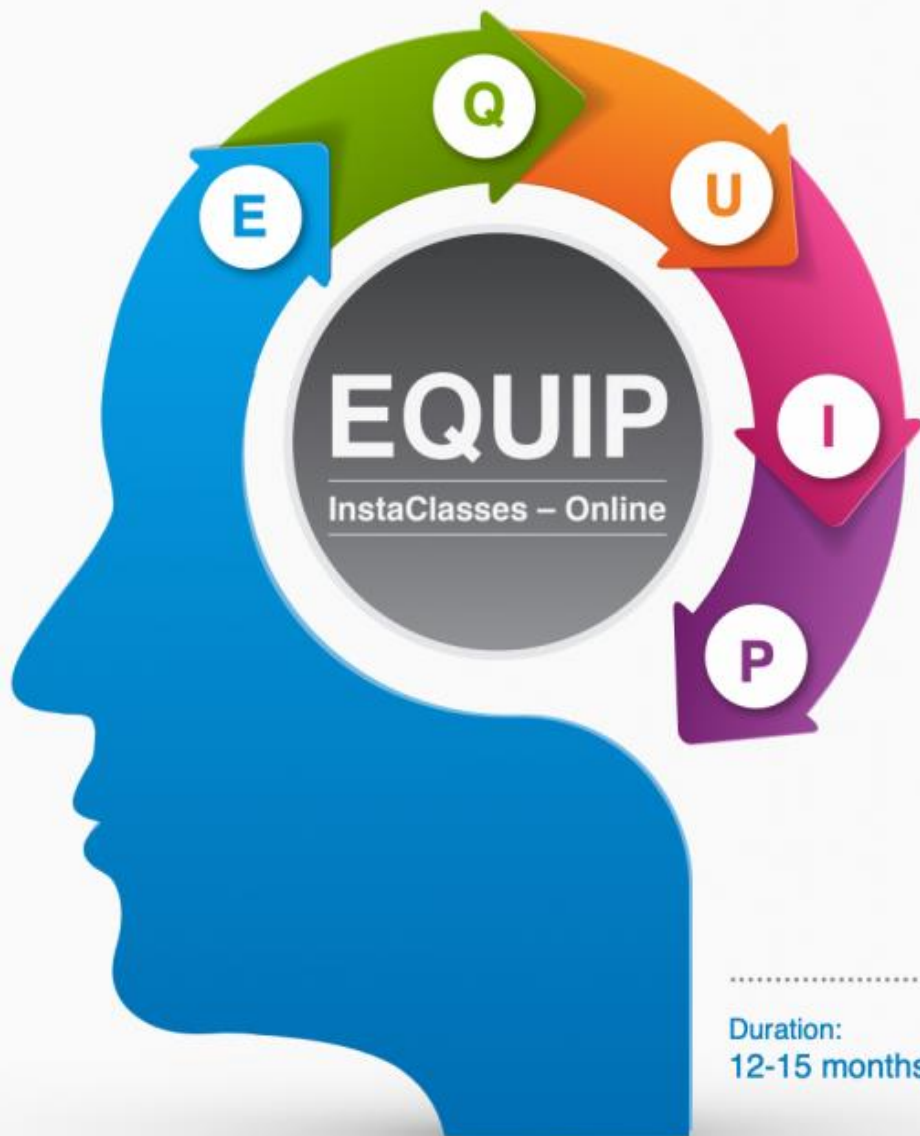
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INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION



Duration:
12-15 months

FULL-FLEDGED CLASSROOM COURSE FOR UPSC CSE 2021

(Integrated Prelims, Mains and Interview Program)

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INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM
PREPARATION

Hearty Congratulations to AIR 2 & 4 of our Online Test Series and all our proud 160+ Rank Holders in UPSC CSE 2019!

1. Economy

1) Consider the following statements regarding FDI in India in 2019-20.

1. Singapore remained the top source of FDI followed by Mauritius.
2. Services sector attracted maximum foreign inflows during 2019-20.
3. In India Greenfield investment is more dominant than in the world.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

Sectors which attracted maximum foreign inflows during 2019-20 include **services** (\$7.85 billion), computer software and hardware (\$7.67 billion), telecommunications (\$4.44 billion), trading (\$4.57 billion), automobile (\$2.82 billion), construction (\$2 billion), and chemicals (\$one billion), the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) data showed.

Foreign direct investment into India rose 13% to \$49.97 billion in FY20 from \$44.36 billion a year earlier.

Singapore remained the top source of FDI, accounting for \$14.67 billion, followed by Mauritius at \$8.24 billion

Among states, **Maharashtra garnered the highest share of FDI** at 30% with investments clocking \$7.26 billion. Karnataka and Delhi followed with 18% and 17% share, respectively.

In India **Brownfield investment is more dominant** than in the world. If investments tend to be in the form of mergers and acquisitions, it is known as brownfield investment.

[Source](#)

2) Singapore's Temasek-like model, sometimes seen in news is related to

- a) Restrictive lockdown measures
- b) Disinvestment programme
- c) Local Governance
- d) Primary Health care

Solution: b)

The Economic Survey 2019-20 backed the government's move to aggressively privatise central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) through divestment of government stake, which will have a multiplier effect on improving efficiency and profitability of the divested company while unlocking capital that can be used for building public infrastructure.

The Survey cited the case of Temasek Holdings Company in Singapore, a model which it said can be **adopted for successful maximisation of government stake in CPSEs**.

In the model, the government can transfer its stake in the listed CPSEs to a separate corporate entity which would be managed by an independent board and would be mandated to divest the government stake in these CPSEs over a period of time. "This will lend professionalism and autonomy to the disinvestment programme which, in turn, would improve the economic performance of the CPSEs," the Survey said.

Source

3) Consider the following statements regarding leverage ratio for banks.

1. The leverage ratio measures a bank's core capital to its total assets.
2. An increase in the leverage ratio for banks help them boost their lending activities.

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 Reserve Bank relaxed the leverage ratio (LR) for banks to help them boost their lending activities.

The leverage ratio stands reduced to 4 per cent for Domestic Systemically Important Banks (DSIBs) and 3.5 per cent for other banks effective from the quarter commencing October 1, 2019.

"Both the capital measure and the exposure measure along with Leverage Ratio are to be disclosed on a quarter-end basis. However, banks must meet the minimum Leverage Ratio requirement at all times," RBI said.

The leverage ratio is defined as the capital measure divided by the exposure measure, expressed as a percentage. The capital measure is tier 1 capital and the exposure measure includes both on-balance sheet exposure and off-balance sheet items.

The leverage ratio measures a bank's core capital to its total assets. The ratio uses tier 1 capital to judge how leveraged a bank is in relation to its consolidated assets. Tier 1 assets are ones that can be easily liquidated if a bank needs capital in the event of a financial crisis. So, it is basically a ratio to measure a bank's financial health. The higher the tier 1 leverage ratio, the higher the likelihood of the bank withstanding negative shocks to its balance sheet.

The leverage ratio is used as a tool by central monetary authorities to ensure the capital adequacy of banks and place constraints on the degree to which a financial company can leverage its capital base.

Source

4) Consider the following statements regarding Reverse Charge Mechanism (RCM)

1. Reverse charge is a mechanism under which the provider of the goods or services is liable to pay the tax instead of the recipient of the goods and services.
2. The RCM helps to check tax evasion and expand the tax base of the government.
3. It puts pressure on small businesses to voluntarily register on the Goods and Service Tax Network (GSTN).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

Reverse charge is a mechanism under which the recipient of the goods or services is liable to pay the tax instead of the provider of the goods and services. Under the normal taxation regime, the supplier collects the tax from the buyer and deposits the same after adjusting the output tax liability with the input tax credit available. But under reverse charge mechanism (RCM), liability to pay tax shifts from supplier to recipient.

The reverse charge clause is the most powerful check that had been inserted into the regulations by the architects of GST.

The intention of RCM was to **check tax evasion and expand the tax base**. The first few months of GST rollout witnessed sharp expansion in indirect taxpayer base mainly due to the presence of the reverse charge feature.

The other impact of RCM was that smaller vendors who wished to supply to larger clients, voluntarily registered on the GST NETWORK. They were afraid that if unregistered, larger clients might spurn them.

[Source](#)

5) Which of the following sectors are eligible for Priority Sector Lending in order to ensure adequate institutional credit?

1. Export Credit
2. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
3. Social Infrastructure
4. Renewable Energy

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

[Source](#)

6) Consider the following statements.

1. India is the world's largest crude oil importer.
2. At present, OPEC countries meet 90% of India's crude oil demand.

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: d)

India is the world's third-largest crude oil importer.

OPEC meets 78% of India's crude oil demand, 59% of its LPG needs, and nearly 38% of LNG consumption.

Traditionally, OPEC nations offer bigger discounts on crude oil sold to western economies in comparison to eastbound cargoes.

[Source](#)

7) Participatory notes (P-notes) investments in the Indian market is allowed in which of the following instruments

1. Equity
2. Debt
3. Hybrid securities
4. Derivatives

Select the correct answer code:

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

d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Solution: d)

P-notes are issued by registered FPIs to overseas investors who wish to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly. They, however, need to go through a due diligence process.

P-note investments in Indian markets – equity, debt, hybrid securities and derivatives.

Source

8) Consider the following statements.

1. India is the leading exporter of the Basmati Rice to the global market.
2. In India, Basmati rice is mainly grown in South and Central India.
3. Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has registered Basmati Rice as a product with Geographical Indication (GI).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

India is the leading exporter of the Basmati Rice to the global market. India is also the largest producer of basmati rice in the world.

Major Export Destinations (2019-20) : Iran, Saudi Arab, Iraq, UAE, Kuwait.

The areas of Basmati Rice production in India are in the states of J & K, Himanchal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, uttarakhand and western Uttar Pradesh.

On February 15, 2016, the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), an autonomous organisation under the Department of Commerce in India, registered Basmati Rice as a product with Geographical Indication (GI).

[Source](#)

9) Consider the following statements.

1. Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were formed by an act of parliament, with an objective to provide credit and other facilities to small farmers, agricultural labourers, and artisans in rural areas.
2. As per RBI guidelines, the RRBs have to provide 90 per cent of their total credit under priority sector lending.
3. Co-operative Banks contributed the major share in agricultural and allied credit in India.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: d)

Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) were formed under the RRB Act, 1976 with an objective to provide credit and other facilities to small farmers, agricultural labourers, and artisans in rural areas.

As per RBI guidelines, the RRBs have to provide 75 per cent of their total credit under priority sector lending.

RRBs are primarily catering to the credit and banking requirements of agriculture sector and rural areas with a focus on small and marginal farmers, micro and small enterprises, rural artisans and weaker sections of the society.

In addition, RRBs also provide lending to micro/small enterprises and small entrepreneurs in rural areas.

Scheduled commercial banks contributed the major share in agricultural and allied credit.

[Source](#)

10) Consider the following statements.

1. From the 11th finance commission to the 14th finance commission, the share of net proceeds recommended to be devolved to states have increased each time.
2. The gap between states' share in gross tax revenue and states' share in divisible pool has widened due to increase in cesses and surcharges.

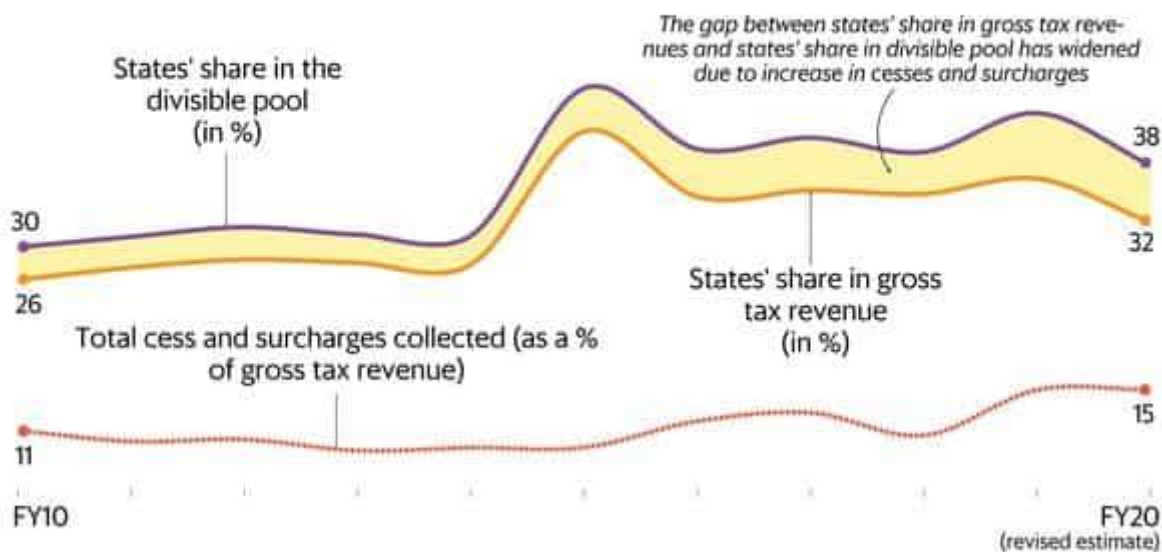
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

From the 11th finance commission to the 14th, the share of net proceeds recommended to be devolved to states increased each time: from 29.5% to 30.5% to 32% to 42%. Net proceeds are defined in Article 279 of the Constitution as gross tax revenue of the centre less surcharges and cesses, and cost of collection.

States' share in gross tax revenue of the Centre is much lower than the recommended 42%



[Source](#)

11) Special Drawing Rights (SDR) can be used to

1. Supplementing IMF member countries' official reserves.
2. Settle Balance of Payment transactions
3. Bridge fiscal deficit and fund infrastructure projects

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: b)

The SDR is neither a currency nor a claim on the IMF. Rather, it is a potential claim on the freely usable currencies of IMF members. SDRs can be exchanged for these currencies. It cannot be used to fund infrastructure projects as it is not a currency. Same goes for settling domestic financial bills of the government.

SDR allocations can play a role in providing liquidity and supplementing member countries' official reserves.

IMF member countries can borrow SDRs from its reserves at favorable interest rates, mostly to adjust their balance of payments to favorable positions.

[Source](#)

[Source](#)

12) Consider the following statements regarding National Security Clause under the WTO rules.

1. National Security Clause is an exception that allows WTO members to breach their WTO obligations for purposes of national security.
2. If India invokes National Security Clause, it would allow India to impose tariffs on imports from one country while exempting other trading partners.

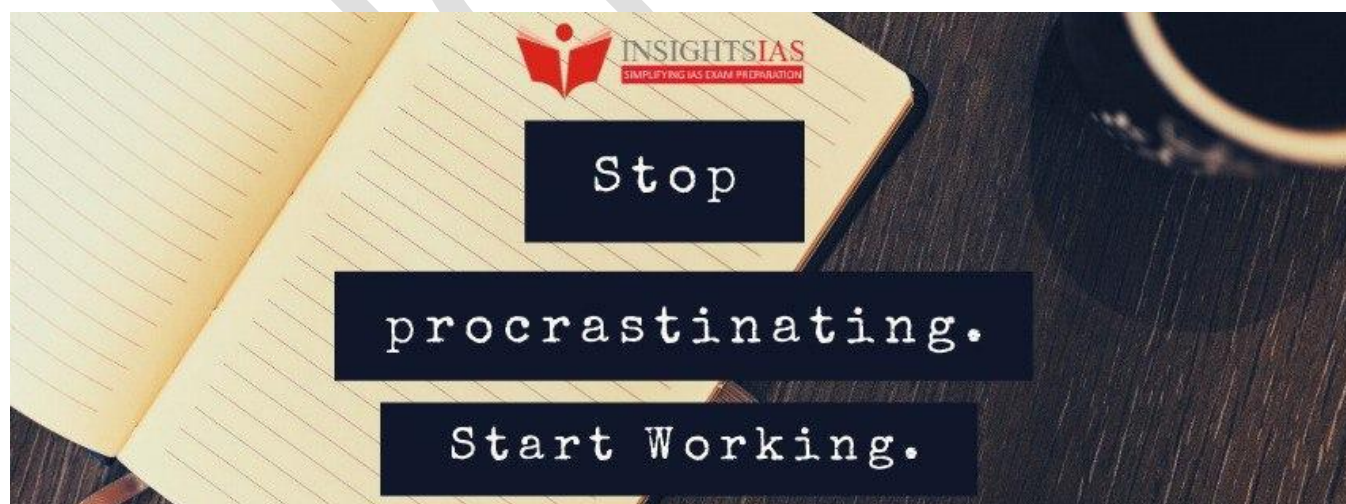
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

National Security Exception laid out in Article XXI of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) allows WTO members to breach their WTO obligations for purposes of national security.

Border hostilities potentially give India room to invoke the national security clause in the WTO rules. This would allow it to impose tariffs on imports from China while exempting other trading partners.



2. Ecology and Environment

- 1) The Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary, recently seen in news is located in
- Gujarat
 - Karnataka
 - Tamil Nadu
 - Kerala

Solution: a)

Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected area in Gujarat, located in the western Satpura Range south of the Narmada River. It shares a common boundary with Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. It encompasses mixed dry deciduous forest, riverine forest, few pockets of moist teak forest, agricultural fields and two water reservoirs.

[Source](#)

- 2) Sickie senna, sometimes seen in news is
- A rare disease
 - A new snake eel species discovered recently
 - Edible weed
 - Non-oxygen breathing animal

Solution: c)

The flowers of sickie senna (Cassia tora), an edible weed that fills nearly every vacant plot, roadside, wasteland and riverbank in one's neighbourhood as soon as the rains arrive, and grows profusely throughout the year.

Though many, particularly those in urban areas, consider it a weed and try to get rid of it, sickie senna is an excellent source of food and nutrition for several communities in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Goa, where it is known by names such as chakunda, chakwad, chakod, chakramarda saag, tagrai and soru-medelua.



[Source](#)

- 3) Manesar Lake, recently seen in news is located in
- Uttarakhand
 - Himachal Pradesh
 - Jammu and Kashmir
 - Rajasthan

Solution: c)

In a move to increase tourism, Mansar Lake Development Plan was inaugurated in Jammu and Kashmir.

Surinsar-Mansar Lakes are designated as Ramsar Convention in November 2005.

[Source](#)

- 4) Consider the following statements regarding Kaziranga National Park

1. It hosts two-thirds of the world's great one-horned rhinoceroses.
 2. Kaziranga is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International for conservation of avifaunal species.
 3. It is located on the edge of the Western Himalaya biodiversity hotspot.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNPTR):

- It is a national park in Assam.
- Formed in 1908 on the recommendation of Mary Curzon, the park is **located in the edge of the Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspots** – Golaghat and Nagaon district.
- It **hosts two-thirds of the world's great one-horned rhinoceroses**.
- It is a World Heritage Site.
- It is also recognized as an **Important Bird Area by BirdLife International for the conservation of avifaunal species**.
- Much of the focus of conservation efforts in Kaziranga are focused on the 'big four' species— Rhino, Elephant, Royal Bengal tiger and Asiatic water buffalo.

Kaziranga is crisscrossed by four main rivers — Brahmaputra, Diphlu, Mora Diphlu and Mora Dhansiri.

5) Consider the following statements regarding Bioplastics.

1. Bioplastics refer to plastic made from plant or other biological material instead of petroleum.
2. All bioplastics are biodegradable and biodegrade more readily than fossil-fuel derived plastics.
3. Higher temperatures are conducive for the degradation of bioplastics.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Bioplastic simply refers to plastic made from plant or other biological material instead of petroleum. It is also often called bio-based plastic.

It can either be made by extracting sugar from plants like corn and sugarcane to convert into polylactic acids (PLAs), or it can be made from polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHAs) engineered from microorganisms.

Not all bioplastics are biodegradable nor biodegrade more readily than fossil-fuel derived plastics.

Biodegradability of bioplastics in compost environments can be upgraded by adding more soluble sugar and **increasing temperature**. Soil environments on the other hand have high diversity of microorganisms making it easier for biodegradation of bioplastics to occur. However, bioplastics in soil environments need higher temperatures and a longer time to biodegrade.

[Source](#)

6) India is the largest emitter of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) in the world, contributing more than 15 per cent of global anthropogenic emissions, according to a new report by Greenpeace. The reasons for this is/are:

1. Very high sulphur content in Indian coal.
2. Vast majority of thermal power plants in India lack flue-gas desulfurisation (FGD) technology.

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)

India is the largest emitter of sulphur dioxide (SO₂) in the world, contributing more than 15 per cent of global anthropogenic emissions, according to a new report by Greenpeace released on August 19, 2019.

The primary reason for India's high emission output is the **expansion of coal-based electricity generation** over the past decade, the report added.

The greatest source of SO₂ in the atmosphere is the **burning of fossil fuels in power plants and other industrial facilities**. Other sources include industrial processes such as extracting metal from ore, natural sources such as volcanoes, and locomotives, ships and other vehicles and heavy equipment that burn fuel with high sulphur content.

The **vast majority of plants in India lack flue-gas desulfurisation (FGD) technology** to reduce air pollution, according to the report.

Studies show that the **sulphur content in Indian coal is hardly 0.7%**.

7) Consider the following statements regarding Green crackers.

- 1. Green crackers are researched and developed by scientists at CSIR-NEERI.
- 2. It does not emit any Particulate Matter.
- 3. Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) grants licences to the manufacturers of Green crackers.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

'Green' crackers were researched and developed by scientists at CSIR- National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) as per the Supreme court's directions.

'Green' crackers have a small shell size compared to traditional crackers. They are produced using less harmful raw materials and have additives which reduce emissions by suppressing dust.

Green crackers release water vapour and don't allow the dust particles to rise. **They are designed to have 30% less particulate matter pollution.**

Green crackers don't contain banned chemicals such as lithium, arsenic, barium and lead. They are called Safe Water Releaser (SWAS), Safe Thermite Cracker (STAR) and Safe Minimal Aluminium (SAFAL) crackers.

Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) is the licensing body for fireworks units.

8) Consider the following statements regarding Cyanobacteria.

- 1. Cyanobacteria are microscopic organisms common in water and sometimes found in soil.
- 2. Not all Cyanobacteria produce toxins.
- 3. Climate change and increasing global temperature is leading to cyanobacterial blooms.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2

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

Solution: d)

Toxins in water produced by cyanobacteria killed more than 300 elephants in Botswana.

Cyanobacteria are microscopic organisms common in water and sometimes found in soil. Not all produce toxins but scientists say toxic ones are occurring more frequently as climate change drives up global temperatures.

Some cyanobacterial blooms can harm people and animals and scientists are concerned about their potential impact as climate change leads to warmer water temperatures, which many cyanobacteria prefer.

Source

9) Consider the following statements regarding Ice Shelves.

1. An ice shelf is a large floating platform of ice that forms where a glacier or ice sheet flows down to a coastline and onto the ocean surface.
2. Ice shelves are found only in Antarctica.
3. Ice shelf collapse could contribute to sea level rise.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

An ice shelf is a large floating platform of ice that forms where a glacier or ice sheet flows down to a coastline and onto the ocean surface.

Ice shelf collapse could contribute to sea level rise indirectly.

In recent years, ice shelves on the Antarctic Peninsula and along the northern coast of Canada have experienced rapid disintegration.

Scientists think that the **recent ice shelf collapses in both the Arctic and Antarctica are related to climate change.**

[Source](#)

10) Consider the following statements regarding Antarctic Treaty.

1. Antarctic Treaty regulate international relations with respect to Antarctica.
2. For the purposes of the treaty system, Antarctica is defined as all of the land and ice shelves south of 60°S latitude.
3. The treaty establishes freedom of scientific investigation, and bans military activity on the continent.
4. Antarctica is earth's only continent without a native human population.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The Antarctic Treaty and related agreements, collectively known as the **Antarctic Treaty System (ATS)**, **regulate international relations with respect to Antarctica, Earth's only continent without a native human population.** For the purposes of the treaty system, Antarctica is defined as all of the land and ice shelves south of 60°S latitude. The treaty entered into force in 1961.

The treaty sets aside Antarctica as a scientific preserve, establishes freedom of scientific investigation, and **bans military activity on the continent.** The treaty was the first arms control agreement established during the Cold War. Since September 2004, the Antarctic Treaty Secretariat headquarters has been located in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

[Source](#)

11) Consider the following statements regarding Mekong River.

1. Mekong River rises in the Tibetan Plateau and flows into South China Sea.
2. The capital of Laos and Cambodia are situated on the banks of the Mekong River.

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 Mekong begins on the Tibetan Plateau and runs for more than 2,600 miles through China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam before emptying into the South China Sea.

The capital of Laos, and the capital of Cambodia both stand on its banks.

[Source](#)

12) According to recent estimates, the number of Asiatic lions in Gujarat has increased between 2015 and 2020 census years. In this context, consider the following statements.

1. The increase in the number of Asiatic lions in Gir forest in Gujarat between 2015 and 2020 is the highest rise between two census years.
2. Asiatic lions are present only in the Protected Areas of Gir forest.
3. Asiatic Lions are listed as 'Endangered' under the IUCN Red List.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

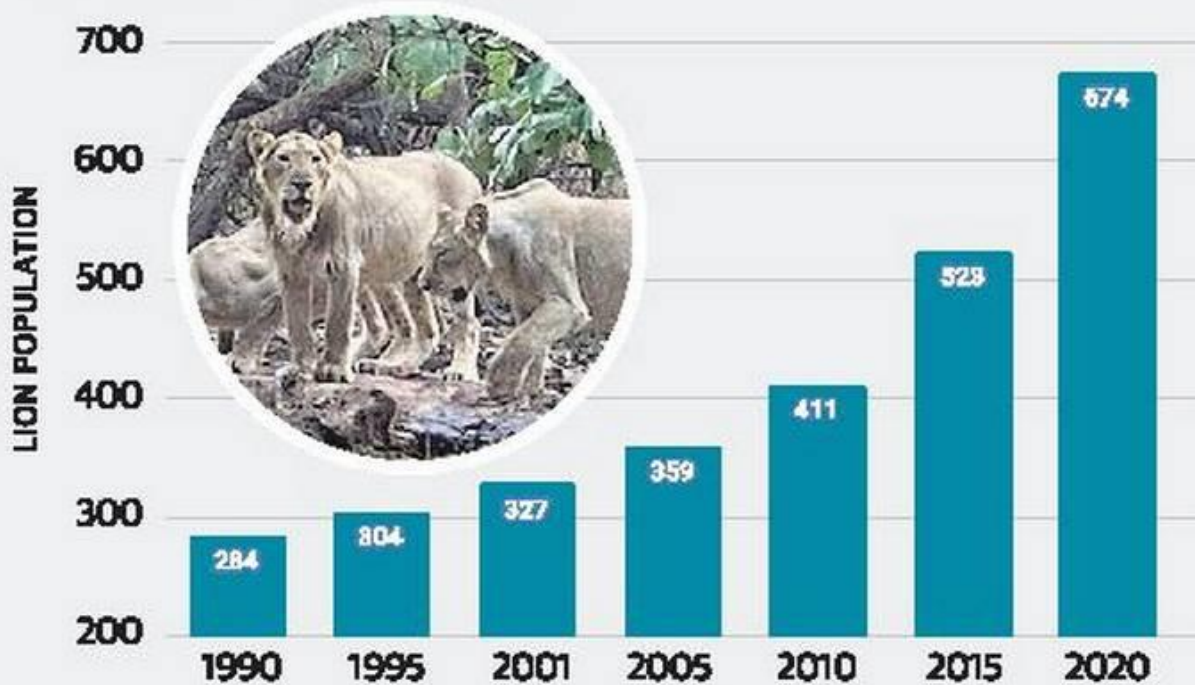
The number of Asiatic lions in Gujarat's Gir forest has risen. It has grown by almost 29% over the last five years. The lion population now stands at 674, according to the State Forest Department. There has been a consistent increase in the population over the years.

Their distribution has also expanded from 22,000 sq. km in 2015 to 30,000 sq. km in 2020. **Asiatic lions are present in Protected Areas and agro-pastoral landscapes of Saurashtra.**

Asiatic Lions are listed as 'Endangered' under the IUCN Red List. Its population is restricted to the state of Gujarat in India.

More the merrier

The number of Asiatic lions in Gir forest in Gujarat has increased by nearly 30% between 2015 and 2020, the highest rise between two census years



Source

13) Consider the following statements regarding Sand mining.

1. The Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining 2020 push for online sales and purchase of sand and other riverbed materials to make the process transparent.
2. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 empowers state governments to make rules to prevent illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals.

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)

Following a series of orders by the National Green Tribunal in 2018, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change for the first time released guidelines to monitor and check illegal sand mining in the country.

The **Enforcement and Monitoring Guidelines for Sand Mining 2020** released by the Ministry include directions to states to carry out river audits, put detailed survey reports of all mining areas online and in the public domain, conduct replenishment studies of river beds, constantly monitor mining with drones, aerial surveys, ground surveys and set up dedicated task forces at district levels.

The guidelines also push for **online sales and purchase of sand and other riverbed materials** to make the process transparent. They propose night surveillance of mining activity through night-vision drones.

While the MoEF has already put in place the Sustainable Sand Management Guidelines 2016, which focus on the management of sand mining in India, officials say that there is an urgent need to have guidelines for effective enforcement of regulatory provisions and their monitoring.

The **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957** has empowered state governments to make rules to prevent illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals.

The 2020 guidelines are to be enforced simultaneously with the Sustainable Sand Management Guidelines, 2016, but in instances where the two sets of guidelines may seem to be in conflict, the new set will hold legal precedence.

Source

14) Consider the following statements regarding Irrawaddy dolphins.

1. Of the six varieties of dolphins that are found in India's rivers, lakes and around coastline, the Irrawaddy Dolphins are among the highest in number.
2. The Irrawaddy Dolphins are found mostly in brackish water zones.
3. In India, Irrawaddy Dolphins are found mainly in Chilika Lake.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Of the six varieties of dolphins that are found in India's rivers, lakes and around coastline, the **Irrawaddy Dolphins are among the lowest in number.**

The Gangetic river dolphins are freshwater species that are found in the Sundarban river system and Brahmaputra rivers. On the other hand, the **Irrawaddy Dolphins are found mostly in brackish water zones** and that too in Chilika.

The Irrawaddy Dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*) is the flagship species of Chilika lake. Chilika is home to the only known population of Irrawaddy Dolphins in India and one of only two lagoons in the world that are home to this species.

15) Consider the following statements regarding the mangroves of Guneri and Shravan Kavadia.

1. The mangroves of Guneri and Shravan Kavadia are located in the Indian part of Sundarbans region.
2. They survive because of underground supply of brackish or saline water.

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)

Mangroves, by definition, are small shrubs or trees that grow in saline or brackish water, and are found in coastal areas. **The mangroves of Guneri and also of Shravan Kavadia, both in Kutch, however, are completely landlocked and are therefore unique.**

They (Kutch's inland mangroves) are in fact among the very few, maybe three-four, of their kind recorded in the world. The others are in Brazil, Peru and South America.

The Arabian sea receded by 100-150 kms from the coastline, resulting in the **inland mangroves of Guneri and Shravan Kavadia which survived because of continued supply of brackish or saline water underground**. Experts therefore believe that these mangroves belong to ancient biogenetic pools. The good underground supply of brackish water, which helps in dispersal of seeds and propagation.

[Source](#)

16) The government had recently amended the Environment Protection Act to drop the mandatory washing of coal supplied to thermal power plants. In this context what are the benefits of using washed coal.

1. Washing coal increases the efficiency and quality of the dry fuel.
2. Thermal power plants would have fewer operational problems.
3. The combustion of washed coal would be better from an emissions and local air pollution perspective.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

Washing coal **increases the efficiency and quality of the dry fuel**.

In theory, a process like coal washing was supposed to be good for everyone; **thermal power plants would have fewer operational problems**.

The combustion of washed coal would be better from an emissions and local air pollution perspective, and the unnecessary transport of large amounts of ash and non-combustible material would be minimized.

Source

17) Consider the following statements regarding wastelands.

1. Snow-covered areas, coastal saline area and barren hill-ridges are considered as Wastelands.
2. Deforestation, overgrazing, over-cultivation and unskilled irrigation majorly contribute to the formation of wastelands.
3. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare released Wasteland Atlas -2019 which provides district and state wise distribution of different categories of wastelands.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

It's not just the Banni — as much as 17% of India is classified as wasteland, according to Wastelands Atlas of India 2019. This includes not just seasonal grasslands and deserts, but also riverine and coastal sandy areas, wetlands, mangroves (as areas affected by salinity or alkalinity), ravines, scrubland, glaciers, and areas under snow cover.

Wastelands are formed by both natural and man-made reasons such as snow-covered areas, coastal saline area forest blank, barren hill-ridges, etc. Deforestation, overgrazing, over-cultivation and unskilled irrigation also majorly contribute to the formation of wastelands.

This Wastelands Atlas-2019, released by Ministry of Rural Development provides district and state wise distribution of different categories of wastelands area including mapping of about 12.08 Mha hitherto unmapped area of Jammu & Kashmir.

[Source](#)[Source](#)

18) Consider the following statements about National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR).

1. The NCPOR has established a high-altitude research station named 'Himansh' in Himalaya.
2. NCPOR functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
3. NCPOR does not have the permission to do research in the Arctic region and the Antarctica continent.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The NCPOR under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has undertaken studies in the Western Himalaya in Chandra basin in Lahaul-Spiti (Himachal Pradesh) since 2013.

The NCPOR has established a high-altitude research station named 'Himansh' in Himalaya at 4,000 metres altitude at Sutri Dhaka, a remote location in Lahaul-Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh.

The NCPOR has also been doing research in the Arctic region and the Antarctica continent.

19) Consider the following statements.

1. It is the oldest national park in India.
2. Earlier it was known as Hailey National Park.
3. The park was the first to come under the Project Tiger initiative.

The above statements refer to

- a) Dudhwa National Park
- b) Manas National Park
- c) Jim Corbett National Park
- d) Namdapha National Park

Solution: c)

Jim Corbett National Park is the oldest national park in India and was established in 1936 as Hailey National Park to protect the endangered Bengal tiger. It is located in Uttarakhand. The park was the first to come under the Project Tiger initiative.

20) Consider the following statements regarding Golden Langur.

1. They are found only in Assam and parts of Bhutan.
2. It is one of the most endangered primate species of India.
3. It inhabits the area bound by three rivers — Brahmaputra in the south, Manas in east and Sonkosh in west.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

Gee's golden langur (*Trachypithecus geei*), also known as simply the golden langur, is an Old-World monkey found in a small region of **western Assam, and in the neighbouring foothills of the Black Mountains of Bhutan**. It is one of the most endangered primate species of India.

Golden langur is endemic to the semi-evergreen and mixed-deciduous forests straddling India and Bhutan.

The golden langurs in Assam are hemmed in by three rivers — Brahmaputra in the south, Manas in east and Sonkosh in west. Their northern limit is the range of hills in Bhutan up to 2,400 metres above sea level.

Obstructions such as electric wires, and gaps in the forest due to felling, have increased the threat of inbreeding among golden langurs.



21) Consider the following pairs:

Places recently in news	Location
1. Kabartal	Bihar
2. Lonar lake	Maharashtra
3. Sur Sarovar	Kerala

Which of the above are correctly matched?

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

Solution: a)

The **Lonar lake in Maharashtra and Sur Sarovar, also known as Keetham lake, in Agra**, have been added to the list of recognised Ramsar sites.

Kabartal in Bihar's Begusarai district has been recognised as a wetland of international importance — the first such wetland in the state — under the Ramsar Convention.

The **Asan Conservation Reserve in Dehradun**, the first wetland from Uttarakhand to be recognised by Ramsar convention, was also added to the list recently.

22) Melghat Tiger Reserve, recently seen in news, is located in

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

Solution: b)

Melghat was declared a tiger reserve and was among the first nine tiger reserves notified in 1973-74 under the Project Tiger. It is located in northern part of Amravati District of Maharashtra State in India. The Tapti River and the Gawilghat ridge of the Satpura Range form the boundaries of the reserve.

23) Consider the following statements regarding Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.

1. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat is a treaty for conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.
2. It aims to develop a global network of wetlands for conservation of biological diversity and for sustaining human life.
3. International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is one of the international organization partners (IOPs) of Ramsar Convention that provide expert technical advice and financial support.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1, 2

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

Solution: d)

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat is a treaty for conservation and sustainable use of such sites. It is named after Ramsar, the Iranian city where the treaty was signed in 1971, and places chosen for conservation under it are given the tag 'Ramsar site.'

The convention, signed in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar, is one of the oldest inter-governmental accord for preserving the ecological character of wetlands.

Also known as the Convention on Wetlands, **it aims to develop a global network of wetlands for conservation of biological diversity and for sustaining human life.** Wetlands provide a wide range of important resources and ecosystem services such as food, water, fibre, groundwater recharge, water purification, flood moderation, erosion control and climate regulation.

Over 170 countries are party to the Ramsar Convention and over 2,000 designated sites covering over 20 crore hectares have been recognised under it.

The Ramsar Convention works closely with six other organisations known as international organization partners (IOPs). These are:

- BirdLife International
- **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**
- International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
- Wetlands International
- WWF International
- Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)

These organizations support the work of the convention by **providing expert technical advice, helping implement field studies, and providing financial support.** The IOPs also participate regularly as observers in all meetings of the conference of the parties and as full members of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel.

[Source](#)

24) Recently the Lonar lake in Maharashtra was added to the list of recognised Ramsar sites. What does it mean?

1. Facilitate development of lake and policies for its wise use.
2. Encourage international cooperation and expert advice on problems of Lonar wetland.
3. Help ensure survival of representative natural eco-systems of Lonar as well as rare and endemic species

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

The world-famous Lonar crater in Buldhana district has been added to 'Ramsar sites', getting the highest level of protection.

WHAT IT MEANS

- * Increased publicity and prestige for Lonar wetlands
- * Access to aid through grant fund
- * Facilitate development of lake, policies for its wise use

- * Encourage international cooperation and expert advice on problems of Lonar wetland
- * Help ensure survival of representative natural eco-systems of Lonar as well as rare and endemic species

[Source](#)

25) Consider the following statements regarding National Green Tribunal.

1. National Green Tribunal was established by an act of parliament for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
2. The Tribunal is bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure.
3. NGT is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing of the same.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

National Green Tribunal:

- Established on 18th October, 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010.
- Established for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- New Delhi is the Principal Place of Sitting of the Tribunal and Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata and Chennai shall be the other four places of sitting of the Tribunal.
- The Tribunal is **not bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.**
- **NGT is mandated to make disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing of the same.**

26) Consider the following statements regarding Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

1. Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources is part of the Antarctic Treaty System.
2. The prime objectives of CCAMLR are the conservation of living resources of Antarctica while permitting sustainable levels of exploitation of resources.
3. India is not a member of CCAMLR.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) is part of the Antarctic Treaty System. The goal is to preserve marine life and environmental integrity in and near Antarctica. In 1989, CCAMLR set up the Ecosystem Monitoring Program (CEMP) to further monitor the effects of fishing and harvesting of species in the area. India is a member state of CCAMLR.

[Source](#)

27) A new mushrooms species, Roridomyces phyllostachydis which is bioluminescent was recently discovered in which state?

- a) Karnataka

- b) Kerala
- c) Andaman and Nicobar
- d) Meghalaya

Solution: d)

The new species — named *Roridomyces phyllostachydis* — was first sighted on a wet August night near a stream in Meghalaya's Mawlynnong in East Khasi Hills district and later at Krang Shuri in West Jaintia Hills district.

28) Consider the following statements.

1. While La Niña conditions enhance the rainfall associated with the Northeast monsoon, it has a negative impact on rainfall associated with the Southwest monsoon.
2. During El Niño, there is abnormal surface warming observed along the eastern and central regions of the Pacific Ocean.

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)

While El Niño (Spanish for 'little boy'), the expression heard more commonly in India, is the abnormal surface warming observed along the eastern and central regions of the Pacific Ocean (region between Peru and Papua New Guinea), La Niña (Spanish for 'little girl') is an abnormal cooling of these surface waters.

Together, the El Niño and La Niña phenomena are termed as El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO). These are large-scale ocean phenomena which influence the global weather — winds, temperature and rainfall. They have the ability to trigger extreme weather events like droughts, floods, hot and cold conditions, globally.

While La Niña conditions enhance the rainfall associated with the Southwest monsoon, it has a negative impact on rainfall associated with the Northeast monsoon.

[Source](#)

29) Consider the following statements.

1. Preservation of forest areas in India under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 has been monitored by the Supreme Court.
2. Deemed forests refer to land tracts that appear to be a "forest", but have not been notified so by the government or in historical records.
3. Deemed forests comprise about one fourth of India's forest land.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

Preservation of forest areas in India under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 has been continuously monitored by the Supreme Court since the Godavarman case judgment in 1996.

While the concept of deemed forests has not been clearly defined in any law including the Forest Conservation Act of 1980.

Deemed forests, which comprise about 1% of India's forest land, are a controversial subject as they refer to land tracts that appear to be a "forest", but have not been notified so by the government or in historical records.

[Source](#)

[Source](#)

30) Bioluminescence or light-emitting tide made an appearance recently on a beach in Mumbai. Consider the following statements regarding Bioluminescence.

1. Luminescence is generally higher in shallow species than in in deep-living and planktonic organisms.
2. This was the first appearance of blue tide in India.
3. Larger blooms of blue tide have an impact on deep-sea fishing.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: a)

Why did the waves appear blue?

The phenomenon is called 'blue tide', and appears when luminescent marine life make the sea appear a deep shade of blue. The spectacle occurs when phytoplankton (microscopic marine plants), commonly known as dinoflagellates, produce light through chemical reactions in proteins.

Bioluminescence is the property of a living organism to produce and emit light. Animals, plants, fungi and bacteria show bioluminescence. A remarkable diversity of marine animals and microbes are able to produce their own light. It is found in many marine organisms such as bacteria, algae, jellyfish, worms, crustaceans, sea stars, fish and sharks. Luminescence is generally higher in deep-living and planktonic organisms than in shallow species.

It is an antipredatory response. Bioluminescence is assumed to startle predators, causing them to hesitate, in a form of predator intimidation.

Bioluminescence has been an annual occurrence along the west coast since 2016 during the months of November and December. Recently, the 'blue tide' was witnessed along Dakshina Kannada-Udupi coast.

While smaller blooms may be harmless, slow-moving larger blooms may have an impact on deep-sea fishing. According to marine experts, the phenomenon is an indicator of climate change. Factors such as the pattern of the wind and the temperature of the ocean also determine the occurrence of bioluminescent waves.



Experts have said the bioluminescence could have been caused by heavy rain, fertilizers run off, discharge of sewage into the ocean.

[Source](#)

3. Government Schemes and Programmes

- 1) SVAMITVA scheme, sometimes seen in news is related to
- Survey all rural properties using improved technology
 - Agricultural Insurance Scheme
 - Income support to farmers' families
 - Old age pension scheme for all land holding Small and Marginal Farmers

Solution: a)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the physical distribution of property cards under the 'Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas' (SVAMITVA) scheme.

The aim to update rural land records, providing record of rights to village households and issue property cards. SVAMITVA is a central scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development and will be implemented across the country in a phased manner over the next four years, covering around 6.62 lakh villages.

The scheme focuses on mapping rural-inhabited lands using drones as land records are inaccurate or do not exist for vast areas across India.

[Source](#)

- 2) Government announces minimum support prices (MSPs) for which of the following crops
- jowar
 - Raw cotton
 - Coffee
 - Copra
 - soyabean

Select the correct answer code:

- 1, 2, 3, 4
- 1, 2, 5
- 1, 2, 4, 5
- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Solution: c)

KHARIF CROPS

- PADDY
- JOWAR
- BAJRA
- MAIZE
- RAGI
- Tur (Arhar)
- MOONG
- URAD
- COTTON
- Groundnut
- SUNFLOWER SEED
- SOYABEAN
- SESAMUM
- NIGERSEED

RABICROPS

www.insightsonindia.com

- WHEAT
- BARLEY
- GRAM
- MASUR (LENTIL)
- Rapeseed & Mustard
- SAFFLOWER
- TORIA

OTHER CROPS

- COPRA
- DE-HUSKED COCONUT
- JUTE

Source

3) Consider the following statements.

1. In India Ethanol is procured by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) mainly based on market determined prices.
2. India does not allow production of ethanol from food grains.
3. Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme has been extended to the whole of India.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: c)

The **government recently hiked the price of ethanol extracted from sugarcane.**

At present ethanol production is allowed from C-heavy molasses, B-heavy molasses, sugarcane juice or syrup or direct sugar. The ethanol procurement season by oil marketing companies (OMCs) will run from December 1, 2020, to November 30, 2021.

The government has been implementing Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme wherein OMCs sell petrol blended with ethanol up to 10%. This **programme has been extended to the whole of India except Union Territories of Andaman Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands with effect from April 1, 2019**, to promote the use of alternative and environment-friendly fuels.

Government has notified administered price of ethanol since 2014. For the first time during 2018, the differential price of ethanol-based on raw material utilized for ethanol production was announced by the government.

[Source](#)

4) The government has expanded the scope of raw material for ethanol production to include

1. Sugar beet
2. Sweet sorghum
3. Cassava
4. Sugarcane juice

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

The government has expanded the scope of raw material for ethanol production to include sugar cane juice, sugar beet, sweet sorghum and starch containing material such as corn, cassava, and damaged grain.

[Source](#)

5) The official committees that have estimated the number of people living in poverty in India are

1. Y K Alagh committee
2. D T Lakdawala committee
3. Suresh Tendulkar committee
4. C Rangarajan committee

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

Six official committees have so far estimated the number of people living in poverty in India — the working group of 1962; V N Dandekar and N Rath in 1971; Y K Alagh in 1979; D T Lakdawala in 1993; Suresh Tendulkar in 2009; and C Rangarajan in 2014.

[Source](#)

6) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issues orders and directions on subjects such as

1. Tariffs
2. Increasing broadband penetration in India
3. Direct to Home (DTH) services
4. Mobile number portability

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

TRAI regularly issues orders and directions on various subjects such as tariffs, interconnections, quality of service, Direct To Home (DTH) services and mobile number portability.

7) Consider the following statements regarding National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP).

1. The National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) is a group of social and economic infrastructure projects in India over a period of five years.
2. Majority of the investments will be from the Central Government.
3. India Investment Grid provides real-time updates on the implementation of the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP).

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 Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) is a group of **social and economic infrastructure projects in India over a period of five years** with an initial sanctioned amount of ₹102 lakh crore.

The **centre (39 percent) and state (39 percent)** are expected to have an almost equal share in implementing the projects, while the private sector has 22 percent share.

The India Investment Grid is designed to give real-time updates on the implementation of the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP).

8) Consider the following statements regarding State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

1. SDRF was constituted based on the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission.
2. The Central Government contributes 50% to SDRF and the remaining 50% is provided from the State Government.

3. A State Government may use the funds available under the SDRF for providing immediate relief to the victims of natural disasters that they consider to be 'disasters' within the local context in the State.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

SDRF has been constituted by each state under the provisions of Disaster Management act 2005.

It was constituted based on the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission.

Funding: The Central Government contributes 75% of SDRF allocation for general category States/UTs and 90% for special category States/UTs.

Heads: The state executive committee headed by the Chief Secretary is authorized to decide on all matters relating to the financing of the relief expenditure from the SDRF.

Disaster (s) covered under SDRF: Cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloudburst, pest attack, frost and cold waves.

Local Disaster: A State Government may use up to 10 percent of the funds available under the SDRF for providing immediate relief to the victims of natural disasters that they consider to be 'disasters' within the local context in the State and which are not included in the notified list of disasters of the Ministry of Home Affairs subject to the condition that the State Government has listed the State specific natural disasters and notified clear and transparent norms and guidelines for such disasters with the approval of the State Authority, i.e., the State Executive Authority (SEC).

Source

9) Consider the following statements regarding Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme.

1. The PLI scheme aims to boost domestic manufacturing and cut down on imports by providing cash incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in India.
2. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is the single nodal ministry for the implementation of the PLI scheme.
3. Adding any new sector for PLI scheme will require approval of the Union Cabinet.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The Union Cabinet approved an expansion of the **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme** to include 10 more labour-intensive industry segments, including advance chemistry cell batteries, electronic and technology products, automobiles and auto components manufacturing, among others.

The scheme for these sectors will be in addition to the PLI schemes for mobile phones and allied equipment manufacturing, pharmaceutical ingredients and medical devices.

The PLI scheme aims to boost domestic manufacturing and cut down on imports by providing cash incentives on incremental sales from products manufactured in the country. Besides inviting foreign companies to set shop in India, the scheme aims to encourage local companies to set up, or expand, existing manufacturing units.

The new sectors included under the PLI scheme are mostly labour-intensive and will be **implemented by the respective ministries**. For instance, the Niti Aayog will implement the PLI scheme for the manufacture of advanced chemistry cell batteries. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is the nodal ministry for the implementation of the PLI scheme for mobile phone manufacturing.

Any new sector for PLI will require fresh approval of the Union Cabinet.

[Source](#)

10) Consider the following statements regarding Van Dhan Scheme.

1. The Van Dhan Scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and TRIFED.
2. It seeks to improve tribal incomes through value addition of tribal products.
3. The aggregation of tribal produce would be done by SHGs.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The Van Dhan Scheme is an initiative of the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED**. It was launched on 14th April, 2018 and seeks to **improve tribal incomes through value addition of tribal products**.

At State level, the State Nodal Agency for MFPs and the District collectors are envisaged to play a pivot role in scheme implementation at grassroot level. Locally the Kendras are proposed to be managed by a Managing Committee (an SHG) consisting of representatives of Van Dhan SHGs in the cluster.

At unit level, aggregation of produce would be done by SHGs having about 30 members each forming **Van Dhan Vikas 'Samuh'**. The SHGs would also undertake primary value addition of the MFPs.

Source

11) The renewable energy Ministry has expanded the scope of PM-KUSUM scheme to enable greater solar energy generation in farm sector. The scheme consists of which of the following components?

1. Decentralised ground mounted grid connected renewable power plants.
2. Installation of stand-alone solar powered agriculture pumps.
3. Solarisation of grid-connected solar powered agriculture pumps.

Select the correct answer code:

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

d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: d)

The renewable energy Ministry has expanded the scope of PM-KUSUM scheme to enable greater solar energy generation in farm sector.

The Ministry has amended the guidelines of the scheme based on the learning from its implementation during the first year.

Now, besides barren, fallow and agricultural lands, solar power plants can also be installed on pasture land and marshy land of farmers.

To support small farmers, solar projects smaller than 500 kW may be allowed by states based on techno-commercial feasibility.

The scheme now consists of three components.

- The first is 10,000 MW of decentralised ground mounted grid connected renewable power plants up to 2 MW.
- The second is installation of 20 lakh (up from 17.50 lakh) stand-alone solar powered agriculture pumps.
- The third component is solarisation of 15 lakh (up from 10 lakh) grid-connected solar powered agriculture pumps.

[Source](#)

12) Consider the following statements regarding Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme.

1. MGNREGA guarantees 100 days of unskilled manual work to all households in India.
2. The Act stipulates a minimum wage-material ratio of 60:40.
3. MGNREGA is to be implemented mainly by gram panchayats (GPs) with the help of contractors.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

MGNREGA is the largest social security scheme in the world — guaranteeing 100 days of unskilled manual work to **all rural households** in India.

The work is usually on projects to build durable assets like roads, canals, ponds and wells.

The Act stipulates a minimum **wage-material ratio of 60:40**.

MGNREGA is to be implemented mainly by gram panchayats (GPs). The **involvement of contractors is banned**.

13) Vivad se Vishwas scheme, sometimes seen in news is related to

- a) Pension scheme for the Vyaparis
- b) Partial Credit Guarantee for NBFCs
- c) Direct tax dispute resolution
- d) Enhance loan availability for exporters

Solution: c)

The government recently notified extension of payment deadline for the direct tax legacy dispute resolution scheme (Vivad se Vishwas).

It is aimed to reduce pending income tax litigation, generate timely revenue for the government and benefit taxpayers by providing them peace of mind, certainty and savings on account of time and resources that would otherwise be spent on the long-drawn and vexatious litigation process.

[Source](#)



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4. Science and Technology

1) Supercomputing play an important role in which of the following fields?

1. Quantum mechanics
2. Weather forecasting
3. Oil and gas exploration
4. Genomics
5. Drug discovery

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: c)

Supercomputers are used for a wide range of computationally intensive tasks in various fields, including quantum mechanics, weather forecasting, flood prediction, climate research, oil and gas exploration, genomics and drug discovery.

2) Consider the following statements regarding IndiGen programme.

1. IndiGen programme aims to undertake whole genome sequencing of thousands of Indian individuals representing diverse ethnic groups from India.
2. The human genome data sets could be utilized for prioritizing Pharmacogenomics variants specific for Indian population for optimizing therapy and minimizing adverse events.
3. IndiGen programme is the initiative of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

Genomics for Public Health in India (IndiGen) programme:

- CSIR initiated the Program in April 2019.
- It aims to undertake whole genome sequencing of thousands of individuals representing diverse ethnic groups from India.
- The objective is to enable genetic epidemiology and develop public health technologies applications using population genome data.
- The human genome data sets would also be utilized for prioritizing Pharmacogenomics variants specific for Indian population for optimizing therapy and minimizing adverse events.

[Source](#)

3) Earth-observation satellites are used for which of the following purposes?

1. Land and forest monitoring
2. Mapping of water and mineral resources
3. Weather and climate observations
4. Soil assessment

Select the correct answer code:

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

d) 1, 2, 3, 4

Solution: d)

What are earth-observation satellites used for?

- Land and forest mapping and monitoring, mapping of resources like water or minerals or fishes, weather and climate observations, soil assessment, geospatial contour mapping are all done through earth-observation satellites.
- They are intended for non-military uses such as environmental monitoring, meteorology, cartography and others.

4) Consider the following statements regarding Radar Imaging Satellites.

1. Radar Imaging Satellites are basically Earth observation satellites.

2. They can be used for border surveillance, to deter insurgent infiltration and for anti-terrorist operations.

3. One of the main disadvantages of Radar Imaging Satellites is that they are not all-weather satellites since they are affected by weather, cloud or fog.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2

b) 1, 3

c) 2, 3

d) 1, 2, 3

Solution: a)

RISAT (Radar Imaging Satellite) is a series of Indian radar imaging reconnaissance satellites built by ISRO. They provide all-weather surveillance using synthetic aperture radars (SAR).

The RISAT series are the first all-weather Earth observation satellites from ISRO. Previous Indian observation satellites relied primarily on optical and spectral sensors which were hampered by cloud cover.

Advantages of radar imaging over optical instruments: **Radar imaging is unaffected by weather, cloud or fog, or the lack of sunlight.** It can produce high-quality images in all conditions and at all times.

[Source](#)

5) Consider the following statements regarding over-the-top (OTT) platforms.

1. Over-the-top platforms, are audio and video hosting and streaming services offered directly to viewers via the Internet.

2. In India, OTT platforms are currently under the purview of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

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 government has brought video streaming over-the-top (OTT) platforms such as Netflix, Amazon's Prime Video, Hotstar, and others under the **ambit of the** Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

OTT, or over-the-top platforms, are audio and video hosting and streaming services which started out as content hosting platforms, but soon branched out into the production and release of short movies, feature films, documentaries and web-series themselves.

These platforms offer a range of content and **use artificial intelligence to suggest users the content they are likely to view based on their past viewership on the platform.**

So far in India, there are no laws or rules regulating OTT platforms as it is a relatively new medium of entertainment. Unlike television, print or radio, which follow guidelines released by governments, OTT platforms, classified as digital media or social media, had little to no regulation on the choice of content they offered, the subscription rates, certification for adult movies and others.

[Source](#)

6) Consider the following statements regarding space internet.

1. Starlink network project of SpaceX is one of several ongoing efforts to start beaming data signals from space.
2. Usually Geostationary orbit is used for placing satellites because satellites in this orbit complete one revolution of the Earth in the same time that the earth rotates once on its axis.

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)

Starlink is a satellite internet constellation being constructed by SpaceX providing satellite Internet access. The aim is to provide low-cost and reliable space-based Internet services to the world.

Why use low earth orbit instead of geostationary?

Geostationary orbit is located at a height of 35,786 km over the Earth's surface, directly above the Equator. Satellites in this orbit move at speeds of about 11,000 km per hour, and complete one revolution of the Earth in the same time that the earth rotates once on its axis. To the observer on the ground, therefore, a satellite in geostationary orbit appears stationary.

Advantages: Signals from geostationary orbit can cover a very large part of the Earth. Signals from one satellite can cover roughly a third of the planet — and three to four satellites would be enough to cover the entire Earth. Also, because they appear to be stationary, it is easier to link to them.

Then what's the issue?

There is a time lag — called latency — between a user seeking data, and the server sending that data. And because data transfers cannot happen faster than the speed of light (in reality, they take place at significantly lower speeds), the longer the distance that needs to be covered the greater is the time lag, or latency.

A transmission from a satellite in geostationary orbit has a latency of about 600 milliseconds.

A satellite in the lower orbit, 200-2,000 km from the Earth's surface, can bring the lag down to 20-30 milliseconds, roughly the time it takes for terrestrial systems to transfer data. But lower orbits have their own problem.

Owing to their lower height, their signals cover a relatively small area. As a result, many more satellites are needed in order to reach signals to every part of the planet.

7) Consider the following statements regarding Genetically modified crops.

1. Genetic engineering aims to introduce an alien gene which could be only from a plant, into the seeds to get the desired effects.
2. In India, the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is the apex body that allows for commercial release of GM crops.

3. More than 95 per cent of India's cotton area is under Bt cotton.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

What are genetically modified seeds?

Conventional plant breeding involves crossing species of the same genus to provide the offspring with the desired traits of both parents. Genetic engineering aims to transcend the genus barrier by introducing an alien gene in the seeds to get the desired effects. **The alien gene could be from a plant, an animal or even a soil bacterium.**

Bt cotton, the only GM crop that is allowed in India, has two alien genes from the soil bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) that allows the crop to develop a protein toxic to the common pest pink bollworm.

In India, the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is the apex body that allows for commercial release of GM crops. In 2002, the GEAC had allowed the commercial release of Bt cotton. **More than 95 per cent of the country's cotton area has since then come under Bt cotton.** Use of the unapproved GM variant can attract a jail term of 5 years and fine of Rs 1 lakh under the Environmental Protection Act, 1986.

8) Juice Jacking, sometimes seen in news is

- a) ATM card skimming technique to clone debit/credit cards to withdraw money
- b) Cyber-attack which alters the communication between two users
- c) Cyber-attack during the mobile charging process
- d) Cyber-attack through a disguised email

Solution: c)

Juice Jacking – a type of cyber-attack which originates from USB charging port installed at public places such as airports, cafes, bus stands, etc. Once the device is plugged-in and connection is established, it either installs malware or secretly copies sensitive data from a smartphone, tablet, or any other computer device.

9) Consider the following statements regarding Measles.

- 1. Measles is a highly contagious disease caused by a virus.
- 2. It is an airborne disease which spreads easily from one person to the next through the coughs and sneezes of infected people.

3. Measles cases has reduced drastically worldwide and 2019 reported the lowest number of cases in 10 years.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

Measles is a highly contagious, serious disease caused by a virus.

Measles is an airborne disease which spreads easily from one person to the next through the coughs and sneezes of infected people.

India was among six countries with the highest number of infants who had not received the vaccine against measles — while the contagious viral disease surged worldwide in 2019 reaching the highest number of

reported cases in 23 years — last year, according to a new report of the World Health Organisation and US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[Source](#)

10) Consider the following statements.

1. The creation of antibodies against disease-causing virus guarantees immunity against a future attack from the same virus.
2. Serosurveys for the prevalence of novel coronavirus tests the presence of antibodies that are developed after an infection.

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)

It is sometimes thought that everyone who is infected with a disease-causing virus, and recovers, becomes immune to the disease, because they build antibodies against it. But that is not the case. While the creation of antibodies is necessary for the recovery process, it does not guarantee immunity against a future attack from the same virus. Immunity comes from what are known as “neutralising” or “protective” antibodies.

The neutralising antibodies become special because they have the ability to thwart the entry of the same virus inside human bodies in the future.

Serosurveys only look for the presence of antibodies in people. Their purpose is to find out whether a person has been infected with the virus or not, and through random testing of people, estimate the extent of spread of the disease, or prevalence, in a population group.

[Source](#)

11) Reverse Osmosis Systems can remove

1. Metal ions
2. Aqueous salts
3. Bacteria
4. Lead

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

Reverse osmosis can remove many types of dissolved and suspended chemical species as well as biological ones (principally bacteria) from water.

Reverse Osmosis Systems will remove common chemical contaminants (metal ions, aqueous salts), including sodium, chloride, copper, chromium, and lead; may reduce arsenic, fluoride, radium, sulfate, calcium, magnesium, potassium, nitrate, and phosphorous.

[Source](#)

12) Consider the following statements.

1. The storage temperature for vaccines can vary, even if they are developed using same technology.

2. Polio Vaccine used in India's immunisation programme are stored in room temperature.
3. mRNA vaccine can be developed that can be stored at warmer temperatures.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The storage of a vaccine depends on the temperature they need to be kept at for their potency to remain intact. This varies from vaccine to vaccine, including those developed using the same technology, because of the different approaches taken by companies in the formulation of the product

Is it possible to develop an mRNA vaccine (such as the Pfizer and Moderna ones) that can be stored at warmer temperatures?

Genova Biopharmaceuticals is planning one that can be stored between 2°C and 8°C

- German company CureVac is also working on a similar one
- Even Pfizer is planning to modify its formulation but that will take them a couple of years

Polio vaccines used in India's immunisation programme are stored at -20°C

[Source](#)

13) Consider the following statements regarding Guillain Barre Syndrome.

1. Guillain Barre Syndrome is a rare autoimmune disorder.
2. It is caused by bacteria or viral infection.
3. There are no reported cases of patients infected with Covid-19 showing the symptoms of Guillain Barre Syndrome.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

In a rare complication, some patients infected with Covid-19 have been found suffering from Guillain Barre Syndrome (GBS). In India, such cases have been reported since August.

What is Guillain Barre Syndrome?

It is a very rare autoimmune disorder. The immune system, in an attempt to kill the coronavirus, accidentally starts attacking the peripheral nervous system.

GBS is caused by bacteria or viral infection. In the past, patients of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome showed GBS symptoms, as did those infected with Zika, HIV, Herpes virus and Campylobacter jejuni.

[Source](#)

14) Consider the following statements regarding Brain fingerprinting.

1. Brain fingerprinting is a method of interrogation in which the accused's participation in the crime is investigated by studying their brain's response.
2. It is conducted to study the electrical behaviour of the human brain.
3. Supreme Court has ruled that brain mapping tests cannot be forced upon any individual without their consent and the test results cannot be admitted solely as evidence.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

Brain Electrical Oscillation Signature Profiling (BEOSP) also known as brain fingerprinting is a neuro psychological method of interrogation in which the accused's participation in the crime is investigated by studying their brain's response. The BEOSP test is carried out via a process known as electroencephalogram, conducted to study the electrical behaviour of the human brain.

The BEOSP procedure does not involve a question answer session with the accused and is rather a neuro psychological study of their brain.

In 2010, the Supreme Court passed a judgment in the Selvi versus State of Karnataka case where the bench observed that narco analysis, polygraph and brain mapping tests cannot be forced upon any individual without their consent and the test results cannot be admitted solely as evidence. However, any information or material discovered during the tests can be made part of the evidence, observed the bench.

[Source](#)



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5. International Relations and Organisations

- 1) Arrange the following agreements between India and USA in its chronological order as they were signed.
1. General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA)
 2. Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)
 3. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA)
 4. Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: b)

Recently India and USA signed Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) during the third edition of the 2+2 dialogue.

The inking of the BECA completes finalisation of four key pacts between the two countries which were identified as crucial to significantly expand the strategic ties.

General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) was signed by the two countries in 2002. The GSOMIA provides for specific measures to ensure security standards for safeguarding critical information shared by the U.S. with India.

The two countries inked the **Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016** that allows their militaries use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies as well as provide for deeper cooperation.

India and the U.S. signed another pact called **COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement) in 2018** that provides for interoperability between the two militaries and provides for sale of high-end technology from the U.S. to India.

Source

- 2) Recently India and the United States signed the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA). This will benefit India in which of the following areas.

1. Access to American geospatial intelligence
2. High-quality GPS
3. Response to natural disasters.

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

BECA will help India get **real-time access to American geospatial intelligence** that will enhance the accuracy of automated systems and weapons like missiles and armed drones. Through the sharing of information on maps and satellite images, it will help India access topographical and aeronautical data, and advanced products that will aid in navigation and targeting.

BECA will provide Indian military systems with a **high-quality GPS** to navigate missiles with real-time intelligence to precisely target the adversary.

Besides the sailing of ships, flying of aircraft, fighting of wars, and location of targets, geospatial intelligence is also critical to the **response to natural disasters**.

[Source](#)

3) Gilgit-Baltistan, recently seen in news borders which of the following regions?

1. Xinjiang region of China
2. Jammu and Kashmir
3. Ladakh
4. Aksai Chin

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: a)



4) Consider the following statements regarding Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

1. OPEC member countries account for two thirds of global oil production.
2. OPEC+ is an alliance of crude producers, who have been undertaking corrections in supply in the oil markets.
3. OPEC membership is open to any country that is a substantial exporter of oil and which shares the ideals of the organization.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is an intergovernmental organization of 13 nations.

As of September 2018, the 13 member countries accounted for an estimated **44 percent of global oil production and 81.5 percent of the world's "proven" oil reserves.**

A larger group called OPEC+ was formed in late 2016, to have more control on global crude oil market, who have been undertaking corrections in supply in the oil markets.

OPEC membership is open to any country that is a substantial exporter of oil and which shares the ideals of the organization.

[Source](#)

5) Which of the following are the Member Countries of Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?

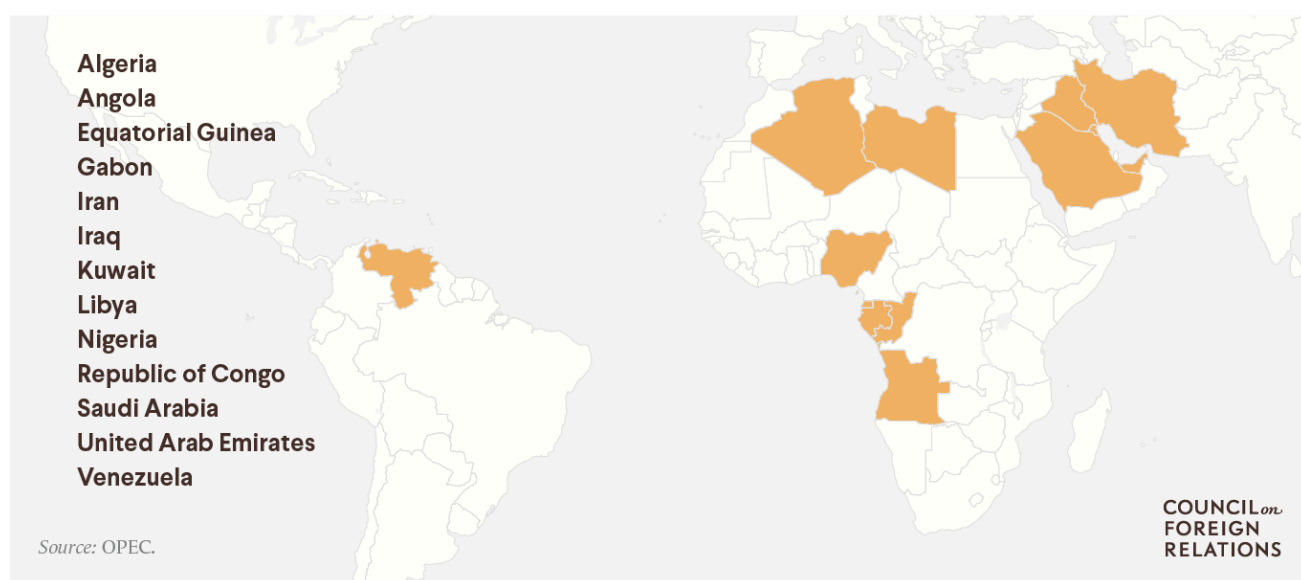
1. Ecuador
2. Algeria
3. Nigeria
4. Iran
5. Qatar

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: c)

OPEC Membership, 2020



6) Consider the following statements regarding Supply chain resilience initiative.

1. It is an initiative decided by India, Japan and Australia to achieve supply-chain resilience in the Indo-Pacific region.
2. The idea is to reduce the reliance on China for supply of goods and services.

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, Japan and Australia are planning to widen the ambit of their proposed supply-chain partnership to include more like-minded countries in the Indo-Pacific region — a move seen as countering China's dominance in world trade.

In September, trade ministers of India, Japan and Australia decided to launch an initiative later this year to **achieve supply-chain resilience in the Indo-Pacific region**. The idea is also to **reduce the reliance on China for supply of goods and services**.

[Source](#)

7) Apart from the 10 ASEAN member states, East Asia Summit includes which of the following countries?

- 1. Republic of Korea
- 2. United States
- 3. Bhutan
- 4. Russia

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: b)

The East Asia Summit is a premier forum in the Asia-Pacific region dealing with issues relating to security and defence. Since its inception in 2005, it has been playing a significant role in the strategic, geopolitical and economic evolution of East Asia.

Apart from the 10 ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) member states, East Asia Summit includes India, China, Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, United States and Russia.

[Source](#)

8) Consider the following statements regarding International Seabed Authority (ISA).

- 1. The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is an autonomous international organization established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- 2. ISA has observer status to the United Nations.
- 3. India is a member of Council of ISA.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is an autonomous international organization established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1994 Agreement).

ISA is the organization through which States Parties to UNCLOS organize and control all mineral-resources-related activities in the Area for the benefit of mankind as a whole. In so doing, ISA has the mandate to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from deep-seabed related activities.

ISA which has its headquarters in Kingston, Jamaica, came into existence on 16 November 1994, upon the entry into force of UNCLOS.

The Authority obtained its observer status to the United Nations in October 1996.

9) Laïcité, recently seen in news is

- a) COVID-19 vaccine in trial stage
- b) NASA's Asteroid Redirect Mission
- c) Secularism in France
- d) None of the above

Solution: c)

Laïcité is the French word for secularism.

10) Consider the following statements.

1. India is the only country to set up a permanent station in the Arctic for the purposes of scientific research.
2. India was first granted the Observer status in Arctic Council in 1991 after it announced the New Economic Policy.
3. The Observer status is granted to entities that support the objectives of the Arctic Council, including the ability to make financial contributions.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Solution: a)

India is one of the very few countries to set up a permanent station in the Arctic for the purposes of scientific research. The station has been used to carry out a variety of biological, glaciological and atmospheric and climate sciences research projects in the last one decade.

The **Himadri research station**, located in Ny Alesund, Svalbard in Norway, about 1200 km south of the North Pole, was started in July 2008. The Goa-based National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCOAR) is the nodal organisation coordinating the research activities at this station.

India, along with 12 other countries, is Observers to the Arctic Council.

The Observer status is granted to entities that support the objectives of the Arctic Council, and have demonstrated capabilities in this regard, including the ability to make financial contributions. The renewal of Observer status is a formality. The status, once granted, continues till there is a consensus among the members that the Observer was engaging in activities that run counter to the objectives of the Arctic Council.

India had been given the Observer status in 2013, along with five other countries — China, Italy, Japan, South Korea, and Singapore.

The **Arctic Council does not prohibit the commercial exploitation of resources in the Arctic.** It only seeks to ensure that it is done in a sustainable manner without harming the interests of local populations and in conformity with the local environment.

[Source](#)

11) Consider the following statements.

1. India has built Integrated check posts (ICPs) only on the borders with Bangladesh and Nepal.

2. On the Indian side, the Integrated check posts are built by the Land Port Authority of India (LPAI), which is under Ministry of Home Affairs.

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)

India and Nepal recently launched the construction of integrated check post (ICP) at Nepalgunj.

ICP will smoothen cross-border movement of cargo trucks by bringing customs and immigration facilities under one roof.

This will be the third ICP on the India-Nepal border and similar facilities at Birgunj and Biratnagar were operationalised in April 2018 and January 2020. **India has also built ICPs on the borders with neighbours such as Bangladesh and Pakistan.**

A portion on the Indian side is being built at Rupaidiha by **Lands Ports Authority of India.**

[Source](#)

12) Consider the following statements regarding Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

1. Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) is an intergovernmental organization of low-lying coastal and small island countries.

2. The main purpose of the alliance is to consolidate the voices of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to address global warming.

3. AOSIS partners with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to effectively influence climate negotiations.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

AOSIS is a coalition of 44 small island and low-lying coastal developing states, including five observers. As a voice for the vulnerable, its mandate is more than amplifying marginalised voices as it also advocates for these countries' interests. In terms of size, AOSIS closely resembles the countries it represents on the global stage, but often punches far above its weight, negotiating historic global commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions, among other achievements.

To achieve its goals, AOSIS often draws on partnerships, including with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the European Commission, to bolster its capacity to effectively influence climate negotiations, some of the most complex and difficult in the world. AOSIS also makes vital contributions by helping its members to pool their resources and amplify their collective voice in climate talks. This goes beyond just speaking up to securing ambitious agreements with tangible benefits for vulnerable communities.

Source

13) Consider the following statements regarding Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC).

1. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is an inter-governmental forum that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region.
2. In APEC, all economies have an equal say and decision-making is reached by consensus.
3. China, Japan, Indonesia and India are members of APEC.
4. APEC projects provide digital skills training for rural communities and help indigenous women export their products abroad.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a regional economic forum established in 1989 to leverage the growing interdependence of the Asia-Pacific.

APEC works to help all residents of the Asia-Pacific participate in the growing economy. For example, APEC projects provide digital skills training for rural communities and help indigenous women export their products abroad. Recognizing the impacts of climate change, APEC members also implement initiatives to increase energy efficiency and promote sustainable management of forest and marine resources.

In APEC, all economies have an equal say and decision-making is reached by consensus. There are no binding commitments or treaty obligations.

APEC's 21 member economies are Australia; Brunei Darussalam; Canada; Chile; People's Republic of China; Hong Kong, China; Indonesia; Japan; Republic of Korea; Malaysia; Mexico; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea; Peru; The Philippines; The Russian Federation; Singapore; Chinese Taipei; Thailand; United States of America; Viet Nam.

[Source](#)

14) Consider the following statements regarding International Criminal Court (ICC).

1. International Criminal Court (ICC) is the first permanent, treaty based, international criminal court established to help end impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.
2. The ICC has universal territorial jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute crimes of international concern.
3. India and U.S. are the members of the court.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

The International Criminal Court (ICC), located in The Hague, is the court of last resort for prosecution of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

It is the first permanent, treaty based, international criminal court established to help end impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.

Its founding treaty, the Rome Statute, entered into force on July 1, 2002.

Funding: Although the Court's expenses are funded primarily by States Parties, it also receives voluntary contributions from governments, international organisations, individuals, corporations and other entities.

Composition and voting power:

- The Court's management oversight and legislative body, the Assembly of States Parties, consists of one representative from each state party.
- Each state party has one vote and "every effort" has to be made to reach decisions by consensus. If consensus cannot be reached, decisions are made by vote.
- The Assembly is presided over by a president and two vice-presidents, who are elected by the members to three-year terms.

The ICC lacks universal territorial jurisdiction, and may only investigate and prosecute crimes committed within member states, crimes committed by nationals of member states, or crimes in situations referred to the Court by the United Nations Security Council.

The U.S. government has never been a member of the court.

Some countries have neither signed nor acceded to the Rome Statute. Some of them, including China and India, are critical of the Court.

15) Consider the following statements.

1. India has become the first country in the world to have its independent regional navigation satellite system recognised by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO).
2. The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) will be used to assist in the navigation of ships in ocean waters within the area of approximately 1,500 km from the Indian boundary.

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)

India became the fourth country in the world to have its independent regional navigation satellite system recognised by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) as a part of the World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS).

The IRNSS is an independent regional navigation satellite system developed by India. It is designed to provide accurate position information service to assist in the navigation of ships in the Indian Ocean waters. It could replace the US-owned Global Positioning System (GPS) in the Indian Ocean extending up to approximately 1500 km from the Indian boundary.

[Source](#)

16) Consider the following statements regarding International Maritime Organisation (IMO).

1. International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) is the United Nations' specialised agency responsible for the safety and security of shipping.
2. IMO sets standard for environmental performance of international shipping.
3. IMO currently lists India as among the 10 states with the "largest interest in international seaborne trade".

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

The IMO is the United Nations' specialised agency responsible for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution by ships.

The IMO's policies or conventions have a serious impact on every aspect of shipping including the cost of maritime trade.

The IMO, like any other UN agency, is primarily a secretariat, which facilitates decision-making processes on all maritime matters through meetings of member states. The binding instruments are brought in through the conventions — to which member states sign on to for compliance — as well as amendments to the same and related codes.

The IMO currently lists India as among the 10 states with the "largest interest in international seaborne trade".

Source Source

17) Consider the following statements regarding BRICS grouping.

1. Not all BRICS members are the members of G20.
2. Since 2009, the BRICS nations have met annually at formal summits.
3. New Development Bank (NDB) is a multilateral development bank operated by the BRICS countries with each country contributing equally to its equity.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

BRICS is the acronym coined for an association of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

The BRICS members are known for their significant influence on regional affairs; all are members of G20. Since 2009, the BRICS nations have met annually at formal summits.

The main achievement of BRICS is the New Development Bank, with each country contributing equally to its equity.

18) Consider the following statements regarding Global compact for migration.

1. The global compact for migration is the first, inter-governmentally negotiated agreement to cover all dimensions of international migration.
2. The global compact is a legally binding agreement.
3. It was prepared under the auspices of the United Nations.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The global compact for migration is the first, intergovernmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, to cover all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner.

The Global Compact for Migration is the first-ever UN global agreement on a common approach to international migration in all its dimensions. The global compact is non-legally binding.

[Source](#)

19) Consider the following statements regarding Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI).

1. India joined Global Partnership for Artificial Intelligence as its founder member.
2. GPAI is a first initiative of its type for evolving better understanding of the challenges and opportunities around Artificial Intelligence.
3. It is supported by Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d)

India joined the league of leading economies including USA, UK, EU, Australia, Canada, France and others to launch the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI).

In collaboration with partners and international organizations, GPAI will bring together leading experts from industry, civil society, governments, and academia to collaborate to promote responsible evolution of Artificial Intelligence.

By joining GPAI as a founding member, India will actively participate in the global development of Artificial Intelligence, leveraging its experience around use of digital technologies for inclusive growth.

GPAI is a first initiative of its type for evolving better understanding of the challenges and opportunities around Artificial Intelligence using the experience and diversity of participating countries.

This body is supported by Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Paris.

20) Consider the following statements regarding International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

1. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an international organization that seeks to ban the use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.
2. IAEA was established through a United Nations Statute.
3. IAEA reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is an international organization that seeks to **promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy**, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons. The IAEA was established as an autonomous organisation on 29 July 1957. Though established independently of the United Nations through its own international treaty, the IAEA Statute, the IAEA reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.

[Source](#)

21) Consider the following statements about International Court of Justice (ICJ).

1. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial body of the United Nations.
2. The International Court of Justice is composed of 15 judges elected to five-year terms of office by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.
3. Judges are not eligible for re-election.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial body of the UN. Established in 1946 to replace the Permanent Court of International Justice, the ICJ mainly operates under the statute of its predecessor, which is included in the UN Charter.

It has two primary functions: to settle legal disputes submitted by States in accordance with established international laws, and to act as an advisory board on issues submitted to it by authorized international organizations.

Members of the Court:

The International Court of Justice is composed of 15 judges elected to nine-year terms of office by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. These organs vote simultaneously but separately. In order to be elected, a candidate must receive an absolute majority of the votes in both bodies. In order to ensure a measure of continuity, one third of the Court is elected every three years. Judges are eligible for re-election.

22) Consider the following statements regarding Compulsory licensing.

1. Compulsory licensing is when a government allows someone else to produce a patented product or process without the consent of the patent owner.
2. It is included in the WTO's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights Agreement.
3. India grants compulsory licenses frequently for the production of generic drugs.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Compulsory licensing is when a government allows someone else to produce a patented product or process without the consent of the patent owner or plans to use the patent-protected invention itself. It is one of the flexibilities in the field of patent protection included in the WTO's agreement on intellectual property — the TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) Agreement.

For compulsory licensing, it's when the generic copy is produced mainly for the domestic market, not for export.

The patent owner still has rights over the patent, including a right to be paid compensation for copies of the products made under the compulsory licence.

The TRIPS Agreement does not specifically list the reasons that might be used to justify compulsory licensing. However, the Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health confirms that countries are free to determine the grounds for granting compulsory licences, and to determine what constitutes a national emergency.

In March 2012, India granted its first compulsory license ever. The license was granted to Indian generic drug manufacturer Natco Pharma for Sorafenib tosylate, a cancer drug patented by Bayer.

Source

Source



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6. Polity

1) When Parliament passes laws on the matter enumerated in the concurrent list and if some states are aggrieved by the Parliament's laws, what options does the states have

1. States can amend central laws enacted under the Concurrent List, subject to the condition that provisions repugnant to the parliamentary Acts will have to get the President's assent, without which they do not come into force.

2. The aggrieved states can challenge the validity of the central laws in the Supreme Court.

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: c)

Recently Punjab enacted amendments to override the effects of the Centre's new agriculture laws.

States can indeed amend central laws enacted under the Concurrent List, subject to the condition that provisions repugnant to the parliamentary Acts will have to get the President's assent, without which they do not come into force.

The Punjab Bills note that agriculture is under the legislative domain on the States, as the subject falls under the State List in the Seventh Schedule. The Centre has enacted its farm sector Bills by invoking Entry 33(b) in the Concurrent List, which concerns trade and commerce in, and production, supply and distribution of, "foodstuffs". By stretching the entry's meaning to include agriculture, Parliament has managed to pass laws in the domain of the States. In these circumstances, States aggrieved by the farm sector laws will either have to adopt Bills that would require presidential assent or **challenge the validity of the central laws in the Supreme Court.**

Source

2) Consider the following statements regarding Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

- 1. CBI functions under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions of the central government.
- 2. CBI is not exempted from the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) Act.
- 3. CBI is India's officially designated single point of contact for liaison with the Interpol.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The CBI came into being during the World War II, when the colonial government felt the need to probe cases of corruption in the War and Supply Department. A law came in 1941. **It became the DSPE Act in 1946.**

The Act to set up CBI was not passed by Parliament. It was created by an executive order of the government. In that sense, the CBI is not a statutory body.

The **CBI functions under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions** of the central government, and is **exempted from the purview of the Right to Information (RTI) Act.**

CBI is India's officially designated single point of contact for liaison with the Interpol.

[Source](#)

3) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) can investigate which of the following types of cases in a state?

1. Corruption against public servants
2. Money laundering and black money operations
3. Crimes related to espionage, narcotics and banned substances

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: d)

The CBI investigates three types of cases through three specialised wings.

The Anti-Corruption Division that probes cases of corruption against public servants.

The Economic Offences Division probes crimes of financial malfeasance, bank frauds, money laundering, black money operations, and the like. However, the CBI usually transfers cases of money laundering to the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

There is a Special Crimes Division to investigate cases of violence such as murder, crimes related to internal security such as espionage, narcotics and banned substances, and cheating. It is this division of the CBI that generally handles cases that get wide media coverage, for example, actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case.

[Source](#)

4) Consider the following statements regarding Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

1. Delhi Special Police Establishment Act (DPSEA) makes the CBI a special wing of Delhi Police and its original jurisdiction is limited to Delhi.
2. Like the National Investigation Agency (NIA), CBI enjoys an all-India jurisdiction.

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 CBI is governed by the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act (DPSEA). This law makes the CBI a special wing of Delhi Police and thus its original jurisdiction is limited to Delhi.

Recently, a Calcutta High Court order expanded its jurisdiction to investigate the central government employees in West Bengal without seeking specific consent of the state government.

For other matters, the CBI needs consent of the state government in whose territorial jurisdiction, the CBI has to conduct an investigation. This is unlike other central government agencies, for example, the National Investigation Agency (NIA), which by law, enjoys an all-India jurisdiction.

[Source](#)

5) Consider the following statements regarding Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

1. Delhi Special Police Establishment Act (DPSEA) authorises the central government to direct CBI to probe a case within the jurisdiction of any state without the recommendation of the concerned state government.
2. Supreme Court and High Courts can also order CBI to investigate such a crime anywhere in the country without the consent of the state.

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)

Section 6 of the DPSE Act authorises the central government to direct CBI to probe a case within the jurisdiction of any state on the **recommendation of the concerned state government**. The courts can also order a CBI probe, and even monitor the progress of investigation.

The CBI manual says, "The central government can authorize CBI to investigate such a crime in a state but only with the **consent of the concerned state government**. The Supreme Court and High Courts, however, can order CBI to investigate such a crime anywhere in the country without the consent of the state."

[Source](#)

6) Consider the following statements regarding National Commission for Women (NCW).

1. National Commission for Women Act requires that the head of the Commission should be a women's rights activist.
2. National Commission for Women receives funds mainly from the Consolidated Fund of India.
3. National Commission for Women has powers on par with civil courts and can issue warrants and conduct judicial proceedings.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

The NCW Act requires that the head of the Commission should be a women's rights activist.

NCW receives funds from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, while to be fully independent it should perhaps be allocated funds under the Consolidated Fund of India like NHRC.

A government proposal in 2014-2015 was to give the NCW powers on par with civil courts so that it could issue warrants and conduct judicial proceedings and was submitted to the PMO.

[Source](#)

7) Disqualification from contesting the elections when a person is convicted under the Prevention of corruption act, 1988 is quite often in the news. Who among the following is empowered to remove the disqualification?

- a) President of India
- b) Chief Election Commissioner alone
- c) Parliament for MPs / State Legislature Assembly for MLAs
- d) Election Commission of India

Solution: d)

Citing "legislative intent" of Section 11 of the RP Act, the ECI said: "The legislature has, in its wisdom, deemed it necessary to vest this Commission with this power with the understanding that socio-economic-political factors may, in certain peculiar circumstances, warrant that the general disqualification prescribed by statutory rule should be removed/reduced by exercising this extraordinary power."

7. States

1) Consider the following statements

1. Out of the total installed renewable energy capacity in India, more than two-third of it is comprised of wind and solar energy.

2. Out of the total installed renewable energy capacity in India, more than half comes from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: a)

As of August 31, 2020, installed renewable energy capacity stood at 88.79 GW, of which solar and wind comprised 35.73 GW and 37.99 GW, respectively. Biomass and small hydro power constituted 10.14 GW and 4.73 GW, respectively.

Gujarat's total renewable capacity crossed the 10,000 MW mark in FY20, making it the third State after Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to have more than 10 GW of installed capacity, according to a Crisil Research report.

[Source](#)

[Source](#)

2) Consider the following statements.

1. India is the second largest onion growing country in the world after China.

2. The onions as the Kharif crop output is more than the rabi crop output.

3. Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh are the key onion growing states in India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

India is the second largest producer after China. The prices hit a peak between August and October after hitting rock-bottom in April. This is easily explained: the **rabi crop, which accounts for 70 per cent of the onion output** of 22 million tonnes, runs out by August or September, whereas the kharif crop arrives between October and December, leaving a two-month vacuum. Late and heavy monsoon showers in key growing areas of Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh have frequently delayed and depleted the kharif crop, which accounts for 20 per cent of the overall output.

[Source](#)

8. Reports and Indices

1) Consider the following statements.

1. Consumer Expenditure Survey is conducted by National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) to collect information on the consumption spending patterns of households across the country, both urban and rural.
2. There has been consistent increase in the devolution of taxes from the centre to states during the 11th to 15th Finance Commission periods.

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: b)

The 12th Finance Commission raised the *share* of *States* in shareable Central taxes from 29.5 per cent to 30.5 per cent.

13th Finance Commission: The states' share in central taxes has been increased from 30.5 per cent (including the share of additional excise duties) to 32 per cent.

The 14th Finance Commission considerably increased the devolution of taxes from the centre to states from 32% to 42%.

15th Finance Commission has recommended 41% share for states from Centre's divisible pool.

[Source](#)

2) Consider the following statements regarding Purchasing Managers' Index.

1. Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) gives an indication of the economic health of the manufacturing sector.
2. Services sectors are not covered while calculating PMI.
3. PMI is released by *Central Statistics Office (CSO)*.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a)

Purchasing Managers' Index is an economic indicator that is calculated from monthly surveys of purchasing managers and supply executives from specific companies. **PMI Manufacturing gives an indication of the economic health of the manufacturing sector.** The most followed PMI readings come from Markit and Institute of Supply Management.

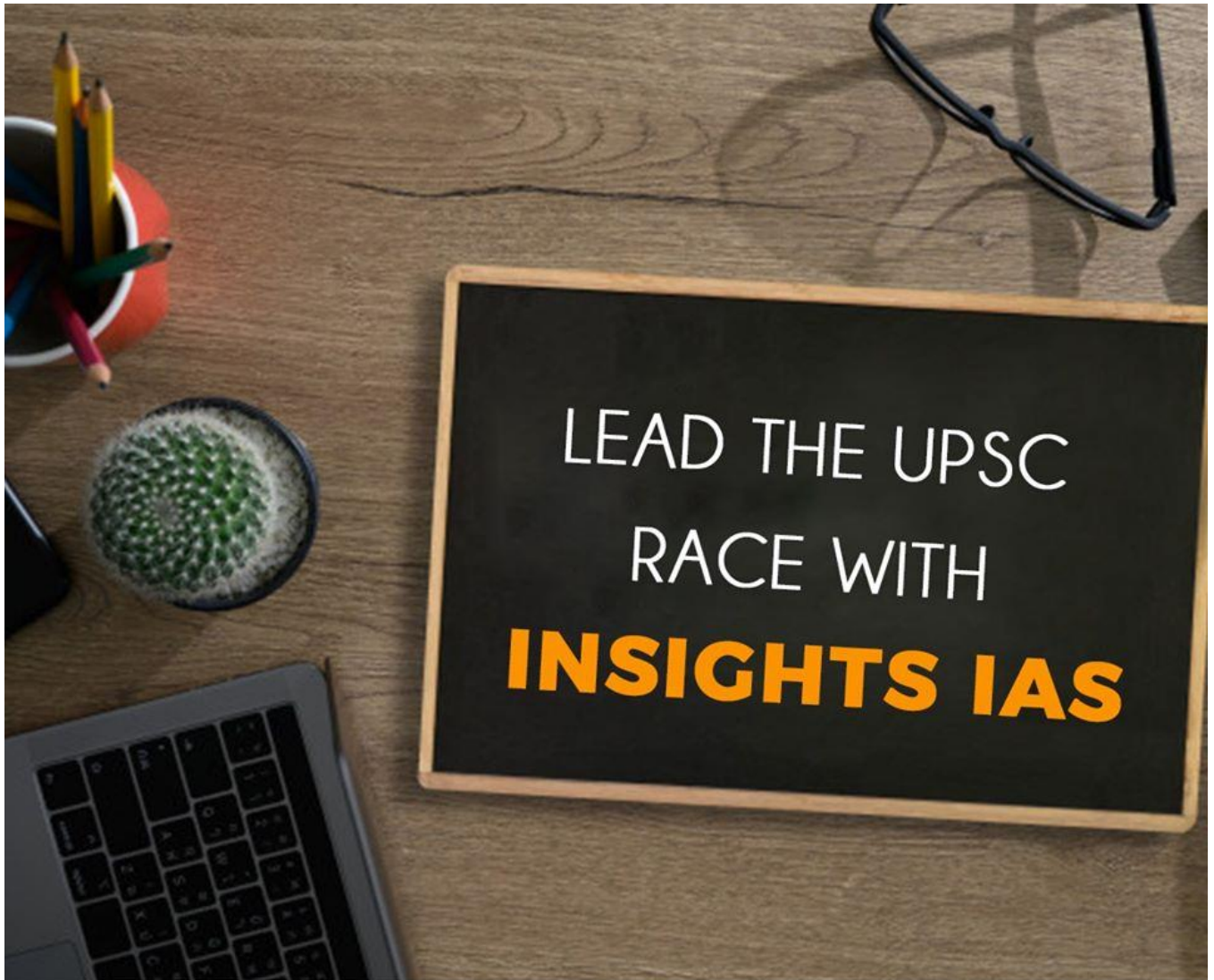
It is **calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors** and then a composite index too is constructed.

A figure above 50 denotes an expansion while anything below 50 denotes a contraction in activity. The higher the difference from this mid-point of 50, greater the expansion or contraction.

Also, the rate of expansion can be judged by comparing the PMI with that of the previous month reading.

Even central banks use the PMI to take decisions on interest rates. Besides influencing equity market movements, PMI releases also impact bond and currency markets.

[Source](#)



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9. Maps / Places

- 1) Nagorno-Karabakh, recently seen in news is internationally recognised as part of
- Turkey
 - Azerbaijan
 - Georgia
 - Iran

Solution: b)

Straddling western Asia and Eastern Europe, Nagorno-Karabakh is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan, but most of the region is controlled by Armenian separatists. Nagorno-Karabakh has been part of Azerbaijan territory since the Soviet era.

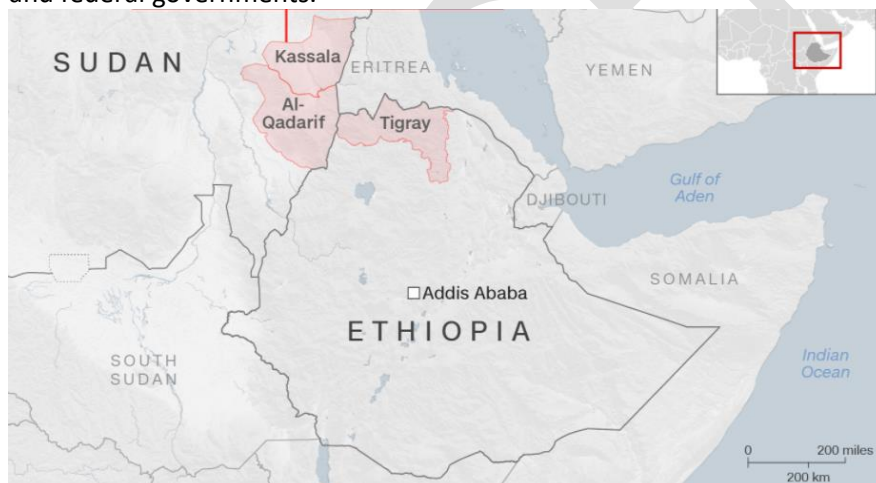
Source



- 2) Tigray Region, recently seen in news is located in
- Ethiopia
 - Somalia
 - Egypt
 - Yemen

Solution: a)

A large number of civilians have been brutally killed in Ethiopia's Tigray region amid fighting between the local and federal governments.



- 3) Consider the following statements.
- Ethiopia, is an East African country on the Horn of Africa.
 - It shares its border with Red Sea.
 - The Blue Nile is a river originating at Lake Tana in Ethiopia.

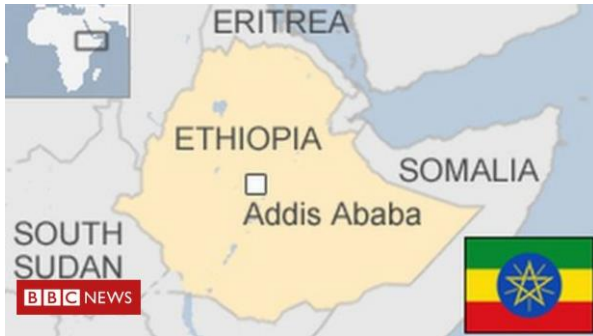
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b)

Ethiopia, is an East African landlocked country on the Horn of Africa. It shares borders with Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, South Sudan and Sudan.

Blue Nile is a river originating at Lake Tana in Ethiopia.



- 4) Tristan da Cunha Islands, recently seen in news is located in
- South China Sea
 - Arctic Ocean
 - Atlantic Ocean
 - Indian Ocean

Solution: c)

Tristan da Cunha, an island with 245 permanent residents, is creating a marine protection zone to safeguard endangered rockhopper penguins, yellow-nosed albatross and other wildlife in an area of the **South Atlantic** three times the size of the United Kingdom.

The sanctuary will be the biggest “no-take zone” in the Atlantic Ocean and the fourth biggest anywhere in the world.

Source

- 5) The country with the longest coastline on the Black Sea is
- Georgia
 - Bulgaria
 - Russia
 - Turkey

Solution: d)



6) Arrange these geographical regions from the West to east.

1. Gulf of Aden
2. Laccadive Sea
3. Gulf of Thailand
4. South China Sea

Select the correct answer code:

- a) 1234
- b) 2134
- c) 1243
- d) 2143

Solution: a)



7) The Central Asian countries bordering Caspian Sea are

1. Tajikistan
2. Uzbekistan
3. Turkmenistan

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: b)



8) Consider the following pairs.

Regions sometimes in news

1. Oromia
2. Bougainville
3. Jubaland
4. Al-Qadarif

Country

- Nigeria
Papua New Guinea
Saudi Arabia
Sudan

Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?

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

Solution: c)

The *Oromia* Region is one of the nine regional states of Ethiopia.

Bougainville Island is the main island of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville of Papua New Guinea, also known as Bougainville Province.

Jubaland is an autonomous region in southern Somalia.

Al Qadarif is one of the 18 states of Sudan.

10. Miscellaneous

1) Consider the following statements.

1. The recent decision of the Government for mandatory packaging of 100% food grains in diversified jute bags has got statutory backing.
2. In India, Jute is not grown in North-Eastern states due to hilly terrain.
3. In India, Government announces minimum support prices (MSPs) for Raw Jute.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c)

In order to help the jute industry, the government decided that 100% food grains and 20% sugar will be mandatorily packaged in jute bags.

The government has expanded the scope of mandatory packaging norms under the **Jute Packaging Material (JPM) Act, 1987**.

Jute is primarily grown in West Bengal, Odisha, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Andhra Pradesh.

Government announces minimum support prices (MSPs) for Raw Jute.

[Source](#)

[Source](#)

2) e-Choupal, sometimes seen news is regarding

- a) Procurement of agricultural products
- b) Tracking of sale of fertilizers at subsidized rates to farmers
- c) Providing subsidy on new solar-powered pumps
- d) Crop insurance scheme

Solution: a)

e-Choupal is an initiative of ITC Limited, a conglomerate in India, to link directly with rural farmers via the Internet for **procurement of agricultural and aquaculture products** like soybeans, wheat, coffee, and prawns. The programme installs computers with Internet access in rural areas of India to offer farmers up-to-date marketing and agricultural information.

3) Who among the following are listed as the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

1. Jarawa
2. Toda
3. Sentinelese
4. Shompen

Select the correct answer code:

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

Solution: c)

Name of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group(s) in Andaman & Nicobar Islands - Great Andamanese, Jarawa, Onge, Sentinelese and Shompen.

Toda in Tamil Nadu

Source

4) Consider the following statements regarding Bru or Reang Community.

1. Bru or Reang community is indigenous to Northeast India, living in Tripura, Mizoram, and Assam.
2. They are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).

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 Bru or Reang are a community indigenous to Northeast India, living mostly in Tripura, Mizoram, and Assam. In Tripura, they are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).

[Source](#)