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RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 1st -Aug-2020

1. Consider the following statements:

1. First All India Whips Conference was organized in 1952.
2. Organizing the All India Whips Conference is one of the functions assigned to the parliamentary secretariat.
3. India inherited the concept of the whip from the British parliamentary system.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 1 and 2

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Stat1 and 2: **First All India Whips Conference** was organized at Indore **in 1952**, in the very first year of general elections to the First Lok Sabha.
- Organizing **the All India Whips Conference** is one of the functions assigned to the **Ministry of Parliamentary affairs**, under Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 made under article 77(3) of the Constitution.
- Stat3: India inherited the concept of the whip from the **British parliamentary system**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/01/what-is-a-whip-2/>

2. Consider the following statements:

1. The term 'Office of whip' is well-defined in the Constitution of India.
2. The Two-line whip is issued to members directing them to vote as per the party line.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Stat1: The **'Office of whip'** is mentioned neither in the **Constitution of India nor in the Rules of the House nor in a**



Parliamentary Statute. It is based on the conventions of the parliamentary government.

- Stat2: There are three types of whips or instructions issued by the party
 - **One-line whip:** Issued to inform members of a party about a vote. It allows a member to abstain in case they decide not to follow the party line.
 - **Two-line whip:** Issued to direct the members to be present in the House at the time of voting.
 - **Three-line whip:** Issued to members directing them to vote as per the party line.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/01/what-is-a-whip-2/>

3. Recently, Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has approved a programme to enhance the production of 'Agarbatti' under:

- (a) Integrated Rural Programme
- (b) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
- (c) National Skill Development Mission
- (d) Gramodyog Vikas Yojana

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** has approved a programme for the benefit of artisans involved in manufacturing of **Agarbatti** under the '**Gramodyog Vikas Yojana**' (As a pilot project).
- **Key points:**
- Initially four Pilot Projects will be started, including one in North Eastern part of the country.
- Each targeted cluster of artisans will be supported with about 50 Automatic Agarbatti making machines and 10 Mixing machines.
- **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** will provide training, and assist artisans working in this area.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/01/gramodyog-vikas-yojana/>

4. 'Smog towers' are designed to work as:

- (a) electrostatic precipitator
- (b) active pollutant removal
- (c) air purifier
- (d) gas chamber

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- A smog tower is **a structure designed to work as a large-scale air purifier.**
- **How it works?**



- This structure **fitted with multiple layers of filters** which trap fine dust particles suspended in the air as it passes through them.
- Air is drawn through fans installed at the top of the tower, passed through filters, and then released near the ground.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/01/what-are-smog-towers/>

5. Consider the following statements:

1. Smog tower can reduce particulate matter by 50% in the area.
2. WAYU (Wind Augmentation Purifying Unit) has the capacity to purify air in an area of 500 meter square.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Stat1: Experts have said that the towers would create “clean air zones” in the city. **A tower would reduce 50% of the particulate matter load** — fine dust particles suspended in the air — in an area of 1 kilometre in the direction of the wind, as well as 200 metres each along the sides of the tower and against the direction of the wind.
- Stat2: **WAYU is developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI)** as a part of Technology Development Project funded by Department of Science and Technology.
- The **device has the capacity to purify air in an area of 500 meter square**. The device consumes only half a unit of electricity for 10 hours of running and has a maintenance cost of only Rs. 1500 per month.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/01/what-are-smog-towers/>

6. Consider the following statements :

1. UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is the successor of the International Children’s Emergency Fund (ICEF).
2. It has published the “Lost at Home” report.
3. Recently, United States and Israel have officially quit the UNICEF.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)



Explanation:

- **The United Nations Children's Fund is a United Nations agency** responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide.
- Based in **U.N. headquarters in New York City**, it is among the most widespread and recognizable social welfare organizations in the world, with a presence in 192 countries and territories.
- **UNICEF is the successor of the International Children's Emergency Fund (ICEF)**, created in 1946 by the U.N. Relief Rehabilitation Administration to provide immediate relief to children and mothers affected by World War II.
- The same year, the U.N. General Assembly established the **United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)** to further institutionalize post-war relief work.
- UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has published a report named UN the "Lost at Home" report.
 - More than five million people were internally displaced in India due to natural disasters, conflict and violence in 2019, constituting the highest number of new internal displacements in the world during the period followed by the Philippines, Bangladesh and China.
 - India, the Philippines, Bangladesh and China accounted for 69% of global disaster-induced displacements.
 - These were overwhelmingly caused by extreme conditions created by dangerous storms and floods.
- The **United States and Israel** have officially quit the UN's educational, scientific and cultural agency, **UNESCO**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/01/report-on-lead-poisoning-by-unicef/>

7. Consider the following statements:

1. Mullaperiyar Dam is located in Kerala on the river Periyar.
 2. The Periyar National Park is located around the dam's reservoir.
- Which of the given above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **here the directive word is incorrect!!**

- **Mullaperiyar Dam** is a masonry gravity dam on **the Periyar River** in the Indian state of **Kerala**
- **The Periyar National Park in Thekkady** is located around the dam's reservoir. The dam is built at the confluence of **Mullayar and Periyar rivers**. The dam is located in Kerala on the river Periyar, but is operated and maintained by the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/01/mullaperiyar-dam-issue/>

8. 'Young Scientist Award' is given by:

- (a) DRDO
- (b) ISRO
- (c) CSIR
- (d) NITI

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Given by **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).**
- **Given to scientists working in different institutions of CSIR for their achievements in** biological sciences, chemical sciences, earth, atmosphere, ocean and planetary sciences, engineering sciences and physical sciences.
- The award comprises a citation, a cash award of Rs 50,000, and a plaque.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/01/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-1-august-2020/>

9. Consider the following statements:

1. SKOCH Award is conferred by Prime Minister's Office.
2. It is given to both organisations and individuals.
3. Recently Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has received SKOCH Gold Award for its "Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes" project.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Context: **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA)** has received SKOCH Gold Award for its "Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes" project.
- **About SKOCH Awards:**
 - **Instituted in 2003**, it is the highest civilian honour in the country conferred by an **independent organisation**.
 - It recognises people, projects and institutions that go the extra mile to make India a better nation.
 - It is given in the areas of digital, financial and social inclusion; governance; inclusive growth; excellence in technology and applications; change management; corporate leadership; corporate governance; citizen service delivery; capacity building; empowerment and other such softer issues.



- **It is given to both institutions/organisations and individuals.**

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/01/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-1-august-2020/>

10. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) was set up by:

- (a) European Parliament
- (b) United Nations General Assembly
- (c) United Nations Trusteeship Council
- (d) United Nations Economic and Social Council

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)** was set up in 1947 by **ECOSOC**.
 - It is one of five regional commissions of the United Nations.
 - UNECE's major aim is to promote pan-European economic integration.
 - It includes 56 member States in Europe, North America and Asia.
- **The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, responsible for coordinating the economic and social fields of the organization, specifically in regards to the 15 specialised agencies, the eight functional commissions and the five regional commissions under its jurisdiction.
 - The Charter **established six principal organs of the United Nations**: the General Assembly, the Security Council, **the Economic and Social Council**, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Secretariat. The United Nations family, however, is much larger, encompassing 15 agencies and several programmes and bodies.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/01/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-1-august-2020/>

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 3rd-Aug-2020

11. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Bal Gangadhar Tilak?

- 1. He wrote "Shrimadh Bhagvad Gita Rahasya" in prison at Mandalay.
- 2. He was a founding member of Indian National Congress (INC).
- 3. He supported the "Age of Consent Bill" which raised the age of marriage from ten to twelve for girls.



Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 2 and 3

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Stat1: Tilak wrote "**Shrimadh Bhagvad Gita Rahasya**" in prison at Mandalay – the analysis of 'Karma Yoga' in the Bhagavad Gita, which is known to be a gift of the Vedas and the Upanishads.
- Stat2: **Tilak joined the Indian National Congress in 1890**. He soon started vocalizing his strong opposition to the moderate views of the party on self-rule.
- Stat3: **Tilak officially opposed the age of consent bill** which raised the age of marriage from ten to twelve for girls, **however he was willing to sign a circular that increased age of marriage for girls to sixteen and twenty for boys**. He fully supported social reforms but in his opinion self-rule took precedence over any social reform. On the whole Tilak was not against social reforms. Though he was against the age of consent bill, he arranged his daughter's marriage at the age of fifteen. He also advocated widow marriages.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/03/bal-gangadhar-tilaks-100th-death-anniversary/>

12. 'Treaty of Sugauli', sometimes mentioned in the news in reference to:

- (a) Indo-China border dispute
- (b) Indo- Bhutan border dispute
- (c) Indo- Nepal border dispute
- (d) Indo- Bangladesh border dispute

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Under **the treaty of Sugauli** signed between Nepal and the British East India Company in 1816, **the Kali River was located as Nepal's western boundary with India**.
- It, however, made no mention of a ridgeline and subsequent maps of the areas drawn by British surveyors showed **the source of the Kali river at different places**.
- This discrepancy has led to the boundary disputes between India and Nepal, with each country producing maps including the territory in their own area to support their claims. The exact size of the Kalapani territory also varies in different sources.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/03/1947-pact-on-gorkha-soldiers/>

13. Consider the following statements about Public Safety Act:

1. It is a punitive detention law



2. The detained person does not have the right to move a bail application before the court.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Stat1: it is also called as the **Jammu & Kashmir Public Safety Act (PSA), 1978**. It is a **preventive detention law**, under which a person is taken into custody to prevent him or her from acting in any manner that is prejudicial to “the security of the state or the maintenance of the public order”.
- Stat2: **The detained person does not have the right to move a bail application before the court, and cannot engage any lawyer to represent him or her the detaining authority.** The only way this administrative preventive detention order can be challenged is through a habeas corpus petition filed by relatives of the detained person.
 - The High Court and the Supreme Court have the jurisdiction to hear such petitions.
 - However, if the order is quashed, there is no bar on the government passing another detention order under the PSA and detaining the person again.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/03/public-safety-act-2/>

14. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

<i>Navigation system</i>	<i>Developed in</i>
1. BeiDou	China
2. GLONASS	Israel
3. Galileo	Russia
4. NavIC	India

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 4
- (b) 1, 3 and 4
- (c) 1 and 4
- (d) All of the above

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **The four global GNSS systems** are – GPS (US), GLONASS (Russia), Galileo (EU), BeiDou (China). Additionally, there are two regional systems – QZSS (Japan) and IRNSS or NavIC (India).

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/03/what-is-beidou/>

15. National Transit Pass System (NTPS) has been launched recently by:

- (a) Border Roads Organisation



- (b) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- (c) Directorate General of Foreign Trade
- (d) Union Environment Ministry

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- It is **an online transit pass generation system for timber, bamboo and other forest produce.**
- It was **launched recently by the Union Environment Ministry.**
- The **pilot project will be functional in Madhya Pradesh and Telangana** for now.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/03/what-is-national-transit-pass-system-https/>

16. 'Bharat Air Fibre Services' are introduced by BSNL as part of:

- (a) Make in India
- (b) Startup India
- (c) Digital India
- (d) Atmanirbhar Bharat

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **The Bharat Air Fibre services are introduced by BSNL as part of digital India initiates by the Government of India** and it aims of providing Wireless Connectivity in the range of 20 KMs from the BSNL Locations and thus customers at remote places also will be benefitted as BSNL comes with cheapest services with support of Telecom Infrastructure Partners (TIPs).

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/03/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-3-august-2020/>

17. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

- | <i>Wild Species</i> | <i>IUCN Status</i> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Asiatic wild dog | Endangered |
| 2. Snow leopard | Vulnerable |
| 3. Great Indian bustard | Critically Endangered |

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Why in News?** Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh rank high in the conservation of the endangered dhole in India, according to a new study.
- **Key facts:**



- Dhole is an apex social carnivore in the tropical forests of South and South East Asia.
- **Endangered** –IUCN.
- CITES – **Appendix II**.
- **Schedule II** of wildlife act.
- **Disease and pathogens:** Dholes are susceptible to rabies, canine distemper, canine parvovirus and sarcoptic mange among others which are usually contracted from domestic village dogs that act as reservoirs.
- Snow leopard: Vulnerable
- Great Indian bustard : Critically Endangered

Refer: : facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/03/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-3-august-2020/>

18. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding Smart India Hackathon 2020?

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme for developing every city of our country into Smart Cities in a decade.
2. It is an initiative to identify new digital technology innovations for solving the many problems faced by our country.
3. It is a programme aimed at making all the financial transactions in our country completely digital in a decade.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- The hackathon is a **nationwide initiative to provide students with a platform to solve some of the pressing problems people face in daily lives**, and thus inculcate a culture of product innovation and a mindset of problem-solving.
- The **first edition of Smart India Hackathon was held in 2017**.
- This hackathon is being **organised jointly by the Ministry of Human Resources Development, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Persistent Systems and i4c**.

Refer: : facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/03/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-3-august-2020/>

19. With reference to Manipuri Sankirtana, consider the following statements:

1. It is a song and dance performance.
2. Cymbals are the only musical instruments used in the performance.



3. It is performed to narrate the life and deeds of Lord Krishna. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Sankirtana** is one of the few important Indian heritages inscribed on the **UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.
- Statement 1 and 3: Sankirtana performers narrate the lives and **deeds of Krishna** through ritual singing, drumming and dancing of Manipur. So, both 1 and 3 are correct.
- Statement 2: Since **drums are also used**, statement 2 is incorrect.
- Refer: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/sankirtana-ritual-singing-drumming-and-dancing-of-manipur-00843>

Source: UPSC CSE 2017

20. Who among the following was/were associated with the introduction of Ryotwari Settlement in India during the British rule?

- 1. Lord Cornwallis
- 2. Alexander Read
- 3. Thomas Munro

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Statement 2 and 3: The **Ryotwari system was devised by Capt. Alexander Read and Thomas Munro** at the end of the 18th century. It was later introduced by Thomas Munro when he was governor (1820–27) of Madras.
- Statement 1: He is associated with the **Cornwallis Code 1793** and could not have been the answer since his tenure preceded the ryotwari settlement regime.
- The principle behind Ryotwari was the direct collection of the land revenue from each individual cultivator by government agents.
- Refer: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/ryotwari-system>

Source: UPSC CSE 2017



RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 4th Aug-2020

21. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 129 of the Constitution of India grants Supreme Court the power to punish for contempt of itself.
2. The Constitution of India includes contempt of court as a reasonable restriction to the freedom of speech and expression under Article 19.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **Article 129 and Article 215** empowers **the Supreme Court** and the **High Court** respectively, to punish people for their contempt.
- **Article 129**, states that “The Supreme Court shall be a court or record and shall have all the powers of such a court including the power to punish for contempt of itself”.
- Stat2: **Under Indian law, the freedom of speech and of the press do not confer an absolute right to express one's thoughts freely. Clause (2) of Article 19** of the Indian constitution enables the legislature to impose certain restrictions on free speech under following heads:
 - security of the State,
 - friendly relations with foreign States,
 - public order,
 - decency and morality,
 - **contempt of court,**
 - defamation,
 - incitement to an offence, and
 - Sovereignty and integrity of India.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/04/expression-of-opinion-or-anguish-is-not-contempt-amounting-to-scandalising-the-court-prashant-bhushan-tells-sc/>

22. Consider the following statements



As per the Code on Social Security, 2019:

1. a welfare fund should will be created for contract as well as self-employed workers.
2. it recommends the time limit for payment of gratuity to an employee after termination of employment from five years to one year.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **Key recommendations:**

- The **time limit for payment of gratuity to an employee after termination of employment** should be **reduced from the current five years** of continuous service to just **one year**.
- The provision of gratuity should be extended to all kinds of employees, including contract labourers, seasonal workers, piece rate workers, fixed term employees and daily/monthly wage workers.
- **“Inter-state migrant workers” should be mentioned as a separate category in the Code.**
- **A welfare fund should be created exclusively for them.** The fund should be financed proportionately by the sending states, the receiving states, the contractors, the principal employers and the registered migrant workers.
- The funds so created should exclusively be used for workers/employees not covered under other welfare funds.
- Create a central online portal and database of registered establishments as well as migrant workers, including building and other construction staff.
- Registration: It should be made mandatory for all establishments, including agricultural, non-agricultural, contract as well as self-employed workers to register under one body, instead of multiple organisations. This body “should remain responsible for provision of social security for all types of workers in the country”.
- An enabling mechanism should be included in the code itself for portability of Building and Construction Workers Welfare Fund among states so money due to beneficiaries can be paid in any state irrespective of where the cess has been collected.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/04/code-on-social-security-2019/>

23. Consider the following statements:



1. The 'Building and Construction Workers Welfare Fund' is raised by levying a cess of 1 per cent of the construction cost.
2. The cess is notified by Central government but collected by the State governments and UTs.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- The **Building and Construction Workers Welfare Fund** is raised by levying a cess of 1 per cent of the construction cost.
 - It is **notified** by the **Central government** in its official gazette.
 - The cess is **collected by the State governments and UTs**.
- It is part of the **Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Act, 1996**, which regulates employment and working conditions of construction workers and also provides for their safety and welfare measures.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/04/code-on-social-security-2019/>

24. "Draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020" has laid out which of the following goals and objectives?

1. To achieve a turnover of Rs 125000 Crores including export of Rs 15000 Crore in Aerospace and Defence goods and services by 2025.
2. To promote export of defence products and become part of the global defence value chains.
3. To develop a dynamic, robust and competitive Defence industry.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **The policy has laid out following goals and objectives:**

- **To achieve** a turnover of **Rs 1,75,000 Crores** (US\$ 25Bn) including export of **Rs 35,000 Crore** (US\$ 5 Billion) in Aerospace and Defence goods and services by 2025.
- **To develop** a dynamic, robust and competitive Defence industry, including Aerospace and Naval Shipbuilding industry to cater to the needs of Armed forces with quality products.



- **To reduce** dependence on imports and take forward "Make in India" initiatives through domestic design and development.
- **To promote** export of defence products and become part of the global defence value chains.
- **To create** an environment that encourages R&D, rewards innovation, creates Indian IP ownership and promotes a robust and self-reliant defence industry.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/04/draft-defence-production-and-export-promotion-policy-2020/>

25. Who among the following were the founding members of the "All India Kisan Congress/Sabha" established in 1936
- (a) P. Ramaswamylyer, K. Kamaraj and Veeresalingam Pantulu
 - (b) Ram Manohar Lohia, Jayaprakash Narayan, Acharya Narendra Dev
 - (c) Ashok Mehta, T.S. Ramanulam and G.G. Mehta
 - (d) Gauri Shankar Misra, Indra Narain Dwivedi supported by Madan Mohan Malviya

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **All India Kisan Congress/Sabha**

- This sabha was founded in Lucknow in April 1936 with **Swami Sahjanand Saraswati as the president and N.G. Ranga as the general secretary** and it involved people such as Namboodiripad, Karyanand Sharma, Yamuna Karjee, Yadunandan (Jadunandan) Sharma, Rahul Sankrityayan, P. Sundarayya, **Ram Manohar Lohia, Jayaprakash Narayan, Acharya Narendra Dev** and Bankim Mukherjee.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/04/centre-should-repeal-ordinances-farmers/>

26. 'Cargo Dragon', sometimes mentioned in the news, was a class of reusable cargo spacecraft developed by:

- (a) Boeing
- (b) Lockheed Martin
- (c) Blue Origin
- (d) SpaceX

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **The SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft** with astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley onboard splashed down in the Gulf of Mexico on Sunday, Aug. 2, 2020.
- **What is it?**



- **In May 2020, the Crew Dragon became the first space vehicle to launch humans from American soil in nine years.**
- **Built by Elon Musk's SpaceX**, it's part of NASA's plan to hand over space station flights to private companies.
- In particular, SpaceX was given funding through NASA's Commercial Crew Program, which started in 2010 to foster public-private partnerships for space exploration.
- **Background:**
 - Crew Dragon evolved from an earlier design, called Dragon 1, which launched 20 times on missions to deliver cargo to the ISS between May 2012 and March 2020.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/04/what-is-the-spacex-crew-dragon/>

27. Consider the following statements:

1. Every 5 years the National Tiger Conservation Authority conducts a tiger census across India.
 2. Leopard is listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List.
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **Every 4 years the National Tiger Conservation Authority** conducts a tiger census across India.
- Stat2: leopard is listed as **Vulnerable** on the IUCN Red List.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/04/report-on-leopard-sightings/>

28. Consider the following statements with reference to 'Aravali Range':

1. They are aligned in north-east to south-west direction.
2. They are one of the oldest block mountains of the world.
3. Guru Shikhar is the highest point of the Aravalli Range.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Stat3: **Guru Shikhar**, a peak in the Arbuda Mountains of Rajasthan, is the highest point of the Aravalli Range.



- Stat2: They are one of the oldest **fold mountains** of the world and the oldest in India.
 - Learn more about fold mountain here: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/fold-mountain/>
- Stat1: They are aligned in **north-east to south-west direction**. They run between Delhi and Palanpur in Gujarat.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/04/rakhis-tied-to-trees-in-aravalis/>

29. 'Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN)' is being implemented under:

- Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)
- Universal Immunization Programme (UIP)
- National Health Mission (NHM)
- Ayushman Bharat—National Health Protection Mission (AB-NHPM)

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN):**

- This is being implemented **under National Health Mission (NHM)** by **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**.
- eVIN aims to provide real-time information on vaccine stocks and flows, and storage temperatures across all cold chain points in the country.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/04/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-4-august-2020/>

30. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

- | <i>Places in news</i> | <i>part of</i> |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Galapagos Islands | Ecuador |
| 2. Port Louis | South Africa |
| 3. Idlib | Syria |

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- The **Galapagos Islands**, spread over almost 60,000 sq km, are a part of **Ecuador**, and are located in **the Pacific Ocean** around 1,000 km away from the South American continent.
 - **Ecuador made a part of the Galapagos a wildlife sanctuary in 1935**, and the sanctuary became the Galapagos National Park in 1959. In 1978, the islands became **UNESCO's first World Heritage Site**.



- **Charles Darwin described the islands as a “world in itself”.**
- **Why in News?**
 - Ecuador was on alert earlier this week as a fleet of Chinese fishing vessels– what some called a **“floating city”**– was sighted near the Galapagos archipelago.
 - Chinese ships frequent Ecuador’s waters this time of the year when **the cold Humboldt Current** brings in nutrients that lead to a high congregation of marine species.
- Syrian and Russian planes have carried out deadly aerial strikes on schools, hospitals and markets in Idlib province. UN investigators have termed these attacks as war crimes.
 - **Where is Idlib?**
 - **Idlib is a city in north western Syria**, 59 kilometers southwest of Aleppo, which is the capital of the Idlib Governorate. It has an elevation of nearly 500 meters above sea level.
- **Port Louis:** It is the **capital city of Mauritius**, in the Indian Ocean. It’s known for its French colonial architecture.
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Mauritius counterpart Pravind Jugnauth jointly inaugurated the new Supreme Court built in Port Louis with Indian grant assistance.
- Refer: facts for prelims:
<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/04/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-4-august-2020/>

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 5th Aug-2020

31. Which of the following type of architectural form in the Nagara order called as ‘wagon-vaulted buildings’?
- (a) latina
 - (b) rekha-prasada
 - (c) phamsana
 - (d) valabhi

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Sub type of Nagar Style:**

- These are rectangular buildings with a roof that rises into a **vaulted chamber**.



- The edge of this vaulted chamber is rounded, like the bamboo or wooden wagons that would have been drawn by bullocks in ancient times. They are usually called '**wagon-vaulted buildings**'.
- The form of the temple is influenced by ancient building forms that were already in existence before the fifth century CE. The **valabhi type** of building was one of them.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/05/nagara-architecture-of-ayodhyas-ram-mandir/>

32. Which of the following is/are the best examples of the north Indian style (Nagara style) of temple architecture?

1. Sun temple, Konark
2. Sri Ranganathaswamy temple, Srirangam
3. Khajuraho Group of temples

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Some of the best examples of the north Indian style (Nagara style) of temple architecture are the **Khajuraho Group of temples, Sun temple, Konark**, Sun temple at Modhera, Gujarat and Ossian temple, Gujarat.



- The finest examples of Dravidian style (south Indian style) are temples of Tanjore, Madurai, Mahabalipuram, Badami, Pattadakal and Kanchipuram.
- **The Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple** is a Hindu temple dedicated to Ranganatha, a form of the Supreme God, Maha Vishnu, located in Srirangam, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu, India.
 - **Constructed in the Dravidian architectural style**, the temple is glorified by **Alvars in their Divya Prabhandas** and has the unique distinction of being not only the foremost among the 108 Divya Desams dedicated to Vishnu, but also the **largest functioning Hindu temple in the world**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/05/nagara-architecture-of-ayodhyas-ram-mandir/>

33. Consider the following statements about 'Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)':

1. It will be headed by Union Minister of Education.
2. It is a joint venture of Ministry of HRD, GOI and State Bank of India.
3. It is registered as Non-deposit taking NBFC with RBI.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Stat1: It will be headed by a banker and will have a board with five donors and five institutions selected on rotation basis.
- Stat2 and 3: HEFA **incorporated on 31st May 2017**, is a **joint venture of Ministry of HRD, GOI and Canara Bank** with an **agreed equity participation in the ratio of 90.91% and 09.09% respectively**.
- HEFA is registered under **the Companies Act 2013** as a Union Govt company and as **Non-deposit taking NBFC** with RBI.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/05/higher-education-financing-agency-hefa/>

34. Arrange the following cities in the direction of South to North:

1. Visakhapatnam
2. Kurnool
3. Amaravati

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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



Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- On July 31 the state government notified **the AP Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Act, 2020**, and the AP Capital Region Development Authority (Repeal) Act, 2020.
- This law paves the way for three capitals for the state.
 - Amaravati– legislative capital.
 - Visakhapatnam– executive capital.
 - Kurnool– judicial capital.
-



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/05/three-capitals-for-andhra-pradesh-2/>

35. The Programme for International Student Assessment is a worldwide study coordinated by:

- (a) UNESCO
- (b) UNICEF
- (c) UNDP
- (d) OECD

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **The Programme for International Student Assessment:**

- It is an **international assessment that measures 15-year-old students' reading, mathematics, and science literacy every three years.**
- First conducted in 2000, the major domain of study rotates between reading, mathematics, and science in each cycle.
- PISA also includes measures of general or cross-curricular competencies, such as collaborative problem solving.
- PISA is **coordinated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**, an intergovernmental organization of industrialized countries, and is **conducted in the United States by NCES.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/05/united-nations-policy-brief-on-the-pandemics-impact-on-education/>



36. 'Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP)' initiative has been launched recently by:

- (a) Delhi government
- (b) Madhya Pradesh government
- (c) Haryana government
- (d) Rajasthan government

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Launched by **Haryana government**.
- **Key features:**
- PPP will **provide a unique identity to complete family** and it would have name of the head of the family on top. The name of family member will be added to the 'Parivar Pehchan Patra' right after his birth and after marriage of a girl her name will be transferred to the 'Parivar Pehchan Patra' of her in-laws.
- **Significance:**
- PPP will **enable the citizens to get the benefits of various central and state government schemes at their door-step** in a fair and transparent manner.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/05/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-5-august-2020/>

37. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

<i>Places sometimes mentioned</i>	<i>Country in news</i>
1. Beirut	Lebanon
2. Chattogram Port	Iran
3. Okavango Delta	Namibia

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Beirut:** It is the **capital and largest city of Lebanon**.
 - Located on a peninsula at the midpoint of Lebanon's Mediterranean coast, Beirut is an important regional seaport.
 - **Why in News?**
 - A huge explosion recently devastated the port area of the capital Beirut
 - The blast was caused by 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate stored unsafely in a warehouse.
- **Chattogram Port:**



- First trial container ship flagged off from Kolkata to Agartala through **Chattogram Port of Bangladesh**.
- The ship has been launched under the Agreement on the use of **Chattogram and Mongla Ports** for the movement of India's transit cargo through Bangladesh.
- **Botswana:**
 - Hundreds of elephants have died mysteriously in Botswana's Okavango Delta. The cause is yet to be established.
 - Key facts:
 - **Botswana is a landlocked country in Southern Africa.**
 - Botswana is topographically flat, with up to 70 percent of its territory being the Kalahari Desert.
 - Neighbours: It is bordered by South Africa to the south and southeast, Namibia to the west and north, Zimbabwe to the northeast and Zambia to the north.
 - Botswana is currently home to more elephants than any other African country, and southern Africa remains a stronghold for 293,000, or 70%, of the estimated remaining African elephants.
 - The Okavango Delta is a vast inland river delta in northern Botswana. It was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2014.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/05/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-5-august-2020/>

38. With reference to cultural history of India, consider the following statements :

1. Most of the Tyagaraja Kritis are devotional songs in praise of Lord Krishna.
2. Tyagaraja created several new ragas.
3. Annamacharya and Tyagaraja are contemporaries.
4. Annamacharyaldrtanas are devotional songs in praise of Lord Venkateshwara.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:



- Stat1: Tallapāka **Annamācārya** (or Annamayya) was a 15th-century Hindu saint and is the earliest known Indian musician to compose songs called **sankirtanas in praise of the god Venkateswara, a form of Vishnu**. Hence S1 is incorrect.
- Stat2: **Tyagaraja** took music training from SontiVenkataramayya. But that didn't stop him from taking musical inspirations from various earlier poets. **He was an ardent devotee of lord Rama**. In his praise and honour he wrote numerous musical operas, and about twenty four thousand songs, a claim that has been speculated among music historians. Hence, S2 is correct.
- Stat3: **Tyagaraja was born on 14th May 1767** in the village of Thiruvayaru in the Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu whereas Tallapāka **Annamācārya (or Annamayya)** (22 May 1408 – 4 April 1503) was a **15th-century Hindu saint**. Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.
- Stat4: Tallapāka **Annamācārya** (or Annamayya) (22 May 1408 – 4 April 1503) was a **15th-century Hindu saint** and is the earliest known Indian musician to compose songs called sankirtanas in praise of the **god Venkateswara, a form of Vishnu**. Hence, S4 is correct.
- **refer:** <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annamacharya>
- <https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/remembering-tyagaraja-guardian-saint-carnatic-music-his-250th-birth-anniversary-55754>

Source: UPSC CSE 2018

39. With reference to Mughal India, what is/are the difference/differences between Jagirdar and Zamindar?

1. Jagirdars were holders of land assignments in lieu of judicial and police duties, whereas Zamindars were holders of revenue rights without obligation to perform any duty other than revenue collection.
2. Land assignments to Jagirdars were hereditary and revenue rights of Zamindars were not hereditary.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Both are incorrect.
- The Jagirdars were the king's officials who enjoyed the land gifted from the King. They were the rank (mansab) holder given by the king called mansabdar. They were allotted non-inheritable land



area equivalent to their fee amount called Jagir. These Jagirs are temporary in character and the Jagirdars only have the right to claim and enjoy the revenue collected from the land.

- The holder of land was termed as the Zamindar. They had the hereditary right over the land to claim share in the peasant's output other than land revenues. They also have the right to detain the peasants.
- See https://www.academia.edu/33049266/Jagirdari_System
- <https://www.owlgen.com/question/what-is-the-difference-between-jagirdar-and-zamindar>

Source: UPSC CSE 2019

40. Consider the following statements about 'the Charter Act of 1813':

1. It ended the trade monopoly of the East India Company in India except for trade in tea and trade with China.
 2. It asserted the sovereignty of the British Crown over the Indian territories held by the Company.
 3. The revenues of India were now controlled by the British Parliament.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- The Company's commercial monopoly was ended, as a result of the act, except for the tea and opium trade and the trade with China, this reflecting the growth of British power in India
- The Act expressly asserted the Crown's sovereignty over British India.
- It allotted Rs 100,000 to promote education in Indian masses and allowed them to open anywhere anytime.
- This act permitted Christian missionaries to propagate English and preach their religion.
- See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charter_Act_of_1813

Source: UPSC CSE 2019

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41. The 'Thalweg Doctrine', sometimes mentioned in the news recently is related to:



- (a) Global commons
- (b) Exclusive economic zone
- (c) Maritime boundary disputes
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- The **thalweg is the legal principle** that if the boundary between two political entities is stated to be a waterway, without further description (e.g., a median line, right bank, eastern shore, low tide line, etc.), the boundary follows the thalweg of that watercourse.
- In particular, the boundary follows the center of the principal navigable channel of the waterway (which is presumably the deepest part). If there are multiple navigable channels in a river, the one principally used for downstream travel (likely having the strongest current) is used.
- **Where is Sir Creek?**
 - Sir Creek is a **96-km strip of water disputed between India and Pakistan in the Rann of Kutch marshlands.**
 - Originally named **Ban Ganga**, Sir Creek is **named after a British representative.**
 - The Creek **opens up in the Arabian Sea** and roughly **divides the Kutch region of Gujarat from the Sindh Province of Pakistan.**
 - **What's the related dispute?**
 - The dispute lies in the interpretation of the maritime boundary line between Kutch and Sindh.
 - Pakistan claims the entire width of the estuary, while **India says the demarcation should be in the middle.**
 - In its support, India cites **the Thalweg Doctrine in International Maritime Law**, which states that river boundaries between two states may be divided by the mid-channel if the water-body is navigable.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/06/pakistans-new-map/>

42. What is/are unique about 'Kharai Camel', a breed found in India?

1. It is capable of swimming up to three kilometres in seawater.
2. It survives by grazing on mangroves.
3. It lives in the wild and cannot be domesticated.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:



- Stat 1 and 2: **It can swim up to three kilometers into the sea in search of mangroves, its primary food.**
 - The breed population has declined drastically in recent years due to loss of mangroves.
- Statement 3: Given the breed's ability to survive both on land and sea, the **Kharai camel is one of the most preferred choices of graziers in the arid coastal region of Kachchh.**
 - People consume its milk, while male calves are sold for economic returns (females are not sold because they are considered sacred). So, clearly they are domesticated and don't live in the wild. Statement 3 is wrong.
 - **Gujarat is the only home to Kharai camel.**
- <http://www.downtoearth.org.in/coverage/the-sinking-ship-40705>

Refer: Insta link: UPSC CSE 2017:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/06/pakistans-new-map/>

43. Consider the following statements:

1. In 1962, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of defamation in Kedar Nath Singh v State of Bihar.
 2. In India, defamation can both be a civil wrong and a criminal offence.
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Stat1: In 1962, the Supreme Court decided on the **constitutionality of Section 124A in Kedar Nath Singh v State of Bihar**. It upheld the **constitutionality of sedition**, but limited its application to “acts involving intention or tendency to create disorder, or disturbance of law and order, or incitement to violence”. It distinguished these from “very strong speech” or the use of “vigorous words” strongly critical of the government.
- Stat2: What is defamation?
 - Defamation is the communication of a false statement that harms the reputation of an individual person, business, product, group, government, religion, or nation.
 - **In India, defamation can both be a civil wrong and a criminal offence.**
 - The difference between the two lies in the objects they seek to achieve.



- A civil wrong tends to provide for a redressal of wrongs by awarding compensation and a criminal law seeks to punish a wrongdoer and send a message to others not to commit such acts.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/06/what-is-defamation/>

44. With reference to Brus and refugees issue, consider the following statements:

1. Brus are spread across the northeastern states of Tripura, Assam, Manipur, and Mizoram.
2. Recently, the Government of India signed a historic pact for permanent solution of Bru refugees' issue.
3. In Mizoram, they are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Who are Brus?**

- The Brus, also referred to as the Reangs, are spread across the northeastern states of Tripura, Assam, Manipur, and Mizoram.
- **In Tripura, they are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.** In Mizoram, they have been targeted by groups that do not consider them indigenous to the state.

- **Permanent solution to the crisis:**

- The centre, in January 2020, signed a historic pact for permanent solution of Bru refugees' issue.
- The agreement was between Union Government, Governments of Tripura and Mizoram and Bru-Reang representatives to end the 23-year old Bru-Reang refugee crisis.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/06/brus-reject-resettlement-sites-proposed-by-tripura-non-brus/>

45. Consider the following statements about Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India:

1. In 2006, the Government of India renamed the Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).



2. PVTGs reside in 18 States and two Union Territory.
 3. An extremely low literacy is one of the criteria for determining PVTG status.
 4. Among the 75 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in Odisha.
- Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Stat1: In 1973, the **Dhebar Commission** created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, who are less developed among the tribal groups. **In 2006, the Government of India renamed the Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as PVTGs.**
- Stat2: PVTGs spread over **18 states** and **one Union Territory** (A&N Islands) in the country (2011 census).
- Stat3: **The criteria followed for determination of PVTGs are as under:**
 - A pre-agriculture level of technology.
 - A stagnant or declining population.
 - Extremely low literacy.
 - A subsistence level of economy.
- Stat4: Among the 75 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in Odisha (13), followed by Andhra Pradesh (12).

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/06/brus-reject-resettlement-sites-proposed-by-tripura-non-brus/>

Source: improvisation of UPSC CSE 2019 Q31 (set-D)

46. Consider the following statements about Atal Bhujal Yojana:

1. It is a Rs.600 crore World Bank approved Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
2. The funding pattern is 50:50 between Government of India and World Bank.
3. Under this Scheme, some states are the designated as priority areas for improvement of groundwater management through community participation.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)



Explanation: About Atal Bhujal Yojana:

- It is a **Rs.6000 crore World Bank** approved **Central Sector Scheme** of the **Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- The **funding pattern** is **50:50** between Government of India and World Bank.
- Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh are the designated priority states for improvement of groundwater management through community participation, impacting around 78 districts and 8350 gram panchayats. The duration of the scheme is from 2020 to 2025.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/25/atal-bhujal-yojana-ajy/>

47. How is the National Green Tribunal (NGT) different from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)?

1. The NGT has been established by an Act whereas the CPCB has been created by an executive order of the Government.
2. The NGT provides environmental justice and helps reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts whereas the CPCB promotes cleanliness of streams and wells, and aims to improve the quality of air in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **The National Green Tribunal has been established on 18.10.2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010** for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
 - The Tribunal's dedicated jurisdiction in environmental matters shall provide speedy environmental justice and help reduce the burden of litigation in the higher courts. The Tribunal is mandated to make and endeavour for disposal of applications or appeals finally within 6 months of filing of the same.
- **The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), statutory organisation, was constituted in September, 1974 under the**



Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Further, CPCB was entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

- Functions of the CPCB, as spelt out in the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, (i) to promote cleanliness of streams and wells in different areas of the States by prevention, control and abatement of water pollution, and (ii) to improve the quality of air and to prevent, control or abate air pollution in the country.
- Refer: <http://envfor.nic.in/rules-regulations/national-green-tribunal-ngt>
- <http://cpcb.nic.in/Introduction/>

Source: UPSC CSE 2018

48. '2020 Beirut explosions', which happened recently, which is attributed to explosion of:

- (a) styrene gas
- (b) methyl isocyanate gas
- (c) polonium-210
- (d) ammonium nitrate

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **The catastrophic explosion at Beirut port** on August 4 was caused by over 2,700 tonnes of **ammonium nitrate** kept in storage for over six years.
- What is it?
 - In its pure form, **ammonium nitrate (NH₄NO₃)** is a white, crystalline chemical which is soluble in water.
 - Where all is it used?
 - It is the main ingredient in the manufacture of commercial explosives used in mining and construction.
 - It is a common chemical ingredient of agricultural fertilisers.
 - It is also the main component of the explosive composition known as ANFO — ammonium nitrate fuel oil.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/06/what-is-ammonium-nitrate-which-caused-the-massive-explosion-in-beirut/>

49. The pokkali variety of rice is known for its:

- (a) longest cooking time
- (b) saltwater resistance



- (c) drought resistance
- (d) Both (b) and (c)

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **Pokkali variety of rice:**

- **The pokkali variety of rice is known for its saltwater resistance and flourishes in the rice paddies of coastal Kerala districts.**
- The uniqueness of the rice has brought it the Geographical Indication (GI) tag and is the subject of continuing research.
- The organically-grown Pokkali is famed for its peculiar taste and its high protein content.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/06/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-6-august-2020/>

50. Which of the following statement is correct regarding Hunter Education Commission?

- (a) Government of India must assume responsibility for education of the masses.
- (b) Indian learning was inferior to European learning.
- (c) For improving university education, improving secondary education was a necessary.
- (d) Primary education should be imparted through vernacular.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Hunter Education Commission (1882-83):** Earlier schemes had neglected primary and secondary education. **The Hunter Commission mostly confined its recommendations to primary and secondary education.** The commission emphasised that state's special care is required for extension and improvement of primary education, and that primary education should be imparted through vernacular.

Refer: <http://kkhsou.in/main/education/hunter.html>



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RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 7th Aug-2020

51. Consider the following statements about Abanindranath Tagore:

1. He was the first major supporter of swadeshi values in Indian art.
2. Most of his works revolved around Hindu philosophy.
3. He was one of the founding member of the 'Indian Society of Oriental Art'.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **About Abanindranath Tagore:**

- Abanindranath Tagore, the **nephew of Rabindranath Tagore**, was one of the most prominent artists of Bengal school of art in India. **He was the first major supporter of swadeshi values in Indian art.**
- **Bengal School of Art:**
 - He first created the '**Indian Society of Oriental Art**' and later went on to establish Bengal school of art.



- He believed that Indian art and its art forms gave importance to spirituality as opposed to the West which stressed on materialism, thus rejecting it.
- His idea of modernizing Mughal and Rajput paintings eventually gave rise to modern Indian painting, which took birth at his Bengal school of art.
- **Most of his works revolved around Hindu philosophy.**
- In his later works, Abanindranath started integrating Chinese and Japanese calligraphic traditions into his style. The intention behind this move was to construct an amalgamation of the modern pan-Asian artistic tradition and the common elements of Eastern artistic and spiritual culture.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/07/abanindranath-tagore/>

52. Consider the following statements:

1. Atomic bomb dropped on the city of Hiroshima was called “Fat Man”.
2. Atomic bomb dropped over Nagasaki was called “Little Boy”.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Atomic bomb dropped on the city of **Hiroshima** was called “**Little Boy**”.
- Atomic bomb dropped over **Nagasaki** was called “**Fat Man**”.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/07/japan-marks-75th-anniversary-of-hiroshima-atomic-bombing/>

53. Consider the following statements about Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG):

1. The CAG is appointed by the President of India by a warrant under his hand and seal.
2. He is the guardian of the public purse and controls the entire financial system of the country.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **About CAG:**

- The Constitution of India provides for **an independent office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) in chapter V under Part V.**



- The CAG is mentioned in the Constitution of India under **Article 148 – 151.**
- He is **the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.**
- He is **the guardian of the public purse** and controls the entire financial system of the country at both the levels- the centre and state.
- His duty is **to uphold the Constitution of India and the laws of Parliament in the field of financial administration.**
- **Appointment and Term to Constitutionals Posts:**
 - The CAG is appointed by the President of India by a warrant under his hand and seal.
 - He holds office for a period of six years or upto the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/07/comptroller-and-auditor-general-of-india-cag/>

54. Consider the following statements about Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG):

1. He acts as a guide, friend and philosopher of the Estimates Committee of the Parliament.
2. He ascertains and certifies the Money Bill.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Stat1: He acts as **a guide, friend and philosopher of the Public Accounts Committee of the Parliament.**
- Stat2: He **ascertains and certifies the net proceeds of any tax or duty** and his certificate is final on the matter.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/07/comptroller-and-auditor-general-of-india-cag/>

55. The economic reservation was introduced in the Constitution of India by amending:

- (a) Article 21 and 46
- (b) Article 14 and 17
- (c) Article 15 and 16
- (d) All of the above

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- The **economic reservation was introduced in the Constitution by amending Articles 15 and 16** and adding clauses empowering



the state governments to provide reservation on the basis of economic backwardness.

- The validity of the Constitutional Amendment was challenged, saying the 50% quota limit was part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution.
- A three-judge bench had refused to stay the implementation of the **Constitution (103rd Amendment) Act**, which provides the 10% quota.
- **How centre defends this move?**
 - The Centre had argued that it was every State's prerogative to provide 10% economic reservation in State government jobs and admissions in State-run education institutions. Whether or not to provide reservation to the economically weaker section (EWS) of the society for appointment in State government jobs and for admission to State government educational institutions, **as per provisions of the newly inserted Articles 15(6) and 16(6) of the Constitution, is to be decided by the State government concerned.**
 - The government also argued that under Article 46 of the Constitution, part of Directive Principles of State Policy, it has a duty to protect the interests of economically weaker sections.
 - Countering the claims that the amendment violates the **Indra Sawhney principle**, the government relied on a 2008 ruling— **Ashok Kumar Thakur v Union of India, in which the SC upheld the 27% quota for OBCs.** The argument is that the court accepted that the definition of OBCs was not made on the sole criterion of caste but a mix of caste and economic factors, to prove that there need not a sole criterion for according reservation.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/07/ews-quota-challenge-referred-to-constitution-bench/>

56. The idea of issuing priority sector lending certificates first appeared in the Report of the

- (a) M L Dhantwala led Committee on 'Regional Rural Banks'.
- (b) Nachiket Mor led Committee on 'Providing financial services for low-income households and small businesses'.
- (c) Raghu Ram Rajan led Committee on 'Financial Sector Reforms'.
- (d) Aditya Puri led Committee on 'Dissemination of Information related to credit'.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Priority Sector Lending Certificates (PSLCs) are tradable certificates issued against priority sector loans of banks so as to enable banks to achieve their specified target and sub-targets for priority sector



lending through purchase of these instruments in the event of a shortfall and at the same time incentivizing the surplus banks to lend more to these sectors.

- **The idea of issuing priority sector lending certificates first appeared in the Report of the Dr. Raghu Ram Rajan led Committee on Financial Sector Reforms – A Hundred Small Steps.**
- The Committee proposed the PSLC scheme to allow a more efficient implementation of the priority sector lending mandate (with similar schemes extending to possible financial service mandates also). Any registered lender (including microfinance institutions, cooperative banks, banking correspondents, etc.) who has made loans to eligible categories would get 'Priority Sector Lending Certificates' (PSLC) for the amount of these loans. A market would then be opened up for these certificates, where deficient banks can buy certificates to compensate for their shortfall in lending. Importantly, the loans would still be on the books of the original lender, and the deficient bank would only be buying a right to undershoot its priority sector-lending requirement by the amount of the certificate. If the loans default, for example, no loss would be borne by the certificate buyer. The merit of this scheme is that it would allow the most efficient lender to provide access to the poor, while finding a way for banks to fulfil their norms at lower cost. Essentially the PSLC will be a market-driven interest subsidy to those who make priority sector loans. It is an innovative instrument designed in a market friendly way for achieving a socialistic / welfare goal.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/07/priority-sector-lending-psl/>

57. Consider the following statements:

1. 'Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana' was initiated in 2005 as an umbrella scheme for ensuring holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors.
2. The scheme incentivizes States to increase public investment in Agriculture & allied sectors.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **About Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana:**

- **RKVY scheme was initiated in 2007** as an umbrella scheme for ensuring holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors.
- The scheme **incentivizes States to increase public investment in Agriculture & allied sectors.**



- The Cabinet has approved (as on 1st November 2017) for the continuation of the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme (State Plans) – Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) as **Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana- Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR)**.
- **The main objective of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana is to develop farming as a main source of economic activity. Some of the objectives also include:**
 - Risk mitigation, strengthening the efforts of the farmers along with promoting agri-business entrepreneurship through the creation of agri-infrastructure.
 - Providing all the states with autonomy and flexibility in making plans as per their local needs.
 - Helping farmers in increasing their income by encouraging productivity and promoting value chain addition linked production models.
 - To reduce the risk of farmers by focusing on increasing the income generation through mushroom cultivation, integrated farming, floriculture, etc.
 - Empowering the youth through various skill development, innovation and agri-business models.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/07/rashtriya-krishi-vikas-yojana-2/>

58. 'Tsunami Ready' is a community performance-based programme initiated by the:

- (a) Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)
- (b) International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- (c) Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)
- (d) International Sea Bed Authority (ISA)

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Odisha has achieved another milestone in disaster management. **Venkatraipur in Ganjam and Noliasahi in Jagatsinghpur** have been recognised by **UNESCO-IOC as Tsunami-Ready Communities**.
- **About Tsunami Ready:**
 - Tsunami Ready is a **community performance-based programme**.
 - Initiated by **the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO** to promote tsunami preparedness through the active collaboration of public, community leaders, and national and local emergency management agencies.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/07/tsunami-ready/>



59. 'National Handloom Day' is celebrated on August 7 as a way to commemorate the:

- (a) Quit India Movement
- (b) Civil Disobedience Movement
- (c) Non Cooperation Movement
- (d) Swadeshi Movement

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Sixth edition of National Handloom Day** to be celebrated on 7th August.
- **First National Handloom Day** was organised in 2015.
- **Why August 7?**
- This day is celebrated on August 7 as a way to commemorate **the Swadeshi Movement**.
- Swadeshi Movement was officially proclaimed on August 7, 1905 at the Calcutta Town Hall, in Bengal.
- The movement had been launched in 1905 on the same date and now, it is used to create awareness and acceptance towards this sector and their exquisite work.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/07/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-7-august-2020/>

60. Consider the following statements about Pangolin:

1. It is only scaly mammal on the planet.
2. Indian pangolin has been listed as "critically endangered".

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Pangolin:**
 - Pangolin is only scaly mammal on the planet.
 - According to CITES, it is also the most illegally traded vertebrate within its class (Mammalia).
 - Of the eight species of pangolin worldwide, two are found in India. They are Chinese pangolin, mostly found in northeast India and Indian pangolin.
- **Protection Status:**
 - Chinese pangolin has been listed as "critically endangered".
 - Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) has been listed as "endangered".
 - It is also a Schedule I category protected animal, under the Wildlife Protection Act (1972).



Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/07/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-7-august-2020/>

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 8th Aug-2020

61. With reference to evolution of Indian National Flag, Consider the following statements:
1. Mahatma Gandhi first proposed a flag to the Indian National Congress in 1921.
 2. The national tricolor flag was designed by Pingali Venkayya.
 3. It was adopted in its present form during a meeting of the Constituent Assembly held in 1947.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Gandhi first proposed a flag to the Indian National Congress in 1921.**
- **The flag was designed by Pingali Venkayya.**
- In the centre was a traditional spinning wheel, symbolising Gandhi's goal of making Indians self-reliant by fabricating their own clothing, between a red stripe for Hindus and a green stripe for Muslims.
- The design was then modified to replace red with saffron and to include a white stripe in the centre for other religious communities, and provide a background for the spinning wheel. Subsequently, to avoid sectarian associations with the colour scheme, the three bands were assigned new meanings: courage and sacrifice, peace and truth, and faith and chivalry respectively.
- **It was adopted in its present form during a meeting of the Constituent Assembly held on 22 July 1947**, and it became the official flag of the Dominion of India on 15 August 1947. The flag was subsequently retained as that of the Republic of India.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/09/pingali-venkayya/>

62. Consider the following statements about Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED):
1. It was established in 1987.
 2. It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
 3. It mainly undertakes two functions viz. Minor Forest Produce (MFP) development and Retail Marketing and Development.
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?



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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED):**

- It is the **national level cooperative body** mandated to bring about socio-economic development of tribals of the country by institutionalizing the trade of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) & Surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP) collected/cultivated by them.
- It was established in **1987**.
- It is under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs**.
- It mainly undertakes two functions viz. **Minor Forest Produce (MFP) development and Retail Marketing and Development**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/09/tribal-cooperative-marketing-development-federation-of-india-trifed/>

63. Consider the following statements:

1. 'Tech for Tribals' is an initiative of TRIFED supported by IBM.
2. 'TRIFOOD Scheme' is a joint initiative of Ministry of Food Processing Industry, Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED.
3. 'Van Dhan Samajik Doori Jagrookta Abhiyaan' aims at capacity building and imparting entrepreneurship skills to tribal forest produce gatherers.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: Recent initiatives by TRIFED:

- Launched **Van Dhan Samajik Doori Jagrookta Abhiyaan**, which is aimed at **educating Tribals engaged in gathering NTFPs in forest areas, on covid-19 response**, key preventive behaviour like social distancing, home quarantine, hygiene tips.
- Initiated steps to provide the **Van Dhan Self Help Groups (SHGs)** with protective masks and hygiene products (Soaps, Disinfectants, etc.) that are necessary for carrying out their operations in a safe manner.
- Focus on revamping the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for MFP to enhance tribal livelihood in these testing times and to ensure that they get the benefit of an equitable market price for their produce.
- **TRIFOOD Scheme** is a joint initiative of **Ministry of Food Processing Industry, Ministry of Tribal Affairs** and **TRIFED**.



- **Tech for Tribals**, an initiative of TRIFED supported by **Ministry of MSME**, aims at capacity building and imparting entrepreneurship skills to tribal forest produce gatherers enrolled under the **Pradhan Mantri VanDhan Yojana(PMVDY)**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/09/tribal-cooperative-marketing-development-federation-of-india-trifed/>

64. Consider the following statements:

1. 'Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra' is an interactive experience center on the Swachh Bharat Mission.
2. It was first announced on the occasion of the centenary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi's Non Cooperation Movement.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation: **Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra** was inaugurated recently.

- What is it?
 - A tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, the **Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra (RSK) was first announced by the Prime Minister on 10th April 2017**, on the occasion of the centenary celebrations of **Gandhiji's Champaran Satyagraha**.
 - It is an interactive experience centre on the **Swachh Bharat Mission**.
 - The installations at RSK will include audio visual immersive shows, interactive LED panels, hologram boxes, interactive games etc.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/09/rashtriya-swachhata-kendra/>

65. Consider the following statements:

1. 'Food System Vision Prize' was launched by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
2. 'Arakunomics' sometimes mentioned in the news is related to 'Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)'.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **Food System Vision Prize 2020**: It was launched by the USA-based 'The **Rockefeller Foundation**', in partnership with the other two organisations – SecondMuse and OpenIDEO- in 2019.



- Stat2: **Arakunomics**: It is a new **integrated economic model** that ensures profits for farmers, quality for consumers through regenerative agriculture.
 - **This model is a tribute to the tribal farmers of Araku region** for the world-class coffee produced and launched in Paris in 2017 as well as for the high carbon landscape transformation they did in over 955 villages there by planting 25 million trees.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/09/food-system-vision-prize-2020/>

66. Consider the following statements in respect of Trade Related Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce (TRAFFIC):

1. TRAFFIC is a bureau under United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. The mission of TRAFFIC is to ensure that trade in wild plants and animals is not a threat to the conservation of nature.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Stat1: It is a NGO, not a bureau under UNEP. So, 1 is wrong.
 - It was **founded in 1976** as a strategic alliance of the **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)** and the **International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**.
 - **TRAFFIC is governed by the TRAFFIC Committee**, a steering group composed of members of TRAFFIC's partner organizations, WWF and IUCN.
 -
- Stat2: It is working globally on Wildlife trade monitoring network.
 - It specializes in investigating and analysing wildlife trade trends, patterns, impacts and drivers to provide the leading knowledge base on trade in wild animals and plants.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/09/traffic-study-on-leopards/>

67. Consider the following statements:

1. Indian leopards are widely distributed in India, Nepal, Bangladesh and parts of Pakistan.
2. It is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2



(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- The Indian leopard (*Panthera pardus fusca*) is a leopard subspecies widely distributed on the Indian subcontinent.
 - The Indian leopard is distributed in **India, Nepal, Bhutan and parts of Pakistan.**
 - **Bangladesh has no viable leopard population but there are occasional sightings in the forests** of Sylhet, Chittagong Hill Tracts and Cox's Bazar.
 - It inhabits tropical rainforests, dry deciduous forests, temperate forests and northern coniferous forests but **does not occur in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans.**
- The species *Panthera pardus* is listed as **Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List** because populations have declined following habitat loss and fragmentation, poaching for the illegal trade of skins and body parts, and persecution due to conflict situations.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/09/traffic-study-on-leopards/>

68. Which of the following authority has constituted an expert committee under the chairmanship of K.V. Kamath?

- (a) NITI
- (b) SEBI
- (c) RBI
- (d) NHRC

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** constituted an expert committee under the chairmanship of veteran banker **K.V. Kamath** to make recommendations on norms for the resolution of COVID-19 related stressed loans.
- The **Indian Banks' Association (IBA)** will function as the secretariat to the committee and the committee will be fully empowered to consult or invite any person it deems fit.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/09/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-8-august-2020/>

69. "Business confidence index" is released by which of the following?

- (a) Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
- (b) National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM)
- (c) Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)
- (d) National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER)

Ans: (d)

Explanation:



- India's leading economic think tank, **National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER)** conducts a quarterly survey and releases **Business confidence index (N-BCI)**.
- It tracks the business sentiments of around 600 Indian companies to compute the composite index.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/09/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-8-august-2020/>

70. 'Nokia Point & Find, Microsoft HoloLens and FightBox' sometimes mentioned in news recently. These are examples of:

- Augmented Reality
- Virtual Reality
- Mixed Reality
- Extended Reality

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Augmented reality (AR)** adds digital elements to a live view often by using the camera on a smartphone. Examples of augmented reality experiences include **Snapchat lenses** and **the game Pokemon Go**.
- **Virtual reality (VR)** implies a **complete immersion experience that shuts out the physical world**. Using VR devices such as **HTC Vive, Oculus Rift or Google Cardboard**, users can be transported into a number of real-world and imagined environments such as the middle of a squawking penguin colony or even the back of a dragon.
- **In a Mixed Reality (MR)** experience, which combines elements of both AR and VR, real-world and digital objects interact. Mixed reality technology is just now starting to take off with Microsoft's HoloLens one of the most notable early mixed reality apparatuses.
 - **Notable applications**
 - BAMZOOKi
 - EyeToy
 - FightBox
 - Magic Leap
 - Microsoft Hololens
 - Nokia Point & Find
 - ZSpace
- **Extended Reality (XR)** is an umbrella term that **covers all of the various technologies that enhance our senses**, whether they're providing additional information about the actual world or creating totally unreal, simulated worlds for us to experience. **It includes Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR) and Mixed Reality (MR) technologies.**

Source: improvisation of UPSC CSE 2019 (Q41-;Set-D)



RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 10th-Aug-2020

71. Quit India movement was launched in response to:

- (a) Simon Commission Report
- (b) August Offer
- (c) Cripps Proposals
- (d) Wavell Plan

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- After the **failure of the Cripps Mission**, Gandhiji gave the call “Do or Die” in his speech delivered at the Gowalia Tank Maidan.
- The All-India Congress Committee launched a mass protest demanding what Gandhi called "An Orderly British Withdrawal" from India.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/10/quit-india-movement-2/>

72. Who among the following were official Congress negotiators with Cripps Mission?

- (a) Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel
- (b) J.B. Kripalani and C. Rajagopalchari
- (c) Pandit Nehru and Maulana Azad
- (d) Tej Bahadur Sapru and Bhulabhai Desai

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- The Congress was divided upon its response to India's entry into World War II. Angry over the decision made by the Viceroy, some Congress leaders favoured launching a revolt against the British despite the gravity of the war in Europe, which threatened Britain's own freedom. Others, such as Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, advocated offering an olive branch to the British, supporting them in this crucial time in the hope that the gesture would be reciprocated with independence after the war.
- The major leader, Mahatma Gandhi, was opposed to Indian involvement in the war as he would not morally endorse a war and also suspected British intentions, believing that the British were not sincere about Indian aspirations for independence. **But Rajagopalachari, backed by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Maulana Azad and Jawaharlal Nehru held talks with Cripps and offered full support in return for immediate self-government, and eventual independence.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/10/quit-india-movement-2/>

73. During the freedom struggle, Aruna Asaf Ali was a major women organizer of underground activity in:

- (a) Civil Disobedience Movement
- (b) Non-Cooperation Movement



(c) Quit India Movement

(d) Swadeshi Movement

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- On 8 August 1942, the All India Congress Committee passed the Quit India resolution at the Bombay session. The government responded by arresting the major leaders and all members of the Congress Working Committee and thus tried to pre-empt the movement from success.
- **Young Aruna Asaf Ali presided over the remainder of the session on 9 August and hoisted the Congress flag at the Gowalia Tank Maidan. This marked the commencement of the movement.**
- The police fired upon the assembly at the session. Aruna was dubbed the Heroine of the 1942 movement for her bravery in the face of danger and was called **Grand Old Lady of the Independence movement** in her later years. Despite the absence of direct leadership, spontaneous protests and demonstrations were held all over the country, as an expression of the desire of India's youth to achieve independence.
- **An arrest warrant was issued in her name but she went underground to evade the arrest and started an underground movement in the year 1942.** Her property was seized and sold. In the meanwhile, **she also edited Inquilab, a monthly magazine of the Congress Party, along with Ram Manohar Lohia.**
- In a 1944 issue, she exhorted the youth to action by asking them to forget futile discussions about violence and non-violence and join the revolution. **Leaders such as Jayaprakash Narayan and Aruna Asaf Ali were described as "the Political children of Gandhi but recent students of Karl Marx."** The government announced a reward of 5,000 rupees for her capture. She fell ill and was for a period hiding in Dr Joshi's Hospital in Karol Bagh in Delhi.
- Mahatma Gandhi sent her a hand-written note to her to come out of hiding and surrender herself – as her mission was accomplished and as she could utilize the reward amount for the Harijan cause. However, she came out of hiding only after the warrant against her was withdrawn in 1946. She treasured the note from the Mahatma and it adorned her drawing room. However, she also faced criticism from Gandhi for her **support of the Royal Indian Navy Mutiny**, a movement she saw as the single greatest unifying factor of Hindus and Muslims at a time that was the peak of the movement for Pakistan.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/10/quit-india-movement-2/>

74. Consider the following statements:

The Cripps proposals include the provision for



1. Full independence for India.
2. Creation of constitution-making body.
3. All members of constitution making body would be elected by the provincial assemblies through proportional representation.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Cripps Mission was sent by the British Government in March 1942** to India with key objective to secure Indian cooperation and support for British War Efforts. Headed by Sir Stafford Cripps, this mission sought to negotiate an agreement with Indian leaders.
- **The proposal of the Cripps mission was that:**
 - **India would be a dominion associated with the United kingdom.**
 - It promised that immediately after the war is stopped, steps would be taken up to set up an elected body charged with the task of making the constitution for India and provisions would be made so that the Indian states could participate in the framing of the constitution.
 - **An Indian Union with a dominion status would be set up.** It would be free to decide its relations with the Commonwealth and free to participate in the United Nations and other international bodies.
 - **After the end of the war, a constituent assembly would be convened to frame a new constitution. Members of this assembly would be partly elected by the provincial assemblies through proportional representation and partly nominated by the princes.**
 - The British Government would accept the new constitution subject to two conditions.
 - Any province not willing to join the Union could have a separate constitution and form a separate Union
 - The new constitution- making body and the British Government would negotiate a treaty to effect the transfer of power and to safeguard racial and religious minorities.
 - In the meantime, defence of India would remain in British hands and the governor-general's powers would remain intact.
- **The Congress objected to:**



- The offer of dominion status instead of a provision for complete independence.
- Representation of the states by nominees and not by elected representatives.
- Right to provinces to secede as this went against the principle of national unity.
- Absence of any plan for immediate transfer of power and absence of any real share in defence; the governor-general's supremacy had been retained, and the demand for governor-general being only the constitutional head had not been accepted.
- The incapacity of Cripps to go beyond the Draft Declaration and the adoption of a rigid "take it or leave it" attitude added to the deadlock.
- **The Muslim League objected because:-**
 - Criticised the idea of a single Indian Union.
 - Did not like the machinery for the creation of a constituent assembly and the procedure to decide on the accession of provinces to the Union.
 - Thought that the proposals denied to the Muslims the right to self-determination and the creation of Pakistan.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/10/quit-india-movement-2/>

75. Who determines the composition of Union Public Service Commission?

- (a) Parliament
- (b) President
- (c) Chairman of UPSC
- (d) Constitution has specified the strength of UPSC

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- The UPSC consists of a chairman and other members appointed by the president of India.
- **The Constitution, without specifying the strength of the Commission has left the matter to the discretion of the president, who determines its composition.**
- Usually, the Commission consists of nine to eleven members including the chairman. Further, no qualifications are prescribed for the Commission's membership except that **one-half of the members of the Commission should be such persons who have held office for at least ten years either under the Government of India or under the government of a state.**
- The Constitution also authorises the president to determine the conditions of service of the chairman and other members of the Commission.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/10/pradeep-kumar-joshi-appointed-as-upsc-chairman/>

76. With reference to Lok Adalats, which of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Lok Adalats have the jurisdiction to settle the matters at pre litigative stage and not those matters pending before any court
- (b) Lok Adalats have no jurisdiction in respect of any case or matter relating to an offence not compoundable under any law.
- (c) Every Lok Adalat consists of either serving or retired judicial officers only and not any other person
- (d) None of the statements given above is correct

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Lok Adalat is a forum** where the cases (or disputes) which are **pending in a court or which are at pre-litigation stage** (not yet brought before a court) are compromised or settled in an amicable manner.
- The institution of Lok Adalat has been given statutory status under **the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.**
- The Lok Adalat shall have no jurisdiction in respect of any case or matter relating to an offence not compoundable under any law. In other words, **the offences which are non-compoundable under any law fall outside the purview of the Lok Adalat.**
- Every Lok Adalat organized for an area shall consist of such number of serving or retired judicial officers and other persons of the area as may be specified by the agency organizing such Lok Adalat. **Generally, a Lok Adalat consists of a judicial officer as the chairman and a lawyer (advocate) and a social worker as members.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/10/lok-adalat-held-online/>

77. With reference to Lok Adalats, which of the following statements is not correct?

- (a) The first Lok Adalat camp in the post-independence era was organized in Gujarat in 1982.
- (b) There is no provision for an appeal against the verdict made by Lok Adalat.
- (c) There is no court fee payable when a matter is filed in a Lok Adalat.
- (d) All of the statements given above are correct.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **The first Lok Adalat camp in the post-independence era was organized in Gujarat in 1982..**
- **Statutory provisions:**



- Under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 Lok Adalats have been given statutory status.
- **Final award:**
 - The decision made by the Lok Adalats is considered to be a verdict of a civil court and is ultimate and binding on all parties.
- **No appeal:**
 - There is no provision for an appeal against the verdict made by Lok Adalat.
 - But, they are free to initiate litigation by approaching the court of appropriate jurisdiction by filing a case by following the required procedure, in exercise of their right to litigate.
- **Court fee:**
 - There is no court fee payable when a matter is filed in a Lok Adalat. If a matter pending in the court of law is referred to the Lok Adalat and is settled subsequently, the court fee originally paid in the court on the complaints/petition is also refunded back to the parties.
- **Nature of Cases to be Referred to Lok Adalat:**
 - Any case pending before any court.
 - Any dispute which has not been brought before any court and is likely to be filed before the court.
- Provided that any matter relating to an offence not compoundable under the law shall not be settled in Lok Adalat.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/10/lok-adalat-held-online/>

78. Consider the following statements:

1. Under the Indus treaty, India has control over water flowing in the eastern rivers– Jhelum, Ravi and Sutlej.
2. Both the sides share details of the water flow and the quantum of water being used under the treaty.

Which of the given above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation: **here the directive word is incorrect!!**

About the Indus Water Treaty:

- It is a Water-Distribution Treaty, **signed in Karachi on 1960**, between India (Pm Jawaharlal Nehru) and Pakistan (President Ayub Khan), **brokered by the World Bank**.



- **Under the treaty, India has control over water flowing in the eastern rivers– Beas, Ravi and Sutlej.**
- Pakistan has control over the western rivers– Indus, Chenab and Jhelum.
- As per the treaty, the water commissioners of Pakistan and India are required to meet twice a year and arrange technical visits to projects' sites and critical river head works.
- Both the sides share details of the water flow and the quantum of water being used under the treaty.
- The treaty sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two countries regarding their use of the rivers.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/10/indus-water-treaty-iwt/>

79. Consider the following statements about the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund:

1. It is a new pan India Central Sector Scheme.
2. The Scheme will provide long term debt financing facility for investment in viable projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure.
3. All loans under this financing facility will have interest subvention of 2% per annum up to a limit of Rs. 1 crore.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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



Ans: (a)

Explanation: **About the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund:**

- It is a new **pan India Central Sector Scheme**.
- **The scheme shall provide a medium – long term debt financing facility** for investment in viable **projects for post-harvest management Infrastructure and community farming assets** through interest subvention and financial support.
- The duration of the Scheme shall be from FY2020 to FY2029 (10 years).
- **Eligibility:**
 - Under the scheme, **Rs. One Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans** to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Marketing Cooperative Societies, farmer producer organisations (FPOs), SHGs, Farmers, Joint Liability Groups (JLG), Multipurpose Cooperative Societies, Startups etc.
- **Interest subvention:**
 - All loans under this financing facility will have **interest subvention of 3% per annum up to a limit of Rs. 2 crore**. This subvention will be available for a maximum period of seven years.
- **Credit guarantee:**
 - Credit guarantee coverage will be available for eligible borrowers from this financing facility under Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) scheme for a loan up to Rs. 2 crore.
 - The fee for this coverage will be paid by the Government.
 - In case of FPOs the credit guarantee may be availed from the facility created under FPO promotion scheme of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DACFW).
- **Management of the fund:**
 - It will be managed and monitored through an online Management Information System (MIS) platform.
 - The National, State and District level Monitoring Committees will be set up to ensure real-time monitoring and effective feed-back.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/10/agriculture-infrastructure-fund/>

80. With reference to differences between the 4G LTE and 5th generation mobile network, which of the following statements is/are not correct?
- (a) 5G has more capacity than 4G
 - (b) 5G has significantly higher latency than 4G
 - (c) 5G is a unified platform that is more capable than 4G



(d) 5G uses spectrum better than 4G

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **here the directive word is not correct!!**

What are the differences between the previous generations of mobile networks and 5G?

- **First generation - 1G**
 - 1980s: 1G delivered analog voice.
 - **Second generation - 2G**
 - Early 1990s: 2G introduced digital voice (e.g. CDMA- Code Division Multiple Access).
 - **Third generation - 3G**
 - Early 2000s: 3G brought mobile data (e.g. CDMA2000).
 - **Fourth generation - 4G LTE**
 - 2010s: 4G LTE ushered in the era of mobile broadband.
- 1G, 2G, 3G, and 4G all led to 5G, which is designed to provide more connectivity than was ever available before.
- 5G is a unified, more capable air interface. It has been designed with an extended capacity to enable next-generation user experiences, empower new deployment models and deliver new services.

There are several reasons that 5G will be better than 4G:

- 5G is significantly faster than 4G
- 5G has more capacity than 4G
- **5G has significantly lower latency than 4G**
- 5G is a unified platform that is more capable than 4G
- 5G uses spectrum better than 4G

Refer: Improvisation of UPSC CSE 2019 (Q-5 ;set D)

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 11th-Aug-2020

81. Consider the following:

1. Deification of the Buddha
2. Treading the path of Bodhisattvas
3. Image worship and rituals

Which of the above is/are the feature/ features of Mahayana Buddhism?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- All three are major features.



- Buddhas and bodhisattvas are central elements of Mahāyāna. Mahāyāna's vastly expanded cosmology, with various Buddhas and bodhisattvas residing in different worlds and buddha-fields.
- This is shown through the depiction of buddhas and bodhisattvas through image worship and rituals in monasteries and viharas.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/11/citizenship-of-buddha-india-and-nepal-in-war-of-words/>

82. Which of the following Kingdoms were associated with the life of the Buddha?

1. Avanti
2. Gandhara
3. Kosala
4. Magadha

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Gautam Buddha grew up in **Kapilvastu**, whose location is yet to be identified conclusively. He left Kapilvastu to fulfill his spiritual quest and reached **Rajgrih**, located in Bihar. He was still Prince Gautam.
- What is also conclusively known is that Gautam Buddha attained enlightenment in Bodhgaya, in India. Here Gautam became Buddha. He spent over four decades of his life travelling across Indian cities and villages reaching in the India-Nepal borders.
- Gautam Buddha delivered his first sermon near **Varanasi**. He kept wandering mostly in the vast expanse of the kingdom of **Magadha**. Buddha breathed his last in **Kushinagar**, a town in eastern UP.
- **Avanti and Gandhara were not directly related to life of Buddha.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/11/citizenship-of-buddha-india-and-nepal-in-war-of-words/>

83. Consider the following statements about the International Finance Corporation (IFC):

1. It was established as the private sector arm of the World Bank Group.
2. Membership in IFC is open only to member countries of the World Bank.
3. The President of the World Bank Group is also President of IFC.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only



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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Stat1: It was **established in 1956 as the private sector arm of the World Bank Group** to advance economic development by investing in **strictly for-profit and commercial projects** that purport to reduce poverty and promote development.
- Stat2 and 3: Although part of the Bank Group, IFC is a separate legal entity with separate Articles of Agreement, share capital, financial structure, management, and staff. **Membership in IFC is open only to member countries of the World Bank.**
- **The President of the World Bank Group is also President of IFC.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/11/international-finance-corporation-ifc-3/>

84. India is a member of four of the five constituents of the World Bank Group except:

- (a) International Development Association (IDA).
- (b) International Finance Corporation (IFC).
- (c) Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA).
- (d) International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- India is a member of four of the five constituents of the World Bank Group except International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).
- Refer here: <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/todays-paper/tp-others/article29064097.ece>



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/11/international-finance-corporation-ifc-3/>

85. Atanu Chakraborty task force sometimes mentioned in the news in reference to:

- structural reforms in agriculture
- ways to develop the secondary market for corporate loans
- evaluate issues related to Infant Mortality Rate, Maternal Mortality Rate, Total Fertility Rate, Sex Ratio at Birth, Child Sex Ratio (CSR)
- National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- The **task force headed by Atanu Chakraborty on National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP)**, in May 2020, submitted its final report to the Finance Minister.
- Important recommendations and observations made:**
 - Investment needed:** ₹111 lakh crore over the next five years (2020-2025) to build infrastructure projects and drive economic growth.
 - Energy, roads, railways and urban projects** are estimated to account for the bulk of projects (around 70%).
 - The centre (39 percent) and state (40 percent) are expected to have an almost equal share** in implementing the projects, while the private sector has 21 percent share.
 - Aggressive push towards asset sales.
 - Monetisation of infrastructure assets.
 - Setting up of development finance institutions.
 - Strengthening the municipal bond market.



- **The task force has recommended setting up of the following three committees:**
 - Committee to monitor NIP progress and eliminate delays
 - Steering Committee at each Infrastructure ministry level to follow up on the implementation process
 - Steering Committee in DEA for raising financial resources for the NIP.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/11/national-infrastructure-pipeline-nip/>

86. The fiber optical cable uses the application of:

- (a) Reflection of light
- (b) Refraction of light
- (c) Total internal reflection of light
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- When light traveling in an optically dense medium hits a boundary at a steep angle (larger than the critical angle for the boundary), the light is completely reflected. This is called **total internal reflection. This effect is used in optical fibers to confine light in the core.** Light travels through the fiber core, bouncing back and forth off the boundary between the core and cladding. Because the light must strike the boundary with an angle greater than the critical angle, only light that enters the fiber within a certain range of angles can travel down the fiber without leaking out. This range of angles is called the acceptance cone of the fiber. The size of this acceptance cone is a function of the refractive index difference between the fiber's core and cladding.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/11/what-is-submarine-communications-cable/>

87. Consider the following statements:

1. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are separated by the Ten Degree Channel.
2. Barren Island lies about 140 km east of Great Nicobar.
3. The last time the Barren Island volcano erupted was in 1991 and it has remained inactive since then.

Which of the given above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **here the directive word is incorrect!!**



- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are broadly divided into two groups, separated by the **Ten Degree Channel**.
- **Barren Island**, a possession of India in the Andaman Sea about **140 km NE of Port Blair in the Andaman Islands**, is the only historically active volcano along the N-S-trending volcanic arc extending between Sumatra and Burma (Myanmar). The 354-m-high island is the emergent summit of a volcano that rises from a depth of about 2250 m.
- The Barren Island volcano, on a remote uninhabited island off the country's eastern coast, had been lying dormant for more than 150 years until it saw a major eruption in 1991. Since then it has shown intermittent activity, including eruptions in 1995 and 2005.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/11/what-is-submarine-communications-cable/>

88. Consider the following statements:

1. World Biofuel Day is observed every year on 10th August to raise awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels.
2. In India, the day has been celebrated by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas since 2010.
3. The theme for 2020 World Biofuel Day in India is 'Biofuels Towards Atmanirbhar Bharat'

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Context: **World Biofuel Day is observed every year on 10th August** to raise awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels.
- The day honours the research experiments by **Sir Rudolf Christian Karl Diesel (inventor of the diesel engine)** who ran an engine with peanut oil in 1893.
- In India, the day has been celebrated by the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** since **2015**.
- The theme for 2020 World Biofuel Day in India is '**Biofuels Towards Atmanirbhar Bharat**'

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/11/world-biofuel-day-2/>

89. 'Surakhsya' is the National Portal on:

- (a) Human trafficking
- (b) Cyber security
- (c) Cross border terrorism



(d) Human elephant conflict

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- It is the **National Portal on human elephant conflict**.
- It is for collection of real time information & also for managing the conflicts on a real time basis.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/11/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-11-august-2020/>

90. "Momentum for Change: Climate Neutral Now" is an initiative launched by

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- The UNEP Secretariat
- The UNFCCC Secretariat
- The World Meteorological Organization.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Climate Neutral Now is an initiative launched by the UN Climate Change in 2015, aiming at encouraging and supporting
- All levels of society to take climate action to achieve a climate neutral world by mid-century, as enshrined in the Paris Agreement adopted the same year.
- The initiative therefore invites companies, organizations, governments and citizens to work towards climate neutrality by reducing their climate footprint thanks to a simple 3.-steps method, whereby they shall:
- Measure their greenhouse gas emissions;
- Reduce them as much as possible; and
- Compensate those which cannot be avoided by using UN certified emission reductions (CERs).

Source: UPSC CSE 2018: Q58; set-D

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 12th-Aug-2020

91. Which of the following pairs:

Volcanoes sometimes mentioned

Country in news

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| 1. Mount Merapi | Italy |
| 2. Mount Sinabung | Indonesia |
| 3. Taal Volcano | Philippines |

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

- 1 and 2
- 2 only
- 2 and 3



(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Mount Merapi**, an active volcano in **Indonesia**, erupted twice on 21st June, 2020.
 - It is an active stratovolcano located on the border between Central Java and Yogyakarta provinces, **Indonesia**. It is the most active volcano in Indonesia and has erupted regularly since 1548
- **Taal Volcano**: It is a volcano on the island of Luzon in **Philippines**.
 - It erupted recently.
 - It is classified as a “complex” volcano. A complex volcano, also called a compound volcano, is defined as one that consists of a complex of two or more vents, or a volcano that has an associated volcanic dome, either in its crater or on its flanks.
- **Mount Etna**:
 - Context: **Italy’s Mount Etna volcano has erupted again.**
 - **About Mt. Etna:**
 - Mount Etna is the largest active volcano in Europe and one of the world’s most frequently erupting volcanoes. It is also the volcano with the longest record of continuous eruption.
 - Located near the east coast of the island of Sicily in Italy, Mount Etna is 10,900 feet tall.
 - The mountain’s largest feature is the Valle del Bove (Valley of the Ox), a large horseshoe-shaped caldera on the eastern slope.
 - Etna sits on the active fault between the African plate and the Ionian microplate, which are both being subducted together beneath the Eurasian plate.
 - In June 2013, it was added to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
 - Due to its history of recent activity and nearby population, Mount Etna has been designated a Decade Volcano by the United Nations.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/12/mount-sinabung/>

92. Consider the following statements:

1. The Assam Accord was a Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) signed between representatives of the GoI and the leaders of the Assam Movement in 1985.
 2. Clause 6 of the Assam Accord sets March 24, 1971 as the cutoff.
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2



Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **Assam Accord signed between the Union government and leaders of the All Assam Students Union (AASU) in 1985**, the Assam Accord came at the end of a six-year-long agitation demanding the expulsion of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.
- Stat2: Clause 6 states: “Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people.”
 - This Clause was inserted to safeguard the socio-political rights and culture of the “indigenous people of Assam”.
 - However, **no government has passed any legislation since 1985 to provide constitutional protection to the Assamese people as envisaged under Clause 6.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/12/clause-6-of-the-assam-accord/>

93. Consider the following statements:

As per the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA)

1. If a person is a repeated offender and tries to disturb the peace of the area then armed forces are entitled to use force till his death.
2. The forces can open fire on the disturbing factors after giving due warning if they found any suspicious person.

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

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **here the directive word is not correct!!**

- In simple terms, AFSPA gives armed forces the power to maintain public order in “disturbed areas”.
- **Powers given to armed forces:**
 - They have the authority to prohibit a gathering of five or more persons in an area, can use force or even open fire after giving due warning if they feel a person is in contravention of the law.
 - If reasonable suspicion exists, the army can also arrest a person without a warrant; enter or search premises without a warrant; and ban the possession of firearms.
 - Any person arrested or taken into custody may be handed over to the officer in charge of the nearest police station along with a report detailing the circumstances that led to the arrest.



- The forces can open fire on the disturbing factors after giving due warning if they found any suspicious person.
- If a person is a repeated offender and tries to disturb the peace of the area then armed forces are entitled to use force till his death.
- **What is a “disturbed area” and who has the power to declare it?**
 - A disturbed area is one which is declared by notification under Section 3 of the AFSPA. An area can be disturbed due to differences or disputes between members of different religious, racial, language or regional groups or castes or communities.
 - The Central Government, or the Governor of the State or administrator of the Union Territory can declare the whole or part of the State or Union Territory as a disturbed area. A suitable notification would have to be made in the Official Gazette. As per Section 3, it can be invoked in places where “the use of armed forces in aid of the civil power is necessary”.
- **What’s the origin of AFSPA?**
 - The Act came into force in the context of increasing violence in the Northeastern States decades ago, which the State governments found difficult to control. The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Bill was passed by both the Houses of Parliament and it was approved by the President on September 11, 1958. It became known as the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1958.
- **Has there been any review of the Act?**
 - On November 19, 2004, the Central government appointed a five-member committee headed by **Justice B P Jeevan Reddy** to review the provisions of the act in the north eastern states.
 - The committee submitted its report in 2005, which included the following recommendations: (a) AFSPA should be repealed and appropriate provisions should be inserted in the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967; (b) The Unlawful Activities Act should be modified to clearly specify the powers of the armed forces and paramilitary forces and (c) grievance cells should be set up in each district where the armed forces are deployed.
 - The 5th report of the Second Administrative Reforms Commission on public order has also recommended the repeal of the AFSPA.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/12/nscn-im-releases-details-of-2015-naga-framework-agreement/>

94. Consider the following statements about 2nd edition of Student Entrepreneurship Programme (SEP 2.0):

1. SEP 2.0 is a flagship initiative set up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
2. It will allow student innovators to work closely with National Skill Development Corporation.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog**, in collaboration with **Dell Technologies** has launched **Student Entrepreneurship Programme 2.0 (SEP 2.0)** for young innovators of **Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs)**.
- **About SEP 2.0 and its significance:**
 - It will **allow student innovators to work closely with Dell volunteers**.
 - They will receive mentor support; prototyping and testing support; end-user feedback; intellectual property registration and patenting of ideas, processes, and products; manufacturing support; as well as the launch support of the product in the market.
 -

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/12/student-entrepreneurship-programme/>

95. Atal Innovation Mission is set up under the

- (a) Department of Science and Technology
- (b) Ministry of Employment
- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- See <https://niti.gov.in/content/atal-innovation-mission-aim>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/12/student-entrepreneurship-programme/>



96. Which one of the following is the best description of 'Starship', that was in the news recently?

- (a) Satellite
- (b) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
- (c) Spacecraft
- (d) Space Station

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **What is SpaceX's SN5 Starship prototype?**

- It is a prototype of **SpaceX's uncrewed "Mars ship"**. It is a stainless steel test.
- It is a part of the Starship spacecraft.
- Why in News?
 - The prototype recently completed its first test flight. It successfully flew to an altitude of over 500 feet for a little less than 60 seconds.
- **What is Starship?**
 - **Designed by SpaceX, Starship is a spacecraft and super-heavy booster rocket** meant to act as a reusable transportation system for crew and cargo to the Earth's orbit, Moon and Mars.
- SpaceX has described **Starship as "the world's most powerful launch vehicle"** with an ability to carry over 100 metric tonnes to the Earth's orbit.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/12/what-is-spacexs-sn5-starship-prototype/>

97. 'Sputnik V' is a new coronavirus vaccine launched by:

- (a) France
- (b) Italy
- (c) England
- (d) Russia

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **It is a new coronavirus vaccine launched by Russia.**
- It is touted as the world's first such vaccine, too.
- Currently, WHO and Russian health authorities are discussing the process for possible WHO prequalification for its newly approved COVID-19 vaccine.
- The vaccine is named Sputnik V, a reference to the first orbital satellite, which was launched by the Soviet Union in 1957 and set off the global space race.

Refer: facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/12/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-12-august-2020/>



98. With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements :

1. The concept of Bodhisattva is central to Hinayana sect of Buddhism.
2. Bodhisattva is a compassionate one on his way to enlightenment.
3. Bodhisattva delays achieving his own salvation to help all sentient beings on their path to it.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Stat1: It is central to the **Mahayana sect of Buddhism**.
 - **In non-Mahayana Buddhism, it usually refers either to Maitreya, the Buddha of the Future**, or to the historical Buddha Gautama prior to his enlightenment.
- Stat2 and 3: A bodhisattva is literally a living being (sattva) who aspires to enlightenment (bodhi) and carries out altruistic practices. The bodhisattva ideal is central to the Mahayana Buddhist tradition as the individual who seeks enlightenment both for him- or herself and for others. Clearly 2 is correct.
 - Compassion, an empathetic sharing of the sufferings of others, is the bodhisattva's greatest characteristic.
 - It is held that the bodhisattva makes four vows expressing a determination to work for the happiness of others: "However innumerable sentient beings are, I vow to save them; however inexhaustible the passions are, I vow to master them; however limitless the teachings are, I vow to study them; however infinite the Buddha-truth is, I vow to attain it."
- Clearly 3 is correct.
- Refer: <https://www.sgi.org/about-us/buddhist-concepts/bodhisattva.html>

Source: UPSC CSE 2016

99. With reference to an initiative called 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is an initiative hosted by UNEP, IMF and World Economic Forum.
2. It is a global initiative that focuses on drawing attention to the economic benefits of biodiversity.
3. It presents an approach that can help decision-makers recognize, demonstrate and capture the value of ecosystems and biodiversity.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 2



- (b) 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Statement 1: The founding of TEER is actually a bit elaborate. It started from the **G8+5 environment ministers since 2007**. You can read more about it in the source given below.
- **The TEEB office is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).**
- Statement 2 and 3: Lifted nearly verbatim from the source below.
- <http://www.teebweb.org/about/the-initiative/>

Source: UPSC CSE 2016

100. Consider the following statements:

1. Red Sanders is an endemic tree of North East India.
2. IUCN has put it under the category of endangered species in the Red List.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Pterocarpus santalinus or Red Sanders is an endemic tree of South India.**
- IUCN status: Near Threatened.
 - It was listed as an Endangered species by the IUCN, because of overexploitation for its timber in South India; however, it was later **reclassified to Near Threatened in 2018**, as the scale of this loss is not properly known.
 - It is also listed in the appendix II of the CITES, which means that a certificate is required in order to export it, that should only be granted if the trade is not detrimental to the survival of the species.
- Distribution: found in **Tropical Dry Deciduous forest** of the **Palakonda and Seshachalam hill ranges of Andhra Pradesh and also found in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.**

Source: improvisation of UPSC CSE 2016



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RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 13th-Aug-2020

101. With reference to PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi), consider the following statements:

1. The activities covered under the scheme are service sector and non-farming activities.
2. The Budgetary provision for the scheme is Rs. 10000 Crore and the provision in the current financial year 2020-21 is Rs. 500 Crore.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Both statements are not related to this scheme.
- The **Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry** recently said over **5 lakh applications had been received under the PM Street**



Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme for street vendors since it started on July 2 and 1 lakh loans had been sanctioned already.

- **Implementing agency:**
 - Recently, the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** signed MoU with **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** in order to engage SIDBI as **the Implementation Agency for the scheme**.
 - SIDBI will manage the credit guarantee to the lending institutions through **Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE)**.
- **Overview of the scheme:**
 - It is a special micro-credit facility plan to provide affordable loan of up to ₹10,000 to more than 50 lakh street vendors, who had their **businesses operational on or before 24 March 2020**.
 - The scheme is **valid until March 2022**.
 - [Small Industries Development Bank of India](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/13/pm-street-vendors-atmanirbhar-nidhi-pm-svanidhi-2/) is **the technical partner for implementation of this scheme**.
 - It will manage the credit guarantee to the lending institutions through [Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises](https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/13/pm-street-vendors-atmanirbhar-nidhi-pm-svanidhi-2/).
- **Loans under the scheme:**
 - Under the scheme, vendors can avail working capital loan of up to ₹10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments within one year.
 - On timely/early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy of 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) on six-months basis.
 - There will be no penalty on early repayment of loan.
- **Eligibility:**
 - The scheme is applicable to vendors, hawkers, thelewalas, rehriwalas, theliphadwalas in different areas/contexts who supply goods and services. Street vendors belonging to the surrounding peri-urban/rural areas are also included.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/13/pm-street-vendors-atmanirbhar-nidhi-pm-svanidhi-2/>

102. Which one of the following is the best description of 'Krishi Megh', that was in the news recently?
- (a) virtual training for farmers
 - (b) virtual commodities trading
 - (c) cropping system based training



(d) data recovery centre

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare virtually launched **the Krishi Megh (National Agricultural Research & Education System -Cloud Infrastructure and Services)**.
- **What is it?**
 - Krishi Megh is **the data recovery centre of ICAR** (Indian Council of Agricultural Research).
- **Details:**
 - **Krishi Megh** has been set up under **the National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP)**.
 - The data recovery centre has been set up at **National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), Hyderabad**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/13/krishi-megh/>

103. Consider the following statements about National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP):

1. The project is funded by both the government of India and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
2. The overall objective of the project is to attract talent and strengthen higher agricultural education in the country.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP):**

- The **project is funded** by both the **government of India and the World Bank**.
- The overall objective of the project is to provide more relevant and high-quality education to the agricultural university students that is in tune with the New Education Policy – 2020.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/13/krishi-megh/>

104. Which of the following services are offered by MCA21 application?

1. Obtain Digital Signature Certificate
2. Apply for Director Identification Number
3. View master details of any company
4. Aadhaar authentication service

Select the correct answer using the code below:



- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 1, 2 and 3
- (c) 1, 2 and 4
- (d) All of the above

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **MCA21 Mission Mode Project (MCA21)** is the **e-governance initiative** from the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**, Government of India.
- It is one of the 31 Mission Mode Projects of the National e-Governance Plan.
- **Objective**
 - The MCA21 application is designed to fully automate all processes related to the proactive enforcement and compliance of the legal requirements under the Companies Act, 1956, New Companies Act, 2013 and Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008. This will help the business community to meet their statutory obligations.
- **Service offered:** <https://vikaspedia.in/e-governance/national-e-governance-plan/mission-mode-projects/mca-21>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/13/what-is-business-responsibility-reporting/>

105. With reference to agriculture in India, how can the technique of 'genome sequencing', often seen in the news, be used in the immediate future?

1. Genome sequencing can be used to identify genetic markers for disease resistance and drought tolerance in various crop plants.
2. This technique helps in reducing the time required to develop new varieties of crop plants.
3. It can be used to decipher the host-pathogen relationships in crops.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Genome sequencing is figuring out the order of DNA nucleotides, or bases, in a genome—the order of As, Cs, Gs, and Ts that make up an organism's DNA.



- State 1: Currently available newborn screening (genome) for childhood diseases allows detection of rare disorders that can be prevented or better treated by early detection and intervention.
- <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/whole-genome-sequencing-predict-disease/>
- Stat 2: Naturally if the gene potential can be identified by screening and sequencing, it will help in better genetic engineering.
- Stat 3: This can be reasoned logically based on the above.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/13/csir-moots-mega-labs-to-boost-covid-19-testing/>

106. 'One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)' initiative was first proposed by:

- (a) China
- (b) Brazil
- (c) France
- (d) India

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- The Union **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)** has put calls for proposals to the **One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative** on hold till further notice.
- **About the initiative:**
 - **OSOWOG initiative was proposed by India** to set up a framework for facilitating global cooperation which aims at building a global ecosystem of interconnected renewable energy resources that can be easily shared.
- **Details of the initiative:**
 - Parent Body: The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
 - Objective: To build global consensus about sharing solar resources among more than 140 countries of West Asia and South-East Asia.
 - The vision is 'The Sun Never Sets' and is a constant at some geographical location, globally, at any given point of time.
 - This grid shall be interconnected with the African power pools also at the later stage.
 - **It has been taken up under the technical assistance program of the World Bank.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/13/one-sun-one-world-one-grid-osowog-initiative/>



107. Who is the chairperson of National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)?

- (a) Prime Minister of India
- (b) Union Environment Minister
- (c) Director General of Forest
- (d) Conservation Zoologist (Tiger Expert)

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **National Tiger conservation authority (NTCA)** is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and climate change.
- It was **established in 2005** following the recommendations of the Tiger task force.
- It was constituted under enabling provisions of the wildlife (protection) act 1972, as amended in 2006.
- **The Minister for Environment & Forests is the Chairperson of the Authority**, and the Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment & Forests is its Vice-Chairman.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/13/how-the-tiger-can-regain-its-stripes/>

108. Consider the following statements:

1. Asian elephants are listed as “Endangered” on the IUCN Red List of threatened species.
2. Elephant census, is conducted once in 4 years under the aegis of Project elephant.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **Asian elephants** are listed as “**Endangered**” on the IUCN Red List of threatened species.
 - Indian Elephant has also been listed in the Appendix I of the Convention of the Migratory species in the recently concluded Conference of Parties of CMS 13 at Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat in February 2020.
 - Elephant is the Natural Heritage Animal of India.
 - India has the largest number of wild Asian Elephants, estimated at 29,964 according to the 2017 census by Project Elephant. The figure amounts to about 60% of the species’ global population.



- Stat2: **Elephant census**, is conducted once in **5 years** under the **aegis of Project elephant**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/13/forest-ministry-releases-guide-to-managing-human-elephant-conflict/>

109. Papum Reserve Forest is located in:

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- It is an **Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs)** in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- Located between two IBAs, **Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary** to the east **and Pakke Wildlife Sanctuary to the west**.
- The Reserve Forest forms part of the Eastern Himalayas Endemic Bird Area.
- **Why in News?**
 - A study based on satellite data has flagged a high rate of deforestation in this area which is also a major hornbill habitat in Arunachal Pradesh.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/13/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-13-august-2020/>

110. Which one of the following statements is not correct?

- (a) Hepatitis B virus is transmitted much like HIV.
- (b) Hepatitis B, unlike Hepatitis C, does not have a vaccine.
- (c) Globally, the number of people infected with Hepatitis B and C viruses are several times more than those infected with HIV.
- (d) Some of those infected with Hepatitis B and C viruses do not show the symptoms for many years

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Hepatitis B has a vaccine that is recommended for all infants at birth and for children up to 18 years. It is also recommended that adults in high-risk groups be vaccinated.
- See <https://www.hepb.org/prevention-and-diagnosis/vaccination/>

Source: UPSC CSE 2019



RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 14th-Aug-2020

111. Consider the following statements with reference to 6th Schedule of the Constitution of India:

1. It was based on the reports of Bardoloi Committee formed by the Constituent Assembly.
2. The President is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **The Sixth Schedule** to the Constitution was formulated to provide limited autonomy to tribal regions of north-east India based on the report of the **Bardoloi Committee** formed by the Constituent Assembly.
 - It stated that due to the administrative system followed by the British, the tribal areas of Assam were isolated from other parts of the country. Therefore, most of these areas remained severely under-developed. There was a need for a system of administration that would allow the tribal areas to become developed while protecting them from exploitation by the people in the plain areas and preserving their distinct social customs.
 - **The Bardoloi Committee drafted a Schedule to the Constitution detailing the administrative mechanism for these areas.**
- The Sixth Schedule designates ten tribal areas in **Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura as autonomous districts.**
 - It stipulates that these areas should be administered through a system of District and Regional Councils, which have legislative powers on a range of subjects such as allotment of land, inheritance of property, marriage and divorce
- **The governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts.**
- The governor can appoint a commission to examine and report on any matter relating to the administration of the autonomous districts or regions. He may dissolve a district or regional council on the recommendation of the commission.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/14/assam-groups-push-for-6th-schedule-status/>



112. The Price Monitoring and Resource Unit (PMRU) will function under the direct control and supervision of:

- (a) National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority
- (b) Directorate General Of Health Services
- (c) Bureau of Indian Standards
- (d) State Drug Controller of respective states

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- A **Price Monitoring and Resource Unit (PMRU)** has been set up in Karnataka under the aegis of **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)**, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- **What are Price Monitoring and Resource Units (PMRU)?**
 - It is a registered society and shall **function under the direct control and supervision of State Drug Controller of respective states**. The unit shall be **funded by NPPA** for its recurring and non-recurring expenses.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/14/price-monitoring-and-resource-unit-set-up-in-karnataka/>

113. Recently launched the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) has which of the following mandates?

1. transfer technology to industry for producing the commercially
2. outsource assembly of submarines and ships
3. induction of emerging disruptive technology in an accelerated time frame

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Stat1 and 2 not related to NIIO.
- **The NIIO is a three-tiered organisation.**
 - Naval Technology Acceleration Council (N-TAC) will bring together the twin aspects of innovation and indigenisation and provide apex level directives.
 - A working group under the N-TAC will implement the projects.
 - A Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC) has also been created for induction of emerging disruptive technology in an accelerated time frame.
- **Functions of NIIO:**



- The NIIO puts in place dedicated structures for the end users to interact with academia and industry towards fostering innovation and indigenisation for self-reliance in defence in keeping with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/14/naval-innovation-and-indigenisation-organisation-niio-launched/>

114. With reference to organic farming in India, consider the following statements:

1. Sikkim is the first organic state in the world.
2. India ranks first in number of organic farmers and sixth in terms of area under organic farming.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation: **Organic farming in India:**

- **India ranks first in number of organic farmers** and **ninth in terms of area under organic farming**.
- **Sikkim became the first State in the world to become fully organic** and other States including **Tripura and Uttarakhand have set similar targets**.
- **North East India has traditionally been organic** and the consumption of chemicals is far less than rest of the country.
- Similarly **the tribal and island territories** are being nurtured to continue their organic story.
- **The major organic exports from India have been** flax seeds, sesame, soybean, tea, medicinal plants, rice and pulses.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/14/organic-farming-in-india/>

115. Consider the following statements:

1. National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) is being managed and operated by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).
2. Participatory Guarantee System for India (PGS) is implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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



Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP)** launched during 2001 laid the foundation for systematic development of organic agriculture sector in the country.
 - NPOP, which provides for an institutional framework for accreditation and certification of various facets of organic agriculture processes has earned international recognition and enjoys recognition agreements with European Union, Switzerland and USDA - NOP.
 - **NPOP is being managed and operated by the APEDA** under **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, Government of India.
 - NPOP grants organic farming certification through a process of third party certification.
 - It involves the accreditation programme for Certification Bodies, standards for organic production, promotion of organic farming etc.
- Stat2: Participatory Guarantee System for India (PGS) is implemented by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/14/organic-farming-in-india/>

116. Consider the following statements:

1. Individual farmers or group of farmers smaller than five members are not covered under Participatory Guarantee Scheme (PGS).
2. PGS grants organic farming certification through a process of third party certification.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

Participatory Guarantee Scheme (PGS):

- **Union Agriculture Ministry's PGS is a process of certifying organic products**, which ensures that their production takes place in accordance with laid-down quality standards.
- The **certification is in the form of a documented logo or a statement**.
- According to the **International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)**, the Bonn-based global umbrella



organisation for the organic agriculture movement, PGSs are **“locally focused quality assurance systems” that “certify producers based on active participation of stakeholders and are built on a foundation of trust, social networks and knowledge exchange”**.

- **Stat2:** PGS, according to this definition, is “a process in which **people in similar situations** (in this case small holder producers) **assess, inspect and verify the production practices of each other** and take decisions on organic certification”
- **However, the operational manual also identifies some limitations of PGS:**
 - PGS certification is only for farmers or communities that can organise and perform as a group within a village or a cluster of contiguous villages, and **is applicable only to farm activities such as crop production**, processing, and livestock rearing, and off-farm processing “by PGS farmers of their direct products”.
 - **Individual farmers or group of farmers smaller than five members are not covered under PGS.** They either have to opt for third party certification or join the existing PGS local group.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/14/organic-farming-in-india/>

117. Which one of the following is the best description of ‘Line of Credit’, that was in the news recently?

- (a) Grant-in-aid
- (b) Form of bank guarantee
- (c) Soft loan
- (d) Donation

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **What is Line of Credit (LOC)?**
- The Line of Credit is **not a grant but a ‘soft loan’** provided on **concessional interest rates to developing countries**, which has to be repaid by the borrowing government.
- The LOCs also helps to promote exports of Indian goods and services, as **75% of the value of the contract must be sourced from India.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/14/what-is-line-of-credit/>

118. Which one of the following is the best description of ‘ICG’s Sarthak’, that was in the news recently?

- (a) Amphibious warfare ship



- (b) Nuclear-powered submarine
- (c) Torpedo launch and recovery vessel
- (d) Offshore patrol vessel

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Sarthak:**

- It is an Indian Coast Guard **Offshore Patrol Vessel**.
- It was launched recently.
- It is **the 4th in the series of five OPVs**.
- It has been **designed & built indigenously** by M/s Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/14/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-14-august-2020/>

119. Mediterranean Sea is a border of which of the following countries?

1. Jordan
2. Iraq
3. Lebanon
4. Syria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:



Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/14/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-14-august-2020/>

120. Consider the following pairs:

Sea	Bordering country
1. Adriatic Sea	Albania
2. Black Sea	Croatia
3. Caspian Sea	Kazakhstan
4. Mediterranean Sea	Morocco
5. Red Sea	Syria

Which of the pair given above are correctly matched?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- The countries with coasts on the **Adriatic sea** are Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia.
- Six countries border with the **Black Sea**, including Ukraine to the north, Russia and Georgia to the east, Turkey to the south, and Bulgaria and Romania to the west.



- The **Caspian Sea** is a landlocked body of water between Europe and Asia. Five countries — Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Iran and Azerbaijan — border the inland sea.
- Countries border with the **Mediterranean Sea** are Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey.
- **The six countries bordering the Red Sea proper are:**
 - Eastern shore: Saudi Arabia. Yemen.
 - Western shore: Egypt. Sudan. Eritrea. Djibouti.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/14/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-14-august-2020/>

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 15th-Aug-2020

121. The 1929 Session of Indian National Congress is of significance in the history of the Freedom Movement because the
- (a) attainment of self-government was declared as the objective of the congress
 - (b) attainment of Poorna Swaraj was adopted as the goal of the Congress
 - (c) Non Cooperation Movement was launched
 - (d) decision to participate in the Round Table Conference in London was taken

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Pre- Independence- the call for Poorna Swaraj:**
- In 1929, when Jawaharlal Nehru as Congress President gave the call for '**Poorna Swaraj**' or **total independence from British colonial rule**, **January 26** was chosen as the Independence Day.
- Congress party continued to celebrate it 1930 onwards, till India attained independence and January 26, 1950, was chosen as the **Republic Day** – the day India formally became a sovereign country and was no longer a British Dominion.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/15/74th-independence-day/>

122. The Mountbatten Plan became the basis for which of the following?
- (a) Termination of British suzerainty over the princely states
 - (b) Privy Purse in India
 - (c) Abolition of the use of the title "Emperor of India" by the British monarch
 - (d) Partition of British India



Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- The **June 3, 1947 plan was also known as the Mountbatten Plan**. The British government proposed a plan, announced on 3 June 1947, that included these principles:
 - **Principle of the partition of British India** was accepted by the British Government
 - Successor governments would be given dominion status
 - autonomy and sovereignty to both countries
 - can make their own constitution
 - Princely States were given the right to either join Pakistan or India
 - Provinces can become a separate nation other than Pakistan or India
- **The Indian Independence Act 1947 most important provisions were:**
 - division of British India into the two new dominions of India and Pakistan, with effect from 15 August 1947.
 - partition of the provinces of Bengal and Punjab between the two new countries.
 - establishment of the office of Governor-General in each of the two new countries, as representatives of the Crown.
 - conferral of complete legislative authority upon the respective Constituent Assemblies of the two new countries.
 - termination of British suzerainty over the princely states, with effect from 15 August 1947, and recognised the right of states to remain independent or accede to either dominion.[7][8]
 - Abolition of the use of the title "Emperor of India" by the British monarch (this was subsequently executed by King George VI by royal proclamation on 22 June 1948).
 - The Act also made provision for the division of joint property, etc. between the two new countries, including in particular the division of the armed forces.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/15/74th-independence-day/>

123. Consider the following statements:

1. The Lok Sabha can remove the ministry from office by passing a no-confidence motion.
2. No-confidence motion can be moved against the entire council of ministers only.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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



Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Article 75 of the Constitution** says that the council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. It means that the ministry stays in office so long as it enjoys confidence of the majority of the members of the Lok Sabha. In other words, **the Lok Sabha can remove the ministry from office by passing a no-confidence motion**. The motion needs the support of 50 members to be admitted.

<i>Censure Motion</i>	<i>No-Confidence Motion</i>
1. It should state the reasons for its adoption in the Lok Sabha.	It need not state the reasons 1. for its adoption in the Lok Sabha.
2. It can be moved against an individual minister or a group of ministers or the entire council of ministers.	It can be moved against the entire council of ministers only. 2.
3. It is moved for censuring the council of ministers for specific policies and actions.	It is moved for ascertaining the confidence of Lok Sabha in the council of ministers. 3.
4. If it is passed in the Lok Sabha, the council of ministers need not resign from the office.	If it is passed in the Lok Sabha, the council of ministers must resign from office. 4.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/15/ashok-gehlot-led-govt-wins-trust-vote-in-rajasthan/>

124. The expression 'contempt of court' has been defined under:

- The Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968
- Contempt of Courts Act, 1971
- Third Judges Case of 1998
- All of the above

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- The expression 'contempt of court' has not been defined by the Constitution.
- **Section 10 of The Contempt of Courts Act of 1971** defines the power of the High Court to punish contempts of its subordinate courts.



- Article 129 and 215 of the Constitution of India empowers the Supreme Court and High Court respectively to punish people for their respective contempt.
- **Contempt of court can be of two kinds:**
 - Civil, that is the willful disobedience of a court order or judgment or willful breach of an undertaking given to a court.
 - Criminal, that is written or spoken words or any act that scandalises the court or lowers its authority or prejudices or interferes with the due course of a judicial proceeding or interferes/obstructs the administration of justice.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/15/sc-holds-prashant-bhushan-guilty-of-contempt/>

125. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 348 (1) of the Constitution states that the official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script.
2. Part XVII of the Indian constitution consists of Articles on Official Language.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **Article 348 (1)** of the Constitution of India provides that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High court shall be in English Language until Parliament by law otherwise provides.
 - Article **343(1)** of the Constitution **provides that Hindi in Devanagari script shall be the Official Language of the Union.**
 - Article **343(2)** also provided for continuing the use of English in official work of the Union for a period of 15 years (i.e., up to 25 January 1965) from the date of commencement of the Constitution.
 - Article **343(3)** empowered the parliament to provide by law for continued use of English for official purposes even after 25 January 1965.
 - Accordingly, **section 3(2) of the Official Languages Act, 1963 (amended in 1967) provides for continuing the use of English in official work even after 25 January 1965.**
 - The Act also lays down that both Hindi and English shall compulsorily be used for certain specified purposes such as Resolutions, General Orders, Rules, Notifications, Administrative and other Reports, Press Communiqués; Administrative and other Reports and Official Papers to be



laid before a House or the Houses of Parliament; Contracts, Agreements, Licences, Permits, Tender Notices and Forms of Tender, etc.

- Stat2: **Part XVII** is a compilation of laws pertaining to the **constitution of India** as a country and the union of states that it is made of. This **part** of the **constitution** consists of Articles on **Official Language**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/15/need-to-amend-the-official-languages-act-for-good-governance-cji/>

126. The 'Gaza Strip' is located between Israel and:

- Jordan
- Syria
- Egypt
- Lebanon

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- The Gaza Strip** is a **small Palestinian territory**, about twice the size of the District of Columbia, located along the Mediterranean coast between **Egypt and Israel**



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/15/israel-uae-agreement/>

127. Which of the following institutions were established by 'Vikram Sarabhai'?

- Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad
 - Faster Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR), Kalpakkam
 - Raman Research Institute, Bangalore
 - Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL), Hyderabad
 - Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), Jaduguda, Bihar
- Select the correct answer using the code below:



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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Dr. Sarabhai** was considered as the Father of the Indian space program; He was a great institution builder and established or helped to establish a large number of institutions in diverse fields.
- He was also Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission. He along with other Ahmedabad-based industrialists played a major role in the creation of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.
- **Some of the most well-known institutions established by Dr. Sarabhai are:**
 - Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad
 - Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad
 - Community Science Centre, Ahmedabad
 - Darpan Academy for Performing Arts, Ahmedabad (along with his wife)
 - Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram
 - Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad (This institution came into existence after merging six institutions/centres established by Sarabhai)
 - Faster Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR), Kalpakkam
 - Variable Energy Cyclotron Project, Calcutta
 - Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL), Hyderabad
 - Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), Jaduguda, Bihar

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/15/vikram-sarabhai-3/>

128. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?

- | <i>E-Governance initiative's</i> | <i>Parent Ministry's</i> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. SRIJAN portal | Ministry of Defence |
| 2. Swasthya portal Welfare | Ministry of Health and Family |
| 3. ASEEM portal | Ministry of Agriculture |

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 1 only
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 1 and 3

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **SRIJAN:**
 - SRIJAN is the **Ministry of Defence's portal** which acts as a one-stop-shop online portal that provides access to the



vendors to take up items that can be taken up for indigenization.

- **Swasthya Portal:**
 - Launched by Tribal Affairs Minister recently.
 - The online portal will act as a one-stop solution presenting all information pertaining to tribal health and nutrition-related to Scheduled Tribes.
 - The portal will be managed by the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs'** Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Knowledge Management in Health and Nutrition.
- The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** has launched '**Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping' (ASEEM) portal** to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- The Artificial Intelligence-based ASEEM will provide employers a platform to assess the availability of skilled workforce and formulate their hiring plans.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/15/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-15-august-2020/>

129. Consider the following statements:

1. National Health Authority's (NHA) primary activity is to manage the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana.
2. NHA is governed by a Governing Board chaired by the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- It is the apex body responsible for **implementing India's flagship public health insurance/assurance scheme 'Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana'.**
- **National Health Authority is the successor of National Health Agency**, which was functioning as a registered society since 23rd May, 2018.
- NHA is governed by **a Governing Board chaired by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare.**

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/15/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-15-august-2020/>

130. Consider the following :

1. Calcutta Unitarian Committee
2. Tabernacle of New Dispensation



3. Indian Reform Association

Keshab Chandra Sen is associated with the establishment of which of the above?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Calcutta Unitarian Committee was established in 1823 by Rammohun Roy**, Dwarkanath Tagore, and William Adam. So, 1 is wrong.
- In 1868, **Keshub laid the foundation** stone of his new church, the **Tabernacle of New Dispensation**. So, 2 is correct.
- Indian reform association was founded in 1870 with Keshub Chunder Sen as president. It represented the secular side of the Brahmo Samaj and included many who did not belong to the Brahmo Samaj. So, 3 is correct.
- <http://www.thebrahmosamaj.net/founders/keshub.html>
- <http://www.thebrahmosamaj.net/history/chronology.html>

source: UPSC CSE 2016

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 17th-Aug-2020

131. Consider the following statements about PM CARES fund:

1. It is a “public charitable trust”.
2. Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund .
3. Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Why in news:** The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has denied a Right to Information request related to the PM-CARES Fund on the grounds that providing it would “disproportionately divert the resources of the office.”
- **What is PM CARES fund?**



- The PM CARES Fund was created on 28 March 2020, “with the primary objective of dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation, like posed by the COVID-19 pandemic”.
- It is a **“public charitable trust”**.
- **Who administers the fund?**
 - Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund and Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance, Government of India are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.

Refer: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pm-cares-fund-collected-over-3000-crore-in-2019-20/article32380967.ece>

132. Consider the following statements:

1. River Yamuna is the largest tributary river of the Ganga.
2. It passes through states such as Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi only.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- River Yamuna originates from **Yamunotri glacier in Himalayas** and is the **largest tributary** river of the Ganga.
- Along its entire traveling length of about 1380 km, it passes through many states such as **Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana** and **Delhi**.
- **Tributaries**
 - left: Hindon, Tons, Giri, Rishiganga, Hanuman Ganga, Sasur Khaderi
 - right: Chambal, Betwa, Ken, Sindh, Baghain

Refer: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/delhi-metro-yamuna-bridge-designed-from-home/articleshow/77603055.cms>

133. ‘Jaya Jaitly task force’ was constituted by:

- (a) Ministry of Finance
- (b) NITI
- (c) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- (d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

Why in news: During the Independence Day Speech, PM announced that the central government has set up a committee to reconsider the minimum age of marriage for women.



- Constituted by **Women and Child Development Ministry**.
- To examine issues related to age of motherhood, lowering Maternal Mortality Rate and improvement of nutritional levels.
- Headed by Jaya Jaitly and it will submit its report by 31st July of next month.
- The mandate of the task force involves examining the correlation of age of marriage and motherhood with health, medical well-being and nutritional status of mother and neonate/infant/child, during pregnancy, birth and thereafter.

Refer: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/pm-modi-74th-independence-day-women-empowerment-marriage-age-6555937/>

134. Consider the following statements about Animal Welfare Board of India::

1. It established in 1962 under Section 4 of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.
2. It was started under the stewardship of Mrinalini Sarabhai.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

Why in news: Animal Welfare Board pulled up for not conducting physical surveys in registered circuses amid pandemic.

About Animal Welfare Board of India:

- Established in 1962 under **Section 4 of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960**.
- The Animal Welfare Board of India is a **statutory advisory body** advising the Government of India on animal welfare laws, and promotes animal welfare in the country of India. Animal Welfare Board of India was started under the **stewardship of Late Smt. Rukmini Devi Arundale**, well known humanitarian.
- The Board was initially within the jurisdiction of the Government of India's Ministry of Food and Agriculture. In 1990, the subject of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was transferred to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, where it now resides.
- The Board consists of 28 Members, who serve for a period of 3 years.
- It works to ensure that animal welfare laws in the country are followed and provides grants to Animal Welfare Organisations. The Board oversees Animal Welfare Organisations (AWOs) by granting recognition to them if they meet its guidelines.



Refer: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2020/aug/18/animal-welfare-board-pulled-up-for-not-conducting-physical-surveys-in-registered-circuses-amid-pande-2184964.html>

135. With reference to National Health Policy 2017, consider the following statements:

1. The policy proposes raising public health expenditure to 1.5% of the GDP by 2030.
2. It focusses on 'One Health concept'.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Key highlights: National Health Policy 2017**

- The government aims in shifting focus from “sick-care” to “wellness”, by promoting prevention and well-being.
- It intends on gradually increasing public health expenditure to 2.5% of the GDP.
- It aims to strengthen health systems by ensuring everyone has access to quality services and technology despite financial barriers. The policy proposes increasing access, improving quality and reducing costs. It proposes free drugs, free diagnostics and free emergency and essential healthcare services in public hospitals.
- **It focusses on primary health care: The policy advocates allocating two-thirds (or more) of resources to primary care. It proposes two beds per 1,000 of the population to enable access within the golden hour (the first 60 minutes after a traumatic injury).**
- It aims to reduce morbidity and preventable mortality of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by advocating pre-screening.
- It promotes 'Make in India' initiative by using drugs and devices manufactured in the country.
- It highlights AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) as a tool for effective prevention and therapy that is safe and cost-effective. It proposes introducing Yoga in more schools and offices to promote good health.
- It proposes reforming medical education.
- The policy also lists quantitative targets regarding life expectancy, mortality and reduction of disease prevalence in line with the objectives of the policy.
- **Key targets:**
 - Increase Life Expectancy at birth from 67.5 to 70 by 2025.
 - Reduce infant mortality rate to 28 by 2019.



- Reduce Under Five Mortality to 23 by 2025.
- Achieve the global 2020 HIV target (also termed 90:90:90; 90% of all people living with HIV know their HIV status, 90% of all people diagnosed with HIV infection receive sustained antiretroviral therapy and 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression).
- To reduce premature mortality from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory diseases by 25% by 2025.
- **The One Health concept**
 - The philosophy of One Health recognises inter-connectivity among human health, the health of animals, and the environment.
 - Circa 400 BC, Hippocrates in his treatise On Airs, Waters and Places had urged physicians that all aspects of patients' lives need to be considered including their environment; disease was a result of imbalance between man and environment. So One Health is not a new concept, though it is of late that it has been formalised in health governance systems.

Refer: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/on-independence-day-pm-modi-announces-health-id-card-for-every-indian/article32361701.ece>

136. Arrange the following islands in the direction of West to East:

1. Madagascar
2. Reunion
3. Mauritius

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Why in News:**

- A Japanese ship that has leaked hundreds of tonnes of fuel oil off the coast of Mauritius has broken up.
- The MV Wakashio ran aground on a coral reef on 25 July with 4,000 tonnes of the fuel, causing an ecological emergency.



Refer: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-53819112>

137. Organic Light Emitting Diodes (OLEDs) are used to create digital display in many devices. What are the advantages of OLED displays over Liquid Crystal displays?

1. OLED displays can be fabricated on flexible plastic substrates.
2. Roll-up displays embedded in clothing can be made using OLEDs.
3. Transparent displays are possible using OLEDs.

Select the correct answer using the code given below

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) None of the above statements is correct

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Stat1 and 2: A major advantage of OLED over LCD is that it is lightweight and has flexible plastic substrates.
- OLED displays can be fabricated on flexible plastic substrates, leading to the possible fabrication of flexible organic light-emitting diodes for other new applications, such as roll-up displays embedded in fabrics or clothing.
- If a substrate like polyethylene terephthalate (PET) can be used, the displays may be produced inexpensively.
- Furthermore, plastic substrates are shatter-resistant, unlike the glass displays used in LCD devices.
- Stat3: At the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in 2010, Samsung demonstrated a laptop computer with a large, transparent OLED display featuring up to 40% transparency.

Source: UPSC CSE 2017



138. What is the application of Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer Technology?

- (a) Production of biolarvicides
- (b) Manufacture of biodegradable plastics
- (c) Reproductive cloning of animals
- (d) Production of organisms free of diseases

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **Somatic cell cloning** is a technique in which the nucleus (DNA) of a somatic cell is transferred for the generation of a new individual, genetically identical to the somatic cell donor.

https://www.sciencedaily.com/terms/somatic_cell_nuclear_transfer.htm

Source: UPSC CSE 2017

139. If the President of India exercises his power as provided under Article 356 of the Constitution in respect of a particular state, then

- (a) The Assembly of the state is automatically dissolved
- (b) The powers of the Legislature of that State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of the Parliament
- (c) Article 19 is suspended in that state
- (d) The President can make laws relating to that State

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Article 356: Provisions in case of failure of constitutional machinery in State**

- If the President, on receipt of report from the Governor of the State or otherwise, is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution, the President may be Proclamation
- Assume to himself all or any of the functions of the Government of the State and all or any of the powers vested in or exercisable by the Governor or anybody or authority in the State other than the Legislature of the State; (b) **Declare that the powers of the Legislature of the State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament;**

Source: UPSC CSE 2018

140. Consider the following pairs:

<i>Craft Heritage of</i>	<i>Region</i>
1. Puthukkuli shawls	Tamil Nadu
2. Sujni embroide	Maharashtra
3. Uppada Jamdani saris	Karnataka

Select the correct answer using the codes below.

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 2 and 3

Ans: (a)



Explanation:

- Puthukkuli shawls – Tamil Nadu; **Sujni embroider – Bihar; Uppada jamdani sarees – Andhra Pradesh.**
- Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/features/magazine/exquisite-expensive/article4605547.ece>
- <https://www.utsavpedia.com/motifs-embroideries/sujani-embroidery/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uppada_Jamdani_Sari

Source: UPSC CSE 2018

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 18th-Aug-2020

141. Consider the following statements:

1. As per the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ), 2019 Notification, the Floor Space Index (FSI) or the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) had been frozen.
2. As per the latest notification, the only such projects which are located in the CRZ-II and III have been delegated at the Central level.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Context:** The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the 2019 **Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms**, replacing the existing CRZ norms of 2011.
- The new CRZ norms have been issued under **Section 3 of the Environment Protection Act, 1986.**
- The new CRZ norms aim **to promote sustainable development based on scientific principles.**
- **Objective of CRZ Regulations 2019:**
 - To promote sustainable development based on scientific principles taking into account the natural hazards such as increasing sea levels due to global warming.
 - To conserve and protect the environment of coastal stretches and marine areas, besides livelihood security to the fisher communities and other local communities in the coastal area.

Salient Features of CRZ Regulations 2019:

- **Two separate categories for CRZ-III (Rural) areas:**
 - CRZ-III A: The A category of CRZ-III areas are densely populated rural areas with a population density of 2161 per square kilometre as per 2011 Census. Such areas have a No



Development Zone (NDZ) of 50 meters from the High Tide Line (HTL) as against 200 meters from the High Tide Line stipulated in the CRZ Notification, 2011.

- CRZ-III B – The B category of CRZ-III rural areas have population density of below 2161 per square kilometre as per 2011 Census. Such areas have a No Development Zone of 200 meters from the HTL.
- **Tourism infrastructure permitted in coastal areas:** The new norms permit temporary tourism facilities such as shacks, toilet blocks, change rooms, drinking water facilities, etc. in Beaches.
- **Stat1: Floor Space Index Norms eased:** As per CRZ, 2011 Notification, the Floor Space Index (FSI) or the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) had been frozen. As per the latest notification, the government has decided to de-freeze the Floor Space Index and permit FSI for construction projects.
- **Stat2: Streamlining of CRZ Clearances:** The procedure for CRZ clearances has been streamlined. Now, the only such projects which are located in the CRZ-I (Ecologically Sensitive Areas) and CRZ IV (area covered between Low Tide Line and 12 Nautical Miles seaward) will be dealt with for CRZ clearance by the Ministry. The powers for clearances with respect to CRZ-II and III have been delegated at the State level.
- **No Development Zone of 20 meters for all Islands:** For islands close to the main land coast and for all Backwater Islands in the main land, No Development Zone of 20 meters has been stipulated in wake of space limitations and unique geography of such regions.
- **Pollution abatement:** To address pollution in Coastal areas, the treatment facilities have been made permissible in CRZ-I B area subject to necessary safeguards.
- **Critically Vulnerable Coastal Areas (CVCA):** Sundarban region of West Bengal and other ecologically sensitive areas identified as under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 such as Gulf of Khambat and Gulf of Kutchh in Gujarat, Achra-Ratnagiri in Maharashtra, Karwar and Coondapur in Karnataka, Vembanad in Kerala, Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu, Bhaitarkanika in Odisha and Krishna in Andhra Pradesh are treated as Critical Vulnerable Coastal Areas.
These Critical Vulnerable Coastal Areas will be managed with the involvement of coastal communities including fisher folk.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/01/24/crz-regulations/>

142. Consider the following statements:

1. As per the latest Wetlands Rules, the Wetlands Authority within a state is the nodal authority for all wetland-specific authorities in a State/UT.



2. Permission for carrying out any prohibited activity within a notified wetland can only be given by State government based on recommendation of Wetlands Authority.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation: **Centre notifies new Wetland Conservation Rules, asks states, UTs to set up authority**

- Nearly two and a half years after it had notified the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017 for conservation and management of wetlands in the country, the Indian government's Environment Ministry has now come out with guidelines to support state governments in the implementation of the rules.
- **The document aims to guide states in preparing a list of wetlands;** identifying wetlands for notification under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017; delineating wetlands, wetlands complexes and zone of influence; developing a list of activities to be regulated and permitted; and developing an integrated management plan for wetlands, which are rich reservoirs of biodiversity.
- **The guidelines clarified that all wetlands,** irrespective of their location, size, ownership, biodiversity, or ecosystem services values, can be notified under the Wetlands Rules 2017, **except river channels, paddy fields, human-made waterbodies** specifically constructed for drinking water, **aquaculture, salt production, recreation, irrigation purposes**, wetlands falling within areas covered under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011.
- **Stat2: Permission for carrying out any prohibited activity within a notified wetland can only be given by MoEFCC** upon specific request made by State government based on recommendation of Wetlands Authority.

Refer: <https://scroll.in/article/949988/indias-guidelines-on-wetlands-will-allow-states-to-decide-what-counts-as-prohibited-activities>

143. Consider the following statements:

1. It is located in the Shiwalik foothills of Punjab.
2. It supports abundant flora and fauna including threatened species, such as the endangered Indian pangolin, Egyptian vulture and the vulnerable leopard.
3. The site is of historic importance as the Indian and Chinese Prime Ministers formalized the "Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence" there in 1954.



The above statements refers to which of the following Ramsar Wetland Site?

- (a) Beas Conservation Reserve
- (b) Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve
- (c) Nangal Wildlife sanctuary
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary**

- Located in the **Shiwalik foothills of Punjab** is the highly eco-sensitive **Nangal Wildlife Sanctuary**
- Supports abundant flora and fauna including threatened species, such as the endangered **Indian pangolin** (*Manis crassicaudata*) and **Egyptian vulture** (*Neophron percnopterus*) and the **vulnerable leopard** (*Panthera pardus*).
- **It occupies a human-made reservoir** constructed as part of the **Bhakra-Nangal Project in 1961**.
- The site is of historic importance as the Indian and Chinese Prime Ministers formalized the “**Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence**” there in **1954**.
- More than half a million people downstream benefit from the reservoir as the flow of water is regulated, reducing the risks to both people and property from floods.
- The Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation (Rupnagar Wildlife Division), Punjab is responsible for managing the Sanctuary.

Refer: <https://rsis.ramsar.org/ris/2407>

144. Consider the following states:

- 1. Karnataka
- 2. Kerala
- 3. Andhra Pradesh
- 4. Himachal Pradesh

With reference to the States mentioned above, in terms of increase in forest cover (as per the India State of Forest Report 2019), which one of the following is the correct ascending order?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- The India State of Forest Report 2019 has been released.
- As per the ISFR 2019, the **top five states in terms of increase in forest cover** are **Karnataka (1,025 sq. km.)**, Andhra Pradesh (990 sq. km.), Kerala (823 sq. km.), Jammu & Kashmir (371 sq. km.) and Himachal Pradesh (334 sq km).



- **In terms of area, Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover** in the country followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra.
- **In terms of forest cover as a percentage of their total geographical area**, the top five states are **Mizoram (85.41 percent)**, Arunachal Pradesh (79.63 percent), Meghalaya (76.33 percent), Manipur (75.46 percent) and Nagaland (75.31 percent).
- The report also highlighted that there are 62,466 wetlands in the country and amongst the states, **Gujarat has the largest area of wetlands (within the RFA) in the country followed by West Bengal**. The report has identified wetlands of more than one-hectare area within the RFAs.
- The ISFR 2019 also showed that the **mangrove cover** in the country has increased by 54 sq. km. as compared to the previous assessment. The **maximum increase was in Gujarat** which recorded an increase of 37 sq. km **followed by Maharashtra** (16 sq. km.) and Odisha (8 sq. km.) but it marked a decrease of mangrove cover in Tamil Nadu (four sq. km.), West Bengal (two sq. km.) and Andaman and Nicobar Islands (one sq. km.).

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/01/03/139648/>

145. Mycorrhizal biotechnology has been used in rehabilitating degraded sites because mycorrhiza enables the plants to

1. resist drought and increase absorptive area
2. tolerate extremes of PH
3. Resist disease infestation

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Mycorrhiza is a symbiotic association between a fungus and a plant.
- The term mycorrhiza refers to the role of the fungus in the plant's rhizosphere, its root system. Mycorrhizae play important roles in plant nutrition, soil biology and soil chemistry.





- **Disease, drought and salinity resistance and its correlation to mycorrhizae:** Mycorrhizal plants are often more resistant to diseases, such as those caused by microbial soil-borne pathogens. These associations have been found to assist in plant defense both above and belowground. Mycorrhizas have been found to excrete enzymes that are toxic to soil borne organisms such as nematodes. More recent studies have shown that mycorrhizal associations result in a priming effect of plants that essentially acts as a primary immune response. When this association is formed a defense response is activated similarly to the response that occurs when the plant is under attack. As a result of this inoculation, defense responses are stronger in plants with mycorrhizal associations.
- **Resistance to insects:** Research has shown that plants connected by mycorrhizal fungi can use these underground connections to produce and receive warning signals. Specifically, when a host plant is attacked by an aphid, the plant signals surrounding connected plants of its condition. The host plant releases volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that attract the insect's predators. The plants connected by mycorrhizal fungi are also prompted to produce identical VOCs that protect the uninfected plants from being targeted by the insect. Additionally, this assists the mycorrhizal fungi by preventing the plant's carbon relocation which negatively affects the fungi's growth and occurs when the plant is attacked by herbivores.
- **Colonization of barren soil:** Plants grown in sterile soils and growth media often perform poorly without the addition of spores or hyphae of mycorrhizal fungi to colonise the plant roots and aid in the uptake of soil mineral nutrients. The absence of mycorrhizal fungi can also slow plant growth in early succession or on degraded landscapes. The introduction of alien mycorrhizal plants to nutrient-deficient ecosystems puts indigenous non-mycorrhizal plants at a competitive disadvantage. This aptitude to colonize barren soil is defined by the category Oligotroph.
- **Resistance to toxicity:** Fungi have been found to have a protective role for plants rooted in soils with high metal concentrations, such as acidic and contaminated soils. Pine trees inoculated with *Pisolithus tinctorius* planted in several contaminated sites displayed high tolerance to the prevailing contaminant, survivorship and growth. One study discovered the existence of *Suillus luteus* strains with varying tolerance of zinc. Another study discovered that zinc-tolerant strains of *Suillus bovinus* conferred resistance to plants of *Pinus sylvestris*. This was probably due to binding of the metal to the extramatricial mycelium of the fungus, without affecting the exchange of beneficial substances.



Refer: **Toxic air is causing malnutrition in trees:**

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/06/27/insights-daily-current-affairs-27-june-2018/>

146. Consider the following statements with reference to E-waste (Management) Amendment Rules, 2018:

1. Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) shall apply to Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) for registration to undertake activities prescribed in the Rules.
2. Under the Reduction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) provisions, cost for sampling and testing shall be borne by the producers for conducting the RoHS test.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **E-waste (Management) Amendment Rules, 2018**

- The e-waste collection targets under EPR have been revised and is being applied from October 1, 2017.
- The phase-wise collection targets for e-waste in weight is 10% of the quantity of waste generation as indicated in the EPR Plan during 2017-18, with a 10% increase every year until 2023. The target from 2023 onwards, shall be 70% of the quantity of waste generation as indicated in the EPR Plan.
- The quantity of e-waste collected by producers from the October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017 shall be accounted for in the revised EPR targets until March 2018.
- Separate e-waste collection targets have been drafted for new producers, i.e. those producers whose number of years of sales operation is less than the average lives of their products.
- **Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) shall apply to the Central Pollution Control board (CPCB) for registration to undertake activities prescribed in the Rules.**
- **Under the Reduction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) provisions, cost for sampling and testing shall be borne by the government for conducting the RoHS test. If the product does not comply with RoHS provisions, then the cost of the test will be borne by the producers.**

Refer: E-Waste management: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Insights-2018-Mains-Exclusive-Environment.pdf>

147. Darrah National Park is located in

- (a) Chhattisgarh
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Jharkhand
- (d) Rajasthan



Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Darrah National Park in Rajasthan**, India is a national park established in 2004 consisting of three wildlife sanctuaries: Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary, **Chambal Wildlife Sanctuary**, and Jawahar Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary. It is located within the Kathiawar-Gir dry deciduous forests' ecoregion.
- Chhattisgarh –Indravati tiger reserve
- Madhya Pradesh –Kanha tiger reserve
- Jharkhand –Palamau tiger reserve

Refer: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mukundara_Hills_National_Park

148. The Three Percent Club, a collaboration of governments and supporting organizations that commit to working together to put the world on a path to three percent annual efficiency improvement, emerged at

- (a) The C40 World Mayors Summit 2019, Copenhagen
- (b) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 2019, Madrid
- (c) The United Nations Climate Action Summit 2019, New York
- (d) The 15th Meeting of SACEP Governing Council 2019, Dhaka

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **Three Percent Club**

- A coalition of countries, businesses and institutions has announced its commitment to putting in place ambitious policies to help drive a **3% annual global increase in energy efficiency**. The coalition reports that this target, which was announced at the **UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit**, is necessary to meet global climate goals while enhancing economic prosperity in all countries.
- The **'Three Percent Club' brings together** 15 governments (Argentina, Colombia, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, Hungary, **India**, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Portugal, Senegal and the UK) and 13 businesses and international organizations to help put the world on a path to **achieve the necessary annual energy efficiency improvements to meet the Paris Agreement on climate change**.

Refer: <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/global-coalition-commits-to-3-annual-global-increase-in-energy-efficiency/>

149. Consider the following statements about "Peace Forest Initiative":

1. It is an initiative of United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
2. It aims at addressing the issue of land degradation in conflict-torn border areas.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only



- (c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **The UNCCD COP 14 Conference** adopted the **Delhi Declaration** in which parties expressed commitment for a range of issues, including gender and health, ecosystem restoration, taking action on climate change, private sector engagement, **Peace Forest Initiative** and recovery of 26 million hectares of degraded land in India.

Peace Forest Initiative:

- It is an initiative of South Korea.
- It aims at addressing the issue of land degradation in conflict-torn border areas

Refer: <https://www.unccd.int/conventionconference-parties-cop/cop14-2-13-september-new-delhi-india>

150. "The Action for Climate Empowerment" is a term adopted by which of the following to denote work under Article 12 of the Paris Agreement?

- (a) The United Nations Environment Programme
(b) The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
(c) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
(d) The International Union for Conservation of Nature

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)** is a term adopted by the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** to denote work under **Article 6 of the Convention (1992)** and **Article 12 of the Paris Agreement**.
- The over-arching goal of ACE is to empower all members of society to engage in climate action, through education, training, public awareness, public participation, public access to information, and international cooperation on these issues.

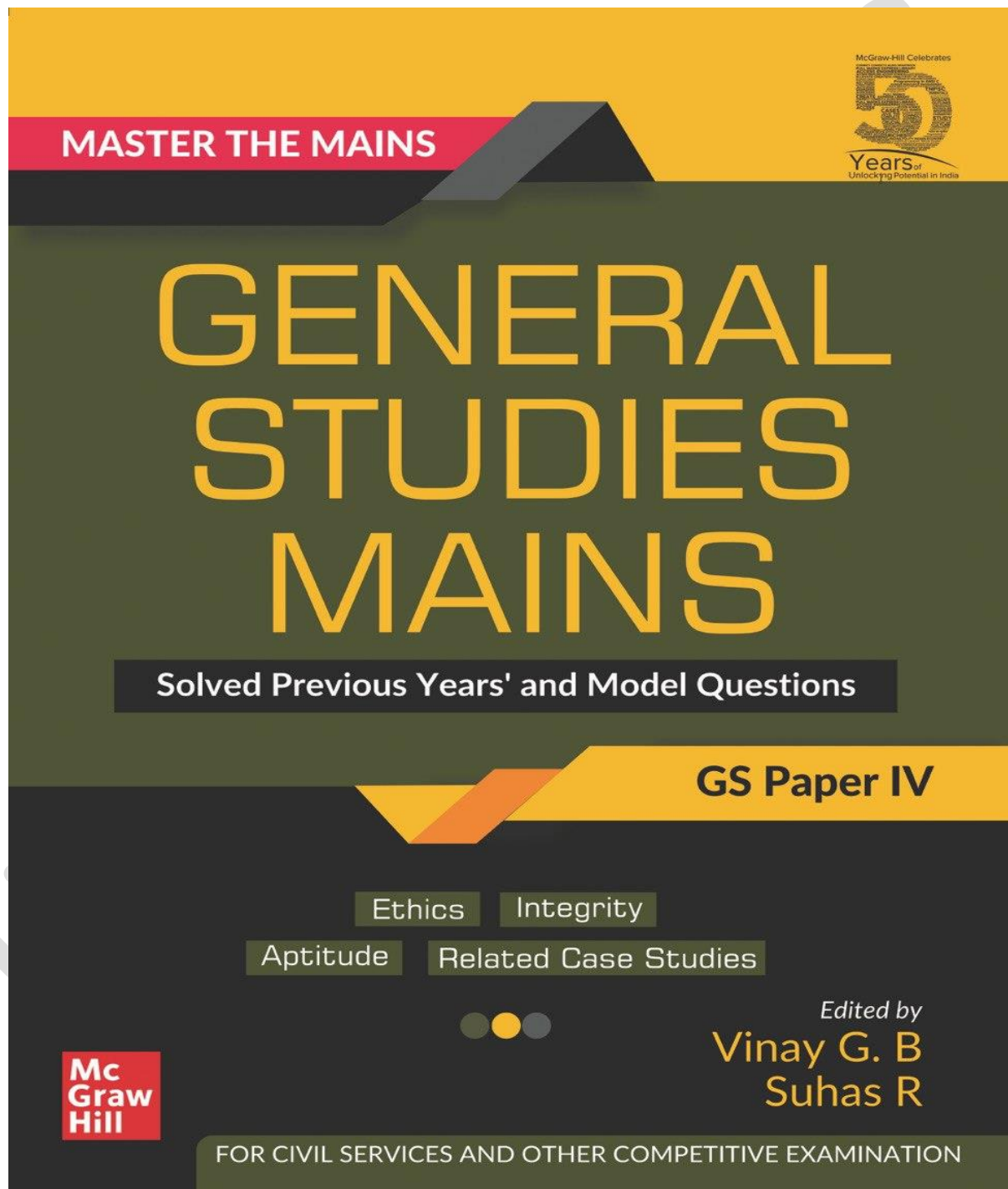


Education
Training
Public Awareness
Public Participation
Public Access to Information
International Cooperation



- Implementation of all six focus areas is crucial to the global response to climate change. Everyone, including and perhaps especially the young, must understand and participate in the transition to a low-emission, climate-resilient world.

Refer: <https://unfccc.int/topics/education-youth/the-big-picture/what-is-action-for-climate-empowerment>





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RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 19th-Aug-2020

151. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) amount can be spent only towards meeting the expenses for emergency response, relief and rehabilitation.
2. The requirement for funds beyond what is available under the NDRF is met through general budgetary resources.
3. Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) audits the accounts of NDRF.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court has “refused” to order transfer of funds from the PM CARES Fund to the **National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)**. They “are two entirely different funds with different object and purpose”.
- **National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)**
 - National Disaster Response Fund is defined in **Section 46 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (DM Act)** as a fund managed by the Central Government for meeting the expenses for emergency response, relief and rehabilitation due to any threatening disaster situation or disaster.
 - **NDRF is located in the "Public Accounts"** of Government of India under "**Reserve Funds not bearing interest**"
 - NDRF is constituted to supplement the funds of the State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF) of the states to facilitate immediate relief in case of calamities of a severe nature.
 - Department of Agriculture and Cooperation under Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) monitors relief activities for calamities associated with drought, hailstorms, pest attacks and cold wave /frost while rest of the natural calamities are monitored by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).



- **Stat1:** The financial assistance from SDRF/NDRF is for providing immediate relief and is not compensation for loss/damage to properties /crops. **In other words, NDRF amount can be spent only towards meeting the expenses for emergency response, relief and rehabilitation.** For projects exclusively for the purpose of mitigation, i.e, measures aimed at reducing the risk, impact or effect of a disaster or threatening disaster situation a separate fund called National Disaster Mitigation Fund has to be constituted.
- **Stat2:** Like its predecessor, NCCF, the NDRF is financed through the levy of a cess on certain items, chargeable to excise and customs duty, and approved annually through the Finance Bill. The requirement for funds beyond what is available under the NDRF is met through general budgetary resources.
- **Stat3:** Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) audits the accounts of NDRF

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/19/no-audit-of-pm-cares-fund-sc/>

152. Consider the following statements:

1. River Sutlej originates from the Chemayungdung Glacier.
2. It is the easternmost tributary of the Indus River.
3. The waters of the Sutlej are allocated to Pakistan under the Indus Waters Treaty between India and Pakistan.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 Only
- (c) 1 and 3
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **Satluj** rises from beyond Indian borders in the Southern slopes of the **Kailash mountain near Mansarover lake from Rakas lake**, as **Longcchen Khabab river** (in Tibet).
- Stat2: The Sutlej River is also known as Satadree. It is the **easternmost tributary of the Indus River.**
- Stat3: The waters of the Sutlej are **allocated to India** under the **Indus Waters Treaty** between India and Pakistan, and are mostly diverted to irrigation canals in India.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/19/sutlej-yamuna-link-syl-canal-3/>

153. 'Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)' is an initiative of



- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) Ministry of Education
- (c) NGO Pratham
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Context:**
- The Atal Rankings of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2020 has been released.
- **What is it?**
- **Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) is an initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) (Now, it is the Ministry of Education),** Govt. of India to systematically rank all major higher educational institutions and universities in India.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/19/atal-rankings-of-institutions-on-innovation-achievements-ariia-2020/>

154. 'Digital Quality of Life Index' has been published by which of the following?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India
- (b) National Payments Corporation of India
- (c) International Telecommunication Union
- (d) Surfshark

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Digital Quality of Life Index 2020:**

- Context: The report was released recently.
- **The index is prepared by Surfshark**, a virtual private network (VPN) provider based in the British Virgin Islands.
- It seeks to rank countries on internet affordability and quality, and electronic infrastructure, security and government. All parameters have equal weightage.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/19/digital-quality-of-life-index-2020/>

155. With reference to 'Go and No Go' areas in coal mining, consider the following statements:

1. The classification has been legally mandated under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.
2. 'No Go' areas are those having either more than 30 per cent weighted forest cover (WFC) or more than 10 per cent gross forest cover (GFC).

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)



Explanation:

- **What are 'No Go' areas in coal mining?**
 - In **2009**, the **environment and coal ministries** had jointly placed **the country's forested areas under two categories – Go and No-Go** – and imposed a ban on mining in the 'No-Go' zones on environmental grounds.
 - 'No Go' areas are those having **either more than 10 per cent weighted forest cover (WFC) or more than 30 per cent gross forest cover (GFC)**.
- **Is there a need for classifying 'Go' and 'No Go' areas?**
 - The exercise is aimed at prioritising forest areas under **the Forest Conservation Act, 1980**.
 - Besides, Diversion of forest land for coal mining in these areas, which are rich in flora and fauna, will have "avoidable serious adverse impact on forests and wildlife".
 - If mining were to continue, even with afforestation and reclamation, it would not be possible to restore the regions biodiversity.
- **Criticisms of this policy:**
 - **The concept has no legal standing**– They are mandated neither under **Forest Conservation Rules, 2003** nor under any circular issued by the ministry of environment and forests.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/19/no-go-forests-cleared-for-coal-mining-says-report/>

156. Currently, wildlife experts have shortlisted three regions which have the potential to support cheetah populations. With reference to this, which of the following are correctly matched?

<i>Possible reintroduction sites</i>	<i>State located</i>
1. Kuno-Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary	Madhya Pradesh
2. Velavadar National Park	Rajasthan
3. Tal Chhapar Sanctuary	Gujarat

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- In **2010**, the **central government** set up an expert **panel** for **reintroducing** the **cheetah** in India. This **panel** recommended that the home of the fastest animal in the world could be **Kuno Palpur**



in Madhya Pradesh, Velavadar National Park in Gujarat and Tal Chapar sanctuary in Rajasthan.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/19/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-19-august-2020/>

157. Consider the following statements:

1. The Asiatic cheetah is classified as a “critically endangered” species by the IUCN Red List, and is believed to survive only in Africa.
2. Cheetah is a keystone species of dry forests, grasslands and savannahs.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Stat1: The **Asiatic cheetah** is classified as a “**critically endangered**” species by the IUCN Red List, and is believed to **survive only in Iran**.
- Stat2: Cheetahs are a keystone species in the savanna.
 - **A keystone species** is a species which has a disproportionately large effect on its natural environment relative to its abundance, **a concept introduced in 1969** by the zoologist **Robert T. Paine**.
 - Such species are described as playing a critical role in maintaining the structure of an ecological community, affecting many other organisms in an ecosystem and helping to determine the types and numbers of various other species in the community. Without keystone species, the ecosystem would be dramatically different or cease to exist altogether. Some keystone species, such as the wolf, are also apex predators.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/19/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-19-august-2020/>

158. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 222 of the Constitution of India makes provision for the transfer of a Judge including Chief Justice from one High Court to any other High Court.
2. The initiation of the proposal for the transfer of a Judge should be made by the President.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?



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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **Article 222** of the Constitution makes provision for the **transfer of a Judge (including Chief Justice) from one High Court to any other High Court.**
- Stat2: The **initiation of the proposal for the transfer** of a Judge should be made by the **Chief Justice of India** whose opinion in this regard is determinative.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/19/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-19-august-2020/>

159. Which of the following are the eligibility criterion for appointment as a Judge of the High Court?

1. He/she should be a citizen of India.
2. He/she should have been an advocate of high court(s) for five years.
3. He/she should have held a judicial office in the territory of India for seven years.
4. He/she should be a distinguished jurist in the opinion of the president.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation: Supreme Court collegium elevates 6 advocates as Delhi High Court judges.

- **The criteria for appointment of a person as Judge of High Court are provided under Article 217 of Constitution**, which are: – has for at least ten years held a judicial office in the territory of India; or has for at least ten years been an advocate of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession.
- **Appointment:**
 - On approval by the Supreme Court Collegium, the names of the proposed candidates will be sent to the Ministry of Law & Justice, which will send the names to the President of India.
 - The President under his sign and seal would issue the warrant of appointment.



- **A person to be appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court should have the following qualifications:**
 - He should be a **citizen of India**.
 - He should have been a **judge of a High Court** (or high courts in succession) **for five years**; or
 - He should have been an advocate of a High Court (or High Courts in succession) for ten years; or
 - He should be a **distinguished jurist in the opinion of the president**.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/19/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-19-august-2020/>

160. If a commodity is provided free to the public by the Government, then
- (a) The opportunity cost is zero.
 - (b) The opportunity cost is ignored.
 - (c) The opportunity cost is transferred from the consumers of the product to the tax-paying public.
 - (d) The opportunity cost is transferred from the consumers of the product to the Government.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Opportunity cost represents the benefits an individual, investor or business misses out on when choosing one alternative over another.
- When you have the opportunity to access public services for free, this would always come at a cost of somebody paying for it. In this case, the tax payer bears the opportunity cost.

Source: UPSC CSE 2017

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 20th-Aug-2020

161. Consider the following statements:

1. Lingaraja Temple is a temple dedicated to Shiva
2. It is built in white marble stone

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:



- Lingaraja Temple is a temple **dedicated to Shiva** and is one of the oldest and largest temples in Odisha.
- Built by **king Jajati Keshari of Soma Vansh**.
- It is **built in red stone** and is a classic example of **Kalinga style of architecture**.
- Located to the north of the temple is **Bindusagar Lake**.
- The temple is believed to be built by the kings from the **Somavamsi dynasty**, with later additions from the **Ganga rulers**.
- The **temple has images of Vishnu**, possibly because of the rising prominence of Jagannath sect emanating from the Ganga rulers who built the Jagannath Temple in Puri in the 12th century.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/20/odisha-to-give-facelift-to-11th-century-lingaraj-temple/>

162. Consider the following statements:

1. The concept of Curative Petition borrowed from Britain.
2. The concept of the curative petition is supported by Article 145 of the Indian Constitution.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **The concept was first evolved by the Supreme Court of India in Rupa Ashok Hurra vs. Ashok Hurra and another case (2002)** on the question whether an aggrieved person is entitled to any relief against the final judgement/order of the Supreme Court, even after the dismissal of a review petition.
- Stat2: The concept of the curative petition is supported by **Article 137** of the Indian Constitution. It provides that in the matter of laws and rules made under **Article 145**, the Supreme Court has the power to review any judgement pronounced (or order made) by it.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/20/what-is-curative-petition-2/>

163. With reference to National Recruitment Agency (NRA), consider the following statements:

1. It as an autonomous premier testing organization to conduct entrance examinations for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the country.



2. It will be chaired by an eminent educationist appointed by MHRD. Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Stat2: NRA will be **headed** by a **Chairman of the rank of the Secretary to the Government of India**. It will have representatives of the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Finance/Department of Financial Services, the SSC, RRB & IBPS.
- Stat1: **National Recruitment Agency will be a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860**. It will conduct a **common preliminary examination for various recruitments in the central government**.
- Based on the common eligibility test (CET) score a candidate can apply for a vacancy with the respective agency.
- Refer: **National Testing Agency:**
<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/05/16/national-testing-agency/>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/20/national-recruitment-agency-nra-2/>

164. Consider the following statements:

1. The Airports Authority of India is a statutory body working under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
2. It provides Communication Navigation Surveillance / Air Traffic Management services over Indian airspace and adjoining oceanic areas.
3. AAI is implementing the NavIC project in technological collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Stat1: The **Airports Authority of India** or AAI is a **statutory body** (created through the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994) working under the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**, Government of India is **responsible for creating, upgrading, maintaining and managing civil aviation infrastructure in India**



- Stat2: It provides **Communication Navigation Surveillance / Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) services** over Indian airspace and adjoining oceanic areas. With the mission to be the foundation of an enduring Indian aviation network, providing high quality, safe and customer oriented airport & air navigation services.
- Stat3: **AAI** is implementing the **GAGAN project** in technological collaboration with the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**. The navigation signals thus received from the GPS will be augmented to achieve the navigational requirement of aircraft. The first phase of the technology demonstration system was completed in February 2008.
- **What is NAVIC?**
 - Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC) is an independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide position information in the Indian region and 1500 km around the Indian mainland.
- **Services provided:**
 - IRNSS would provide two types of services, namely Standard Positioning Services available to all users and Restricted Services provided to authorised users.
- **Its applications include:**
 - Terrestrial, Aerial and Marine Navigation.
 - Disaster Management.
 - Vehicle tracking and fleet management.
 - Integration with mobile phones.
 - Precise Timing.
 - Mapping and Geodetic data capture.
 - Terrestrial navigation aid for hikers and travellers.
 - Visual and voice navigation for drivers.
- **How many satellites does NAVIC consist of?**
 - It is a regional system and so its constellation will consist of seven satellites. Three of these will be geostationary over the Indian Ocean, i.e., they will appear to be stationary in the sky over the region, and four will be geosynchronous – appearing at the same point in the sky at the same time every day. This configuration ensures each satellite is being tracked by at least one of fourteen ground stations at any given point of time, with a high chance of most of them being visible from any point in India.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/20/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-20-august-2020/>



165. 'Hamas', sometimes mentioned in the news, is a militant and political organization currently in power in the:

- (a) Hanau
- (b) Aleppo
- (c) Damascus
- (d) Gaza Strip

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Hamas is a **Palestinian Islamist political organization** and militant group that has waged war on Israel since the group's 1987 founding, most notably through suicide bombings and rocket attacks. It seeks to replace Israel with a Palestinian state. It also **governs Gaza independently of the Palestinian Authority**.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/20/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-20-august-2020/>

166. Consider the following statements:

1. Under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 the National Biodiversity Authority in consultation with local bodies notifies Biodiversity Heritage Sites.
2. Ameenpur Lake is a man-made lake was constructed during the reign of Malik Ahmad.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **"Biodiversity Heritage Sites" (BHS)** are well defined areas that are unique, ecologically fragile ecosystems – terrestrial, coastal and inland waters and, marine having rich biodiversity comprising of any one or more of the following components: richness of wild as well as domesticated species or intra-specific categories, high endemism, presence of rare and threatened species, keystone species, species of evolutionary significance, wild ancestors of domestic/cultivated species or their varieties, past pre-eminence of biological components represented by fossil beds and having significant cultural, ethical or aesthetic values and are important for the maintenance of cultural diversity, with or without a long history of human association with them.
- Stat1: "Under **Section 37 of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (BDA)** the **State Government in consultation with local bodies** may



notify in the official gazette, areas of biodiversity importance as **Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS).**”

- Once the BHS is notified by the State Government, the NBA may support the initial establishment of BHS financially by allocating adequate funding support as seed money through State Biodiversity Boards (SBB). Simultaneously, the financial requirement of BHS may be included in the annual budget of the local body(ies). The State Government may also allocate adequate seed money to each BHS on its notification through SBB.
- Stat2: **Ameenpur lake on the outskirts of Hyderabad** became the **first BHS in the country for a water body.**
 - It is a man-made lake was constructed during the reign of **Ibrahim Qutb Shah (1550–1580 AD).**

Refer: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/Ameenpur-lake-declared-Biodiversity-Heritage-Site/article16438256.ece>

167. Consider the following statements:

1. It was inscribed to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list in 2016
2. It was recently included in the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme
3. It is a National Park and a Biosphere reserve

The above statements refers to which of the following Site?

- (a) Sunderbans Biosphere Reserve
- (b) Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve
- (c) Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve
- (d) Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Khangchendzonga National Park also Kanchenjunga Biosphere Reserve** is a National Park and a Biosphere reserve located in **Sikkim**, India.
- It was inscribed to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list in July 2016, becoming the first "Mixed Heritage" site of India.
- It was recently included in the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme.
- The park gets its name from the mountain Kangchenjunga which is 8,586 metres tall, the third-highest peak in the world.
- The Biosphere Reserve is one of the highest ecosystems in the world, reaching elevations of 1, 220 metres above sea-level. It includes a range of ecolines, varying from sub-tropic to Arctic, as well as natural forests in different biomes, which support an immensely rich diversity of forest types and habitats.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/08/09/insights-daily-current-affairs-09-august-2018/>

168. Consider the following statements regarding MANAV: Human Atlas Initiative

1. It is an initiative of Council of scientific and industrial research.
2. It aims at creating a database network of all tissues in the human body from the available scientific literature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- MANAV: Human Atlas Initiative
- **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** has launched **MANAV: Human Atlas Initiative**, towards improving knowledge on human physiology.
- **What is MANAV: Human Atlas Initiative?**
 - It is a project funded by DBT.
 - Aims at creating a **database network of all tissues in the human body** from the available scientific literature.
 - It is a project that involves **scientific skill development for annotation, science outreach along with handling big data.**
 - The programme will involve **gaining better biological insights through physiological and molecular mapping, develop disease models through predictive computing and have a wholistic analysis and finally drug discovery.**
- **Who can participate in this project?**
 - The project can be signed up by students who are in their final year graduation and above. Students from the fields of biochemistry, biotechnology, microbiology, botany, zoology, bioinformatics, health sciences, systems biologists, pharmacologists and data sciences can associate with this project.
 - Even participants having a science background but not necessarily involved in active scientific research can be part of this network.
- **What are the applications of information generated through MANAV?**
 - The aim of the project remains to understand and capture the human physiology in two stages – in a normal stage and



while in a disease stage. Such a database on individual tissues, once ready, can come handy in tracing the causes of a disease, understanding specific pathways and ultimately decode the body's disease stage linked to tissues and cells. The teams will also study any potent elements or molecules that have never been used in the form of drugs, to target the specific cells or tissues.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/05/13/manav-human-atlas-initiative/>

169. Consider the following pairs of joint military exercise and the countries performed:

1. Ekuverin : India and Thailand
2. Dharma Guardian : India and Japan
3. Shakti : India and France
4. Dustlik : India and Kazakhstan

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

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Ekuverin** – It is a joint military exercise between Indian and Maldives.
- **Nomadic Elephant** – It is Indo – Mongolian joint military training.
- **Maitree – 2019** – It is the joint military exercise between India and Thailand.
- **Dharma Guardian – 2019** – It is a joint military exercise between India and Japan.
- **Shakti-2019** – Exercise Shakti is a series of joint military exercise between India and France.
- **Dustlik-2019** – It is the first ever India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise.
- **Kazind** – It is an annual military exercise between India and Kazakhstan.

Refer: Facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/10/12/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-12-october-2019/>

170. Consider the following statements regarding Seva Bhoj Yojana

1. It is a scheme to reimburse central share of CGST and IGST on food, prasada, langar or bhandara offered by religious and charitable institutions.
2. It was launched by Ministry of Finance.



3. All religious institutions are covered under this scheme.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation: **About Seva Bhoj Yojana:**

- **Union Ministry of Culture** has launched- ‘Seva Bhoj Yojna’– a **scheme to reimburse central share of CGST and IGST on food, prasad, langar or bhandara offered by religious and charitable institutions.**
- The scheme seeks **to reimburse the central government’s share of Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Integrated Goods and Service Tax (IGST) on purchase of raw items such as ghee, edible oil, atta, maida, rava, flour, rice pulses, sugar and jaggery, which go into preparation of food/prasad/langar/bhandara offered free of cost by religious institutions.**
- The main objective of the scheme is **to lessen the financial burden of such charitable religious institutions, which provide free of cost without any discrimination to the general public and devotees.**
- **Eligibility:**
 - **The charitable religious institutions including temples, gurudwara, mosque, church, dharmik ashram, dargah, monasteries, which fulfill the following criteria are eligible for the grant:**
 - The institutions that have been in existence for at least five years before applying for financial assistance/grant.
 - The institutions that serve free food to at least 5000 people in a month.
 - The institutions covered under Section 10(23BBA) of the Income Tax Act or those registered as Society under Societies Registration Act (XXI of 1860) or as a Public Trust under any law for the time being in force of statutory religious bodies constituted under any Act or institutions registered under Section 12AA of Income Tax Act.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/07/16/in-news-seva-bhoj-yojna/>



RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 21st-Aug-2020

171. 'Science and Technology Indicators (STI)' is prepared by which of the following?

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) Technology Development Board
- (c) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
- (d) National Science and Technology Management Information System

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Context:**
 - **Science and Technology Indicators (STI)**, 2018 is a periodic compendium of the state of scientific research in India. It was released recently.
- **Who prepares the report?**
 - **The STI is prepared by National Science and Technology Management Information System (NSTMIS)**, a division of Department of Science and Technology (DST).
 - It is based on data provided by a range of scientific establishments across the country.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/21/science-and-technology-indicators-sti-2018/>

172. Swachh Survekshan 2020 report was recently released by:

- (a) Ministry of Rural Development
- (b) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- (c) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- (d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Swachh Survekshan 2020 report** was recently released by **the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry**.
- Swachh Survekshan 2020 covered 4,242 cities, 62 cantonment boards and 92 Ganga towns. This survey was carried out in 28 days.
- This year the Ministry has released **rankings based on the categorisation of cities on population**, instead of releasing overall rankings.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/21/swachh-survekshan-2020-report/>

173. With reference to Swachh Survekshan 2020 report, consider the following statements:

1. Ahmedabad is India's the cleanest Mega city.
2. Jharkhand is the cleanest state in the category of state with less than 100 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).



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

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **here the directive word is not correct!!**

Performance of various cities:

- **Indore was ranked the cleanest city in the overall category** this year followed by Surat and Navi Mumbai.
- **Chhattisgarh** is the cleanest state in the category of **states with more than 100 urban local bodies (ULBs).**
- **Ahmedabad** is India's the **cleanest Mega city.**
- **New Delhi** is the **cleanest capital city.**
- **Chhattisgarh's Ambikapur** is the **cleanest smallest city.**
- **Bengaluru** wins the **Best Self Sustainability award in the Mega city category.**
- **Jharkhand** is the cleanest state in the category of **state with less than 100 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).**
- **Cleanest Cantonment:** Jalandhar Cantt, Punjab.
- **Cleanest Town along the banks of river Ganga:**
- **In cities with population less than one lakh, Karad in Maharashtra** is cleanest city.
- **Maximum citizen participation in keeping city areas clean –** Shahjahanpur.
- **Cleanest megacity with more than 40 lac population –** Ahmedabad (Gujarat).
- Fastest-moving city in terms of cleanliness – Jodhpur (Rajasthan).
- Self-sustainable city in terms of cleanliness (more than 10 lakh population) – Rajkot (Gujarat).
- **Mysuru (Karnataka)** is ranked cleanest among the **medium-sized cities with a population ranging between 3 lakh and 10 lakh.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/21/swachh-survekshan-2020-report/>

174. Consider the following statements:

1. The Quality Council of India (QCI) is an autonomous body attached to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
2. QCI is in charge of evaluating the performance of the participating cities in the Swachh Survekshan.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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



Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **Quality Council of India** is an **autonomous body** setup under **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Stat2: The Quality Council of India (QCI) is in charge of evaluating the performance of the participating cities.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/21/swachh-survekshan-2020-report/>

175. Consider the following statements:

1. The Cabinet Committees are extra-constitutional in emergence.
2. All matters related to Parliamentary Committees are dealt by the rules of two Houses.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Cabinet Committee:**
 - They are **extra-constitutional in emergence**. In other words, they are not mentioned in the Constitution. However, the Rules of Business provide for their establishment.
 - They are of **two types—standing and ad hoc**. The former are of a permanent nature while the latter are of a temporary nature. The ad hoc committees are constituted from time to time to deal with special problems. They are disbanded after their task is completed.
 - They are **set up by the Prime Minister** according to the exigencies of the time and requirements of the situation. Hence, their number, nomenclature, and composition varies from time to time.
 - Their **membership varies from three to eight**. They usually include only Cabinet Ministers. However, the non-cabinet Ministers are not debarred from their membership.
 - They not only include the Ministers in charge of subjects covered by them but also include other senior Ministers.
 - They are **mostly headed by the Prime Minister**. Sometimes other Cabinet Ministers, particularly the Home Minister or the Finance Minister, also acts as their Chairman. But, in case the Prime Minister is a member of a committee, he invariably presides over it.
 - Read here: Why Cabinet Committees are formed, what are the functions of each?



<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/06/07/why-cabinet-committees-are-formed-what-are-the-functions-of-each/>

- **Parliamentary Committee:**

- The Constitution of India makes a mention of these committees at different places, but without making any specific provisions regarding their composition, tenure, functions, etc. **All these matters are dealt by the rules of two Houses.**
- Accordingly, a parliamentary committee means a committee that:
 - Is appointed or elected by the House or nominated by the Speaker
 - / Chairman
 - Works under the direction of the Speaker / Chairman
 - Presents its report to the House or to the Speaker / Chairman
 - Has a secretariat provided by the Lok Sabha / Rajya Sabha

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/21/parliamentary-standing-committees-5/>

176. Consider the following statements:

1. Novel Coronavirus was first identified in Hanau province of China.
2. COVID-19 is caused by SARS-CoV-2.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **The first human cases of COVID-19**, the disease caused by **the novel coronavirus causing COVID-19**, subsequently named **SARS-CoV-2** were first reported by officials in **Wuhan City (Hubei province) China**, in December 2019.
- COVID-19 is caused by SARS-CoV-2.
- Hanau is a town in Germany. It was in news recently:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/world/germany-killed-shooting-hanau-police-6276906/>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/21/what-the-serosurvey-results-in-india-imply/>



177. Consider the following statements:

1. Recently, Reserve Bank of India has released a national strategy for financial education (NSFE) for the period 2019-2024.
2. NSFE is a Not for Profit Company promoted by Indian Banks Association.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Stat1: The **Reserve Bank of India** has released a **national strategy for financial education** to be implemented in **the next five years**.
 - The multi-stakeholder led approach is aimed at creating a financially aware and empowered India.
 - **It is the second NSFE**, the first one being released in 2013.
- Stat2: National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE) is a **Not for Profit Company** promoted by **Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/21/national-strategy-for-financial-education-2020-2025-nsfe/>

178. Namath Basai, an unique programme of teaching tribal children in their mother tongue, is an initiative of:

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Kerala

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Namath Basai:**

- It is **Kerala government's unique programme of teaching tribal children in their mother tongue**.
- Implemented by **the Samagra Siksha Kerala (SSK)**.
- The SSK has distributed some 50 laptops exclusively for Namath Basai. Pre-recorded classes are offered through a YouTube channel.
- It has succeeded in retaining hundreds of tribal children in their online classes by making them feel at home with the language of instruction.



Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/21/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-21-august-2020/>

179. 'Trifood Project' is being implemented by:

- (a) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- (b) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)
- (c) Food Corporation of India (FCI)
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Context: Trifood Project of TRIFED launched** in Raigad, Maharashtra and Jagdalpur, Chhattisgarh.
- **Details of the project:**
- **Being implemented by** TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs in association with Ministry of Food Processing (MoFPI).
- **Aims to** enhance the income of tribals through better utilization of and value addition to the MFPs collected by the tribal forest gatherers.
- **How?** To achieve this, as a start, two Minor Forest Produce (MFP) processing units will be set up.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/21/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-21-august-2020/>

180. In the context of any country, which one of the following would be considered as part of its social capital?

- (a) The proportion of literates in the population
- (b) The stock of its buildings, other infrastructure and machines
- (c) The size of population in the working age group
- (d) The level of mutual trust and harmony in the society

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Option A and D are examples of human capital and option B is physical capital.
- Straight from Wikipedia: "Social capital broadly refers to those factors of effectively functioning social groups that include such things as interpersonal relationships, a shared sense of identity, a shared understanding, shared norms, shared values, trust, cooperation, and reciprocity." Option D is the correct answer.

Source: UPSC CSE 2019



RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 22nd-Aug-2020

181. Consider the following statements:

1. Under the Constitution, the Election Commission has advisory jurisdiction in the matter of post-election disqualification of sitting members of Parliament and State Legislatures.
2. If elections are being held only for the Parliament, the expenditure is borne entirely by the Union Government.
3. Once the polls are completed and result declared, the Election Commission cannot review any result on its own.
4. Regional Election Commissioners are appointed by the President of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **Advisory Jurisdiction & Quasi-Judicial Functions**
 - Under the Constitution, the Commission also has advisory jurisdiction in the matter of post election disqualification of sitting members of Parliament and State Legislatures. Further, the cases of persons found guilty of corrupt practices at elections which come before the Supreme Court and High Courts are also referred to the Commission for its opinion on the question as to whether such person shall be disqualified and, if so, for what period. The opinion of the Commission in all such matters is binding on the President or, as the case may be, the Governor to whom such opinion is tendered.
 - The Commission has the power to disqualify a candidate who has failed to lodge an account of his election expenses within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. The Commission has also the power for removing or reducing the period of such disqualification as also other disqualification under the law
- Stat2: **Budget & Expenditure**
 - The Secretariat of the Commission has an independent budget, which is finalised directly in consultation between the Commission and the Finance Ministry of the Union Government. The latter generally accepts the recommendations of the Commission for its budgets. The major expenditure on actual conduct of elections is, however,



reflected in the budgets of the concerned constituent units of the Union - States and Union Territories.

- **If elections are being held only for the Parliament, the expenditure is borne entirely by the Union Government while for the elections being held only for the State Legislature, the expenditure is borne entirely by the concerned State.** In case of simultaneous elections to the Parliament and State Legislature, the expenditure is shared equally between the Union and the State Governments. For Capital equipment, expenditure related to preparation for electoral rolls and the scheme for Electors' Identity Cards too, the expenditure is shared equally.
- Stat3: **Judicial Review**
 - The decisions of the Commission can be challenged in the High Court and the Supreme Court of the India by appropriate petitions. By long standing convention and several judicial pronouncements, once the actual process of elections has started, the judiciary does not intervene in the actual conduct of the polls.
 - **Once the polls are completed and result declared, the Commission cannot review any result on its own.** This can only be reviewed through the process of an election petition, which can be filed before the High Court, in respect of elections to the Parliament and State Legislatures. In respect of elections for the offices of the President and Vice President, such petitions can only be filed before the Supreme Court.
- Stat4: The **President appoints regional commissioners** after consultation with the election commission to assist the election commission.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/22/appointment-of-election-commissioners/>

182. With reference to Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana, consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) in 2018.
2. It aims to financially support those who lost their jobs for whatsoever reasons due to changing employment pattern.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)



Explanation: **Why in News?**

- Relaxation in eligibility criteria and enhancement in the payment of unemployment benefits under **the Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana of ESIC.**
- **About Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana:**
- Launched by the **Employee's State Insurance (ESI)** in 2018.
- **Aim:** It aims to financially support those who lost their jobs or rendered jobless for whatsoever reasons due to changing employment pattern.
- **What are the latest changes?**
 - Eligibility criteria for availing the relief has been relaxed, as under:
 - The payment of relief has been enhanced to 50% of average of wages from earlier 25% of average wages payable upto maximum 90 days of unemployment.
 - Instead of the relief becoming payable 90 days after unemployment, it shall become due for payment after 30 days.
 - The Insured Person can submit the claim directly to ESIC Branch Office instead of the claim being forwarded by the last employer and the payment shall be made directly in the bank account of IP.
 - The Insured Person should have been insurable employment for a minimum period of 2 years before his/her unemployment and should have contributed for not less than 78 days in the contribution period immediately preceding to unemployment and minimum 78 days in one of the remaining 3 contribution periods in 02 years prior to unemployment.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/22/atal-bimit-vyakti-kalyan-yojana/>

183. With reference to Prime Minister Employment Generation Program (PMEGP), consider the following statements:

1. It is a flagship scheme of the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
2. Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is the nodal agency at national level for implementation of the scheme.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

Why in News?

- PMEGP projects records 44% implementation jump.



- **About Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme:**
 - PMEGP is a **central sector scheme** administered by the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME)**.
 - Launched in **2008-09**, it is a **credit-linked subsidy scheme** which promotes self-employment through setting up of micro-enterprises, where **subsidy up to 35% is provided by the Government through Ministry of MSME** for loans up to ₹25 lakhs in manufacturing and ₹10 lakhs in the service sector.
- **Implementation:**
- **National Level-** Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) as the nodal agency.
- **State Level-** State KVIC Directorates, State Khadi and Village Industries Boards (KVIBs), District Industries Centres (DICs) and banks.
- **Eligibility:**
 - Any individual above 18 years of age, Self Help Groups, Institutions registered under Societies Registration Act 1860, Production Co-operative Societies and Charitable Trusts are eligible.
 - Existing Units and the units that have already availed Government Subsidy under any other scheme of Government of India or State Government are not eligible.
 - Only new projects are considered for sanction under PMEGP.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/22/prime-minister-employment-generation-program-pmegp/>

184. Which of the following is issued by registered foreign portfolio investors to overseas investors who want to be part of the Indian stock market without registering themselves directly?

- (a) Certificate of Deposit
- (b) Commercial Paper
- (c) Promissory Note
- (d) Participatory Note

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **What are Participatory Notes?**
 - Participatory Notes or P-Notes (PNs) are financial instruments **issued by a registered foreign institutional investor (FII)** to an overseas investor who wishes to invest in Indian stock markets without registering themselves with the



market regulator, **the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).**

- **Key points:**

- P-Notes are **Offshore Derivative Investments (ODIs)** with equity shares or debt securities as underlying assets.
- They provide **liquidity to the investors** as they can transfer the ownership by endorsement and delivery.
- While the FIIs have to report all such investments each quarter to SEBI, **they need not disclose the identity of the actual investors.**
- **What are govt & regulator's concerns?**
- The primary reason why P-Notes are worrying is because of **the anonymous nature of the instrument** as these investors could be beyond the reach of Indian regulators.
- Further, there is a view that **it is being used in money laundering** with wealthy Indians, like the promoters of companies, using it to bring back unaccounted funds and to manipulate their stock prices.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/22/what-are-participatory-notes/>

185. Consider the following pairs :

<i>Tradition</i>	<i>State</i>
1. Sajibu Cheiraoba	Tripura
2. Dragonfly Festival	Kerala
3. Medaram Jatara	Odisha

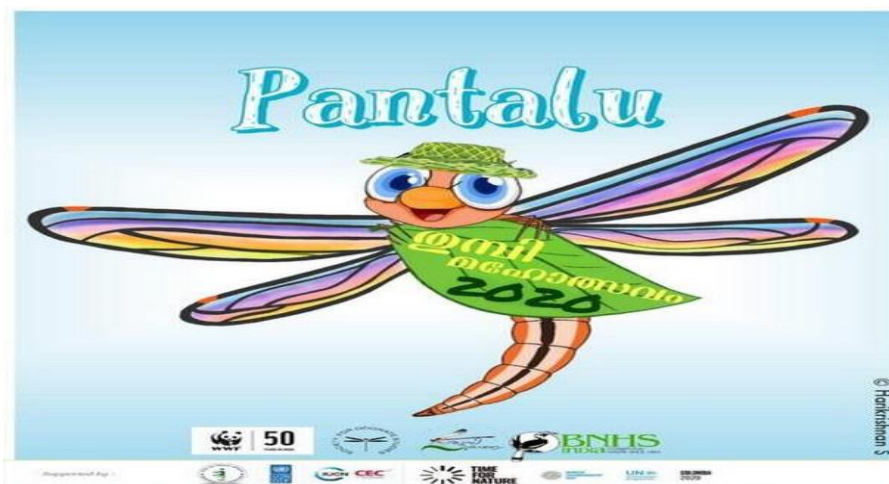
Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Sajibu Cheiraoba: Manipur**
- **Dragonfly Festival: Kerala**
 - It is the first-ever State Dragonfly Festival in Kerala.
 - World Wide Fund for Nature-India (WWF-India) State unit has joined hands with the Society for Odonate Studies (SOS) and Thumbipuranam for the festival.
 - Official mascot of the festival:



- **Medaram's Sammakka-Sarakka/Saralamma Jatara:**
 - **Sammakka-Sarakka Jatara** held by forest dwelling **Koya tribe of Telangana and surrounding States**, is the biggest Tribal festival in Asia which is attended by one crore people on an average.
 - The event is held bi-annually to honour the twin goddesses Sammakka and her daughter Sarakka. Several communities in Telangana society support Jatara as it is also a mythical narrative of two tribal women leaders who fought against the Kakatiya rulers who tried to annex their land and forests. According to the myth it was Sammakka's curse which caused gradual decline and death of Kakatiya rule.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/22/thumbimahotsavam-2020/>

186. Consider the following statements about the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF):

1. It is an international non-governmental organization.
 2. Earth Hour is an initiative of WWF.
 3. The Living Planet Report is published every two years by the WWF.
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **About the World Wide Fund for Nature:**

- It is an international non-governmental organization.
- Founded in 1961
- Headquarter — Gland (Switzerland).
- Aim: wilderness preservation & the reduction of human impact on the environment.



- **Reports & programmes:**

- **Living Planet Report**— published every two years by WWF since 1998; it is based on a Living Planet Index and ecological footprint calculation.
- **Earth hour** – a worldwide movement organized by WWF annually, encouraging individuals, communities, and businesses to turn off non-essential electric lights, for one hour, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. on a specific day towards the end of March, as a symbol of commitment to the planet.
- **Debt-for-nature swaps**—financial transactions in which a portion of a developing nation's foreign debt is forgiven in exchange for local investments in environmental conservation measures.
- **Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)** — independent non-profit organization which sets a standard for sustainable fishing.
- **Healthy Grown Potato** — eco-brand that provides high-quality, sustainably grown, packaged, and shipped potatoes to consumers by leveraging integrated pest management (IPM) farming practices on large scale farms.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/22/thumbimahotsavam-2020/>

187. State Pollution Control Boards were established under the:

- (a) It has been established in all the states of India by the acts of the state legislature.
- (b) Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act- 1974
- (c) Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act- 1981
- (d) Environment Protection Act, 1986

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **About State Pollution Control Boards:**

- They are constituted in pursuance of **the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.**
- After the enactment of **the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**, the enforcing responsibility was entrusted to these Boards.
- **Composition and selection of members:**
- The members of State Pollution Control Boards are nominated by respective State Governments.
- Apart from the above said Acts, the Board is also enforcing **the following Rule and Notifications framed under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986:**
 - Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016.



- Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006.
- Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- The Noise Pollution (Regulation & Control) Rules, 2000.
- Construction & Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016
- The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991.
- Fly Ash Notification, 1999 and 2008.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/22/state-pollution-control-boards/>

188. Kariye Museum is located in:

- (a) Israel
- (b) Iran
- (c) Iraq
- (d) Turkey

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Kariye Museum:**
- It is located in **Turkey**. Built in 534 AD, during the early Byzantine period.
- Why in News? Turkish President has issued a decree to open this Orthodox church that was previously a popular Istanbul museum to Muslim worship upon a court order.
- Background:
- The decision to transform the Kariye (Chora) Museum into a mosque came just a month after a similar conversion of the UNESCO World Heritage-recognized Hagia Sophia.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/22/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-22-august-2020/>

189. Hari Path app launched recently by the:

- (a) Border Road Organization
- (b) Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority
- (c) National Highway Authority of India
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **Hari Path app:**

- It is a mobile app launched recently by the **National Highway Authority of India**.
- It will monitor plantation along national highways.
- The app will monitor location, growth, species details, maintenance activities, targets and achievements of each of the NHAI's field units for each and every plant under all plantation projects.



Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/22/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-22-august-2020/>

190. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Cadet Corps in India is open to school and college students on voluntary basis.
2. It was founded by N. S. Hardikar.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- The **National Cadet Corps** is the youth wing of Armed Forces with its Headquarters at New Delhi, Delhi, India.
- It is open to school and college students on **voluntary basis**.
- National Cadet Corps is a **Tri-Services Organisation**, comprising the Army, Navy and Air Wing, engaged in grooming the youth of the country into disciplined and patriotic citizens.
- The National Cadet Corps in India is a voluntary organisation which recruits cadets from high schools, higher secondary, colleges and universities all over India.
- The Cadets are given basic military training in small arms and parades. The officers and cadets have no liability for active military service once they complete their course.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/22/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-22-august-2020/>

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 24th-Aug-2020

191. Consider the following statements:

1. Currently in India, the law prescribes that the minimum age of marriage is 21 and 18 years for men and women, respectively.
2. The Constitution (Sixty-second Amendment) Act, 1988, lowered the voting age of elections to the Lok Sabha and to the Legislative Assemblies of States from 21 years to 18 years.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)



Explanation:

- Stat1: Currently, the law prescribes that the **minimum age of marriage is 21 and 18 years for men and women**, respectively. The minimum age of marriage is distinct from the age of majority, which is gender-neutral. An individual attains the age of majority at 18 as per the Indian Majority Act, 1875.
- Stat2: The Sixty-first **Amendment** of the **Constitution of India**, officially known as The **Constitution (Sixty-first Amendment)** Act, 1988, lowered the voting age of elections to the Lok Sabha and to the Legislative Assemblies of States from 21 years to 18 years.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/24/minimum-age-of-marriage-for-women/>

192. Which of the following is/are the key features of National Digital Health Mission?

1. Health ID
2. Personal Health Records
3. Digi Doctor
4. Health Facility Registry
5. National Health Profile

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 1, 2 and 3
- (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (d) All of the above

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **What is the National Digital Health Mission?**
- It is a digital health ecosystem under which every Indian citizen will now have unique health IDs, digitised health records with identifiers for doctors and health facilities.
- The Mission is expected to **bring efficiency and transparency in healthcare services in the country**.
- The new scheme will come under **the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**.
- **Key features:**
 - **It comprises six key building blocks** — HealthID, DigiDoctor, Health Facility Registry, Personal Health Records, e-Pharmacy and Telemedicine.
 - **The National Health Authority** has been given the mandate to design, build, roll-out and implement the mission in the country.
 - **The core building blocks** of the mission is that **the health ID, DigiDoctor and Health Facility Registry shall be**



owned, operated and maintained by the Government of India.

- **Private stakeholders** will have an equal opportunity to integrate and create their own products for the market. **The core activities and verifications**, however, remain with the government.
- Under the Mission, every Indian will get a **Health ID card** that will store all medical details of the person including prescriptions, treatment, diagnostic reports and discharge summaries.
- The citizens will be able to give their doctors and health providers **one-time access to this data** during visits to the hospital for consultation.
- **National Health Profile**
 - An updated and credible National Health Data is essential for effective planning, decision-making, monitoring and evaluation of various Health Programmes & Health Sector Development activities.
 - To achieve this objective, the **Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI), annually brings out a Publication “National Health Profile (NHP)**, which covers all the major information on Demography, Socio-Economic Status, Disease Morbidity & Mortality, Healthcare Finance, Human Resources in Health and Healthcare Infrastructure. NHP is an initiative which is at par with international standards of data publications.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/24/what-is-the-national-digital-health-mission/>

193. With reference to river Teesta, consider the following statements:

1. Teesta River originates from the Pahunri glacier.
2. River Rangeet originates in Sikkim and it is a tributary of river Teesta.
3. River Teesta flows into Bay of Bengal on the border of India and Bangladesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 and 3: **Teesta River** originates from the **Pahunri glacier**. **Brahmaputra** originates in **Angsi glacier**. Teesta is a tributary of Brahmaputra. So, 1 is correct.



- But, **Teesta flows through West Bengal and Sikkim, before going to Bay of Bengal through Bangladesh.** Statement 3 is incorrect. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teesta_River
<http://www.india-wris.nrsc.gov.in/wrpinfo/index.php?title=Brahmaputra>
- Statement 2: **Rangee** is a tributary of the **Teesta river**, which is the largest river in Sikkim. It also **originates in Sikkim.**
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rangee_River



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/24/teesta-river-dispute/>

194. Consider the following statements with reference to National Food Security Act, (NFSA) 2013:

1. The Act legally entitles up to 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population to receive subsidized food grains under Targeted Public Distribution System.
2. Eldest woman (18 years or above) to be the head of the household for the purpose of issuing of ration cards.
3. As per the Section 10 of the National Food Security Act, 2013, “Disability” is one of the criteria for exclusion of beneficiaries under AAY households.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Stat3: **The Section 10 of the National Food Security Act, 2013** provides for coverage of persons under **the Antyodaya Anna Yojana** in accordance with the guidelines applicable to the said scheme and the



remaining households as priority households in accordance with such guidelines as the States Government may specify.

- **Disability** is one of the criteria for **inclusion** of beneficiaries under AAY households
- Stat2: **Women Empowerment:** For the purpose of issuing of ration cards, eldest woman of the household of age 18 years or above is to be the head of the household.
- Stat1: **Coverage and entitlement under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS):** The TDPS covers **50% of the urban population and 75% of the rural population, with uniform entitlement of 5 kg per person per month.** However, the poorest of the poor households will continue to receive 35 kg per household per month under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY).

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/24/national-food-security-act-2013/>

195. Consider the following statements:

1. Bureau of Indian Standards is the National Standard Body of India established under the BIS Act 2016.
2. It works under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
3. BIS is a founder member of International Organisation for Standardization (ISO).

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Stat1 and 2: The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is the national Standards Body of India working under the aegis of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Government of India.
 - A new **Bureau of Indian standards (BIS) Act 2016** which was notified on 22 March 2016, has been brought into force with effect from 12 October 2017. The Act establishes the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) as the National Standards Body of India.
- Stat3: **BIS is a founder member of International Organisation for Standardization (ISO).** It represents India in the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the World Standards Service Network (WSSN).

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/24/bis-draft-standard-for-drinking-water-supply/>



196. Consider the following pairs :

<i>Tradition</i>	<i>State</i>
1. Yaoshang	Manipur
2. Nuakhai Juhar	Assam
3. Gochi Festival	Himachal Pradesh

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2
- (d) 1 only

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Yaoshang: Manipur
- Gochi Festival: Himachal Pradesh
- **Nuakhai Juhar:**
 - **Nuakhai Juhar is the agricultural festival** is also called Nuakhai Parab or Nuakahi Bhetghat.
 - Nuakhai is a combination of two words signifies eating of new rice as 'nua' means new and 'khai' means eat.
 - It is one of the most ancient festivals **celebrated in Odisha, Chhattisgarh and areas of neighbouring states** to welcome the new crop of the season.
 - On this day, people worship food grain and prepare special meals. Farmers offer the first produce from their lands to Goddess Samaleswari, the famous 'Mother Goddess' of Sambalpur district of Odisha.

Refer: facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/24/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-24-august-2020/>

197. Consider the following statements:

1. National Council for transgenders is headed by the Union social justice minister.
2. The council is India's first and formed under Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

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

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **here the directive word is not correct!!**

- **National Council for transgenders:**
 - The Centre has constituted **the national council for transgender persons.**



- **Composition:** Headed by the Union social justice minister and comprising representatives from 10 central departments, five states and members of the community.
- The council is **India's first** and formed under **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019**.
- **The council has five main functions** — advising the central government on the formulation of policies, programmes, legislation and projects with respect to transgender persons; monitoring and evaluating the impact of policies and programmes designed for achieving equality and full participation of transgender persons; reviewing and coordinating the activities of all the departments; redressing grievances of transgender persons; and performing such other functions as prescribed by the Centre.

Refer: facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/24/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-24-august-2020/>

198. 'Consumer Welfare Fund' has been setup under the:

- (a) Consumer Protection Act, 1986
- (b) Consumer Protection Act, 2019
- (c) Companies Act 2013
- (d) Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **The Consumer Welfare Fund Rules** were framed and notified in **the Gazette of India in 1992**, which have been incorporated in Consumer Welfare Fund Rule 97 of the CGST Rules, 2017.
- **Consumer Welfare Fund has been setup under section 57 of the CGST Act, 2017.**
- Earlier, the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944 was amended in 1991 to enable the **Central Government to create a Consumer Welfare Fund (CWF)** where the money which is not refundable to the manufacturers, etc. is being credited.
- Also refer: [National Anti-Profiteering Authority \(NAA\)](#)

Refer: <https://consumeraffairs.nic.in/organisation-and-units/division/consumer-welfare-fund/overview>

199. Consider the following statements:

1. Recently, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoS&PI) released a Vision document for the National Data and Analytics Platform.
2. NDAP will follow a user-centric approach and will enable data access in a simple and intuitive portal.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only



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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **NITI Aayog** released its vision for the **National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP)**.
- The platform **aims to democratize access to publicly available government data**. It will host the latest datasets from various government websites, present them coherently, and provide tools for analytics and visualization. NDAP will **follow a user-centric approach** and will enable data access in a simple and intuitive portal tailored to the needs of a variety of stakeholders.
- NDAP will spearhead the standardization of formats in which data is presented across sectors and will cater to a wide audience of policymakers, researchers, innovators, data scientists, journalists and citizens.

Refer: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1600370>

200. Consider the following statements:

1. Forest Advisory Committee (FSC) is a statutory body which was constituted by the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
 2. FSC can adjudicate the requests by the industry to destroy forest land for commercial ends.
 3. India State of Forest Report (ISFR) is a biennial publication of FSC.
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 1 and 3

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **The Forest Advisory Committee**, an apex body tasked with **adjudicating requests by the industry to raze forest land for commercial ends**, has approved a scheme **that could allow “forests” to be traded as a commodity**. If implemented, it allows the Forest Department to outsource one of its responsibilities of reforestation to non-government agencies.
 - FSC is a **statutory body** which was constituted by the **Forest (Conservation) Act 1980**. It considers questions on the diversion of forest land for non-forest uses.
- **India State of Forest Report (ISFR)** is a **biennial** publication of **Forest Survey of India (FSI)**.

Refer: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/forest-committee-approves-scheme-to-trade-in-forests/article30527065.ece>



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RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 25th-Aug-2020

201. Which of the following is popularly known as the “City of Pearls”?

- (a) Surat
- (b) Jaipur
- (c) Hyderabad
- (d) Ahmedabad

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Hyderabad is popularly known as **the “City of Pearls” and the “City of Nizams”**, and has been the centre of a vibrant historical legacy, ever since its inception by the QutubShahi dynasty.
- Muhammad QuliQutb Shahestablished Hyderabad in 1591 to extend the capital beyond the fortified Golconda.
- In 1687, the city was annexedby the Mughals. In 1724, Mughal governor NizamAsaf Jah I declared his sovereignty and founded the AsafJahi dynasty, also known as the Nizams.
- Hyderabad served as **the imperial capital of the Asaf Jahis from 1769 to 1948.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/25/cultural-heritage-of-hyderabad/>

202. Which one of the following was a very important ‘Fort’ in the Kakatiya kingdom?

- (a) Anjengo Fort
- (b) Badami Fort
- (c) Belgaum Fort
- (d) Golconda Fort

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Important cultural sites of Hyderabad highlighted in the session:**

- **Golconda Fort, Hyderabad:** Built by **the Kakatiya dynasty** in the 13th century.



- **Chowmahalla Palace:** Once the seat of the AsafJahi Dynasty. It has bagged **the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Merit Award for Culture Heritage Conservation.**
- **Charminar:** The monument was erected when QuliQutab Shah shifted his capital from Golcondo to Hyderabad.
- **Mecca Masjid:** Completed by **Aurangazeb** in 1693. The bricks used here are believed to be from Mecca, and hence the name.
- **Warangal Fort:** This fort appears to have existed since at least the 12th century when it was the capital of the Kakatiya dynasty.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/25/cultural-heritage-of-hyderabad/>

203. With reference to the Constitution of India, prohibitions or limitations or provisions contained in ordinary laws cannot act as prohibitions or limitations on the constitutional powers under Article 142. It could mean which one of the following?

- (a) The decisions taken by the Election Commission of India while discharging its duties cannot be challenged in any court of law.
- (b) The Supreme Court of India is not constrained in the exercise of its powers by laws made by the Parliament.
- (c) In the event of grave financial crisis in the country, the President of India can declare Financial Emergency without the counsel from the Cabinet.
- (d) State Legislatures cannot make laws on certain matters without the concurrence of Union Legislature.

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **As per Article 142**, “The Supreme Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary **for doing complete justice in any cause** or matter pending before it, and any decree so passed or orders so made shall be enforceable throughout the territory of India in such manner as may be prescribed by or under any law made by Parliament and, until provision in that behalf is so made, in such manner as the President may by order prescribe”.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/25/lokayukta/>

204. Which one of the following suggested the setting up of the institution of Lokayukta?

- (a) John Mathai Committee (1950)
- (b) First Administrative Reforms Commission (1966)
- (c) K. Santhanam Committee (1964)
- (d) Sarkaria Commission (1983)

Ans: (b)

Explanation:



- The **Administrative Reforms Commission** headed by Late Morarji Desai in 1966 recommended the setting up of the institution of Lokayukta.
- **The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act, 2013**, commonly known **The Lokpal Act** was passed by the Parliament of India in December 2013.
- It provides for **the appointment of a Lokayukta “to investigate and report on allegations or grievances relating to the conduct of public servants.”**
- It also called for establishment of **Lokpal at the Centre.**
- **Who is appointed as the Lokayukta?**
 - The Lokayukta is usually a former High Court Chief Justice or former Supreme Court judge and has a fixed tenure.
- **Selection of Lokayukta:**
 - The Chief Minister selects a person as the Lokayukta after consultation with the High Court Chief Justice, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Chairman of the Legislative Council, Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly and the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council. The appointment is then made by the Governor.
 - Once appointed, Lokayukta cannot be dismissed nor transferred by the government, and can only be removed by passing an impeachment motion by the state assembly.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/25/lokyukta/>

205. Consider following statements:

1. A motion of “No Confidence Motion” against the Government can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha.
2. The Constitution of India does not mention about either a Confidence or a No Confidence Motion.

Which of the given above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **here the directive word is incorrect!!**

- **Why in News?**
 - The no-confidence motion against the Pinarayi Vijayan government was defeated 87-40 in the Kerala Assembly on Monday. The Assembly has been adjourned sine-die.
- **What is a no-confidence motion?**



- A no-confidence motion is a parliamentary motion which is moved in the Lok Sabha against the entire council of ministers, stating that **they are no longer deemed fit to hold positions of responsibility** due to their inadequacy in some respect or their failure to carry out their obligations. **No prior reason needs to be stated for its adoption in the Lok Sabha.**
- **Procedure to move a “No Confidence Motion”:**
- A motion of “No Confidence Motion” against the Government **can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha under rule 198.**
- The **Constitution of India does not mention** about either a Confidence or a No Confidence Motion. Although, **Article 75** does specify that the Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.
- A motion of No Confidence **can be admitted when a minimum of 50 members, support the motion in the house.**
- The Speaker then, once satisfied that the motion is in order, will ask the House if the motion can be adopted.
- If the motion is passed in the house, **the Government is bound to vacate the office.**
- A no-confidence motion **needs a majority vote to pass the House.**
- If individuals or parties abstain from voting, those numbers will be removed from the overall strength of the House and then the majority will be taken into account.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/25/no-confidence-motion/>

206. With reference to Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), consider the following statements

1. AIIB has more than 80 member nations.
2. India is the largest shareholder in AIIB.
3. AIIB does not have any members from outside Asia.

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

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **here the directive word is not correct!!**

- Stat1: AIIB currently has 103 members as well as 21 prospective members from around the world and is open to accepting additional members.
- Stat2: The **allocated shares are based on the size of each member country's economy** (calculated using GDP Nominal



(60%) and GDP PPP (40%)), whether they are an Asian or Non-Asian Member, and the number of shares determines the fraction of authorized capital in the bank.

- **China is the biggest shareholder followed by India.**
- See <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R44754.pdf> and https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/india-is-second-largest-shareholder-of-aiib-piyush-goyal-118062400640_1.html
- Stat3: **It has members from outside Asia** such as Fiji, New Zealand etc. Membership in AIIB is open to members of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development or the Asian Development Bank.
See <https://www.aiib.org/en/about-aiib/governance/members-of-bank/index.html>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/25/asian-infrastructure-investment-bank-aiib-3/>

207. Consider the following statements:

1. The 69th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1991 provided a special status to the Union Territory of Delhi (NCT).
2. The assembly of NCT can make laws on all the matters of the State List and the Concurrent List.
3. President is empowered to promulgate ordinances during recess of the assembly of NCT.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **The 69th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1991** provided a special status to the Union Territory of Delhi, and re-designated it the National Capital Territory of Delhi and designated the administrator of Delhi as the lieutenant (lt.) governor. It created a legislative assembly and a council of ministers for Delhi. Previously, Delhi had a metropolitan council and an executive council.
- Stat2: The assembly can make laws on **all the matters of the State List and the Concurrent List except the three matters of the State List, that is, public order, police and land.** But, the laws of Parliament prevail over those made by the Assembly.
- Stat3: The lt. governor is empowered to promulgate ordinances during recess of the assembly. An ordinance has the same force as an act of the assembly.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/25/electricity-amendment-bill-2020/>



208. With reference to DNA Technology (Use And Application) Regulation Bill, 2019, consider the following statements:

1. The bill proposes a written consent by individuals be obtained before collection of their DNA samples for all offences.
2. It seeks to establish a DNA Regulatory Board with Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, will be the ex officio Chairperson of the Board.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **Overview of the DNA Technology (Use And Application) Regulation Bill, 2019:**

- It seeks to establish **a national data bank and regional DNA data banks.**
- It envisages that **every databank will maintain indices** like the crime scene index, suspects' or undertrials' index, offenders' index, missing persons' index and unknown deceased persons' index.
- **Stat2:** It also seeks to establish **a DNA Regulatory Board.** Which will supervise the DNA Data Banks and DNA laboratories.
 - **The Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, will be the ex officio Chairperson of the Board.** The Board will comprise additional members including experts in the field of biological sciences, and Director General of the National Investigation Agency and the Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation.
- **Stat1:** The bill also proposes **a written consent** by individuals be obtained before collection of their DNA samples. **However, consent is not required for offences with punishment of more than seven years in jail or death.**
- It also provides for **the removal of DNA profiles of suspects on the filing of a police report or court order**, and of undertrials on the basis of a court order. Profiles in the crime scene and missing persons' index will be removed on a written request.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/25/dna-bill-can-be-misused-for-caste-based-profiling-says-panel-draft-report/>

209. Consider the following statements:

1. Glanders infectious disease that is caused by the bacteria from the genus Brucella.



2. Transmission between humans is extremely rare, although it can happen through organ transplants, or through bites.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **About Glanders:**

- It is an infectious disease that is caused by **the bacterium Burkholderia mallei**.
- **Who can get infected?**
 - While people can get the disease, glanders is primarily a disease affecting horses. It also affects donkeys and mules and can be naturally contracted by other mammals such as goats, dogs, and cats.
- **Transmission:**
 - **Transmitted to humans through contact with tissues or body fluids of infected animals.**
 - The bacteria enter the body through cuts or abrasions in the skin and through mucosal surfaces such as the eyes and nose.
 - **It may also be inhaled via infected aerosols or dust contaminated by infected animals.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/25/glanders/>

210. Bondas is a tribal community residing in the hill ranges of:

- (a) The Nallamalas
- (b) The Nilgiri
- (c) The Baba Budangiri
- (d) The Malkangiri

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **People in News- Bondas:**

- Bondas is **a tribal community residing in the hill ranges of Malkangiri district in Odisha**.
- They are **a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG)**.
- Their population is around 7,000.
- Bonda people are often led to bonded labour through marriage, also known as **diosing**.
- A form of dowry (known as **Gining**) is paid for brides.
- **Why in News?**
 - Four members of the community have tested positive for COVID-19.



Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/25/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-25-august-2020/>

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 26th-Aug-2020

211. Consider the following statements:

1. Maharashtra is known for its Warli folk paintings.
2. Women are mainly engaged in the creation of these paintings.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **Warli Paintings:**

- **Maharashtra** is known for **its Warli folk paintings**.
- Its roots may be traced to as early as the **10th century A.D.**
- They bear a resemblance to those created in **the Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka**.
- Scenes portraying hunting, fishing and farming, festivals and dances, trees and animals are used to surround **the central theme of the painting**.
- **Women are mainly engaged** in the creation of these paintings.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/26/warli-painting/>

212. Consider the following statements:

1. The idea for setting up the 'BRICS innovation base' was first proposed by China at the 11th BRICS summit held in Brasília (Brazil).
2. Recently proposed 'UK- 5G' club includes G7 countries plus Singapore, South Korea and India.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Context:** **China** is “actively considering the establishment of a **BRICS innovation base in China**, in order to strengthen practical cooperation with the BRICS”.
 - **Aim:** To take forward **5G and Artificial Intelligence (AI) cooperation** among the five countries.



- **Rationale behind the proposal:**
- China's interest in promoting 5G within the BRICS bloc could be part of its interest in **pushing tech giant Huawei internationally** – Huawei's name has come up as a contender to build the network in Brazil and South Africa even as it is embroiled in controversies in other countries.
- **UK- 5G club (D10 Club):**
 - **In May, British government approached the US with the prospect of creating a 5G club of 10 democracies.**
 - It includes G7 countries –UK, US, Italy, Germany, France, Japan and Canada – plus **Australia, South Korea and India.**
 - **It will aim to create alternative suppliers of 5G equipment and other technologies to avoid relying on China.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/26/brics-innovation-base/>

213. With reference to communication technologies, what is/are the difference / differences between LTE (Long-Term Evolution) and VoLTE (Voice over Long-Term Evolution)?

1. LTE is commonly marketed as 3G and VoLTE is commonly marketed as advanced 3G.
2. LTE is data-only technology and VoLTE is voice-only technology.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- VoLTE is voice calls over a 4G LTE network, rather than the 2G or 3G connections. VoLTE can transmit data too. VoLTE has up to three times more voice and data capacity than 3G UMTS and up to six times more than 2G GSM. So, both 1 and 2 are wrong.
- **What underlying technologies make up 5G?**
 - 5G is based on **OFDM (Orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing)**, a method of modulating a digital signal across several different channels to reduce interference.
 - 5G uses 5G NR air interface alongside OFDM principles.
 - 5G also uses wider bandwidth technologies such as sub-6 GHz and mmWave.
- **The previous generations of mobile networks are 1G, 2G, 3G, and 4G.**
 - First generation – 1G
1980s: 1G delivered analog voice.



- Second generation – 2G
Early 1990s: 2G introduced digital voice (e.g. CDMA- Code Division Multiple Access).
- Third generation – 3G
Early 2000s: 3G brought mobile data (e.g. CDMA2000).
- Fourth generation – 4G LTE
2010s: 4G LTE ushered in the era of mobile broadband.
- 1G, 2G, 3G, and 4G all led to 5G, which is designed to provide more connectivity than was ever available before.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/26/brics-innovation-base/>

214. Consider the following statements:

1. The purpose of a Pigovian tax is to create an incentive to reduce negative externalities.
2. A sin tax is levied on specific goods and services at the time of purchase.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Stat2: **A sin tax is levied on specific goods and services at the time of purchase. These items receive the excise tax due to their ability, or perception, to be harmful or costly to society.** Applicable items include tobacco products, alcohol, and gambling ventures. Sin taxes seek to deter people from engaging in socially harmful activities and behaviors, but they also provide a source of revenue for governments.
- Stat1: **A sin tax is a type of Pigovian tax, which is levied on companies which create negative externalities with their business practices.** Sin tax proponents maintain that the targeted behaviors and goods produce negative externalities. In other words, they foist an unfair burden on the rest of society. The effects of alcohol and tobacco products increase health care costs driving up the cost of insurance for everyone. Also, compulsive gambling compromises the security and well-being of stable home life, children, and families of the gambler.
 - **A Pigovian tax is intended to tax the producer of goods or services that create adverse side effects for society.**
 - Economists argue that the cost of these negative externalities, such as environmental pollution, are borne by society rather than the producer.
 - The purpose of the Pigovian tax is to redistribute the cost back to the producer or user of the negative externality.



- A carbon emissions tax or a tax on plastic bags are examples of Pigovian taxes.
- Pigovian taxes are meant to equal the cost of the negative externality but can be difficult to determine and if overestimated can harm society.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/26/sin-goods-and-sin-tax/>

215. Consider the following statements about 'AstroSat':

1. It is India's first multi-wavelength space telescope.
2. It was launched on a GSLV Mark-II.
3. It performs multi-wavelength observations covering spectral bands from radio and X-ray wavelengths only.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 2 only

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Stat1&2: **Astrosat** is India's **first dedicated multi-wavelength space telescope**. It was launched on a **PSLV-XL** on 28 September 2015.
- Stat3: Astrosat performs multi-wavelength observations covering spectral bands from radio, optical, IR, UV, and X-ray wavelengths. Both individual studies of specific sources of interest and surveys are undertaken. While radio, optical, and IR observations would be coordinated through ground-based telescopes, the high energy regions, i.e., UV, X-ray and visible wavelength, would be covered by the dedicated satellite-borne instrumentation of Astrosat.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/26/indias-astrosat-telescope-discovers-one-of-the-earliest-galaxies-to-have-formed/>

216. Consider the following statements:

1. National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was an initiative of NITI Aayog.
2. It was notified under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
3. NCAP is envisaged as a scheme to provide the States and the Centre with a framework to combat air pollution.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 3 only

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **About the National Clean Air Programme:**

- Launched by **the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change in 2019**.



- It was **not notified under the Environment Protection Act or any other Act.**
- It is envisaged as **a scheme to provide the States and the Centre with a framework to combat air pollution.**
- It has **a major goal of reducing the concentration of coarse (particulate matter of diameter 10 micrometer or less, or PM10) and fine particles (particulate matter of diameter 2.5 micrometer or less, or PM2.5) in the atmosphere by at least 20% by the year 2024, with 2017 as the base year for comparison.**
- **Who all will participate?**
 - Apart from experts from the industry and academia, the programme will be **a collaboration between** the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Ministry of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, NITI Aayog, and Central Pollution Control Board.
- **Which cities will fall under this?**
 - Initially, 102 cities from 23 States and UTs were chosen as **non-attainment cities.** With the exception of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Bengaluru, most of those chosen are tier two cities.
 - The cities were selected on the basis of **the ambient air quality data from the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP) of 2011 – 2015.**
 - Maharashtra had the maximum number of cities chosen for the programme.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/26/national-clean-air-programme-ncap-4/>

217. With references to organic farming in India, consider the following statements:

1. 'The National Programme for Organic Production' (NPOP) is operated under the guidelines and directions of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
2. 'The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority' (APEDA), functions the Secretariat for the implementation of NPOP.
3. Sikkim has become India's first fully organic State.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only



(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Stat1: is incorrect: **Ministry of Commerce has implemented the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP) since 2001.**

The objectives of NPOP are as under:

- To provide the means of evaluation of certification programme for organic agriculture and products (including wild harvest, aquaculture, livestock products) as per the approved criteria.
- To accredit certification programmes of Certification Bodies seeking accreditation.
- To facilitate certification of organic products in conformity with the prescribed standards.
- To facilitate certification of organic products in conformity with the importing countries organic standards as per equivalence agreement between the two countries or as per importing country requirements.
- To encourage the development of organic farming and organic processing.
- **Source:** <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155000>
- **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA):**
 - Established under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act 1985.
 - The Authority replaced the Processed Food Export Promotion Council (PFEPCC).
 - **APEDA, under the Ministry of Commerce and Industries,** promotes export of agricultural and processed food products from India.
 - It has been mandated with the responsibility of export promotion and development of the scheduled products Fruits, Vegetables and their Products, Meat and Meat Products etc.
 - In addition to this, APEDA has been entrusted with the responsibility to monitor import of sugar.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/26/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-26-august-2020/>

218. The Honey Mission was launched by:

- (a) National Cooperative Development Corporation.
- (b) Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India.
- (c) Khadi and Village Industries Commission.
- (d) Indian Council of Agricultural Research.



Ans: (c)

Explanation: **Honey Mission:**

- Launched by **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** in 2017.
- It is aimed at creating employment for the Adivasis, farmers, unemployed youth, and women by roping them in beekeeping while also increasing India's honey production.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/26/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-26-august-2020/>

219. Which of the following Indian Bank has announced the introduction of usage of satellite data-imagery from earth observation satellites—to assess credit worthiness of its customers belonging to the farm sector?

- Housing Development Finance Corporation
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
- State Bank of India
- Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **ICICI to use satellites for farm credit:**

- ICICI Bank has announced the introduction of usage of **satellite data-imagery** from earth observation satellites—to **assess credit worthiness of its customers belonging to the farm sector**.
- ICICI will be the first bank in India to do so.
- It will use the data to measure an array of parameters related to the land, irrigation and crop patterns and in combination with demographic and financial parameters to make faster lending decisions for farmers

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/26/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-26-august-2020/>

220. Which one of the following is the best description of 'INS VIRAAAT', that was in the news recently?

- Scorpene-class submarines
- Nuclear-powered submarine
- Torpedo launch and recovery vessel
- Aircraft carrier

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **INS Viraat:**

- Originally **commissioned by the British Navy** as HMS Hermes on November 18, 1959, the aircraft carrier had taken part in **the Falkland Islands war in 1982**.
- India bought the British carrier in 1986 and rechristened it as INS Viraat.
- INS Viraat is **the Guinness record holder for being the longest-serving warship of the world**.



- **Why in News?**
- One of the biggest ship recyclers at Alang — Shree Ram Group — has purchased the aircraft carrier.
- This is the **second aircraft carrier** to be broken in India in the past six years. In 2014, **INS Vikrant**, which played a role in the historic 1971 war with Pakistan was broken down in Mumbai.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/26/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-26-august-2020/>

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 27th-Aug-2020

221. Which of the following is/are the necessary conditions for a hurricane to form?

1. warm water
2. low vertical wind shear
3. high pressure condition

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- As per the [NASA website](https://www.nasa.gov/what-are-hurricanes/), Scientists don't know exactly why or how a hurricane forms. But they do know that two main ingredients are needed.
- One ingredient is **warm water**. Warm ocean waters provide the energy a storm needs to become a hurricane. Usually, the surface water temperature must be 26 degrees Celsius (79 degrees Fahrenheit) or higher for a hurricane to form.
- The other ingredient is winds that **don't change much in speed or direction as they go up in the sky**. Winds that change a lot with height can rip storms apart.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/27/what-are-hurricanes/>

222. Consider the following statements:

1. Attorney General of India is a part of the Union Executive.
2. He/She is appointed by the President of India based on the recommendations made by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
3. He/She holds office during the pleasure of the president.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2



- (b) 1 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 3
- (d) 1 and 3

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Attorney General- Facts:**

- The Attorney General for India is **the central government's chief legal advisor, and its primary lawyer in the Supreme Court of India.**
- He is **a part of the Union Executive.**
- **Appointment and eligibility:**
 - He is **appointed by the President of India** under **Article 76(1) of the Constitution** and holds office during the pleasure of the President.
 - The term of office of the AG is not fixed by the Constitution. Further, the Constitution does not contain the procedure and grounds for his removal.
 - **He holds office during the pleasure of the president. This means that he may be removed by the president at any time.**
 - He may also quit his office by submitting his resignation to the president.
 - Conventionally, he resigns when the government (council of ministers) resigns or is replaced, as he is appointed on its advice.
 - He must be **a person qualified to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court.**
 - He should be an Indian Citizen.
 - He must have either completed 5 years in High Court of any Indian state as a judge or 10 years in High Court as an advocate.
 - He may be an eminent jurist too, in the eye of the President.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/27/attorney-general/>

223. Consider the following statements:

1. The Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) had been established under Article 323 - A of the Constitution.
2. The orders of AFT are challenged before respective High Court in whose territorial jurisdiction the Bench of the Tribunal is situated.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **About AFT:**



- It is a **military tribunal** in India.
- It was **established in 2009 under the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007**.
- The act was passed on the basis of recommendation of **169th Law Commission Report and various Supreme Court directives**.
- **Powers and functions:**
 - To adjudicate Disputes and complaints with respect to commission, appointments, enrolments and conditions of service in respect of persons subject to the Army Act, 1950, The Navy Act, 1957 and the Air Force Act, 1950.
 - **Composition:**
 - Each Bench comprises of a **Judicial Member and an Administrative Member**.
 - **Judicial Members** are retired High Court Judges.
 - **Administrative Members** are retired Members of the Armed Forces who have held the rank of Major General/ equivalent or above for a period of three years or more or **Judge Advocate General (JAG)**, who have held the appointment for at least one year.
- **Who can be a chairperson?**
 - The person holding the office of chairperson of AFT must have been either a retired judge of Supreme Court or a Retired chief justice of high court.
- **Exceptions:**
 - **Paramilitary forces including the Assam Rifles and Coast Guard** are outside the tribunal's purview.
 - AFT is considered to be a **criminal court with respect to Indian Penal Code, and Code of Criminal Procedure**.
 - **Appeals against the decision of the AFT** can be taken only in Supreme Court. High Courts are not allowed to entertain such appeals.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/27/armed-forces-tribunal/>

224. The EOHO Scheme is an economic recovery measure by the Government of:

- (a) USA
- (b) United Kingdom
- (c) Sweden
- (d) China

Ans: (b)

Explanation: The EOHO Scheme is **an economic recovery measure by the UK government to support hospitality businesses** as they reopen after the COVID-19 lockdown in the country.



- The scheme was announced on July 8 as part of the Plans for Jobs summer economic update.
- **How it works?**
 - Under the EOHO Scheme, **the government would subsidise meals** (food and non-alcoholic drinks only) at restaurants by 50 per cent, from Monday to Wednesday every week, all through August.
 - The discount is **capped at GBP 10 per head** and does not apply to take-away or event catering.
 - There is **no minimum spend and no limit on the number of times customers can avail the offer**, since the whole point of the scheme is to encourage a return to dining in restaurants.
 - EOHO scheme would cost GBP 500 million.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/27/uks-eat-out-to-help-out-scheme/>

225. 'Section 47 of the RBI Act' is sometimes mentioned in media in reference to:

- (a) Ways and Means Advances
- (b) Twin Balance Sheet Problem
- (c) Operation Twist
- (d) Economic Capital Framework

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- As per **Section 47 of the RBI Act**, profits or surplus of the RBI are to be transferred to the government, **after making various contingency provisions, public policy mandate of the RBI, including financial stability considerations.**
- **The RBI's transfer** this year is **as per the economic capital framework (ECF)** adopted by the RBI board last year.
 - **Economic capital framework** refers to the risk **capital** required by the central bank while taking into account different risks.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/27/contingency-fund-cf-of-the-central-bank/>

226. 'Export Preparedness Index' (EPI) 2020 has been released by which of the following?

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority
- (c) Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India
- (d) Confederation of Indian Industry

Ans: (a)

Explanation:



- **NITI Aayog** in partnership with **the Institute of Competitiveness** has released **the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020**.
- EPI is **the first report to examine export preparedness and performance of Indian states**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/27/export-preparedness-index-epi-2020/>

227. The term 'Intended Nationally Determined Contributions' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of

- pledges made by the European countries to rehabilitate refugees from the war-affected Middle East
- plan of action outlined by the countries of the world to combat climate change
- capital contributed by the member countries in the establishment of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- plan of action outlined by the countries of the world regarding Sustainable Development Goals

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) are at the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of these long-term goals.** NDCs embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Paris Agreement (Article 4, paragraph 2) requires each Party to prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that it intends to achieve. Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions
- **What does this mean?**
 - The Paris Agreement requests each country to outline and communicate their post-2020 climate actions, known as their NDCs.
 - Together, these climate actions determine whether the world achieves the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as soon as possible and to undertake rapid reductions thereafter in accordance with best available science, so as to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of GHGs in the second half of this century. It is understood that the peaking of emissions will take longer for developing country Parties, and that emission reductions are undertaken on the basis of equity, and in the context of sustainable development and efforts to



eradicate poverty, which are critical development priorities for many developing countries.

- Each climate plan reflects the country's ambition for reducing emissions, taking into account its domestic circumstances and capabilities. Guidance on NDCs are currently being negotiated under the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA), agenda item 3.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/27/nationally-determined-contributions-ndc-transport-initiative-for-asia-tia/>

228. Recently, which of the following has launched the India Component of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)–Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA)?

- (a) Central Pollution Control Board
- (b) Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority
- (c) National Institution for Transforming India
- (d) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- NITI Aayog has launched the India Component of **the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)–Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA)**.
- **About NDC- TIA:**
 - It is a **joint programme**, supported by **the International Climate Initiative (IKI)** of the German Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).
 - It aims **to promote a comprehensive approach to decarbonize transport in India, Vietnam, and China.**
 - It is **implemented by a consortium of seven other organisations.**
 - On behalf of the Government of India, **NITI Aayog** will be the implementing partner.
- **Implementation:**
 - The NDC-TIA programme has a **duration of 4 years.**
 - It will allow India and other partner countries **to achieve accountable long-term targets** by making a sectoral contribution through various interventions, coordinated with a large number of stakeholders in the domain.
 - This will contribute towards achieving their **NDCs and increasing their ambition in the transport sector of 2025 NDCs.**



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/27/nationally-determined-contributions-ndc-transport-initiative-for-asia-tia/>

229. Which of the following river is known as 'Dakshina Bhageerathi' and 'River Baris'?

- (a) Godavari
- (b) Cauvery
- (c) Krishna
- (d) Pampa

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Pampa river (Also known as Pamba river):**

- Pampa is **the third longest river in Kerala** after Periyar and Bharathappuzha.
- **Sabarimala temple** dedicated to Lord Ayyappa is located on the banks of the river.
- The river is also known as '**Dakshina Bhageerathi**' and '**River Baris**'.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/27/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-27-august-2020/>

230. 'Pulikkali' is a recreational folk art from the state of:

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Kerala

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Pulikkali:**

- It is a recreational folk art from the state of Kerala.
- It is performed by trained artists to entertain people on the occasion of Onam, an annual harvest festival, celebrated mainly in Kerala.
- Literal meaning of Pulikkali is **the 'play of the tigers'**.
- **The origin of Pulikkali** dates back to over 200 years, when **the Maharaja Rama Varma Sakthan Thampuran**, the then Maharaja of Cochin, is said to have introduced the folk art.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/27/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-27-august-2020/>

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RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 28th-Aug-2020

231. Consider the following statements:

1. The 'Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik' (UDAN) scheme is jointly funded by the central government and state governments.
2. The 4th round of UDAN was launched with a special focus on Union Territories (UT).
3. Under UDAN 4, the operation of helicopter and seaplanes is also been incorporated.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **About Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN:**

- **UDAN**, which stands for '**Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik**', aims to make air travel affordable and widespread.
- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation** had launched **Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)** in October 10 2016 to stimulate regional air connectivity and making air travel affordable to the masses.
- The scheme will be **jointly funded by the central government and state governments**.
- The **scheme will run for 10 years and can be extended thereafter**.
- **Viability Gap Funding (VGF):**
 - The scheme entails making the routes financially viable, without insisting on the financial viability of the regional airports, by lowering the cost of flight operations and through financial support in the form of **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)**. VGF will be available to flight operators on specific routes for the first 3 years of operation.
- **UDAN 4.0:**
 - The **4th round of UDAN was launched in December 2019** with a **special focus on North-Eastern Regions, Hilly States, and Islands**.
 - **The airports that had already been developed by Airports Authority of India (AAI) are given higher priority for the award of VGF (Viability Gap Funding) under the Scheme.**
 - Under UDAN 4, **the operation of helicopter and seaplanes is also been incorporated.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/28/regional-connectivity-scheme-udan/>



232. Consider the following statements:

1. States can sub-classify Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Central List to provide preferential treatment to the “weakest out of the weak”.
2. Reservation in promotion in public posts can be claimed as a fundamental right.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Stat1: A five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court has held that **States can sub-classify Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Central List** to provide **preferential treatment to the “weakest out of the weak”**.
- **Background:**
 - The judgment is based on a reference to the Constitution Bench the question of law involving **Section 4(5) of the Punjab Scheduled Caste and Backward Classes (Reservation in Services) Act, 2006**.
 - The legal provision allows **50% of the reserved Scheduled Castes seats in the State to be allotted to Balmikis and Mazhabi Sikhs**.
 - **Need for sub-classification- Observations made by the Supreme Court:**
 - Reservation has created **inequalities within the reserved castes itself**.
 - There is a **“caste struggle” within the reserved class** as benefit of reservation are being usurped by a few.
 - It is clear that **caste, occupation, and poverty are interwoven**.
 - The State cannot be deprived of the power to take care of the qualitative and quantitative difference between different classes to take ameliorative measures.
- Stat2: The Supreme Court has recently ruled that **the states are not bound to provide reservation in appointments and promotions and that there is no fundamental right to reservation in promotions**.
- **What has the court said?**
 - Reservation in promotion in public posts cannot be claimed as a fundamental right.
 - **Articles 16 (4) and 16 (4-A)** of the Constitution does not confer individuals with a fundamental right to claim



reservation in promotion. **It only empowers the State to make a reservation in matters of appointment and promotion** in favour of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, only if in the opinion of the State **they are not adequately represented in the services of the State.**

- State governments are not bound to make a reservation and **have discretion in providing reservations.**
- The judgment also noted that **even the courts could not issue a mandamus directing the States to provide reservation.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/28/states-can-have-sub-groups-among-scs-sts-supreme-court/>

233. 'Wolbachia method' is sometimes mentioned in media in reference to:

- (a) Sustainable tree planation
- (b) Anti-microbial resistance
- (c) Abetment of Ganga river water pollution
- (d) Disease control

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- A recent study suggests that **the “Wolbachia method”** could be used to significantly reduce the incidence of dengue fever, a mosquito-borne disease, in populations where the illness is endemic.
- **Where was this method tested?**
 - Scientists from **the World Mosquito Program (WMP)** of Monash University in Australia and Universitas Gadjah Mada in Indonesia tested this method in a 27-month trial in **Yogyakarta, Indonesia.**
 - They found that using **the Wolbachia method reduced the occurrence of dengue in the treated population by 77%.**
- **How it works?**
 - This method involves **introducing Wolbachia**, a type of bacteria, **into populations of Aedes aegypti**, the mosquito species responsible for spreading dengue.
 - When the Wolbachia-infected mosquitoes breed with their wild counterparts, the percentage of mosquitoes carrying the bacterium grows.
 - It is not fully understood why the Wolbachia bacterium interferes with the transmission of dengue. One theory is that **the bacterium prevents dengue viruses from replicating in mosquito cells.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/28/infecting-mosquitoes-with-bacterium-wolbachia-cuts-dengue-spread/>



234. Consider the following statements:

1. Dengue is fast emerging pandemic-prone viral disease.
2. The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is the main vector that transmits the viruses that cause dengue.
3. It is endemic to India.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Dengue** is a **viral disease** that is endemic in many countries, including India.
- It is a **mosquito-borne viral infection** causing a severe flu-like illness and, sometimes causing a potentially lethal complication called severe dengue.
 - **The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito** is the main vector that transmits the viruses that cause dengue.
 - The viruses are passed on to humans through **the bites of an infective female *Aedes* mosquito**, which mainly acquires the virus while feeding on the blood of an infected person.
- It **flourishes in urban poor areas**, suburbs and the countryside but also affects more affluent neighbourhoods in **tropical and subtropical countries**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/28/infecting-mosquitoes-with-bacterium-wolbachia-cuts-dengue-spread/>

235. Consider the following statements:

1. Cess goes to Consolidated Fund of India but can be spend only for the specific purposes.
2. It can be levied on both indirect and direct taxes.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **What is a cess?**



- A cess is levied on the tax payable and not on the taxable income. In a sense, for the taxpayer, it is equivalent to a surcharge on tax.
- A cess can be levied on both direct and indirect taxes. The revenue obtained from income tax, corporation tax, and indirect taxes can be allocated for various purposes.
- The proceeds of all taxes and cesses are credited in the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI), an account of the Government of India.
- **Difference between tax and cess?**
 - Unlike a tax, a cess is levied to meet a specific purpose; its proceeds cannot be spent on any kind of government expenditure. While the tax proceeds are shared with the States and Union Territories according to the guidelines by the Finance Commission, the cess proceeds need not be shared with them.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/28/gst-shortfall/>

236. Consider the following statements:

1. The Reserve Bank of India manages and services Government of India Securities but not any State Government Securities.
2. Treasury bills are issued by the Government of India and there are no treasury bills issued by the State Governments.
3. Treasury bills offer are issued at a discount from the par value.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 3 Only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- A Government Security (G-Sec) is a tradable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments. It acknowledges the Government's debt obligation. Such securities are short term (usually called treasury bills, with original maturities of less than one year) or long term (usually called Government bonds or dated securities with original maturity of one year or more).
- Stat1: **G-Secs are issued through auctions conducted by RBI.**
 - Floatation of State Government Loans (State Development Loans): As per the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the RBI may, by agreement with any State Government undertake the management of the public debt of that State.



- Accordingly, the RBI has entered into agreements with 29 State Governments and one Union Territory (UT of Puducherry) for management of their public debt.
- Stat2: In India, **the Central Government issues both, treasury bills and bonds or dated securities while the State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities, which are called the State Development Loans (SDLs)**. Treasury Bills (T-bills) Treasury bills or T-bills, which are money market instruments, are short term debt instruments issued by the Government of India and are presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91 day, 182 day and 3.64 day.
- Stat3: Treasury bills are zero coupon securities and pay no interest. **They are issued at a discount and redeemed at the face value at maturity.**
 - For example, a 91 day Treasury bill of 100/- (face value) may be issued at say 98.20, that is, at a discount of say, 1.80 and would be redeemed at the face value of 100/-.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/28/gst-shortfall/>

237. With reference to the Genetically Modified Brinjal (Bt Brinjal) developed in India, consider the following statements :

1. GM Brinjal has the genes that allow the plant cross-pollination and hybridization.
2. GM Brinjal has the genes of a soil bacterium that give the plant the property of pest-resistance to a wide variety of pests.
3. GM Brinjal has been developed jointly by the IARI and Punjab Agricultural University.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- The **genetically modified brinjal** is a suite of **transgenic brinjals** (also known as an eggplant or aubergine) created by inserting a crystal protein gene (Cry1Ac) from the **soil bacterium Bacillus thuringiensis** into the genome of various brinjal cultivars.
 - The insertion of the gene, along with other genetic elements such as promoters, terminators and an **antibiotic resistance** marker gene into the brinjal plant is accomplished using **Agrobacterium-mediated genetic transformation**.
 - **The Bt brinjal has been developed to give resistance against lepidopteron insects**, in particular the Brinjal Fruit and Shoot Borer (*Leucinodes orbonalis*)(FSB).



- **Mahyco, an Indian seed company based in Jalna, Maharashtra, has developed the Bt brinjal.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/28/bt-brinjal/>

238. 'Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee' is constituted under which of the following?

- (a) The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- (b) The Plants, Fruits and Seeds [Regulation of import in India] Order 1989
- (c) The Protection of Plant Variety and Farmers Right Act, 2001
- (d) The Food Safety and Standards Act. 2006

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- India's apex biotech regulatory committee, the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) that functions as a statutory body under **the Environment Protection Act 1986** of the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), has been changed to Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/28/bt-brinjal/>

239. National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) is an autonomous body under the:

- (a) Ministry of Minority Affairs
- (b) Ministry of Culture
- (c) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (d) Ministry of Education

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **World Urdu Conference:**

- **World Urdu Conference** was recently organised by **National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL)** in New Delhi.
- NCPUL is **an autonomous body under the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) (The Ministry was renamed as Ministry of Education)**, Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Government of India.
- It was **setup in 1996 as the National Nodal Agency for the promotion of the Urdu language.**

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/28/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-28-august-2020/>

240. Sleeping sickness disease is caused by:

- (a) Excessive stress and insomnia
- (b) Relationship failure and mental illness
- (c) Infection with the parasite
- (d) All of the above

Ans: (c)

Explanation:



- **Togo has become the first country in Africa** to eliminate human African Trypanosomiasis or **sleeping sickness, a disease caused by parasites transmitted through infected tsetse flies.**
- The World Health Organization (WHO) August 27, 2020 certified so, after the country applied for it in 2018.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/28/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-28-august-2020/>

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 29th-Aug-2020

241. He was a social reformer who worked for the advancement of deprived untouchable people in the princely state of Travancore. Mahatma Gandhi called him as 'Pulaya king' and Indira Gandhi described him as 'India's greatest son'. He also started Sadhu Jana Paripalana Sangham. He was

- Sree Narayana Guru
- K. Kelappan
- T. K. Madhavan
- Mahatma Ayyankali

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Who is Mahatma Ayyankali?**

- Born on August 28th, 1863 in a small village in **the princely state of Travancore**, now within the south of the modern-day nation of Kerala,
- The **caste discrimination he faced as a child turned him into a leader of an anti-caste movement** and who later fought for basic rights including access to public spaces and entry to schools.
- **Mahatma Gandhi** called Ayyankali as '**Pulaya king**'. Indira Gandhi described him as '**India's greatest son**'.
- **His contributions to Dalit developments:**
- Ayyankali in **1893 rode an ox-cart challenging the 'ban' on untouchables from accessing public roads** by caste-Hindus.
- He also led a rally to assert the rights of 'untouchables' at Balaramapuram. The walk Ayyankali took came to be known as '**walk for freedom**' and the consequent riots as '**Chaliyar riots**'.
- Ayyankali efforts **influenced many changes that improved social wellbeing of those people, who are today referred to as Dalits.**
- Ayyankali became a stated protestor for **Pulayar rights**. Because of the protests led through Ayyankali, in 1907 **a decree turned into issued to confess students from the untouchable network to government schools.**



- Inspired by **Sree Narayana Guru, a social reformer from Ezhava caste**, Ayyankali started **Sadhu Jana Paripalana Sangham** (association for the protection of the poor) which later raised funds to start their own schools.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/29/mahatma-ayyankali/>

242. Consider the following statements:

- Under the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs is the nodal ministry for all matters of Union Territories.
- Every union territory is administered by the President acting through an administrator appointed by him.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Stat1: Under the **Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961, Ministry of Home Affairs** is the nodal ministry for all matters of Union Territories relating to legislation, finance and budget, services and appointment of Lt. Governors and Administrators.
- Stat2: **Every union territory** is administered by the **President** acting through an **administrator appointed by him**. An administrator of a union territory is an agent of the President and not head of state like a governor. The President can specify the designation of an administrator; it may be Lieutenant Governor or Chief Commissioner or Administrator.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/29/rules-for-administration-in-the-union-territory-of-jammu-and-kashmir/>

243. Consider the following statements:

As per the Disaster Management Act, 2005,

- States are empowered to override University Grants Commission (UGC) exam guidelines in order to protect human lives amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The National Executive Committee under section of the Act is responsible for drawing up the state disaster management plan, and implementing the National Plan.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2



Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **The Supreme Court has held that States are empowered under the Disaster Management Act to override University Grants Commission (UGC) exam guidelines** in order to protect human lives amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Stat2: **State Executive Committee** is responsible (Section 22) **for drawing up the state disaster management plan, and implementing the National Plan.** The SDMA is mandated under section 28 to ensure that all the departments of the State prepare disaster management plans as prescribed by the National and State Authorities.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/29/power-of-states-under-the-disaster-management-act-to-override-ugc-exam-guidelines/>

244. "Social security and social insurance" is a part of which of the following?

- (a) Union list
- (b) State list
- (c) Concurrent list
- (d) Residuary list

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- The legal basis of the DM Act, is **Entry 23, Concurrent List** of the Constitution "**Social security and social insurance**".
- **Entry 29, Concurrent List** "Prevention of the extension from one State to another of infectious or contagious diseases or pests affecting men, animals or plants," can also be used for specific law making.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/29/power-of-states-under-the-disaster-management-act-to-override-ugc-exam-guidelines/>

245. Toys (Quality Control) Order has been issued by which of the following?

- (a) Department of Investment and Public Asset Management
- (b) Cell for IPR Promotion and Management
- (c) Department of Commerce
- (d) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Overview of the Toys (Quality Control) Order:**

- This relates to the **regulation of toys and/or materials for use in play by children under 14 years of age, or other products as notified by the Central Government.**
- The order has been **issued by DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry.**



- **The Order contains several important provisions for toy safety, including:**
 - Requirement for toys to conform to the latest version of a list of Indian Standards.
 - Requirement for toys to bear the Standard Mark under a licence from the Bureau as per Scheme-I of Schedule-II of Bureau of Indian Standards (Conformity Assessment) Regulations, 2018.
 - Directing the Bureau to be the certifying and enforcement authority.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/29/toy-traders-want-quality-control-order-suspended/>

246. Consider the following statements:

1. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is a statutory body set up under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
2. AGMARK is a quality Certification Mark issued by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Stat1: The **Bureau of Indian Standards** is the national Standards Body of India working under the aegis of **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution**, Government of India.
 - **Bureau of Energy Efficiency** is a statutory body set up under the **Energy Conservation Act, 2001**.
 - It initiated the **Standards & Labeling programme** for equipment and appliances in 2006 to provide the consumer an informed choice about the energy saving and thereby the cost saving potential of the relevant marketed product.
- Stat2: **AGMARK** is a certification mark employed on agricultural products in India, assuring that they conform to a set of standards approved by the **Directorate of Marketing and Inspection**, an agency of the Government of India.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/29/toy-traders-want-quality-control-order-suspended/>

247. Mediterranean Sea is a border of which of the following countries?

1. Jordan
2. Iraq



3. Lebanon

4. Syria

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 3 only

(d) 3 and 4 only

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **About the Mediterranean:**

- It is a vast sea positioned between Europe to the north, Africa to the south, and Asia to the east.
- **The Mediterranean Sea connects:**
 - to the Atlantic Ocean by the Strait of Gibraltar (known in Homer's writings as the "Pillars of Hercules") in the west
 - to the Sea of Marmara and the Black Sea, by the Straits of the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus respectively, in the east
 - The 163 km (101 mi) long artificial Suez Canal in the southeast connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/29/eu-urges-turkey-to-stop-mediterranean-drilling/>

248. Consider the following statements:

1. Now only the vaccine-derived polio virus remains in Africa.
2. Sudan is the last African country to be declared free from wild polio.
3. Wild polio is still present in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2



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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Africa has been declared free from wild polio** by the independent body, **the Africa Regional Certification Commission.**
- Now **only the vaccine-derived polio virus remains in Africa.**
- **When a country is certified as free of wild polio?**
 - A region is certified as free of wild polio after three years have passed without the virus being detected in any of its countries.
 - **Nigeria** is the last African country to be declared free from wild polio.
- **Where wild polio is still present?**
 - Wild polio is still present in Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- **What is a vaccine-derived poliovirus?**
 - It is a strain of the weakened poliovirus that was initially included in **oral polio vaccine (OPV)** and that has changed over time and behaves more like the wild or naturally occurring virus.
 - This means it can be spread more easily to people who are unvaccinated against polio and who come in contact with the stool or respiratory secretions, such as from a sneeze, of an infected person. These viruses may cause illness, including paralysis.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/29/africa-declared-free-of-wild-polio/>

249. Which of the following has launched “Chunauti”- Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest?

- (a) NITI
- (b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- (c) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- (d) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has launched “Chunauti”- Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest.**
- Aims and Objectives:
 - To further boost startups and software products with special focus on Tier-II towns of India.



- Identify around 300 startups working in identified areas and provide them seed fund of upto Rs. 25 Lakh and other facilities.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/29/chunauti-next-generation-start-up-challenge-contest/>

250. Consider the following statements about Barn Owls (*Tyto alba*):

1. It is found everywhere in the world except for the polar and desert regions.
2. It is listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **The barn owl** is found almost everywhere in the world **except for the polar and desert regions, Asia north of the Himalayas, most of Indonesia, and some Pacific islands.**
- Stat2: IUCN status- **Least Concern.**



Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/29/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-29-august-2020/>



RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 31th-Aug-2020

251. Consider the following pairs :

<i>Tradition</i>		<i>State</i>
1. Chapchar Kut festival	—	Mizoram
2. Khongiom Parba ballad	—	Manipur
3. Onam	—	Kerala

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

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Chapchar kut festival – Mizoram
- Khongiom parba ballad- Manipur
- **About the Onam festival:**
 - According to a popular legend, the festival is celebrated to welcome King Mahabali, whose spirit is said to visit **Kerala** at the time of Onam.
 - It is also celebrated as the **festival of paddy harvest**.
- **How is it celebrated?**
 - During the festival, people get dressed in their traditional attire, prepare the Onam Sadhya and take part in a variety of group activities such as the Pookolam (rangoli made with fresh flowers), Vallam Kali (boat race), Pulikali (tiger dance), Kai Kottu Kali (Onam dance), Kummattikali (mask dance) and various other activities.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/31/onam/>

252. Consider the following statements about Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India:

1. PVTGs reside in 18 States and one Union Territory.
2. A stagnant or declining population is one of the criteria for determining PVTG status.
3. Among the 75 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in Andhra Pradesh followed by Odisha.
4. Irular and Konda Reddi tribes are included in the list of PVTGs.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:



- 75 tribal groups have been categorized by Ministry of Home Affairs as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)s.
- Stat1: PVTGs reside in **18 States and UT of A&N Islands**.
- See <https://tribal.nic.in/pvtg.aspx>
- Stat2: The criteria followed for determination of PVTGs are as under:
 - A pre-agriculture level of technology;
 - A stagnant or declining population;
 - Extremely low literacy; and
 - Subsistence level of economy.
- Stat3: Among the **75 listed PVTG's** the highest number are found in **Odisha (13), followed by Andhra Pradesh (12)**.
- Stat4: Irulars are found in TN, whereas Konda Reddis are found in Andhra Pradesh (including Telangana).
 - See <https://tribal.nic.in/DivisionsFiles/SwLPVTGs.pdf>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/31/particularly-vulnerable-tribal-groups-pvtgs/>

253. Consider the following statements:

1. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) can amend the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964.
2. Currently, the powers to constitute Foreigners tribunals were vested only with the State.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation: **What is a Foreigners tribunal?**

- In 1964, the govt brought in **the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order**.
- **Composition:** Advocates not below the age of 35 years of age with at least 7 years of practice (or) Retired Judicial Officers from the Assam Judicial Service (or) Retired IAS of ACS Officers (not below the rank of Secretary/Addl. Secretary) having experience in quasi-judicial works.
- **Who can setup these tribunals?**
 - The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has amended the **Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964**, and has empowered **district magistrates in all States and Union Territories to set up tribunals** (quasi-judicial bodies) to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not.



- **Earlier**, the powers to constitute tribunals were vested only with the Centre.
- Typically, **the tribunals there have seen two kinds of cases:** those concerning persons against whom a reference has been made by the border police and those whose names in the electoral roll has a “D”, or “doubtful”, marked against them.
- **Who can approach?**
 - The amended order (Foreigners (Tribunal) Order, 2019) also empowers **individuals to approach the Tribunals. Earlier, only the State administration could move the Tribunal against a suspect.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/31/national-register-of-citizens-nrc-9/>

254. Consider the following statements with reference to National Population Register (NPR):

1. It is mandatory for only citizen of India to register in the National Population Register (NPR).
 2. NPR database would contain demographic as well as biometric details.
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **What is National Population Register (NPR)?**

- It is a **Register of usual residents of the country.**
 - NPR is a population register unlike NRC which is a citizenship register
- It is being **prepared at the local (Village/sub-Town), sub-District, District, State and National level under provisions of the Citizenship Act 1955 and the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003.**
- It is **mandatory for every usual resident of India to register in the NPR.**
- **Objectives:** To create a comprehensive identity database of every usual resident in the country.
- **Who is a usual resident?**
 - A usual resident is defined for the purposes of NPR as a **person who has resided in a local area for the past 6 months or more or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next 6 months or more.**
- **Components:**



- The NPR database would **contain demographic as well as biometric details.**
- As per the provisions of the NPR, **a resident identity card (RIC)** will be issued to individuals over the age of 18.
- This will be **a chip-embedded smart card** containing the demographic and biometric attributes of each individual.
- The **UID number will also be printed on the card.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/31/national-population-register-npr-5/>

255. Consider the following statements:

1. 'Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities' was the first U.N. human rights treaty of the twenty-first century.
2. India is a signatory of the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Stat1: [Source](#): The **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** was adopted in 2007 as the first major instrument of human rights in the 21st century.
 - It defines persons with disabilities as **those “who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others”.**
- Stat2: **India is a signatory of the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). It ratified this Convention on 01-10-2007** in pursuance of Article 35 of the Convention. India submitted its First Country Report on Status of Disability in India in November 2015.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/31/uns-guidelines-on-access-to-social-justice-for-people-with-disabilities/>

256. "Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)" run by:

- (a) Department of Economic Affairs
- (b) Department of Expenditure
- (c) Department of Revenue
- (d) Department of Financial Services

Ans: (d)

Explanation:



- Announced on 15th August 2014, PMJDY is **National Mission for Financial Inclusion** to ensure access to financial services, namely, Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner.
- Run by **Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance**.
- **PMJDY** has provided a platform for the three social security schemes viz. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY) and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY).

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/31/pradhan-mantri-jan-dhan-yojana/>

257. The functions of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) includes:

1. Recovering amounts overcharged by manufacturers for the controlled drugs from the consumers
2. Fixation and revision of prices of Scheduled drugs
3. Monitoring of prices of decontrolled drugs

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **About National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority:**

- NPPA was set-up as an **independent Regulator on 29th August, 1997** for pricing of drugs and to ensure availability and accessibility of medicines at affordable prices.
- The regulator is an attached office of the **Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers**.
- The functions of NPPA include fixation and revision of prices of scheduled drugs (those medicines included in Schedule I of the DPCO which are subject to price control) and formulations, Monitoring of prices of decontrolled drugs and formulations, Implementation and enforcement of the provisions of DPCO in accordance with the powers delegated, Monitoring the availability of drugs, identify shortages, taking remedial steps, etc.
- The organization is also entrusted with the task of recovering amounts overcharged by manufacturers for the controlled drugs from the consumers.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/31/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-31-august-2020/>



258. Which of the following **pairs (Geographical Indications: State)** is not matched correctly?

- (a) Blue pottery: Rajasthan
- (b) Aranmula Kannadi: Karnataka
- (c) Nakshi kantha: West Bengal
- (d) Kandhamal Haladi: Odisha

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **here the directive word is not correct!!**

- **Odisha's Kandhamal Haladi:**
 - It has a GI tag.
 - It is a pure organic product.
 - Tribals grow the tuber without applying fertiliser or pesticide.
- **Why in News?**
 - Despite a GI tag, the lockdown has meant meagre sales of the organic tuber.



Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/31/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-31-august-2020/>



259. Consider the following pairs:

- | <i>Crafts Heritage of:</i> | <i>Region</i> |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Channapatna Toys: | Karnataka |
| 2. Uppada Jamdani saris: | Tamil Nadu |
| 3. Sujni embroidery: | Bihar |

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Uppada Jamdani saris: Telangana
- Sujni embroidery: Bihar
- **Channapatna Toys: Karnataka**
 - Channapatna toys are a particular form of wooden toys (and dolls) that are manufactured in the town of Channapatna in the Ramanagara district of Karnataka state.
 - This traditional craft is protected as a geographical indication(GI).
 - As a result of the popularity of these toys, Channapatna is known as Gombegala Ooru (toy-town) of Karnataka.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/31/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-31-august-2020/>

260. Nathu La is a mountain pass, situated in:

- (a) Assam
- (b) Arunachal Pradesh
- (c) Ladakh
- (d) Sikkim

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Naku La** sector is a pass at a height of more than 5,000 metres above Mean Sea Level (MSL) in the state of **Sikkim**. It is located ahead of Muguthang or Cho Lhamu (source of River Teesta).

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/31/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-31-august-2020/>



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