



# INSIGHTSIAS

SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

## **RTM** COMPILATIONS PRELIMS **2020**

## **December** 2020



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## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 1<sup>st</sup>-Dec-2020

1. With reference to Indian Electoral System, consider the following statements:
1. The 'None of the Above' option on electronic voting machines has no electoral value.
  2. The NOTA option is meant only for universal adult suffrage and direct elections.
- 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 '**None of the Above**' option, simply put, **gives the voter the right to express a negative opinion by not selecting any of the candidates in the fray**. The Supreme Court envisaged NOTA as a way of cleansing the political system, "Negative voting will lead to a systemic change in polls and political parties will be forced to project clean candidates."
- S1: As an Election Commission official pointed, "**The NOTA option on EVMs has no electoral value. Even if the maximum number of votes cast is for NOTA**, the candidate getting the most of the remaining votes would be declared winner."
- Link: S2: A Bench, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dipak Misra held that the **NOTA option is meant only for universal adult suffrage and direct elections** and not polls held by the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote as done in the Rajya Sabha.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/01/hold-polls-where-nota-got-most-votes-petition/>

2. The Tenth Schedule was introduced in the Constitution of India during the prime ministership of:

- (a) Jawaharlal Nehru  
(b) Indira Gandhi  
(c) Morarji Desai  
(d) Rajiv Gandhi

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- The **Tenth Schedule** of the Constitution, inserted by The Constitution (**52nd Amendment**) Act, 1985, when **Rajiv Gandhi's government** was in power.
- It lays down the process by which legislators may be disqualified on grounds of defection by the Presiding Officer of a legislature based on a petition by any other member of the House.
- The law applies to both Parliament and state assemblies.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/01/mlc-disqualified-for-being-appointed-as-a-minister/>

3. Consider the following statements about the Financial Action Task Force (FATF):

1. It is an inter-governmental body established on the initiative of the G7.
2. Initially it was established to examine and develop measures to combat terrorist financing.



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: **About FATF:**

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body **established in 1989 on the initiative of the G7.**
- It is a **“policy-making body”** which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in various areas.
- The FATF **Secretariat is housed at the OECD headquarters in Paris.**
- **Roles and functions:**
  - **Initially it was established to examine and develop measures to combat money laundering.**
  - In October 2001, the FATF expanded its mandate to incorporate efforts to combat terrorist financing, in addition to money laundering.
  - In April 2012, it added efforts to counter the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
- **Composition:**
  - The FATF currently **comprises 37 member jurisdictions and 2 regional organisations**, representing most major financial centres in all parts of the globe. It also has observers and associate members.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/01/financial-action-task-force-fatf-7/>

4. Consider the following statements regarding Yamuna River:

1. It is a major tributary of river Ganges.
2. It originates from the Zemu glacier near Bandarpooch peaks in the Mussoorie range of the lower Himalayas.

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 river Yamuna is a **major tributary of river Ganges.**
- Originates from the **Yamunotri glacier near Bandarpooch peaks** in the Mussoorie range of the lower Himalayas in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand.
- It meets the Ganges at the Sangam in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh after flowing through Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi.
- Tributaries: Chambal, Sindh, Betwa and Ken.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/01/yamuna-river-pollution/>

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

1. China is the largest shareholder in NDB.
2. NDB does not have any members from outside Asia.
3. The bank is headquartered in Shanghai, China.

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

- (a) 1 and 2



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

Ans: (a)

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

- **About the New Development Bank:**
  - It is a multilateral development bank **operated by the BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).**
  - The New Development Bank was agreed to by BRICS leaders at the 5th BRICS summit held in Durban, South Africa in 2013.
  - **It was established in 2014, at the 6th BRICS Summit at Fortaleza, Brazil.**
  - The bank is set up to foster greater financial and development cooperation among the five emerging markets.
  - In the Fortaleza Declaration, the leaders stressed that the NDB will strengthen cooperation among BRICS and will supplement the efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global development.
  - **The bank will be headquartered in Shanghai, China.**
  - The initial authorized capital of the bank is \$100 billion divided into 1 million shares having a par value of \$100,000 each. The initial subscribed capital of the NDB is \$50 billion divided into paid-in shares (\$10 billion) and callable shares (\$40 billion). **The initial subscribed capital of the bank was equally distributed among the founding members. The Agreement on the NDB specifies that every member will have one vote no one would have any veto powers**
- **Roles and functions:**
  - The New Development Bank will mobilise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies and developing countries, to supplement existing efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global growth and development.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/01/fight-fake-news-brics-media-forum/>

6. With reference to Indian peacock soft-shell turtle, consider the following statements:

1. It is naturally found in India only.
2. It is protected under the Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act.

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: Indian peacock soft-shell turtle:

- It is a riverine turtle **endemic to India, Nepal, and Bangladesh.**
- They are generally omnivorous (predominantly carnivorous) and nocturnal.
- **Conservation Status:**
  - Vulnerable on IUCN Redlist.
  - The species is also listed under Appendix I of CITES.
  - **Protected under the Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act.**
  - Belongs to the family Trionychidae.



Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/insta-75-days-revision-plan-for-prelims-2020-instatests/>

7. If you want to see gharials in their natural habitat, which one of the following is the best place to visit?

- (a) Bhitarkanika Mangroves
- (b) Chambal River
- (c) Pulicat Lake
- (d) Deepor Beel

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Gharials** can be naturally found in **National Chambal Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary**. The gharial is one of three crocodilians native to India, the other two being the mugger crocodile and the saltwater crocodile.

Refer: <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/wildlife-biodiversity/more-than-5-000-gharials-born-in-chambal-sanctuary-66277>

8. In a given year in India, official poverty lines are higher in some States than in others because

- (a) poverty rates vary from State to State
- (b) price levels vary from State to State
- (c) Gross State Product varies from State to State
- (d) quality of public distribution varies from State to State

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Quoting a Planning Commission report, “For 2011-12, for rural areas the national poverty line using the Tendulkar methodology is estimated at Rs. 816 per capita per month and Rs. 1,000 per capita per month in urban areas. Thus, for a family of five, the all India poverty line in terms of consumption expenditure would amount to about Rs. 4,080 per month in rural areas and Rs. 5,000 per month in urban areas. **These poverty lines would vary from State to State because of inter-state price differentials.**”
- See [http://planningcommission.nic.in/news/pre\\_pov2307](http://planningcommission.nic.in/news/pre_pov2307) .pdf, page 2.



Source: UPSC CSE 2019

9. In the context of which one of the following are the terms 'pyrolysis and plasma gasification' mentioned?

- (a) Extraction of rare earth elements
- (b) Natural gas extraction technologies
- (c) Hydrogen fuel-based automobiles
- (d) Waste-to-energy technologies

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Like **incineration, pyrolysis, gasification and plasma technologies are thermal processes that use high temperatures to break down waste.** The main difference is that they use less oxygen than traditional mass-burn incineration.
- See [https://friendsoftheearth.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/gasification\\_pyrolysis.pdf](https://friendsoftheearth.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/gasification_pyrolysis.pdf)

Source: UPSC CSE 2019

10. Consider the following statements:

1. Agricultural soils release nitrogen oxides into environment.
2. Cattle release ammonia into environment.
3. Poultry industry releases reactive nitrogen compounds into environment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Agricultural soils contributed to over 70% of N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from India in 2010**, followed by **waste water (12%)** and residential and commercial activities (6%). Since 2002, N<sub>2</sub>O has replaced methane as the second largest Greenhouse Gas (GHG) from Indian agriculture.
- Cattle account for 80% of the ammonia production, though their annual growth rate is 1%, due to a stable population.
- The poultry industry, on the other hand, with an annual growth rate of 6%, recorded an excretion of reactive nitrogen compounds of 0.415 tonnes in 2016.
- See <https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/nitrogen-emissions-going-up-study/article24090131.ece>

Source: UPSC CSE 2019

## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 2<sup>nd</sup>-Dec-2020

11. With reference to Attorney General of India, consider the following statements:

1. The Attorney General (AG) is appointed by the President of India.
2. The term of office of the AG is fixed by the Constitution of India.
3. The AG has the right of audience in all courts in the territory of India.



Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- S1: The Attorney General (AG) is **appointed by the president**. He must be a person who is qualified to be appointed a judge of the Supreme Court.
- S2: **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.
- S3: In the performance of his official duties, the Attorney General has the **right of audience in all courts in the territory of India**. Further, he has the **right to speak and to take part in the proceedings of both the Houses of Parliament** or their joint sitting and any committee of the Parliament of which he may be named a member, but without a right to vote. He enjoys all the privileges and immunities that are available to a Member of Parliament.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/02/attorney-general-2/>

12. Consider the following statements:

1. Within the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) regulates pharmaceutical and medical devices, under the gamut of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2. The Drugs Prices Control Order (DPCO) issued by the Government of India under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to regulate the prices of drugs.

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:

- S1: In India, the **Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)** is the **national regulatory body** for Indian pharmaceuticals and medical devices.
  - Within the CDSCO, the **Drug Controller General of India (DCGI)** regulates pharmaceutical and medical devices, under the gamut of **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**. The DCGI is advised by the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) and the Drug Consultative Committee (DCC).
  - What is National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority and its role ?
  - <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/05/20/nppa-caps-prices-of-9-non-scheduled-drugs/>
- S2: **What is the “Drugs (Prices Control) Order (DPCO)”?**
  - The Drugs Prices Control Order is an order issued by the Government of India under **Sec. 3 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955** to regulate the prices of drugs.
  - The Order inter alia provides **the list of price controlled drugs, procedures for fixation of prices of drugs, method of implementation of prices fixed by Govt., penalties for contravention of provisions etc.**



- For the purpose of implementing provisions of DPCO, powers of Govt. have been vested in NPPA.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/02/what-is-the-emergency-use-authorisation-drug-makers-are-seeking-for-the-covid-19-vaccine/>

13. With reference to India's new farm laws passed in September (2020) to deregulate India's enormous agriculture sector, consider the following statements:

1. The new regulations allow traders to stockpile food.
2. The new laws do not make written contracts mandatory.
3. The new rules do not guarantee any minimum price for any product.

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:

- Farmer protests against the three new agriculture-related laws have gathered momentum.
- **The controversy pertains to:**
  - 'Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020'
  - Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020' and
  - Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill 2020.
- **What's the issue?**
  - A set of three laws passed in September aims to deregulate India's enormous agriculture sector.
  - The government says these laws will **"liberate" farmers from the tyranny of middlemen.**
  - But many farmers fear that **they stand to lose more than they could gain from the new regulations** and that **the main beneficiaries will be agricultural corporations with gargantuan financial firepower.**
- **So what do India's new farm laws do?**
  - They make it **easier for farmers to bypass government-regulated markets (known locally as mandis) and sell produce directly to private buyers.**
  - They can now enter into contracts with private companies, a practice known in India as **contract farming**, and sell across state borders.
  - The new regulations also **allow traders to stockpile food.** This is a shift away from prohibitions against hoarding, which could make it easier for traders to take advantage of rising prices, such as during a pandemic. Such practices were criminal offences under the old rules.
- **Concerns of farmers:**
  - More than **86 percent of India's cultivated farmland is controlled by smallholder farmers** who own less than two hectares (five acres) of land each.
  - The new rules remove many of their safeguards. **Small farmers fear** that they just do not have enough bargaining power to get the kinds of prices they need for a decent standard of living when they negotiate to sell their produce to larger companies.



- The new **laws also do not make written contracts mandatory**. So in the case of any violation of their terms, it can be very hard for a farmer to prove that he or she has been aggrieved, giving them little recourse.
- **The new rules do not guarantee any minimum price for any product**, and farmers worry that the existing MSP will be abolished at some point.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/02/why-are-the-framers-protesting-and-how-the-government-should-deal-with-protesting-farmers/>

14. Consider the following:

1. Areca nut
2. Barley
3. Coffee
4. Finger millet
5. Groundnut
6. Sesamum
7. Turmeric

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has announced the Minimum Support Price for which of the above?

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 7 only
- (b) 2, 4, 5 and 6 only
- (c) 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Government announces minimum support prices (MSPs) for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane.** The mandated crops are 14 crops of the kharif season, 6 rabi crops and two other commercial crops. In addition, the MSPs of toria and de-husked coconut are fixed on the basis of the MSPs of rapeseed/mustard and copra, respectively. The list of crops are as follows.
  - Cereals (7) - paddy, wheat, **barley**, jowar, bajra, maize and **ragi**
  - Pulses (5) - gram, arhar/tur, moong, urad and lentil
  - Oilseeds (8) - **groundnut**, rapeseed/mustard, toria, soyabean, sunflower seed, **sesamum**, safflower seed and nigerseed
  - Raw cotton
  - Raw jute
  - Copra
  - De-husked coconut
  - Sugarcane (Fair and remunerative price)
  - Virginia flu cured (VFC) tobacco

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/02/how-the-1-5-times-formula-for-crops-msp-is-calculated/>

15. Consider the following statements about Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP):

1. It is a statutory panel under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of India.
2. The Commission makes surprise visits to States for on-the-spot assessment of the various constraints that farmers face in raising the yield of their crops.

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 **Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP)** in the **Ministry of Agriculture** would recommend MSPs for 23 crops.
  - The CACP is an expert body that **recommends the MSPs** of the notified Kharif and Rabi crops to the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**.
- **Link:** The **Commission also makes visits to states for on-the-spot assessment of the various constraints that farmers face in marketing their produce**, or even raising the productivity levels of their crops. Based on all these inputs, the Commission then finalizes its recommendations/reports, which are then submitted to the government.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/02/how-the-1-5-times-formula-for-crops-msp-is-calculated/>

16. The characteristics of the rings inside a tree can tell us which of the following?

1. Age of a tree
2. Rainfall patterns
3. Soil moisture
4. Heat waves

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: (c)

Explanation:

- The characteristics of the **rings inside a tree can tell scientists how old a tree is and what the weather conditions were like during each year of that tree's life**. Very old trees can offer clues about what the climate in an area was like long before measurements were recorded.
- **How tree rings helped?**
  - As trees grow they incorporate information about the environmental conditions they are living in in their annual growth rings.
  - Tree rings **grow wider in years when soil moisture is high**. Trees in the region grow more and put on wide rings in wet monsoon years.
  - Conversely, **in dry monsoon years (or droughts) they grow less and put on narrow rings**.
  - Since some of these trees can live for a long time, by taking a small, pencil-thin tree-core from these trees and measuring their rings under a microscope scientists could learn more about climate conditions for the past several centuries.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/02/in-tree-rings-warning-of-brahmaputra-floods/>

17. Arrange the following pilgrimage sites in the direction of West to East:

1. Gangotri
2. Yamunotri



3. Kedarnath

4. Badrinath

Select the correct answer using the code below:

(a) 1-2-4-3

(b) 1-2-3-4

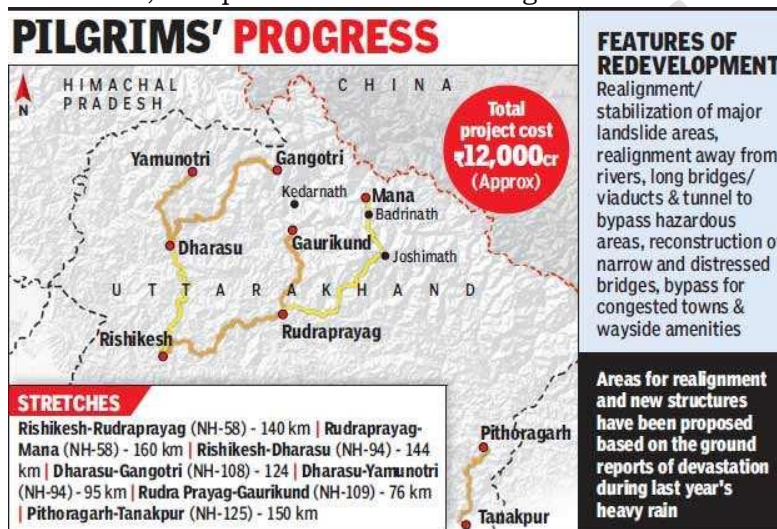
(c) 2-1-4-3

(d) 2-1-3-4

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **What is Chardham Project?**
- The project comprises improvement as well as the development of 889 km length of national highways.
- The project will connect Badrinath Dham, Kedarnath Dham, Gangotri, Yamunotri, and part of the route leading to Kailash Mansarovar yatra.



Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/02/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-2-december-2020/>

18. Consider the following statements:

1. Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) is released and compiled by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
2. A PMI above 50 represents an expansion in business activity when compared to the previous year.

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:

- **PMI or a Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** is an indicator of business activity — both in the manufacturing and services sectors.
- S1: Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) is released and compiled by the **Institute for Supply Management (ISM), USA**



- The PMI is usually released at the **start of the month**, much before most of the official data on industrial output, manufacturing and GDP growth becomes available
- It is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a composite index is constructed.
- **S2:** The headline PMI is a number from 0 to 100. **A PMI above 50 represents an expansion** when compared to the **previous month**. A PMI reading under 50 represents a contraction, and a reading at 50 indicates no change.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/02/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-2-december-2020/>

19. 'Green Charcoal Hackathon' was in news recently, is being organised by :

- (a) National Institution for Transforming India (NITI)
- (b) Council Of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- (c) NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd (NVVN)
- (d) The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **Green Charcoal Hackathon:**

- Launched by **NVVN (NTPC VidyutVyapar Nigam)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary company of NTPC Ltd.
- It is a technology challenge with an aim to fast-track technology developments conducted by NVVN in partnership with EESL (Energy Efficiency Services Ltd).
- The purpose of the event is to leverage the innovative Indian mind to bridge the technology gap, with the prime objective to:
  - Clean the air by eliminating farm fire, producing renewable energy out of the agro residue.
  - Promote local entrepreneurship.
  - Increase the income of the farmers.
  - The ultimate goals is to reduce the carbon footprint of the nation.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/02/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-2-december-2020/>

20. Which one of the following countries is a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation?

- (a) Azerbaijan
- (b) Tajikistan
- (c) Afghanistan
- (d) Belarus

Ans: (b)

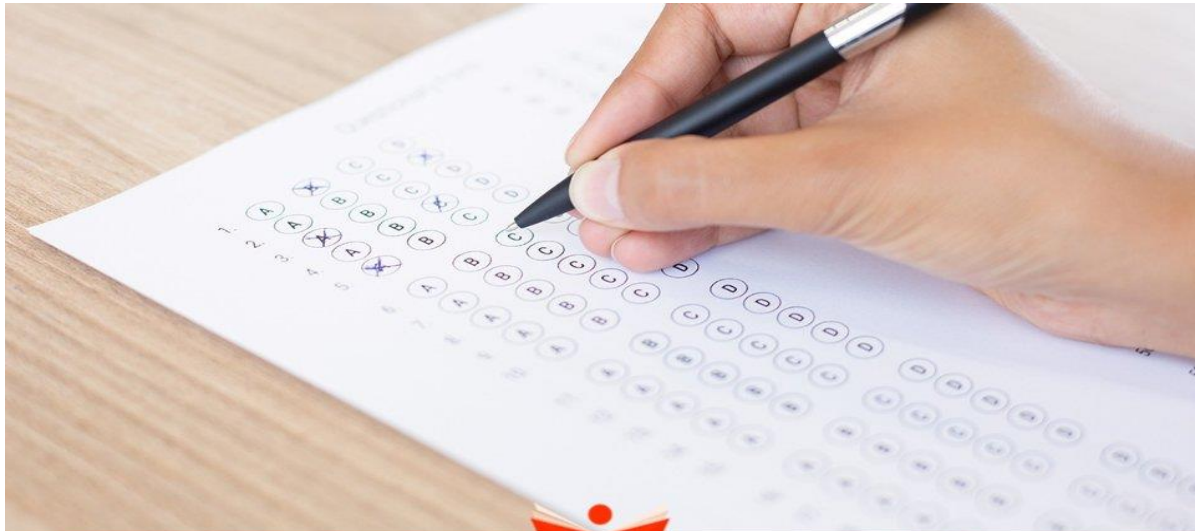
Explanation:

- **SCO Online International Exhibition:**
  - SCO Online Exhibition on Shared Buddhist Heritage was launched at the 19th Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council of Heads of Government (SCO CHG), held in New Delhi recently.
  - It is the first ever of its kind. It was developed and curated by the National Museum, New Delhi, in active collaboration with SCO member countries.
  - Participants: Museums from India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- The SCO currently comprises **eight Member States** (China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Pakistan, **Tajikistan** and Uzbekistan), **four Observer States**



interested in acceding to full membership (**Afghanistan, Belarus**, Iran, and Mongolia) and **six “Dialogue Partners”** (Armenia, **Azerbaijan**, Cambodia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Turkey).

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/02/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-2-december-2020/>



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### RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 3<sup>rd</sup>-Dec-2020

21. Which of the following is/are the favorable weather conditions under which a tropical cyclone usually develops?

1. Warm ocean water
2. Zero Coriolis force
3. High wind shear

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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



Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- S3: Tropical Cyclones require **low wind shear** to form. Wind shear is the change in wind speed or direction with height in the atmosphere. High wind shear will slow spinning cyclones down and prevent them from lasting a long time.
- S2: Tropical cyclones need to form at least five degrees of latitude away from the equator. During a tropical cyclone, the **Coriolis Force deflects winds blowing towards the low pressure** center of the storm and creates circulation.
- S1: Tropical cyclones can only form over **ocean surfaces** that are **at least 27 degrees Celsius warm**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/03/why-cyclone-burevi-will-not-be-as-strong-as-cyclone-nivar/>

22. Consider the following statements with reference to contempt of court proceedings in India:

1. The consent of President of India is mandatory when a private citizen wants to initiate a case of contempt of court against a person.
  2. The Contempt of Courts Act 1971 defines civil and criminal contempt.
- 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 the law on contempt of courts?**
  - The **Contempt of Courts Act 1971** defines **civil and criminal contempt**, and lays down the powers and procedures by which courts can penalise contempt, as well as the penalties that can be given for the offence of contempt.
  - Contempt of court is the offense of being disobedient to or disrespectful toward a court of law and its officers in the form of behavior that opposes or defies the authority, justice and dignity of the court.
- **Why is the consent of the Attorney General required to initiate contempt proceedings?**
  - The objective behind requiring the consent of the Attorney General **before taking cognizance of a complaint** is **to save the time of the court**.
  - This is necessary because **judicial time is squandered** if frivolous petitions are made and the court is the first forum for bringing them in.
  - The AG's consent is meant to be **a safeguard against frivolous petitions**, as it is deemed that the AG, as an officer of the court, will **independently ascertain whether the complaint is indeed valid**.
- **Under what circumstances is the AG's consent not needed?**
  - The AG's consent is **mandatory when a private citizen wants to initiate a case of contempt of court against a person**.
  - However, when **the court itself initiates a contempt of court case the AG's consent is not required**.
  - This is because the court is exercising its inherent powers under the Constitution to punish for contempt and such Constitutional powers cannot be restricted because the AG declined to grant consent.
- **What happens if the AG denies consent?**
  - If the AG denies consent, the matter all but ends.



- The **complainant can, however, separately bring the issue to the notice of the court** and urge the court to **take suo motu cognizance**.
- **Article 129 of the Constitution** gives the Supreme Court the power to initiate contempt cases on its own, independent of the motion brought before it by the AG or with the consent of the AG.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/03/consent-for-contempt/>

23. World Malaria Report 2020 is released by which of the following?

- (a) United Nation Development Programme (UNDP)
- (b) Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)
- (c) World Health Organization (WHO)
- (d) Both (a) and (c)

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **WHO World Malaria Report 2020:**
- Key findings:
  - India has made considerable progress in reducing its malaria burden.
  - India is the only high endemic country which has reported a decline of 17.6% in 2019 as compared to 2018.
  - The Annual Parasitic Incidence (API) reduced by 27.6% in 2018 compared to 2017 and by 18.4% in 2019 as compared to 2018. India has sustained API less than one since year 2012.
  - India has also contributed to the largest drop in cases region-wide, from approximately 20 million to about 6 million. The percentage drop in the malaria cases was 71.8% and deaths was 73.9% between 2000 to 2019.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/03/who-world-malaria-report-2020/>

24. Mosquito responsible for malaria transmission:

- (a) Aedes aegypti
- (b) Aedes albopictus
- (c) Anopheles
- (d) Haemagogus

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Malaria** is caused by **Plasmodium parasites** transmitted through the bites of infected **female Anopheles mosquitoes**, which are active mainly between dusk and dawn.
- **Spread:** Female Anopheles mosquitoes deposit parasite sporozoites into the skin of a human host.
- **Four kinds of malaria parasites infect humans:**
  - Plasmodium falciparum, P. vivax, P. ovale, and P. malariae. In addition, P. knowlesi, a type of malaria that naturally infects macaques in Southeast Asia, also infects humans, causing malaria that is transmitted from animal to human ("zoonotic" malaria).
- **There are currently no licensed vaccines against malaria.** One research vaccine against *P. falciparum*, known as RTS, S/AS01, is most advanced. This vaccine has been evaluated in a clinical trial in 7 countries in Africa and received a positive opinion by the European Medicines Agency.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/03/who-world-malaria-report-2020/>



25. Which one of the following country has not ratified the Paris climate agreement?

- (a) Kyrgyzstan
- (b) Lebanon
- (c) Iran
- (d) Russia

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Iran, Iraq and Libya** – all among the 14-member Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) – and states torn by conflicts such as **Yemen and South Sudan** have **not ratified the agreement**.
- **Angola was the latest country to ratify the climate deal on 12 August 2020.**
- **Kyrgyzstan ratified on 18 February and Lebanon on 5 February.**
- Turkey is now the only member of the G20 not to have formally endorsed the deal after **Russia ratified in October 2019.**



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/03/panel-formed-to-oversee-indias-paris-climate-goals/>

26. With reference to Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), consider the following statements:

1. It was the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning the production of an entire category of weapons,
2. It is a legally binding treaty.
3. India is party to this convention.

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:

- S1: BWC is the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning the development, production and stockpiling of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, was opened for signature on 10 April 1972. The BWC entered into force on 26 March 1975.
- S2: It is a legally binding treaty.
- S3: India signed the BWC with some reservations on January 15, 1973 and ratified the treaty a year and a half later on July 15, 1974.
- The BWC bans:
  - The development, stockpiling, acquisition, retention, and production of:
  - Biological agents and toxins “of types and in quantities that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes,”
  - Weapons, equipment, and delivery vehicles “designed to use such agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict.”
  - The transfer of or assistance with acquiring the agents, toxins, weapons, equipment, and delivery vehicles described above.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/03/bioweapons/>

27. In which state Vikramshila Dolphin Sanctuary is located?

- (a) West Bengal  
(b) Uttara Pradesh  
(c) Bihar  
(d) Jharkhand

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **Bihar plans migratory bird festival to raise awareness about them:**

- Bihar is holding a bird festival for the first time as part of its initiative to save migratory birds that arrive in the state in large numbers every year.
- The festival is being organised in eastern Bihar’s Bhagalpur district which has special significance. This was because the 60-kilometre-long stretch of the **Vikramshila Dolphin Sanctuary** between Sultanganj and Kahalgaon had long been a hub of migratory birds.
- Some prominent migratory birds arriving in Bhagalpur include bar-headed goose, steppe eagle, Ferruginous duck, Eurasian curlew, white wagtail, great crested grebe, common greenshank and Eurasian coot.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/03/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-3-december-2020/>

28. Which two countries are separated by McMahon line?

- (a) India and Bangladesh  
(b) India and Myanmar  
(c) India and China  
(d) India and Pakistan

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- The **McMahon Line** forms the northern **boundary** of Arunachal Pradesh in the eastern Himalayas administered by **India** but claimed by **China**. The area was the focus of the 1962 Sino-**Indian** War.
- **Sumdorong Chu:**



- In 1986–87, a military standoff took place between India and China in the Sumdorong Chu Valley bordering the Tawang district, Arunachal Pradesh and Cona County, Tibet.
- The standoff was the first military confrontation along the disputed **McMahon Line** after the 1962 war and gave rise to fears of escalation.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/03/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-3-december-2020/>

29. 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:

- **Participatory Notes are Overseas Derivative Instruments that have Indian stocks as their underlying assets.** They allow foreign investors to buy stocks listed on Indian exchanges without being registered. The instrument gained popularity as FIIs, to avoid the formalities of registering and to remain anonymous, started betting on stocks through this route.

Source: UPSC CSE 2019

30. With reference to the Indian Economy, consider the following statements:

1. 'Commercial Paper' is a short term unsecured promissory note.
2. 'Certificate of Deposit' is a long-term instrument issued by the Reserve Bank of India to a corporation.
3. 'Call Money' is a short term finance used for interbank transactions.
4. 'Zero-Coupon Bonds' are the interest bearing short term bonds issued by the Scheduled Commercial Banks to corporations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- RBI does not issue CDs to corporations, so S2 is wrong.
- S4 is incorrect too. Zero Coupon Bonds are G-secs that are issued at a discount and redeemed at par. No interest payment is made on such bonds at periodic intervals before maturity.

Source: UPSC CSE 2020



## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 4<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2020

31. Consider the following statements:

1. According to the representation of people act, 1951, a person convicted of a criminal offence and sentenced to imprisonment for at least five years is permanently disqualified from contesting an election even after his release from prison.
2. The Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959 exempts several posts from disqualification on the grounds of 'Office of Profit'.

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:

- S1: Specifically, Section 8 of RPA, 1951 states the grounds for disqualification on conviction of certain offences pursuant to Section 8 of RPA, 1951, in case the candidate is convicted of certain offences specified under sub-section (1) (2) (3) of Sec. 8 and sentenced to indicated fine or imprisonment, then such a candidate is disqualified from being a member of either house of Parliament or State Legislature **from the date of such conviction till the stated time.**
- S1: According to Articles 102(1)(a) and 191(1)(a) of Constitution, legislators (MP or MLA) can be barred from holding office of profit under Central Government or state government as it can put them in position to gain financial benefit.
- The Supreme Court recently held that the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Act, 2006 exempting 55 offices occupied by members of Parliament from disqualification was constitutionally valid. See <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/Supreme-Court-upholds-office-of-profit-law/article16876481.ece>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/04/convicted-legislators-cant-be-barred-for-life-from-polls/>

32. Which of the following is not one of the three important components of Accessible India Campaign.

- (a) Built Environment Accessibility
- (b) Transportation System Accessibility
- (c) Skills and Employment Accessibility
- (d) Information and Communication Eco-System Accessibility

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- The deadline for the government's Accessible India campaign that aims at making public spaces friendly for persons with disabilities has been extended due to slow progress. The revised deadlines have been extended to March 2020.
- Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) has launched Accessible India Campaign (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) as a nation-wide Campaign for achieving universal accessibility for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). It has the following three important components:
  - Part A: **Built Environment Accessibility**
    - These would include not only buildings, but also footpaths, curb cuts, and obstacles that block the flow of pedestrian traffic.



- Part B: **Transportation System Accessibility**
  - The term transportation covers a number of areas including air travel, buses, taxis, and trains.
- Part C: **Information and Communication Eco-System Accessibility**
- Access to information refers to all information. This can range from actions such as being able to read price tags, to physically enter a hall, to participate in an event, to read a pamphlet with healthcare information, to understand a train timetable, or to view webpages.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/04/how-much-of-indias-population-lives-with-disabilities/>

33. Consider the following statements:

1. Postal ballots, through this facility, a voter can cast her vote remotely by recording her preference and sending it back to the election officer before counting.
2. Not all, but a restricted set of voters can exercise postal voting.
3. Voters under preventive detention can vote only by post.

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:

- The Election Commission has announced that it will allow those above the age of 65 as well as those under home or institutional quarantine **to vote using postal ballots** during the Bihar elections. Opposition parties are unhappy with the move and termed it unconstitutional. Here is a look at what are postal ballots and the controversy around it.
- **What is postal voting?**
  - A restricted set of voters can exercise postal voting. Through this facility, a voter can cast her vote remotely by recording her preference on the ballot paper and sending it back to the election officer before counting.
- **Who can avail this facility?**
  - Members of the armed forces like the Army, Navy and Air Force, members of the armed police force of a state (serving outside the state), government employees posted outside India and their spouses are entitled to vote only by post. In other words, they can't vote in person. Voters under preventive detention can also vote only by post.
  - Special voters such as the President of India, Vice President, Governors, Union Cabinet ministers, Speaker of the House and government officers on poll duty have the option to vote by post. But they have to apply through a prescribed form to avail this facility.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/04/how-nris-could-vote-by-post/>

34. Which of the following community members are “one of, if not the most discriminated people in the world” said by the United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres?

- (a) Palestinians
- (b) Uyghurs
- (c) Rohingyas
- (d) Kurds

Ans: (c)



Explanation:

- **Who are Rohingyas?**
  - They are an Ethnic group, mostly Muslims. They were not granted full citizenship by Myanmar.
  - They were classified as “resident foreigners or associate citizens”.
  - Ethnically they are much closer to Indo-Aryan people of India and Bangladesh than to the Sino-Tibetans of the Country.
  - Described by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as **“one of, if not the, most discriminated people in the world”**.
- **Where are they now?**
  - About 860,000 Rohingya live in the world’s largest and most densely populated refugee camp in southern Bangladesh.
  - The Myanmar and Bangladesh governments continue to negotiate terms for the repatriation of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar.
  - According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, there are approximately 40,000 Rohingyas living in India.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/04/bangladesh-begins-shifting-rohingya/>

35. Which of the following pardoning powers of President is/are also available to Governors?

1. He can suspend or commute a death sentence.
2. He can grant pardon, reprieve, respite, suspension, remission or commutation in respect to punishment or sentence by a court-martial.

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: (a)

Explanation:

**Table 26.3** Comparing Pardoning Powers of President and Governor

President	Governor
1. He can pardon, reprieve, respite, remit, suspend or commute the punishment or sentence of any person convicted of any offence against a Central law.	1. He can pardon, reprieve, respite, remit, suspend or commute the punishment or sentence of any person convicted of any offence against a state law.
2. He can pardon, reprieve, respite, remit, suspend or commute a death sentence. He is the only authority to pardon a death sentence.	2. He cannot pardon a death sentence. Even if a state law prescribes for death sentence, the power to grant pardon lies with the President and not the governor. But, the governor can suspend, remit or commute a death sentence.
3. He can grant pardon, reprieve, respite, suspension, remission or commutation in respect to punishment or sentence by a court-martial (military court).	3. He does not possess any such power.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/04/what-is-the-bribery-for-presidential-pardon-scheme-unveiled-by-the-us-justice-department/>

36. With reference to shapes of economic recovery, consider the following statements:

1. The Z-shaped recovery is the most-optimistic scenario in which the economy quickly rises like a phoenix after a crash.



2. In V-shaped recovery the economy quickly recoups lost ground and gets back to the normal growth trend-line.

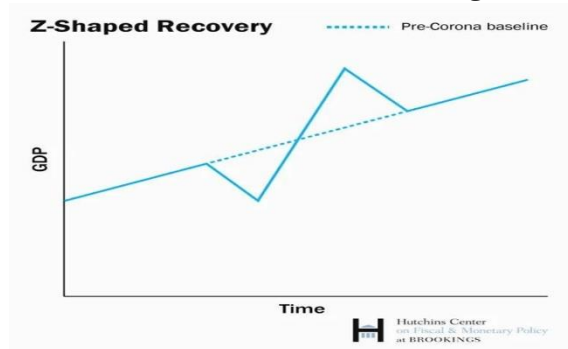
Which of the given above statements is/are not correct?

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

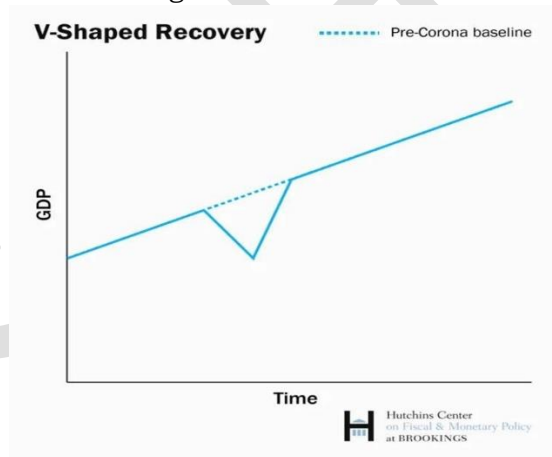
Ans: (d)

Explanation: Here the directive word is not correct!!

- **S1: The Z-shaped recovery** is the most-optimistic scenario in which the economy quickly rises like a phoenix after a crash. It more than makes up for lost ground (think revenge-buying after the lockdowns are lifted) before settling back to the normal trend-line, thus forming a Z-shaped chart.



- **S2: In V-shaped recovery** the economy quickly recoups lost ground and gets back to the normal growth trend-line.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/04/economy-firmly-on-the-path-of-a-v-shaped-recovery-says-govt/>

37. The “Culture of Peace” session was in news recently, is organized by:

- (a) UN General Assembly
- (b) UNESCO
- (c) UNICEF
- (d) UNFCCC

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **“Culture of Peace” session:**
- Organised by the UN General Assembly.



- The UN has organised such sessions each year since 1997.
- **The Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace** was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on September 13, 1999.
- This occurred after ten months of negotiations in the context of preparations for **the International Year for the Culture of Peace**.
- At the latest session, India asked the United Nations to **expand its criticism of hatred and violence against religions beyond the three Abrahamic religions — Judaism, Christianity and Islam**.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/04/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-4-december-2020/>

38. 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:

- Statement 1: It is a NGO, not a bureau under UNEP. So, 1 is wrong.
- TRAFFIC is governed by the TRAFFIC Committee, a steering group composed of members of TRAFFIC's partner organizations, WWF and IUCN.
- Statement 2: 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: <http://www.traffic.org/overview>

Source: UPSC CSE 2017

39. Which principle among the following was added to the Directive Principles of Stat Policy by the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution?

- (a) Equal pay for equal work for both men and women
- (b) Participation of workers in the management of industries
- (c) Right to work, education and public assistance
- (d) Securing living wage and human conditions of work to workers

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- The 42nd Amendment added new Directive Principles, viz Article 39A, Article 43A and Article 48A.
- Article 43A deals with 'Participation of workers in management of industries'.
- <http://indiacode.nic.in/coiweb/amend/amend42.htm>

Source: UPSC CSE 2017

40. In the context of solving pollution problems, what is/are the advantage/advantages of bioremediation technique?



1. It is a technique for cleaning up pollution by enhancing the same biodegradation process that occurs in nature.
2. Any contaminant with heavy metals such as cadmium and lead can be readily and completely treated by bioremediation using microorganisms.
3. Genetic engineering can be used to create microorganisms specifically designed for bioremediation.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: (c)

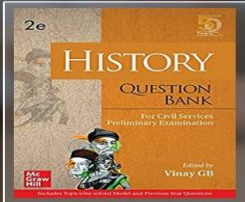
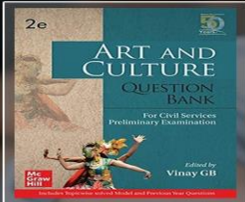
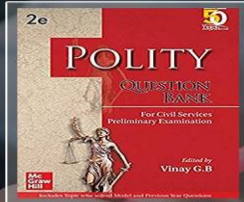
Explanation:

- Statement 1: Bioremediation uses naturally occurring organisms to break down hazardous substances into less toxic or non toxic substances.
- Statement 2: Always be cautious of extreme statements and words as we have repeatedly pointed out in our 2017 Prelims Test Series. Completely and readily (quickly) are such words here.
- Bio-remediation is a slow process, so. Heavy metals such as cadmium and lead are NOT readily absorbed or captured by microorganisms. UPSC had lifted this straight from Wikipedia.
- Statement 3: This will be a standard practice in the industry in coming years. For e.g. Alcanivorax, a bacteria with oil-eating abilities, can be used to create species that are much more capable of cleaning oil spills.
- Refer: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/05/160509115556.htm>
- <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-microbes-clean-up-oil-spills/>


Source: UPSC CSE 2017

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## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 5<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2020

41. The words 'Shalya tantra' and 'Shalakya tantra' are mentioned in media in reference to:

- (a) the ancient medical practice in India
- (b) the earliest dharmashastra texts written in aphoristic (Sutra) style
- (c) an ancient wind-powered iron smelting technology in India
- (d) powerful merchant guilds of early medieval south India

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- The government has notified **compulsory surgical procedures for PG students of Ayurveda.**
- **How far is surgery part of Ayurveda?**
- There are two branches of surgery in Ayurveda:
  - **Shalya Tantra**, which refers to general surgery, and **Shalakya Tantra** which pertains to surgeries related to the eyes, ears, nose, throat and teeth.
  - **All postgraduate students of Ayurveda have to study these courses**, and some go on to specialise in these, and become Ayurveda surgeons.
- The 2016 regulations allow postgraduate students to specialise in Shalya Tantra, Shalakya Tantra, and Prasuti evam Stree Roga (Obstetrics and Gynecology), the three disciplines involving major surgical interventions.
- Students of these three disciplines are granted MS (Master in Surgery in Ayurveda) degrees.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/05/surgery-as-part-of-ayurveda/>

42. Technical textiles are:

- (a) the high-tenacity fibres which are lightest and toughest fabrics mainly used in automobile and aerospace industries
- (b) the toughest fabrics which are much heavier than polyester and used in power industries
- (c) the toughest fabrics having rigidity mainly used in polyhouse construction
- (d) the high-tenacity fabrics having fire resistance property

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Technical textiles are defined as **textile materials and products manufactured primarily for their technical performance and functional properties** rather than aesthetic and decorative characteristics.
- **Technical textiles include** textiles for automotive applications, medical textiles, geotextiles, agrotiles, and protective clothing.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the setting up of a National Technical Textiles Mission at an total outlay of ₹1,480 Crore.
- Aim: To position the country as a global leader in technical textiles and increase the use of technical textiles in the domestic market.
- Key facts: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/02/27/national-technical-textiles-mission/>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/05/ministry-seeks-proposals-for-technical-textiles-body/>

43. Consider the following statements regarding the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND):



1. It was established by United Nations General Assembly.
  2. It is the central drug policy-making body within the United Nations system.
- 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:

- S1: **The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)** was established by **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)** resolution 9(I) in 1946, to assist the ECOSOC in supervising the application of the international drug control treaties. In 1991, the General Assembly (GA) expanded the mandate of the CND to enable it to function as the governing body of the UNODC.
  - **About ECOSOC:** <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/07/17/un-economic-and-social-council-ecosoc/>
- S2: it is the central drug policy-making body within the United Nations system and has important functions under the international drug control conventions.
- Extra Reading:
  - The main organs of the UN are **the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the UN Secretariat.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/05/un-removes-cannabis-from-most-dangerous-drug-category-what-this-means/>

44. With reference to solar power production in India, consider the following statements:
1. India is the third largest in the world in the manufacture of silicon wafers used in photovoltaic units.
  2. The solar power tariffs are determined by the Solar Energy Corporation of India.
- 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:

- S1: Every solar panel which is made in India is assembled while all the material comes from China, Europe and some other countries. India is yet to develop semiconductor clusters.
  - Read more: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/blue-wafer-solar-cells-not-to-qualify-under-domestically-made-product-to-get-govt-benefits-govt-clarifies-119102101265\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/blue-wafer-solar-cells-not-to-qualify-under-domestically-made-product-to-get-govt-benefits-govt-clarifies-119102101265_1.html)
- S2: **Central Electricity Regulatory Commission** determines solar power tariffs and regulates the tariff of generating companies owned or controlled by the Central Government.
- **Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI)** has a power-trading license, but it does not set solar power tariffs.
  - SECI is a company of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
  - It is established to facilitate the implementation of the National Solar Mission (NSM).



- It is the only Central Public Sector Undertaking dedicated to the solar energy sector.
- Refer: <https://www.seci.co.in/>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/05/what-is-indias-sprawling-renewable-energy-park-coming-up-on-its-border-with-pakistan/>

45. The terms 'Superposition' and 'Entanglement' are sometimes seen in the news in the context of:

- (a) Quantum supremacy
- (b) Reducing the global warming
- (c) First observation of gravitational waves
- (d) Deep Space network

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **What is Quantum Supremacy?**

- It is a term **proposed in 2012 by John Preskill**, professor of theoretical physics at the California Institute of Technology.
- It describes **the point where quantum computers can do things that classical computers cannot.**
- **Superposition and entanglement** are what give quantum computers the ability to process so much more information so much faster.

- **Differences between a standard computer and a quantum computer:**

- **A classical computer** performs calculations using bits that is 0 representing off and 1 representing on. It uses transistors to process information in the form of sequences of zeros and ones called computer binary language. More transistors more processing ability.
- **A quantum computer** uses the laws of quantum mechanics. Here, different states can be achieved in particles due to their **internal angular momentum called spin**. The two states 0 and 1 can be represented in the spin of the particle.
- Thus, in a classical computer information is expressed through single number either 0 or 1.
- A quantum computer uses **qubits which is described as a 0 and 1 at the same time giving us more processing power.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/05/quantum-supremacy-3/>

46. Consider the following statements regarding the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):

1. It is specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
2. It is headquartered in Rome, Italy.
3. The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) was started by the FAO to safeguard and support the UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

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:



- In its **June 2020 Food Outlook Report**, the **UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)** stated that **the world meat output** was set to contract row to 333 million tonnes, 1.7% less than in 2019.
- **75th Anniversary of FAO:**  
<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/15/75th-anniversary-of-fao/>
- **About FAO:**
  - It is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.
  - Headquarters: Rome, Italy
  - Founded: 16 October 1945
  - Goal of FAO: Their goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.
- **Important reports and Programmes (Have a brief overview):**
  - Global Report on Food Crises.
  - Every two years, FAO publishes the State of the World's Forests.
  - FAO and the World Health Organization created the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 1961 to develop food standards, guidelines and texts.
  - In 1996, FAO organized the World Food Summit. The Summit concluded with the signing of the Rome Declaration, which established the goal of halving the number of people who suffer from hunger by the year 2015.
  - In 2004 the Right to Food Guidelines were adopted, offering guidance to states on how to implement their obligations on the right to food.
  - FAO created the International Plant Protection Convention or IPPC in 1952.
  - FAO is depositary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, also called Plant Treaty, Seed Treaty or ITPGRFA, entered into force on 29 June 2004.
  - **Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) was started by the FAO to safeguard and support the world's agricultural heritage systems**
    - **GIAHS Partnership Initiative was conceptualized in 2002 during World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/05/lab-grown-meat-cleared-in-singapore-emerging-alternative-worldwide/>

47. With reference to Ken-Betwa river interlinking project, consider the following statements:

1. It is the country's first river interlinking project.
2. The project aims to transfer surplus water from the Ken river in Madhya Pradesh to Betwa in Uttara Pradesh.
3. Both Ken and Betwa rivers originate in Madhya Pradesh and are the tributaries of Yamuna.

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 Ken- Betwa project:**



- Conceived as a **two-part project**, this is **the country's first river interlinking project**.
- It is perceived as a **model plan for similar interstate river transfer missions**.
- The project **aims to transfer surplus water from the Ken river in MP to Betwa in UP to irrigate the drought-prone Bundelkhand region** spread across the districts of two states mainly Jhansi, Banda, Lalitpur and Mahoba districts of UP and Tikamgarh, Panna and Chhatarpur districts of MP.
- **Key facts:**
  - Ken and Betwa rivers originate in MP and are the tributaries of Yamuna.
  - Ken meets with Yamuna in Banda district of UP and with Betwa in Hamirpur district of UP.
  - Rajghat, Paricha and Matatila dams are over Betwa river.
  - Ken River passes through Panna tiger reserve.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/05/ken-betwa-interlinking-project-dam/>

48. With reference to India's Panna National Park, which of the following statements are correct?

1. It is spread over two districts.
2. It has been declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve.
3. Ken River passes through Panna tiger reserve.

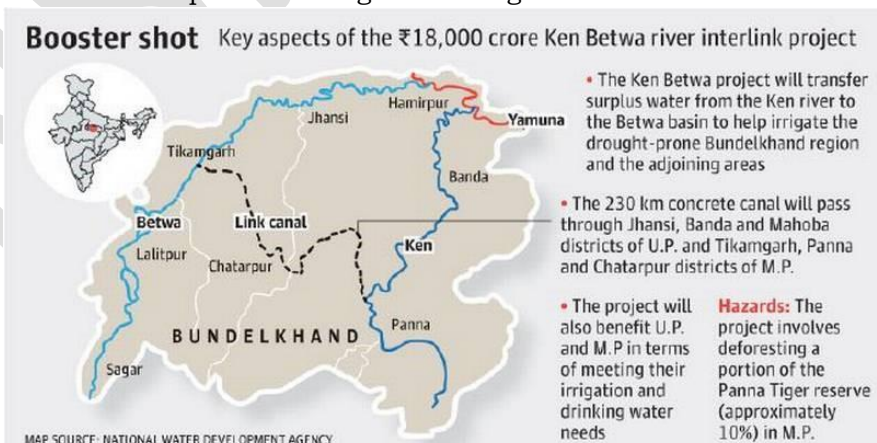
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- S1: **Panna National Park** is a national park located in **Panna and Chhatarpur districts of Madhya Pradesh** in India.
- S2: It is a UNESCO Designated Biosphere Reserve status of which was given in October 2020. Read: <https://www.outlookindia.com/outlooktraveller/travelnews/story/70818/panna-tiger-reserve-gets-unescos-biosphere-reserve-status>
- S3: Ken River passes through Panna tiger reserve.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/05/ken-betwa-interlinking-project-dam/>



49. With reference to the 'Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA)' which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. GACSA is an outcome of the Climate Summit held in Paris in 2015.
2. Membership of GACSA does not create any binding obligations.
3. India was instrumental in the creation of GACSA.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect because the concept of **Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) was originally developed by FAO and officially presented and at the Hague Conference on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change in 2010**, through the paper "Climate-Smart Agriculture: Policies, Practices and Financing for Food Security, Adaptation and Mitigation". In 2014 an alliance was set up with this issue as its focal point: the GACSA (Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture).
- GACSA is an inclusive, voluntary and action-oriented multi-stakeholder platform on Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA). Its vision is to improve food security, nutrition and resilience in the face of climate change. GACSA aims to catalyse and help create transformational partnerships to encourage actions that reflect an integrated approach to the three pillars of CSA.
- Statement 2 is correct because **membership in the Alliance does not create any binding obligations and each member individually determines the nature of its participation.**
- Statement 3 is incorrect because India is just a signatory.

Source: UPSC CSE 2018

50. Regarding Money Bill, which of the following statements is not correct?

- a) A bill shall be deemed to be money bill if it contains only provisions related to imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax.
- b) A Money Bill has provisions for the custody of the Consolidated Fund of India or the Contingency Fund of India.
- c) A Money Bill is concerned with appropriation of moneys out of the Contingency Fund of India.
- d) A Money Bill deals with the regulation of borrowing of money or giving of any guarantee by the government of India

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **A110. Definition of Money Bill**
- (1) For the purposes of this Chapter, a Bill shall be deemed to be a Money Bill if it contains only provisions dealing with all or any of the following matters, namely
  - (a) the imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax;
  - (b) the regulation of the borrowing of money or the giving of any guarantee by the Government of India, or the amendment of the law with respect to any financial obligations undertaken or to be undertaken by the Government of India;
  - (c) the custody of the consolidated Fund or the Contingency Fund of India, the payment of moneys into or the withdrawal of moneys from any such Fund;



- (d) the appropriation of moneys out of the consolidated Fund of India (not Contingency Fund of India). So, C is incorrect.

Source: UPSC CSE 2018

## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 7<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2020

51. With reference to Hampi the Capital City of Vijayanagara Empire, Consider the following statements:

1. It was a part of the Mauryan Empire back in the third century BC.
2. It is located near the Netravati River.
3. It is a pilgrimage centre of the Hindu religion.

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 Hampi:**

- It was **the last capital of the last great Hindu Kingdom of Vijayanagar.**
- **S1: It was a part of the Mauryan Empire back in the third century BC.**
- It is **a UNESCO World Heritage site.**
- **S2: Its name is derived from Pampa which is the old name of the Tungabhadra River on whose banks the city is built.**
- **S3: The site used to be multi-religious and multi-ethnic; it included Hindu and Jain monuments next to each other.**

- **Architecture:**

- It has been described by UNESCO as an **“austere, grandiose site”** of more than 1,600 surviving remains of the last great Hindu kingdom in South India.
- The buildings here predominantly followed South Indian Hindu arts and architecture dating to the **Aihole-Pattadakal styles**, but the Hampi builders also used elements of **Indo-Islamic architecture in the Lotus Mahal, the public bath and the elephant stables.**
- **Hemkunta Hill**, south of the Virupaksha temple contains early ruins, Jain temples and a monolithic sculpture of Lord Narasimha, a form of Lord Vishnu.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/07/hampi-chariot-cant-be-touched/>

52. Siachen Glacier is situated to the

- (a) East of Aksai Chin
- (b) East of Leh
- (c) North of Gilgit
- (d) North of Nubra Valley

Ans: (d)

Explanation:



- The **Siachen Glacier** is a **glacier located** in the eastern Karakoram range in the Himalayas.
- It demarcates central Asia from the Indian subcontinent, and separates Pakistan from China in the region. The Saltoro Ridge of the Siachin glacier serves as a divide that prevents direct linking of PoK with China, stopping them to develop geographical military linkages in the area.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/07/jk-administration-seeks-review-of-order-on-roshni-act/>

53. Consider the following statements:

1. In India, citizenship is regulated by the Citizenship Act, 1955.
2. The Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) seeks to fast-track citizenship for persecuted minority groups in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

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:

- S1: In India, citizenship is regulated by the Citizenship Act, 1955. The Act specifies that citizenship may be acquired in India through five methods – by birth in India, by descent, through registration, by naturalisation (extended residence in India), and by incorporation of territory into India.
- S2: **What's the concern wrt to CAA?**
  - The CAA **fast-tracks citizenship-by-naturalisation process for persons from six religious communities, other than Muslims**, who have fled persecution from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.
  - The petitions against CAA have argued that **a law that welcomes "illegal migrants" into India selectively on the basis of their religion, is against principles of secularism, right to equality and dignity of life enshrined in the Basic Structure of the Constitution.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/07/140-pleas-against-caa-hang-fire/>

54. Consider the following statements:

1. Currently, Minimum Support Price (MSP) does not have any legal backing.



2. The MSP is fixed twice a year on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
3. Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) an attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of 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:

- S1: **Minimum Support Price** is a safety net given to the farmers to ensure guaranteed prices and assured markets. The MSP-based procurement system is aimed to save the crops from price fluctuations due to various unwarranted factors such as the monsoon, lack of market integration, information asymmetry and other elements of market imperfection plaguing Indian agriculture. However, **currently MSP does not have any legal backing**. The three new farm laws also do not have any provision for MSP.
- S2: The **MSP is fixed twice a year** on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)
- S3: The CACP, as its website states, is just “an **attached office of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**, Government of India”. It can recommend MSPs, but the decision on fixing (or even not fixing) and enforcement rests finally with the government.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/07/understanding-the-concept-of-trade-areas-in-farm-laws/>

55. With reference to Properties of Microwaves, consider the following statements:

1. Microwaves radiate electromagnetic energy with shorter wavelength.
2. Microwaves are reflected by Ionosphere.
3. Microwaves can pass through glass and plastic.

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:

- **What are Microwaves?**
  - Microwaves are defined as **electromagnetic radiations** with a frequency **ranging between 300 MHz to 300 GHz** while the wavelength ranges from 1 mm to around 30 cm.
  - They fall between the **infrared radiation and radio waves in the electromagnetic spectrum**.
- **Properties of microwaves:**
  - Metal surfaces reflect microwaves.
  - Microwaves of certain frequencies are absorbed by water.
  - Microwave transmission is affected by wave effects such as refraction, reflection, interference, and diffraction.
  - **S3:** Microwaves can pass through glass and plastic.
  - **S2:** Microwaves are not reflected by Ionosphere.



- **S1:** Microwaves are the waves that radiate electromagnetic energy with shorter wavelength.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/07/microwave-energy-likely-made-u-s-officials-ill/>

56. Consider the following statements:

1. Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) is the first regulatory body set up by the Government of India.
2. One of the tasks of PNGRB is to, ensure competitive markets for gas.
3. Appeals against the decisions of PNGRB go before the Appellate Tribunals for Electricity.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Context:
  - **The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB)** has notified a new tariff structure for 14 natural gas pipelines.
- **What is the change?**
  - Under the new unified tariff structure, buyers will be charged a fixed tariff for the transport of gas within 300 kms of a source and a fixed tariff for the transport of gas beyond 300 kms on a single pipeline network.
  - This, PNGRB says, would be significantly cheaper for buyers further away from the source of gas that were earlier charged on the basis of the number of pipelines used and the distance from the source of gas.
  - Therefore, a buyer using multiple pipelines in GAIL's networks would likely benefit significantly from this change.
- S1: PNGRB was constituted in 2006, and therefore S1 cannot be correct. A number of regulatory bodies have existed before.
- S2: The board has several functions such as to provide, by regulations, and enforce, retail service obligations for retail outlets and marketing service obligations for entities; monitor transportation rates and take corrective action to prevent restrictive trade practice by the entities etc. This clearly indicates that it ensures a competitive market for gas. See <http://www.pngrb.gov.in/Functions-of-Board.html>
- S3: This is correct. The Appellate Tribunal established under section 110 of the Electricity Act, 2003 (36 of 2003) shall be the Appellate Tribunal for PNGRB. See <http://www.pngrb.gov.in/the-act.html#bm9>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/07/petroleum-boards-new-unified-tariff-structure-its-impact-and-challenges-in-implementation/>

57. Consider the following pairs:

- | <i>Elephant Reserves</i>     | <i>State</i> |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Kameng Elephant Reserve   | Assam        |
| 2. Intanki Elephant Reserve  | Nagaland     |
| 3. Nilambur Elephant Reserve | Kerala       |
| 4. Periyar Elephant Reserve  | Tamil Nadu   |

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?



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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Kameng Elephant Reserve - Arunachal Pradesh
- **Intanki Elephant Reserve - Nagaland**
- **Nilambur Elephant Reserve - Kerala**
- Periyar Elephant Reserve - Kerala
- Elephant reserves in India:  
<https://vikaspedia.in/energy/environment/biodiversity-1/fauna-of-india/elephant-reserves-in-india>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/07/ngt-seeks-action-plan-on-elephant-corridors/>

58. Which of the following **pairs (GI tags: State)** is/are not correctly matched?

- (a) Idu Mishmi Textiles: Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Kandangi Saree: Tamil Nadu
- (c) Kaji Nemu: Odisha
- (d) Thangi of Pangi: Himachal Pradesh

Ans: (c)

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

- **Himachal Pradesh wants GI status for five products:**
  - These include- Karsog Kulth, **Thangi of Pangi**, Chamba Metal Crafts, Chamba Chukh, and Rajmah of Bharmour.
  - How many registered GIs do Himachal currently have?
  - There are eight GI tags, that include four handicrafts (Kullu Shawl, Chamba Rumal, Kinnauri Shawl and Kangra Paintings), three agricultural products (Kangra Tea, Basmati and Himachali Kala Zeera) and one manufactured product (Himachali Chulli Oil).
- Kandangi Saree: Tamil Nadu
- **Kaji Nemu: Assam**
- Idu Mishmi Textiles: Arunachal Pradesh

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/07/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-7-december-2020/>

59. On December 6, the country observed Mahaparinirvan Diwas, which marks the death anniversary of:

- (a) Lal Bahadur Shastri
- (b) Babasaheb Ambedkar
- (c) Ram Manohar Lohia
- (d) Jayaprakash Narayan

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **What is Mahaparinirvan Divas?**

- On December 6, the country observed Mahaparinirvan Diwas, which marks the death anniversary of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar.
- **What is Mahaparinirvan?**
- Parinirvan is one of the major principles and goals of Buddhism. The Sanskrit term (written in Pali as parinibbana) means “nirvana after death”, which refers to



the achievement of nirvana after the body dies. As per the Buddhist text, i.e. Mahaparinibbana Sutta, the death of Lord Buddha at the age of 80 is considered as the original Mahaparinirvan.

- **Why is BR Ambedkar linked to it?**
  - Dr Ambedkar passed away on December 6, 1956, just a few days after completing his last work, **The Buddha and His Dhamma**.
  - Because of his stature and contributions to the eradication of untouchability in India, he was considered to be a Buddhist guru.
  - His followers and supporters believe that Ambedkar was as influential, pure and blessed as Lord Buddha. And this is the reason Ambedkar's death anniversary is referred to as Mahaparinirvan Divas.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/07/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-7-december-2020/>

60. What is 'Tokamak', sometimes seen in the news?

- (a) An Israeli radar system
- (b) An American anti-missile system
- (c) A defence collaboration between Japan and South Korea
- (d) A device used in nuclear-fusion research for magnetic confinement of plasma

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- A **tokamak** is a device which uses a powerful magnetic field to confine hot plasma in the shape of a torus. The **tokamak** is one of several types of magnetic confinement devices being developed to produce controlled thermonuclear fusion power.
- **HL-2M Tokamak:**
  - China successfully powered up its "artificial sun" nuclear fusion reactor (HL-2M Tokamak reactor) for the first time marking a great advance in the country's nuclear power research capabilities.
  - **Key Points:**
    - The HL-2M Tokamak reactor is China's largest and most advanced nuclear fusion experimental research device.
    - The mission is named Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST).
    - Located in Sichuan province and completed late last year, the reactor is often called an "artificial sun" on account of the enormous heat and power it produces.
    - It uses a powerful magnetic field to fuse hot plasma and can reach temperatures of over 150 million degrees Celsius—approximately ten times hotter than the core of the sun.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/07/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-7-december-2020/>



## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 8<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2020

61. The 'Havana syndrome' was in news recently, is associated with which of the following?

- (a) Nuclear radiation
- (b) Cosmic radiation
- (c) Ultraviolet radiation
- (d) Microwave radiation

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Nearly four years ago a mysterious neurological illness, referred to as **"Havana syndrome"**, started to afflict American diplomats and intelligence operatives in Cuba, China, and other countries.
- Now, a report by the National Academies of Sciences (NAS) has found **"directed" microwave radiation to be its "plausible" cause.**
- **What is the 'Havana syndrome'?**
  - In late 2016, US diplomats and other employees stationed in Havana reported feeling ill after hearing strange sounds and experiencing odd physical sensations in their hotel rooms or homes.
  - The symptoms included nausea, severe headaches, fatigue, dizziness, sleep problems, and hearing loss, which have since come to be known as **"Havana Syndrome"**.
- **What causes the 'Havana syndrome'?**
  - **Directed pulsed RF energy** appears to be the most plausible mechanism in explaining these cases among those that the committee considered.
  - The immediate symptoms that patients reported including sensations of pain and buzzing sound apparently emanated from a particular direction, or occurred in a specific spot in a room.
- **What are Microwaves?**
  - <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/07/microwave-energy-likely-made-u-s-officials-ill/>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/08/what-is-havana-syndrome-what-does-the-latest-report-say-about-the-mysterious-illness/>

62. If you travel by train from Paris (France) to Amsterdam (Netherlands), what is the minimum number of countries through which you can travel, including the origin and the destination?

- (a) 2
- (b) 3
- (c) 4
- (d) 5

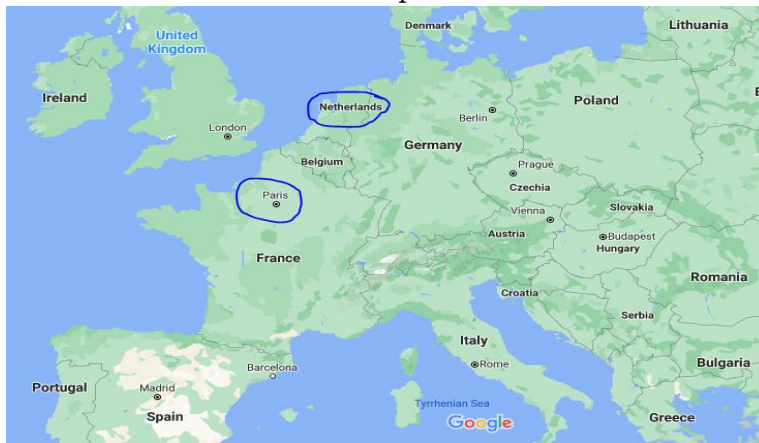
Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Context:** France government introduced a controversial security bill in parliament that seeks **to provide greater powers and protections for police officers.**
- **Location and borders of France:**
  - The vast majority of France's territory and population is situated in Western Europe and is called Metropolitan France, to distinguish it from the country's various overseas polities.



- It is bordered by the North Sea in the north, the English Channel in the northwest, the Atlantic Ocean in the west and the Mediterranean sea in the southeast.
- Its land borders consist of Belgium and Luxembourg in the northeast, Germany and Switzerland in the east, Italy and Monaco in the southeast, and Andorra and Spain in the south and southwest.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/08/what-is-the-controversy-about-frances-new-security-law/>

63. With reference to Light detection and ranging (Lidar), consider the following statements:

1. It is a remote sensing method used to examine the surface of the Earth.
2. As of today, airplanes and helicopters are the only used platforms for acquiring lidar data over broad areas.

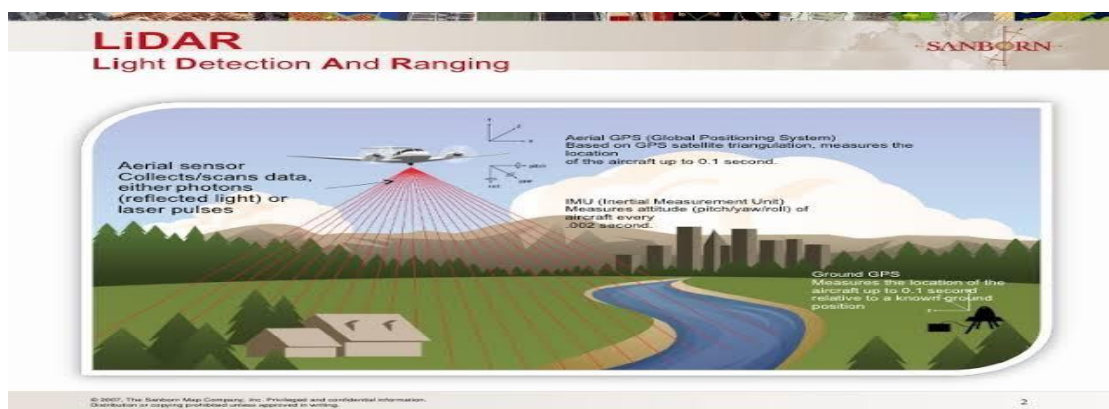
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Lidar, which stands for Light Detection and Ranging**, is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a **pulsed laser to measure ranges** (variable distances) to the Earth. These light pulses—combined with other data recorded by the **airborne system** — generate precise, three-dimensional information about the shape of the Earth and its surface characteristics.
- **A lidar instrument principally consists of a laser, a scanner, and a specialized GPS receiver.** Airplanes and helicopters are the most commonly used platforms for acquiring lidar data over broad areas. Two types of lidar are topographic and bathymetric. Topographic lidar typically uses a near-infrared laser to map the land, while bathymetric lidar uses water-penetrating green light to also measure seafloor and riverbed elevations.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/08/light-detection-and-ranging-survey-lidar-technique/>

64. Consider the following statements:

1. Food fortification has the increased nutritional micronutrient content embedded in the crop being grown.
2. Biofortification increases the nutritional value of foods by adding trace amounts of micronutrients to foods during processing.

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: **How does Biofortification differ from food fortification?**

- **Biofortification** has the increased nutritional micronutrient content embedded in the crop being grown.
  - Read: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/15/what-is-biofortification/>
- **Food fortification** increases the nutritional value of foods by adding trace amounts of micronutrients to foods during processing.
  - According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), food fortification is defined as the practice of deliberately increasing the content of essential micronutrients so as to improve the nutritional quality of the food supply and to provide a public health benefit with minimal risk to health.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/08/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-8-december-2020/>

65. Consider the following statements about the Lion-tailed macaque:

1. It is an old world monkey endemic to the Western Ghats of South India.
2. It is protected under Schedule I, Part I, of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. It is listed as 'Vulnerable' as per the IUCN Red list.

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:

- **Context:**
  - Ramnagar Forest Division in Nainital district, Uttarakhand, recently built its first eco-bridge for reptiles and smaller mammals.



A macaque crosses a canopy bridge in a rainforest on Valparai plateau in Anamalai Hills, Tamil Nadu.

- **Habitat**
  - Mainly diurnal arboreal, it prefers the upper canopy of primary tropical evergreen rainforest but may also be found in monsoon forest in hilly country and in disturbed forest.
  - It can be found in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala in the western ghat region.
  - Unlike other macaques, **it avoids humans**
- **Threat**
  - Habitat loss and degradation— due to deforestation for logging, conversion of forest to farmland. Logging leads to a scarcity of the fruit on which the monkeys feed, which is particularly devastating. Creation of exotic plantations such as tea, eucalyptus and coffee
  - Hunting — for food, medicinal uses
  - Pet trade
  - Certain features of the reproductive biology and ecology of this species (such as large inter-birth periods, seasonal resource availability, and female competition for mating opportunities) combine to make it intrinsically rare in the wild.
- **Conservation efforts**
  - listed as 'Endangered' as per the IUCN Red list.
  - Appendix I of CITES
  - Schedule I, Part I, of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
- **Protected areas**
  - Kudremukh National Park — Karnataka
  - Periyar National Park — Kerala
  - Silent Valley National Park — Kerala
  - Shendurney Sanctuary — Kerala
  - Indira Gandhi Sanctuary — Tamil Nadu
  - Kalakkad Sanctuar — Tamil Nadu

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/08/building-bridges-in-the-forest-to-help-wildlife/>

66. Consider the following statements about the Tharu community:

1. This community belongs to the Terai lowlands.
  2. They are included in the list of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- 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:

- **S1: Who exactly are the Tharu people?**
  - **The community belongs to the Terai lowlands**, amid the Shivaliks or lower Himalayas. Most of them are forest dwellers, and some practice agriculture.
  - The word tharu is believed to be derived from sthavir, meaning followers of Theravada Buddhism.
  - The Tharus live in both India and Nepal. In the Indian terai, they live mostly in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.
  - Tharu women have stronger property rights than is allowed to women in mainstream North Indian Hindu custom.
- **S2: About 'Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)':**
  - PVTGs are **more vulnerable among the tribal groups**.
  - They have declining or stagnant population, low level of literacy, pre-agricultural level of technology and are economically backward.
  - They generally inhabit remote localities having poor infrastructure and administrative support.
  - **Identification:**
    - In 1975, the Government of India initiated to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category called PVTGs and declared 52 such groups, while in 1993 an additional 23 groups were added to the category, making it a total of 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes, spread over 18 states and one Union Territory (A&N Islands) in the country (2011 census).
    - Among the 75 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in Odisha (13), followed by Andhra Pradesh (12).
  - **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.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/08/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-8-december-2020/>

67. With reference to Vadhavan port project, consider the following statements:

1. The port will be developed on the landlord model.
2. This will be 13th major port in 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: (c)

Explanation:

- **Vadhavan port project:**
  - The Vadhavan port will be India's 13th major port.
  - It has been planned as an 'All Weather, All Cargo' satellite port to enhance capabilities in handling deep draft ships and larger vessels.



- The port project is part of the Centre's Sagarmala initiative that aims to make Indian ports major contributors to the country's GDP.
- The Port will have a dedicated road and rail service so as not to interfere with the local traffic, thereby avoiding any clutter within the local transportation.
- It will be developed on a "landlord model".
- **What is landlord model?**
  - In the landlord port model, the publicly governed port authority acts as a regulatory body and as landlord while private companies carry out port operations—mainly cargo-handling activities.
  - Here, the port authority maintains ownership of the port while the infrastructure is leased to private firms that provide and maintain their own superstructure and install own equipment to handle cargo.
  - In return, the landlord port gets a share of the revenue from the private entity.
  - The role of the landlord port authority would be to carry out all public sector services and operations such as the award of bids for cargo terminals and dredging.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/08/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-8-december-2020/>

68. With reference to Organic farming in India, Consider the following statements:

1. Sikkim is the only Indian state to have become fully organic so far.
2. Area under organic cultivation is 20% of the net sown area 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: (a)

Explanation:

- S2: Organic farming is in a nascent stage in India. About 2.78 million hectare of farmland was under organic cultivation as of March 2020, according to the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. **This is two per cent of the 140.1 million ha net sown area in the country.**
- S1: **Sikkim** became the first State in the world to become fully organic in 2016.
  - After Sikkim, **Lakshadweep is the first Union Territory** to become 100 per cent organic as all farming is carried out without the use of synthetic fertilisers and pesticides, providing access to safer food choices and making agriculture a more environment-friendly activity.
  - The ministry of agriculture has declared the island as organic.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/08/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-8-december-2020/>

69. Consider the following statements:

1. A Zoo (Zoological Park) is a facility used for ex situ conservation of animals.
2. The Central Zoo Authority (CZA) is the body of the government of India responsible for oversight of zoos.
3. The CZA has been constituted under the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 2 only



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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- S1: Ex situ conservation literally means, "Off-site conservation". **It is the process of protecting an endangered species, variety or breed, of plant or animal outside its natural habitat.**
  - Botanical gardens, and zoos are the most conventional methods of Ex-situ conservation.
- S2: The **Central Zoo Authority (CZA)** is the body of the government of India responsible for oversight of zoos. It is an affiliate member of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)
- S3: The Central Zoo Authority has been constituted under the section 38A of **Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972.**
- **Two new Zoos granted recognition by Central government:**
  - The Rajgir Zoo Safari in Nalanda, Bihar and Shaheed Ashfaq Ullah Khan Prani Udyaan in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh were granted recognition.
  - Approved at the 37th General Body meeting of Central Zoo Authority.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/08/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-8-december-2020/>

70. Consider the following statements about Invest India:

1. It is the India's national Investment Promotion & Facilitation Agency.
2. It was set up in 2009, as a non-profit venture under the Ministry of Finance.

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:

- S1: Invest India, India's **national Investment Promotion & Facilitation Agency**. It focuses on sector-specific investor targeting and development of new partnerships to enable sustainable investments in India.
- S2: Invest India, **set up in 2009, is a non-profit venture** under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, Government of India.
- **Investment Promotion Award 2020:**
  - The United Nations (UNCTAD) has declared Invest India- the National Investment Promotion Agency of India- as a winner of the 2020 United Nations Investment Promotion Award.
  - The award recognizes and celebrates the outstanding achievements and best practices of Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) across the globe.
  - UNCTAD is a central agency that monitors performance of IPAs and identifies global best practices. Germany, South Korea and Singapore have been some of the past winners of the award.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/08/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-8-december-2020/>



## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 9<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2020

71. With reference to the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR), consider the following statements:
1. The Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) is spread across 12 Indian States.
  2. To the south of the Pir Panjal lies the Dhauladhar range.
  3. The National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) is the only site-specific mission that aims to take suitable measures for safeguarding the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR).

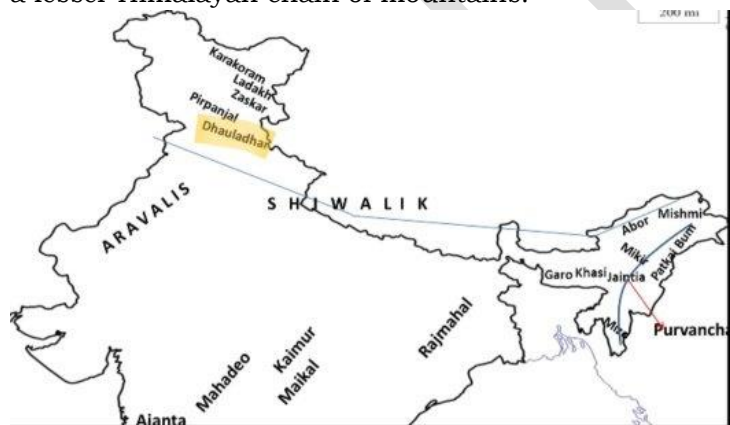
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- S1: The Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) is the section of the Himalayas within India, spanning **11 Indian states and 2 union territories** namely UTs of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, and States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya, Assam and West Bengal.
- S2: To the south of the Pir Panjal lies the Dhauladhar range. This range is part of a lesser Himalayan chain of mountains.



- Read: **Jalandhar sees Dhauladhar range the first time ever. Stunned Internet thanks lockdown:**  
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/a-view-to-remember-himachal-pradeshs-dhauladhar-range-visible-from-jalandhar/return-of-the-birds/slideshow/74990979.cms>
- S3: Out of the eight national missions which are part of the **National Action Plan on Climate Change**, NMSHE is the only site-specific mission that aims to take suitable measures for safeguarding the Indian Himalayan Region.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/09/how-mount-everest-got-3-feet-higher-endorsed-by-both-nepal-and-china/>

72. With reference to National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), consider the following statements:

1. It was constituted under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).



2. It is the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the any orders passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

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 NCLAT:**
  - National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was **constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013.**
- **Functions:**
  - It hears appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT), with effect from 1st June, 2016.
  - It is the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT(s) under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).
  - It is the Appellate Tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.
  - It is the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- **Composition:**
  - The President of the Tribunal and the chairperson and Judicial Members of the Appellate Tribunal shall be **appointed after consultation with the Chief Justice of India.**
  - The Members of the Tribunal and the Technical Members of the Appellate Tribunal shall be appointed on the recommendation of a Selection Committee consisting of:
    - Chief Justice of India or his nominee—Chairperson.
    - A senior Judge of the Supreme Court or a Chief Justice of High Court— Member.
    - Secretary in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs—Member.
    - Secretary in the Ministry of Law and Justice—Member.
    - Secretary in the Department of Financial Services in the Ministry of Finance— Member.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/09/national-company-law-appellate-tribunal-nclat-2/>

73. Consider the following pairs:

Commonly used / consumed materials and Unwanted or controversial chemicals likely to be found in them

- |                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Lipstick          | Lead                      |
| 2. Soft drinks       | Brominated vegetable oils |
| 3. Chinese fast food | Monosodium glutamate      |

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

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



(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Context :**
  - At least 550 people fell sick in Eluru town in Andhra Pradesh since Saturday evening due to an undiagnosed illness.
  - Following this, the AIIMS team conducted the blood tests.
- **What caused this?**
  - The results indicate **lead and nickel** content in drinking water or/and milk as the possible reason behind people falling ill.
- Statement 1: It is one of the ingredients. [www.safecosmetics.org/get-the-facts/regulations/us-laws/lead-in-lipstick/](http://www.safecosmetics.org/get-the-facts/regulations/us-laws/lead-in-lipstick/)
- Statement 2: Brominated vegetable oil is used primarily to help emulsify citrus-flavored soft drinks, preventing them from separating during distribution.
- Statement 3: This was found in Maggi.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/09/eluru-mystery-disease-aiims-finds-traces-of-lead-in-blood-samples-of-affected/>

74. With reference to Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), consider the following statements:

1. It was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 December 1948.

2. The Declaration is not a legally binding instrument.

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:

- Context:
  - **Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights** provides that “everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest this religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.”
- Read: **10 December, 2019 marked the 71st anniversary** of the adoption of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**.  
<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/04/18/rstv-in-depth-human-rights-day-2019/>
- The **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)** is an international document adopted by the United Nations General Assembly that enshrines the rights and freedoms of all human beings
  - It was accepted by the **General Assembly** as Resolution on 10 December **1948**.
  - **Although not legally binding**, the contents of the UDHR have been elaborated and incorporated into subsequent international treaties, regional human rights instruments, and national constitutions and legal codes.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/09/pakistan-china-violate-religious-freedom-u-s/>

75. With reference to International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), consider the following statements:

1. It is an intergovernmental organization.
2. It is headquartered in Lyon, France.
3. India has been a member since 1956.

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:

- **Context:**
  - The **cyber wing of the Maharashtra Police** recently acquired software from **Interpol** that would help them track down child pornography uploaded online.
- S1: It is an intergovernmental organization.
- S2: It is headquartered in Lyon, France.
- S3: India has been a member since 1956.
- Refer: <https://www.interpol.int/en/Who-we-are/What-is-INTERPOL>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/09/how-maharashtra-police-will-use-software-to-crack-down-on-child-porn/>

76. Consider the following statements:

1. Sri Lanka has been called “the pearl of the Indian ocean”.
2. Indian subcontinent is geographically separated from the Sri Lanka by the Gulf of Mannar and the Malacca Strait.

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: **Sri Lanka to get \$300 mn Chinese tyre factory:**

- Sri Lanka has announced the first large-scale Chinese investment in manufacturing in the country, a \$300-million tyre factory near a strategic deep-sea port.
- The factory will be adjacent to the Hambantota port, which was leased to a Chinese company in 2017 after Sri Lanka failed to service the \$1.4-billion debt from Beijing used to build it.
- Background:
  - Western nations, as well as regional power India, have long been concerned about Chinese influence in Sri Lanka through projects under its gargantuan Belt and Road infrastructure initiative.
- S1 and 2: Sri Lanka has been called “**the pearl of the Indian ocean**” because of its shape and location. It is geographically separated from the Indian subcontinent by the **Gulf of Mannar and the Palk Strait**.



Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/09/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-9-december-2020/>

77. With reference to Partners in Population and Development (PPD), consider the following statements:

1. It is an intergovernmental organization.
2. Its Secretariat is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
3. Currently, PPD has the membership of 74 developing countries.

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: **Partners in Population and Development (PPD):**

- Context:
  - Inter-Ministerial Conference by Partners in Population and Development (PPD). India took part in it.
- **About PPD:**
  - It is an **intergovernmental organisation** for promoting south-south cooperation in the fields of reproductive health, population, and development.
  - Its **Secretariat** is located in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**.
  - **Currently, PPD has the membership of 26 developing countries**, representing more than 59% of the world's population.
  - Launched at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), when ten developing countries from Asia, Africa and Latin America formed an intergovernmental alliance to help implement the Cairo Program of Action (POA).
  - This POA, endorsed by 179 nations, stresses the need to establish mechanisms to promote development through the sharing of experiences in reproductive health (RH) and family planning (FP) within and among countries and to promote effective partnerships among the governments, NGOs, research institutions and the private sector.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/09/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-9-december-2020/>

78. Nameri Tiger reserve, sometime seen in the news, is located in which of the following state?

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Assam
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Nameri National Park** is a national park in the foothills of the eastern Himalayas in the Sonitpur District of **Assam, India**.
- **Nameri shares its northern boundary with the Pakhui Wildlife Sanctuary of Arunachal Pradesh**. Together they constitute an area of over 1000 km<sup>2</sup> of which Nameri has a total area of 200 km<sup>2</sup>.
- Nameri is also declared as Tiger Reserve in the year 1999-2000, which is the 2nd Tiger reserve of Assam after **Manas Tiger Reserve**. It has 2 core areas: Nameri



National Park & **Sonai- Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary** (Satellite Core of the Nameri Tiger Reserve).

- The river Jia- Bhoroli is the lifeline of Nameri, which flows along the Southern boundary of the park from North- West to South- East. In the eastern side, the river Bor- Dikorai flows along the southern boundary from North- East to South- West which is the tributary of river Jia- Bhoroli.

Refer: <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2020/nov/24/royal-bengal-tiger-attacks-people-after-straying-out-of-assam-forest-two-injured-2227446.html>

79. Consider the following pairs of dams and the states they are located:

- |                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Tungabhadra Dam      | : Andhra Pradesh |
| 2. Koyna Dam            | :Maharastra      |
| 3. Krishnarajasagar Dam | :Karnataka       |
| 4. Hirakud dam          | :Punjab          |

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:

#### List Of Major Dams in India

Dam	State	River
Bhavani Sagar dam	Tamil Nadu	Bhavani
<b>Tungabhadra Dam</b>	<b>Karnataka</b>	<b>Tungabhadra</b>
Rihand Dam	Uttar Pradesh	Rihand
Maithon Dam	Jharkhand	Barakar
Koyna Dam	Maharastra	Koyna
Bisalpur Dam	Rajasthan	Banas
Mettur Dam	Tamil Nadu	Kaveri
Krishnarajasagar Dam	Karnataka	Kaveri
Indira Sagar Dam	Madhya Pradesh	Narmada
Cheruthoni Dam	Kerala	Cheruthoni
Sardar Sarovar Dam	Gujarat	Narmada
NagarjunaSagar Dam	Andhra Pradesh	Krishna
<b>Hirakud dam</b>	<b>Odisha</b>	<b>Mahanadi</b>
Bhakra Nangal Dam	Punjab	Sutlej
Tehri Dam	Uttarakhand	Bhagirathi

Refer: <https://www.mapsofindia.com/maps/dams/>

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

- TRAFFIC is a bureau under United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- 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:

- Statement 1: **It is a NGO, not a bureau under UNEP.** So, 1 is wrong.
- TRAFFIC is governed by the TRAFFIC Committee, a steering group composed of members of TRAFFIC's partner organizations, WWF and IUCN.
- Statement 2: 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: <http://www.traffic.org/overview>

Source: UPSC CSE 2017

## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 10<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2020

81. Consider the following statements:

1. It is mandatory for every "usual resident" of India to register in the National Population Register (NPR).
2. The data collected under NPR can be used for identifying beneficiaries of welfare programme.

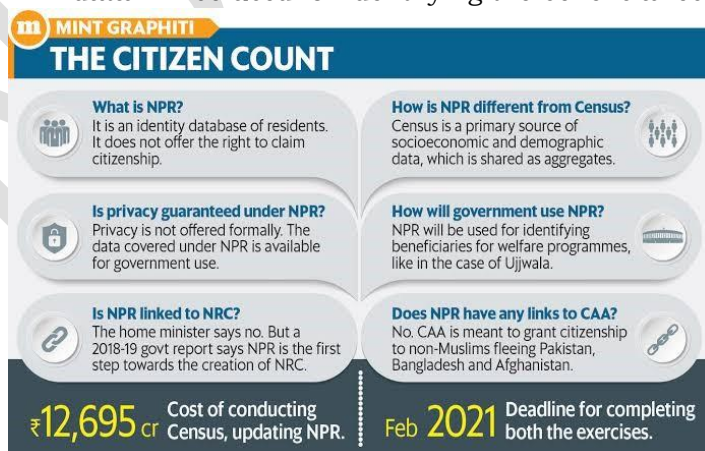
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- NPR contains a **list of all residents**, who have **lived at a locality for at least the last six months** and **plans to stay in that area for the next six months** or more.
- 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.**
- NPR data will be used for identifying the beneficiaries of subsidies.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/10/national-register-of-citizens-nrc-10/>



82. Section 8 of the Right to Information Act, 2005 deals with:

- (a) suo motu disclosure of information by each public authority
- (b) non-disclosure of certain information
- (c) compulsory disclosure certain information
- (d) none of the above

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **Key Provisions of the Right to Information Act, 2005.**

- **Section 24 of the RTI Act 2005** lays down that this law is not applicable to the intelligence and security organisations specified in the Second Schedule. However, the only exception these organisations have is for information on allegations of corruption and human rights violations.
- **Second Schedule:** It includes 26 intelligence and security agencies under its ambit. Some of them are (i) Intelligence Bureau (IB), (ii) Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) of the Cabinet Secretariat (iii) Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), (iv) Special Frontier Force (SFF), (v) Border Security Force (BSF) (vi) National Security Guards (NSG) and (vii) Assam Rifles.
- **Section 8 of the RTI: It deals with exemption from disclosure of information under this legislation.** As per this section there shall be no obligation on Government to provide any citizen information, disclosure which will affect (i) India's sovereignty and integrity, (ii) security, (iii) strategic, scientific or economic interests of the state and (iv) relations with foreign States or (v) will lead to incitement of an offence.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/10/iaf-moves-court-against-rti-disclosure/>

83. Which of the following country is not part of the QUAD group?

- (a) Japan
- (b) South Korea
- (c) United States
- (d) Australia

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **What is Quad grouping?**
  - The quadrilateral security dialogue **includes Japan, India, United States and Australia.**
  - All four nations find a common ground of being the democratic nations and common interests of unhindered maritime trade and security.
- **Genesis:**
  - The grouping traces its genesis to 2004 when the four countries came together to coordinate relief operations in the aftermath of the tsunami.
  - It then met for the first time in 2007 on the sidelines of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit.
  - The intention was to enhance maritime cooperation between the four nations.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/10/quad-is-u-s-anti-china-game-russia/>

84. With reference to South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), consider the following statements:

1. It is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of states in West Asia.



2. It launched the South Asian Free Trade Area in 2006.
3. Its secretariat is based in Kathmandu, Nepal.

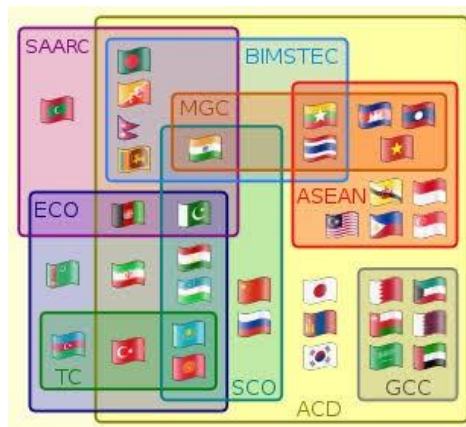
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- S1: is the **regional intergovernmental** organization and geopolitical union of states in **South Asia**.
- Its member states are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- S2 & S3: The SAARC was **founded in Dhaka** on 8 December 1985. Its secretariat is **based in Kathmandu**, Nepal. The organization promotes development of economic and regional integration. **It launched the South Asian Free Trade Area in 2006.**



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/10/south-asian-association-for-regional-cooperation-saarc-2/>

85. Consider the following statements:

1. The Andaman Islands and the Nicobar Islands, separated by the 150 km wide Ten Degree Channel.
2. Lakshadweep comprises the only coral atolls in 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: (c)

Explanation:

- **Context:**
  - The Union Cabinet has approved laying of undersea optical fibre cable to connect 11 islands of **Lakshadweep** with Kochi by May 2023, to help improve broadband connectivity in the Union Territory.
  - The project will be funded by the Universal Service Obligation Fund.
- **Background:**



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the submarine cable connectivity to **Andaman and Nicobar Islands** in August.
- He had then announced the aim to connect Lakshadweep with undersea optical fibre cable as well in 1,000 days
- S1: The Andamans are separated from the Nicobar group by a channel (**the Ten Degree Channel**) some 150 km (93 mi) wide.
  - There are 572 islands in the territory of these, about 38 are permanently inhabited. The islands extend from 6° to 14° North latitudes and from 92° to 94° East longitudes.
- [Link](#): S2: Lakshadweep comprises the **only coral atolls** of the country.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/10/lakshadweep-to-get-optical-fibre-cable/>

86. 'PM- WANI' was in news recently, is associated primarily with which of the following?

- (a) Digital literacy
- (b) Internet analytics
- (c) Wi-Fi Access Network Interface
- (d) Digital insurance

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface** or 'PM Wani' gets cabinet approval.
  - The move is aimed at helping accelerate the uptake of broadband Internet services.
  - It was first recommended by **the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in 2017.**
- **Key features of the project:**
  - This will allow setting up of public WiFi hotspots across the country via public data offices or public data offices (PDOs).
  - It will not require the PDOs to get a license or pay a fee.
  - This will involve multiple players, including PDOs, Public Data Office Aggregators (PDOA), app providers, and a central registry.
- **Implementation:**
  - PDOs will be "facilitators" between service providers and users.
  - A PDOA will be an aggregator of PDOs that will oversee functions relating to authorization and accounting of Wi-Fi connections.
  - A person, who wants to use public Wi-Fi, can do so via an app and will make payments as per usage.
  - The project will also have an app developer who will build a platform to register users and discover Wani-compliant Wi-Fi hotspots in an area and display them on the app.
  - A central registry, which will be maintained by the Centre for Development of Telematics, will record the details of app providers, PDOAs and PDOs.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/10/pm-wani/>

87. Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) notification was first issued under:

- (a) The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- (b) The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- (c) The Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- (d) The Sustainable Sand Mining Guidelines, 2016



Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **What are CRZ norms?**
  - Under **the section 3 of Environment Protection Act, 1986** of India, Coastal Regulation Zone notification was issued in February 1991 for the first time.
  - In **2018-19**, fresh Rules were issued, which aimed to remove certain restrictions on building, streamlined the clearance process, and aimed to encourage tourism in coastal areas.
- **Objectives:**
  - **They restrict certain kinds of activities** — like large constructions, setting up of new industries, storage or disposal of hazardous material, mining, reclamation and bunding — within a certain distance from the coastline.
- **What are the restrictions?**
  - The **restrictions depend on criteria** such as the population of the area, the ecological sensitivity, the distance from the shore, and whether the area had been designated as a natural park or wildlife zone.
  - The latest Rules have a **no-development zone of 20 m** for all islands close to the mainland coast, and for all backwater islands in the mainland.
  - For the so-called **CRZ-III (Rural) areas**, two separate categories have been stipulated.
  - In the densely populated rural areas (**CRZ-IIIA**) with a population density of 2,161 per sq km as per the 2011 Census, the no-development zone is 50 m from the high-tide level, as against the 200 m stipulated earlier.
  - **CRZ-IIIB** category (rural areas with population density below 2,161 per sq km) areas continue to have a no-development zone extending up to 200 m from the high-tide line.
  - **Implementation:**
  - While the CRZ Rules are made by the Union environment ministry, implementation is to be ensured by state governments through their **Coastal Zone Management Authorities**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/10/coastal-regulation-zone-crz-norms-2/>

88. Consider the following statements about the National Investigation Agency (NIA):

1. It is India's counter-terrorist task force.
  2. It is India's officially designated single point of contact for liaison with the Interpol.
- 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:

- **Context:**
  - The **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** has filed a chargesheet against 16 “foreign-based Khalistanis”.
- S2: **CBI** is India's officially designated **single point of contact for liaison** with the **Interpol**.



- S1: The **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** is India's **counter-terrorist task force**.
  - The agency is empowered to deal with terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states.
  - The Agency came into existence with the enactment of the **National Investigation Agency Act 2008** by the Parliament of India on 31 December 2008, which was passed after the deadly 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/10/nia-chargesheets-khalistani-activists/>

89. Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is located in:

- (a) Assam
- (b) Arunachal Pradesh
- (c) Meghalaya
- (d) Maharashtra

Ans: (a)

Explanation: **Mini Kaziranga:**

- **Assam's Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary** is also known as '**Mini Kaziranga**'.
- It has **the highest density of one-horned rhinos in the world and second highest concentration in Assam after Kaziranga National Park**.
- **Why in News?**
  - Too many cattle robbing rhinos of nutrition in 'Mini Kaziranga'.
  - This has been confirmed by the death of two rhinos whose alimentary canals had a high load of worms because of nutritional stress caused by dry reeds and other such "junk food" of the wilderness.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/10/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-10-december-2020/>

90. Which one of the following is the best description of 'INS Kalvari', that was in the news recently?

- (a) Diesel-electric attack submarine
- (b) Nuclear-powered submarine
- (c) Torpedo launch and recovery vessel
- (d) Nuclear-powered aircraft carrier

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **What is Submarine Day, celebrating the memory of INS Kalvari?**
  - Celebrated on December 8th.
  - It was on December 8 that the Indian Naval Ensign was unfurled on INS Kalvari, the first submarine to be inducted in the Indian Navy, at Riga in Latvia, the erstwhile USSR, in 1967.
  - Kalvari is the Malayalam name for Tiger Shark, a predator in the Indian Ocean.
  - The Kalvari was decommissioned in 1996 after 29 years of service.
- **Read: India's Kalvari class of submarines, and its strategic significance**
  - **INS Kalvari (S21) is the first of the six Scorpène-class submarines currently in service with the Indian Navy.** It is a diesel-electric attack submarine which is designed by DCNS (French naval defence and energy company) and was manufactured at Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai.



- **The ship inherits its name from INS Kalvari (S23) which served in the Indian Navy from 1967 to 1996.** Kalvari is the Malayalam word for tiger shark, a deep-sea predator in the Indian Ocean.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/10/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-10-december-2020/>

## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 11<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2020

91. Consider the following statements:

1. Auroras are only visible at night.
2. Auroras usually only appear in lower polar regions.

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:

- **Link: An aurora is a natural light display that shimmers in the sky.** Colorful blue, red, yellow, green, and orange lights shift gently and change shape like softly blowing curtains. **Auroras are only visible at night, and usually only appear in lower polar regions.**
- Auroras are visible almost every night near the Arctic and Antarctic Circles, which are about 66.5 degrees north and south of the Equator. In the north, the display is called aurora borealis, or northern lights. In the south, it is called aurora australis, or southern lights.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/11/why-parts-of-the-us-may-be-able-to-see-the-northern-lights-today/>

92. Consider the following statements regarding Anthrax.

1. It is an infectious zoonotic disease occurring naturally among herbivorous animals through contaminated soil and feed.
2. It does not spread directly from one infected animal or person to another.

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:

- **Anthrax** is a disease caused by **Bacillus anthracis**, a germ that lives in soil.
- It affects animals such as cattle, sheep, and goats more often than people.
- Anthrax **does not spread directly from one infected animal or person to another**; it is spread by spores. These spores can be transported by clothing or shoes.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/11/vaccination-drive-after-anthrax-kills-elephants/>



93. Consider the following statements:

1. The ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus is a platform for ASEAN and its ten Dialogue Partners.
2. The ADMM-Plus is the only official framework of Defense Minister's meetings in the Asia-Pacific Region,

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 **ADMM-Plus** is a platform for ASEAN and its **eight Dialogue Partners** to strengthen security and defence cooperation for peace, stability, and development in the region.
- **ADMM-Plus** is the **only official framework of Defense Minister's meetings** in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- In addition to the ten countries of ASEAN, eight countries such as Japan, the US and China participate in this framework to promote more practical defense cooperation.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/11/asean-defence-ministers-meeting-plus-admm-plus-2/>

94. Recently, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, has given its approval for Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) to:

- (a) boost employment in informal sector
- (b) boost employment in formal sector
- (c) encourage skill development
- (d) All of the above

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- [LINK](#): The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has given its approval for **Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) to boost employment in formal sector** and incentivize creation of new employment opportunities during the Covid recovery phase under Atmanirbhar Bharat Package 3.0.
- **About the Atmanirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY):**



- Under this, Government of India will provide subsidy for two years in respect of new employees engaged on or after 1st October, 2020 and up to 30th June, 2021.
- Government will pay both 12% employees' contribution and 12% employers' contribution i.e. 24% of wages towards EPF in respect of new employees in establishments employing upto 1000 employees for two years.
- Government will pay only employees' share of EPF contribution i.e. 12% of wages in respect of new employees in establishments employing more than 1000 employee for two years.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/11/atmanirbhar-bharat-rojgar-yojana-abry/>

95. The term "Quantum key distribution" is used in the context of:

- (a) Digital security infrastructure
- (b) Secure communication method
- (c) Internet of things
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **Quantum key distribution (QKD):**

- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully demonstrated communication between its two labs using Quantum Key Distribution technology.
- The Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) and The Research Centre Imarat (RCI) were the two labs that participated in this demonstration.
- **Quantum key distribution (QKD)** is a **secure communication method** which implements a **cryptographic protocol** involving components of **quantum mechanics**. It enables two parties to produce a shared random secret *key* known only to them, which can then be used to encrypt and decrypt messages.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/11/quantum-key-distribution-qkd/>

96. The UN Population Award was established by the:

- (a) UNESCO
- (b) UNDP
- (c) UNGA
- (d) UNSC

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **The UN Population Award**, established by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in 1981, recognises contributions in the fields of population and reproductive health.
- HelpAge India has been presented the UN Population Award for 2020 (institutional category).

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/11/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-11-december-2020/>

97. Recently, a new species of Indian Muraingrasses (*Ischaemum janarthanamii*) known for their ecological and economic importance have been spotted by scientists in the:

- (a) Himalayas
- (b) Eastern Ghats
- (c) Western Ghats



(d) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Ischaemum janarthanamii:**

- It is a novel species of Muraingrass identified by scientists in the plateaus of Western Ghats of Goa.
- The species was named Ischaemumjanarthanamiin honour of Prof. M. K. Janarthanam, Professor of Botany, Goa University.
- It grows on low altitude lateritic plateaus in the outskirts of Bhagwan Mahavir National Park, Goa.
- The vegetation is exposed to extreme climatic conditions like desiccation in drier months and soils with low nutrient availability. However, withstanding these, the species has adapted to survive harsh conditions and blossom every monsoon.

- **Background:**

- Muraingrasses are known for their ecological and economic importance, such as fodder.
- Globally 85 species are known from Ischaemum, of which 61 species are exclusively found in India.
- The Western Ghats have 40 species with the highest concentration of the genus.



Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/11/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-11-december-2020/>

98. Consider the following statements regarding Son River:

1. It is the second largest of the Ganges southern tributaries after Yamuna River.
2. It originates near Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh near the source of Narmada River.

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:

- S1: **Son River** of central India is the **second largest of the Ganges' southern tributaries** after Yamuna River.
- S2: it originates near **Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh** near the source of Narmada River.
- Koilwar Bridge:
  - Koilwar Bridge constructed over Sone river in Bihar inaugurated.



Refer: : facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/11/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-11-december-2020/>

99. Consider the following statements with reference to satellite-based internet of things (IoT) device service launched by BSNL.

1. It is the world's first satellite-based narrowband-IoT network.
  2. It can be used across India where mobile towers are not present, including the seas.
- 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:

- **Worlds' first, satellite-based narrowband-IoT network in India:**
- **BSNL, in partnership with Skylo**, to introduce worlds' first, satellite-based narrowband-IoT network in India.
- This new 'Made in India' Solution, which is indigenously developed by Skylo, will connect with BSNLs satellite- ground infrastructure and provide PAN-India coverage, including Indian seas.
- The coverage will be so vast that it will not leave any dark patch within the boundary of India, from Kashmir & Ladakh to Kanyakumari, and from Gujarat to the North East, including the Indian seas.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/11/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-11-december-2020/>

100. Among the following cities, which one lies on a longitude closest to that of Delhi?

- (a) Bengaluru
- (b) Hyderabad
- (c) Nagpur
- (d) Pune

Ans: (a)

Explanation:



Source: UPSC CSE 2018



## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 12<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2020

101. Maharashtra governments “Shakti Act, 2020” was in news recently, the Bills provisions are primarily associated with which of the following?

- (a) sexual crime
- (b) renewable energy
- (c) cyber security
- (d) political representation of women

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- The **Maharashtra government** this week presented a draft bill making changes to existing **laws on violence against women and children**.
- The Bill is proposed to be enacted as **Shakti Act, 2020**.
- What is the reason given by Maharashtra to bring in a new law?
  - An increase in the number of cases of violence, specifically sexual violence against women and children.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/12/maharashtra-bill-on-sexual-crime/>

102. With reference to El Nino weather events, consider the following statements:

1. During an El Nino event, westward-blowing trade winds weaken along the Equator.
2. El Nino brings rain to South America and droughts to Indonesia.
3. Stronger El Nino events disrupt global atmospheric circulation.

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:

- **S1: During an El Niño event, westward-blowing trade winds weaken along the Equator.** These changes in air pressure and wind speed cause warm surface water to move eastward along the Equator, from the western Pacific to the coast of northern South America.
- **S2: As El Niño brings rain to South America, it brings droughts to Indonesia and Australia.** These droughts threaten the region's water supplies, as reservoirs dry and rivers carry less water. Agriculture, which depends on water for irrigation, is threatened.
- **S3: Stronger El Niño events also disrupt global atmospheric circulation.** Global atmospheric circulation is the large-scale movement of air that helps distribute thermal energy (heat) across the surface of the Earth. The eastward movement of oceanic and atmospheric heat sources cause unusually severe winter weather at the higher latitudes of North and South America. Regions as far north as the U.S. states of California and Washington may experience longer, colder winters because of El Niño.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/12/not-all-indian-droughts-are-caused-by-el-nino/>

103. Consider the following statements with reference to Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India:



1. The Union List has more subjects than state list.
2. The concept of 'Concurrent List' in the Indian Constitution has been borrowed from the Constitution of Canada.
3. The laws can be made on the subjects enumerated under the Concurrent List of the Indian Constitution exclusively by the Central Government.

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

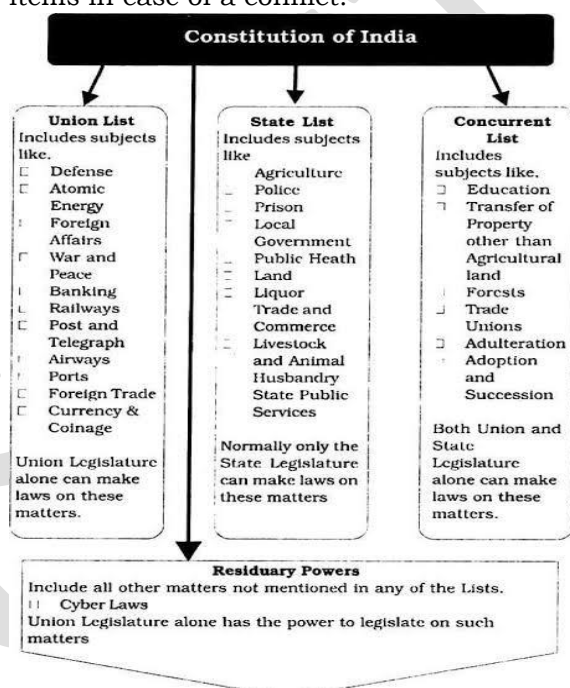
- (a) 1 and 2  
(b) 2 and 3  
(c) 1 only  
(d) 2 only

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Seventh Schedule:**

- The seventh schedule under Article 246 of the constitution deals with the division of powers between the union and the states.
- It contains three lists- Union List, State List and Concurrent List.
- The union list details the subjects on which Parliament may make laws while the state list details those under the purview of state legislatures.
- The concurrent list on the other hand has subjects in which both Parliament and state legislatures have jurisdiction. However the Constitution provides federal supremacy to Parliament on concurrent list items in case of a conflict.



- S1: The Union List is a list of 98 (Originally 97) numbered items as provided in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. The Union Government or Parliament of India has exclusive power to legislate on matters relating to these items.
- S2: The concept of 'Concurrent List' in the Indian Constitution has been borrowed from the Constitution of Australia
- S3: Central Government and State Government both can make laws on the subjects mentioned under the Concurrent List



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/12/n-k-singh-calls-for-a-fresh-look-at-the-seventh-schedule/>

104. Consider the following statements:

1. Malaria is caused by the bite of the female *Anopheles* mosquito.
2. There are currently no licensed vaccines against malaria.

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:

- A not very common type of malaria, **Plasmodium ovale**, has been identified in a jawan in Kerala.
- **Types of malaria:**
  - Malaria is caused by the bite of the female **Anopheles mosquito**, if the mosquito itself is infected with a malarial parasite.
  - **There are five kinds of malarial parasites** *Plasmodium falciparum*, *Plasmodium vivax* (the commonest ones), *Plasmodium malariae*, *Plasmodium ovale* and *Plasmodium knowlesi*.
- **Plasmodium ovale:**
  - Symptoms include fever for 48 hours, headache and nausea, and the treatment modality is the same as it is for a person infected with *P. vivax*. *P. ovale* is no more dangerous than getting a viral infection.
- **There are currently no licensed vaccines against malaria.** One research vaccine against *P. falciparum*, known as RTS, S/AS01, is most advanced. This vaccine has been evaluated in a clinical trial in 7 countries in Africa and received a positive opinion by the European Medicines Agency.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/12/plasmodium-ovale-and-other-types-of-malaria/>

105. With reference to Cryogenic Engine Technology, consider the following statements:

1. A cryogenic engine/ cryogenic stage is the first stage of space launch vehicles.
2. It is a form of air-breathing jet engine that uses the vehicle's forward motion to compress incoming air for combustion.

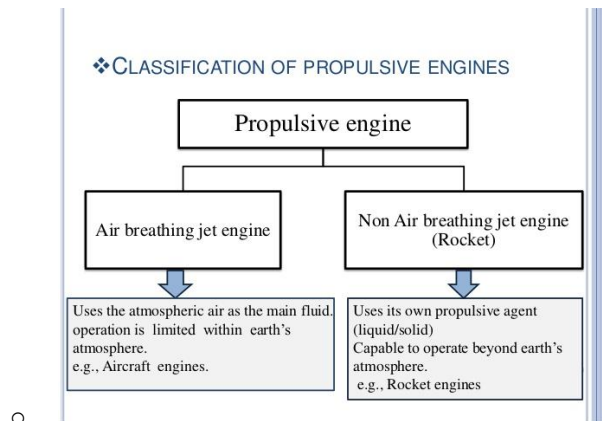
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Cryogenic stage is technically a much more complexed system with respect to solid or liquid propellant (stored on earth) stages due to the usage of propellants at extremely low temperatures
- S1: A cryogenic engine/ cryogenic stage is the **last stage of space launch vehicles** which makes use of Cryogenics.
- S2: Cryogenic engine makes use of Liquid Oxygen (LOX) and Liquid Hydrogen (LH2) as propellants, these LOX and LH2 are stored in their respective tanks. From there they are pumped in to turbo pump by individual booster pumps to ensure a high flow rate of propellants inside the combustion/thrust chamber.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/12/justice-jain-committee/>

106. In India, which of the following are considered as 'exotic wildlife species'?

1. Animals named under Appendices I, II and III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora.
2. Species from the Schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- The Environment Ministry's wildlife division has introduced new rules to regulate the import and export of 'exotic wildlife species'.
- Under the new rules, owners and possessors of such animals and birds must also register their stock with the Chief Wildlife Warden of their States.
- The advisory, issued recently, also says 'exotic wildlife species' will mean animals named under Appendices I, II and III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- It will not include species from the Schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/12/declare-exotic-pets-avoid-prosecution-how-one-time-scheme-works/>

107. With reference to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. IUCN is an organ of the United Nations and CITES is an international agreement between governments
2. IUCN runs thousands of field projects around the world to better manage natural environments.
3. CITES is legally binding on the States that have joined it, but this Convention does not take the place of national laws.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- a) 1 and 2



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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **IUCN is a voluntary organization, not an agency of United Nations.** Even if you knew this much, you could eliminate all other options to select B. Some facts about IUCN:
  - Founded in 1948 as the world's first global environmental organisation
  - Today the largest professional global conservation network
  - A leading authority on the environment and sustainable development
  - More than 1,200 member organizations including 200+ government and 900+ non-government organizations
  - A neutral forum for governments, NGOs, scientists, business and local communities to find practical solutions to conservation and development challenges
  - Thousands of field projects and activities around the world
- **CITES was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).** States (countries) adhere voluntarily to the agreement.
  - States that have agreed to be bound by the Convention ('joined' CITES) are known as Parties.
  - Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties – in other words they have to implement the Convention – it does not take the place of national laws. Rather it provides a framework to be respected by each Party, which has to adopt its own domestic legislation to ensure that CITES is implemented at the national level.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/12/declare-exotic-pets-avoid-prosecution-how-one-time-scheme-works/>

108. What is the importance of using pneumococcal conjugate vaccines in India?

1. These vaccines are effective against pneumonia as well as meningitis and sepsis.
2. Dependence on antibiotics that are not effective against drug-resistant bacteria can be reduced.
3. These vaccines have no side effects and cause no allergic reactions

Select the correct answer using the given code below-

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **What is WHO Pre-qualification?**

- **The Prequalification project**, set up in 2001, is a service provided by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** to facilitate access to medicines that meet unified standards of quality, safety and efficacy for HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.
- The prequalification process consists of a transparent, scientifically sound assessment, which includes dossier review, consistency testing or performance evaluation and site visits to manufacturers
- **Context:**
  - **A single-dose injectable Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine** of Biological E has been pre-qualified by the World Health Organisation, making the vaccine maker one of two pre-qualified suppliers of TCV to UN agencies.



- S1: Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) can prevent pneumococcal disease.
  - Pneumococcal disease refers to any illness caused by pneumococcal bacteria, including Pneumonia and sepsis (which is a bloodstream infection disease in children), So 1 is correct.
  - See <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/vis/vis-statements/pcv13.html>
- S2: This is also correct, see <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6183139/>
  - Vaccines as tools to reduce Anti-microbial resistance (AMR) have historically been under-recognized, yet the positive effect in reducing AMR has been well established. For example Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) as well as Streptococcus pneumoniae (pneumococcal) conjugate vaccines have impressive track records in not only preventing life threatening diseases caused by these bacteria, but also reducing antibiotic use and AMR.
- S3: Mild side effects of the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV), the version of the pneumococcal vaccine given to adults and children over the age of 2, include:

Refer: UPSC CSE 2020: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/12/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-12-december-2020/>

109. 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

110. Which of the following are in Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve?

- (a) Neyyar, Peppara and Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuaries; and Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve
- (b) Mudumalai, Sathyamangalam and Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuaries; and Silent Valley National Park
- (c) Kaundinya, Gundla Brahme-swaram and Papikonda Wildlife Sanctuaries; and Mukurthi National Park
- (d) Kawal and Sri Venkateswara Wildlife Sanctuaries; and Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **The Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve** is a biosphere reserve in India established in 2001, located in the southernmost end of the **Western Ghats**.



- ABR straddles the border of Pathanamthitta, Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram Districts in **Kerala** and Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari Districts in **Tamil Nadu**, South India at the southern end of the Western Ghats.
- It encompasses the wildlife sanctuaries **Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary, Peppara Wildlife Sanctuary, Neyyar Wildlife Sanctuary, and Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve.**
- Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve became part of **World Network of Biosphere Reserves** in 2016. Is also under UNESCO's world list of biosphere reserve.

Source: UPSC CSE 2019

## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 14<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2020

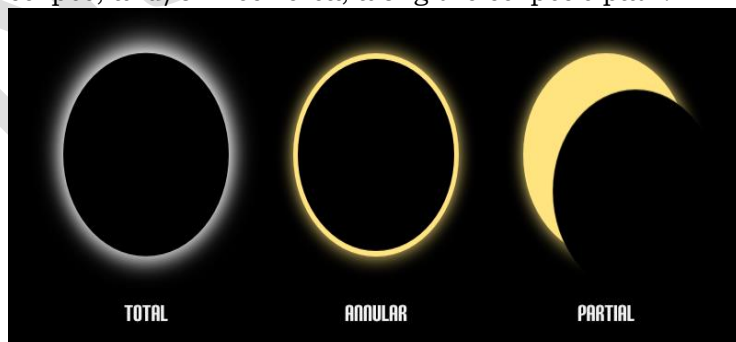
111. “When the Moon's disk is not big enough to cover the entire disk of the Sun, and the Sun's outer edges remain visible to form a ring of fire in the sky.” Which refers to:

- (a) A total solar eclipse
- (b) A partial solar eclipse
- (c) An annular solar eclipse
- (d) A hybrid solar eclipse

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- There are four types of solar eclipses. How much of the Sun's disk is eclipsed – the eclipse magnitude – depends on which part of the Moon's shadow falls on the Earth.
- A **partial solar eclipse** occurs when the Moon only partially obscures the Sun's disk and casts only its penumbra on the Earth.
- An **annular solar eclipse** takes place when the Moon's disk is not big enough to cover the entire disk of the Sun, and the Sun's outer edges remain visible to form a ring of fire in the sky. An annular eclipse of the Sun takes place when the Moon is near apogee, and the Moon's antumbra falls on the Earth.
- A **total solar eclipse** happens when the Moon completely covers the Sun. It can take place only when the Moon is near perigee, the point of the Moon's orbit closest to the Earth. You can see a total solar eclipse only if you are in the path where the Moon casts its darkest shadow, the umbra.
- A **hybrid solar eclipse**, also known as an annular-total eclipse, is the rarest type. It occurs when the same eclipse changes from an annular to a total solar eclipse, and/or vice versa, along the eclipse's path.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/14/what-is-a-solar-eclipse-2/>



112. Consider the following statements regarding Delimitation of Constituencies.

1. In the delimitation process, the number of seats allocated to different states in Lok Sabha and the total number seats in a Legislative Assembly remains the same.
2. The Delimitation Commission in India is a high-power body whose orders have the force of law and cannot be called in question before any court.
3. The first delimitation exercise in 1950-51 was carried out by the President with the help of the Election Commission.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans: (a)

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

- Delimitation is the act of redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and state Assembly seats to represent changes in population.
- **S1:** In this process, the number of seats allocated to different states in Lok Sabha and the total number seats in a Legislative Assembly may also change.
- The main objective of delimitation is to **provide equal representation to equal segments of a population.**
- It also aims at a **fair division of geographical areas** so that one political party doesn't have an advantage over others in an election.
  - Delimitation is carried out by an independent **Delimitation Commission.**
  - **S2:** The Constitution mandates that **its orders are final and cannot be questioned before any court** as it would hold up an election indefinitely.
  - **Under Article 82**, the **Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act** after every Census.
  - Once the Act is in force, the Union government sets up a Delimitation Commission.
- The **first delimitation exercise in 1950-51** was carried out **by the President (with the help of the Election Commission)**, as the Constitution at that time was silent on who should undertake the division of states into Lok Sabha seats.
- This delimitation was temporary as the Constitution mandated redrawing of boundaries after every Census. Hence, another delimitation was due after the 1951 Census. Subsequently, the Delimitation Commission Act was enacted in 1952.
- Delimitation Commissions have been set up four times — 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002 under the Acts of 1952, 1962, 1972 and 2002. There was no delimitation after the 1981 and 1991 Censuses.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/14/delimitation-should-be-based-on-2031-census/>

113. Consider the following statements with respect to the River Krishna:

1. It is an east-flowing river.
2. Vijayawada is the largest city on the Krishna.
3. It originates in the Western Ghats near Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

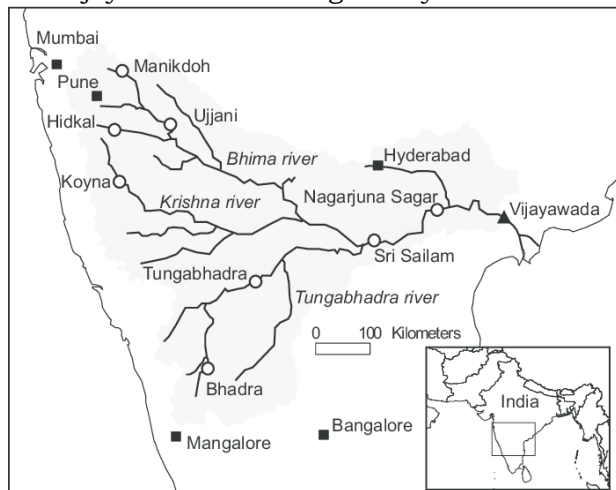
- (a) 1 and 2
- (b) 2 and 3



- (c) 1 and 2  
 (d) 1, 2 and 3  
 Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **The Krishna:**
- It is an **east-flowing river**.
- **Originates at Mahabaleshwar** in Maharashtra and merges with the Bay of Bengal, flowing through Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
- **Basin:** Together with its tributaries, it forms a vast basin that covers 33% of the total area of the four states.
- **Major Tributaries of Krishna River are as follows:**
  - Left: Bhima, Dindi, Peddavagu, Halia, Musi, Paleru, Munneru
  - Right: Venna, Koyna, Panchganga, Dudhganga, Ghataprabha, Malaprabha, Tungabhadra
- Vijayawada is the largest city on the Krishna.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/14/withdraw-plea-on-water-use-centre-tells-telangana/>

114. Consider the following statements with reference to Chang'e-5 mission:

1. Chang'e-5 probe is the Chinese National Space Administration's (CNSA) lunar sample return mission.
2. The mission comprises a lunar orbiter, a lander and an ascent probe.

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!!**

**About Chang'e-5 probe:**

- It is an **unmanned spacecraft** by China. The probe is named after the mythical Chinese **moon goddess**.
- The rocket **comprises of four parts:** an orbiter, a returner, an ascender and a lander.
- The Chang'e-5 mission is expected to realize four "firsts" in China's space history:



- The first time for a probe to take off from the surface of the Moon.
- The first time to automatically sample the lunar surface.
- The first time to conduct unmanned rendezvous and docking in lunar orbit.
- The first time to return to Earth with lunar soil samples in escape velocity

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/14/change-5-probe-3/>

115. The term 'Intended Nationally Determined Contributions' is sometimes seen in the news in the context of:

- (a) pledges made by the European countries to rehabilitate refugees from the war-affected Middle East
- (b) plan of action outlined by the countries of the world to combat climate change
- (c) capital contributed by the member countries in the establishment of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- (d) plan of action outlined by the countries of the world regarding Sustainable Development Goals

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC)** are (**intended**) reductions in greenhouse gas emissions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC):**
  - In 2015, ahead of the United Nations' significant climate conference in Paris, India announced **three major voluntary commitments called the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC):**
  - Improving the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33–35% by 2030 over 2005 levels.
  - Increasing the share of non-fossil fuels-based electricity to 40% by 2030.
  - Enhancing its forest cover, thereby absorbing 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide.
- **The Paris Agreement:**
  - The Paris Agreement, adopted at COP 21 in Paris, on December 12, 2015, constitutes a landmark agreement on climate change that seeks to limit global average temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and endeavour to limit the increase to 1.5°C.
  - The agreement, which came into force on November 4, 2016, currently has 188 parties.
  - All parties to it are expected to undertake ambitious efforts to support the agreement's goals and communicate their related intentions every five years in the form of NDCs.
  - In the first round, 186 parties submitted their first NDC and two have since submitted a second one.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/14/india-is-on-track-to-reduce-emissions/>

116. An extremely rare Myristica swamp treefrog was in news recently, is an arboreal species endemic to the:

- (a) Great Himalaya
- (b) Andaman and Nicobar Islands



(c) Western Ghats

(d) Eastern Ghats

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **Myristica swamp treefrog:**

- It is a rare **arboreal species endemic to the Western Ghats.**
- They are **active only for a few weeks during their breeding season.**
- Before the end of the breeding season, the female frogs along with their male counterparts descend on the forest floor.
- The female digs the mud and lays eggs in shallow burrows in mud. After breeding and egg-laying, they retreat back to the high canopies of the tree and remain elusive till next breeding season.
- **Context:**
- It has been recorded for the first time north of **the Shencottah gap in the Vazhachal Reserve Forest in Kerala's Thrissur district.**



Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/14/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-14-december-2020/>

117. With reference to India's Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, which of the following statements are correct?

1. It is a national park in Assam.
2. It hosts two-thirds of the world's great one-horned rhinoceroses.
3. It is a World Heritage Site.

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: **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve:**

- **Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve** can now be explored by boats while bicycle tracks are also being finalised. One can go trekking too. But the new activities are beyond the 1,302 sq km Kaziranga's core area of 482 sq km.
- **Key Facts:**
  - It is a national park in **Assam.**
  - Formed in 1908 on the recommendation of **Mary Curzon**, the park is located in the edge of the Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspots – Golaghat and Nagaon district.
  - It hosts **two-thirds of the world's great one-horned rhinoceroses.**
  - It is a **World Heritage Site.**



- It is also recognized as **an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International** for the conservation of avifaunal species.
- Much of the focus of conservation efforts in Kaziranga are focused on **the 'big four' species**— Rhino, Elephant, Royal Bengal tiger and Asiatic water buffalo.
- Kaziranga is **crisscrossed by four main rivers** — Brahmaputra, Diphlu, Mora Diphlu and Mora Dhansiri.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/14/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-14-december-2020/>

118. Consider the following statements about Securities and Exchange Board of India.

1. SEBI is a statutory body under the provisions of Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.
2. It is a quasi-legislative, quasi-executive and quasi-judicial body.
3. There is an appeal process against a SEBI order to create accountability and the first appeal lies directly to the Supreme Court.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **What is the diversity requirements that Indian companies need to meet?**

- All public companies which are listed on stock exchanges and companies with either a paid-up capital of Rs 100 crore or annual turnover over Rs 300 crore are required to have at least one woman board member under the Companies Act.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) further requires, since April 1, 2020, that the top 1000 listed companies by market capitalisation have a woman board member who is also an independent director.
- **About Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**
  - **S1:** It is the regulator for the securities market in India. It was established in 1988 and given statutory powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992.
  - **S2:** If an entity wants to appeal against a Sebi order, it approaches Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT), which is a three-member bench. A second appeal lies directly to the Supreme Court.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/14/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-14-december-2020/>

119. Consider the following statements regarding the powers and functions of Securities and Exchange Board of India.

1. Registering and regulating the working of venture capital funds and collective investment schemes, including mutual funds.
2. Promoting investors education and training of intermediaries of securities markets.
3. Promoting insider trading in securities.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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



Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** and the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to facilitate seamless sharing of data and information for carrying out scrutiny, inspection, investigation and prosecution.
- The **Preamble of the Securities and Exchange Board of India** describes the basic functions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India as "...to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate the securities market and for matters connected there with or incidental there to".
- Statement 3 – prohibiting insider trading in securities.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/14/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-14-december-2020/>

120. According to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which of the following animals cannot be hunted by any person except under some provisions provided by law?

1. Gharial
2. Indian wild ass
3. Wild buffalo

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- All of these are protected scheduled animals under the Wildlife Act.
- Refer: **The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**
  - <https://www.indiacode.nic.in/handle/123456789/1726?locale=en>
- Protected animals
  - [http://wiienvis.nic.in/Database/ScheduleSpeciesDatabase\\_7969.aspx](http://wiienvis.nic.in/Database/ScheduleSpeciesDatabase_7969.aspx)

Source: UPSC CSE 2017

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## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 15<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2020

121. Which one of the following statements is/are correctly describe/describes the near-earth objects like 'Asteroid'?

- (a) A relatively small, inactive, rocky body orbiting the Sun.
- (b) A small rocky or metallic body in outer space system.
- (c) The rocky worlds of the inner Solar System and the gas giants of the outer system.
- (d) All of the above

Ans: (a)

Explanation: **What Are The Differences Between An Asteroid, Comet, Meteoroid, Meteor and Meteorite?**

- Asteroid: A relatively small, inactive, rocky body orbiting the Sun.
- Comet: A relatively small, at times active, object whose ices can vaporize in sunlight forming an atmosphere (coma) of dust and gas and, sometimes, a tail of dust and/or gas.
- Meteoroid: A small particle from a comet or asteroid orbiting the Sun.
- Meteor: The light phenomena which results when a meteoroid enters the Earth's atmosphere and vaporizes; a shooting star.
- Meteorite: A meteoroid that survives its passage through the Earth's atmosphere and lands upon the Earth's surface.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/15/what-makes-the-geminids-meteor-shower-unique/>

122. In India, the 'Model Code of Conduct' (MCC) for conduct of political parties and candidates during elections are issued by the:

- (a) Supreme Court
- (b) Election Commission of India
- (c) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (d) All of the above

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Model Code of Conduct(MCC):**
- **What is MCC?**
  - These are the guidelines **issued by the Election Commission of India** for conduct of political parties and candidates during elections mainly with respect to speeches, polling day, polling booths, election manifestos, processions and general conduct.
  - This is in keeping with **Article 324** of the Constitution, which mandates EC to conduct free and fair elections to the Parliament and State Legislatures.
- **Aim:** To ensure free and fair elections.
- **When it comes into force?**
  - So far, the Model Code of Conduct came into force immediately on announcement of the election schedule by the commission. The Code remains in force till the end of the electoral process.
- **Status:**
  - The need for such code is in the interest of free and fair elections. However, the code does not have any specific statutory basis. It has only a persuasive effect. It contains what is known as **"rules of electoral**



**morality**". But this lack of statutory backing does not prevent the Commission from enforcing it.

- **Evolution:**
  - The Commission issued the code for the first time in 1971 (5th Election) and revised it from time to time. This set of norms has been evolved with the consensus of political parties who have consented to abide by the principles embodied in the said code and also binds them to respect and observe it in its letter and spirit.
- **What it contains?**
  - The salient features of the Model Code of Conduct lay down how political parties, contesting candidates and party(s) in power should conduct themselves during the process of elections i.e. on their general conduct during electioneering, holding meetings and processions, poll day activities and functioning of the party in power etc.
- **Enforcement:**
  - The EC has devised several mechanisms to take note of the violation of the code, which include joint task forces of enforcement agencies and flying squads. The latest is the introduction of the cVIGIL mobile app through which audio-visual evidence of malpractices can be reported.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/15/model-code-of-conduct/>

123. With reference to the funds under Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLADS) Scheme, which of the following statements are correct?

1. MPLADS funds must be used to create durable assets like physical infrastructure for health, education etc.
  2. A specified portion of each MP's fund must benefit SC/ST populations
  3. MPLADS funds are sanctioned on an annual basis and the unused funds can be carried forward to the next year.
  4. The district authority must inspect at least 10% of all works under implementation
- Select the correct answer using the given code below-

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

Explanation:

- S1 and S2: These are correct. See [https://mplads.gov.in/MPLADS/UploadedFiles/MPLADSGuidelines2016English\\_638.pdf](https://mplads.gov.in/MPLADS/UploadedFiles/MPLADSGuidelines2016English_638.pdf)
- S3: Funds can be carried forward. Funds released to the District Authority by the Government of India are therefore non-lapsable. Funds left in the district can be carried forward for utilization in the subsequent years. Further, the funds not released by the Government of India in a year will be carried forward for making releases in the subsequent years
- S4: This is correct. The District Authority would be responsible for overall coordination and supervision of the works under the scheme at the district level and inspect at least 10% of the works under implementation every year. The District Authority should involve the MPs in the inspections of projects to the extent feasible.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/15/mp-local-area-development-scheme-mplads/>



124. Consider the following statements about the National Health Authority (NHA):

1. It is the apex body responsible to administer the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).
2. It is governed by a Governing Board chaired by the Union Minister for Health and 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: (c)

Explanation:

- The National Health Agency (NHA) has released its data on “The role of private hospitals”. Key findings:
  - Patients seeking care at private hospitals tend to be older and a larger share consist of men compared with those seeking medical care at public hospitals.
  - Private hospitals account for over half of the empanelled hospitals, nearly two-thirds of claim volumes, and three-quarters of claim outlays in the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).
  - The top PM-JAY packages by value — including knee replacement, cataracts, haemodialysis and cardiovascular surgeries — are overwhelmingly provided by private hospitals.
  - Over 72% of private empanelled hospitals are located in just seven States: Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Punjab and Karnataka.
- **S1:** It is the apex body responsible for implementing India’s flagship public health insurance/assurance scheme ‘Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana’.
- **S2:** NHA is governed by a Governing Board chaired by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/15/ayushman-bharat-pradhan-mantri-jan-arogyo-yojana-pm-jay/>

125. Consider the following statements about NITI Aayog:

1. The NITI Aayog council comprises all the state Chief Ministers, along with the Chief Ministers of Delhi and Puducherry, the Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and a vice-chairman nominated by the President.
2. It has taken initiative on Blockchain usages in E-governance and conceptualized the tech stack as 'IndiaChain'.

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:

- S1: The NITI Aayog council comprises all the state Chief Ministers, along with the Chief Ministers of Delhi and Puducherry, the Lieutenant Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and a **vice-chairman nominated by the Prime Minister**. In addition, temporary members are selected from leading universities



and research institutions. These members include a chief executive officer, four ex-official members, and two part-time members.

- S2: NITI Aayog has taken initiative on Blockchain usages in E-governance and has conceptualized the tech stack as 'IndiaChain'. IndiaChain is the name given to Niti Aayog's ambitious project to develop a nation-wide blockchain network.
- **NITI Aayog has released a white paper: Vision 2035: Public Health Surveillance in India with the vision:**
  - To make India's public health surveillance system more responsive and predictive to enhance preparedness for action at all levels.
  - Citizen-friendly public health surveillance system will ensure individual privacy and confidentiality, enabled with a client feedback mechanism.
  - Improved data-sharing mechanism between Centre and states for better disease detection, prevention, and control.
  - India aims to provide regional and global leadership in managing events that constitute a public health emergency of international concern.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/15/vision-2035-public-health-surveillance-in-india/>

126. In a given year in India, official poverty lines are higher in some States than in others because

- (a) poverty rates vary from State to State
- (b) price levels vary from State to State
- (c) Gross State Product varies from State to State
- (d) quality of public distribution varies from State to State

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Quoting a Planning Commission report, "For 2011-12, for rural areas the national poverty line using the Tendulkar methodology is estimated at Rs. 816 per capita per month and Rs. 1,000 per capita per month in urban areas. Thus, for a family of five, the all India poverty line in terms of consumption expenditure would amount to about Rs. 4,080 per month in rural areas and Rs. 5,000 per month in urban areas. **These poverty lines would vary from State to State because of inter-state price differentials.**"
- See [http://planningcommission.nic.in/news/pre\\_pov2307](http://planningcommission.nic.in/news/pre_pov2307) .pdf, page 2.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/15/how-did-china-go-about-reforming-its-agriculture-and-reducing-poverty/>

127. Which one of the following is the best description of 'INS Himgiri', that was in the news recently?

- (a) Stealth warfare ship
- (b) Nuclear-powered submarine
- (c) Torpedo launch and recovery vessel
- (d) Nuclear-powered aircraft carrier

Ans: (a)

Explanation: **Himgiri:**

- Himgiri is the first of the three stealth frigates being built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, under Project 17A for the Navy.
- Under the Project 17A program, a total of seven ships, four at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and three ships at GRSE are being built with



enhanced stealth features, advanced indigenous weapon and sensor fit along with several other improvements.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/15/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-15-december-2020/>

128. In the context of the developments in Bioinformatics, the term ‘transcriptome’, sometimes seen in the news, refers to
- a range of enzymes used in genome editing
  - the full range of mRNA molecules expressed by an organism
  - the description of the mechanism of gene expression
  - a mechanism of genetic mutations taking place in cells

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- A transcriptome is the full range of messenger RNA, or mRNA, molecules expressed by an organism.
- The term “transcriptome” can also be used to describe the array of mRNA transcripts produced in a particular cell or tissue type.
- In contrast with the genome, which is characterized by its stability, the transcriptome actively changes.
- In fact, an organism’s transcriptome varies depending on many factors, including stage of development and environmental conditions.
- Refer: <http://www.nature.com/scitable/definition/transcriptome-296>

Source: UPSC CSE 2016

129. With reference to the recent developments in science, which one of the following statements is not correct?
- Functional chromosomes can be created by joining segments of DNA taken from cells of different species.
  - Pieces of artificial functional DNA can be created in laboratories.
  - A piece of DNA taken out from an animal cell can be made to replicate outside a living cell in a laboratory.
  - Cells taken out from plants and animals can be made to undergo cell division in laboratory petri dishes.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Option A incorrect since it is difficult to envisage how this can be achieved because it is one thing to create an artificial chromosome and quite another to make it functional. Option B is Artificial Gene Synthesis whereas Option D is Plant and Animal Tissue Culture Technology. Option C is Cloning.
- S2: Artificial gene synthesis, sometimes known as DNA printing is a method in synthetic biology that is used to create artificial genes in the laboratory. The method has been used to generate functional bacterial or yeast chromosomes containing approximately one million base pairs.
- See <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK21881/> and <https://www2.le.ac.uk/projects/vgec/schoolsandcolleges/topics/recombinanttechniques> and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artificial\\_gene\\_synthesis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artificial_gene_synthesis)
- <https://www.nature.com/scitable/topicpage/recombinant-dna-technology-and-transgenic-animals-34513>

Source: UPSC CSE 2019



130. 'RNA interference (RNAi)' technology has gained popularity in the last few years. Why?

1. It is used in developing gene silencing therapies.
2. It can be used in developing therapies for-the treatment of cancer.
3. It can be used to develop hormone replacement therapies.
4. It can be used to produce crop plants that are resistant to viral pathogens.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Statement 3 is absurd. Rest of them are correct.
- S1: RNA interference (RNAi) is a biological process in which RNA molecules inhibit gene expression or translation.
- S2: Since the discovery of RNAi and its regulatory potentials, it has become evident that RNAi has immense potential in suppression of desired genes (gene silencing).
- Numerous studies have demonstrated that RNAi can provide a more specific approach to inhibit tumor growth by targeting cancer-related genes (i.e., oncogene).
- S4: RNAi has resulted in the invention of novel crops such as nicotine-free tobacco, decaffeinated coffee, nutrient fortified vegetation, and hypoallergenic crops. The genetically-engineered Arctic apples received FDA approval in 2015.
- While it was known that plants expressing virus-specific proteins showed enhanced tolerance or resistance to viral infection, it was not expected that plants carrying only short, non-coding regions of viral RNA sequences would show similar levels of protection. Researchers believed that viral RNA produced by transgenes could also inhibit viral replication.
- The reverse experiment, in which short sequences of plant genes were introduced into viruses, showed that the targeted gene was suppressed in an infected plant. This phenomenon was labeled "virus-induced gene silencing" (VIGS), and the set of such phenomena were collectively called post transcriptional gene silencing.
- See [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RNA\\_interference](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RNA_interference)

Source: UPSC CSE 2019

## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 16<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2020

131. With reference to Western Disturbances (Storms), consider the following statements:

1. These are an extratropical storms.
2. The storms are non-monsoonal precipitation pattern driven by the westerlies.
3. Along their way they pick up moisture from the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Caspian Sea and the Arabian Sea.

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:

- **S1:** A western disturbance is an **extratropical storm** originating in the **Mediterranean region** that brings sudden winter rain to the northwestern parts of the Indian subcontinent.
- **S2:** It is a **non-monsoonal precipitation** pattern driven by the westerlies.
- These visiting storms or low pressure areas originate in the Mediterranean region, other parts of Europe and the Atlantic Ocean.
- The winds are disturbed within a low pressure area and come from a westward direction with respect to India, hence the name western disturbance.
- Then they travel towards Afghanistan, Pakistan and India along high altitude and brisk westerly winds which are perennially flowing from the west to the east across the surface of the Earth.
- **S3:** Along their way they pick up moisture from the **Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, Caspian Sea and the Arabian Sea.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/16/what-is-causing-the-dip-in-delhis-temperature/>

132. Consider the following statements:

1. Under Article 137 of the Constitution of India, the Supreme Court has the power to review any of its judgments or orders.
  2. A Review Petition has to be filed within 3 months of the date of judgment or order.
- 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: **What is a review petition and when can it be filed?**
- A **judgment of the Supreme Court becomes the law of the land**, according to the Constitution. It is final because it provides **certainty for deciding future cases.**
- However, the Constitution itself gives, under **Article 137**, the Supreme Court the power to review any of its judgments or orders. This departure from the Supreme Court's final authority is entertained under **specific, narrow grounds.**
- So, **when a review takes place**, the law is that **it is allowed not to take fresh stock of the case but to correct grave errors that have resulted in the miscarriage of justice.**
- Stat2: **Filing Review Petition:**
- As per the Civil Procedure Code and the Supreme Court Rules, **any person aggrieved by a ruling can seek a review.** This implies that it is not necessary that only parties to a case can seek a review of the judgment.
- A **Review Petition has to be filed within 30 days of the date of judgment or order.**
- In certain circumstances, the court can condone the delay in filing the review petition if the petitioner can establish strong reasons that justify the delay.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/16/what-is-a-review-petition-3/>



133. Consider the following statements regarding Curative petition.

1. The concept of Curative petition was evolved by the Supreme Court of India.
2. A curative petition can be entertained if the petitioner establishes there was a violation of the principles of natural justice.
3. The Review petition is filed after the Curative petition to ensure there is no miscarriage of justice.

Which of the 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:

- A **curative petition may be filed after a review plea against the final conviction is dismissed**. It is meant to ensure there is no miscarriage of justice, and to prevent abuse of process. A curative petition is usually decided by judges in chamber, unless a specific request for an open-court hearing is allowed.
- Every curative petition is decided on the basis of principles laid down by the Supreme Court in **Rupa Ashok Hurra Vs Ashok Hurra & another, 2002**.
- The court ruled that a curative petition can be entertained if the petitioner establishes there was a violation of the principles of natural justice, and that he was not heard by the court before passing an order. It will also be admitted where a judge failed to disclose facts that raise the apprehension of bias.
- The SC has held that curative petitions must be rare rather than regular, and be entertained with circumspection.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/16/what-is-a-review-petition-3/>

134. Consider the following statements regarding Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI).

1. OCI Scheme was introduced by The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 1955.
2. OCI cardholders have no right to vote, no right to hold constitutional offices, and no right to buy agricultural properties.
3. Recently the Government held that OCI card holders enjoy fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution, including the right to freedom of speech and expression.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans: (d)

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

- The Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) is an immigration status permitting a foreign citizen of Indian origin to live and work in the Republic of India indefinitely.
- It was introduced by The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2005 in August 2005.
- The Constitution of India prevents Indian citizens from holding dual citizenship. As such the OCI is not actual citizenship of India according to Indian law as it has many limitations such as no right to vote, no right to hold constitutional offices, and no right to buy agricultural properties.



- Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card holders do not enjoy fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution, including the right to freedom of speech and expression, the government told the Delhi High Court.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/16/overseas-citizens-of-india-oci/>

135. With reference to current process of voting for Indian citizens living abroad, consider the following statements:

1. Voting rights for NRIs were introduced only in 2011, through an amendment to the Representation of the People Act 1950.
2. An NRI can vote in the constituency in which her place of residence, as mentioned in the passport, is located.

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!!**

- **What is the current process of voting for Indian citizens living abroad?**
- Voting rights for NRIs were introduced only in 2011, through an amendment to the Representation of the People Act 1950.
- An NRI can vote in the constituency in which her place of residence, as mentioned in the passport, is located.
- She can only vote in person and will have to produce her passport in original at the polling station for establishing identity.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/16/why-wont-gulf-nris-get-postal-voting-rights-for-now/>

136. What is “S-400 air defence missile system”, sometimes seen in the news?

- (a) The Russian radar system
- (b) India’s indigenous anti-missile programme
- (c) An American anti-missile system
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- The **S-400 Triumph** is an **air defence missile system** developed by Almaz Central Design Bureau of Russia.
- **What is the S-400 air defence missile system? Why does India need it?**
  - The S-400 Triumph is a mobile, surface-to-air missile system (SAM) designed by Russia.
  - It is the most dangerous operationally deployed modern long-range SAM (MLR SAM) in the world, considered much ahead of the US-developed Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system (THAAD).
  - India’s acquisition is crucial to counter attacks in a two-front war, including even high-end F-35 US fighter aircraft.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/16/what-is-the-s-400-deal-why-is-india-cautious-as-us-sanctions-turkey/>

137. Xinjiang is an autonomous region within China, which shares borders with:

1. India



2. Pakistan
3. Russia
4. Afghanistan

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: (d)

Explanation:

- Xinjiang, the largest region of China, is bordered by eight countries including the former Soviet Central Asian republics, Mongolia, **Afghanistan**, **Pakistan** and **India**.
- **Who are Uighurs?**
  - Uighurs are a Muslim minority community concentrated in the country's northwestern Xinjiang province.
  - They claim closer ethnic ties to Turkey and other central Asian countries than to China, by brute — and brutal — force.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/16/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-16-december-2020/>

138. Which of the following neighboring countries share the longest land boundary with India?

- (a) Pakistan
- (b) China
- (c) Bangladesh
- (d) Nepal

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- India and Bangladesh share **4096.7 km. of border**, which is **the longest land boundary that India shares with any of its neighbours**.
- The India-Bangladesh **Land Boundary Agreement (LBA)** came into force following the exchange of instruments of ratification in June 2015.



Land Border Country	Length (km) and (mi)	Force
Bangladesh	4,097 kilometres (2,546 mi)	Border Security Force
China	3488 kilometres (2,167 mi)	Indo-Tibetan Border Police and Special Frontier Force
Pakistan	3,323 kilometres (2,065 mi)	Border Security Force
Nepal	1,751 kilometres (1,092 mi)	Sashastra Seema Bal
Myanmar	1,643 kilometres (1,021 mi)	Assam Rifles and Indian Army
Bhutan	699 kilometres (434 mi)	Sashastra Seema Bal
Afghanistan	106 kilometres (66 mi)	Border Security Force

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/16/spike-in-return-of-people-to-bangladesh/>

139. Consider the following statements:

1. The DakPay is a new digital payment application launched by the Department of Posts and Indian Banks Association.
  2. The DakPay app provides interoperable banking services to customers of any banks.
- 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: DakPay:

- It is a new digital payment application launched by the **Department of Posts** and the **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)**.
- DakPay is a suite of digital financial and assisted banking services provided through the postal network to cater to the financial needs of various sections of society, particularly those living in rural areas.
- The services include free-of-cost money receipts and transfers at doorsteps, and scanned QR codes, to make payments for a range of utility and banking services.
- The app will help to enable cashless ecosystem through biometrics, **providing interoperable banking services to customers of any banks**

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/16/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-16-december-2020/>

140. With reference to Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC), consider the following statements:

1. It is not a statutory body.
  2. The Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister.
- 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 FSDC:**

- The **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** was constituted in December, 2010.
- The FSDC was set up to strengthen and institutionalise the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development.
- It is not a statutory body.
- The Council is chaired by the **Union Finance Minister**.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/16/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-16-december-2020/>

## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 17<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2020

141. Consider the following statements.

1. Personal law subjects like marriage, divorce, inheritance come under Union list in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.
2. The Constitution provides a unique power to the Supreme Court, to do “complete justice” between the parties, i.e., where at times law or statute may not provide a remedy.
3. Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 lays down the provision for maintenance of wives, children, and parents if they do not earn enough and reasonable means to maintain themselves.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Personal law subjects like marriage, divorce, inheritance come under Concurrent list.**
- **Article 142 “provide(s) a unique power to the Supreme Court, to do “complete justice” between the parties,** i.e., where at times law or statute may not provide a remedy, the Court can extend itself to put a quietus to a dispute in a manner which would befit the facts of the case.
- Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, which applies to all communities lays down the provision for **maintenance of wives, children, and parents if they do not earn enough and reasonable means to maintain themselves**, or suffer from any physical or mental incapacity. Under this section, even a wife who has not divorced her husband has the right to get maintenance from her husband.

142. Vijay Diwas is celebrated in India every year to commemorate the victory of the Indian armed forces in

- a) Indo-Pakistani War of 1947
- b) Indo-Pakistani War of 1965
- c) Indo-Pakistani War of 1971
- d) Indo-Pakistani War of 1999

Ans: (c)

Explanation:



- Vijay Diwas or Victory Day is celebrated in India every year on December 16 to commemorate the victory of the Indian armed forces over Pakistan in the **1971 Indo-Pak War**, also known as the Bangladesh Liberation War.

143. Consider the following statements regarding Doctrine of separation of power.

1. The doctrine of separation of power is not part of the basic structure of the Indian Constitution.
2. The doctrine of separation of power is not specifically mentioned in the Indian Constitution.
3. Doctrine of separation of power implies that the three pillars of democracy, namely the executive, judiciary and legislature, perform separate functions and act as separate entities.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **The doctrine of separation of power is a part of the basic structure of the Indian Constitution, even though it is not specifically mentioned in its text.**
- It implies that the three pillars of democracy, namely the executive, judiciary and legislature, perform separate functions and act as separate entities.
- One of the features of the doctrine is that one arm of the state should not interfere in the functioning of the other organs or exercise a function of another organ.

144. WHO has identified which of the following as the chemicals of major public health concern?

1. Arsenic
2. Asbestos
3. Cadmium
4. Lead
5. Mercury

Select the correct answer code:

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- 10 chemicals or groups of chemicals of major public health concern:
- Air pollution
- Arsenic
- Asbestos
- Benzene
- Cadmium
- Dioxin and dioxin-like substances
- Inadequate or excess fluoride
- Lead
- Mercury
- Highly hazardous pesticides



145. The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint is the initiative of

- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Both a and b
- Neither a nor b

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- The **Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint (Lead Paint Alliance)** is a **voluntary partnership formed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO)** to prevent exposure to lead through promoting the phase-out of paints containing lead.

146. Recently U.S. Treasury has labeled Switzerland and Vietnam as currency manipulators. What implications does it have on these countries.

- The designation of a country as a currency manipulator will immediately attract penalties from the U.S. Treasury.
- It tends to dent the confidence about the designated country in the global financial markets.

Select the correct answer code:

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- The U.S. Treasury has labeled Switzerland and Vietnam as currency manipulators. **While the designation of a country as a currency manipulator does not immediately attract any penalties, it tends to dent the confidence about a country in the global financial markets.**

147. The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and have a decent standard of living. These dimensions are assessed on which of the following basis

- The health dimension is assessed by life expectancy at birth.
- The education dimension is measured by mean of years of schooling for adults aged 25 years and more and expected years of schooling for children of school entering age.
- The standard of living dimension is measured by gross national income per capita.

Select the correct answer code:

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



d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- The Human Development Index (HDI) is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable and have a decent standard of living. The HDI is the geometric mean of normalized indices for each of the three dimensions.
- The health dimension is assessed by life expectancy at birth, the education dimension is measured by mean of years of schooling for adults aged 25 years and more and expected years of schooling for children of school entering age. The standard of living dimension is measured by gross national income per capita.

148. Consider the following statements.

1. State Legislatures cannot make laws on those matters enumerated in the Concurrent List on which a Central legislation already exists.
2. State Legislatures can make laws on matters enumerated in the Residuary list only in special circumstances.

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: (d)

Explanation:

- **Both, the Parliament and state legislature can make laws with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the Concurrent List** even if a Central law exists. But, laws made by state should not contravene Central laws.
- The power to make laws with respect to residuary subjects (i.e., the matters which are not enumerated in any of the three lists) is vested in the Parliament.

149. Consider the following statements

1. Parliamentary system is based on the doctrine of separation of powers between the two organs.
2. Indian Parliament is a sovereign body.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- The Constitution of India has opted for the British parliamentary System of Government rather than American Presidential System of Government. **The parliamentary system is based on the principle of cooperation and coordination between the legislative and executive organs** while the presidential system is based on the doctrine of separation of powers between the two organs.
- Even though the Indian Parliamentary System is largely based on the British pattern, there are some fundamental differences between the two. For example, the **Indian Parliament is not a sovereign body** like the British Parliament. Further, the Indian State has an elected head (republic) while the British State has hereditary head (monarchy).

150. Black Foot disease is caused due to the use of water contaminated with



- a) Arsenic
- b) Cadmium
- c) Lead
- d) Mercury

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Drinking water rich in arsenic over a long period leads to arsenic poisoning or arsenicosis.
- In China exposure to arsenic via drinking-water has been shown to cause a severe disease of the blood vessels, which leads to gangrene, known as 'black foot disease'.

## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 18<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2020

151. Consider some of these powers of Judiciary that help it to protect the interest of Indian democracy:

1. Anyone can approach the higher judiciary if public interest is hurt by the actions of the government.
2. Higher Judiciary can issue directives to check malpractices on the part of public officials.

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: (c)

Explanation:

- Anyone can approach the higher judiciary if public interest is hurt by the actions of government: This is called public interest litigation. The courts intervene to prevent the misuse of the government's power to make decisions.
- Courts can issue writs of Mandamus to warn public officials of lapse of duty and unruly behaviour. They can also order them to perform certain functions, for e.g. ensuring passenger safety on roads or safety of women at workplaces (Vishakha guidelines).

152. Consider the following statements regarding Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in India.

1. The court can suo moto admit a PIL.
2. The requirement of locus standi is waived off in PIL.
3. The power of courts to issue PIL is mentioned in Article 32 and 226 under special leave petitions.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- A PIL may be introduced in a court of law by the court itself (suo motu), rather than the aggrieved party or another third party.



- For the exercise of the court's jurisdiction, it is not necessary for the victim of the violation of his or her rights to personally approach the court. Locus standi principle means that only those affected could file a suit.
- The member of the public may be a non-governmental organization (NGO), an institution or an individual.
- It was introduced by Justice PN Bhagwati of the Supreme Court. It was not mentioned in the constitution.

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

1. States can amend central laws enacted under the Concurrent List, subject to the condition that provisions repugnant to the parliamentary Acts will have to get the President's assent, without which they do not come into force.
2. The aggrieved states can challenge the validity of the central laws in the Supreme Court.

Select the correct answer code:

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Delhi Assembly passes resolution rejecting agricultural laws.
- The other option available with the states is:
- To take Centre to the Supreme Court over the validity of these laws.
- Article 131 of the Constitution provides exclusive jurisdiction to the Supreme Court to adjudicate matters between the states and the Centre.
- Article 254 (2) of the Constitution empowers state governments to pass legislations which negate the Central acts in the matters enumerated under the Concurrent List.
- A state legislation passed under Article 254 (2) requires the assent of the President of India.

154. Consider the following statements.

1. Under the seventh schedule of the constitution, the states have exclusive powers to control production, supply and distribution of products of any industry, including agriculture.
2. When a state law contradicts a Central law on the same subject, the law passed by Parliament prevails.

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:

- Entry 33 of the Concurrent List provides Centre and the states powers to control production, supply and distribution of products of any industry, including agriculture.
- Usually, when a state wants to amend a Central law made under one of the items in the concurrent list, it needs the clearance of the Centre.



- When a state law contradicts a Central law on the same subject, the law passed by Parliament prevails.

155. The ex-officio Chairman of the Civil Services Board is

- President of India
- Minister of Home Affairs
- Minister of Personnel and Grievances
- Cabinet Secretary

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Cabinet Secretary is also the head of the civil services. The Secretaries felt it necessary to keep the Cabinet Secretary informed of developments from time to time.

156. Consider the following statements.

1. Department of Personnel and Training is the authority in control of IAS and IPS cadre.
2. Central Administrative Tribunal falls under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 only
- 2 only
- Both 1 and 2
- Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- For the premier civil services — IAS, IPS and Indian Forest Service — officers of the state cadre are allotted by the Centre from a pool of officers.
- The Home Ministry is the authority in control of IPS cadre, the Department of Personnel and Training for the IAS cadre, and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for IFS cadre.
- Central Administrative Tribunal had been established under Article 323 – A of the Constitution for adjudication of disputes and complaints with respect to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or other authorities under the control of the Government.
- It falls under the Ministry of personnel public grievances and pensions.

157. Human Freedom Index 2020, recently seen in news is released by

- World Bank
- World Economic Forum
- International Monetary Fund
- None of the above

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- The Human Freedom Index 2020, a worldwide ranking of civil, economic and personal freedom, was released recently.
- The index was published by American think tank Cato Institute and Fraser Institute in Canada.

158. A geostationary orbit is a particular type of geosynchronous orbit where a satellite in geosynchronous orbit returns to the same point in the sky at the same time each day. This is made possible as



1. The satellite orbits directly above the poles.
2. The satellite follows the direction of the Earth's rotation.

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:

- Geostationary orbit is a circular orbit nearly 36,000 kilometres above the Earth's equator following the direction of the Earth's rotation.
- An object in such an orbit has an orbital period equal to the Earth's rotational period (one sidereal day), and thus appears motionless, at a fixed position in the sky, to ground observers.
- Communications satellites and weather satellites are often placed in geostationary orbits, so that the satellite antennas (located on earth) which communicate with them do not have to rotate to track them, but can be pointed permanently at the position in the sky where the satellites are located.

159. Consider the following statements regarding Block Chain Technology

1. It is a time-stamped series of immutable record of data that is managed by cluster of computers not owned by any single entity.
2. The blockchain network has no central authority.

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: (c)

Explanation:

- A blockchain is, in the simplest of terms, a time-stamped series of immutable record of data that is managed by cluster of computers not owned by any single entity. Each of these blocks of data (i.e. block) are secured and bound to each other using cryptographic principles (i.e. chain).
- The blockchain network has no central authority — it is the very definition of a democratized system. Since it is a shared and immutable ledger, the information in it is open for anyone and everyone to see.

160. Haldibari-Chilahati Rail Link, recently seen in news is between

- a) India – Bhutan
- b) India – Pakistan
- c) India – Bangladesh
- d) India – Myanmar

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- The Haldibari-Chilahati rail link was made functional from December 17.
- It is the 5th rail link between India and Bangladesh.



## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 19<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2020

161. 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
  - (1) 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 by Proclamation
    - (a) 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;
- **What is President's Rule in the Indian context?**
  - **Article 356 of the Constitution** of India gives **President of India the power to suspend state government and impose President's rule of any state in the country if "if he is satisfied** that a situation has arisen in which the government of the state cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution".
  - Upon the imposition of this rule, there would be **no Council of Ministers**. The Vidhan Sabha is either dissolved or prorogued.
  - The state will fall under the direct control of the Union government, and the Governor will continue to head the proceedings, representing the President of India – who is the Head of the State.
  - The imposition of the President's rule requires the sanction of both the houses of Parliament.
  - If approved, it can go on for a period of six months. However, the imposition cannot be extended for more than three years, and needs to be brought before the two houses every six months for approval.
- **Revocation:**
  - A proclamation of President's Rule may be revoked by the President at any time by a subsequent proclamation. Such a proclamation does not require parliamentary approval.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/19/sc-stays-andhra-hc-order-to-study-constitutional-breakdown-in-state/>

162. The Disaster Management Act, 2005 empowers the Government of India:

1. The creation of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), headed by the Union Home Minister.
2. To spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to Disaster Management in 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: (b)

Explanation:

- On 23 December 2005, the Government of India enacted the Disaster Management Act, which envisaged the creation of the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**, headed by the **Prime Minister**, and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) headed by respective Chief Ministers, to spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to Disaster Management in India.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/19/supreme-court-raps-govt-on-rising-cost-of-covid-care/>

163. Consider the following statements:

1. For State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), the Centre releases funds in two equal installments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission.
2. Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) audit the SDRF every year.

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 the State Disaster Response Fund?**
  - Constituted under **the Disaster Management Act, 2005 by respective states** and it is the primary fund available with state governments for responses to **notified disasters**.
  - **Composition:** The Central government contributes 75 per cent towards the SDRF allocation for general category states and UTs, and over 90 per cent for special category states/UTs, which includes northeastern states, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand).
  - For SDRF, the Centre releases funds in two equal installments as per the **recommendation of the Finance Commission**.
  - **Support from the National Disaster Response Fund:** it supplements the SDRF of a state, in case of a disaster of severe nature, provided adequate funds are not available in the SDRF.
  - **The disasters covered under the SDRF include** cyclones, droughts, tsunamis, hailstorms, landslides, avalanches and pest attacks among others.
  - **Deciding authority:** The state executive committee headed by the Chief Secretary is authorized to decide on all matters relating to the financing of the relief expenditure from the SDRF.
- **Features of SDRF:**
  - SDRF is located in **the 'Public Account' under 'Reserve Fund'**. (But direct expenditures are not made from Public Account.)
  - **State Government has to pay interest on a half yearly basis** to the funds in SDRF, at the rate applicable to overdrafts.



- The **aggregate size of the SDRF for each state, for each year, is as per the recommendations of the Finance Commission.**
- The share of GoI to the SDRF is treated as a **'grant in aid'.**
- The **financing of relief measures out of SDRF are decided by the State Executive Committee (SEC) constituted under Section 20 of the DM Act.** SEC is responsible for the overall administration of the SDRF. However, the administrative expenses of SEC are borne by the State Government from its normal budgetary provisions and not from the SDRF or NDRF.
- **The norms regarding the amount to be incurred on each approved item of expenditure (type of disaster) are fixed by the Ministry of Home Affairs with the concurrence of Ministry of Finance.** Any excess expenditure has to be borne out of the budget of the state government.
- **Ministry of Home Affairs is the nodal ministry for overseeing** the operation of the SDRF and monitors compliance with prescribed processes.
- **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) audit the SDRF every year.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/19/supreme-court-raps-govt-on-rising-cost-of-covid-care/>

164. Consider the following statements regarding National Policy on Biofuels – 2018.

1. Policy expands the scope of raw material for ethanol production by allowing use of Sugarcane Juice, Sugar Beet, Sweet Sorghum and Starch containing materials like Corn.
2. The policy bans the use of food grains for production of ethanol, to ensure food security.
3. The Policy encourages biodiesel production from non-edible oilseeds and Used Cooking Oil.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

#### **Salient Features: National Policy on Biofuels - 2018**

- The Policy categorises biofuels as "Basic Biofuels" viz. First Generation (1G) bioethanol & biodiesel and "Advanced Biofuels" - Second Generation (2G) ethanol, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to drop-in fuels, Third Generation (3G) biofuels, bio-CNG etc. to enable extension of appropriate financial and fiscal incentives under each category.
- S1: The Policy expands the scope of raw material for ethanol production by allowing use of Sugarcane Juice, Sugar containing materials like Sugar Beet, Sweet Sorghum, Starch containing materials like Corn, Cassava, Damaged food grains like wheat, broken rice, Rotten Potatoes, unfit for human consumption for ethanol production.
- S2: Farmers are at a risk of not getting appropriate price for their produce during the surplus production phase. Taking this into account, **the Policy allows use of surplus food grains for production of ethanol for blending with petrol with the approval of National Biofuel Coordination Committee.**



- With a thrust on Advanced Biofuels, the Policy indicates a viability gap funding scheme for 2G ethanol Bio refineries of Rs.5000 crore in 6 years in addition to additional tax incentives, higher purchase price as compared to 1G biofuels.
- S3: The Policy encourages setting up of supply chain mechanisms for biodiesel production from non-edible oilseeds, Used Cooking Oil, short gestation crops.
- Roles and responsibilities of all the concerned Ministries/Departments with respect to biofuels has been captured in the Policy document to synergise efforts.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/19/india-mulls-e20-fuel-to-cut-vehicular-emissions/>

165. Consider the following statements:

1. Genetic changes can be introduced in the cells that produce eggs or sperms of a prospective parent
  2. A person's genome can be edited before birth at the early embryonic stage
  3. Human induced pluripotent stem cells can be injected into the embryo of a pig.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **S1:** The DNA in any cell can be altered through environmental exposure to certain chemicals, ultraviolet radiation, other genetic insults, or even errors that occur during the process of replication. If a mutation occurs in a germ-line cell **(one that will give rise to gametes, i.e., egg or sperm cells)**, then this mutation can be passed to an organism's offspring. This means that every cell in the developing embryo will carry the mutation. As opposed to germ-line mutations, somatic mutations occur in cells found elsewhere in an organism's body. Such mutations are passed to daughter cells during the process of mitosis, but they are not passed to offspring conceived via sexual reproduction.
- **S2:** <https://www.technologyreview.com/2018/11/25/138962/exclusive-chinese-scientists-are-creating-crispr-babies/> ). This was controversially achieved by a team at the Southern University of Science and Technology, in Shenzhen, which recruited couples in an effort to create the first gene-edited babies. They planned to eliminate a gene called CCR5 in hopes of rendering the offspring resistant to HIV, smallpox, and cholera. Also see this article <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-00673-1> and this research piece <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6813942/>
- **S3:** Domesticated animals such as dogs, pigs and cows are considered excellent models for long-term experiments in regenerative medicines, and biomedical research in general, because of their similarities in physiology with humans compared to the laboratory mouse or rat.
- **So, the techniques used to generate induced pluripotent stem cells from mouse and human were also suitable in pigs.**
- **Context:**
  - The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a first-of-its-kind **intentional genomic alteration (IGA)** in a line of domestic pigs referred to as **GalSafe pigs**.
  - These pigs may be used for food and human therapeutics.



- This will be **the first time that the regulator has approved an animal biotechnology product for both food and biomedical purposes.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/19/intentional-genomic-alteration-iga-and-galsafe-pigs/>

166. What is Cas9 protein that is often mentioned in news?

- (a) A molecular scissors used in targeted gene editing
- (b) A biosensor used in the accurate detection of pathogens in patients
- (c) A gene that makes plants pest-resistant
- (d) A herbicidal substance synthesized in genetically modified crops

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Cas9 (CRISPR associated protein 9) is a protein which plays a vital role in the immunological defense of certain bacteria against DNA viruses, and which is heavily utilized in genetic engineering applications. Its main function is to cut DNA and therefore it can alter a cell's genome.
- **What is intentional genomic alteration?**
  - Intentional genomic alteration in animal's means making specific changes to the genome of the organism using modern molecular technologies that are popularly referred to as "**genome editing**" or "**genetic engineering**".
  - Such changes in the DNA sequence of an animal may be carried out for research purposes, to produce healthier meat for human consumption and to study disease resistance in animals among other reasons.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/19/intentional-genomic-alteration-iga-and-galsafe-pigs/>

167. The terms 'WannaCry, Petya, Eternal Blue and SolarWinds hack', sometimes mentioned news recently are related to:

- (a) Exoplanets
- (b) Crypto currency
- (c) Cyber attacks
- (d) Mini satellites

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **SolarWinds hack:**
  - It is a cyberattack recently discovered in the United States.
  - It has emerged as one of the biggest ever targeted against the US government, its agencies and several other private companies.
- WannaCry, Petya, NotPetya:
 <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/dec/30/wannacry-petya-notpetya-ransomware>

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/19/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-19-december-2020/>

168. Consider the following statements regarding Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

1. Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure is an initiative of United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).
2. It will support developed and developing nations in their efforts to build climate and disaster-resilient infrastructure.



3. CDRI will also focus on developing resilience in ecological infrastructure and social infrastructure.

Which of the 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: **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI):**

- Launched by Modi in September 2019 at the UN Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit in New York, US.
- A platform where knowledge is generated and exchanged on different aspects of disaster and climate resilience of infrastructure.
- It will create a mechanism to assist countries to upgrade their capacities and practices, with regard to infrastructure development in accordance with their risk context and economic needs.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/19/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-19-december-2020/>

169. The word 'Great Conjunction' is sometimes mentioned in media in reference to:

- (a) A rare annular eclipse that occurs once in every one or two years
- (b) When the two planets appear closest together in the sky
- (c) When the two asteroids appear closest together in the sky
- (d) Both (b) and (c)

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **What is the 'Christmas Star' conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter?**
  - After nearly 400 years, Saturn and Jupiter the two largest planets in our solar system will be brought closest in the night sky by an astronomical event called the "great conjunction" and popularly referred to as the "Christmas Star".
- **So, what is the "Great Conjunction"?**
  - A conjunction is not unique to Saturn and Jupiter however, **it is the name given to any event where planets or asteroids appear to be very close together in the sky when viewed from the Earth.**
  - Astronomers use the word "great" for the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn because of the planets' sizes.
  - The "Great Conjunction" happens once in about 20 years because of the time each of the planets take to orbit around the Sun.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/19/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-19-december-2020/>

170. Which of the following are the reasons for the occurrence of multi-drug resistance in microbial pathogens in India?

- 1. Genetic predisposition of some people
- 2. Taking incorrect doses of antibiotics to cure diseases
- 3. Using antibiotics in livestock farming
- 4. Multiple chronic diseases in some people

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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



(c) 1, 3 and 4

(d) 2, 3 and 4

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- S1 and S2: Selection of resistant microorganisms is exacerbated by inappropriate use of antimicrobials since a number of microbes are resistant to these anti-biotics. So, S1 is irrelevant to MDR.
- The practice of adding antibiotics to agricultural feed promotes drug resistance.
- S3: As per WHO, the high volume of antibiotics in food-producing animals contributes to the development of antimicrobial-resistant bacteria, particularly in settings of intensive animal production. These bacteria can be transmitted from animals to humans via direct contact between animals and humans, or through the food chain and the environment. See [https://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas\\_work/antimicrobial-resistance/amrfoodchain/en/](https://www.who.int/foodsafety/areas_work/antimicrobial-resistance/amrfoodchain/en/)
- S4: This is a confusing option, nonetheless seems correct.
- Many medical advances are dependent on the ability to fight infections using antibiotics, such as for treatment of chronic diseases like diabetes, asthma, and rheumatoid arthritis (See <https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/about.html>), and thus, multiple chronic diseases in some people may lead them to take more anti-biotics than others exacerbating the problem.
- Sometimes healthcare providers prescribe antimicrobials inappropriately, wishing to placate an insistent patient who has a viral infection or an as-yet undiagnosed condition. At times there could be a wrong identification of the disease. All these worsen the problem. Whether this is actually a reason or not is hard to testify unless we find a solid evidence, but based on reasoning alone this would be correct.
- Also, MDR provokes obstruction in disease control by intensifying the possibility of spreading of resistant pathogens, thus, declining efficacy of treatment and, hence, resulting in prolonged time of infection in patient. See <https://www.hindawi.com/journals/ipid/2014/541340/>

Source: UPSC CSE 2019

## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 21<sup>st</sup>-Dec-2020

171. He was an Indian revolutionary who opposed British rule of India. For his role in the Muzaffarpur Conspiracy Case, he was sentenced to death and subsequently executed, making him one of the youngest martyrs of the Indian Independence Movement. He was:

- (a) Bhagwati Charan Vohra
- (b) Bhagat Singh
- (c) Bagha Jatin
- (d) Khudiram Bose

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Who was Khudiram Bose? Events he is associated with:**

- **Born in 1889**, Bose is highly regarded in Bengal for his fearless spirit.
- Unlike other leaders like Subhash Chandra Bose, however, **Khudiram's legacy has been largely limited to Bengal.**



- In 1905, when Bengal was partitioned, he actively participated in protests against the British.
- At the age of 15, Bose joined **the Anushilan Samiti**, an early 20th century organisation that propounded revolutionary activities in Bengal.
- The deciding moment of Bose's life came in 1908 when he along with another revolutionary, **Prafulla Chaki** were assigned the task of assassinating the district magistrate of Muzaffarpur.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/21/who-was-khudiram-bose/>

172. Consider the following statements about Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).

1. In 1950, the Government of India initiated to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category called PVTGs.
2. Among the 75 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in Odisha.
3. PVTG community are entitled to the habitat rights under Forest Rights Act, 2006.

Which of the 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:**
  - Anthropological Survey of India policy document warns of threat to endangered group from commercial activity.
  - The policy document comes almost two years after American national John Allen Chau was allegedly killed by the Sentinelese on the Island.
  - The **Sentinelese**, a most secluded, is a **particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG)** who reside in complete isolation on the island.
- PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. **In 1975, the Government of India initiated to identify the most vulnerable tribal groups as a separate category called PVTGs** and declared 52 such groups, while in 1993 an additional 23 groups were added to the category, making it a total of 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes, spread over 18 states and one Union Territory (A&N Islands) in the country (2011 census).
- Among the **75 listed PVTG's** the **highest number are found in Odisha (13)**, followed by Andhra Pradesh (12).
- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements the Scheme** of "Development of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)" exclusively for them.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/21/any-exploitation-of-sentinel-island-will-wipe-out-tribals/>

173. The criteria followed for determination of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) are

1. A pre-agriculture level of technology
2. Declining population
3. Extremely low literacy
4. Subsistence level of economy

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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



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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- PVTGs are more vulnerable among the tribal groups. 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.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/21/any-exploitation-of-sentinel-island-will-wipe-out-tribals/>

174. In the context of which of the following do you sometimes find the terms 'Generalised System of Preferences and Strategic Trade Authorisation' in the news?

- (a) SAARC affairs
- (b) UNFCCC affairs
- (c) India-USA trade negotiations
- (d) India-EU negotiations on FTA

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- As Trump tenure winds down, deals in trade, sanctions, nuclear energy hang fire between India and the US. The unfinished businesses include:
- No blanket waiver of **the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)** sanctions for buying Russian/Chinese arms.
- Failure to reverse the decision to revoke India's **Generalised System of Preferences (GSP)**.
- Commercial contract to be finalised for the decade-old **MoU between U.S.-based Westinghouse Electric Company and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) to build six reactors in Andhra Pradesh.**
- **Achievements so far:**
  - The growing defence partnership, enhanced military exchanges bolstered by **the signing of four foundational agreements: GSOMIA, LEMOA, COMCASA and BECA.**
  - U.S. grant of **the STA-1 Strategic Trade Authorisation** to India, capped by intelligence sharing and quick procurements during the ongoing standoff between Indian and Chinese troops at **the Line of Actual Control (LAC).**
  - Crystallisation of **the "Quad" arrangement.**
- **What is the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP)?**
  - It is a U.S. trade program designed to promote economic growth in the developing world by providing preferential duty-free entry for up to 4,800 products from 129 designated beneficiary countries and territories.
  - GSP was instituted on January 1, 1976, by the Trade Act of 1974.
  - GSP has been given on non-reciprocal basis. Yet the US has linked it with market access and tariff reduction which is against the basic tenets of GSP.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/21/india-u-s-mull-over-unfinished-work/>



175. Consider the following in respect of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS):

1. Inaugural IONS was held in India in 2015 under the chairmanship of the Indian Navy.
2. IONS is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime co-operation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.

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:

- S2: Launched in 2008, the **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) is a voluntary initiative** of 26 nations that **seeks to increase maritime cooperation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region** by providing an open and inclusive forum for discussion of regionally relevant **maritime** issues.
- S1: The inaugural IONS-2008 was held in New Delhi, India. CNS, **Indian Navy was designated the Chairman IONS for the period 2008-10.**
- **Maritime data fusion in India- institutional and structural efforts:**
  - Indian Navy's Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) is the nodal agency for maritime data fusion. Located in Gurugram, it was set up after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.
  - As part of information exchange regarding traffic on the high seas, the Navy has been authorised by the government to conclude white shipping agreements with 36 countries and three multilateral constructs. So far agreements have been concluded with 22 countries and one multilateral construct.
  - At the Navy's Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) which is meant to promote Maritime Domain Awareness, three more International Liaison Officers (ILO) are expected to join soon. The ILOs from France, Japan and the U.S. have joined the centre.
  - Under Phase-I of the coastal radar chain network, 46 coastal radar stations have been set up across the country's coastline. Under Phase-II of the project, which is currently under way, 38 static radar stations and four mobile radar stations are being set up by the Coast Guard and is in advanced stage of completion.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/21/india-to-bring-more-nations-into-coastal-radar-network/>

176. Why is a plant called Himalayan trillium often mentioned in news?

- (a) Its extract is widely used in pharmaceutical industry.
- (b) It tends to reduce the biodiversity in the area in which it grows
- (c) Its extract is used in the pesticides.
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Himalayan trillium:**
- The **Himalayan trillium, a common herb of the Himalayas was declared 'endangered' by the IUCN.**



- The herb has numerous uses for human beings thus inviting people to utilize it, paving way for overutilization.
- Temperate and sub-alpine zones of the Himalayas at an altitude of 2400 meters to 4000 meters.
- India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan has been home to this specie.
- used for the preparation of steroidal and sex hormones.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/21/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-21-december-2020/>

177. Which of the following State group is largest producer of mineral oil or crude oil in India?

- Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh
- Gujarat, Assam and Rajasthan
- Assam, Bihar and Gujarat
- Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Assam

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **ONGC begins production in Bengal basin, making it India's eighth functional:**

- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Limited has begun crude oil production from the Asokenagar-1 well, Bengal Basin in 24 Paragana district.
- This has made the Bengal basin India's eighth producing basin, joining the ranks of Krishna-Godavari (KG), Mumbai Offshore, Assam Shelf, Rajasthan, Cauvery, Assam-Arakan Fold Belt and Cambay.
- There are 26 sedimentary basins in India, covering a total area of 3.4 million square kilometer. Of these, 16 are onland basins, 7 located both onland and offshore and 3 completely offshore.
- The three largest producers of mineral oil or crude oil in India are **Rajasthan (23.7%), Gujarat (12.5%), Assam (12.1%)**.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/21/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-21-december-2020/>

178. Consider the following statements regarding the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA):

1. It is non statutory body set by the executive decision.
2. It is mandated to lay down the policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster Management to ensure timely and effective response to disasters.
3. It is governed by nine member board chaired by Home Minister.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **On 23 December 2005, the Government of India enacted the Disaster Management Act, which envisaged the creation of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), headed by the Prime Minister, and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) headed by respective Chief Ministers, to spearhead and implement a holistic and integrated approach to Disaster Management in India.**



- **NDMA, as the apex body, is mandated to lay down the policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster Management to ensure timely and effective response to disasters.** Towards this, it has the following responsibilities:-
  - Lay down policies on disaster management ;
  - Approve the National Plan;
  - Approve plans prepared by the Ministries or Departments of the Government of India in accordance with the National Plan;
  - Lay down guidelines to be followed by the State Authorities in drawing up the State Plan;
  - Lay down guidelines to be followed by the different Ministries or Departments of the Government of India for the Purpose of integrating the measures for prevention of disaster or the mitigation of its effects in their development plans and projects;
  - Coordinate the enforcement and implementation of the policy and plans for disaster management;
  - Recommend provision of funds for the purpose of mitigation;
  - Provide such support to other countries affected by major disasters as may be determined by the Central Government;
  - Take such other measures for the prevention of disaster, or the mitigation, or preparedness and capacity building for dealing with threatening disaster situations or disasters as it may consider necessary;
  - Lay down broad policies and guidelines for the functioning of the National Institute of Disaster Management.

Refer: <https://ndma.gov.in/en/about-ndma/roles-responsibilities.html>

179. Ratapani Tiger Reserve, sometime seen in the news, is located in

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Odisha
- (d) Madhya Pradesh

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **The Ratapani Tiger Reserve, located in the Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh, in Vindhya Range in central India,** is one of the finest teak forests in the state and is less than 50 km. away from the capital Bhopal. It has been a wildlife sanctuary since 1976.

Refer: <https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/travel-tourism/ratapani-tiger-reserve-madhya-pradesh-to-get-7th-tiger-reserve/1726620/>

180. Consider the following statements regarding Hoolock Gibbon

1. It is an endangered species.
  2. It is the only ape species found in India.
  3. They are restricted to southern banks of Brahmaputra
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Hoolock gibbon are** endangered species. They are the only ape found in India.



- **Hoolock gibbons** are native to eastern Bangladesh, Northeast India and Southwest China. In northeast India, the hoolock is found south of Brahmaputra as well on the North Bank areas and east of the Dibang Rivers

Refer: <https://indianexpress.com/article/north-east-india/aranachal-pradesh/in-an-aranachal-pradesh-village-locals-are-helping-the-endangered-hoolock-gibbon-swing-from-tree-to-tree-5765255/>



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## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 22<sup>nd</sup>-Dec-2020

181. With reference to Parliamentary Standing Committees, consider the following statements:

1. Standing Committees not only supervise the work of various departments but also their budget.
2. Public Accounts Committee is an example of Standing Committee.
3. Members of the Standing committees are selected from both Houses.
4. Standing Committees are permanent in nature.
5. Standing Committees are means of parliamentary control over the executive.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Standing Committees not only supervise the work of various departments but also their budget, their expenditure and bills that come up in the house relating to the department.
- It is a permanent and regular committee which is constituted from time to time according to the provisions of an Act of Parliament or Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business.
- The work done by the Indian Parliament is not only voluminous but also of a complex nature, hence a good deal of its work is carried out in these Parliamentary Committees.
- There are two types of Parliamentary Committee, the Standing Committee and the Ad hoc Committee. Public Accounts Committee is an example of Standing Committee. Members of the Standing committees are selected from both Houses, except for Estimates Committee where all the members are from Lok Sabha Only.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/22/parliamentary-panel-report-on-covid-19-management/>

182. Consider the following statements:

1. The Prime Minister constitutes Standing Committees of the Cabinet and sets out the specific functions assigned to them.
2. The Parliament of India has the power to add or reduce the number of Standing Committees of the Cabinet.

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:

- **S1 & S2:** The **Prime Minister constitutes Standing Committees of the Cabinet** and sets out the specific functions assigned to them. He can add or reduce the number of committees.
- Background: **Transaction of Business**



- The executive works under the Government of India Transaction of Business Rules, 1961. These Rules emerge out of Article 77(3) of the Constitution, which states: “The President shall make rules for the more convenient transaction of the business of the Government of India, and for the allocation among Ministers of the said business.” The Rules mandate the minister-in-charge of a department (ministry) to dispose of “all business allotted to a department under” him or her.
- However, “when the subject of a case concerns more than one department”, no decision can be taken “until all such departments have concurred, or, failing such concurrence, a decision thereon has been taken by or under the authority of the Cabinet”.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/22/parliamentary-panel-report-on-covid-19-management/>

183. With reference to the Parliament of India, consider the following statements:

The Cabinet Committee on Accommodation:

1. determines the guidelines with regard to the allotment of government accommodation.
2. takes a call on the allotment of government accommodation to non-eligible persons and organisations.
3. can consider proposals for shifting existing Central Government Offices to locations outside the capital.

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:

- The Cabinet Committee on Accommodation determines the guidelines or rules with regard to the allotment of government accommodation.
- It also takes a call on the allotment of government accommodation to non-eligible persons and organisations as also the rent to be charged from them. It can consider the allotment of accommodation from the General Pool to Members of Parliament.
- It can consider proposals for shifting existing Central Government Offices to locations outside the capital.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/22/parliamentary-panel-report-on-covid-19-management/>

184. With reference to the Parliament of India, which of the following Cabinet Committee addresses problems related to Centre-state relations also examines economic and political issues that require a wider perspective but have no internal or external security implications?

- (a) Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs
- (b) Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs
- (c) Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs
- (d) Cabinet Committee on Security

Ans: (c)

Explanation:



- **Economic Affairs:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs is supposed to review economic trends, problems and prospects “for evolving a consistent and integrated economic policy”, coordinate all activities requiring policy decisions at the highest level, deal with fixation of prices of agricultural produce and prices of essential commodities. It considers proposals for investment of more than Rs 1,000 crore, deal with industrial licensing policies and review rural development and the Public Distribution System.
- **Parliamentary Affairs:** The Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs draws the schedule for Parliament sessions and monitors the progress of government business in Parliament. It scrutinises non-government business and decides which official Bills and resolutions are to be presented.
- **Political Affairs:** The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs addresses problems related to Centre-state relations. It also examines economic and political issues that require a wider perspective but have no internal or external security implications.
- **Security:** The Cabinet Committee on Security deals with issues relating to law and order, internal security and policy matters concerning foreign affairs with internal or external security implications. It also goes into economic and political issues related to national security. It considers all cases involving capital defence expenditure more than Rs 1,000 crore. It considers issues related to the Department of Defence Production and the Department of Defence Research and Development, Services Capital Acquisition plans and schemes for procurement of security-related equipment.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/22/parliamentary-panel-report-on-covid-19-management>

185. Consider the following statements about Lok Adalats

1. National Legal Services Authority along with other Legal Services Institutions conducts Lok Adalats.
2. Lok Adalats have been given statutory status.
3. It is a forum where disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled amicably.
4. There is no court fee payable when a matter is filed in a Lok Adalat.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- NALSA along with other Legal Services Institutions conducts Lok Adalats. Lok Adalat is one of the alternative dispute redressal mechanisms, it is a forum where disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage are settled/ compromised amicably. Lok Adalats have been given statutory status under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.
- There is no court fee payable when a matter is filed in a Lok Adalat.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/22/lok-adalat-creates-history-by-settling-2-61-lakh-cases-in-karnataka/>



186. Which of the following authority's decision is/are legally binding but subjected to appeal?

1. National Company law appellate tribunal.
2. Lok Adalat
3. Gram Nyayalayas

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:

- **National company law appellate tribunal:** An appeal against the NCLAT's judgement and orders can be filed before the SC. Such an appeal can be filed within 45 days.
- **Lok Adalat:** the award (decision) made by the Lok Adalats is deemed to be a case of a civil court and **is final and binding on all parties and no appeal against such an award lies before any court of law**. If the parties are not satisfied with the award of the Lok Adalat (though there is no provision for an appeal against such an award), they are free to initiate litigation by approaching the court of appropriate jurisdiction.
- **Gram Nyayalaya:** Appeals in criminal matter can be made to the Sessions Court in the respective jurisdiction and in civil matters to the District Court within a period of one month from the date of judgment.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/22/lok-adalat-creates-history-by-settling-2-61-lakh-cases-in-karnataka/>

187. 'Recognition of Prior Learning Scheme' is sometimes mentioned in the news with reference to

- (a) Certifying the skills acquired by construction workers through traditional channels.
- (b) Enrolling the persons in Universities for distance learning programmes.
- (c) Reserving some skilled jobs to rural and urban poor in some public sector undertakings.
- (d) Certifying the skills acquired by trainees under the National Skill Development Programme.

Ans: (a)

Explanation: Context:

- Skill India undertakes **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** for workers under Department of Panchayati Raj in Chandauli and Varanasi.
- The programme is being implemented under **SANKALP Programme of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**.
- The implementing agency for the programme is National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- **What is RPL?**
  - Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) programme recognizes the **value of learning acquired outside a formal setting and provides a government certificate for an individual's skills**.
  - Candidates receive exposure to concepts of digital and financial literacy and an accidental insurance coverage for three years at free of cost.
  - No fee is charged from a candidate for participating in the RPL program and every successfully certified candidate will receive INR 500.



- This initiative is part of a larger programme on 'Skill Development Planning at the level of 'Gram Panchayat' that focuses on introducing Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in a structured manner in GPs of various districts across the country.
- **Option A:** The 'Recognition of Prior Learning' scheme — underway across construction sites in five states — to certify skills acquired by workers through traditional learning channels.
  - The project may be of particular relevance to a country where just 2 per cent of the workforce is certified as skilled.
  - Most deemed to be outside the skilled category in India are those who have typically picked up a skill while on the job, without any formal degree to back this up.
- **Option D is incorrect since it talks about trainees who are not fully skilled to get recognition of any prior learning.**
- Individuals with prior learning experience or skills will also be assessed and certified under Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) in Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), but this isn't applicable to trainees. So, D is incorrect.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/22/recognition-of-prior-learning-rpl-2/>

188. With reference to 'National Investment and Infrastructure Fund', which of the following statements is/are correct?

1. It is an organ of NITI Aayog.
2. It has a corpus of ₹40,000 crore at present.

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: (b)

Explanation: About NIIF:

- **The government had set up the ₹40,000 crore NIIF in 2015** as an investment vehicle for funding commercially viable greenfield, brownfield and stalled infrastructure projects.
- NIIF's mandate includes investing in areas such as energy, transportation, housing, water, waste management and other infrastructure-related sectors in India.
- NIIF currently manages three funds each with its distinctive investment mandate. The funds are registered as Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/22/national-investment-and-infrastructure-fund-niif-3/>

189. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) operates under the jurisdiction of the:

- (a) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (b) Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
- (c) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
- (d) Ministry of External Affairs

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **About CBI:**

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is the premier investigating agency of India.



- Operating under **the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, the CBI is headed by the Director.**
- CBI, India's first agency to investigate corruption, the Special Police Establishment, was **set up in 1941**, six years before independence from British rule to probe bribery and corruption in the country during World War II.
- In 1946, it was brought under the Home Department and its remit was expanded to investigate corruption in central and state governments under **the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act.**
- The DSPE acquired its popular current name, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), through a Home Ministry resolution in 1963.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/22/cbi-brings-out-updated-crime-manual-after-15-years/>

190. Consider the following statements:

1. Leopards are the fastest land animals.
2. As for region wise distribution, the highest number of leopards were found in Central India and Eastern Ghats.

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:

- S1: Cheetahs are the fastest land animals. They can reach speeds of up to 120 km/h (75 mph) and have the ability to accelerate from 0 to 103 km/h (64 mph) in three seconds - faster than most sports cars. Leopards, on the other hand, only reach a top speed of about 58 km/h (37 mph), but what they lack in speed they make up for with other abilities. They have retractable claws which allow them to be the superb climbers that they are. They are extremely good swimmers, too
- S2: **As for region wise distribution, the highest number of 8,071 leopards were found in central India and eastern ghats, which include the states of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.**
- In the western ghat region, which comprises Karnataka, Tamil Nadi, Goa and Kerala, there are 3,387 leopards while there are 1,253 leopards in Shivalik and Gangetic Plains which includes Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Bihar.
- **Status of Leopards report:**
  - Released recently by the Environment Ministry.
- **Key findings:**
  - **60 percent rise in Leopard population across the Country;** India now has 12,852 leopards.
  - The States of Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra recorded the highest leopard estimates at 3,421, 1,783 and 1,690 respectively.
- **Leopard:**
  - Scientific Name- Panthera pardus.
  - Listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
  - Included in Appendix I of CITES.
  - Listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.



- Nine subspecies of the leopard have been recognized, and they are distributed across Africa and Asia.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/22/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-22-december-2020/>

## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 23<sup>rd</sup>-Dec-2020

191. Which of the following Statements:

1. The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration of tribal areas in the four northeastern States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur.
2. Under fifth Schedule, Tribal Advisory council in the States having scheduled areas shall Consist of 20 Members.
3. Under fifth Schedule, The Governor is empowered to declare an area to be a Scheduled Area.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 3 Only
- b) 2 Only
- c) 3 Only
- d) All of the above

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **S1:** The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration of tribal areas in the four northeastern States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and **Mizoram [Not Manipur]**.
- **S2:** According to fifth Schedule, Each state having scheduled areas has to establish a tribes advisory council to advise on welfare and advancement of the scheduled tribes. It is to consist of 20 members, three-fourths of whom are to be the representatives of the scheduled tribes in the state legislative assembly.
- **S3:** Under fifth Schedule, The **president [Not the Governor]** is empowered to declare an area to be a scheduled area. He can also increase or decrease its area, alter its boundary lines, rescind such designation or make fresh orders for such redesignation on an area in consultation with the governor of the state concerned.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/23/hc-orders-composite-floor-test-in-btc/>

192. Who among the following is/are empowered by the Indian Constitution to restrict the territorial extent of Central Legislation with respect to tribal areas?

- a) Governors of Tripura, Meghalaya and Mizoram
- b) President of India
- c) Both A and B
- d) Attorney General of India.

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- The **Governor of Assam** may likewise direct that an act of Parliament does not apply to a tribal area (autonomous district) in the state or apply with specified modifications and exceptions. **The President enjoys the**



**same power** with respect to tribal areas (autonomous districts) **in Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/23/hc-orders-composite-floor-test-in-btc/>

193. Which of the following rivers originate from the Tibetan plateau?

1. Karnali
2. Indus
3. Sutlej

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:

- Tibet has been called the "Water Tower" of Asia.
- The Mekong, the Yellow river, the Yangtze, the Yarlung Tsampo (Brahmaputra), the **Indus**, **Sutlej** and the **Karnali** all **originate** on the **Tibetan plateau** and support hundreds of millions of people downstream.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/23/us-congress-passes-tibetan-policy-and-support-act/>

194. As per the "Code on Wages Act - 2019", the definition of 'Wages' include:

- (a) Salary only
- (b) Both salary and allowance
- (c) Salary, allowance and bonus (if any)
- (d) Salary, allowance and meal (if any)

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Wages include salary, allowance, or any other component expressed in monetary terms. This does not include bonus payable to employees or any travelling allowance, among others.

**About the Code on Wages Act:**



- The code will amalgamate the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, and the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.
- The wage code **universalises the provisions of minimum wages and timely payment of wages to all employees**, irrespective of the sector and wage ceiling.
- It ensures **the “right to sustenance”** for every worker and intends to increase the legislative protection of minimum wage from existing about 40% to 100% workforce.
- It also introduces the concept of **statutory floor wage** which will be computed based on minimum living conditions and extended qualitative living conditions across the country for all workers.
- While fixing the minimum rate of wages, the central government shall divide the concerned geographical area into **three categories – metropolitan area, non-metropolitan area and the rural area**.
- The **minimum wages decided by the central or state governments must be higher than the floor wage**.
- **Payment of wages:** Wages will be paid in (i) coins, (ii) currency notes, (iii) by cheque, (iv) by crediting to the bank account, or (v) through electronic mode. The wage period will be fixed by the employer as either: (i) daily, (ii) weekly, (iii) fortnightly, or (iv) monthly.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/23/cii-ficci-to-see-a-pause-on-wage-code/>

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

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

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- The National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) is a group of **social and economic infrastructure projects in India over a period of five years** with an initial sanctioned amount of ₹102 lakh crore.
- The **centre (39 percent) and state (39 percent)** are expected to have an almost equal share in implementing the projects, while the private sector has 22 percent share.
- The India Investment Grid is designed to give real-time updates on the implementation of the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP).

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/23/centre-to-set-up-development-finance-entity/>

196. Consider the following statements regarding Great Indian Bustards (GIB).

1. It is identified as one of the species for the recovery programme under the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.



2. Project Great Indian Bustard was launched by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for identifying and fencing off bustard breeding grounds in existing protected area.
3. The bird is categorised as “critically endangered” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)**

- IUCN status: critically endangered.
- Found in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.
- Listed in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and in the CMS Convention and in Appendix I of CITES.
- Identified as one of the species for the recovery programme under the Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- Project Great Indian Bustard by the state of Rajasthan — identifying and fencing off bustard breeding grounds in existing protected areas as well as provide secure breeding enclosures in areas outside protected areas.
- Protected areas: Desert National Park Sanctuary — Rajasthan, Rollapadu Wildlife Sanctuary – Andhra Pradesh and Karera Wildlife Sanctuary– Madhya Pradesh.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/23/pokhrans-firefly-bird-diverters-shine-to-save-the-great-indian-bustard/>

197. With reference to India's Desert National Park, which of the following statements are correct?

1. It is spread over two districts.
2. There is no human habitation inside the Park.
3. It is one of the natural habitats of Great Indian Bustard.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- S1: Situated in Jaisalmer and Barmer districts of Indian state Rajasthan.
- S2: This is clearly incorrect. A national park can have human habitation.
- S3: This is common knowledge.

Refer: UPSC CSE 2020: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/23/pokhrans-firefly-bird-diverters-shine-to-save-the-great-indian-bustard/>

198. 'FRUITS' portal for land records, a project of e-governance was launched by which of the following:

- (a) Government of Karnataka
- (b) Government of Kerala
- (c) Government of Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Government of Telangana



Ans: (a)

Explanation: **'FRUITS' portal for land records launched:**

- The 'FRUITS' (Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System) portal, a project of e-governance by Karnataka Government.
- The portal was integrated to the Bhoomi portal of the State for fetching and validating land details.
- It will eliminate visit of farmers to sub-registrar offices.
- **How it works?**
  - In this portal, all the farmers will be registered and given a FID Number.
  - Using this number, the financial and lending institutions can access the land details of the farmers as well as their borrowings and take a quick decision on lending to the farmers depending on their requirements.
  - All financial institutions would be brought on to the portal so that at one place, all the data pertaining to the loans of the farmers would be available.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/23/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-23-december-2020/>

199. Consider the following pairs:

Tiger Reserve – State in which it is found:

1. Simlipal – Odisha
2. Bor – West Bengal
3. Kalakkad Mundanthurai – Kerala

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

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Bor Tiger Reserve – Maharashtra
- Kalakkad Mundanthurai – Tamil Nadu

Refer: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/mankidia-denied-habitat-in-simlipal/article22392195.ece>

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/fatal-crossings-tigers-in-26-reserves-under-threat/article22388295.ece>

200. Consider the following statements about Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

1. It is an Earth-centered orbit with an altitude of 2,000 km or less.
2. The International Space Station conducts operations in LEO.
3. Major disadvantage of low Earth orbit is that it requires high amount of energy for satellite placement.
4. Spy satellites cannot use LEO.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

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

Ans: (c)

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



- **Low earth orbit refers to an altitude up to 2,000 km or less.** A satellite in the LEO can monitor activities on the ground and water surfaces.
- A low Earth orbit requires the lowest amount of energy for satellite placement. It provides high bandwidth and low communication latency. Satellites and space stations in LEO are more accessible for crew and servicing.
- Earth observation satellites and spy satellites use LEO as they are able to see the surface of the Earth clearly by being close to it.
- The **International Space Station** is in a LEO about 330 km to 420 km above Earth's surface.

Refer: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Low\\_Earth\\_orbit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Low_Earth_orbit)

## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 24<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2020

201. Consider the following statements regarding Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA):

1. It is the intergovernmental organization located at The Hague.
2. It provides a forum for the resolution of international disputes through arbitration and other peaceful means.
3. It is a United Nations agency.

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

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **here the directive word is nor correct!!**

- **What was the case?**
  - Cairn had challenged the Indian government seeking taxes over an internal business reorganisation using the 2012 retrospective tax law, under the UK-India Bilateral Investment Treaty.
  - In 2011, Cairn Energy sold its majority stake in Cairn India to Vedanta Ltd, reducing its stake in the Indian company to about 10 per cent.
  - In 2014, the Indian tax department had demanded Rs 10,247 crore (\$1.4 billion) in taxes.
  - Cairn's claim was brought under the terms of the UK-India Bilateral Investment Treaty, the legal seat of the tribunal was the Netherlands, and the proceedings were under the registry of the **Permanent Court of Arbitration**.
- Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) is founded in 1899. It is an intergovernmental organization located at The Hague, the Netherlands.
- It provides a forum for the resolution of international disputes through arbitration and other peaceful means.
- It provides services of arbitral tribunal to resolve disputes between member states, international organizations, or private parties arising out of international agreements. In PCA, parties can themselves select the arbitrators.
- The organization is not a United Nations agency but has observer status in the UN General Assembly. The rulings of PCA are binding but the tribunal has no powers for enforcement. India is a party to it.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/24/cairn-energy-wins-arbitration-award-against-india-in-tax-dispute/>

202. Consider the following statements:

The Reserve Bank of India's recent directives relating to unauthorized Digital Lending Platforms/Mobile Apps, provides that

1. Public should never use unauthorised digital lending platforms and mobile apps.
2. Public should verify antecedents of the company/ firm offering loans online or through mobile apps.

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:

- RBI has released an advisory on digital lending apps.
- Background:
  - The advisory comes in the backdrop of at least three borrowers in Telangana committing suicide in the recent past, following alleged harassment by personnel of such lenders, and many more complaining of being subjected to coercive methods after defaulting on repayments.
- Highlights:
  - Public should be wary of unauthorised digital lending platforms and mobile apps.
  - Public should verify antecedents of the company/ firm offering loans online or through mobile apps.
  - Consumers should never share copies of KYC documents with unidentified persons or unverified/unauthorised apps.
  - They can report such apps/bank account information associated with the apps to law enforcement agencies concerned or use sachet portal (<https://sachet.rbi.org.in>) to file complaint.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/24/beware-of-illegal-digital-lending-apps-rbi/>

203. Consider the following statements regarding FDI Policy in India.

- Under the Automatic Route, the non-resident investor or the Indian company does not require any approval from Government of India for the investment.
- Private sector investment in Atomic energy requires the prior approval of the Government of India.
- Gambling and betting sectors are prohibited for FDI.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **100% FDI in DTH services:**

- The Union Cabinet has given its nod to the following changes in Direct-to-Home (DTH) broadcasting services:
  - 100% foreign direct investment (FDI).
  - Licenses will be issued for a period of 20 years, compared to 10 years at the moment, and will be renewed for a 10-year period.
  - The license fee has been revised from 10 per cent of gross revenue (GR) to 8 per cent of adjusted gross revenue (AGR), which will be calculated by deduction of GST from GR.
  - Broadcasting firms will have to pay the license fee on quarterly basis, rather than the annual basis as of now.
  - DTH operators can share infrastructure.
- FDI policy in India:**
  - Automatic Route



- Under the Automatic Route, the non-resident investor or the Indian company does not require any approval from Government of India for the investment.
- Government Route
  - Under the Government Route, prior to investment, approval from the Government of India is required. Proposals for foreign investment under Government route, are considered by respective Administrative Ministry/Department.
- PROHIBITED SECTORS
  - Lottery Business including Government/private lottery, online lotteries, etc.
  - Chit Funds
  - Trading in Transferable Development Rights (TDR)
  - Manufacturing of cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes
  - Nidhi Company
  - Real Estate Business or Construction of farm houses (Real estate business shall not include development of town shops, construction of residential/ commercial premises, roads or bridges and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) registered and regulated under the SEBI (REITs) Regulations, 2014)
  - Sectors not open to private sector investment- atomic energy, railway operations (other than permitted activities mentioned under the Consolidated FDI policy).

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/24/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-24-december-2020/>

204. Consider the following statements.

1. Investments through the FDI route are strategic in nature, and meant for the long term.
  2. FDI investors also get a say in the management of the investee company, including board seats.
  3. FDIs and FPIs can invest in both listed and unlisted securities.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- FDI and FPI routes are used by foreign funds for entirely different purposes. Investments through the FDI route are strategic in nature, and meant for the long term. Several FDI investors also get a say in the management of the investee company, including board seats.
- By contrast, portfolio investments are short-term in nature, with investors having the liberty to buy or sell stock on the bourses. Also, FPIs are allowed to invest only in listed securities, while FDI investments can be made even in unlisted assets.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/24/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-24-december-2020/>



205. Currently, the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) Ltd includes:

1. Directorate of Film Festivals.
2. National Film Archives of India.
3. Children's Film Society, India.

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: Merger of four of its film media units:

- Cabinet has approved the merger of four of its film media units with the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) Ltd.
- These include:
  - Films Division.
  - Directorate of Film Festivals.
  - National Film Archives of India.
  - Children's Film Society, India.
- Need for: There was "duplication" between some of these organisations. After coming together, the governance will become better.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/24/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-24-december-2020/>

206. Which of the following food items are taxed under the GST?

1. Milk in tetra pack
2. Ready to eat parotta
3. Cereal grains hulled
4. Plain Chapatti or roti
5. Newspapers containing advertising material

Select the correct answer code:

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Products such as milk are tax-free, but **milk in tetra pack is taxed** at 5% and condensed milk is taxed at 12% GST.
- Plain roti and parotta served in a restaurant or provided in takeaway will attract only 5% GST, unlike a frozen product sold under a brand and in sealed cover with a shelf life. Hence, such frozen and preserved parotta (or parantha) is not a like product when compared to plain roti, khakra, etc.
- **GST: physical verification of premises is now mandatory:**
  - The government has introduced mandatory physical verification of business premises for the purposes of obtaining GST registration.
  - The move is aimed at controlling the menace of GST fake invoice frauds.
  - Now there must be in-person verification before registration is granted to an applicant. Further, in case an applicant opts for Aadhaar authentication, he will undergo biometric-based Aadhaar authentication at one of the facilitation Centres notified by the Commissioner.



Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/24/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-24-december-2020/>

207. Due to slowdown in various sectors, several states are asking for longer period of GST compensation. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding GST compensation?

1. The Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017 provides for 100% compensation to the states for a period of only three years for the loss of revenue arising on account of implementation of GST.
2. For the purpose of calculating the compensation amount payable, the financial year ending 31st March, 2016, shall be taken as the base year.
3. For providing compensation to states, Centre uses the funds specifically collected as compensation cess levied on products considered to be 'sin' or luxury goods.

Which of the 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:

- **Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act, 2017** provide for compensation to the States for the loss of revenue arising on account of implementation of the goods and services tax in pursuance of the provisions of the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016.
- **Compensation cess was introduced as relief for States for the loss of revenues arising from the implementation of GST.** States, in lieu of giving up their powers to collect taxes on goods and services after local levies were subsumed under the GST, were guaranteed a **14 per cent tax revenue growth** in the first five years after GST implementation by the Central government. **States' tax revenue as of FY 2016 is considered as the base year** for the calculation of this 14 per cent growth. Any shortfall against it is supposed to be compensated by the Centre using the funds specifically collected as compensation cess.
- Compensation cess is levied on products considered to be 'sin' or luxury goods.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/24/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-24-december-2020/>

208. Consider the following statements regarding Reverse Charge Mechanism (RCM)

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

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:



- **Reverse charge is a mechanism under which the recipient of the goods or services is liable to pay the tax instead of the provider of the goods and services.** Under the normal taxation regime, the supplier collects the tax from the buyer and deposits the same after adjusting the output tax liability with the input tax credit available. But under reverse charge mechanism (RCM), liability to pay tax shifts from supplier to recipient.
- The reverse charge clause is the most powerful check that had been inserted into the regulations by the architects of GST.
- The **intention of RCM was to check tax evasion and expand the tax base.** The first few months of GST rollout witnessed sharp expansion in indirect taxpayer base mainly due to the presence of the reverse charge feature.
- The other impact of RCM was that smaller vendors who wished to supply to larger clients, voluntarily registered on the GST NETWORK. They were afraid that if unregistered, larger clients might spurn them.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/24/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-24-december-2020/>

209. Consider the following statements:

1. The GST Council is India's first experience at a cooperative-federalism based decision-making authority.
2. The 122nd constitution amendment bill and all legislations enabling the GST were passed unanimously by the Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- "To develop a consensus, we passed the Constitution amendment enabling the GST unanimously. All legislations enabling the GST were passed unanimously. The rules were put before the GST Council. They have been approved unanimously. *We have held 27 meetings of the GST Council so far where every decision has been taken by consensus and unanimity.* All the rates are fixed through consensus on the recommendation of the Rates Committee. Whenever there are contrarian views in the Council, a representative Group of Ministers of the State is constituted to work out a via media and we try to evolve consensus one way or the other. I do realise that the delicate federal balance in India has to be maintained. The GST Council is India's first experience at cooperative-federalism based decision-making authority. We cannot afford to risk a failure and, therefore, it is functioning as to arouse confidence amongst all States. The meetings have always been consensus based. The only area where unanimity seems to be lacking is the television bites that some Ministers' give after the meeting, which may be necessary for their own political position. I am willing to live with the experience of a healthy debate and unanimity within the Council and a show of dissent outside the Council meetings.."

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/24/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-24-december-2020/>

210. Consider the following statements about National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA).

1. The Authority's main function is to ensure that traders are not realizing unfair profit by charging high price from consumers in the name of GST.



2. NAA is headed by the Ministry of Finance.
3. The GST law also provides for the creation of a Consumer Welfare Fund wherein undue benefits made by businesses under the GST law have to be deposited, in case it cannot be passed on to the identified recipient.

Which of the 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:

- The National Anti-Profiteering Authority (NAA) has been constituted under *Section 171 of the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017*.
- The Authority's main function is to ensure that traders are not realizing unfair profit by charging high price from consumers in the name of GST.
- The Authority's core function is to ensure that the benefits of the reduction in GST rates on goods and services made by GST Council and proportional change in the Input tax credit passed on to the ultimate consumers and recipient respectively by way of reduction in the prices by the suppliers.
- The National Anti-Profiteering Authority shall be headed by a senior officer of the level of a Secretary to the Government of India and shall have four technical members from the Centre and/or the States.
- In the event the National Anti-profiteering Authority confirms the necessity of applying anti-profiteering measures, it has the power to order the business concerned to reduce its prices or return the undue benefit availed along with interest to the recipient of the goods or services.
- If the undue benefit cannot be passed on to the recipient, it can be ordered to be deposited in the Consumer Welfare Fund.
- In extreme cases the National Anti-profiteering Authority can impose a penalty on the defaulting business entity and even order the cancellation of its registration under GST.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/24/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-24-december-2020/>

## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 25<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2020

211. Consider the following statements:

1. Governor's ordinance-making power is not a discretionary power.
2. After the 42nd Constitutional Amendment (1976), ministerial advice has been made binding on the President, but no such provision has been made with respect to the governor.

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:

- **Governor's ordinance-making power is not a discretionary power.** This means that he can promulgate or withdraw an ordinance only on the advice of the council of ministers headed by the chief minister.
- After the **42nd Constitutional Amendment (1976)**, ministerial advice has been made binding on the President, but no such provision has been made with respect to the governor.
- **Ordinance making powers of the Governor** Just as the President of India is constitutionally mandated to issue Ordinances under Article 123, the Governor of a state can issue Ordinances under Article 213, when the state legislative assembly (or either of the two Houses in states with bicameral legislatures) is not in session. The powers of the President and the Governor are broadly comparable with respect to Ordinance making. However, the Governor cannot issue an Ordinance without instructions from the President in three cases where the assent of the President would have been required to pass a similar Bill. (a) if a Bill containing the same provisions would have required the previous sanction of the President for introduction into the legislature; (b) if the Governor would have deemed it necessary to reserve a Bill containing the same provisions for the consideration of the President; and (c) if an Act of the legislature containing the same provisions would have been invalid unless it received the assent of the President.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/25/what-the-law-says-about-a-governors-power-to-summon-prorogue-or-dissolve-an-assembly/>

212. Consider the following statements about the office of the governor as mentioned in the constitution of India:

1. His office is constitutionally under the control and subordinate to the Central government.
2. The Governor of a particular state should not belong to that state.
3. The President of India must consult the Chief Minister of the concerned state before making the appointment of the Governor of that state.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 2 and 3
- c) 1 and 3
- d) None of the above

Explanation:

- The governor holds an independent office under the constitution. Options 2 and 3 are conventions and not mentioned in the constitution. It is solely on the discretion of the President on how he wants to appoint the Governor (given some qualifications mentioned in the constitution of India)

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/25/what-the-law-says-about-a-governors-power-to-summon-prorogue-or-dissolve-an-assembly/>

213. Consider the following statements

1. The governor is empowered to direct that any particular act of Parliament or the state legislature does not apply to a scheduled area or apply with specified modifications and exceptions.
2. The governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts.

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: (c)

Explanation:

- The governor is empowered to direct that any particular act of Parliament or the state legislature does not apply to a scheduled area or apply with specified modifications and exceptions. *6th schedule deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four north-eastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. The governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts. If there are different tribes in an autonomous district, the governor can divide the district into several autonomous regions.*

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/25/what-the-law-says-about-a-governors-power-to-summon-prorogue-or-dissolve-an-assembly/>

214. Consider the following statements:

1. A Public Interest Litigation can be filed against any private party.
2. According to the Constitution of India, the petition can be filed under Article 226 before a High Court or under Article 32 before the Supreme Court of 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: (b)

Explanation: **What is a PIL?**

- Public Interest litigation (PIL), as the name suggests, is litigation for any public interest. As the word 'litigation' means 'legal action', PIL stands for a legal action taken by a public spirited person in order to protect public interest (any act for the benefit of public).
- A Public Interest Litigation **can be filed against a State/ Central Govt., Municipal Authorities, and not any private party.**
- According to the Constitution of India, **the petition can be filed under Article 226 before a High Court or under Article 32 before the Supreme Court of India.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/25/five-month-old-infant-moves-high-court-seeking-ban-on-vehicular-movement-inside-cubbon-park/>

215. Consider the following statements regarding Singapore Convention on Mediation.

1. It is the first UN treaty to be named after Singapore.
2. It settles disputes between the members at the Government level and does not involve corporate disputes.
3. India is a signatory to the Convention.

Which of the 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:**



- India has challenged the Permanent Court of Arbitration's verdict in favour of British telecom giant Vodafone Group in a case involving a Rs 20,000 crore demand from the Indian income tax authorities, in Singapore.
- The Singapore Convention on Mediation will provide a more effective way for enforcing mediated **settlements of corporate disputes** involving businesses in India and other countries that are signatories to the Convention.
- Also known as the **United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation**, this is also the first UN treaty to be named after Singapore.
- With the Convention in force, businesses seeking enforcement of a mediated settlement agreement across borders can do so by applying directly to the courts of countries that have signed and ratified the treaty, instead of having to enforce the settlement agreement as a contract in accordance with each country's domestic process.
- the Convention has 53 signatories, including **India**, China and the U.S.

refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/25/india-challenges-vodafone-arbitration-ruling-in-singapore/>

216. In India, 'National Mathematics Day' is celebrated on whose birth anniversary:

- (a) Srinivasa Ramanujan
- (b) S. Chandrasekhar
- (c) S. N. Bose
- (d) C. V. Raman

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Celebrated every year on December 22.
- It is **observed to honor the birth anniversary of the famous mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan** who greatly contributed towards mathematical analysis, number theory, infinite series and continued fractions.
- **Highlights of Srinivasa Ramanujan's life:**
  - In 1911, Ramanujan published the first of his papers in the Journal of the Indian Mathematical Society.
  - Ramanujan traveled to England in 1914, where Hardy tutored him and collaborated with him in some research.
  - He worked out the Riemann series, the elliptic integrals, hypergeometric series, the functional equations of the zeta function, and his own theory of divergent series.
  - The number 1729 is known as the Hardy-Ramanujan number after a famous visit by Hardy to see Ramanujan at a hospital.
  - Hardy observed Ramanujan's work primarily involved fields less known even amongst other pure mathematicians.
  - Ramanujan's home state of Tamil Nadu celebrates 22 December as 'State IT Day', memorialising both the man and his achievements, as a native of Tamil Nadu.
  - The Dev Patel-starrer **'The Man Who Knew Infinity' (2015)** was a biopic on the mathematician.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/25/national-mathematics-day/>



217. With reference to Nitrogen Cycle, the biological oxidation of ammonia to nitrite takes place in which of the following process?

- a) Assimilation
- b) Denitrification
- c) Ammonification
- d) Nitrification

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- The nitrogen cycle contains several stages:
  - **Nitrification**
  - **Assimilation**
  - **Ammonification**
  - **Denitrification**
- **Nitrification** – Nitrification is the biological oxidation of ammonia or ammonium to nitrite followed by the oxidation of the nitrite to nitrate. Nitrification is an aerobic process performed by small groups of autotrophic bacteria and archaea.
- **Assimilation** – Nitrogen compounds in various forms, such as nitrate, nitrite, ammonia, and ammonium are taken up from soils by plants which are then used in the formation of plant and animal proteins.
- **Ammonification** – When plants and animals die, or when animals emit wastes, the nitrogen in the organic matter re-enters the soil where it is broken down by other microorganisms, known as decomposers. This decomposition produces ammonia which is then available for other biological processes.
- **Denitrification** – Nitrogen makes its way back into the atmosphere through a process called denitrification, in which nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3^-$ ) is converted back to gaseous nitrogen ( $\text{N}_2$ ).

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/25/iffco-gas-leak-how-dangerous-is-ammonia/>

218. In India, 'Good governance day' is celebrated on whose birth anniversary:

- (a) P. V. Narasimha Rao
- (b) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- (c) Rajiv Gandhi
- (d) Indira Gandhi

Ans: (b)

Explanation: Good governance day:

- Observed annually on December 25.
- The day is also celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of India's former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The day aims to let the citizens, the students, who are the future of the country know about the government's responsibilities and duties that it needs to fulfil

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/25/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-25-december-2020/>

219. The name of Rabindranath Tagore's Nobel-Prize winning book is

- (a) The Untouchable
- (b) Gitanjali
- (c) The Discovery of India
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (b)



Explanation:

- Poet Rabindranath Tagore won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913 for his collection **Gitanjali** published in London in 1912. The prize gained even more significance by being given to an Indian for the first time.
- **What is Visva-Bharati?**
  - Visva-Bharati is a public research central university and an Institution of National Importance located in Santiniketan, West Bengal, India.
  - It was founded by Rabindranath Tagore who called it Visva-Bharati, which means the communion of the world with India.
  - Visva-Bharati was declared to be a central university and an institution of national importance by an Act of Parliament in 1951

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/25/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-25-december-2020/>

220. Consider the following pairs:

Terms sometimes                      their origin

1. Annex—I Countries : Cartagena Protocol
2. Certified Emissions Reductions: Nagoya Protocol
3. Clean Development Mechanism: Kyoto Protocol

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

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Parties to the UNFCCC are classified as: Annex I, Annex II and **Non-Annex I**.
- **Annex I** Parties include the industrialized countries that were members of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) in 1992, plus countries with economies in transition (the EIT Parties), including the Russian Federation, the Baltic States, and several Central and Eastern European States.
- **Certified Emission Reductions** (CERs) are a type of emissions unit (or carbon credits) issued by the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Executive Board for emission reductions achieved by CDM projects under the rules of the Kyoto Protocol.

## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 26<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2020

221. Which of the following are the discretionary powers given to the Governor of a state?

1. Sending a report to the President of India for imposing the President's rule.
2. Appointments of the ministers.
3. Reserving certain bills passed by the state legislature for consideration of the President of India.
4. Making the rules to conduct the business of the state government.

Select correct answer using the code below:

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



Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- The Constitution makes it clear that if any question arises whether a matter falls within the governor's discretion or not, the decision of the governor is final and the validity of anything done by him cannot be called in question on the ground that he ought or ought not to have acted in his discretion. The governor has constitutional discretion in the following cases:
  - Reservation of a bill for the consideration of the President.
  - Recommendation for the imposition of the President's Rule in the state.
  - While exercising his functions as the administrator of an adjoining union territory (in case of additional charge).
  - Determining the amount payable by the Government of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram to an autonomous Tribal District Council as royalty accruing from licenses for mineral exploration
  - Seeking information from the chief minister with regard to the administrative and legislative matters of the state.
- In addition to the above constitutional discretion (i.e., the express discretion mentioned in the Constitution), the governor, like the president, also has situational discretion (i.e., the hidden discretion derived from the exigencies of a prevailing political situation) in the following cases:
  - Appointment of chief minister when no party has a clear-cut majority in the state legislative assembly or when the chief minister in office dies suddenly and there is no obvious successor.
  - Dismissal of the council of ministers when it cannot prove the confidence of the state legislative assembly.
  - Dissolution of the state legislative assembly if the council of ministers has lost its majority.
  - Moreover, the governor has certain special responsibilities to discharge according to the directions issued by the President. In this regard, the governor, though has to consult the council of ministers led by the chief minister, acts finally on his discretion.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/26/governor-not-sending-bills-for-presidential-assent/>

222. With reference to constitutional position of the Governor and the President of India, consider the following statements:

1. While the Constitution envisages the possibility of the governor acting at times in his discretion, no such possibility has been envisaged for the President.
2. After the 42nd Constitutional Amendment (1976), ministerial advice has been made binding on the President, but no such provision has been made with respect to the governor.

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:

- In estimating the constitutional position of the governor, particular reference has to be made to the provisions of Articles 154, 163 and 164. These are:



- The executive power of the state shall be vested in the governor and shall be exercised by him either directly or through officers subordinate to him in accordance with this Constitution (Article 154).
- There shall be a council of ministers with the chief minister as the head to aid and advice the governor in the exercise of his functions, except in so far as he is required to exercise his functions in his discretion (Article 163).
- The council of ministers shall be collectively responsible to the legislative assembly of the state (Article 164). This provision is the foundation of the parliamentary system of government in the state.
- From the above, it is clear that constitutional position of the governor differs from that of the president in the following two respects:
  - While the Constitution envisages the possibility of the governor acting at times in his discretion, no such possibility has been envisaged for the President.
  - After the 42nd Constitutional Amendment (1976), ministerial advice has been made binding on the President, but no such provision has been made with respect to the governor.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/26/governor-not-sending-bills-for-presidential-assent/>

223. Consider the following statements.

1. The right to carry on trade or business using the Internet are constitutionally protected.
  2. In India, Information Technology Act, 2000 is the only law that deal with suspension of Internet services.
  3. Section 144 CrPC gives power to a District Magistrate to block the internet access.
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?
- a) 1 and 2
  - b) 1 and 3
  - c) 2 and 3
  - d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Context:
  - The Jammu and Kashmir administration has extended the ban on 4G mobile Internet up to January 8, saying “the restrictions on the high-speed connectivity acted as an impediment to attempts” of the militants to disturb the District Development Council (DDC) polls.
- The Supreme Court declared that the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression and the right to carry on trade or business using the Internet are **constitutionally protected**. The Information Technology Act, 2000, the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), 1973 and the Telegraph Act, 1885 are the three laws that deal with suspension of Internet services.
- **What is Section 144?**
  - It gives power to a District Magistrate, a sub-divisional Magistrate or any other Executive Magistrate on behalf of the State Government to issue an order to an individual or the general public in a particular place or area to “abstain from a certain act” or “to take certain order with respect to certain property in his possession or under his management”. Section 144 also empowers the authorities to block the internet access.
- **What procedure does the government follow to suspend Internet services?**



- The Information Technology Act, 2000, the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), 1973 and the Telegraph Act, 1885 are the three laws that deal with suspension of Internet services.
- But before 2017, Internet suspension orders were issued under section 144 of the CrPC.
- In 2017, the central government notified the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Service) Rules under the Telegraph Act to govern suspension of Internet.
- These Rules derive their powers from Section 5(2) of the Indian Telegraph Act, which talks about interception of messages in the “interests of the sovereignty and integrity of India”.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/26/jk-internet-ban-extended/>

224. With reference to the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT scheme, consider the following statements:

1. The Scheme provides free of cost insurance cover to all the residents of the UT of J&K.
2. It provides financial cover up to Rs.15 Lakh per family on a floater basis to all residents of the UT of J&K.

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:

- **Context:**

- PM Modi to launch **the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT scheme** for the residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

- **About the Scheme:**

- SEHAT scheme stands for Social, Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine, a health insurance scheme for the Union Territory.
- The Scheme provides free of cost insurance cover to all the residents of the UT of J&K.
- It provides financial cover up to Rs.5 Lakh per family on a floater basis to all residents of the UT of J&K.
- It provides for an operational extension of PM-JAY to 15 lakh (approximately) additional families.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/26/ayushman-bharat-pm-jay-sehat/>

225. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), consider the following statements:

1. Ayushman Bharat was launched as recommended by the National Health Policy 2017, to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
2. PM-JAY is the world's largest health insurance/ assurance scheme fully financed by the government.
3. It covers up to 5 days of pre-hospitalization and 10 days post-hospitalization expenses such as diagnostics and medicines.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2



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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Ayushman Bharat, a flagship scheme of Government of India, was launched as recommended by the National Health Policy 2017, to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). This initiative has been designed to meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its underlining commitment, which is to "leave no one behind."
- Ayushman Bharat adopts a continuum of care approach, comprising of two inter-related components, which are -
  - Health and Wellness Centres (HWCs)
  - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)
- **Key Features of PM-JAY**
  - PM-JAY is the world's largest health insurance/ assurance scheme fully financed by the government.
  - It provides a cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across public and private empanelled hospitals in India.
  - Over 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable entitled families (approximately 50 crore beneficiaries) are eligible for these benefits.
  - PM-JAY provides cashless access to health care services for the beneficiary at the point of service, that is, the hospital.
  - PM-JAY envisions to help mitigate catastrophic expenditure on medical treatment which pushes nearly 6 crore Indians into poverty each year.
  - **It covers up to 3 days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days post-hospitalization expenses such as diagnostics and medicines.**
  - There is no restriction on the family size, age or gender.
  - All pre-existing conditions are covered from day one.
  - Benefits of the scheme are portable across the country i.e. a beneficiary can visit any empanelled public or private hospital in India to avail cashless treatment.
  - Services include approximately 1,393 procedures covering all the costs related to treatment, including but not limited to drugs, supplies, diagnostic services, physician's fees, room charges, surgeon charges, OT and ICU charges etc.
  - Public hospitals are reimbursed for the healthcare services at par with the private hospitals.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/26/ayushman-bharat-pm-jay-sehat/>

226. Consider the following statements regarding OPEC+.

1. OPEC+ is a group of oil-producing nations, entirely made up non-OPEC members and Russia.
2. The aim of OPEC+ was to undertake production restrictions to help revive a flailing market.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)



Explanation:

- Context:
  - Russia expects to support an increase in oil production by OPEC+, of another 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) from February at next month's summit of the leading global oil producers.
- **What is the Opec+?**
  - Opec+ refers to the alliance of crude producers, who have been undertaking corrections in supply in the oil markets since 2017.
  - OPEC plus countries include Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan and Sudan.
  - What are their goals?
    - The Opec and non-Opec producers first formed the alliance at a historic meeting in Algiers in 2016.
    - The aim was to undertake production restrictions to help resuscitate a flailing market.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/26/what-is-the-opec-3/>

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

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

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is an intergovernmental organization of 13 nations.
- As of September 2018, the 13 member countries accounted for an estimated 44 percent of global oil production and 81.5 percent of the world's "proven" oil reserves.
- A larger group called OPEC+ was formed in late 2016, to have more control on global crude oil market, who have been undertaking corrections in supply in the oil markets.
- OPEC membership is open to any country that is a substantial exporter of oil and which shares the ideals of the organization.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/26/what-is-the-opec-3/>

228. Consider the following statements about Ramsar Convention.

1. It is the United Nations Convention that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands.
2. Almost 90% of UN member states, have acceded to become "Contracting Parties".
3. It does not consider underground aquifers and human-made sites as wetlands.
4. Montreux Record is maintained as part of the Ramsar List.

Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?

- a) 1 and 3



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

Ans: (a)

Explanation: here the directive word is incorrect!!

- **Context:**
  - India now has forty-two Ramsar sites with the addition of Ladakh's Tso Kar wetland.
- The Convention on Wetlands, called the Ramsar Convention, is the intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.
- The Convention was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975. Since then, almost 90% of UN member states, from all the world's geographic regions, have acceded to become "Contracting Parties".
- The Convention uses a broad definition of wetlands. It includes all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, mangroves and other coastal areas, coral reefs, and all human-made sites such as fish ponds, rice paddies, reservoirs and salt pans.
- Montreux Record under the Convention is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference.
- It is maintained as part of the Ramsar List.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/26/tso-kar-wetland-complex/>

229. With reference to India's Tso Kar Wetland Complex, consider the following statements:

1. It is a high-altitude wetland complex, consisting of two principal waterbodies.
  2. It situated in the Changthang region of Ladakh, India.
  3. It is an Important Bird Area (IBA) and a key staging site in the Central Asian Flyway.
- 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 Tso Kar:**
- Tso Kar Basin is a high-altitude wetland complex, consisting of two principal waterbodies, Startsapuk Tso, a freshwater lake and Tso Kar itself, a hyper saline lake, situated in **the Changthang region of Ladakh, India.**
- It is called Tso Kar, meaning white lake, because of **the white salt efflorescence** found on the margins due to the evaporation of highly saline water.
- It is also **an Important Bird Area (IBA)** as per **BirdLife International** and a key staging site in **the Central Asian Flyway.**
- **Important bird species found in the area:**
- Black-necked Crane (*Grus nigricollis*), Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), Bar-headed Geese (*Anser indicus*), Ruddy Shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*), Brown-headed Gull (*Larus brunnicephalus*), Lesser Sand-Plover (*Charadrius mongolus*) and many other species.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/26/tso-kar-wetland-complex/>

230. Consider the following statements:

1. Currently, two wetlands of India are in Montreux record, maintained as part of the Ramsar List.
2. Loktak Lake (Manipur) was placed in the Montreux record but was later removed from it.

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: **Montreux Record:**

- Montreux Record under the Convention is **a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference.**
- It is maintained as **part of the Ramsar List.**
- The Montreux Record was **established by Recommendation of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (1990).**
- Sites may be added to and removed from the Record only with the approval of the Contracting Parties in which they lie.
- **Currently, two wetlands of India are in Montreux record:** Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) and Loktak Lake (Manipur).
- **Chilka lake** (Odisha) was placed in the record but was later removed from it.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/26/tso-kar-wetland-complex/>

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## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 28<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2020

231. Consider the following statements regarding Third Battle of Panipat.

1. The Third Battle of Panipat was fought between the Marathas and the invading armies of Afghan general Ahmed Shah Abdali.
2. Maharaja Surajmal was among those who played key roles in the battle.
3. After the battle, the Marathas lost their preeminent position in north India, which ultimately paved the way for British colonial powers to take over.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **About the Third Battle of Panipat, fought in 1761:**
  - Fought between **Maratha forces and invading armies of Afghan general Ahmed Shah Abdali of Durrani Empire** in 1761.
  - Abdali was supported by two Indian allies— **the Rohillas Najib-ud-daulah**, Afghans of the Doab region and **Shuja-ud-Daula- the Nawab of Awadh**.
- **How it started?**
  - After the death of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, there was a sudden rise of the Marathas. The Marathas reversed all his territorial gains in the Deccan and conquered a considerable part of India.
  - The decline was hastened by the invasion of India by Nader Shah, who also took away Takht-i-Taus (the Peacock Throne) and the Kohinoor Diamond in 1739.
  - Abdali planned to attack the Marathas when his son was driven out of Lahore.
  - By the end of 1759, Abdali with his Afghan tribes reached Lahore as well as Delhi and defeated the smaller enemy garrisons.
  - The two armies fought at Karnal and Kunjpura where the entire Afghan garrison was killed or enslaved.
  - The massacre of the Kunjpura garrison infuriated Durrani to such an extent that he ordered for crossing the river at all costs to attack the Marathas.
  - Smaller battles continued through months and forces from both the sides amassed for the final assault. But food was running out for the Marathas.
- **Outcomes:**
  - The Marathas were defeated in the battle, with 40,000 of their troops killed, while Abdali's army is estimated to have suffered around 20,000 casualties.
  - It marked a loss of prestige for the Marathas, who lost their preeminent position in north India after this war, paving the way for British colonial power to expand here.
  - The Marathas lost some of their most important generals and administrators, including Sadashivrao and heir-apparent Vishwasrao of the Peshwa household, Ibrahim Khan Gardi, Jankojirao Scindia, and Yashwantrao Puar.



- **Who is Maharaja Surajmal?**

- Maharaja Surajmal was born in 1707 in the kingdom of Bharatpur, Rajasthan. He ruled in the 18th century and was the son of the Jat chieftain Badan Singh. He is described as “a strong leader who harried the Mughal empire in the anarchic period of its decline, consolidated the kingdom with its capital at Bharatpur and used the resources gained to build forts and palaces, the most famous being the palace at Deeg and the Bharatpur Fort”

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/28/1761-battle-of-panipat/>

232. Consider the following statements regarding Battles of Panipat:

1. First Battle of Panipat laid the foundation of the Mughal Empire.
  2. Second Battle of Panipat laid the foundation of the Sur dynasty.
  3. Third Battle of Panipat was fought between the Marathas and the Mughals.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- The first Battle of Panipat in 1526 was between Babur and Ibrahim Lodi. The result of the battle laid the foundation of the Mughal Empire by ending the rule of the Delhi Sultanate.
- The Second Battle of Panipat in 1556 was between Akbar and Hemu; it decided in favour of the continuation of the Mughal rule.
- The Third Battle of Panipat in 1761 between the Marathas and Ahmad Shah Abdali put an end to the Maratha ambition of ruling over India.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/28/1761-battle-of-panipat/>

233. Why is India Meteorological Department (IMD) asking people in north India not to drink alcohol during the cold wave?

- (a) alcohol is a costly
- (b) over-confidence, which may lead to risk taking
- (c) drinking alcohol lowers the core temperature of body
- (d) all of the above

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Context:**

- To avoid an adverse reaction to **the cold wave**, the IMD shared a list of recommendations, one of which was **avoiding alcohol**.

- **Background:**

- According to the IMD, severe cold wave conditions are likely in parts of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Rajasthan from December 29 onwards. Maximum temperature is also forecast to fall by 3 to 5 degrees Celsius after December 28.

- **Why is alcohol bad in cold weather?**

- Alcohol can decrease the core temperature of the body and increase the risk of **hypothermia** during cold exposure. A retrospective study in 2004 showed that **alcohol consumption is associated with 68 per cent of accidental hypothermia cases.**



- **How it works?**
  - Alcohol is a **vasodilator**, which means that it causes blood vessels to relax and dilate or open.
  - So after consuming alcohol, the volume of blood brought to the skin's surface increases, making you feel warmer as a result.
  - This is also what causes an intoxicated person to look flushed.
  - As the body begins to believe that it is warm, you also start to sweat — a **reaction that automatically reduces overall body temperature**.
  - Drinking copious amounts of alcohol may affect your body's ability to detect the cold properly, which is in place to protect you from frostbite and hypothermia.
  - However, experts say drinking moderately in temperate environments does not significantly affect the core temperature of the body.
- **What is hypothermia?**
  - Hypothermia is a severe medical condition where the body loses heat before it can generate it, resulting in a dangerously low body temperature.
  - While normal body temperature lies at around 37 degrees Celsius, the body temperature of a person suffering from hypothermia drops to below 35 degrees Celsius.
  - Common signs include shivering, slow rate of breathing, slurred speech, cold skin and fatigue.
  - Alcohol also has **psychological and behavioural effects**, which can impact **a person's ability to correctly perceive how cold it is**.
- **What is a coldwave?**
  - A cold wave occurs when the minimum temperature dips to 10 degrees Celsius or less and the departure from normal temperature is 4.5 degrees Celsius or lower.
  - In severe cold wave conditions, departure from normal temperature is 6.5 degrees or lower.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/28/why-is-weather-dept-asking-people-in-north-india-not-to-drink-alcohol-during-the-cold-wave/>

234. What is the importance of using pneumococcal conjugate vaccines in India?

1. These vaccines are effective against pneumonia as well as meningitis and sepsis.
2. Dependence on antibiotics that are not effective against drug-resistant bacteria can be reduced.
3. These vaccines have no side effects and cause no allergic reactions

Select the correct answer using the given code below-

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Context:**
  - The first indigenous vaccine against pneumonia, developed by **the Serum Institute of India (SII)**, will be launched.
  - In July, India's drug regulator had granted market approval for the Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate vaccine.
- **About pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23):**
  - It protects against pneumococcal infections.



- PPSV23 protects against 23 types of **pneumococcal bacteria**.
- **Helpful Terms:**
  - **Conjugate:** A type of vaccine that joins a protein to an antigen in order to improve the protection the vaccine provides.
  - **Polysaccharide:** A type of vaccine that is composed of long chains of sugar molecules that resemble the surface of certain types of bacteria in order to help the immune system mount a response.
- S1: Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13) can prevent pneumococcal disease. Pneumococcal disease refers to any illness caused by pneumococcal bacteria, including Pneumonia and sepsis (which is a bloodstream infection disease in children), So 1 is correct.
- S2: This is also correct, see <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6183139/>
  - Vaccines as tools to reduce Anti-microbial resistance (AMR) have historically been under-recognized, yet the positive effect in reducing AMR has been well established. For example Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib) as well as Streptococcus pneumoniae (pneumococcal) conjugate vaccines have impressive track records in not only preventing life threatening diseases caused by these bacteria, but also reducing antibiotic use and AMR.
- S3: Mild side effects of the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPV), the version of the pneumococcal vaccine given to adults and children over the age of 2, include:
  - mild soreness or hardness at the site of the injection lasting 1 to 3 days
  - a slightly raised temperature
  - More serious side effects of the PPV vaccine, such as allergic reactions, are rare.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/28/pneumococcal-polysaccharide-conjugate-vaccine/>

235. Rythu Bandhu scheme is a welfare program to support farmer's investment for two crops a year by the:

- (a) Government of Tamil Nadu.
- (b) Government of Karnataka.
- (c) Government of Telangana.
- (d) Government of Punjab.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **What is the Rythu Bandhu?**
  - Rythu Bandhu scheme also Farmer's Investment Support Scheme (FISS) is a welfare program to support farmer's investment for two crops a year by the Government of Telangana.
  - The scheme is meant to incentivise the state's farmers for their day to day work.
  - Under the scheme, almost 58.33 lakh farmers of Telangana state are provided Rs 4000 per acre, per season (crop-sowing) – to support the farm investment twice a year (total Rs 8,000), for both – the Rabi and the Kharif seasons.
  - The purpose behind the scheme was to break the vicious cycle of rural indebtedness.
- **Who qualifies under the Rythu Bandhu scheme?**



- To apply under the scheme and to make the cut, the farmer should have been a resident of Telangana state and must own farming land.
- The scheme is applicable for small and marginal farmers; however, commercial farmers are excluded from the scheme.
- Also, farmers who till rented land are excluded from under this scheme.
- Currently, more than 8 lakh farmers in Telangana enjoy the benefits of the Rythu Bandhu scheme.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/28/telangana-withdraws-regulated-farming/>

236. Consider the following statements:

1. As per the new Goods and Services Tax (GST) rules, Businesses with monthly turnover of over ₹50 lakh will have to mandatorily pay at least 1 per cent of their GST liability in cash.
  2. A business under composition scheme can avail of input tax credit.
- 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:

- **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** has introduced **Rule 86B in Goods and Services Tax (GST) rules** which restricts use of **input tax credit (ITC)** for discharging GST liability to 99 per cent.
  - As per the new rule, Businesses with monthly turnover of over ₹50 lakh will have to **mandatorily pay at least 1 per cent of their GST liability in cash.**
- **Exceptions under the new rule:**
  - This restriction will not apply where the managing director or any partner have paid more than ₹1 lakh as income tax or the registered person has received a refund amount of more than ₹1 lakh in the preceding financial year on account of unutilised input tax credit.
- **What is Input Tax Credit (ITC)?**
  - It is the tax that a business pays on a purchase and that it can use to reduce its tax liability when it makes a sale.
  - In simple terms, input credit means at the time of paying tax on output, you can reduce the tax you have already paid on inputs and pay the balance amount.
  - **Exceptions:** A business under composition scheme cannot avail of input tax credit. ITC cannot be claimed for personal use or for goods that are exempt.
  - **Concerns over its misuse:**
    - There could be possibility of misuse of the provision by unscrupulous businesses by generating fake invoices just to claim tax credit.
    - As much as 80% of the total GST liability is being settled by ITC and only 20% is deposited as cash.
    - Under the present dispensation, there is no provision for real time matching of ITC claims with the taxes already paid by suppliers of inputs.



- The matching is done on the basis of system generated GSTR-2A, after the credit has been claimed. Based on the mismatch highlighted by GSTR-2A and ITC claims, the revenue department sends notices to businesses.
- Currently there is a time gap between ITC claim and matching them with the taxes paid by suppliers. Hence there is a possibility of ITC being claimed on the basis of fake invoices.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/28/businesses-with-monthly-turnover-of-over-2%82%b950-lakh-to-pay-at-least-1-gst-liability-in-cash/>

237. If you travel by road from Sahnewal to Dankuni, what is the minimum number of States within India through which you can travel, including the origin and the destination?

- (a) 4
- (b) 5
- (c) 6
- (d) 7

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Context:
  - PM to inaugurate the New Bhaupur- New Khurja section and the Operation Control Centre of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor.
- **About the eastern corridor:**
  - Length: 1856 km.
- Consists of two distinct segments: an electrified double-track segment & an electrified single-track segment.
- **Starts from Sahnewal** near Ludhiana (Punjab) and will pass through the states of **Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh**, Bihar and **Jharkhand** to **terminate at Dankuni** in **West Bengal**.
- Constructed by Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL), that has been set up as a special purpose vehicle to build and operate Dedicated Freight Corridors.
- Solution: You need to cross **Sahnewal, Punjab** (origin), **Haryana, Uttar Pradesh** and then through either **Jharkhand** to **West Bengal (Dankuni)**, or through Bihar to **West Bengal (Dankuni)**: 5 states either way.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/28/eastern-dedicated-freight-corridor/>



238. Consider the following statements regarding Inner Line Permit (ILP).

1. An Inner Line Permit is a document that allows an Indian citizen to visit or stay in a state that is protected under the ILP system.
2. The concept originates from the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act (BEFR), 1873.
3. An ILP is required for certain parts of the Leh district in Ladakh.
4. At present only Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur are protected by the ILP system.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **What is an ILP?**

- It is a document required by non- natives to visit or stay in a state that is protected under the ILP system.
- At present, four Northeastern states are covered, namely, **Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland.**
- Both the duration of stay and the areas allowed to be accessed for any non native are determined by the ILP.
- The ILP is issued by the concerned state government and can be availed both by applying online or in person.
- An ILP is **only valid for domestic tourists.**

- **Rationale behind:**

- The Inner Line Permit is an extension of **the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act 1873.**
- After the British occupied the Northeast, the colonisers started exploiting the region and its resources for economic benefits.
- They first started tea plantations and oil industries in Brahmaputra Valley.
- The indigenous tribes living in the hill areas would regularly conduct raids into the plains to loot and plunder, marauding the tea gardens, oil rigs and trading posts set up by the British East India Company.
- It was in this context that the BEFR 1873 was promulgated.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/28/inner-line-permit/>

239. Arrange the following geographical locations in the direction of North to South:

1. Siachen Glacier
2. Leh
3. Demchok

Select the correct answer using the code below:

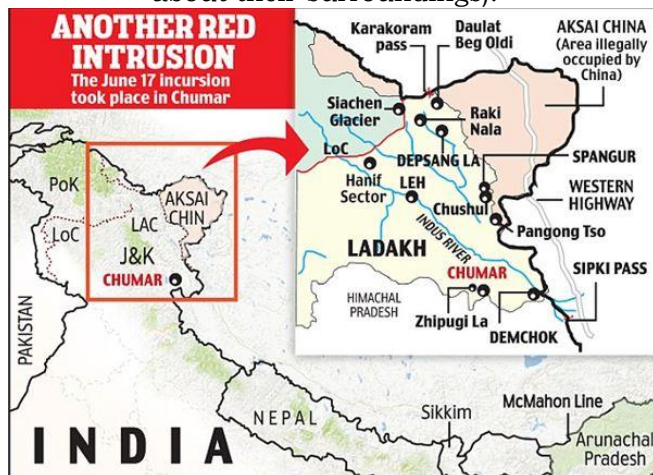
- (a) 1-2-3
- (b) 1-3-2
- (c) 2-1-3
- (d) 3-1-2

Ans: (a)

Explanation: **LAC hotspots turn brand buzzwords in Valley:**



- For a Delhi-based shoe company, volatile locations between India and China across LAC have become money-spinners; a range of winter shoes named after them is flying off the shelves across the Kashmir Valley.
- Key Points include: 'Galwan', 'Doklam', 'Kargil', and 'Point 5' among others.
- (Note: try to locate the above mentioned points on map and have a brief idea about their surroundings).



Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/28/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-28-december-2020/>

240. Recently, our scientists have discovered a new species of the wild sun rose which has unique features such as a tuberous root, no hair in its leaf axils, a reddish-pink flower, prolate-shaped fruits, and copper brown seeds without lustre. In which part of India has it been discovered?

- Andaman Islands
- Western Ghats
- Tropical rain forests of northeast
- Eastern Ghats

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Portulaca laljii**:

- It is a new species of the wild sun rose discovered recently from the **Eastern Ghats in India**.
- Discovered from Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh.
- It has unique features such as a tuberous root, no hair in its leaf axils, a reddish-pink flower, prolate-shaped fruits, and copper brown seeds without lustre.
- The succulent nature of tuberous roots allow the plant to survive on rocky crevices.



Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/28/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-28-december-2020/>



## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 29<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2020

241. Consider the following statements with reference to Adopt a Heritage Project:

1. This project is a key initiative of Ministry of Tourism in close collaboration with Ministry of Culture and Archeological Survey of India (ASI).
2. This project is primarily envisioned to fulfill the objective of the Government of India to provide an enhanced tourism experience to all foreign tourists.

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:

- **Adopt a Heritage Project:**
  - The Scheme was launched on World Tourism Day i.e. 27th September, 2017.
  - This project is a key initiative of Ministry of Tourism in close collaboration with Ministry of Culture and Archeological Survey of India (ASI), to develop the heritage sites / monuments and making them tourist-friendly to enhance the tourism potential and their cultural importance in a planned and phased manner.
- This project is envisioned to fulfill the objective of the Government of India to provide an **enhanced tourism experience to all travelers**.
- It aims at ensuring quality & inclusive provision of amenities and facilities across heritage, natural, & tourist sites through active participation of private and public sector organizations and individuals. These organizations would be known as **“Monument Mitras”** for their collaboration initiative.
- The project plans to entrust development, upgradation and maintenance of amenities and facilities at the heritage, natural & tourist sites to the Monument Mitras, coupled with innovation and technology interventions to increase awareness of these incredible treasures.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/29/adopt-a-heritage-project-2/>

242. Which of the following is geographically closest to Bhashan Char island?

- (a) Kolkata
- (b) Dhaka
- (c) Chittagong
- (d) Cox's Bazaar

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Bangladesh has started moving Rohingya refugees to a controversial flood-prone **Bhashan Char island** in the Bay of Bengal despite opposition from rights activists.
- Who are Rohingyas?
  - They are an Ethnic group, mostly Muslims. They were not granted full citizenship by Myanmar.
  - They were classified as “resident foreigners or associate citizens”.
  - Ethnically they are much closer to Indo-Aryan people of India and Bangladesh than to the Sino-Tibetans of the Country.



- Described by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as “one of, if not the, most discriminated people in the world”.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/29/dhaka-moves-refugees-to-bhashan-char-island/>

243. 'Belt & Road Initiative' is a global infrastructure development strategy adopted by:

- (a) USA
- (b) Russia
- (c) EU
- (d) China

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC):**

- The **CPEC is the flagship project** of the multi-billion-dollar **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**, a pet project of **Chinese President Xi Jinping**, aimed at enhancing Beijing's influence around the world through **China-funded infrastructure projects**.
- The 3,000 km-long China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) consists of highways, railways, and pipelines.
- CPEC eventually aims at linking the city of Gwadar in South Western Pakistan to China's North Western region Xinjiang through a vast network of highways and railways.
- The proposed project will be financed by heavily-subsidised loans that will be disbursed to the Government of Pakistan by Chinese banks.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/29/china-pakistan-economic-corridor-cpec-4/>

244. Consider the following statements regarding National Common Mobility Card (NCMC):

1. The idea of NCMC was floated by the Nandan Nilekani committee set up by the Reserve Bank of India.
2. The NCMC will allow entry and exit from Metro stations with the help of a smartphone, known as the automatic fare collection (AFC) system.
3. Currently, all Metro stations fitted with AFC gates.

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: **Here's all you need to know about NCMC:**



- **The idea of NCMC was floated by the Nandan Nilekani committee set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).** The five-member committee under Nilekani, the former chairperson of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIAI) has also proposed a host of measures, including all payments by the government to citizens through the digital mode, to reduce the number of cash transactions in the country.
- NCMC will allow passengers with RuPay debit card, issued in the last 18 months by 23 banks, including SBI, UCO Bank, Canara Bank, Punjab National Bank etc, to be swiped for Metro travel. "This facility will become available on the entire Delhi Metro network by 2022," a DMRC spokesperson said.
- **NCMC is an automatic fare collection system.** It will turn smartphones into an inter-operable transport card that commuters can use eventually to pay for Metro, bus and suburban railways services.
- NCMC service is slated to cover the entire 400km stretch of Delhi Metro.
- **It will allow entry and exit from Metro stations with the help of a smartphone, known as the automatic fare collection (AFC) system.** In the upcoming Delhi Metro Phase-IV project, the AFC system will fully accept NCMC, which can also be used in any city across the country.
- **To make AFC compliant indigenous gates for metro stations the government has engaged Bharat Electronics Limited. Eventually, all Metro stations will be fitted with AFC gates.**
- The Nilekani committee had suggested that NCMC should contain two instruments – a regular debit card which can be used at an ATM and a local wallet, which can be used for contactless payments, without the need to go back to the server or additional authentication.
- Banks mandated by the department of financial services have been asked to make their debit cards NCMC compliant, to ensure availability of service.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/29/national-common-mobility-card-ncmc-2/>

245. The iconic Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised voluntary eco-labels awarded to

1. Beaches
2. Marinas
3. Sustainable boating tourism operators

Select the correct answer code:

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **What is a Blue Flag beach?**
  - It is an 'eco-tourism model' and marks out beaches as providing tourists and beachgoers clean and hygienic bathing water, facilities/amenities, a safe and healthy environment, and sustainable development of the area.
- **Criteria:**
  - There are nearly 33 criteria that must be met to qualify for a Blue Flag certification, such as the water meeting certain quality standards, having waste disposal facilities, being disabled- friendly, have first aid equipment, and no access to pets in the main areas of the beach. Some criteria are voluntary and some compulsory.



- **Relevant facts for Prelims:**
  - Spain tops the list with more than 560 such beaches; Greece and France follow.
  - India is now in the league of **50 “BLUE FLAG” countries.**
- **Is Blue Flag certification available only for beaches?**
  - No. It can be given to a beach, marina, or sustainable boating tourism operator.
  - Basically, the Blue Flag is a trademark.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/29/international-blue-flag-hoisted-at-8-beaches-across-the-country/>

246. 'Paray Samadhan' is a new grievance redressal mechanism launched recently by:

- (a) Punjab
- (b) Karnataka
- (c) Telangana
- (d) West Bengal

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Paray Samadhan:**

- It is a **new grievance redressal mechanism** launched recently by **West Bengal.**
- Paray Samadhan means redressal in the neighbourhood.
- This will not address major infrastructural gaps but will address municipal, local or service gaps through specific mission mode to reach out to the neighbourhood.
- This will be supplementary of 'Duare Sarkar'.
- Duare Sarkar is an initiative of the state government, spread over 60 days, for delivery of specific schemes of the state government at the doorsteps of the people through outreach camps organized at the level of gram panchayat and municipal ward level.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/29/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-29-december-2020/>

247. Consider the following statements regarding India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2019:

1. The report is published by Forest Research Institute (FRI).
2. Compared to the assessment of 2017, there is an increase in the total forest and tree cover of the country.
3. Area-wise Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country followed by Arunachal Pradesh.

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: **India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2019**

- The report is published by the **Forest Survey of India (FSI)** which has been mandated to assess the forest and tree resources of the country including wall-to-wall forest cover mapping in a biennial cycle. Starting 1987, **16 assessment have been completed so far.** ISFR 2019 is the 16th report in the series.
- The **total forest and tree cover** of the country is 80.73 million hectare which is **24.56 percent of the geographical area of the country.**



- Compared to the assessment of 2017, there is an increase of 5,188 sq. km in the total forest and tree cover of the country.
- **Top three states showing increase in forest cover** are Karnataka (1,025 sq. km) followed by Andhra Pradesh (990 sq km) and Kerala (823 sq km)."
- **Area-wise** Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra.
- **In terms of forest cover as percentage of total geographical area**, the top five States are Mizoram (85.41%), Arunachal Pradesh (79.63%), Meghalaya (76.33%), Manipur (75.46%) and Nagaland (75.31%).
- Mangrove cover has been separately reported in the ISFR 2019 and the total mangrove cover in the country is 4,975 sq km. An increase of 54 sq Km in mangrove cover has been observed as compared to the previous assessment of 2017. Top three states showing mangrove cover increase are Gujarat (37 sq km) followed by Maharashtra (16 sq km) and Odisha (8 sq km).
- The extent of bamboo bearing area of the country has been estimated 16.00 million hectare. There is an increase of 0.32 million hectare in bamboo bearing area as compared to the last assessment of ISFR 2017. The total estimated green weight of bamboo culms is 278 million tonnes, slowly an increase of 88 million tonnes as compared to ISFR 2017.
- Under the current assessment the total carbon stock in country's forest is estimated 7,124.6 million tonnes and there an increase of 42.6 million tonnes in the carbon stock of country as compared to the last assessment of 2017.
- FSI's assessment is largely based on digital data whether it is satellite data, vector boundaries of districts or data processing of field measurements.

Refer: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1597987>

248. Consider the following statements regarding Basel Ban Amendment:

1. It was adopted by the parties to the Basel Convention in 1995.
2. The amendment prohibits all export of hazardous wastes from non-OECD countries to OECD countries.

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: (a)

Explanation:

- Parties agreed that Parties listed in Annex VII (members of OECD, EU, Liechtenstein) prohibit immediately all transboundary movements of hazardous wastes which are destined for final disposal operations from OECD to non-OECD States.
- **About the 1995 Basel Ban Amendment:**
  - Adopted by the parties to the **Basel Convention in 1995**.
  - To protect human health and the environment against **the adverse effects of hazardous wastes**.
  - **The amendment prohibits** all export of hazardous wastes, including electronic wastes and obsolete ships from 29 wealthiest countries of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to non-OECD countries.
  - **Basel Ban Amendment**



- The **1995 Basel Ban Amendment**, a global waste dumping prohibition, has become an international law after **Croatia** (97th country to ratify) **ratified it on September 6, 2019**.
  - **What next?**
    - It will become a new Article in the Convention and will **enter into force in the 97 countries after 90 days — on December 5**.
- **Basel Convention — Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal:**
  - Opened for signature on 22 March 1989
  - entered into force on 5 May 1992
  - Parties — 187.
  - It is an international treaty that was designed **to reduce the movements of hazardous waste between nations**, and specifically to prevent transfer of hazardous waste from developed to less developed countries (LDCs).
  - **It does not address the movement of radioactive waste.**

Refer: <https://ipen.org/documents/basel-ban-amendment-guide>

249. Consider the following statements regarding Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

1. It is administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
2. CITES is non-legally binding on state parties to the convention.

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: (a)

Explanation: **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)**

- It is an International agreement to **regulate worldwide commercial trade in wild animal and plant species**.
- It restricts trade in items made from such plants and animals, such as food, clothing, medicine, and souvenirs.
- It was signed on March 3, 1973 (Hence world wildlife day is celebrated on March 3).
- It is **administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.
- Secretariat — Geneva (Switzerland).
- CITES is **legally binding on state parties to the convention**, which are obliged to adopt their own domestic legislation to implement its goals.
- **Classifications:** It classifies plants and animals according to three categories, or appendices, based on how threatened. They are.
  - **Appendix I:** It lists species that are in danger of extinction. It prohibits commercial trade of these plants and animals except in extraordinary situations for scientific or educational reasons.
  - **Appendix II species:** They are those that are not threatened with extinction but that might suffer a serious decline in number if trade is not restricted. Their trade is regulated by permit.
  - **Appendix III species:** They are protected in at least one country that is a CITES member states and that has petitioned others for help in controlling international trade in that species.



Refer: <https://cites.org/eng/disc/what.php>

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

1. It is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.
2. Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 14) was hosted by India.
3. The theme of the Conference was 'Restore land, Sustain future'.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**
  - The 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 14) was held in New Delhi.
  - India took over **the Presidency of the COP from China**.
  - Framework for the Assessment of Benefits of Action/Cost of Inaction for Drought Preparedness report was released at the 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- **About UNCCD:**
  - Established in **1994**.
  - It is the sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management.
  - It is **the only convention stemming from a direct recommendation of the Rio Conference's Agenda 21**.
  - To help publicize the Convention, **2006 was declared "International Year of Deserts and Desertification"**.
- **Focus areas:** The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, known as the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found.
- **Aim:** Its 197 Parties aim, through partnerships, to implement the Convention and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The end goal is to protect land from over-use and drought, so it can continue to provide food, water and energy.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is **the nodal Ministry for this Convention**.
  - The 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) ended on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019.
  - Held in Greater Noida, this was the **first time that India hosted** an edition of the UNCCD COP.
  - The **theme** of the Conference was **'Restore land, Sustain future'**.
  - India being the global host for COP 14 **has taken over the COP Presidency from China for the next two years** till 2021.
  - India is among the select few countries to have hosted the COP of **all three Rio conventions on climate change, biodiversity and land**.

Refer: <http://unccdcop14india.gov.in/>



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## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 30<sup>th</sup>-Dec-2020

251. Which Article of the Constitution of India safeguards one's right to marry the person of one's choice?

- (a) Article 19
- (b) Article 21
- (c) Article 25
- (d) Article 29

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **“The right to marry a person of one's choice is integral to Article 21 (right to life and liberty) of the Constitution”,** the Supreme Court had recently set aside a 2017 order of the Kerala High Court which annulled the marriage of Kerala Muslim convert girl Hadiya and Shefin Jahan.
- **Context:**
  - The proposed law is called the **Madhya Pradesh Dharmik Swatantrata (Freedom of Religion) Bill 2020**.
  - Madhya Pradesh Cabinet has given its nod to an ordinance on the Bill.
- **What critics say?**



- The law has come under sharp criticism from several legal scholars who had contended that the concept of 'love jihad' did not have any constitutional or legal basis.
- They have pointed to **Article 21** of the constitution which guarantees individuals the right to marry a person of one's choice.
- Also, under **Article 25**, freedom of conscience, the practice and conversion of religion of one's choice including not following any religion, are also guaranteed.
- **Supreme Court on Marriage and Conversion:**
  - The Apex Court of India in its several judgements has held that **the state and the courts have no jurisdiction over an adult's absolute right to choose a life partner.**
  - The Supreme Court of India, in both **the Lily Thomas and Sarla Mudgal cases**, has confirmed that religious conversions carried out without a bona fide belief and for the sole purpose of deriving some legal benefit do not hold water.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/30/mp-anti-conversion-bill/>

252. Consider the following statements with reference to the GAVI Alliance (formerly the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation):

1. It is a global health partnership of public and private sector organizations dedicated to "immunisation for all".
2. The Nobel Peace Prize 2017 was awarded to GAVI Alliance for 'providing sustained access to childhood vaccines around the globe'.

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 GAVI?**

- Created in 2000, Gavi is an international organisation – a global Vaccine Alliance, bringing together **public and private sectors** with the shared goal of creating equal access to new and underused vaccines for children living in the world's poorest countries.
- **Members:**
  - Gavi brings together developing country and donor governments, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Bank, the vaccine industry in both industrialised and developing countries, research and technical agencies, civil society, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other private philanthropists.
- **Main activities:**
  - GAVI's strategy supports its mission to save children's lives and protect people's health by increasing access to immunisation in poor countries.
  - It contributes to achieving the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals by focusing on performance, outcomes and results.
  - Its partners provide funding for vaccines and intellectual resources for care advancement.
  - They contribute, also, to strengthening the capacity of the health system to deliver immunisation and other health services in a sustainable manner.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/30/global-alliance-for-vaccines-and-immunisation-gavi/>

253. Consider the following statements:

1. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Review Committee Report has recommended a debt to GDP ratio of 60% for the general (combined) government by 2023, comprising 40% for the Central Government and 20% for the State Government.
2. The Central Government has domestic liabilities of 21% of GDP as compared to that of 49% of GDP of the State Government.
3. As per the Constitution of India, it is mandatory for a State to take the Central Government's consent for raising any loan if the former owes any outstanding liabilities to the latter.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **S1: FRBM review panel** had recommended the criterion of **debt as a parameter for fiscal responsibility** the **central share being 40% and state 20%**. Also, in **terms of domestic liabilities** the figures are actually reverse i.e central government 49% and state 21%.
- **S3: Art. 293. (3.)** A State may not without the consent of the Government of India raise any loan if there is still outstanding any part of a loan which has been made to the State by the Government of India or by its predecessor Government, or in respect of which a guarantee has been given by the Government of India or by its predecessor Government.
- **Context:**
  - Borrowing 43% more in first 9 months, states fall deeper into debt trap.
  - According to an analysis by rating agency ICRA, States had borrowed ₹3,87,400 crore in the first nine months of FY20.
- **Borrowing by States:**
  - Borrowing by the Government of India and Borrowing by States are defined under **Article 292 and 293 of Constitution of India** respectively.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/30/states-borrow-43-more-get-deeper-in-debt/>

254. With reference to the Indian Economy, consider the following statements:

1. 'Commercial Paper' is a short term unsecured promissory note.
2. 'Certificate of Deposit' is a long-term instrument issued by the Reserve Bank of India to a corporation.
3. 'Call Money' is a short term finance used for interbank transactions.
4. 'Zero-Coupon Bonds' are the interest bearing short term bonds issued by the Scheduled Commercial Banks to corporations.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- RBI does not issue CDs to corporations, so S2 is wrong.
- S4 is incorrect too. Zero Coupon Bonds are G-secs that are issued at a discount and redeemed at par. No interest payment is made on such bonds at periodic intervals before maturity.
- **Context:**
  - The government has used financial innovation to recapitalise Punjab & Sind Bank by issuing the lender Rs 5,500-crore worth of **non-interest bearing bonds** valued at par.
  - These are special types of **zero coupon bonds** issued by the government after proper due diligence and these are issued at par.
- **What are these special type of zero coupon bonds?**
  - These are "**non-interest bearing, non-transferable special GOI securities**".
  - They have a maturity of 10-15 years and issued specifically to Punjab & Sind Bank.
  - These recapitalisation bonds are special types of bonds **issued by the Central government specifically to a particular institution.**
  - It is **not tradable, it is not transferable.**
  - It is held at the **held-to-maturity (HTM) category** of the bank as per the RBI guidelines. Since it is held to maturity, it is **accounted at the face value (and) no mark-to-market will be there.**
- **How do they differ from traditional bonds?**
  - Though zero coupon, **these bonds are different from traditional zero coupon bonds on one account** — as they are being issued at par, there is no interest; in previous cases, since they were issued at discount, they technically were interest bearing.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/30/what-are-zero-coupon-bonds/>

255. Consider the following statements:

1. National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) will be implemented by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) with a total outlay of Rs. 6000 Crore for a period of five years.
2. The first supercomputer designed and built under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) by C-DAC at Indian Institute of Technology (BHU), Varanasi is named as "Param Shivay".



3. The GOI in its budget 2020 has announced a National Mission on Quantum Technologies & Applications (NM-QTA) with a total budget outlay of Rs 8000 Crore for a period of five years.

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: (c)

Explanation:

- **Source:** To harness the potential of this new wave of technology and make India a leading player in CPS, the Union Cabinet approved the launch **of National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)** to be implemented by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) with a total outlay of **3660 Crore** for a period of five years.
- **Source:** The first supercomputer designed and built under **National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) by C-DAC** at Indian Institute of Technology (BHU), Varanasi is named "Param Shivay". It uses more than one lakh twenty thousand compute cores (CPU + GPU cores) to offer a peak computing power of 833 TeraFlops.
- The government in its budget 2020 has announced a **National Mission on Quantum Technologies & Applications (NM-QTA)** with a total budget outlay of **Rs 8000 Crore** for a period of five years to be implemented by the Department of Science & Technology (DST).
- **Quantum technologies** are rapidly developing globally with a huge disruptive potential. The next generation transformative technologies that will receive a push under this mission include quantum computers and computing, quantum communication, quantum key distribution, encryption, crypt analysis, quantum devices, quantum sensing, quantum materials, quantum clock and so on. The areas of focus for the Mission will be in fundamental science, translation, technology development, human and infrastructural resource generation, innovation and start-ups to address issues concerning national priorities.
- Their applications which will receive boost include those in aero-space engineering, numerical weather prediction, simulations, securing the communications & financial transactions, cyber security, advanced manufacturing, health, agriculture, education and other important sectors with focus on creation of high skilled jobs, human resources development, start-ups & entrepreneurship leading to technology lead economic growth.
- **Context:**
  - **'TiHAN-IIT Hyderabad' inaugurated recently.**
  - It is India's first Test bed for Autonomous Navigation Systems (Terrestrial and Aerial).
  - Special Features of this Facility include Test Tracks, Emulation of Real-World Scenarios, State of the Art Simulation Technologies, Road Infrastructure, V2X Communication, Drone Runways and Landing Area and many more.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/30/tihan-iit-hyderabad/>

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

- (a) Jordan



- (b) Syria
- (c) Egypt
- (d) 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: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/30/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-30-december-2020/>

257. Malayali is a tribal group from the:

- (a) Eastern Ghats in North Tamil Nadu.
- (b) Western Ghats in North Kerala.
- (c) Western Ghats in North Karnataka.
- (d) Eastern Ghats in South Tamil Nadu.

Ans: (a)

Explanation: **Giant Rock Bee Honey:**

- Giant Rock Bee Honey added to Tribes India Collection.
- It is a unique variant of honey, sourced from Malayali Tribes of Tamil Nadu.
- **Malayali is a tribal group from the Eastern Ghats in North Tamil Nadu.**
- With a population of around 3,58,000, they are the largest Scheduled Tribe in that region.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/30/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-30-december-2020/>

258. Consider the following statements regarding the Indian National Centre for Oceanic Information Services (INCOIS):

1. It is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
2. Tsunami Early Warning System (TEWS) is the first advisory service started by INCOIS.

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:



- S1: **INCOIS** was established as an **autonomous body in 1999** under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** and is a unit of the Earth System Science Organization (ESSO).
- S2: **Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ)** is the first advisory service started by INCOIS. This service was started because there was a need to identify the potential fishing zones to help the fishermen to get better catch while they were at the sea. This service was started by the Ministry of Earth Sciences with the help of the Department of Space and several institutions under the Ministry of Agriculture.
  - **Tsunami Early Warning System (TEWS):** In the aftermath of Sumatra earthquake in 2004 and the killer tsunami it set off, the Government of India wanted to set up an early warning centre for tsunami and other storm surges in the Indian Ocean region. Accordingly, on 15 October 2007, a centre housing the Indian Tsunami Early Warning System (TEWS) was established in INCOIS by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the nodal ministry, with the collaboration of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Department of Space (DOS), and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). By 2012, the centre has started to give a round-the-clock alert and advisory services to all Indian Ocean Rim Countries (IOR).
- **Digital Ocean:**
  - Launched recently.
  - It is the first of its kind digital platform for Ocean Data Management.
  - Developed by **Indian National Centre for Oceanic Information Services (INCOIS) of MoES**.
  - It includes a set of applications developed to organize and present heterogeneous oceanographic data by adopting rapid advancements in geospatial technology.
  - It facilitates data visualization, data analysis to assess the evolution of oceanographic features, data fusion.

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/30/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-30-december-2020/>

259. Which of the following best describes the term “Merchant Discount Rate” sometimes seen in news?
- (a) The incentive given by a bank to a merchant for accepting payments through debit cards pertaining to that bank.
  - (b) The amount paid back by banks to their customers when they use debit cards for financial transactions for purchasing goods or services.
  - (c) The charge to a merchant by a bank for accepting payments from his customers through the bank's debit cards.
  - (d) The incentive given by the Government to merchants for promoting digital payments by their customers through Point of Sale (PoS) machine and debit cards.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **MDR is a fee charged from a merchant by a bank for accepting payments from customers through credit and debit cards in their establishments.** MDR compensates the card issuing bank, the lender which puts the PoS terminal and payment gateways such as MasterCard or Visa for their services.
- MDR charges are usually shared in pre-agreed proportion between the bank and a merchant and is expressed in percentage of transaction amount.

Refer: UPSC CSE 2018



260. Which one of the following links all the ATMs in India?

- (a) Indian Banks' Association
- (b) National Securities Depository Limit
- (c) National Payments Corporation of India
- (d) Reserve Bank of India

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- National Financial Switch (NFS) is the largest network of shared automated teller machines (ATMs) in India. It was designed, developed and deployed by the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) in 2004, with the goal of inter-connecting the ATMs in the country and facilitating convenience banking.
- National Financial Switch (NFS) ATM network having 3.7 members and connecting about 50,000 ATMs was taken over by NPCI from Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) on December 14, 2009.
- **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** is the apex authority for maintaining a nationwide link of all the ATMs in India. NPCI exercises this role through its wing IDRBT (Institute for Development of Research in Banking Technology).

Refer: UPSC CSE 2018

## RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 31th-Dec-2020

261. Which one of the following suggested that the Union should only transfer those subjects into the Concurrent List, which are central to achieving demonstrable national interest?

- (a) 15th Finance Commission (2020)
- (b) Punchhi Commission (2010)
- (c) National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2000)
- (d) Rajamannar Committee (1969)

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Context:**
  - The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has sought **the inclusion of tourism in the concurrent list** to enable the Centre and States to effectively regulate the sector as well as frame policies for growth.
- **Seventh Schedule:**
  - The seventh schedule under **Article 246** of the constitution deals with the division of powers between the union and the states.
  - It contains three lists- **Union List, State List and Concurrent List.**
  - The **union list** details the subjects on which Parliament may make laws while the **state list** details those under the purview of state legislatures.
  - The **concurrent list** on the other hand has subjects in which both Parliament and state legislatures have jurisdiction. However **the Constitution provides federal supremacy to Parliament on concurrent list items in case of a conflict.**
- **The commission on Centre-State Relations**, headed by **Justice M M Punchhi**, in 2010 recommended that the Union should only transfer those subjects into



the Concurrent List, which are central to achieving demonstrable national interest.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/31/seventh-schedule/>

262. Consider the following statements:

1. In India, there are no written rules on the recusal of judges from hearing cases listed before them in constitutional courts.
2. As per the Supreme Court guidelines, a judge must indicate reasons for his recusal from a particular case.

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 recusal?**
  - **Judicial disqualification**, referred to as **recusal**, is the act of abstaining from participation in an official action such as a legal proceeding due to a conflict of interest of the presiding court official or administrative officer.
- **General Grounds for Recusal:**
  - Motions to recuse or disqualify judges and other adjudicators have been made for all sorts of reasons.
  - Most commonly such motions are predicated upon a claim that **the judge is biased in favour of one party, or against another, or that a reasonable objective observer would think he might be.**
  - But such motions are also made on many other grounds, including the challenged judge's:
    - Interest in the subject matter, or relationship with someone who is interested in it.
    - Background or experience, such as the judge's prior work as a lawyer.
    - Personal knowledge about the parties or the facts of the case.
    - Ex parte communications with lawyers or non-lawyers.
    - Rulings, comments or conduct.
- **Are there any laws in this regard?**
  - There are **no definite rules on recusals by Judges**
  - S1: There are no written rules on the recusal of judges from hearing cases listed before them in constitutional courts. **It is left to the discretion of a judge.**
  - S2: The reasons for recusal are not disclosed in an order of the court. Some judges orally convey to the lawyers involved in the case their reasons for recusal, many do not. Some explain the reasons in their order. **The decision rests on the conscience of the judge.**
  - **What has the Supreme Court said on this?**
    - Justice J. Chelameswar in his opinion in Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v. Union of India (2015) held that "Where a judge has a pecuniary interest, no further inquiry as to whether there was a 'real danger' or 'reasonable suspicion' of bias is required to be undertaken



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/31/recusal-of-judges/>

263. With reference to the Human Immune System Cells, Consider the following statements:

1. T – Cells secrete antibodies, proteins that bind to antigens.
  2. In contrast, B – Cells do not produce antibodies but instead directly attack invaders.
- 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:

- The cells of the immune system can be categorized as lymphocytes (**T-cells, B-cells** and NK cells), neutrophils, and monocytes/macrophages. These are all types of white blood cells.
- Lymphocytes originate from stem cells in the bone marrow; these stem cells divide continuously, releasing immature lymphocytes into the bloodstream. Some of these cells travel to the thymus, where they multiply and differentiate into **T lymphocytes, or T cells**. The **T stands for thymus-derived**, referring to the fact that these cells mature in the thymus. Once they have left the thymus, T cells enter the bloodstream and circulate to and within the rest of the lymphoid organs, where they can multiply further in response to appropriate stimulation. About half of all lymphocytes are T cells.
- **Some lymphocytes remain in the bone marrow**, where they differentiate and then pass directly to the lymphoid organs. They are termed **B lymphocytes, or B cells**, and they, like T cells, can mature and multiply further in the lymphoid organs when suitably stimulated. **Although it is appropriate to refer to them as B cells in humans and other mammals, because they are bone-marrow derived, the B actually stands for the bursa of Fabricius**, a lymphoid organ found only in birds, the organisms in which B cells were first discovered.
- **S1: B and T cells both recognize and help eliminate foreign molecules (antigens), such as those that are part of invading organisms, but they do so in different ways. B cells secrete antibodies, proteins that bind to antigens.**
- **S2: Since antibodies circulate through the humours (i.e., body fluids), the protection afforded by B cells is called humoral immunity. T cells, in contrast, do not produce antibodies but instead directly attack invaders.** Because this second type of acquired immunity depends on the direct involvement of cells rather than antibodies, it is called cell-mediated immunity. **T cells recognize only infectious agents that have entered into cells of the body, whereas B cells and antibodies interact with invaders that remain outside the body's cells.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/31/uk-vaccine-is-a-global-game-changer/>

264. Right to Privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty. Which of the following in the Constitution of India correctly and appropriately imply the above statement?

- (a) Article 14 and the provisions under the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution.
- (b) Article 17 and the Directive Principles of state Policy in Part IV.
- (c) Article 21 and freedom guaranteed in part III.
- (d) Article 24 and provisions under the 44th Amendment to the constitution.



Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Privacy is a constitutionally protected right which emerges primarily from the guarantee of life and personal liberty in Article 21 of the Constitution. Elements of privacy also arise in varying contexts from the other facets of freedom and dignity recognized and guaranteed by the fundamental rights contained in Part III.
- **Context:**
  - While the facial recognition tracking (FRT) system has seen rapid deployment by multiple government departments in recent times, there are no specific laws or guidelines to regulate the use of this potentially invasive technology.
- **What are the Concerns?**
  - Absence of specific laws or guidelines poses a huge threat to the **fundamental rights to privacy and freedom of speech and expression** because it does not satisfy the threshold the Supreme Court had set in its landmark privacy judgment in the '**Justice K.S. Puttaswamy Vs Union of India**' case.
  - Many institutions have not conducted "privacy impact assessment" prior to deployment of the facial recognition system (FRS).
  - Function creep: A function creep happens when someone uses information for a purpose that is not the original specified purpose (Police got permission to use the FRS by an order of the Delhi High Court for tracking missing children. Now they are using it for wider security and surveillance and investigation purpose, which is a function creep).
  - This might lead to an over-policing problem or problems where certain minorities are targeted without any legal backing or any oversight as to what is happening. Another problem that may arise is of mass surveillance, wherein the police are using the FRT system during protest.
  - Mass surveillance: If someone goes to a protest against the government, and the police are able to identify the person, then there might be repercussions.
  - The basis of the Automated Facial Recognition System (AFRS) is a Cabinet note of 2009. But the Cabinet note is not a legal substance, it's a procedural note at best. So it does not form a valid legal system based on which the AFRS can be built.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/31/facial-recognition-technology/>

265. Consider the following statements.

1. In India Ethanol is procured by Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) mainly based on market determined prices.
  2. India does not allow production of ethanol from food grains.
  3. Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme has been extended to the whole of India.
- Which of the above statements is/are incorrect?
- a) 2 only
  - b) 1 and 2
  - c) 1 and 3
  - d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (d)

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

- **Context:**



- The Union Cabinet has approved a modified scheme for interest subvention for ethanol production, expanding the scheme **to include grain-based distilleries and not just molasses-based ones.**
- **Implications:**
  - The decision would encourage ethanol production from grains like barley, maize, corn and rice.
  - The scheme would boost production and distillation capacity to 1,000 crore litres and help in meeting the goal of 20% ethanol blending with petrol by 2030.
- **About Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme:**
  - Launched in 2003 on pilot basis.
  - The aim is to promote the use of alternative and environmental friendly fuels.
- The **government recently hiked the price of ethanol extracted from sugarcane.**
- The government has been implementing Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) Programme wherein OMCs sell petrol blended with ethanol up to 10%. **This programme has been extended to the whole of India except Union Territories of Andaman Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands with effect from April 1, 2019,** to promote the use of alternative and environment-friendly fuels.
- **Government has notified administered price of ethanol since 2014.** For the first time during 2018, the differential price of ethanol-based on raw material utilized for ethanol production was announced by the government.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/31/ethanol-production/>

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

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

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **The National Policy on Biofuels-2018 envisages an indicative target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol and 5% blending of bio-diesel in diesel by 2030.**
- **National Policy on biofuels- salient features:**
- **Categorization:** The Policy categorises biofuels as “Basic Biofuels” viz. First Generation (1G) bioethanol & biodiesel and “Advanced Biofuels” – Second Generation (2G) ethanol, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) to drop-in fuels, Third Generation (3G) biofuels, bio-CNG etc. to enable extension of appropriate financial and fiscal incentives under each category.
- **Scope of raw materials:** The Policy expands the scope of raw material for ethanol production by allowing use of **Sugarcane Juice, Sugar containing materials like Sugar Beet, Sweet Sorghum, Starch containing materials like Corn, Cassava, Damaged food grains like wheat, broken rice, Rotten Potatoes, unfit for human consumption for ethanol production.**



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

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/31/ethanol-production/>

267. With reference to Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA), consider the following statements

1. AFSPA was first enacted as an ordinance in the backdrop of Quit India Movement.
2. AFSPA was first enacted to deal with the Naga insurgency in the Assam region.
3. Governor of a State and the Central Government are empowered to declare any part or full of any state as a disturbed area.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- The salient features of the AFSPA act are:
  - **Governor of a State and the Central Government are empowered to declare any part or full of any state as a disturbed area if according to their opinion that it has become necessary to disrupt terrorist activity or any such activity that might impinge on the sovereignty of India or cause insult to the national flag, anthem or India's Constitution.**
  - Section (3) of AFSPA provides that, if the governor of a state issues an official notification in The Gazette of India then the Central government has the authority to deploy armed forces for assisting the civilian authorities. Once a region is declared 'disturbed' then it has to maintain status quo for a minimum of three months, as per The Disturbed Areas Act of 1976.
  - Section (4) of AFSPA gives special powers to army officers in disturbed areas to shoot (even if it kills) any individual who violates law / or is suspected to violate law (this includes assembly of five or more people, carrying of weapons) etc. The only condition is that the officer has to give a warning before opening fire.
  - Security forces can arrest anybody even without a warrant, and carry out searches without consent.
  - Once a person is taken into custody, he/she has to be handed over to the nearest police station as soon as possible.
  - Prosecution of the officer on duty for alleged violation of human rights requires the prior permission of the Central Government.



- **AFSPA was first enacted to deal with the Naga insurgency in the Assam region.**
  - In 1951, the Naga National Council (NNC) reported that it conducted a “free and fair plebiscite” in which about 99 percent of Nagas voted for a ‘Free Sovereign Naga Nation’. There was a boycott of the first general election of 1952 which later extended to a boycott of government schools and officials.
- **The AFSPA – like many other controversial laws – is of a colonial origin. The AFSPA was first enacted as an ordinance in the backdrop of Quit India Movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1942.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/31/armed-forces-special-powers-act-afspa-2/>

268. Consider the following statements about Dibru-Saikhowa National Park:

1. It is located in Arunachal Pradesh.
2. It lies on the bank of Dibang River.
3. It is the largest Salix swamp forest in north-eastern India.

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

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **Dibru-Saikhowa National Park** is a national park in **Assam**, India, located in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts.
- Stat2: The Park is bounded by the **Brahmaputra and Lohit Rivers** in the north and **Dibru river** in the south.
- Stat3: It mainly consists of moist mixed semi-evergreen forests, moist mixed deciduous forests, canebrakes and grasslands. **It is the largest salix swamp forest in north-eastern India**, with a tropical monsoon climate with a hot and wet summer and cool and usually dry winter.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/31/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-31-december-2020/>

269. Consider the following statements.

1. It is located on the north bank of the Brahmaputra River.
2. It is the only stronghold of rhinoceros on the north bank of the Brahmaputra river.
3. It is also known as ‘Mini Kaziranga National Park’.

The above statements refer to:

- a) Manas National Park
- b) Nameri National Park
- c) Orang National Park
- d) Dibru-Saikhowa National Park

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- The Orang National Park is located on the north bank of the Brahmaputra River in the Darrang and Sonitpur districts of Assam.
- The park has a rich flora and fauna, including great Indian one-horned rhinoceros, pygmy hog, elephants, wild buffalo and tigers. It is the only stronghold of rhinoceros on the north bank of the Brahmaputra river.



- The Orang National Park is popularly known as the “mini Kaziranga.” The reason behind this is that both the parks have the same kind of climate and ecology.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/31/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-31-december-2020/>

270. Consider the following pairs:

Nation	Continent
1. Dominican Republic	Africa
2. Paraguay	South America
3. Estonia	Europe

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

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **Govt. nod for missions in Estonia, Paraguay and Dominican Republic:**

- Government of India to open three missions in Estonia, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic in 2021.
- This will help expand India’s diplomatic footprint, deepen political relations, enable growth of bilateral trade, investment and economic engagements.
- **S3: Estonia:** situated in northeastern **Europe**, Estonia juts out into the Baltic Sea, which surrounds the country to the north and west
- **S2: Paraguay:** situated in **South America**, it is a landlocked country between Argentina, Brazil and Bolivia, home to large swaths of swampland, subtropical forest and chaco, wildernesses comprising savanna and scrubland.
- **S1: Dominican Republic:** situated in **Northern America**, it is a Caribbean nation that shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti to the west.

Refer: Facts for Prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/12/31/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-31-december-2020/>



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