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

1. The annual Crime in India 2019 report has been released by which one of the following?

- (a) Bureau of Police Research and Development
- (b) National Sample Survey Office
- (c) National Crime Records Bureau
- (d) Niti Aayog

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Context:**

- The **National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)** has released the **annual Crime in India 2019 report**.

- **Key findings:**

- **Increase in crimes against members of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs):** There is an increase of over 7% and 26% in 2019 compared with the 2018 figures.
- **Increase of 1.6% in the registration** of cases over 2018.
- **Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of crimes against the SCs** in 2019, followed by Rajasthan and Bihar.
- **Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of cases against STs**, followed by Rajasthan, and Odisha.
- **In the number of cases of rape of women belonging to the SCs**, Rajasthan topped the list followed by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of cases against the STs, followed by Rajasthan and Odisha.
- The **highest number of incidents of rape of tribal women** was registered in Madhya Pradesh.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/01/ncrb-report-on-crimes-against-scs-and-sts/>

2. With reference to 'Ambedkar Social Innovation & Incubation Mission', consider the following statements:

1. The Objective of this mission is to promote entrepreneurship among the SC Youth with special preference to Divyangs.



2. It has been launched under the aegis of Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

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:

- **Launched by?**
 - **Stat2: Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.**
- **Launched under?**
 - Venture Capital Fund for SCs.
 -
- **Objectives:**
 - **Stat1:** To promote entrepreneurship among the SC Youth with special preference to Divyangs;
 - To support (1,000) innovative ideas till 2024 through a synergetic work with the Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) set up by Department of Science and Technology;
 - To support, promote, hand-hold the start-up ideas till they reach commercial stage by providing liberal equity support; and
 - To incentivise students with innovative mind-set to take to entrepreneurship with confidence.
- **Who is eligible for support under ASIIM?**
 - Youth who have been identified by the TBIs being promoted by Department of Science & Technology.
 - Youth who are identified for incubation by reputed private TBIs.
 - Students who have been awarded under the Smart India Hackathon or Smart India Hardware Hackathon being conducted by Ministry of Education.
 - Innovative ideas focusing on the socio-economic development of the society identified in the TBIs.
 - Start-ups nominated and supported by corporates through CSR funds.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/01/ambekar-social-innovation-incubation-mission-asiim-launched/>

3. 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

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/01/what-is-government-borrowing/>

4. Consider the following statements:

1. 'Escape clause' generally refers to a contract provision that specifies the conditions under which a party can be freed from an obligation.
2. The escape clause under the FRBM (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management) Act details a set of events in which the Central government can deviate from fiscal deficit targets.
3. Fiscal deficit is the total amount by which the government's revenues for a year exceed its expenses.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:



- **Stat1:** 'Escape clause' generally refers to a contract provision that specifies the conditions under which a party can be freed from an obligation.
- **Stat2:** The escape clause under the FRBM (Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management) Act details a set of events in which the Central government can deviate from fiscal deficit targets.
- **Stat3:** The fiscal deficit is the total amount by which the government's expenses for a year exceed its revenues.
- Escape clauses provide flexibility to governments to overshoot fiscal deficit targets in times of need, enabling them to respond to economic shocks. To ensure escape clauses are not misused, they are generally allowed only in exceptional circumstances, and with a check on the quantum of deviation.
- In 2017, the FRBM Review Committee headed by NK Singh said that the exceptional circumstances cited in the FRBM Act, 2003 were defined opaquely and were liable to misuse. **In 2018, the FRBM Act was amended to specify three conditions upon which the escape clause can be invoked.**
 - First, over-riding considerations of national security, acts of war, and calamities of national proportion and collapse of agriculture severely affecting farm output and incomes.
 - Second, far-reaching structural reforms in the economy with unanticipated fiscal implications.
 - Three, a sharp decline in real output growth of **at least 3 percentage points below the average for the previous four quarters**. The FRBM amendments also mentioned that the deviation from the stipulated fiscal deficit target must not exceed 0.5 percentage points in a year.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/01/what-is-government-borrowing/>

5. Which one of the following is/are best describes the 'Zombie fires'?

- (a) Fires burn trees up their entire length to the top.
- (b) Fires burn only surface litter and duff.
- (c) Fires occur in deep accumulations of humus, peat and similar dead vegetation that become dry enough to burn.
- (d) Fires that continues to burn underground and then reignites on the surface after a period of time.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Types of wildland fires:** There are three basic types of forest fires:
 - **Crown fires** burn trees up their entire length to the top. These are the most intense and dangerous wildland fires.



- **Surface fires** burn only surface litter and duff. These are the easiest fires to put out and cause the least damage to the forest.
- **Ground fires** (sometimes called underground or subsurface fires) occur in deep accumulations of humus, peat and similar dead vegetation that become dry enough to burn. These fires move very slowly, but can become difficult to fully put out, or suppress. Occasionally, especially during prolonged drought, such fires can smoulder all winter underground and then emerge at the surface again in spring.
- **A zombie fire** is a fire that continues to burn underground and then reignites on the surface after a period of time.
- **Why in News?**
 - 'Zombie fires' becoming more frequent in Arctic in addition to fires occurring in the once-frozen tundra.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/01/what-are-zombie-fires/>

6. Consider the following statements about BrahMos Missile:

1. It flies almost ten times the speed of sound.
 2. It is a surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile.
 3. The missile was jointly developed by India and Israel.
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Why in News?
 - Successfully flight tested.
- Key points:
 - It is a surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile featuring indigenous Booster and Airframe Section.
 - It flies almost three times the speed of sound at Mach 2.8.
 - The new BrahMos missile can strike targets over 400-km away with pin-point accuracy.
 - The missile was jointly developed by India and Russia and was first tested in 2001.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/01/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-1-october-2020/>



7. Which of the following statements is/are correct about Power Grid Corporation of India?
- (a) It is an Indian state-owned Navaratna company.
 - (b) It transmits more than 76% of the total power generated in India on its transmission network.
 - (c) It operates throughout India.
 - (d) Both (a) and (c) are correct.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Option1: Based on its performance POWERGRID was recognized as a Mini-ratna category-I Public Sector Undertaking in October 1998. It is conferred with the status of "Navratna" by the Government of India in May 2008 and **"Maharatna" status in October 2019**.
- Option2: POWERGRID transmits about 50% of the total power generated in India on its transmission network.
- Option3: POWERGRID **operates throughout India**. Its transmission network consists of roughly 1,53,635 circuit kilometers and 243 EHVAC and HVDC substations, which provide total transformation capacity of 3,67,097 MVA.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/01/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-1-october-2020/>

8. Recently, India signed a signed Statement of Intent on 'Decarbonization and Energy Transition Agenda', with which of the following countries?
- (a) Japan
 - (b) Bhutan
 - (c) Netherlands
 - (d) Vietnam

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **Decarbonization and Energy Transition Agenda:**

- **India and Netherlands** have signed Statement of Intent on 'Decarbonization and Energy Transition Agenda'.
- The Statement of Intent (SoI) supports decarbonization and energy transition agenda for accommodating cleaner and more energy.
- The focus of the partnership is on co-creating innovative technological solutions by leveraging the expertise of the two entities. This will be achieved through an exchange of knowledge and collaborative activities.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/01/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-1-october-2020/>



9. The money multiplier in an economy increases with which one of the following?

- (a) Increase in the cash reserve ratio
- (b) Increase in the banking habit of the population
- (c) Increase in the statutory liquidity ratio
- (d) Increase in the population of the country

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Option A and C: Any increase in a reserve ratio prevents the banks from lending more money, and reduces the money multiplier.
- Option B: Promoting the use of credit cards, taking more loans etc. can lead to lending and re-lending of the same money supply several times increasing the money multiplier.
- Option D: Even if this increases, and the banks reduce their lending, there may be no increase in the money multiplier.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/01/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-1-october-2020/>

10. With reference to the recent developments in science, which one of the following statements is not correct?

- (a) Functional chromosomes can be created by joining segments of DNA taken from cells of different species.
- (b) Pieces of artificial functional DNA can be created in laboratories.
- (c) A piece of DNA taken out from an animal cell can be made to replicate outside a living cell in a laboratory.
- (d) 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://www.nature.com/scitable/topicpage/recombinant-dna-technology-and-transgenic-animals-34513>

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RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 5th-Oct-2020

11. Arrange the following location in the direction of West to East:

1. Yamunotri
2. Gangotri
3. Badrinath
4. Kedarnath

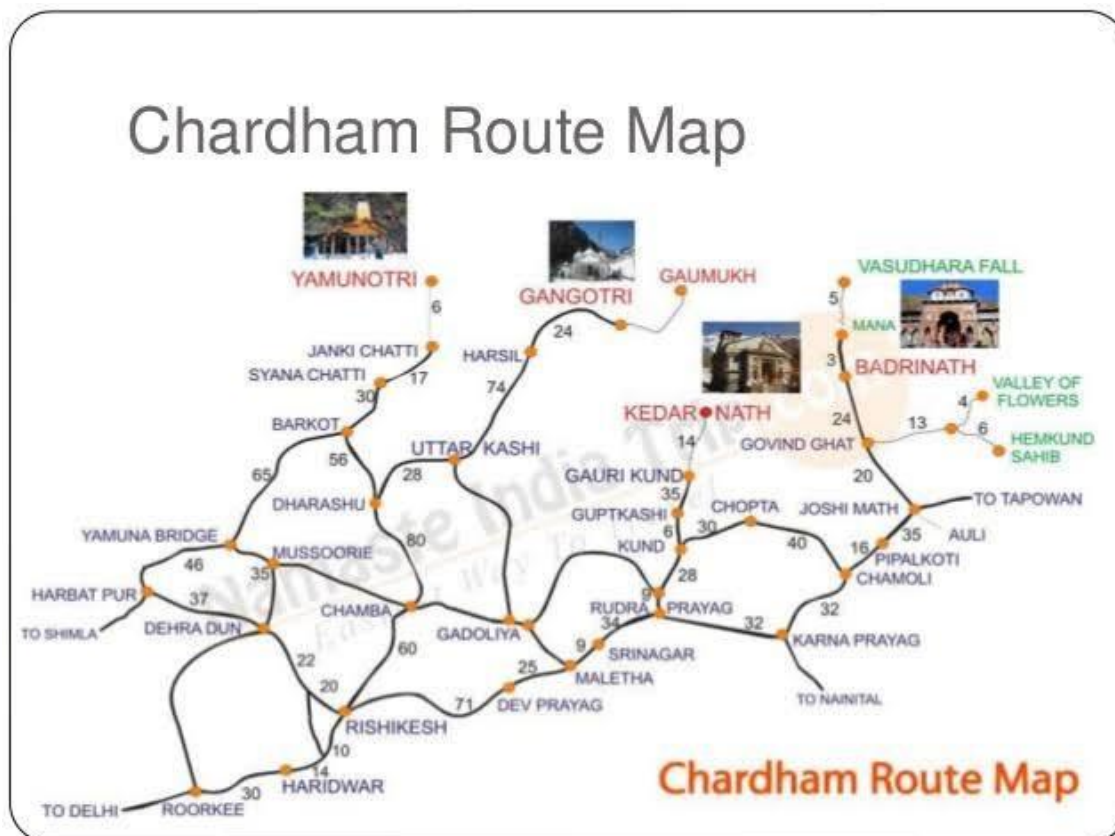
Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (b)

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: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/05/chardham-project/>

12. 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 also 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/2020/10/05/new-rules-for-postal-ballot/>

13. The 'narco test', sometimes in the news in reference to:

- (a) Gaganyaan
- (b) Media trial
- (c) Women empowerment
- (d) Criminal case investigation

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **What are narco test?**
 - Narco test involves the injection of a drug, sodium pentothal, which induces a hypnotic or sedated state in which the subject's imagination is neutralised, and they are expected to divulge true information.
 - The drug, referred to as "**truth serum**" in this context, was used in larger doses as anaesthesia during surgery, and is said to have been used during World War II for intelligence operations.
- **How is it different from Polygraph test?**
 - A polygraph test is based on the assumption that physiological responses that are triggered when a person is lying are different from what they would be otherwise.
 - Instruments like cardio-cuffs or sensitive electrodes are attached to the person, and variables such as blood pressure, pulse, respiration, change in sweat gland activity, blood flow, etc., are measured as questions are put to them.



- A numerical value is assigned to each response to conclude whether the person is telling the truth, is deceiving, or is uncertain.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/05/what-is-a-narco-test/>

14. 'Belt & Road Initiative' is a global infrastructure development strategy adopted by:

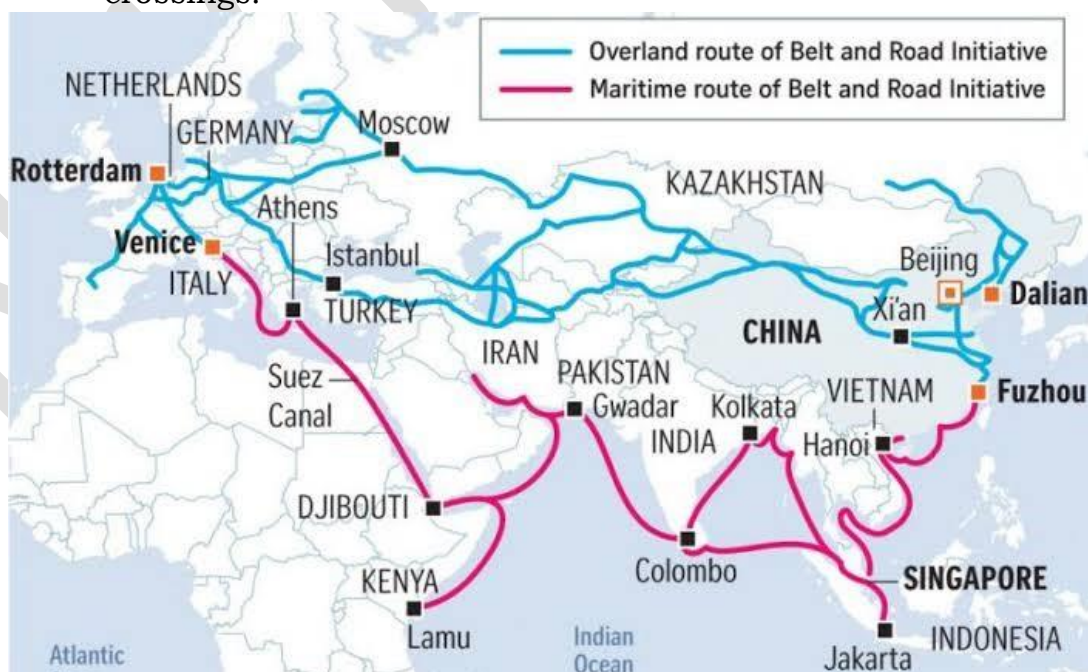
- (a) USA
- (b) Russia
- (c) EU
- (d) China

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **What is BRI?**

- The Belt and Road Initiative, reminiscent of the **Silk Road**, is a massive infrastructure project that would stretch from **East Asia to Europe**.
- It was launched in 2013.
- The plan is **two-pronged**: the **overland Silk Road Economic Belt** and the **Maritime Silk Road**- The two were collectively referred to first as the One Belt, One Road initiative but eventually became the Belt and Road Initiative.
- The project involves creating a vast network of railways, energy pipelines, highways, and streamlined border crossings.





Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/05/belt-and-road-initiative-2/>

15. 'Nagorno-Karabakh' is a landlocked region in the:

- (a) Yucatan Peninsula
- (b) Iberian Peninsula
- (c) South Caucasus
- (d) Kamchatka Peninsula

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Why in News?**

- Territorial disputes and ethnic conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan in Central Asia have impacted the Nagorno-Karabakh region in the South Caucasus.

- **Where is it?**

- Nagorno-Karabakh, also known as **Artsakh**, is a landlocked region in **the South Caucasus**, within the mountainous range of **Karabakh**.
- It is a disputed territory, **internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan**, but mostly governed by **the Republic of Artsakh**, a de facto independent state.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/05/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-5-october-2020/>



16. Arrange the following cities in the direction of West to East:

1. Jiddah
2. Mecca
3. Riyadh

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Why in News?**
 - Mecca reopens for pilgrimage.
- **Where is it located?**
 - It is the holiest city in Islam and **the capital of the Makkah Province of Saudi Arabia.**
 - It is located in **the Hejaz region**, a 200 km (124 mi) wide strip of mountains separating **the Nafud desert from the Red Sea.**



Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/05/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-5-october-2020/>



17. Consider the following statements:

1. New Caledonia is part of Polynesia.
2. The Diahot River is the longest river of New Caledonia.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Why in News?**

- The South Pacific territory of New Caledonia chose to remain French, narrowly rejecting independence from France in a referendum. The vote rejecting a breakaway from France after almost 170 years came in at 53.26%, according to final results, down from 56.7% in a referendum two years ago.

- **Location:**

- Located in the southwest Pacific Ocean, to the south of Vanuatu, about 1,210 km east of Australia.
- The archipelago, part of the Melanesia subregion, includes the main island of Grande Terre, the Loyalty Islands, the Chesterfield Islands, the Belep archipelago, the Isle of Pines, and a few remote islets.
- It is part of Zealandia.
- The **Diahot River** is the longest river of New Caledonia.
- New Caledonia was classified as an overseas territory beginning in 1946, but as a result of the **1998 Nouméa Accord**, it gained a special status (statut particulier or statut original) in 1999.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/05/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-5-october-2020/>

18. Consider the following statements:

1. The Atal Tunnel at Rohtang is at an altitude of above 3,000 metres in Himachal Pradesh.
2. The tunnel reduces the distance by 46 km between Manali and Leh.

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:**
 - Inaugurated recently.
- **Key points:**
 - The Atal Tunnel at Rohtang is at an altitude of above 3,000 metres in **Himachal Pradesh**.
 - The 9.02 km-long-tunnel, built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), is the world's longest highway tunnel and connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley.
 - The tunnel reduces the distance by 46 km between **Manali and Leh** and the travel time by about 4 to 5 hours.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/05/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-5-october-2020/>

19. Pipeworts (Eriocaulon) is a plant group which completes its life cycle within a small period during monsoon. Around 111 species of pipeworts are found in India. Most of these are reported from the
- (a) Western Himalayas
 - (b) Western Ghats
 - (c) Western India
 - (d) Both (a) and (b)

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Eriocaulon parvicephalum (due to its minute inflorescence size).
- Eriocaulon karaavalense (named after Karaavali, Coastal Karnataka region).
- **Pipeworts** (Eriocaulon) is a plant group which completes its life cycle within a small period during monsoon. Around 111 species of pipeworts are found in India.
- **Most of these are reported from the Western Ghats and the eastern Himalayas, and around 70% of them are endemic to the country.**
- They are known for its anti-cancerous, analgesic, anti-inflammatory, and astringent properties.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/05/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-5-october-2020/>

20. Consider the following statements about Xoo infection::

1. It is caused by virus called Xoo
 2. It causes huge yield losses to rice cultivation throughout the world
- 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:

- Caused by **bacterium** called **Xoo** (*Xanthomonas oryzae*pv. *oryzae*).
- It causes a serious bacterial leaf blight disease in rice.
- **It causes huge yield losses to rice cultivation throughout the world.**

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/05/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-5-october-2020/>

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RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 6th-Oct-2020

21. Consider the following statements with reference to PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi or PM SVANidhi Scheme:

1. It is a special micro-credit facility plan to provide affordable loan of up to ₹100000 to more than 50 lakh street vendors.
2. Small Industries Development Bank of India is the technical partner for implementation of this scheme.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Overview of the scheme:**
 - It is a special micro-credit facility plan to provide affordable loan of up to ₹10,000 to more than 50 lakh street vendors, who had their businesses operational on or before 24 March 2020.
 - The scheme is valid until March 2022.
- **Small Industries Development Bank of India** is the technical partner for implementation of this scheme.



- It will manage the credit guarantee to the lending institutions through **Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises**.
- **Loans under the scheme:**
 - Under the scheme, vendors can avail working capital loan of up to ₹10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments within one year.
 - On timely/early repayment of the loan, an interest subsidy of 7% per annum will be credited to the bank accounts of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) on six-months basis.
 - There will be no penalty on early repayment of loan.
- **Eligibility:**
 - The scheme is applicable to vendors, hawkers, thelewalas, rehriwalas, theliphadwalas in different areas/contexts who supply goods and services. Street vendors belonging to the surrounding peri-urban/rural areas are also included.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/06/pm-street-vendors-atmanirbhar-nidhi-pm-svanidhi-3/>

22. Consider the following statements:

1. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 on the initiative of the G20.
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: (b)

Explanation:

- **About FATF:**
 - **What is it?** 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.
- **Objectives:**
 - To set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.
- **What is blacklist and grey list?**
 - **Black List:** Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities. The FATF revises the blacklist regularly, adding or deleting entries.
 - **Grey List:** Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in the FATF grey list. This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/06/financial-action-task-force-fatf-6/>

23. K.V. Kamath Committee, sometimes mentioned in the news, is primarily related to:

- (a) National infrastructure plan
- (b) Interstate migration
- (c) 5G trials in India
- (d) One-time restructuring of corporate loans

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- The Supreme Court recently asked the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India about the steps taken to implement **the K.V. Kamath Committee report on recommendations to bail out sectors affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **Background:**
- Various writ petitions have been filed in the court highlighting the plight of borrowers, small and big, who were being charged



compound interest, post the pandemic moratorium which expired on August 31.

- **When was the committee setup?**
- In August this year, RBI set up a committee headed by K.V. Kamath on restructuring of loans impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The Committee was tasked to recommend parameters for one-time restructuring of corporate loans.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/06/kamath-panel-report/>

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

- (a) Hepatitis C is a major cause of liver cancer.
- (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:

- **What is Hepatitis C?**
 - It is a **liver disease**.
 - Caused by the hepatitis C virus (HCV): the virus can cause both **acute and chronic hepatitis**.
 - Hepatitis C is a major cause of liver cancer.
- **How is it caused? Spread?**
 - The hepatitis C virus is a **bloodborne virus**: the most common modes of infection are through exposure to small quantities of blood.
- **Treatment:**
 - **Antiviral medicines** can cure more than 95% of persons with hepatitis C infection, thereby reducing the risk of death from cirrhosis and liver cancer, but access to diagnosis and treatment is low.
 - There is currently **no effective vaccine against hepatitis C**; however, research in this area is ongoing.
- 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.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/06/2020-nobel-three-scientists-share-prize-in-physiology-or-medicine/>



25. Consider the following statements about Amazon Rainforest:

1. South America's Amazon contains nearly a third of all the tropical rainforests left on Earth.
2. The Amazon has more species of primate than anywhere else on Earth.
3. It is bounded by the Andes Mountains to the north, the Guiana Highlands to the west.

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:

- Stat3: Comprising about 40 percent of Brazil's total area, it is bounded by the Guiana Highlands to the north, the Andes Mountains to the west, the Brazilian central plateau to the south, and the Atlantic Ocean to the east.
- Stat2: The Amazon has more species of primate than anywhere else on Earth. You can find more types of ant on one tree in the Amazon than you can in some whole countries.
- Stat1: South America's Amazon contains nearly a third of all the tropical rainforests left on Earth. Despite covering only around 1% of the planet's surface, the Amazon is home to 10% of all the wildlife species we know about – and probably a lot that we don't know yet.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/06/40-of-the-amazon-rainforest-is-at-tipping-point-to-becoming-savanna/>

26. 'Yuddh Pradushan Ke Virudh' has been recently launched by:

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Yuddh Pradushan Ke Virudh:**

- Launched by **Delhi Government**.
- It is an anti-pollution campaign.
- Seeks to reduce air pollution levels in Delhi during winter.
- The campaign will include release of a Green Delhi app, creation of a war room to monitor progress, processing liquid solution for farms in order to curb stubble burning, and hotspot-specific action plans.



Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/06/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-6-october-2020/>

27. Consider the following statements about Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI):

1. It is an international non-governmental organisation funded by the World Bank.
2. It was launched in 2017, its mission is to stimulate and accelerate the development of vaccines against emerging infectious diseases.

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:

- CEPI is an international non-governmental organisation funded by the Wellcome Trust, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the European Commission, and eight countries (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Ethiopia, Germany, Japan, Norway, and the UK).
- Launched in 2017, its mission is to stimulate and accelerate the development of vaccines against emerging infectious diseases and enable access to these vaccines for people during outbreaks.
- **Why in News?**
- Translational Health Science And Technology Institute (THSTI), an autonomous institute of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), has been chosen by CEPI as one of the global network of laboratories for centralised assessment of COVID-19 vaccines.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/06/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-6-october-2020/>

28. Consider the following statements about Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary:

1. It is the second largest wildlife sanctuary in Kerala.
2. The sanctuary is now an integral part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
3. The vegetation is predominantly of the south Indian moist deciduous teak forests.

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:

- Stat1: Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary is the second largest wildlife sanctuary in Kerala. It is bestowed with lush green forests and rich wildlife. This wildlife area houses some of the rare and endangered species of both flora and fauna
- Stat2: Established in 1973, the sanctuary is now an integral part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. It is bounded by protected area network of Nagarhole and Bandipur of Karnataka in the northeast, and on the southeast by Mudumalai of Tamil Nadu.
- Stat3: It is part of the Deccan Plateau and the vegetation is predominantly of the south Indian moist deciduous teak forests. Also, the sanctuary has pastures of the west-coast semi-evergreen trees. The wildlife sanctuary comes under Protect Elephant and one can spot herd of elephants roaming in the area. Elephant rides are arranged by the Kerala Forest Department.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/06/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-6-october-2020/>

29. "Housing For All — A Better Urban Future" is the theme of which one of the following event?

- World Environment Day
- World Housing Day
- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- Earth Hour

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **World Habitat Day:**

- The United Nations designated the first Monday of October of every year as World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter.
- The Day is also intended to remind the world that we all have the power and the responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns.
- World Habitat Day was established in 1985 by the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution 40/202, and was first celebrated in 1986.
- 2020 Theme: Housing For All — A Better Urban Future.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/06/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-6-october-2020/>

30. The word 'Adjuvant' is sometimes mentioned in media in reference to:

- fossils of a kind of dinosaurs



- (b) an early human species
- (c) a cave system found in North-East India
- (d) an immunological agent

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **What is an Adjuvant?**

- An adjuvant is a pharmacological or immunological agent that improves the immune response of a vaccine. Adjuvants may be added to a vaccine to boost the immune response to produce more antibodies and longer-lasting immunity, thus minimizing the dose of antigen needed.
- **Why in News?**
- Bharat Biotech has entered into a licensing agreement with Kansas-based ViroVax for use of adjuvant Alhydroxiquim-II in its COVID-19 vaccine Covaxin.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/06/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-6-october-2020/>



RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 7th-Oct-2020

31. Consider the following statements:

1. Parliamentary privileges are defined in Article 105 of the Indian Constitution and those of State legislatures in Article 194.
2. When a member of the House is involved for parliamentary misbehaviour or commits contempt, he can be expelled from the House.

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:

- Parliamentary privileges are certain rights and immunities enjoyed by members of Parliament, individually and collectively, so that they can “effectively discharge their functions”.



- Parliamentary privileges are defined in Article 105 of the Indian Constitution and those of State legislatures in Article 194.
- When any of these rights and immunities are disregarded, the offence is called a breach of privilege and is punishable under law of Parliament.
- Besides, Rule No 222 in Chapter 20 of the Lok Sabha Rule Book and correspondingly Rule 187 in Chapter 16 of the Rajya Sabha rulebook govern privilege.
- In India, the Parliament has been given punitive powers to punish those who are adjudged guilty of contempt of the House.
- Such contempt can be committed by the members of any House or any outsider. When a member of the House is involved for parliamentary misbehaviour or commits contempt he can be expelled from the House.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/07/what-constitutes-a-breach-of-legislature-privilege-2/>

32. Which of the following statements is/are true about Additional Tier-1 bonds?

- (a) AT-1 bonds have no maturity date.
- (b) The issuing bank has the option to call back the bonds or repay the principal after a specified period of time.
- (c) AT-1 bonds are a type of unsecured, perpetual bonds.
- (d) All of the above statements are true.

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **What are Additional Tier-1 bonds?**

- Under the **Basel III framework**, banks' regulatory capital is divided into **Tier 1 and Tier 2 capital**.
- **Tier 1 capital** is subdivided into **Common Equity (CET) and Additional Capital (AT1)**.
- **AT1 bonds** are a type of **unsecured, perpetual bonds** that banks issue to shore up their core capital base to meet the Basel-III norms.

- **Key features:**

- These have **higher rates than tier II bonds**.
- These bonds have no maturity date.
- The issuing bank has **the option to call back** the bonds or repay the principal after a specified period of time.
- The attraction for investors is **higher yield** than secured bonds issued by the same entity.



- **Individual investors too can hold these bonds**, but mostly high net worth individuals (HNIs) opt for such higher risk, higher yield investments.
- Given the higher risk, **the rating for these bonds is one to four notches lower than the secured bond series** of the same bank.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/07/what-are-additional-tier-1-bonds-2/>

33. Consider the following statements:

1. The first product in India to be accorded with Geographical Indications (GI) tag was Darjeeling tea.
2. GI is governed by the World Trade Organisation's (WTO's) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

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 GI tag:**

- A GI is primarily an **agricultural, natural or a manufactured product** (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory.
- Typically, such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness, which is essentially attributable to the place of its origin.

- **Who is a registered proprietor of a geographical indication?**

- Any association of persons, producers, organisation or authority established by or under the law can be a registered proprietor.
- Their name should be entered in the Register of Geographical Indication as registered proprietor for the Geographical Indication applied for.

- **How long the registration of Geographical Indication is valid?**

- The registration of a geographical indication is valid for a period of 10 years.
- It can be renewed from time to time for further period of 10 years each.

- **Who accords and regulates Geographical Indications?**

- **At the International level:** Geographical Indications are covered as a component of intellectual property rights (IPRs) under **the Paris Convention for the Protection of**



Industrial Property. GI is also governed by **the World Trade Organisation's (WTO's) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).**

- **In India**, Geographical Indications registration is administered by **the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** which came into force with effect from September 2003. The first product in India to be accorded with GI tag was Darjeeling tea in the year 2004-05.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/07/pakistan-to-challenge-indias-application-for-exclusive-gi-tag-for-basmati-rice-in-eu/>

34. Recently, scientists observed the merger of giant 'blackholes' billions of light-years away from the Earth. What is the significance of this observation?

- (a) 'Higgs boson particles' were detected.
- (b) 'Gravitational waves' were detected.
- (c) Possibility of inter-galactic space travel through 'wormhole' was confirmed.
- (d) It enabled the scientists to understand 'singularity'.

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Two black holes recently collided to create a larger one – the biggest black hole merger yet detected. It has a mass more than 80 times that of the sun.
- The resulting energy injected into the fabric of spacetime was also record breaking, with five sun's worth of mass released in the form gravitational waves as the two holes spiralled in towards each other.
- Such titanic amounts of energy meant that the signal was still detectable by the time it reached gravitational wave detectors on Earth. It produced a record-breaking result – the most distant collision detected so far, nine billion light years away.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/07/2020-nobel-prize-in-physics/>

35. The word 'Sagittarius A*' is sometimes mentioned in media in reference to:

- (a) Exoplanet
- (b) Asteroid
- (c) Comet
- (d) Black hole

Ans: (d)

Explanation:



- **Sagittarius A*** is one of two black holes whose photographs have been captured by **the Event Horizon Telescope project**.
 - Supermassive black hole *Sagittarius A** (*Sgr A**) is located in the middle of the Milky Way galaxy.
- Black holes do not emit or radiate anything, even light. So, there is no way their image can be captured. But the area just outside its boundary, called **the event horizon**, which has vast amounts of gas, clouds and plasma swirling violently, does emit all kinds of radiations, even visible light.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/07/2020-nobel-prize-in-physics/>

36. Consider the following:

1. Carbon monoxide
2. Methane
3. Ozone
4. Sulphur dioxide

Which of the above are released into atmosphere due to the burning of crop/biomass residue?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Agricultural crop residue burning contribute towards the emission of greenhouse gases (CO₂, N₂O, CH₄), air pollutants (CO, NH₃, NO_x, SO₂, NMHC, volatile organic compounds), particulates matter and smoke thereby posing threat to human health.
- Satellite observations have revealed elevated levels of **O₃ (Ozone)**, CO and aerosols over vast areas of Central Africa and South America, over the tropical Atlantic, and the Indian Ocean due to long-range transport of pollutants emitted from biomass burning.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/07/delhi-govt-to-spray-bio-decomposer-in-fields-to-prevent-stubble-burning/>

37. Consider the following statements with reference to High security registration plates :

1. HSRPs comprises hot-stamped chromium-based 20 mm X 20 mm hologram of Ashoka Chakra in blue colour on the top left corner.
2. At the bottom left corner is a 10-digit permanent identification number (PIN) that is laser branded on the reflective sheeting.
3. Once affixed, the unique high security registration plate is electronically linked to the vehicle.



4. HSRP's are affixed by automobile dealers and private vendors approved by the state authorities.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **What is high security registration plate (HSRP)**

- High security registration plates are made up aluminium and are affixed using at least two non-reusable snap-on locks.
- The plate comprises hot-stamped chromium-based 20 mm X 20 mm hologram of Ashoka Chakra in blue colour on the top left corner.
- At the bottom left corner is a 10-digit permanent identification number (PIN) that is laser branded on the reflective sheeting.
- HSRP also includes a hot stamped film applied on the numerals and letters bearing the inscription "INDIA" at a 45-degree angle.
- Once affixed, the unique high security registration plate is electronically linked to the vehicle.

- **Benefits of high security registration plate (HSRP)**

- The conventional and old number plates are very easy to tamper with and can be changed quite easily. Usually, the first thing most thieves do after stealing a vehicle is to replace the registration plate, making it difficult for the police and authorities to track that stolen vehicle. But HSRP's come with non-removable snap-on locks and are difficult to replace.
- HSRP's are affixed by automobile dealers and private vendors approved by the state authorities. These plates are issued only after the vehicle owner provides with information like engine number, chassis number, etc. This is a crucial step in preventing counterfeiting of high security registration plates.
- Another benefit of HSRP is that the details of a car, like engine number, chassis number, etc. are stored in a centralized database. This information, along with the 10-digit PIN, helps the authorities to identify a stolen vehicle.
- Some vehicle owners use different font and styles for the registration plates, making it difficult for the traffic police to comprehend the registration number of a vehicle. However, the HSRPs have a uniform pattern of displaying motor



vehicle registration number, therefore addressing the issue of 'incomprehensible' vehicle registration plates.

- **Do I have to pay extra for HSRP?**

- Vehicles sold in India after April 2019 come with high security number plates from the dealer's end and the cost of HSRP is included in the price of the vehicle. But for the vehicles sold before April 2019, vehicle owners will have to contact automobile dealership or government authorized HSRP vendors and pay a marginal amount to obtain a high security registration plate.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/07/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-7-october-2020/>

38. Consider the following statements:

1. Purchasing Manager's Index is the index of a representative basket of goods and services.
2. PMI above 50 represents an expansion when compared to the previous month.

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:

- PMI is an indicator of **business activity**- in the manufacturing and services sectors.
- It is a **survey-based measure** that asks the respondents about changes in their perception about key business variables as compared with the previous month.
- The PMI is a number from **0 to 100**:
- **PMI above 50 represents an expansion when compared to the previous month;**
- PMI under 50 represents a contraction, and
- A reading at 50 indicates no change.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/07/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-7-october-2020/>

39. The 'Gupkar Declaration' is sometimes mentioned in media in reference to:

- (a) Indo-Nepal border relation



- (b) Abrogation of Article 370
- (c) Freedom of press and expression
- (d) Interlinking of River (ILR) programme

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **What is Gupkar Declaration?**

- On August 4, 2019, first Gupkar declaration was **signed before the abrogation of Article 370.**
- On August 22, 2020, the six political parties of Jammu and Kashmir signed a statement titled as **'Gupkar Declaration II' to collectively fight against the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.**
- The six parties have jointly stated the Centre's decision to alter the special status of Jammu and Kashmir is 'grossly unconstitutional'.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/07/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-7-october-2020/>

40. The Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH) is an initiative by

- (a) National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB)
- (b) National Innovation Foundation (NIF)
- (c) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- (d) NITI Aayog

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **CAWACH:**
 - The **Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH)** is an initiative by the **National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board (NSTEDB), Department of Science and Technology (DST).**
 - CAWACH supports innovations in the areas of diagnostics, devices, informatics including bio-informatics & information management systems, any intervention for the control of COVID-19 and/or startup ideas to address/mitigate various challenges faced by country/society due to the severe impact of COVID-19.
 - It offers funding to the tune of Rs. 50 lakhs to Rs. 200 lakhs to selected startups.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/07/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-7-october-2020/>



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RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 8th-Oct-2020

41. Consider the following statements:

1. The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes in any state except the four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
2. The governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **Article 244 in Part X of the Constitution** envisages a special system of administration for certain areas designated as 'scheduled areas' and 'tribal areas'. **The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes in any state except the four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.**
 - The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, on the other hand, deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- Stat2: The tribal areas in the four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram have been constituted as autonomous districts. But, they do not fall outside the executive authority of the state concerned.
 - **The governor is empowered to organise and re-organise the autonomous districts.** Thus, he can increase or decrease their areas or change their names or define their boundaries and so on.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/08/bodoland-poll-gets-assam-cabinet-nod/>



42. Consider the following statements:

1. If a candidate or her election agent shares the stage with a star campaigner at a rally, then the entire expenditure on that rally is added to the candidate's expenses.
2. For unrecognised registered parties, the number of star campaigners has been reduced from 20 to 15.

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:

- **Context:**
 - The Election Commission has revised norms for star campaigners for polls during the pandemic.
- **Changes proposed:**
 - Maximum number of star campaigners reduced from 40 to 30 for a recognised party.
 - **Stat2:** For unrecognised registered parties, the number of star campaigners has been reduced from 20 to 15.
 - Besides, they now require permission from the district election official 48 hours prior to campaigning.
- **Who are star campaigners?**
 - They can be described as persons who are nominated by parties to campaign in a given set of Constituencies. These persons are, in almost all cases, prominent and popular faces within the Party. However, there are **no specific definitions according to law or the Election Commission of India.**
- **Benefits:**
 - The **expenditure incurred on campaigning by such campaigners is exempt from being added to the election expenditure** of a candidate. However, this only applies when a star campaigner limits herself to a general campaign for the political party she represents.
- **What if a star campaigner campaigns specifically for one candidate?**
 - **Stat1:** If a candidate or her election agent shares the stage with a star campaigner at a rally, then the entire expenditure on that rally, other than the travel expenses of the star campaigner, is added to the candidate's expenses.
 - Even if the candidate is not present at the star campaigner's rally, but there are posters with her photographs or her



name on display, the entire expenditure will be added to the candidate's account.

- This applies even if the star campaigner mentions the candidate's name during the event. When more than one candidate shares the stage, or there are posters with their photographs, then the expenses of such rally/meeting are equally divided between all such candidates.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/08/who-is-a-star-campaigner-2/>

43. Consider the following statements:

1. There were pre-Independence laws of contempt in India.
 2. When the Constitution was adopted, contempt of court was made one of the restrictions on freedom of speech and expression.
 3. The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, gives statutory backing to the idea.
- 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 concept of contempt of court is several centuries old. In England, it is a common law principle that seeks to protect the judicial power of the king, initially exercised by himself, and later by a panel of judges who acted in his name. Violation of the judges' orders was considered an affront to the king himself. Over time, any kind of disobedience to judges, or obstruction of the implementation of their directives, or comments and actions that showed disrespect towards them came to be punishable.
- **Stat1, 2 and 3:** There were pre-Independence laws of contempt in India. Besides the early High Courts, the courts of some princely states also had such laws. When the Constitution was adopted, contempt of court was made one of the restrictions on freedom of speech and expression. Separately, Article 129 of the Constitution conferred on the Supreme Court the power to punish contempt of itself. Article 215 conferred a corresponding power on the High Courts. The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, gives statutory backing to the idea.
- The law codifying contempt classifies it as civil and criminal. Civil contempt is fairly simple. It is committed when someone wilfully disobeys a court order, or wilfully breaches an undertaking given to court. Criminal contempt is more complex. It consists of three forms: (a) words, written or spoken, signs and actions that



“scandalise” or “tend to scandalise” or “lower” or “tends to lower” the authority of any court (b) prejudices or interferes with any judicial proceeding and (c) interferes with or obstructs the administration of justice.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/08/contempt-of-court-5/>

44. Consider the following statements:

1. The right to protest peacefully is guaranteed by the Constitution of India.
 2. The right to freedom of speech is subject to “reasonable restrictions”.
- Which of the give 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 was the case?**

- On March 23, the Shaheen Bagh sit-in protest against the citizenship law was cleared by Delhi police after curbs were imposed on assembly and movement of people in wake of the coronavirus pandemic. The protest had been on for more than 100 days.
- Even the apex court had appointed interlocutors to hold talks with the protesters and report back on the ground situation.

- **What has the Supreme Court ruled now?**

- The judgment upheld **the right to peaceful protest** against a law but made it unequivocally clear that **public ways and public spaces cannot be occupied, and that too indefinitely.**
- It is the duty of the administration to remove such road blockades.
- Dissent and democracy go hand in hand but protests must be carried out in designated area.

- **Restrictions on Fundamental Rights:**

- Fundamental rights do not live in isolation. These rights are subject to reasonable restrictions imposed in the interest of sovereignty, integrity and public order.

- **Basics:**

- **Right to Protest peacefully:**
- The right to protest peacefully is **guaranteed by the Constitution of India.**



- **Articles 19(1)(a) and 19(1)(b)** give to all citizens the right to freedom of speech and expression, and to assemble peaceably and without arms.
- However, under **Articles 19(2) and 19(3)**, the right to freedom of speech is subject to “reasonable restrictions”.
- These include the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, public order, decency or morality or in relation to contempt of court, defamation or incitement to an offence.
- **Powers of state:**
 - The legal provisions and avenue available to police for handling agitations, protests, and unlawful assemblies are covered by the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973, the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, and The Police Act, 1861.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/08/sc-public-places-cannot-be-occupied-indefinitely/>

45. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 262 of the Constitution provides for the adjudication of inter-state water disputes.
2. Under this, Supreme Court may by law provide for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution and control of waters of any inter-state river and river valley.

Which of the give above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Inter-State River Water Disputes:**
 - **Article 262** of the Constitution provides for the adjudication of inter-state water disputes.
 - Under this, **Parliament may by law provide for the adjudication** of any dispute or complaint with respect to the use, distribution and control of waters of any inter-state river and river valley.
 - Parliament may also provide that neither the Supreme Court nor any other court is to exercise jurisdiction in respect of any such dispute or complaint.
 - The Parliament has enacted the two laws:
 - The River Boards Act (1956).
 - The Inter-State Water Disputes Act (1956).

- **The River Boards Act:**



- It provides for the establishment of river boards by the Central government for the regulation and development of inter-state river and river valleys.
- A River Board is established on the request of state governments concerned to advise them.
- **The Inter-State Water Disputes Act:**
 - It empowers the Central government to set up an ad hoc tribunal for the adjudication of a dispute between two or more states in relation to the waters of an inter-state river or river valley.
 - The decision of the tribunal is final and binding on the parties to the dispute.
 - Neither the Supreme Court nor any other court is to have jurisdiction in respect of any water dispute which may be referred to such a tribunal under this Act.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/08/river-boards/>

46. The Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020 report is released by which of the following?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- (c) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- (d) International Monetary Fund

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Context:**
 - It is a **biennial report of the World Bank**.
 - It provides a global audience with the latest and most accurate estimates on trends in global poverty and shared prosperity.
- **Key findings in the latest report:**
 - **Overall scenario:**
 - Global extreme poverty is expected to rise for the first time in 20 years because of the disruption caused by COVID-19.
 - This will exacerbate the impact of conflict and climate change, which were already slowing down poverty reduction.
 - The pandemic may push another 88 million to 115 million into extreme poverty or having to live on less than \$1.50 per day, resulting in a total of 150 million such individuals.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/08/poverty-and-shared-prosperity-report/>



47. 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.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/08/nobel-prize-in-chemistry/>

48. Consider the following statements:

1. The Competition Act, 2002 is India's antitrust law.
2. Under the provisions of this act, the central government has established Competition Commission of India in 2003 which acts as a watchdog of free market economy.

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:

- **India's Anti-Trust Regulation Framework:**
 - The **Competition Act, 2002** is India's antitrust law. It replaced the Monopolistic and Restrictive Trade Practices Act of 1969.
 - **The Act prohibits:** anti-competitive agreements; abuse of dominant position by enterprises; and regulates combinations (Mergers and Acquisition), which causes or likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India.
 - Under the provisions of this act, the central government has established **Competition Commission of India in 2003** which acts as a watchdog of free market economy.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/08/google-to-face-antitrust-case-in-india/>



49. Consider the following statements:

1. Natural gas is the cleanest fossil fuels among the available fossil fuels.
2. It is a naturally occurring hydrocarbon gas mixture consisting primarily of methane.

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 Natural Gas:**

- Natural gas is the cleanest fossil fuels among the available fossil fuels.
- It is a naturally occurring hydrocarbon gas mixture consisting primarily of **methane**, but commonly including varying amounts of other higher alkanes, and sometimes a small percentage of carbon dioxide, nitrogen, hydrogen sulfide, or helium.
- It is a potent greenhouse gas itself when released into the atmosphere, and creates carbon dioxide during oxidation.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/08/natural-gas-marketing-reforms/>

50. Consider the following statements with reference to National air quality index (NAQI):

1. NAQI was launched in 2014 with outline 'One Number – One Color - One Description'.
2. The measurement of air quality is based on twelve pollutants.
3. It has been developed by the CPCB in consultation with IIT-Kanpur.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Context:**

- Delhi's air quality has entered the 'poor' zone on the Central Pollution Control Board's **air quality index** — the first time since June 28.

- **What is the National Air Quality Index?**



- Launched in **2014** with outline '**One Number – One Color - One Description**' for the common man to judge the air quality within his vicinity.
- **The measurement of air quality is based on eight pollutants**, namely: Particulate Matter (PM10), Particulate Matter (PM2.5), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2), Sulphur Dioxide (SO2), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Ozone (O3), Ammonia (NH3), and Lead (Pb).
- **AQI has six categories of air quality.** These are: Good, Satisfactory, Moderately Polluted, Poor, Very Poor and Severe.
 - It has been developed by **the CPCB in consultation with IIT-Kanpur** and an expert group comprising medical and air-quality professionals.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/08/air-quality-index/>

The banner features a background image of a person in a white shirt writing on a document with a pen. A large red circle is overlaid in the center, containing the text 'INSTA ETHICS 70 DAYS PLAN' in white. Above the circle, the Insights IAS logo is visible. Below the circle, the text 'Starts from 18th October 2020' is written. At the bottom of the banner, the website 'WWW.INSIGHTSONINDIA.COM' is displayed.

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RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 9th-Oct-2020

51. With reference to New Development Bank, Consider the following statements:
1. It is a multilateral development bank operated by the BRICS states.
 2. It was established in 2014, at the 6th BRICS Summit at Fortaleza, Brazil.
 3. In 2018, the NDB received observer status in the United Nations General Assembly.

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 the New Development Bank:**

- It is a multilateral development bank operated by **the BRICS states** (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).
- It 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.
- Headquartered in Shanghai, China.
- In 2018, the NDB received observer status in the United Nations General Assembly, establishing a firm basis for active and fruitful cooperation with the UN.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/09/new-development-bank-3/>

52. Consider the following statements about Gyan Circle Ventures:
1. Gyan Circle Ventures would function as Venture Investors.
 2. They will serve as a hub for innovation and start-ups by providing support, in various phases, via investments, infrastructure and mentoring.



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:

- Union Education Minister virtually inaugurates **Gyan Circle Ventures**.
- **What are Gyan Circle Ventures?**
 - They are **Technology Business Incubators (TBI)**.
 - Funded by **the Ministry of Information Technology (MeitY)**.
 - Led by the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Sri City (Chittoor), Andhra Pradesh.
- **Key features:**
 - Gyan Circle Ventures would function as a Technology Incubation and Development of Entrepreneurs (TIDE 2.0) incubation center.
 - They will serve as a hub for innovation and startups by providing support, in various phases, via investments, infrastructure and mentoring.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/09/gyan-circle-ventures/>

53. Consider the following statements:

1. India had ratified the Stockholm Convention in 2006
2. The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants

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 Stockholm Convention on POPs:**

- Signed in 2001 and effective from May 2004 (Ninety days after the ratification by at least 50 signatory states).
- **Aims to eliminate or restrict the production and use of persistent organic pollutants (POPs).**
- What are POPs?
 - In 1995, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) called for global action to



be taken on POPs, which it defined as “chemical substances that persist in the environment, bio-accumulate through the food web, and pose a risk of causing adverse effects to human health and the environment”.

- **India had ratified the Stockholm Convention on January 13, 2006**, as per Article 25 (4), which enabled it to keep itself in a default “opt-out” position such that amendments in various Annexes of the convention cannot be enforced on it unless an instrument of ratification/acceptance/approval or accession is explicitly deposited with the UN depositary.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/09/stockholm-convention-on-pops/>

54. Consider the following statements:

1. Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) is a set of stratified actions that are taken once the pollution level reaches a certain specified limit.
2. The plan was prepared by Environment Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority.
3. GRAP works only as an emergency measure.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP):**

- Approved by the Supreme Court in 2016.
- It works only as **an emergency measure**.
- As such, **the plan does not include action by various state governments to be taken throughout the year** to tackle industrial, vehicular and combustion emissions.
- When the air quality shifts from poor to very poor, the measures listed have to be followed since **the plan is incremental in nature**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/09/what-is-graded-response-action-plan-grap/>

55. Consider the following statements:

1. Foreigners Tribunals are quasi-judicial bodies established as per the Foreigners Tribunal Order, 1964 and the Foreigners' Act, 1946.
2. Under the provisions, only Foreigner Tribunals have the right to declare a person as a foreigner.

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 Gauhati High Court has said that people declared as foreigners **cannot be kept in jails that serve as detention centres, depriving them of basic human rights and human dignity.**
- The court has also issued a notice to the Assam government to submit a report on the steps taken to set up detention centres outside jail premises and “hire any private premises” if “suitable government accommodations are not available for the purpose”.
- **Who is a declared foreigner?**
 - A declared foreigner, or DF, is a person marked by Foreigners’ Tribunal (FT) for allegedly failing to prove their citizenship after the State police’s Border wing marks him or her as an illegal immigrant.
- **What is a Foreigners tribunal?**
 - In 1964, the govt brought in **the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order.**
- **Composition:** Advocates not below the age of 35 years of age with at least 7 years of practice (or) Retired Judicial Officers from the Assam Judicial Service (or) Retired IAS of ACS Officers (not below the rank of Secretary/Addl. Secretary) having experience in quasi-judicial works.
- **Who can setup these tribunals?**
 - The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has amended the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, and has empowered **district magistrates in all States and Union Territories to set up tribunals (quasi-judicial bodies)** to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not.
 - Earlier, the powers to constitute tribunals were vested only with the Centre.
- **Who can approach?**
 - The amended order (Foreigners (Tribunal) Order, 2019) also empowers **individuals to approach the Tribunals.**
 - Earlier, only the State administration could move the Tribunal against a suspect.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/09/who-is-a-declared-foreigner/>



56. Which one of the following country is not a member of Cotton- 4 Countries?

- (a) Benin
- (b) Burkina Faso
- (c) Chad
- (d) Gambia

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Second World Cotton Day** was observed on **7th October 2020**.
 - The event is organised in collaboration with the Secretariats of the :
 - United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
 - The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
 - The International Trade Centre (ITC) and the
 - International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC).
- **Genesis:** This event stems from the **Cotton-4's** official application for the recognition of a World Cotton Day by the United Nations General Assembly.
- **Cotton- 4 Countries:** Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/09/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-9-october-2020/>

57. Among the following, which one is the largest producer of cotton in the world in 2019/2020?

- (a) China
- (b) India
- (c) United States
- (d) Brazil

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Leading cotton producing countries worldwide in 2019/2020 (in 1,000 metric tons): Production in thousand metric tons
 - India: 6,423
 - China: 5,933
 - United States: 4,336
 - Brazil: 2,918

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/09/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-9-october-2020/>

58. Rapid Action Force (RAF) is a specialised wing of the:

- (a) Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)



- (b) Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- (c) Border Security Force (BSF)
- (d) Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Rapid Action Force (RAF):**
- It is a specialised wing of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- It was raised in October 1992.
- Role: To deal with riots, riot like situations, crowd control, rescue and relief operations, and related unrest.
- Its motto is "Serving Humanity with Sensitive Policing".
- **Why in News?**
- 28th anniversary of the RAF.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/09/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-9-october-2020/>

59. Consider the following statements:

1. October 8 is celebrated as the Air Force Day in India.
2. Indian Air Force now is the fourth largest in the world.

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:

- **Air Force Day, October 8:**
- October 8 is celebrated as the Air Force Day because on this day, the Air Force in India was officially raised in 1932 as the supporting force of the Royal Air Force of the United Kingdom.
- The first operational squadron came into being in April 1933. After participation in World War II, the Air Force in India came to be called the Royal Indian Air Force in the mid 1940s.
- In 1950, after the republic came into being it became the Indian Air Force.
- The Air Force now is the fourth largest in the world.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/09/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-9-october-2020/>



60. Barcode of Life Data Systems (BOLD) is sometimes mentioned in the news in reference to:

- (a) DNA-based identification system
- (b) Segregation of biodiversity data
- (c) New methodology to measure biodiversity
- (d) None of the above


Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- The mission of the **International Barcode of Life (iBOL)** is to unite DNA barcoding research as a global science.
- Through a research alliance spanning 26 nations with varying levels of investment and responsibilities, iBOL is successfully extending the geographic and taxonomic coverage of the **Barcode of Life Data Systems (BOLD)**.
- In 2010, iBOL has met its key target for Phase I: records for 500K species were added to BOLD through this international collaboration.
- The overall task of iBOL researchers is to collect and curate specimens, and organize their DNA sequences into a reference library used for global species identification.
- Once implemented, **this DNA-based identification system** will exert broad impacts on all areas in which society interacts with biodiversity - pest and disease control, food production and safety, resource management, conservation, research, education, and recreation.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/09/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-9-october-2020/>

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

61. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights is a statutory body
2. The Commission works under the aegis of Ministry of Women and Child Development



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 Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) was set up in March 2007 under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005, an Act of Parliament (December 2005).
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) is a statutory body under the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 under the administrative control of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Government of India.
- The Commission's Mandate is to ensure that all Laws, Policies, Programs, and Administrative Mechanisms are in consonance with the Child Rights perspective as enshrined in the Constitution of India and also the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Child is defined as a person in the 0 to 18 years age group.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/10/national-commission-for-protection-of-child-rights-ncpcr/>

62. Arrange the following events in correct chronological order:

1. India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA)
2. India- Sri Lanka Cultural Cooperation Agreement
3. The Rajiv-Jayewardene Accord (Indo-Lanka Accord)

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Option2: The Cultural Cooperation Agreement signed by the two Governments on 29 November, 1977, forms the basis for periodic Cultural Exchange Programmes between the two countries.
- Option3: **About the Accord:**
 - Signed in 1987.
 - Popularly referred to as **the Rajiv-Jayewardene Accord**, after its architects Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President J.R. Jayewardene.
 - It sought to collectively address all the three contentious issues between India and Sri Lanka: strategic interests,



- people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka and Tamil minority rights in Sri Lanka.
- This accord saw the induction of **the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka.**
 - According to the terms of the accord, **Sri Lankan forces would withdraw from the north and the Tamil rebels would disarm.**
 - The accord was expected to resolve the Sri Lankan Civil War by enabling the thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution of Sri Lanka and the Provincial Councils Act of 1987.
 - Option 1: The **Indo-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISFTA)**, which was signed on 28th December 1998 and entered into force with effect from 1st March **2000**, **provides duty free concessions** to a wide range of products traded between the two countries.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/10/indo-sri-lankan-accord/>

63. Consider the following statements:

1. The quadrilateral security dialogue includes Japan, India, United States and Russia.
2. All four nations find a common ground of being the democratic nations and common interests of unhindered maritime trade and security.

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 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.
- The idea was **first mooted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007**. However, the idea couldn't move ahead with Australia pulling out of it.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/10/china-slams-quad-as-a-closed-clique/>



64. Consider the following statements with reference to Long term repo operation (TLTRO):

1. The LTRO is a tool under which the central bank provides one-year to three-year money to banks at the prevailing repo rate.
2. LTRO helped RBI ensure that banks reduce their marginal cost of funds-based lending rate, without reducing policy rates.
3. It is a measure that market participants expect will bring down short-term rates and also boost investment in corporate bonds.

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:

- **What is LTRO?**

- The LTRO is a tool under which the central bank provides one-year to three-year money to banks at the prevailing repo rate, accepting government securities with matching or higher tenure as the collateral.

- **How is it different from LAF and MSF?**

- While the RBI's current windows of liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) and marginal standing facility (MSF) offer banks money for their immediate needs ranging from 1-28 days, the LTRO supplies them with liquidity for their 1- to 3-year needs. LTRO operations are intended to prevent short-term interest rates in the market from drifting a long way away from the policy rate, which is the repo rate.

- **Why is it important?**

- As banks get long-term funds at lower rates, their cost of funds falls.
- In turn, they reduce interest rates for borrowers.
- LTRO helped RBI ensure that banks reduce their marginal cost of funds-based lending rate, without reducing policy rates.
- LTRO also showed the market that RBI will not only rely on revising repo rates and conducting open market operations for its monetary policy, but also use new tools to achieve its intended objectives.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/10/long-term-repo-operation-tiltro/>



65. Consider the following statements:

1. The World Food Programme (WFP) is the food assistance branch of the United Nations.
2. In 2019, WFP assisted 197 million people, the largest number since 2012 – in 88 countries.

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 UN WFP?**

- The World Food Programme (WFP) is the food assistance **branch of the United Nations** and **the world's largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security**.
- Born in 1961, the WFP strives to eradicate hunger and malnutrition, with the ultimate **goal in mind of eliminating the need for food aid itself**.
- It is a **member of the United Nations Development Group** and part of its Executive Committee.
- WFP food aid is also directed to fight micronutrient deficiencies, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, and combat disease, including HIV and AIDS
- Source: In 2019, WFP assisted 97 million people – the largest number since 2012 – in 88 countries.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/10/nobel-peace-prize-for-uns-world-food-programme/>

66. With reference to 'Tree Transplantation Policy', consider the following statements:

1. Kerala become the first State in India to pass this policy.
2. Tree Transplantation policy was first proposed by Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace in the nineteenth century.

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:



- Delhi Cabinet has given its nod for '**Tree Transplantation Policy**'. With this, Delhi has become the first State in India to pass this policy.
- Highlights of the policy:
 - Agencies concerned will have to transplant 80 per cent of the trees affected by their projects to a new location.
 - More importantly, 10 saplings will be planted in addition to the whole tree being dug up with the root intact and scientifically transplanted at another location instead of being felled.
 - A dedicated panel of government agencies with track record and experience of tree transplantation is being formed under the policy.
 - Payments for transplantation will be made after one year to ensure this, and if less than 80 per cent of the transplanted trees survive, payment will be deducted.
 - The government will also form local committees, which will include citizens, for checking, monitoring and certification of the tree transplantation exercise.
 - A dedicated Tree Transplantation Cell will also be formed by the Delhi government and local committees, which will include government officials, citizens to monitor the transplanted trees and to certify that the task has been done with due diligence.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/10/tree-transplantation-policy/>

67. What is "Rudram Anti-Radiation Missile", sometimes seen in the news?
- (a) An Israeli radar system
 - (b) India's indigenous missile programme
 - (c) An American anti-missile system
 - (d) A defence collaboration between Japan and South Korea

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **Rudram Anti-Radiation Missile:**

- **Context:**
 - Successfully test-fired recently from a Sukhoi-30 fighter aircraft.
- **Key points:**
 - The missile has been developed by **the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
 - It has **a strike range of around 100 to 150 km**.
 - It is **the first indigenous air-to-ground missile** developed by the DRDO, after the supersonic BrahMos, which has been developed jointly with Russia.



- The missile has been designed for **suppression of enemy air defenses (SEAD)**.
- The missile can be launched from a varying range of altitudes for destroying enemy surveillance radars, tracking and communication systems.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/10/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-10-october-2020/>

68. Consider the following pairs

Towns sometimes mentioned	Country in news
1. Bishkek	Kazakhstan
2. Rojava	Armenia
3. Doha	Qatar

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Doha is the capital and most populous city of the State of Qatar.
- The Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria, also known as Rojava, is a de facto autonomous region in northeastern Syria.
- Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, borders Central Asia's Tian Shan range.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/10/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-10-october-2020/>

69. Due to some reasons, if there is a huge fall in the population of species of butterflies, what could be its likely consequence/consequences?

- 1. Pollination of some plants could be adversely affected.
- 2. There could be a drastic increase in the fungal infections of some cultivated plants.
- 3. It could lead to a fall in the population of some species of wasps, spiders and birds.

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: Bees and butterflies play a vital role in the pollination of plants and the production of crops by transporting pollen grains from one place to another.
- Statement 2: This is an absurd statement.
- Statement 3: These are some of the common predators of butterflies: wasps, ants, parasitic flies, birds, snakes, toads, rats etc. The decline in butterfly population would therefore adversely affect the food chain.

<http://www.thebutterflysite.com/what-eats-butterflies.shtml#sthash.PPoslJj4.dpuf>

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/10/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-10-october-2020/>

70. Garba is a famous folk dance of:

- Gujarat
- Maharashtra
- Karnataka
- Kerala

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Why in News?**
- Gujarat govt. bans garba during Navaratri.
- **About Garba:**
- It is a famous folk dance of Gujarat. Garba refers to “Garba deep” which is an earthen pot with holes.
- It is a dance performed in a circular form by the village as well as urban women with rhythmic clapping.
- It is performed during the occasion of Navaratri, Sharad Purnima, Vasant Panchami, Holi, and other festival occasions.



Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/10/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-10-october-2020/>



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71. Consider the following statements:

1. Section 4 of the RTI Act, 2005 requires suo motu disclosure of information by each public authority.
2. The RTI Act, 2005 provides for appointment of Information Commissioners at Central and State level.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **About the RTI Act, 2005:**

- It sets out the rules and procedures regarding citizens' right to information.
- It replaced the former **Freedom of Information Act, 2002**.
- This act was enacted in order to consolidate **the fundamental right in the Indian constitution 'freedom of speech'**. Since **RTI is implicit in the Right to Freedom of Speech and Expression under Article 19** of the Indian Constitution, it is an implied fundamental right.

- **Key Provisions:**

- **Section 4 of the RTI Act** requires suo motu disclosure of information by each public authority.
- **Section 8 (1)** mentions exemptions against furnishing information under RTI Act.
- **Section 8 (2)** provides for disclosure of information exempted under Official Secrets Act, 1923 if larger public interest is served.
- **Information Commissioners and PIOs:**
 - The Act also provides for appointment of Information Commissioners at Central and State level.
 - Public authorities have designated some of its officers as Public Information Officer. They are responsible to give information to a person who seeks information under the RTI Act.



- **Time period:**
 - In normal course, information to an applicant is to be supplied within 30 days from the receipt of application by the public authority.
 - If information sought concerns the life or liberty of a person, it shall be supplied within 48 hours.
 - In case the application is sent through the Assistant Public Information Officer or it is sent to a wrong public authority, five days shall be added to the period of thirty days or 48 hours, as the case may be.
- **Applicability of RTI to:**
- **Private bodies:**
 - **Private bodies are not within the Act's ambit** directly.
 - In a decision of **Sarbjit roy vs Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission**, the Central Information Commission also reaffirmed that **privatised public utility companies fall within the purview of RTI.**
 - **Political parties:**
 - The Central Information Commission (CIC) had held that **the political parties are public authorities and are answerable to citizens under the RTI Act.**
 - But in August 2013 the government introduced a Right To Information (Amendment) Bill which would remove political parties from the scope of the law.
 - Currently no parties are under the RTI Act and a case has been filed for bringing all political parties under it.
 - **Chief Justice of India:**
 - Supreme Court of India on 13 November 2019, upheld the decision of Delhi High Court bringing the office of Chief Justice of India under the purview of Right to Information (RTI) Act.



KEY POINTS OF DIFFERENCE

The bill seeks to empower the central govt on deciding salaries, and other terms of service of information commissioners.

■ RTI Act, 2005 ■ RTI (Amendment) Bill, 2019

Term	Quantum of salary	Deductions in salary
■ CHIEF information commissioner (CIC) and information commissioners will have a tenure of five years	■ CIC pay equivalent to CECs, Central ICs and state CIC to election commissioners and state ICs to chief secretary	■ IF such officials are receiving pension or other retirement benefits, their salaries will be reduced by an amount equal to the pension
■ CENTRE will notify the tenure of all information commissioners (ICs) at state and central level	■ SALARIES and allowances of these officers will be determined by the Central government	■ THESE provisions have been removed

Source: PRS Legislative Research

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/12/the-right-to-information-act-2005/>

72. With reference to SVAMITVA scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development.
2. Under the scheme, the property card for every property in the village will be prepared by central government using accurate measurements delivered by drone-mapping.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **About SVAMITVA scheme:**

- Launched by PM Modi in April this year with the aim to update rural land records, providing record of rights to village households and issue property cards.
- It is a **central scheme** of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development.



- The scheme focuses on mapping rural-inhabited lands using drones as land records are inaccurate or do not exist for vast areas across India.
- **Property cards:**
 - Property card for every property in the village will be prepared by states using accurate measurements delivered by drone-mapping. These cards will be given to property owners and will be recognised by the land revenue records department.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/12/survey-of-villages-and-mapping-with-improvised-technology-in-village-areas-svavitva-scheme/>

73. “Beaten or Broken? Informality and Covid-19 in South Asia” report has been released by which of the following?

- (a) World Health Organization
- (b) World Bank
- (c) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- (d) Asian Development Bank

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Context:**
 - Released recently.
 - The report analyses the impact of school closures because of Covid on children.
- **Key findings:**
 - South Asia region stands to lose USD 622 billion from the school closures in the present scenario or up to USD 880 billion in a more pessimistic scenario.
 - While the regional loss is largely driven by India, all countries will lose substantial shares of their GDP.
 - South Asia is set to plunge into its worst-ever recession in 2020 as the devastating impacts of COVID-19 on the region's economies linger.
 - Temporary school closures in all South Asian countries have kept 391 million students out of school in primary and secondary education, further complicating efforts to resolve the learning crisis.
 - The pandemic may cause up to 5.5 million students to drop out from the education system and cause substantial learning losses, which will have a lifetime impact on the productivity of a generation of students.



- The projected learning loss for the region is 0.5 years of learning-adjusted years of schooling (LAYS), falling from 6.5 LAYS to 6.0 LAYS, an enormous setback from recent advances in schooling.
- Based on country data on household labor incomes, the average child in South Asia may lose USD 4,400 in lifetime earnings once having entered the labour market, equivalent to 5 percent of total earnings.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/12/world-bank-beaten-or-broken-informality-and-covid-19-in-south-asia-report/>

74. Consider the following statements about Feluda test:

1. It is 100 percent accurate and low cost paper based test strip to detect COVID 19 in less than 1 hour.
 2. It has been approved for commercial launch by the Drugs Controller General of India.
 3. It uses indigenously developed CRISPR gene-editing technology.
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Feluda is the acronym for **FNCAS9 Editor Linked Uniform Detection Assay**.
- It is an accurate and **low-cost paper-based test strip** to detect Covid-19 in less than 30 minutes.
- It has been approved for commercial launch by the **Drugs Controller General of India**.
- Developed by the **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** and Tata Group.
- How it works?
 - It uses indigenously developed **CRISPR gene-editing technology** to identify and target the genetic material of SARS-CoV2, the virus that causes Covid-19.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/12/what-is-the-feluda-test-for-covid-19/>

75. Consider the following statements:

1. The Blue Flag Programme for beaches and marinas is run by the Wetlands International.



2. There are more than 65 criteria that must be met to qualify for a Blue Flag certification.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **About Blue flag programme:**

- The Blue Flag Programme for beaches and marinas is run by the international, non-governmental, non-profit organisation **FEE (the Foundation for Environmental Education)**.
- It **started in France in 1985** and has been implemented in Europe since 1987, and in areas outside Europe since 2001, when South Africa joined.

- **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.
- **Chandrabhaga beach** of Odisha's Konark coast is the first to complete the tag certification process.
- India is now in the league of **50 "BLUE FLAG" countries**.
- **Japan, South Korea and the UAE** are the only other Asian nations that have been conferred with a couple of Blue Flag beaches, however, in a time frame of about 5 to 6 years.
- **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/2020/10/12/blue-flag-beaches/>



76. With reference to Skål International Asia Area (SIAA), consider the following statements:

1. It is the world's largest global network of tourism professionals promoting tourism, business and friendship worldwide.
2. It is an affiliated member of the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

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: **Skål International Asia Area (SIAA):**

- **Why in News?**
- UT of Jammu & Kashmir will host **the 50th annual Skål International Asia Area (SIAA) congress in 2021.**
- **Key points:**
 - Founded in 1934, Skål International is the only professional organization promoting global Tourism and friendship, uniting all sectors of the Tourism industry.
 - It is the world's largest global network of Tourism Professionals promoting Tourism, Business and Friendship worldwide.
 - Its members are Directors and Executives of the Tourism sector who relate to each other to address issues of common interest, improving a business network and promoting destinations.
 - It is an Affiliated Member of **the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).**
 - Skål International holds an annual World Congress each year in a different country.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/12/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-12-october-2020/>

77. '10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute' Campaign related to which of the following?

- (a) anti- dengue campaign
- (b) anti-malaria campaign
- (c) health awareness and the transition towards clean cooking
- (d) promotion of sanitation and hygiene

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- '10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute' Campaign:
- It is an anti- dengue campaign by Delhi Government.



- The campaign requires Delhi residents to give 10 minutes every Sunday — from September 1 till November 15 — to ensure there's no stagnant water in their houses or surroundings to prevent the breeding of dengue-carrier mosquitoes.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/12/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-12-october-2020/>

78. Which one of the following state has become the first Har Ghar Jal State in the country by providing tap water connection to every rural household?

- (a) Himachal Pradesh
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Rajasthan
- (d) Goa

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Goa declared first Har Ghar Jal State:
- Goa has become the first Har Ghar Jal State in the country by providing tap water connection to every rural household.
- The state has provided tap water connection to two lakh 30 thousand rural households.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/12/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-12-october-2020/>

79. In the context of any country, which one of the following would be considered as part of its social capital?

- (a) The proportion of literates in the population
- (b) The stock of its buildings, other infrastructure and machines
- (c) The size of population in the working age group
- (d) The level of mutual trust and harmony in the society

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Option A and D are examples of human capital and option B is physical capital.
- Straight from Wikipedia: "Social capital broadly refers to those factors of effectively functioning social groups that include such things as interpersonal relationships, a shared sense of identity, a shared understanding, shared norms, shared values, trust, cooperation, and reciprocity." Option D is the correct answer.



80. Which one of the following pairs (Beaches proposed for Blue Flag certification: State) is not correctly matched?

- (a) Kovalam Beach: Tamil Nadu
- (b) Bangaram Beach: Kerala
- (c) Bhogave Beach: Maharashtra
- (d) Rushikonda Beach: Andhra Pradesh

Ans: (b)

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



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/12/blue-flag-beaches/>

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

81. With reference to Asian Development Bank (ADB), consider the following statements

1. ADB has more than 80 member nations.
2. India is the largest shareholder in ADB.
3. ADB does not have any members from outside Asia.

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

- (a) 1 and 2



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

Ans: (d)

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

- **About ADB:**

- It is a regional development bank.
- **established on 19 December 1966.**
- **headquartered** — Manila, Philippines.
- official **United Nations Observer.**

- **Who can be its members?**

- The bank admits the **members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific** (UNESCAP, formerly the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East or ECAFE) and **non-regional developed countries.**
- ADB now has **68 members, 49 from within Asia.**

- **Voting rights:**

- It is modeled closely on the World Bank, and has **a similar weighted voting system where votes are distributed in proportion with members' capital subscriptions.**
- As of 31 December 2019, **ADB's five largest shareholders** are **Japan** and the **United States** (each with 15.6% of total shares), the People's Republic of China (6.4%), India (6.3%), and Australia (5.8%).

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/13/asian-development-bank-adb-3/>

82. With reference to Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), consider the following statements:

1. SCO is a permanent intergovernmental international organisation.
2. Currently, SCO comprises ten member states.

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 the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):**

- It is **a permanent intergovernmental international organisation.**
- It's **creation was announced on 15 June 2001** in Shanghai (China) by the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of



China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan.

- It was preceded by **the Shanghai Five mechanism**.
- The **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Charter** was signed during **the St.Petersburg SCO Heads of State meeting** in June 2002, and **entered into force on 19 September 2003**.
- The SCO's **official languages are Russian and Chinese**.
- **The SCO's main goals are:**
 - Strengthening mutual trust and neighbourliness among the member states.
 - Promoting their effective cooperation in politics, trade, the economy, research, technology and culture.
 - Making joint efforts to maintain and ensure peace, security and stability in the region.
 - Moving towards the establishment of a democratic, fair and rational new international political and economic order.
- **Currently:**
 - **SCO comprises eight member states**, namely the Republic of India, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People's Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the Republic of Uzbekistan.
 - **SCO counts four observer states**, namely the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Belarus, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Mongolia.
 - **SCO has six dialogue partners**, namely the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, the Republic of Turkey, and the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/13/shanghai-cooperation-organisation-sco-2/>

83. With reference to Financial Action Task Force (FATF), consider the following statements:

1. FATF is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog.
2. As a policy-making body, the FATF works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in the areas of money laundering and terrorist financing.
3. The FATF monitors countries to ensure they implement the FATF Standards fully and effectively, and holds countries to account that do not comply.

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 Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog.** The inter-governmental body sets international standards that aim to prevent these illegal activities and the harm they cause to society. As a policy-making body, the FATF works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.
- With more than 200 countries and jurisdictions committed to implementing them. The FATF has developed the **FATF Recommendations**, or FATF Standards, which ensure a co-ordinated global response to prevent organised crime, corruption and terrorism. They help authorities go after the money of criminals dealing in illegal drugs, human trafficking and other crimes. The FATF also works to stop funding for weapons of mass destruction.
- **The FATF reviews money laundering and terrorist financing techniques and continuously strengthens its standards to address new risks, such as the regulation of virtual assets, which have spread as cryptocurrencies gain popularity. The FATF monitors countries to ensure they implement the FATF Standards fully and effectively, and holds countries to account that do not comply.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/13/what-is-the-enhanced-follow-up-list/>

84. With reference to Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), consider the following statements:

1. APG was founded in 1997 in Bangkok, Thailand
2. Currently, APG consists of more than 75 member jurisdictions in the Asia-Pacific region
3. Jurisdictions that join the APG, either as members or as observers, commit to the Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

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 APG:**

- The **Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG)** is a FATF style regional inter-governmental (international) body, the members of which are committed to implement **international standards against money laundering (AML), the financing of terrorism (CTF) and financing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.**
- APG was **founded in 1997 in Bangkok, Thailand**, and currently consists of 41 member jurisdictions in the Asia-Pacific region and a number of observer jurisdictions and international/regional observer organisations.
- Jurisdictions that join the APG, either as members or as observers, commit to the **Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/13/what-is-the-enhanced-follow-up-list/>

85. The 'Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA)' is sometimes mentioned in media in reference to:

- (a) West Texas Intermediate (WTI)
- (b) Israel–United Arab Emirates peace agreement (Abraham Accords)
- (c) Belt and Road Initiative
- (d) Iran Nuclear deal

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Background:**
 - Iran has been locked in an acrimonious relationship with Saudi Arabia, the other major West Asian power, over the war in Yemen, Iranian influence in Iraq and Saudi support for Washington's sanctions on Tehran.
- **What was the Nuclear deal all about?**
 - Iran agreed to rein in its nuclear programme in a 2015 deal struck with **the US, UK, Russia, China, France and Germany.**
 - Under **the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPoA)** Tehran agreed to significantly cut its stores of centrifuges, enriched uranium and heavy-water, all key components for nuclear weapons.
 - The JCPOA established **the Joint Commission**, with the negotiating parties all represented, to monitor implementation of the agreement
- **Why has US pulled out of the deal?**



- Trump and opponents to the deal say it is flawed because it gives Iran access to billions of dollars but does not address Iran's support for groups the U.S. considers terrorists, like Hamas and Hezbollah. They note it also doesn't curb Iran's development of ballistic missiles and that the deal phases out by 2030. They say Iran has lied about its nuclear program in the past.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/13/what-was-the-iran-nuclear-deal/>

86. Which of the following tax is/are not subsumed under the Goods and Services Tax (GST)?

1. Stamp Duty
2. Property Tax (levied by local bodies)
3. Basic Custom Duty
4. Anti-Dumping Duty

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **What is Goods and Services Tax (GST)?**

- It is a destination based tax on consumption of goods and services. It is proposed to be levied at all stages right from manufacture up to final consumption with credit of taxes paid at previous stages available as set off. In a nutshell, only value addition will be taxed and burden of tax is to be borne by the final consumer.

- **What exactly is the concept of destination based tax on consumption?**

- The tax would accrue to the taxing authority which has jurisdiction over the place of consumption which is also termed as place of supply.

- **Which of the existing taxes are proposed to be subsumed under GST?**

- The GST would replace the following taxes:
- **Taxes currently levied and collected by the Centre:**
 - Central Excise duty
 - Duties of Excise (Medicinal and Toilet Preparations)
 - Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance)



- Additional Duties of Excise (Textiles and Textile Products)
- Additional Duties of Customs (commonly known as CVD)
- Special Additional Duty of Customs (SAD)
- Service Tax
- Central Surcharges and Cesses so far as they relate to supply of goods and services
- **State taxes that would be subsumed under the GST are:**
 - State VAT
 - Central Sales Tax
 - Luxury Tax
 - Entry Tax (all forms)
 - Entertainment and Amusement Tax (except when levied by the local bodies)
 - Taxes on advertisements
 - Purchase Tax
 - Taxes on lotteries, betting and gambling
 - State Surcharges and Cesses so far as they relate to supply of goods and services
 - The GST Council shall make recommendations to the Union and States on the taxes, cesses and surcharges levied by the Centre, the States and the local bodies which may be subsumed in the GST.
- **Taxes NOT subsumed under GST:**
 - Central Excise on Petroleum Products
 - VAT on alcohol for human consumption
 - Stamp Duty
 - Property Tax (levied by local bodies)
 - Basic Custom Duty
 - Anti-Dumping Duty
 - Professional Tax etc.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/13/gst-compensation/>

87. The word 'Line of Credit', sometimes mentioned in the news is a/an/the:

- (a) Soft loan
- (b) Grant
- (c) FDI
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Context:**
 - Delhi, Male ink \$400-mn pact for connectivity.



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

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/13/what-is-line-of-credit-2/>

88. Consider the following statements:

1. Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog is constituted by NITI Aayog
 2. The Aayog is a high powered permanent apex advisory body
- 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 the Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog:**

- **Constituted in 2019**, the Aayog is a high powered permanent apex advisory body with the mandate to help the Central Government to develop appropriate programmes for conservation, sustainable development and genetic upgradation of indigenous breeds of cows.
- **It comes under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.**
- Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog will function as an integral part of Rashtriya Gokul Mission.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/13/rashtriya-kamdhenu-aayog-2/>

89. "The Human Cost of Disasters 2000-2019" Report has been released by which of the following?

- (a) United Nations Environment Programme
- (b) International Union for Conservation of Nature
- (c) World Wide Fund for Nature
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Context:**



- Released recently by **the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.**
- **Key findings:**
 - **Climate change is largely to blame for a near doubling of natural disasters** in the past 20 years.
 - 7,348 major disaster events had occurred between 2000 and 2019, affecting 4.2 billion people and costing the global economy some \$2.97 trillion.
- **About UNISDR:**
 - The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), **created in December 1999**, is the successor to the secretariat of **the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.**
 - It was established to ensure the implementation of **the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/13/the-human-cost-of-disasters-2000-2019-report/>

90. Consider the following statements:

1. Gausatva Kavach, billed as “India’s lightest bullet-proof jacket”.
2. It is powered with nano technology from Bhabha Atomic Research Centre and has a five-year warranty.

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:

Gausatva Kavach:


- It is a “chip” made of cow dung.
- Manufactured by Rajkot-based Shrijee Gaushala.
- It is claimed that this clip reduces radiation from mobile handsets.

Read: [What is Bhabha Kavach?](#)

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/13/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-13-october-2020/>



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

91. Consider the following statements:

1. The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 empowers the Election Commission to recognise political parties and allot symbols.
2. The Supreme Court is the final authority to decide issues on a dispute or a merger of political parties.

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: **Powers of Election Commission:**

- The **Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968** empowers **the EC to recognise political parties and allot symbols.**
- Under **Paragraph 15 of the Order**, it can decide disputes among rival groups or sections of a recognised political party staking claim to its name and symbol.
- The EC is also **the only authority to decide issues on a dispute or a merger.** The Supreme Court upheld its validity in **Sadiq Ali and another vs. ECI in 1971.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/14/how-election-commission-decides-on-party-symbols/>

92. 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 letter.



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 ie 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

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/14/centre-allows-additional-borrowing-by-20-states/>

93. Consider the following statements:

1. The Van Dhan Scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
2. 'Tech for Tribals' an initiative aims at the holistic development of tribals with a focus on mainstream education.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Stat1: The **Van Dhan** Scheme is an **initiative** of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED and it targets livelihood generation for tribal gatherers and transforms them into entrepreneurs. The idea behind the scheme is to set-up tribal community-owned **Van Dhan Vikas Kendras** (VDVKs) in predominantly forested tribal districts.
- **Stat2: Tech For Tribals** is a programme by **TRIFED**, in collaboration with the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) under the Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP) programme.
 - **It aims at the holistic development of tribals with a focus on entrepreneurship development, soft skills, IT,**



and business development through SHGs operating through Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs).

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/14/tech-for-tribals-launched/>

94. Consider the following statements:

1. eVIN (Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network) is an indigenously developed technology system in India.
2. This is being implemented under the National Health Mission (NHM) by the Ministry of 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: **About eVIN:**

- eVIN (Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network) is an indigenously developed technology system in India that digitizes vaccine stocks and monitors the temperature of the cold chain through a smartphone application.
 - eVIN aims to support the Government of India's Universal Immunization Programme by providing real-time information on vaccine stocks and flows, and storage temperatures across all cold chain points in these states.
 - The integrated solution combines:
 - **Technology** : to facilitate evidence-based decision-making by making available online real-time information on vaccine stocks and storage temperature through the eVIN application software and temperature loggers;
 - **Governance**: to ensure efficient vaccine logistics management by systemizing record keeping through standardizing stock and distribution registers; identifying gaps and improving clarity on vaccine cold chain network; drawing attention to infrastructure upgrades; developing standard operating procedures; and encouraging good practices;
 - **Human Resources**: to empower the state cold chain network by building the capacities of government cold chain handlers; and deploying vaccine and cold chain managers in every district for constant support to estimate vaccine requirements, supervise cold chain



handlers and coordinate with cold chain technicians across the district.

- This is being **implemented under the National Health Mission (NHM)** by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/14/electronic-vaccine-intelligence-network-evin/>

95. Fly ash composition primarily consists which of the following?

1. Silicon dioxide
2. Aluminium oxide
3. Calcium oxide
4. Carbon dioxide

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **What is Fly Ash?**
 - Popularly known as **Flue ash or pulverised fuel ash**, it is a coal combustion product.
- **Composition:**
 - Composed of the **particulates that are driven out of coal-fired boilers together with the flue gases.**
 - Depending upon the source and composition of the coal being burned, the components of fly ash vary considerably, but **all fly ash includes substantial amounts of silicon dioxide (SiO₂), aluminium oxide (Al₂O₃) and calcium oxide (CaO), the main mineral compounds in coal-bearing rock strata.**
 - **Minor constituents include:** arsenic, beryllium, boron, cadmium, chromium, hexavalent chromium, cobalt, lead, manganese, mercury, molybdenum, selenium, strontium, thallium, and vanadium, along with very small concentrations of dioxins and PAH compounds. It also has unburnt carbon.



Components	Composition (wt %)
SiO ₂	18.9
Al ₂ O ₃	15.2
Fe ₂ O ₃	10.6
Na ₂ O	0.988
CaO	1.18
K ₂ O	2.23
TiO ₂	0.468
SO ₃	0.366
MgO	0.348
SiO ₂ /Al ₂ O ₃	1.2

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/14/fly-ash-6/>

96. Consider the following statements:

1. It is mandatory to have Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) clearance from the Home Ministry for any organisation to receive foreign funds.
2. Foreign funding of voluntary organizations in India is regulated under FCRA act and is implemented by 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:

- **What is FCRA clearance? Why is it needed?**
 - It is **mandatory to have FCRA clearance from the Home Ministry for any organisation to receive foreign funds.**
 - Foreign funding of voluntary organizations in India is regulated under FCRA act and is implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs.



- **Key provisions of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010:**
 - Under the Act, **organisations require to register themselves every five years.**
 - As per the amended FCRA rules, **all NGOs registered or granted prior permission under FCRA are now required to upload details of foreign contributions received** and utilized by them every three months on their website or the FCRA website.
 - **NGOs now need to file their annual returns online**, with the hard copy version dispensed with.
- **Who cannot accept Foreign Contribution?**
 - Election candidate
 - Member of any legislature (MP and MLAs)
 - Political party or office bearer thereof
 - Organization of a political nature
 - Correspondent, columnist, cartoonist, editor, owner, printer or publishers of a registered Newspaper.
 - Judge, government servant or employee of any corporation or any other body controlled or owned by the Government.
 - Association or company engaged in the production or broadcast of audio news, audio visual news or current affairs programmes through any electronic mode
 - Any other individuals or associations who have been specifically prohibited by the Central Government
- **What is the eligibility criteria for grant of registration?**
 - The Association:
 - must be registered (under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 or Indian Trusts Act 1882 or section 8 of Companies Act, 2013 etc.)
 - normally be in existence for at least 3 years.
 - has undertaken reasonable activity in its field for the benefit of the society.
 - Has spent at least Rs.10,00,000/- (Rs. ten lakh) over the last three years on its activities.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/14/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-14-october-2020/>

97. Amtogor lake is situated to the

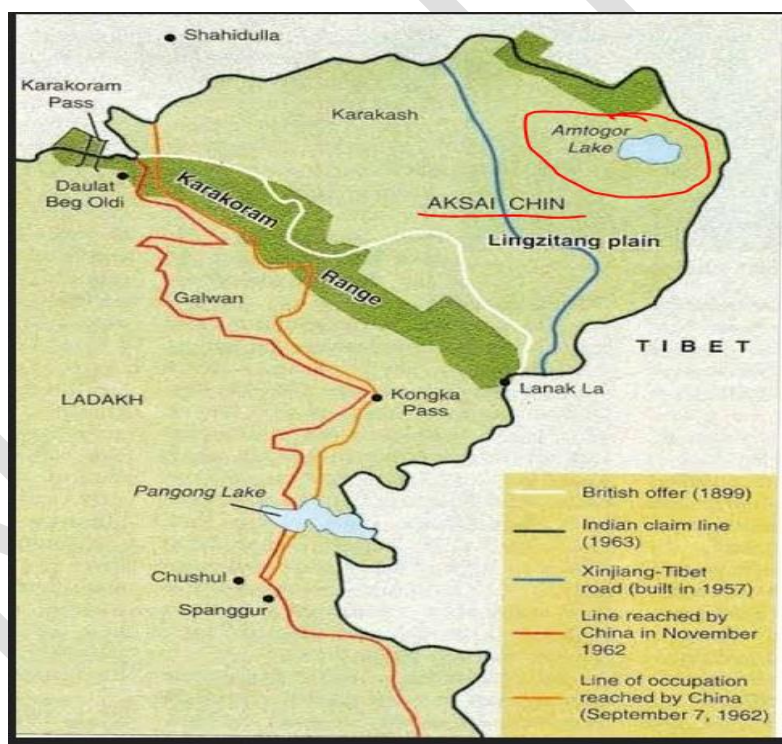
- (a) West of Aksai Chin
- (b) East of Leh
- (c) North of Gilgit
- (d) North of Nubra Valley



Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Aksai Chin Lake** is an endorheic lake on the Aksai Chin Plateau. The plateau is administered by China but also claimed by India. The lake is sometimes referred to as **Amtogor Lake**.
- **Places in News- Chushul:**
 - It is a village in Leh, Ladakh, India.
 - It is located in the Durbuk tehsil, in the area known as “Chushul valley”.
 - It is close to Rezang La and Panggong Lake at a height of 4,360 metres.
 - Chushul is one of the five officially agreed Border Personnel Meeting points between the Indian Army and the People’s Liberation Army of China for regular consultations and interactions between the two armies to improve relations.
 - This place is famous for the Indian Army who fought to the ‘last man, last round’ at Rezang La (Chushul) on November 18, 1962. Without this crucial victory, the territory might have been captured by China.



Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/14/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-14-october-2020/>



98. Consider the following statements:

1. Aquaponics is an emerging technique in which both fishes as well as the plants are grown in an integrated manner.
2. Miyawaki method has revolutionized the concept of urban afforestation by turning backyards into mini-forests.

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:

- **Aquaponics** is an emerging technique in which both fishes as well as the plants are grown in an integrated manner.
 - The fish waste provides fertilizer for growing plants. The plants absorb nutrients and filter the water. This filtered water is used to replenish the fish tank. This is an environment friendly technique.
- The **Miyawaki method**, developed by a Japanese botanist after whom it is named, involves planting saplings in small areas, causing them to “fight” for resources and grow nearly 10 times quicker.
 - It originated in Japan, and is now increasingly adopted in other parts of the world, including our Chennai. It has revolutionised the concept of urban afforestation by turning backyards into mini-forests.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/14/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-14-october-2020/>

99. 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.

Source: UPSC CSE 2020

100. Consider the following statements:

1. 36% of India's districts are classified as "overexploited" or "critical" by the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA).
2. CGWA was formed under the Environment (Protection) Act.
3. India has the largest area under groundwater irrigation in the world.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- S1: About 29% are such, not 26%. Out of the 5723 assessment units assessed jointly by State Ground Water Departments and CGWB in the country, 4078 are safe (71%), 550 are semi critical (10%), 226 are critical (4%) and 839 are over exploited (15%). See https://niti.gov.in/planningcommission.gov.in/docs/reports/genrep/rep_grndwat.pdf
- S2: Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) constituted under Section 3(3) of 'The Environment (Protection) Act, (1986)' regulates extraction of ground water through guidelines which are updated regularly.
- S3: At 39 million hectares (67% of its total irrigation), India has the world's largest groundwater well equipped irrigation system (China with 19 mha is second, USA with 17 mha is third).

Source: UPSC CSE 2020

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

- Stat1: The **Parliament is the legislative organ of the Union government**. It occupies a pre-eminent and central position in the Indian democratic political system due to adoption of the parliamentary form of government, also known as '**Westminster' model of government**.
- Stat2: Under the Constitution, the **Parliament of India** consists of **three parts viz, the President, the Council of States and the House of the People**. In **1954**, the Hindi names '**Rajya Sabha**' and '**Lok Sabha**' were adopted by the **Council of States and the House of People respectively**.
 - The Rajya Sabha is the Upper House (Second Chamber or House of Elders) and the Lok Sabha is the Lower House (First Chamber or Popular House). The former represents the states and union territories of the Indian Union, while the latter represents the people of India as a whole.



- Stat3: Though the **President of India is not a member of either House of Parliament and does not sit in the Parliament to attend its meetings**, he is an integral part of the Parliament. This is because a bill passed by both the Houses of Parliament cannot become law without the President's assent.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/15/diminishing-role-of-parliament/>

102. World Bank's 'STARS' project has been mentioned in the news, which aims to:

- (a) improve infrastructure development
- (b) enhance job opportunities
- (c) improve the quality and governance of school education
- (d) strengthening the public health system

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Cabinet approves Rs. 5718 crore World Bank aided project STARS.
- **What is it?**
 - **STARS** stands for **Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (STARS)**.
 - STARS project would be implemented as a new **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** under the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education.
 - It is a project **to improve the quality and governance of school education in six Indian states**.
- **Six states are-** Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, and Rajasthan.
- Some 250 million students (between the age of 6 and 17) in 1.5 million schools, and over 10 million teachers will benefit from the program.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/15/world-banks-stars-project-2/>

103. What is PARAKH?

- (a) An autonomous institution under the Union Education Ministry
- (b) The programme for international student assessment
- (c) The portal for transparency and better coordination among educational institutes
- (d) none of the above

Ans: (a)

Explanation: **PARAKH:**



- A major component of the project is the establishment of **PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development)** as a **National Assessment Centre**.
- Included in **the National Education Policy 2020**, this **autonomous institution under the Union Education Ministry** will set norms for student assessment and evaluation for all school boards across the country, most of which currently follow norms set by State governments.
- It will also guide standardised testing to monitor learning outcomes at the State and national levels, according to the NEP.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/15/world-banks-stars-project-2/>

104. Consider the following statements:

1. Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna is a Coal India CSR funded Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT) program.
2. Thalassemia is a chronic blood disorder.
3. India is the thalassaemia capital of the world.

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:

- Union Health Minister launches 2nd phase of “Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna”.
- **About the scheme:**
 - Launched in **2017**, this scheme is a **Coal India CSR funded Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (HSCT) program**.
 - It aims to provide a one-time cure opportunity for Haemoglobinopathies like Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Disease for patients who have a matched family donor.
- **What is Thalassemia?**
 - It is a **chronic blood disorder**. It is a **genetic disorder** due to which a patient cannot make enough hemoglobin found in Red Blood Cells (RBC's). This leads to anemia and patients also require blood transfusions every two to three weeks to survive.
 - India is the thalassaemia capital of the world with 40 million carriers and over 1,00,000 thalassaemia majors under blood transfusion every month.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/15/thalassemia-bal-sewa-yojna/>

105. Arrange the following cities in the direction of East to West:

1. Ho Chi Minh city
2. Phuket
3. Yangon

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Anti-government protests have escalated in Thailand in the last three months.
- **What are the demands of protesters?**
 - Removal of present Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha.
 - A new constitution.
 - An end to the harassment of activists.
 - Demands to reform the monarchy
- **What's the problem with the present system?**
 - It all started in 2017 when King's constitutional powers were increased.
 - Pro-democracy activists say Thailand is backtracking on **the constitutional monarchy established when absolute royal rule ended in 1932**. They say **the monarchy is too close to the army** and argue that this has undermined democracy.
 - Protesters also seek **the scrapping of lese majeste laws against insulting the king**.
 - They want **the king to relinquish the personal control he took over a palace fortune** estimated in the tens of billions of dollars, and some units of the army.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/15/whats-behind-thailands-protests/>

106. Consider the following statements about Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):

1. It is a specialized agency of the United Nations
2. FAO publishes the State of the World's Forests.
3. FAO and the World Trade Organization created the Codex Alimentarius Commission in 1961 to develop food standards, guidelines and texts.

Which of the given 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: **About Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO):**

- **Stat1:** 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.



- **Stat2:** Every two years, FAO publishes **the State of the World's Forests**.
- **Stat3:** 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.
- **The Globally Important 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/2020/10/15/75th-anniversary-of-fao/>

107. Which of the following is/are the potential applications of holographic imaging?

1. Military mapping.
2. Information storage.
3. Medical.
4. Fraud and security
5. Art.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **What is holography?**

- It is a process that **creates three-dimensional images** called **holograms**.



- This is done using **laser beams**, the properties of **interference and diffraction, light intensity recording, and illumination of the recording**.
- The Hungarian-British physicist Dennis Gabor was awarded **the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1971** “for his invention and development of the holographic method”.
- **Uniqueness of holographic images:**
 - The images created so change according to the relative position of the individual viewer as if the objects displayed are actually present.
- **Potential applications:**
 - Military mapping.
 - Information storage.
 - Medical.
 - Fraud and security: Eg- small silver rectangle of a dove on your credit card.
 - Art.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/15/what-is-holographic-imaging/>

108. 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.
 - **Food fortification** increases the nutritional value of foods by adding trace amounts of micronutrients to foods during processing.
- **What is biofortification?**
 - It is the process of increasing nutritional value of food crops by increasing the density of vitamins and minerals in a crop **through either conventional plant breeding; agronomic practices or biotechnology.**
 - Examples of these vitamins and minerals that can be increased through biofortification include provitamin A Carotenoids, zinc and iron.
- **How are crops fortified?**
 - Conventional crop breeding techniques are used to identify varieties with particularly high concentration of desired nutrients.
 - These are cross-bred with varieties with other desirable traits from the target areas (such a virus resistance, drought tolerance, high yielding, taste) to develop biofortified varieties that have high levels of micronutrients (for example, vitamin A, iron or zinc), in addition to other traits desired by farmers and consumers.
- **What is Agronomic biofortification?**
 - It entails application of minerals such as zinc or iron as foliar or soil applications, drawing on plant management, soil factors, and plant characteristics to get enhanced content of key micronutrients into the edible portion of the plant.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/15/what-is-biofortification/>

109. The word 'ENFUSER' is sometimes mentioned in media in reference to:

- (a) New rocket system
- (b) Net metering
- (c) Air quality observations
- (d) TRP rating

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **ENFUSER (ENvironmental information FUsion SERvice):**

- It is a **very high resolution city scale model** launched recently for Delhi.



- It has been operationalized recently by IMD to identify the air pollution hotspots and pollution upto street level.
- It has been developed in technical collaboration with Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI).
- The speciality of the ENFUSER is the high utilization of measurement data such as air quality observations, a detailed description of the road network, buildings, land-use information, high resolution satellite images, ground elevation and population data.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/15/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-15-october-2020/>

110. What is “New Shephard”, sometimes seen in the news?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **What is New Shephard, the rocket system?**

- It is a **rocket system** meant to **take tourists to space** successfully.
- It has completed its seventh test launch recently.
- The system is **built by Amazon** founder Jeff Bezos’s Space Company called **Blue Origin**.
- New Shephard has been **named after astronaut Alan Shephard**, the first American to go to space.
- It offers flights to space over 100 km above the Earth and accommodation for payloads.
- Essentially, it is a rocket system that has been designed to take astronauts and research payloads past the Karman line – the internationally recognised boundary of space.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/15/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-15-october-2020/>



RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 16th-Oct-2020

111. Consider the following statements:

1. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) tasked with regulating and promoting the insurance and re-insurance industries in India.
2. “Saral Jeevan Bima” is a non-linked non-participating individual pure risk premium life insurance plan unveiled recently by IRDAI.

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 **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** is an **autonomous, statutory body** tasked with regulating and promoting the **insurance and re-insurance industries** in India. It was constituted by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999, an Act of Parliament passed by the Government of India
- **Saral Jeevan Bima:**
 - It is a standard **individual term life insurance product** unveiled recently by **the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)**.
 - This will help customers make an informed choice and reduce mis-selling.
 - All life insurers will have to offer the standard product by January 1, 2021.
- **Key features of the product- Saral Jeevan Bima:**
 - It will be a non-linked, non-participating individual pure risk premium life insurance plan providing for **payment of the sum assured in lump sum to the nominee in case of the insured's death during the policy term.**
 - **Eligibility:** The plan will be for those in the 18-65 years age group.
 - **Policy term** will be 5-40 years.
 - It allows for a maximum maturity age of 70 years.



- **Sum assured** will be a minimum of ₹5 lakh and a maximum of ₹25 lakh. Insurers, however, have the option of offering sum assured beyond ₹25 lakh with all other terms and conditions remaining the same.
- **No restrictions:** The product shall be offered to individuals without restrictions on gender, place of residence, travel, occupation or educational qualifications.
- **There will be only one exclusion under the policy** – exclusion for suicide.
- **There will be no maturity benefit.** Neither will there be any surrender value nor can any loan be taken against the product.
- The policy will also offer **optional Accident Benefit and Permanent Disability Rider.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/16/saral-jeevan-bima/>

112. The 'Hong Kong Convention', sometimes mentioned in the news, is related to:

- (a) Free trade agreement
- (b) Digital economy
- (c) Ship recycling
- (d) Democracy and electoral governance

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Hong Kong Convention for Ship Recycling:**
 - Under **Ship Recycling Act, 2019**, India has acceded to **Hong Kong Convention for Ship Recycling** under **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**.
 - IMO adopted the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships in 2009.
 - The guidelines are aimed at ensuring that ships, being recycled after reaching the end of their operational lives, do not pose any unnecessary risks to human health, safety and the environment.
 - Please note, **the Convention is yet to come into force** because it has not been ratified by 15 nations, representing 40 per cent of the world merchant shipping by gross tonnage (capacity) and a maximum annual ship recycling volume of not less than 3 per cent of the combined tonnage of the countries.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/16/national-authority-for-recycling-of-ships/>



113. The 'World Economic Outlook' has been released by which of the following?

- (a) International Monetary Fund
- (b) World Bank
- (c) United Nations Development Programme
- (d) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Ans: (a)

Explanation: **Comparison between India, Bangladesh per capita GDP:**

- **Context:**
 - This comparison is based on **the International Monetary Fund's** latest update on **the World Economic Outlook**.
- **Key findings:**
 - In 2020, growth of India's gross domestic product (GDP) will witness a contraction of over 10%.
 - On average, India's per capita GDP has been 24 per cent higher than Bangladesh's during the last five years.
 - But, in 2020, **the per capita income of an average Bangladeshi citizen would be more than the per capita income of an average Indian citizen** (This happened once in 1991 too). India's per capita GDP, in nominal US dollar terms, is projected to be \$1,876.53 in 2020, lower than \$1,887.97 projected for Bangladesh.
- **What is Per Capita Income?**
 - It is arrived at by dividing the total GDP by the total population.
 - **Three reasons why India's per capita income has fallen below Bangladesh this year**
 - **Growth rate:** Both countries have been growing faster in 2004. But, since 2017 onwards, India's growth rate has decelerated sharply while Bangladesh's has become even faster.
 - **Population growth:** In the last 15 years, India's population grew faster (around 21%) than Bangladesh's population (just under 18%).
 - **The most immediate factor was the relative impact of Covid-19** on the two economies in 2020. While India's GDP is set to reduce by 10%, Bangladesh's is expected to grow by almost 4%.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/16/comparison-between-india-bangladesh-per-capita-gdp/>

114. National Good Laboratory Practice Compliance Monitoring Authority (NGCMA) was established by the:

- (a) Department of Science and Technology (DST).



- (b) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- (c) National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog.
- (d) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)

Ans: (a)

Explanation: **About the National GLP Compliance Monitoring**

Authority (NGCMA):

- The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, established the National GLP Compliance Monitoring Authority (NGCMA) with the approval of the Union Cabinet on April 24, 2002.
- NGCMA is the National body which grants GLP certification to test facilities (TFs) conducting safety studies on new chemicals of the above-mentioned categories in accordance with OECD Principles of GLP and OECD Council norms.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/16/india-designated-vice-chair-of-oecd-working-group-on-glp/>

115. Which one of the following country is not a member of “Five Eyes” group of nations?

- (a) Australia
- (b) Canada
- (c) New Zealand
- (d) Russia

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- The Five Eyes (FVEY) is an intelligence alliance comprising **Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States**. These countries are parties to the multilateral **UKUSA Agreement**, a treaty for joint cooperation in signals intelligence.
- India joins UK-led fight against encrypted online messages.
 - The UK and India are joined by the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan.
 - It marks an expansion of the so-called “Five Eyes” group of nations, a global alliance on intelligence issues, to include India and Japan.



The 5 Eyes, 9 Eyes, and 14 Eyes Alliances

5 Eyes Countries:



9 Eyes Countries:



14 Eyes Countries:



Possible Third-Party Contributors: Israel, Japan, Singapore, South Korea

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/16/india-joins-uk-led-fight-against-encrypted-online-messages/>

116. With reference to 'Broadcast Audience Research Council', consider the following statements:

1. It is an autonomous public service broadcaster founded by the Government of India.
2. It provides news coverage and information of the region in both English and Hindi.

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:

- **Broadcast Audience Research Council:**
 - It is an industry body **jointly owned by advertisers, ad agencies, and broadcasting companies**, represented by **the Indian Society of Advertisers, the Indian Broadcasting Foundation and the Advertising Agencies Association of India**.
 - Created in 2010.
 - I&B Ministry notified the Policy Guidelines for Television Rating Agencies in India on January 10, 2014 and



registered BARC in July 2015 under these guidelines, to carry out television ratings in India.

- **Why in News?**

- BARC has announced the suspension of audience estimates and ratings for all news channels for the next three months.
- This is to improve “statistical robustness and to significantly hamper the potential attempts of infiltrating the panel homes”.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/16/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-16-october-2020/>

117. Consider the following statements:

1. The Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP) is located in Odisha.
2. The Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary is known for successful conservation of elephants.

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:

- **Nandankanan Zoological Park (NZP):**

- Located in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- Adjacent to **Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary**.
 - The park is known for **successful conservation of elephants** which is the principal species here.
 - It is also a home to a number of threatened wild animals and birds. Chandaka landscape got a sanctuary status in 1982 notification of Government adjacent to temple city, Bhubaneswar popularly known as pachyderm country.
- It is the only zoological park in India to become an institutional member of World Association of Zoos and Aquarium (WAZA).
- Host zoo for white tigers. White tigers born to normal coloured parents in the year 1980.
- First captive breeding centre for endangered Gharials in the year 1980.
- Kanjia Lake – A wetland of National importance (2006).
- Conservation Breeding Centres for Indian Pangolin and Long billed vultures.



- First record of breeding of Indian Ratels in captivity (in 2012).
- Only zoo in India after which an express train (Nandankanan Express) has been named by Indian Railways.
- One among the three zoos in India for breeding Long billed vulture.
- First birth of Melanistic tiger in captivity in the year 2014.
- Why in News?
 - The zoo has revived its innovative 'Adopt-An-Animal' programme to mobilise resources for animals.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/16/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-16-october-2020/>

118. The 'Gupkar Declaration II', sometimes mentioned in the news, is related to:

- (a) National Register of Citizens
- (b) Assam Accord
- (c) Abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir
- (d) Mizoram Peace Accord

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration:**

- It is a new grouping comprising various political parties.
- The goal is to fight for Jammu and Kashmir's special status.
- **Background:**
 - On August 4, 2019, **first Gupkar declaration** was signed before the abrogation of Article 370.
 - On August 22, 2020, **the six political parties of Jammu and Kashmir signed a statement titled as 'Gupkar Declaration II'** to collectively fight against the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/16/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-16-october-2020/>

119. Arrange the following places in the direction of North to South:

1. Osaka
2. Shanghai
3. Honk Kong

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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



Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Taiwan Strait:**

- The Taiwan Strait is a 110-mile-wide channel that **separates mainland China from the island of Taiwan.**
- It is also known as the Formosa Strait or the Tai-hai (the Tai Sea).
- The Taiwan Strait makes up part of the South China Sea, and its northern portion is linked to the East China Sea.
- The strait borders the south eastern part of China and runs along the eastern part of China's Fujian Province.

- **Why in News?**

- U.S. warship in Taiwan Strait enrages China. China claims sovereignty over the island and surrounding seas.



Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/16/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-16-october-2020/>

120. Consider the following statements:

1. Eat Right Movement is launched by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in 2018.
2. The movement aims to cut down salt/sugar and oil consumption by 90% in three years.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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



(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (a)

Explanation: **Eat Right Movement:**

- Launched by **the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in 2018.**
- The movement aims to cut down salt/sugar and oil consumption **by 30% in three years.**
- It also aims to engage and enable citizens to improve their health and well-being by making the right food choices.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/16/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-16-october-2020/>

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

121. Consider the following statements:

1. Indian Banks Association (IBA) was formed in 1969.
2. IBA is a representative body of management of banking in India operating 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:

- **About Indian Banks' Association (IBA):**
 - Formed in 1946.
 - It is a representative body of management of banking in India operating in India – an association of Indian banks and financial institutions based in Mumbai.
 - IBA was formed for development, coordination and strengthening of Indian banking, and assist the member banks in various ways including implementation of new systems and adoption of standards among the members.
- **Members:**



- With an initial membership representing 22 banks in India in 1946, IBA currently represents 237 banking companies operating in India.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/17/indian-banks-association-iba/>

122. Which of the following gives 'Global Hunger Index' ranking to the countries of the world?

- (a) Food and Agriculture Organization
- (b) United Nations Development Programme
- (c) Oxfam International
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **What is Global Hunger Index?**
 - The report is a peer-reviewed publication released annually by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide.
- **How are Countries ranked?**
 - The GHI scores are based on a formula that captures three dimensions of hunger—insufficient caloric intake, child undernutrition, and child mortality—using four component indicators:
- **UNDERNOURISHMENT:** the share of the population that is under-nourished, reflecting insufficient caloric intake
- **CHILD WASTING:** the share of children under the age of five who are wasted (low weight-for-height), reflecting acute undernutrition.
- **CHILD STUNTING:** the share of children under the age of five who are stunted (low height-for-age), reflecting chronic undernutrition.
- **CHILD MORTALITY:** the mortality rate of children under the age of five.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/17/global-hunger-index-2020-released/>

123. Arrange the following islands in the direction of north to south:

1. Spratly Islands
2. Paracel Islands
3. Natuna Islands

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (b)



Explanation:

- Philippine government has decided to resume oil exploration in its exclusive economic zone, a 320-km stretch of waters where a coastal state can exclusively exploit maritime resources under the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- This includes **Reed Bank**, which China also claims. This region is located in the disputed South China Sea.
- **About the dispute:**
 - It is **a dispute over territory and sovereignty over ocean areas, and the Paracels and the Spratlys** – two island chains claimed in whole or in part by a number of countries.
 - Alongside the fully fledged islands, there are dozens of rocky outcrops, atolls, sandbanks and reefs, such as the **Scarborough Shoal**.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/17/south-china-sea/>

124. The term 'New START deal' is sometimes seen in the news with reference to:

- (a) Permitting foreign educational institutions to set up their campuses in our country
- (b) Making Europe climate neutral in 2050.



- (c) Nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation
 (d) None of the above

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **About the the New START deal:**

- It is a **nuclear arms reduction treaty** between the United States and the Russian Federation with the formal name of **Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms**.
- Signed on 8 April 2010 in Prague, and, after ratification entered into force on 5 February 2011.
- Replaced **the Treaty of Moscow (SORT)**, which was to expire in December 2012.
- Its name is a follow-up to **the START I treaty**, which expired in December 2009, the proposed START II treaty, which never entered into force, and the START III treaty, for which negotiations were never concluded.

- **Under terms of the treaty:**

- Number of strategic nuclear missile launchers will be reduced by half.
- A new inspection and verification regime will be established, replacing the SORT mechanism.
- The number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads is limited to 1,550.
- Number of deployed and non-deployed inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM) launchers, submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) launchers, and heavy bombers equipped for nuclear armaments to 800 will be limited.

- **Timeline to meet these Targets:**

- These obligations must be met within seven years from the date the treaty enters into force.
- The treaty will last ten years, with an option to renew it for up to five years upon agreement of both parties.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/17/new-start-treaty/>

125. Consider the following statements:

1. Open market operations (OMO) is a tool that the RBI uses to regulate money supply in the economy.
2. RBI carries out the OMO through commercial banks and does not directly deal with the public.

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 OMO?**
 - Open market operations is the sale and purchase of government securities and treasury bills by RBI or the central bank of the country.
 - The objective of OMO is to regulate the money supply in the economy.
 - It is one of **the quantitative monetary policy tools**.
- **How is it done?**
 - RBI carries out the OMO through commercial banks and **does not directly deal with the public**.
- **OMOs vs liquidity:**
 - When the central bank wants to infuse liquidity into the monetary system, it will buy government securities in the open market. This way it provides commercial banks with liquidity.
 - In contrast, when it sells securities, it curbs liquidity. Thus, the central bank indirectly controls the money supply and influences short-term interest rates.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/17/open-market-operations-omo-2/>

126. Consider the following statements:

1. The Insurance Ombudsman scheme was created by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
 2. There are at present more than 1000 Insurance Ombudsman 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: (d)

Explanation:

- **About Insurance Ombudsman:**
 - The Insurance Ombudsman scheme was created by the Government of India for individual policyholders to have their complaints settled out of the courts system in a cost-effective, efficient and impartial way.
 - **There are at present 17 Insurance Ombudsman in different locations** and any person who has a grievance against an insurer, may himself or through his legal heirs,



nominee or assignee, make a complaint in writing to the Insurance ombudsman within whose territorial jurisdiction the branch or office of the insurer complained against or the residential address or place of residence of the complainant is located.

- **Who can approach?**

- Any person who has a grievance against an insurer, may himself or through his legal heirs, nominee or assignee, make a complaint in writing to the Insurance ombudsman.

- **One can approach the Ombudsman with complaint only if:**

- One has first approached insurance company with the complaint and;
 - They have rejected it
 - Not resolved it to satisfaction or
 - Not responded to it at all for 30 days
 - And the value of the claim including expenses claimed should not be above Rs 30 lakhs.

- **Appointment of Ombudsman:**

- The Ombudsman is a person in the insurance industry, civil or judicial services, and is appointed by the insurance council.
- The serving term of the Insurance Ombudsman is three years.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/17/insurance-ombudsman/>

127. Consider the following statements about Caspian Sea:

1. Caspian Sea is the largest salt lake in the Western Hemisphere.
2. Both Volga and Ural Rivers empty into the Caspian Sea.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

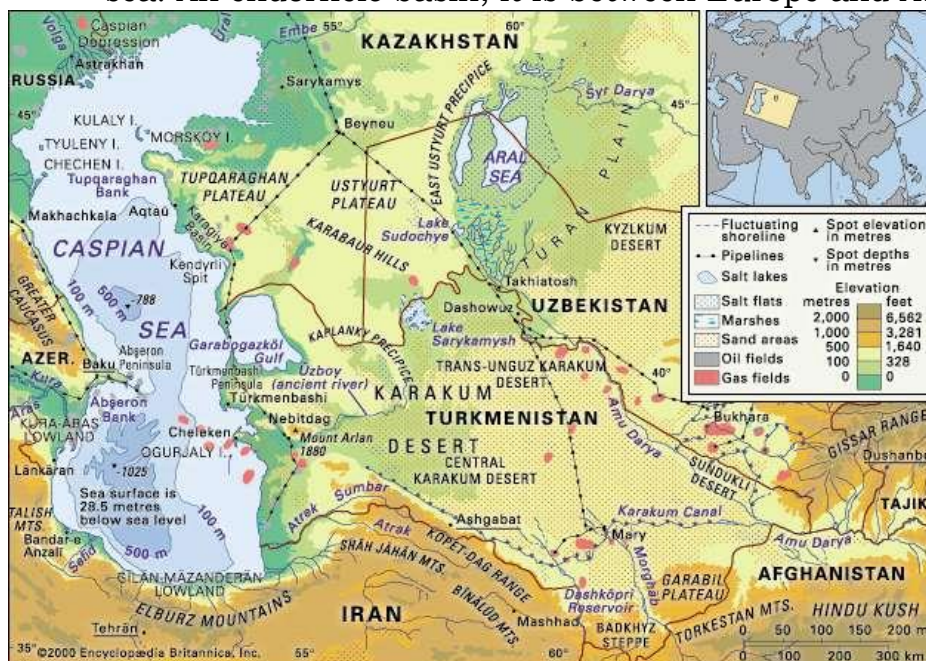
Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Stat1: The **Great Salt Lake**, located in the northern part of the U.S. state of Utah, is the largest salt water lake in the Western Hemisphere, and the eighth-largest terminal lake in the world.
- Stat2: The major **rivers—the Volga, Ural, and Terek**—empty into the northern Caspian, with their combined annual flow accounting for about 88 percent of all river water entering the sea.



- The Caspian Sea is the world's largest inland body of water, variously classed as the world's largest lake or a full-fledged sea. An endorheic basin, it is between Europe and Asia



Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/17/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-17-october-2020/>

128. The 'Zojila tunnel' provide all-year connectivity between:

- India and Pakistan
- Srinagar valley and Leh
- India and China
- Leh and Aksai Chin

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **Zojila tunnel:**

- Context: Union Transport Ministry has launched the first blasting for construction-related work at the Zojila tunnel that will provide all-year connectivity between **Srinagar valley and Leh**.
- **Key facts:**
 - The Zojila is set to be Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel.
 - It will connect Srinagar, Dras, Kargil and Leh via a tunnel through the famous Zojila Pass.
 - Located at more than 11,500 feet above sea level, the all-weather Zojila tunnel will be 14.15 km long and ensure road connectivity even during winters.
 - It will make the travel on the 434-km Srinagar-Kargil-Leh Section of NH-1 free from avalanches, enhance safety and



reduce the travel time from more than 3 hours to just 15 minutes.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/17/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-17-october-2020/>

129. The 'Rashtriya Aajeevika Mission' is implemented by which of the following ministry?

- (a) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- (b) Ministry of Rural Development
- (c) Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- (d) Ministry of Women and Child Development

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **Rashtriya Aajeevika Mission:**

- Official name: **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM).**
- Implemented by: **Ministry of Rural Development.**
- **Mission objective:** Organizing the rural poor women into Self Help Groups (SHGs), and continuously nurturing and supporting them to take economic activities so that they come out of abject poverty.
- Sub-schemes under DAY-NRLM:
- Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs), enables a trainee to take bank credit and start his/her own Micro-enterprise.
- Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP) for facilitating the rural poor for setting up of micro Enterprises.
- Aajeevika Grameen Express Yojana (AGEY) to facilitate transport facilities in the rural areas which also provides self employment opportunities to the rural poor.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/17/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-17-october-2020/>

130. 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.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/17/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-17-october-2020/>



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

131. Consider the following statements with reference to characteristics of tropical cyclones:

1. A tropical cyclone is a rapid rotating storm originating over tropical oceans with high pressure centre.
2. The central part of the system where the weather is normally calm and free of clouds.
3. The winds blow counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.

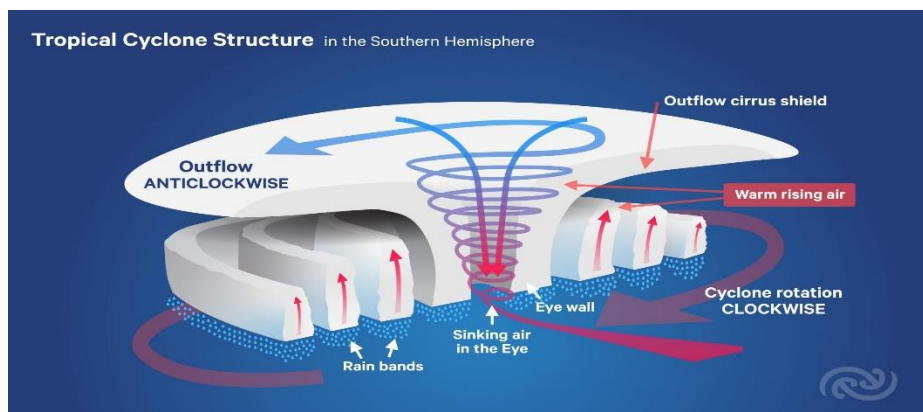
Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **Characteristics of tropical cyclones**

- A tropical cyclone is a rapid rotating storm originating over tropical oceans from where it draws the energy to develop.
- It has a **low pressure centre** and clouds spiraling towards the **eyewall surrounding the "eye", the central part of the system where the weather is normally calm and free of clouds.**
- Its **diameter** is typically around **200 to 500 km, but can reach 1000 km.** A tropical cyclone brings very violent winds, torrential rain, high waves and, in some cases, very destructive storm surges and coastal flooding.
- The **winds blow counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.** Tropical cyclones above a certain strength are given names in the interests of public safety.
- Different terminology is used for this weather phenomenon depending on the location:
 - In the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, the North Atlantic Ocean and the eastern and central North Pacific Ocean, it is called "**hurricane**"
 - In the western North Pacific, it is called "**typhoon**"
 - In the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea, it is called "**cyclone**"
 - In western South Pacific and southeast Indian Ocean, it is called "**severe tropical cyclone**"
 - In the southwest Indian Ocean, it is called "**tropical cyclone**"



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/19/why-floods-occur-in-hyderabad/>

132. Consider the following statements:

1. Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA) or the National Flood Commission, was set up by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation in 1976.
 2. Currently, there is no national-level flood control authority 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:

- At least 43 years after **India's first and last commission on floods was constituted, there is no national-level flood control authority in the country so far.**
- **Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA), or the National Flood Commission,** was set up by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in 1976**, to study India's flood-control measures after the projects launched under the National Flood Control Programme of 1954 failed to achieve much success.
- In 1980, the RBA made 207 recommendations and four broad observations.
 - First, it said there was no increase in rainfall in India and, thus, the increase in floods was due to anthropogenic factors such as deforestation, drainage congestion and badly planned development works.
 - Second, it questioned the effectiveness of the methods adopted to control floods, such as embankments and reservoirs, and suggested that the construction of these structures be halted till their efficacy was assessed.



- Third, it said there has to be consolidated efforts among the states and the Centre to take up research and policy initiatives to control floods.
- Fourth, it recommended a dynamic strategy to cope with the changing nature of floods. An analysis of the report suggested that the problem began with the methods of estimating flood-prone areas of the country.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/19/why-floods-occur-in-hyderabad/>

133. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) was founded in 1918 by Lord Chelmsford.
2. The NIN has formulated 'Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA)' for Indians.

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:

- **Source:** Stat2: The **National Institute of Nutrition (NIN)**, the Hyderabad-based premier research body of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), has released a new set of guidelines, updating norms on **recommended dietary allowances (RDA), which is the average daily intake needed for a nutritious diet.** Besides several other recommendations, a salient point in the report released this week is the upward revision of the 'ideal' weight of Indian men and women.
- Stat1: **Sir Robert McCarrison**, the **founder Director of NIN**, is justifiably credited to be the father of nutrition research in India.
 - The **National Institute of Nutrition (NIN)** is an Indian Public health, Nutrition and Translational research center located in Hyderabad, India. The institute is one of the oldest research centers in India, and the largest center, under the Indian Council of Medical Research, located in the vicinity of Osmania University.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/19/affordability-of-nutritious-diets-in-rural-india/>

134. Consider the following statements:

1. Rohingya are an ethnic group, largely comprising Muslims, who predominantly live in the Western Myanmar province of Cox's Bazar.



2. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs there are approximately 10,000 Rohingyas living 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: (d)

Explanation:

- **Source:** Stat2: According to the Ministry of Home Affairs there are approximately **40,000 Rohingyas living in India**. They have reportedly reached India from Bangladesh through the land route over the years.
- Stat1: **Rohingya are an ethnic group, largely comprising Muslims**, who predominantly live in the **Western Myanmar province of Rakhine**. They speak a dialect of Bengali, as opposed to the commonly spoken Burmese language.
- Cox's Bazar (Bangladesh): The world's largest refugee settlement, inhabited mostly by Rohingya.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/19/myanmar-rohingya-an-overview-of-the-crisis/>

135. With reference to 'United Nations Human Rights Council', consider the following statements:

- 1. UN-HRC is an inter-governmental body
- 2. It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations

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: **United Nations Human Rights Council**

- The Human Rights Council is **an inter-governmental body** within the United Nations system made up of **47 States** responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights around the globe.
- It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year. **It meets at the UN Office at Geneva.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/19/un-human-rights-council-3/>

136. Which of the following Arab countries have officially established diplomatic relations with Israel?

1. Kuwait
2. Bahrain
3. UAE
4. Qatar

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **Israel and Bahrain to formalise diplomatic ties:**

- **Israel and Bahrain** have officially established diplomatic relations by signing a US-brokered agreement.
- The **United Arab Emirates and Bahrain** became **only the third and fourth Arab states to agree to normalise ties with Israel**, following Israel's 1979 peace deal with **Egypt** and a 1994 pact with **Jordan**.



Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/19/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-19-october-2020/>

137. “Skinks of India” is a recent publication by which of the following?

- (a) Reserve Bank of India
- (b) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- (c) Zoological Survey of India
- (d) Botanical Survey of India

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **Skinks of India by ZSI:**

- **“Skinks of India” is a recent publication by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).**
- Key findings:
 - India is home to 62 species of skinks and about 57% of all the skinks found in India (33 species) are endemic.
 - They are found in all kinds of habitats in the country, from the Himalayas to the coasts and from dense forests to the deserts.
 - With 1,602 species of skinks across the world, making it the largest family of lizards, their occurrence in India is less than 4 % of the global diversity.
- What are Skinks?
 - With long bodies, relatively small or no legs, no pronounced neck and glossy scales, skinks are common reptiles.



Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/19/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-19-october-2020/>

138. The 'SLINEX 20' is a series of naval exercises between the Indian Navy and the:

- (a) Republic of Singapore Navy
- (b) Royal Saudi Navy
- (c) Sri Lanka Navy
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **SLINEX 20:**
- It is a series of naval exercises between **the Indian Navy and the Sri Lanka Navy.**
- The latest edition will be held off Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.
- The first SLINEX took place in 2005.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/19/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-19-october-2020/>

139. Consider the following statements:

1. The major production centres for footwear, leather and leather products in India are located in the States of Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.
2. The Leather industry in India accounts for around 20% of the world's leather production of hides/skins.

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:

- **Source:** Stat2: The Leather industry in India accounts **for around 12.9% of the world's leather production of hides/skins** and handles a robust annual production of about 3 bn sq. ft. of leather. The country accounts for 9% of the world's footwear production. The industry is known for its consistency in high export earnings and it is among the top ten foreign exchange earners for the country.
- Stat1: The major production centres for footwear, leather and leather products in India are located in the **States of Tamil Nadu** – Chennai, Ambur, Ranipet, Vaniyambadi, Vellore, Pernambut,



Trichy, Dindigul and Erode; **West Bengal** – Kolkata; **Uttar Pradesh** – Kanpur, Agra, Noida, Saharanpur; **Maharashtra** – Mumbai; **Punjab** – Jalandhar; **Karnataka** – Bengaluru; **Telengana** Hyderabad; **Haryana** – Ambala, Gurgaon, Panchkula, Karnal and Faridabad; **Delhi**; **Madhya Pradesh** – Dewas; **Kerala** – Kozhikode and Ernakulam / Cochin; **Rajasthan**; Jaipur; **Jammu & Kashmir**; Srinagar.

- **Scale India App:**

- The Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC) has recently announced the launch of the Skill Certification Assessment for Leather Employees (SCALE) India android app in order to provide a single platform to integrate quality assurance across all of its services.
- Leather Sector Skill Council (LSSC) was set up in 2012 after getting approval by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/19/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-19-october-2020/>

140. Consider the following statements about National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC):

1. NSDC is a not-for-profit public limited company.
2. The GOI through Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) holds 51% of the share capital of NSDC.

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:

- **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** is a not-for-profit public limited company incorporated on July 31, 2008 under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 (corresponding to section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013).
- **NSDC was set up by Ministry of Finance** as Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.
- The Government of India through **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** holds **49%** of the share capital of NSDC, while the **private sector has the balance 51% of the share capital**.
- NSDC aims to promote skill development by catalyzing creation of large, quality and for-profit vocational institutions. Further, the



organisation provides funding to build scalable and profitable vocational training initiatives.

- Its mandate is also to enable support system which focuses on quality assurance, information systems and train the trainer academies either directly or through partnerships.
- NSDC acts as a catalyst in skill development by providing funding to enterprises, companies and organizations that provide skill training. It also develops appropriate models to enhance, support and coordinate private sector initiatives.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/19/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-19-october-2020/>

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

141. Consider the following statements:

1. The- motion to impeach a Judge of the Supreme Court of India cannot be rejected by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha as per the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.
2. The Constitution of India defines and gives details of what Constitutes 'incapacity and proved misbehaviour' of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India.
3. The details of the process of impeachment of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India are given in the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.
4. If the motion for the impeachment of a Judge is taken up for voting, the law requires the motion to be backed by each House of the Parliament and supported by a majority of total membership of that House and by not less than two-thirds of total members of that House present and voting.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)



Explanation:

- The speaker has the discretion to accept or reject the motion, so S1 is wrong.
- S2: It has not been defined.
- Proceedings for removal of a judge are undertaken under Article 124 of the Constitution (for the removal of a Supreme Court judge) and Article 218 (for removal of a High Court judge).
- S3: Judges Inquiry Act, 1968, codifies the process for removal of judges.
- Judges can be removed from office through a motion adopted by Parliament on grounds of 'proven misbehaviour or incapacity'.
- A judge can be removed only on an order from the President based on a motion passed by both Houses of Parliament.
- The Constitution does not mention the word 'impeachment', but the term is understood to refer to the process for removal of a SC/HC judge.
- S4: An impeachment motion requires signatures by 100 MPs, if submitted to the Lok Sabha Speaker, and 50 MPs, if submitted to the Rajya Sabha Chairman.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/20/jagans-letter-attempts-to-coerce-judiciary-says-judges-body/>

142. Consider the following statements about 'National Company Law Appellate Tribunal':

1. It is an autonomous constitutional authority.
2. NCLAT is the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)** was constituted under Section 410 of the **Companies Act, 2013** for hearing appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal(s) (NCLT), with effect from 1st June, 2016.
- **Functions:**
 - **It hears appeals against the orders of:**
 - NCLT under Section 61 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC).



- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India under Section 202 and Section 211 of IBC.
- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI).**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/20/national-company-law-appellate-tribunal/>

143. Consider the following statements about the 'International Financial Services Centres Authority':

1. It is a statutory body established in 2020.
2. It works under the Department of Financial Services, 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:

- **About the International Financial Services Centres Authority:**
 - It is a statutory body established in 2020.
 - It works under the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.
 - Headquartered in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- **Roles and functions:**
 - Its main function is to develop and regulate the financial products, financial services and financial institutions located/performed in the International Financial Services Centres in India.
 - The Authority is empowered to exercise the powers of RBI, SEBI, IRDAI and PFRDA in respect of financial services, financial products and financial institutions performed/located in the international financial services centres in the country.
- **Composition:**
 - Chairperson, one Member each to be nominated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), two members to be dominated by the Central Government and two other whole-time or full-time or part-time members.
 - They will have a three-year term subject to reappointment.
- **Can an IFSC be set up in a special economic zone (SEZ)?**



- The SEZ Act 2005 allows setting up an IFSC in an SEZ or as an SEZ after approval from the central government.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/20/ifsc-introduces-framework-for-regulatory-sandbox/>

144. Consider the following statements:

1. The 'Ghar Tak Fibre' scheme is launched by the Central government for digital transformation of villages.
2. All services under the 'Ghar Tak Fibre' scheme will be provided by Common Service Centres (CSCs) in villages under the Make in India initiative.

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:

- **Ghar Tak Fibre scheme** is launched by the Central government for digital transformation of villages.
- Under the scheme, optical fibre internet services will be provided to about 45,945 villages in the state
- 8900 Gram panchayats will also be connected through the optical fibre net service, FTTH broadband internet connectivity
- High speed internet in villages will be a benefit under this scheme
- One public Wi-Fi hotspot will be created in every village
- Households can **buy FTTH (Fibre To The Home)** connection for personal use
- All these services will be provided by **Common Service Centres (CSCs)** in villages under the **BharatNet initiative**
- This scheme aims at digital transformation and spread of high-speed internet connection across the villages.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/20/ghar-tak-fibre-scheme/>

145. Which of the following is/are the main factors that cause rural air pollution?

1. Wildfire Smoke
2. Pollen
3. Dust Storms
4. Residential burning of wood

Select the correct answer using the code below:

- (a) 1, 2 and 4



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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Main Sources of Rural Air Pollution**

- Residential burning of wood and other biomass used predominantly for cooking and heating.
- Stubble burning
- Wildfire Smoke
- Dust Storms
- Pollen
- Airborne Chemicals

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/20/why-does-air-pollution-rise-in-october-every-year/>

146. Consider the following statements with reference to 'Grand ICT Challenge':

1. It was launched by National Jal Jeevan Mission in partnership with Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).
2. The mission focuses on service delivery rather than mere creation of infrastructure.

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:

- It was launched by **National Jal Jeevan Mission** in partnership with **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)**.
- **Objective:** To create innovative, modular, and cost-effective solution to develop a '**Smart Water Supply Measurement and Monitoring System**' to be deployed at the village level.
- The mission focuses on service delivery rather than mere creation of infrastructure.
- The best solution will get cash prize of Rs. 50 Lakh and runner ups will get prize of Rs. 20 Lakh each.



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ICT Grand Challenge

Grand challenge for development of smart water supply measurement & monitoring system

Application submission
5th October 2020

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AffairsCloud

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/20/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-20-october-2020/>

147. With reference to 'Bharatmala Pariyojana', consider the following statements:

1. Bharatmala Project is the largest highways construction project in the country.
2. All projects implemented under Bharatmala are to be technically, financially, and economically appraised by the Public Account Committee (PAC) of Parliament.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Stat1: Bharatmala Project is the **second largest highways construction project in the country since NHDP**, under which almost 50,000 km or highway roads were targeted across the country. Bharatmala will look to improve connectivity particularly on economic corridors, border areas and far flung areas with an aim of quicker movement of cargo and boosting exports.
- Stat2: All projects implemented under Bharatmala are to be technically, financially, and economically appraised by an empowered Project Appraisal & Technical Scrutiny Committee to be set up in the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).



Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/20/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-20-october-2020/>

148. Consider the following statements about 'Asafoetida, or heeng':

1. It thrives in dry and cold desert conditions.
2. It is not cultivated 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:

- **Asafoetida:**

- Asafoetida, or **heeng**, is a common ingredient in most Indian kitchens.
- Heeng is not cultivated in India.
- India imports Rs 600 crore worth of this pungent flavoured herb every year.
- It is a **perennial plant**. The plant stores most of its nutrients inside its deep fleshy roots.
- Asafoetida is **endemic to Iran and Afghanistan**, the main global suppliers.
- It **thrives in dry and cold desert conditions**.

- **Why in News?**

- Scientists at CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource, Palampur (IHBT), are on a mission to grow heeng in the Indian Himalayas. The first sapling has been planted in Himachal Pradesh's Kwarling village in Lahaul valley last week.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/20/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-20-october-2020/>

149. Fiji is an island country, located in the:

- (a) North Pacific Ocean
- (b) South Pacific Ocean
- (c) South Atlantic Ocean
- (d) North Atlantic Ocean

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Places in News- Fiji:**



- It is an island country in **Melanesia, part of Oceania** in the **South Pacific Ocean** about 1,100 nautical miles northeast of New Zealand.
- Fiji consists of an archipelago of more than 330 islands.



Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/20/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-20-october-2020/>

150. Consider the following statements:

1. The Lushai are a mountain range in Nagaland.
2. Mizoram borders with Manipur, Assam and Tripura.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

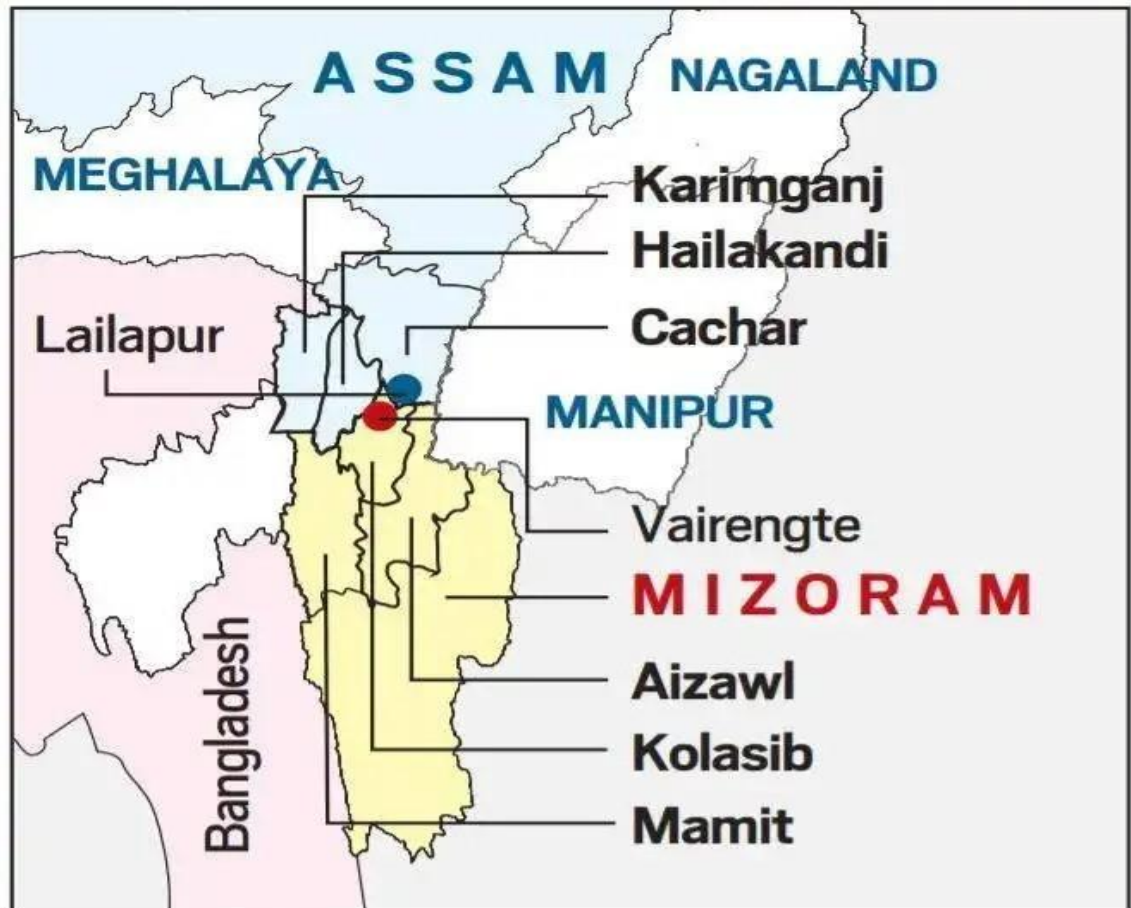
Explanation:

- Stat1: The Lushai (or Mizo Hills) are a mountain range in **Mizoram and Tripura**, India. The range is part of the **Patkai range system** and its highest point is 2,157 m high Phawngpui, also known as '**Blue Mountain**'.
- Stat2: Mizoram is a landlocked state in North East **India** whose southern part shares 722 kilometres long international borders with **Myanmar** and **Bangladesh**, and northern part share domestic borders **with Manipur, Assam and Tripura**. It is the fifth smallest state of **India** with 21,087 km² (8,142 sq mi).
- **Assam-Mizoram boundary issues:**
 - The dispute stems from a notification of 1875 that differentiated Lushai Hills from the plains of Cachar, and



another of 1933 that demarcates a boundary between Lushai Hills and Manipur.

- Location:
- Mizoram borders Assam's Barak Valley; both border Bangladesh.



Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/20/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-20-october-2020/>

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**RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 21st-Oct-2020**

151. Consider the following statements:

1. The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate change.
2. The national tiger census is done by WII along with NTCA and state forest departments.

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 **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**, an autonomous institution under the **Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate change**, Government of India, was established in 1982.
- WII carries out wildlife research in areas of study like Biodiversity, Endangered Species, Wildlife Policy, Wildlife Management, Wildlife Forensics, Spatial Modeling, Ecodevelopment, Ecotoxicology, Habitat Ecology and Climate Change.
- WII has a research facility which includes Forensics, Remote Sensing and GIS, Laboratory, Herbarium, and an Electronic Library.
- The founder director was V. B. Saharia while the first Director was Hemendra Singh Panwar who remained the director from 1985 to 1994. Trained personnel from WII have contributed in studying and protecting wildlife in India.
- **The national tiger census or the All India Tiger Estimation, is done by WII along with NTCA and state forest departments.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/21/finance-ministry-to-divest-wildlife-institute-of-india-wii/>

152. The quadrilateral security dialogue not includes which one of the following nation?

- (a) Japan
- (b) United States
- (c) Australia
- (d) Russia

Ans: (d)

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/2020/10/21/what-is-quad-grouping/>

153. Consider the following statements with reference to 'Ayushman Sahakar Scheme':

1. With this scheme, villagers will get many facilities including minimum support prices for crops.
2. The scheme provides interest subvention of one percent to women majority cooperatives.

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:

- **Ayushman Sahakar** is a scheme to assist cooperatives play an important role in creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country.
- **Formulated by:**
 - National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), an autonomous development finance institution under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- **Key features and implementation of the scheme:**
 - NCDC will extend term loans to prospective cooperatives.
 - A fund will be created for the purpose.
 - Any Cooperative Society with suitable provision in its byelaws to undertake healthcare related activities would be able to access the NCDC fund.



- NCDC assistance will flow either through the State Governments/ UT Administrations or directly to the eligible cooperatives.
- The scheme also provides working capital and margin money to meet operational requirements.
- **The scheme provides interest subvention of one percent to women majority cooperatives.**
- Cooperatives in healthcare and why focus on them?
- There are about 52 hospitals across the country run by cooperatives. They have cumulative bed strength of more than 5,000.
- By virtue of their strong presence in rural areas, cooperatives utilizing the scheme would bring revolution in comprehensive health care services.
- **Benefits of the scheme:**
- COVID 19 pandemic has brought into focus the requirement of creation of more facilities.
 - Therefore, NCDC's scheme will be a step towards strengthening farmers welfare activities by the Central Government.
 - **With this scheme, villagers will get many facilities including hospitals, medical colleges.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/21/ayushman-sahakar/>

154. As per the Constitution of India, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are in:

- (a) State list
- (b) Union list
- (c) Concurrent list
- (d) Residuary list

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects** as per the Constitution of India. States/UTs are primarily responsible for prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of crimes through their law enforcement machinery.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/21/cyber-crime-and-cyber-security-in-india/>

155. The 'Mission Kakatiya' and 'Mission Bhagiratha' are sometimes mentioned in media in reference to:

- (a) multi-purpose lift irrigation projects



- (b) irrigation tank rehabilitation and safe and sustainable drinking water supply
- (c) scheme designed to control floods in South India
- (d) none of the above

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Mission Kakatiya** is a programme for **restoring all the minor irrigation tanks and lakes in Telangana State, India**. The programme helps in rejuvenating 46,531 tanks and lakes, storing 265 TMC water across the state in five years, this is the first program to be taken up by the Government of Telangana after coming into power in June 2014.
- **Mission Bhagiratha** is a project for safe drinking water for every village and city household in Telangana State.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/21/kaleshwaram-eco-clearance-violates-law-ngt/>

156. The 'Ind Spring Board' is an initiative for:

- (a) vaccine development
- (b) funding start-ups
- (c) nurturing sport expertise
- (d) prevention of malnutrition

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Ind Spring Board:**
- It is an initiative of Indian Bank and IIT Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC).
- It is an initiative for funding start-ups.
- IITMIC will refer start-ups with proven technology and established cash flows to the bank. The bank, in turn, will extend loans of up to ₹50 crore to these units.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/21/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-21-october-2020/>

157. The 'Infrastructure Investment Trusts' (InvITs) are regulated by the:

- (a) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- (b) Reserve Bank of India
- (c) NITI Aayog
- (d) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority

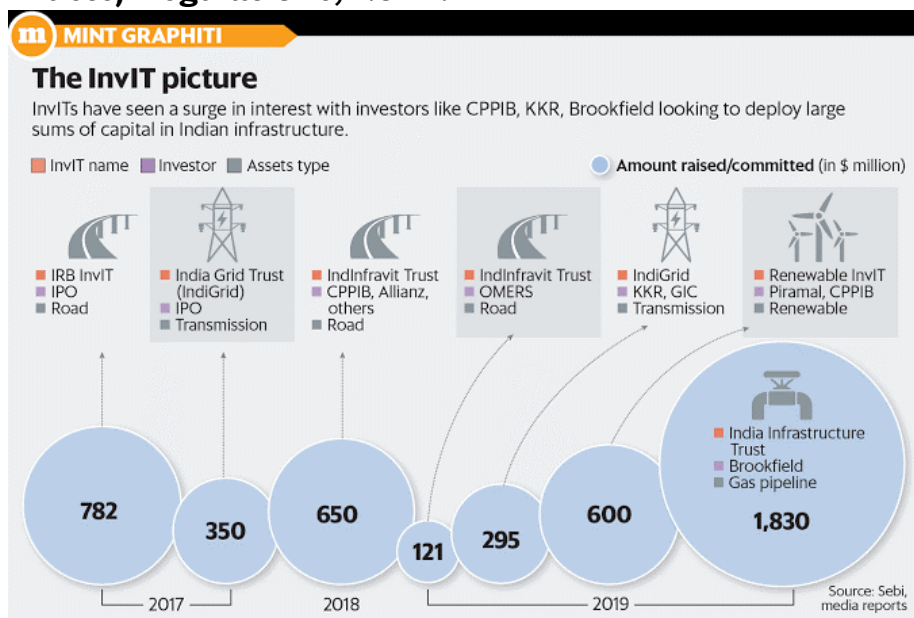
Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs):**



- It is a **Collective Investment Scheme** similar to a mutual fund, which **enables direct investment of money from individual and institutional investors in infrastructure projects** to earn a small portion of the income as return.
- The InvITs are **regulated by the SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014**.



Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/21/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-21-october-2020/>

158. Arrange the following location's in the direction of North to South:

1. Daulat Beg Oldi
2. Galwan Valley
3. Demchok
4. Chushul

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Demchok sector:**
- It is a disputed region centered on the villages of Demchok, Ladakh and Dêmqog, Ngari Prefecture, situated near the confluence of the Charding Nullah and Indus River.
- It is part of the greater Sino-Indian border dispute between China and India. Both India and China claim the disputed region, with a



Line of Actual Control between the two nations situated along the Charding Nullah.

- Why in News?
- Chinese soldier who strayed across LAC in Ladakh's Demchok sector released.





Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/21/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-21-october-2020/>

159. With reference to 'Light Detection and Ranging' (LIDAR), consider the following statements:

1. It is a remote sensing method.
2. A lidar instrument principally consists of a laser, a scanner, and a specialized GPS receiver.

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:

- **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: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/21/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-21-october-2020/>

160. Consider the following statements:

1. Vessels Traffic Monitoring Systems (VTMS) is an indigenous software solutions launched by Ministry of Shipping.
2. VTMS is mandatory under the IMO Convention SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea).

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:

- **Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) and Vessels Traffic Monitoring Systems (VTMS):**
- It is an indigenous software solutions Launched by **Ministry of Shipping**.
- It determines vessel positions, position of other traffic or meteorological hazard warnings and extensive management of traffic within a port or waterway.
- It contribute to the safety of life at sea, safety and efficiency of navigation and protection of the marine environment, adjacent shore areas, worksites and offshore installations from possible adverse effects of maritime traffic.
- VTMS is **mandatory under the IMO Convention SOLAS (Safety of Life at Sea)**.



Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/21/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-21-october-2020/>

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RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 22th-Oct-2020

161. Consider the following statements:

1. In 1943 Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose announced the formation of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind (Free India), with himself as the Head of State.
2. In 1927 Bose was appointed as the General Secretary of the Indian National Congress.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **On 21 October 1943, Bose** announced the formation of the **Provisional Government of Azad Hind (Free India)**, with himself as the **Head of State, Prime Minister and Minister of War**.
- Stat2: In **1927** Bose was appointed as the **General Secretary of the Indian National Congress** and worked alongside Shri Jawaharlal Nehru for Indian independence.
- **About Azad Hind Government:**
 - Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had announced the establishment of the provisional government of Azad Hind in occupied Singapore in 1943.
 - Known as **Arzi Hukumat-e-Azad Hind**, it was supported by the Axis powers of Imperial Japan, Nazi Germany, the Italian Social Republic, and their allies.
 - The provisional government was also **formed in the Japanese-occupied Andaman and Nicobar Islands**. The islands were reoccupied by the British in 1945.
- **Why was it set up?**
 - Bose was convinced that armed struggle was the only way to achieve independence for India.
 - It drew ex- prisoners and thousands of civilian volunteers from the Indian expatriate population in Malaya (present-day Malaysia) and Burma (now Myanmar).
- **Key features:**
 - The Azad Hind government had its own court, civil code and currency.
 - Its provisional capital was Port Blair, while its capital-in-exile was Rangoon and Singapore.
 - Under the provisional government:



- Bose was the head of the state, the prime minister and the minister for war and foreign affairs.
- Captain Lakshmi headed the women's organisation.
- S A Ayer headed the publicity and propaganda wing.
- Rash Behari Bose was designated as the supreme advisor.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/22/azad-hind-government-2/>

162. Consider the following statements:

1. The State Election Commissioner is removed by the Governor.
 2. The SECs enjoy the same status as the Election Commission 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:

- Stat1: **Article 243K(2)**: It states that the tenure and appointment will be directed as per the law made by the state legislature. However, **State Election Commissioner shall not be removed** from his/her office except in like manner and on the like grounds as a **Judge of a High Court**.
- Stat2: **The ECI and SECs have a similar mandate; do they also have similar powers?**
 - The provisions of **Article 243K of the Constitution**, which provides for setting up of SECs, are almost identical to those of **Article 324** related to the EC. In other words, **the SECs enjoy the same status as the EC**.
 - In **Kishan Singh Tomar vs Municipal Corporation of the City of Ahmedabad case**, the Supreme Court directed that **state governments should abide by orders of the SECs during the conduct of the panchayat and municipal elections**, just like they follow the instructions of the EC during Assembly and Parliament polls.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/22/state-election-commissions/>

163. With reference to 'District Development Councils' (DDC), consider the following statements:

1. The 'District Development Councils' are created as per article 243ZD of the Constitution of India at the district level.



2. The DDCs in all districts of India consolidate the plans prepared by the Panchayats and the Municipalities and prepare a draft development plan for the district.

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 Centre on October 17 amended **the Jammu and Kashmir Panchayati Raj Act, 1989**, to facilitate the setting up of **District Development Councils (DDC)**.
- A legislation to this effect was brought in by **the Ministry of Home Affairs**.
 - **What are DDCs? What are their functions?**
 - This system effectively **replaces the District Planning and Development Boards** in all districts (J&K).
 - They will **prepare and approve district plans and capital expenditure**.
 - The term of the DDC will be five years.
 - The council will hold **at least four “general meetings”** in a year, one in each quarter.
 - **Structure:**
 - Their number has been specified at 14 elected members per district representing its rural areas, alongside the Members of Legislative Assembly chairpersons of all Block Development Councils within the district.
 - The electoral process will allow for **reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women**.
 - The Additional District Development Commissioner (or the Additional DC) of the district shall be **the Chief Executive Officer of the District Development Council**.
 - **Who will elect the members of DDC?**
 - They will be directly elected by voters in the Union Territory.
- **District Planning Committee (DPC)** is the committee created as per article 243ZD of the Constitution of India at the district level for planning at the district and below. The Committee in each district should consolidate the plans prepared by the Panchayats and the Municipalities in the district and prepare a draft development plan for the district.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/22/district-development-councils-ddc/>

164. The 'Production-linked incentive' (PLI) scheme is a part of which one of the following national policy?

- (a) National Food Processing Policy
- (b) National Policy on Electronics
- (c) National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy
- (d) National Policy on Biofuels

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **About the PLI scheme:**

- To make India a manufacturing hub, **the government recently announced the PLI scheme for mobile phones, pharma products, and medical equipment sectors.**
- Notified on April 1 as a part of **the National Policy on Electronics.**
- It proposes **a financial incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in the electronics value chain.**

- **Key features of the scheme:**

- The scheme shall extend an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales (over base year) of goods manufactured in India and covered under target segments, to eligible companies, **for a period of five (5) years with financial year (FY) 2019-20 considered as the base year for calculation of incentives.**
- The Scheme will be implemented through a Nodal Agency which shall act as **a Project Management Agency (PMA)** and be responsible for providing secretarial, managerial and implementation support and carrying out other responsibilities as assigned by MeitY from time to time.

- **Eligibility:**

- According to the scheme, companies that make mobile phones which sell for Rs 15,000 or more will get an incentive of up to 6 per cent on incremental sales of all such mobile phones made in India.
- In the same category, companies which are owned by Indian nationals and make such mobile phones, the incentive has been kept at Rs 200 crore for the next four years.





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Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing



Incentive: 4% to 6% on incremental sales (over base year) of goods manufactured in India



Target Segments: Mobile phones and specified electronic components



Eligibility: Subject to thresholds of incremental investment and incremental sales of manufactured goods



Tenure of the Scheme: Five years subsequent to the base year as defined (FY19-20)

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/22/production-linked-incentive-pli-scheme/>

165. Consider the following statements:

1. The Sabarmati River is one of the major west-flowing rivers in India.
2. It originates in the Aravalli Range of the Rajasthan.
3. The Shatrunjay Dam is located on the Sabarmati River.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

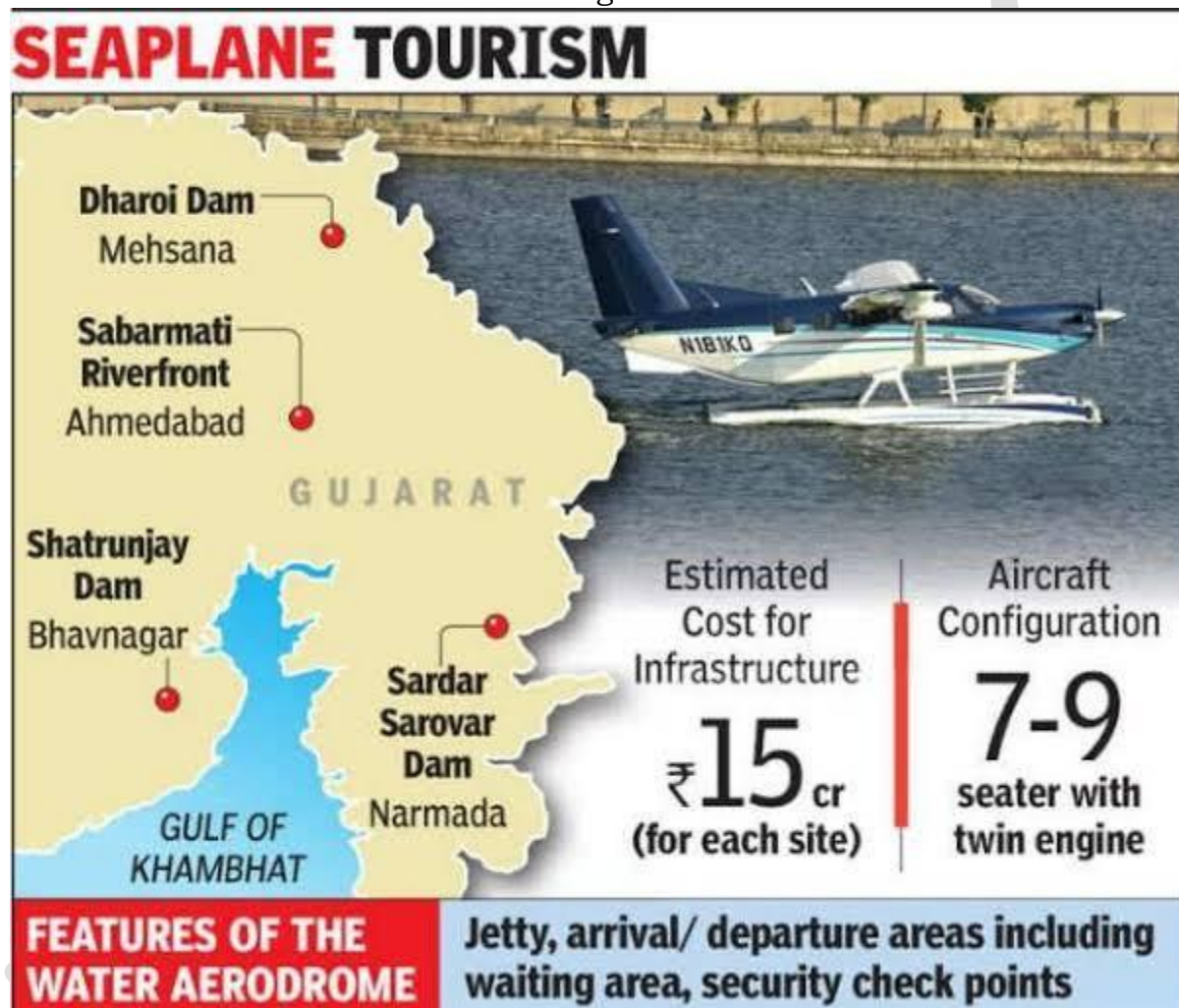
Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- The **Sabarmati river** is one of the major **west-flowing** rivers in India.
- It originates in the **Aravalli Range of the Udaipur District of Rajasthan** and meets the **Gulf of Khambhat** of Arabian Sea.



- During India's independence struggle, Mahatma Gandhi established Sabarmati Ashram as his home on the banks of this river.
- The **Dharoi dam** is located on the main river. **Hathmati dam**, **Harnav dam** and **Guhai dam** are located on the tributaries meeting the main river upstream of Ahmedabad while Meshvo reservoir, Meshvo pick-up weir, Mazam dam and Watrak dam are located on tributaries meeting downstream.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/22/indias-first-seaplane-project/>

166. Consider the following statements:

1. OSIRIS-REx is a NASA asteroid-study and sample-return mission.
2. The mission's primary goal is to obtain a sample of at least 6 kilogram from 101955 Bennu, a carbonaceous near-Earth asteroid.

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:

- **OSIRIS-REx** (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer) is a **NASA asteroid-study and sample-return mission**.
- The mission's primary goal is to obtain a sample of at least **60 g (2.1 oz)** from 101955 Bennu, a carbonaceous near-Earth asteroid, and return the sample to Earth for a detailed analysis.
- The material returned is expected to enable scientists to learn more about the **formation and evolution of the Solar System**, its initial stages of **planet formation**, and the **source of organic compounds** that led to **the formation of life on Earth**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/22/osiris-rex-and-asteroid-bennu/>

167. Which of the following best describes/describe the objectives of 'National Supercomputing Mission' (NSM) of Government of India?
1. To make India number one in supercomputing technology and to enhance India's capability in solving grand challenge problems of national and global relevance
 2. To attain global competitiveness and ensure self-reliance in the strategic area of supercomputing technology

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 **National Supercomputing Mission** would be implemented and steered jointly by the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** and **Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY)** at an estimated cost of Rs.4500 crore over a period of seven years.
- **Objective:**
 - To make India one of the world leaders in Supercomputing and to enhance India's capability in solving grand challenge problems of national and global relevance
 - To empower our scientists and researchers with state-of-the-art supercomputing facilities and enable them to carry out cutting-edge research in their respective domains



- To minimize redundancies and duplication of efforts, and optimize investments in supercomputing
- To attain global competitiveness and ensure self-reliance in the strategic area of supercomputing technology
- **Application areas:**
 - Climate Modelling
 - Weather Prediction
 - Aerospace Engineering including CFD, CSM, CEM
 - Computational Biology
 - Molecular Dynamics
 - Atomic Energy Simulations
 - National Security/ Defence Applications
 - Seismic Analysis
 - Disaster Simulations and Management
 - Computational Chemistry
 - Computational Material Science and Nanomaterials
 - Discoveries beyond Earth (Astrophysics)
 - Large Complex Systems Simulations and Cyber Physical Systems
 - Big Data Analytics
 - Finance
 - Information repositories/ Government Information Systems

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/22/in-news-national-supercomputing-mission-nsm/>

168. What is common to the systems known as 'Param Shivay', 'Param Shakti' and 'Param Brahma'?

- (a) indigenously developed missiles
- (b) indigenously developed microprocessors
- (c) super computers
- (d) military decoration

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- The **first supercomputer assembled indigenously**, called **Param Shivay**, was installed in IIT (Banaras Hindu University).
- Similar systems **Param Shakti** and **Param Brahma** were installed at IIT-Kharagpur and IISER, Pune. They are equipped with applications from domains like Weather and Climate, Computational Fluid Dynamics, Bioinformatics, and Material science.
- **Fact for Prelims:**
 - India has developed an **indigenous server (Rudra)**, which can meet the High-Performance Computing (HPC) requirements of all governments and PSUs. This is the first



time that a server system was made in India, along with the full software stack developed by C-DAC.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/22/in-news-national-supercomputing-mission-nsm/>

169. The State of Global Air report is published by

- (a) United Nations Environment Programme
- (b) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- (c) International Union for Conservation of Nature
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **What is the State of Global Air?**
 - The State of Global Air report and interactive website bring into one place a comprehensive analysis of the levels and trends in air quality and health for every country in the world. **They are produced annually by the Health Effects Institute and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation's (IHME's) Global Burden of Disease (GBD) project** and are a source of objective, high-quality, and comparable air quality data and information.
- Who is it for?
 - The report and website are designed to give citizens, journalists, policy makers, and scientists access to reliable, meaningful information about air pollution exposure and its health effects. These resources are free and available to the public.
- Who funded it?
 - The project is funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.
- Who contributed to it?
 - The State of Global Air is a collaboration between the Health Effects Institute (HEI) and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), with expert input from the University of British Columbia.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/22/state-of-global-air-2020/>

170. With reference to 'INS Kavaratti', consider the following statements:

1. It is an anti-submarine warfare (ASW) ship.
2. It is the last of four indigenously-built ASW under 'Project 75' of the Navy.

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: **INS Kavaratti:**

- It is an **anti-submarine warfare (ASW) ship** to be commissioned into the Indian Navy.
- It has up to **90% indigenous** content.
- It is the last of four indigenously-built ASW under **‘Project 28’ or Kamorta-class corvettes** of the Navy.
- **‘Project 28’** was approved in 2003. The other three warships under this project are INS Kamorta (commissioned in 2014), INS Kadmat (2016) and INS Kiltan (2017).

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/22/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-22-october-2020/>

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 23th-Oct-2020

171. Consider the following statements:

1. The Central Bureau of Investigation traces its origin to the Special Police Establishment (SPE) which was set up in 1941 by the Government of India.
2. Currently, CBI works under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)



Explanation:

- Stat1: The **Central Bureau of Investigation** traces its origin to the **Special Police Establishment (SPE)** which was set up in **1941** by the Government of India. The functions of the SPE then were to investigate cases of bribery and corruption in transactions with the War & Supply Deptt. Of India during World War II.
- Stat2: Operating under the jurisdiction of the **Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**, the CBI is headed by the Director.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/23/maharashtra-withdraws-general-consent-to-cbi/>

172. The 'Anti-Corruption Working Group' was recently in news, is associated with which of the following?

- (a) G4
- (b) Quadrilateral Security Dialogue
- (c) G7
- (d) G20

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **What is the G20?**
 - The G20 is **an annual meeting of leaders from the countries with the largest and fastest-growing economies**. Its members **account for 85% of the world's GDP, and two-thirds of its population**.
 - The **G20 Summit** is formally known as the **"Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy"**.
- **Genesis of G20:**
 - After **the Asian Financial Crisis in 1997-1998**, it was acknowledged that the participation of major emerging market countries is needed on discussions on the international financial system, and **G7 finance ministers agreed to establish the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting in 1999**.
- **Full membership of the G20:**
 - Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union.
- **What is G20+?**
 - The **G20 developing nations**, also called **G21/G23/G20+** is a bloc of developing nations which was **established on August 20, 2003**.



- Its origins can be traced to **the Brasilia Declaration** signed by the foreign ministers of India, Brazil and South Africa on 6th June 2003.
- The G20+ is **responsible for 60% of the world population, 26% of the world's agricultural exports and 70% of its farmers.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/23/the-anti-corruption-working-group/>

173. Consider the following statements:

1. The Reserve Bank of India manages and services Government of India Securities but not any State Government Securities.
2. Treasury bills are issued by the Government of India and there are no treasury bills issued by the State Governments.
3. Treasury bills offer are issued at a discount from the par value.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- A Government Security (G-Sec) is a tradable instrument issued by the Central Government or the State Governments. It acknowledges the Government's debt obligation. Such securities are short term (usually called treasury bills, with original maturities of less than one year) or long term (usually called Government bonds or dated securities with original maturity of one year or more).
- S1: G-Secs are issued through auctions conducted by RBI.
- Flootation of State Government Loans (State Development Loans): As per the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the RBI may, by agreement with any State Government undertake the management of the public debt of that State. I
- Accordingly, the RBI has entered into agreements with 29 State Governments and one Union Territory (UT of Puducherry) for management of their public debt.
- S2: In India, the Central Government issues both, treasury bills and bonds or dated securities while the State Governments issue only bonds or dated securities, which are called the State Development Loans (SDLs). Treasury Bills (T-bills) Treasury bills or T-bills, which are money market instruments, are short term debt instruments issued by the Government of India and are presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91 day, 182 day and 3.64 day.



- S3: Treasury bills are zero coupon securities and pay no interest. They are issued at a discount and redeemed at the face value at maturity.
- For example, a 91 day Treasury bill of 100/- (face value) may be issued at say 98.20, that is, at a discount of say, 1.80 and would be redeemed at the face value of 100/-.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/23/what-are-govt-securities-2/>

174. Consider the following statements with reference to monoclonal antibody:

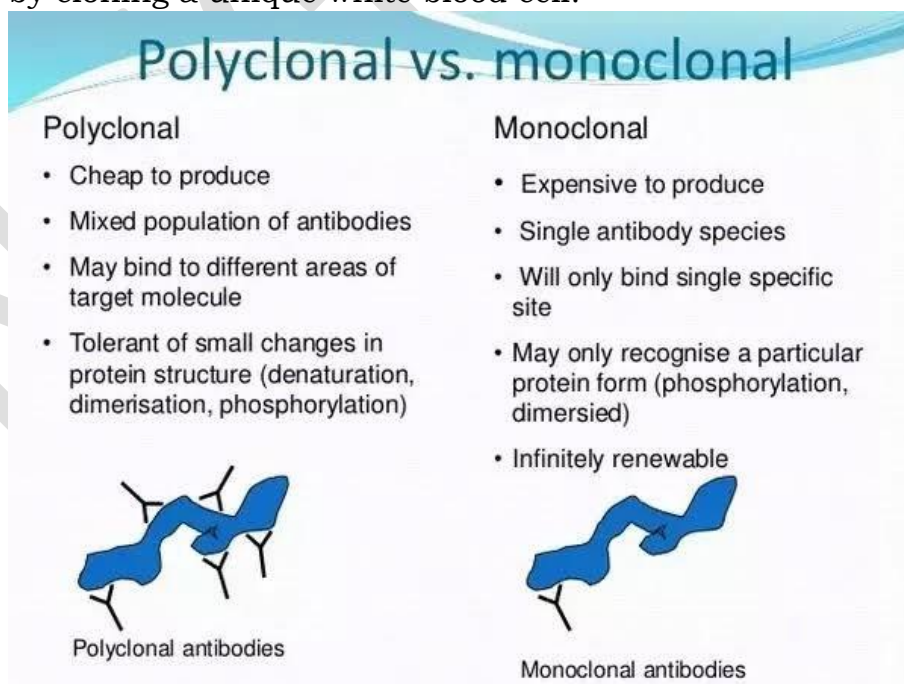
1. They are made by cloning a unique white blood cell.
 2. They are used to treat many diseases, including some types of cancer.
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Source:** stat2: Monoclonal antibodies are used to treat many diseases, including some types of cancer.
- **Stat1:** A monoclonal antibody (mAb or moAb) is an antibody made by cloning a unique white blood cell.





Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/23/what-are-monoclonal-antibodies-mabs/>

175. The Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) is mainly used for:

- (a) price fluctuation measurement
- (b) growth measurement
- (c) determining dearness allowance
- (d) improve rural wage

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **CPI-IW base year revised to 2016:**
- The Labour and Employment Ministry has revised the base year of the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) from 2001 to 2016.
- This was revised to reflect the changing consumption pattern, giving more weightage to spending on health, education, recreation and other miscellaneous expenses, while reducing the weight of food and beverages.
- **Uses of CPI-IW:** It is used **for measuring inflation in retail prices** and is also used to **regulate the dearness allowance (DA) of government staff and industrial workers**, as well as to revise minimum wages in scheduled employments.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/23/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-23-october-2020/>

176. Consider the following statements about 'Nag Missile':

1. The Nag missile is designed to destroy modern main battle tanks.
2. It has a single-shot hit probability of 99% and a hundred-year, maintenance-free shelf life.

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:

- **Source:** Stat2: It has a **single-shot hit probability of 90%** and a **ten-year, maintenance-free shelf life**.
- Stat1: It is designed to destroy modern main battle tanks and other heavily armoured targets.
- **Anti-tank guided missile (ATGM), Nag:**



- DRDO recently carried out the final user trial of the third generation anti-tank guided missile (ATGM), Nag, at the Pokhran firing range.
- Developed indigenously by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Nag ATGM can be launched from both- land as well as air-based platforms.
- With a range of 4-7 km, the missile is fitted with home-developed infrared seeker and avionics, the capabilities possessed by only a few nations in the world.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/23/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-23-october-2020/>

177. Consider the following statements:

1. Humans have four paired major salivary glands.
 2. The parotid glands are the smallest salivary glands present in human.
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Stat1: The **salivary glands** in mammals are exocrine **glands** that produce **saliva** through a system of ducts. Humans have four paired major **salivary glands** (**parotid**, submandibular, sublingual and tubarial) as well as hundreds of minor **salivary glands**. **Salivary glands** can be classified as serous, mucous or seromucous (mixed).
- Stat2: The **parotid glands** are the largest salivary glands. They are located just in front of the ears.
- **Tubarial salivary glands:**
 - They are a set of salivary glands deep in the upper part of the throat.
 - They were discovered recently by Scientists in the Netherlands.
 - The glands are about 1.5 inches (3.9 centimeters) in length on average and are located over a piece of cartilage called the torus tubarius.
 - The glands probably lubricate and moisten the upper throat behind the nose and mouth.
 - The discovery may be important for cancer treatment.



- Until now, there were three known large salivary glands in humans: one under the tongue, one under the jaw and one at the back of the jaw, behind the cheek

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/23/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-23-october-2020/>

178. “Life in Miniature” project was in news recently, is related to which of the following?

- (a) Paintings
- (b) Music collection
- (c) Instruments collection
- (d) Classical dance

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **“Life in Miniature” project:**
 - It is a collaborative project between the National Museum, New Delhi, Ministry of Culture, and Google Arts & Culture.
 - **Several hundred miniature paintings from the National Museum, New Delhi can be viewed online on Google Arts & Culture by people around the world under this project.**
 - The project uses technologies like machine learning, augmented reality and digitization with high-definition robotic cameras, to showcase these special works of art in a magical new way.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/23/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-23-october-2020/>

179. Consider the following activities :

1. Spraying pesticides on a crop field
 2. Inspecting the craters of an active volcano
 3. Collecting breath samples from spouting whales for DNA analysis
- At the present level of technology, which of the above activities can be successfully carried out using drones?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- S1: This is widely used in developed countries to save manpower.
- S2: Drones can go where volcanologists can't, e.g. craters of volcanoes, giving researchers access to potentially life-saving data.



See <https://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/UPSC-prelims-questions-paper-2020-GS-paper-1.pdf>

- S3: See recent article on this: <https://www.theverge.com/2017/10/13/16468698/drone-humpback-whale-microbiome-health-conservation>
- Scientists flew a small drone over the blowhole of a few humpback whales in the US and Canada to collect the microbes living inside their breath. Sampling the community of microbes and bacteria living inside whales, called the microbiome, can help us better understand what makes a healthy whale, and what happens when a whale gets sick.

Source: UPSC CSE 2020

180. 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:** This is correct, see news at MIT review <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:** This is correct as well, see <https://europepmc.org/article/pmc/3883495>
- 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.**

Source: UPSC CSE 2020



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**RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 24th-Oct-2020**

181. Consider the following statements:

1. The Prime Minister constitutes Standing Committees of the Cabinet and sets out the specific functions assigned to them.
2. Cabinet Committee on Appointments decides on all important empanelments and shift of officers serving on Central deputation.
3. The Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs addresses problems related to Centre-state relations.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- 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.
- 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.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/25/parliament-panel-mulls-action-against-amazon/>

182. Consider the following statements about 'Central Vigilance Commission':

1. It is an apex Indian governmental body created in 1964 to address governmental corruption.
2. The CVC is headed by a Central Vigilance Commissioner who is appointed by the President 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: (c)



Explanation:

- Stat1: **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** is an apex Indian governmental body created in **1964** to address governmental corruption. In 2003, the Parliament enacted a law conferring statutory status on the CVC.
- Stat2: The Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners shall be appointed by the President on recommendation of a Committee consisting of the Prime Minister (Chairperson), the Minister of home affairs (Member) and the Leader of the Opposition in the House of the People.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/25/integrity-pact-in-govt-organisations/>

183. Consider the following statements about 'Financial Action Task Force':

1. It is an inter- governmental body established in 1989 on the initiative of the G20.
2. Its Secretariat is located at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris.
3. The FATF Plenary is the decision making body of the FATF and meets three times per year.

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: **About Financial Action Task Force:**

- It is **an inter- governmental body** established in 1989 on the **initiative of the G7**.
- Its **Secretariat** is located at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) headquarters in Paris.
- **Member Countries:** There are 39 member of FATF, representing most financial centres around the world. This includes 2 regional organisations- GCC and EC. The FATF Plenary is the decision making body of the FATF. It meets three times per year.
- **What is blacklist and grey list?**
 - **Black List:** Countries known as Non-Cooperative Countries or Territories (NCCTs) are put in the blacklist. These countries support terror funding and money laundering activities.
 - **Grey List:** Countries that are considered safe haven for supporting terror funding and money laundering are put in



the FATF grey list. This inclusion serves as a warning to the country that it may enter the blacklist.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/25/pakistan-to-remain-on-fatf-grey-list-2/>

184. Arrange the following locations in the direction of west to east:

1. Limpiyadhura Pass
2. Kalapani
3. Lipulekh Pass

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Why in News?**

- After months of simmering dispute with India over the Kalapani issue, Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli recently indicated a softer line when he used **an old map of Nepal** to greet everyone on the festival of Vijaya Dashami.
- The old map does not show the region of **Kalapani-Lipulekh-Limpiyadhura**, which is part of India's Pithoragarh district.

- **What's the issue?**

- **Kalapani** is shown as part of Nepalese sovereign territory in the new map, which was unveiled on May 20, and made part of the insignia of the Nepalese state by an amendment on June 13.

- **Where is Kalapani located?**

- Located in the **easternmost corner of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district**.
- Shares a border on the north with **the Tibet Autonomous Region of China and Nepal in the east and south**.
- It is wedged in between **Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani**.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/25/indo-nepal-border-issue/>

185. The 'Bishkek Declaration' was in news recently, is related to which of the following?

- (a) Water conservation
- (b) Human rights
- (c) Primary health
- (d) Conservation of snow leopards

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Context:**

- International Snow Leopard Day was observed on **23 October**.
- The day came into being with the adoption of **the Bishkek Declaration** by 12 countries on the conservation of snow leopards.

- **HimalSanrakshak:**

- On this day this year, the Indian government has launched **community volunteer programme "HimalSanrakshak"** to protect snow leopards.
- **Snow Leopard conservation in India:**
- India has been conserving snow leopard and its habitat through **the Project Snow Leopard (PSL)**.
- India is also party to **the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection (GSLEP) Programme since 2013**.
- For conservation, India has identified **three large landscapes, namely, Hemis-Spiti across Ladakh and**



Himachal Pradesh; Nanda Devi – Gangotri in Uttarakhand; and Khangchendzonga – Tawang across Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

- **Project Snow Leopard (PSL)** was launched in 2009 to promote an inclusive and participatory approach to conserve snow leopards and their habitat.
- **Snow Leopard** is in the list of 21 critically endangered species for **the recovery programme of the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/25/project-snow-leopard/>

186. Consider the following statements:

1. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is an intergovernmental organization with a membership of more than 100 Member States.
2. India Meteorological Department is one of the six Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres of the World Meteorological Organisation.

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 **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)** is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for promoting international cooperation on atmospheric science, climatology, hydrology and geophysics.
 - **The WMO is made up of 193 countries and territories**, and facilitates the "free and unrestricted" exchange of data, information, and research between the respective meteorological and hydrological institutions of its members.
- **IMD** is also one of the **six Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres** of the World Meteorological Organisation.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/25/india-launches-flash-flood-guidance-services-for-south-asia/>

187. Which of the following gas/compound is the biggest overall contributor to the greenhouse effect?

- (a) Carbon dioxide
- (b) Water vapour
- (c) Methane
- (d) Oxides of Nitrogen



Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Water Vapour is the biggest overall contributor to the greenhouse effect** and humans are not directly responsible for emitting this gas in quantities sufficient to change its concentration in the atmosphere. However, CO₂ and other greenhouse gases is increasing the amount of water vapour in the air by boosting the rate of evaporation.
- Unlike CO₂, which can persist in the air for centuries, water vapour cycles through the atmosphere quickly, evaporating from the oceans and elsewhere before coming back down as rain or snow.

Refer:

<https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/climatescience/climatesciencenarratives/its-water-vapor-not-the-co2.html>

188. Which of the following methods is/are Geo-Engineering technique?

1. Copy a Volcano
2. Seed the Sea with iron
3. Whiten the clouds with wind-powered ships
4. Build fake trees

Select the correct answer using the code given below

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **GEO-ENGINEERING:**
- Geo-engineering primarily aims at modifying and cooling Earth's environment, defeating the environmental damage and ensuing climate changes to make the planet more inhabitable. Geoengineering, at this point, is still only a theoretical Concept
- Hoisting parasols, placing mirrors in space, whitening the stratosphere with sulfate aerosols, whitewashing building roofs to reflect sunlight or flinging iron filings into the ocean to promote carbon-gulping algae are some of the modes.
- 5 Big Plans to Stop Global Warming
 - Copy a Volcano
 - Shoot Mirrors Into Space
 - Seed the Sea with Iron
 - Whiten the Clouds with Wind-Powered Ships
 - Build Fake Trees



Refer:

<http://www.geoengineering.ox.ac.uk/www.geoengineering.ox.ac.uk/what-is-geoengineering/what-is-geoengineering/>

189. Consider the following statements regarding mechanisms initiated under Kyoto Flexible Market Protocol mechanisms

1. Joint Implementation (JI)
2. Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)
3. Emission Trading

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:

- **Flexible Market Mechanisms**
- This leads us to the second, the flexible market mechanisms of the KP, based on the trade of emissions permits. KP countries bound to targets have to meet them largely through domestic action— that is, to reduce their emissions onshore.
- But they can meet part of their targets through three “market-based mechanisms” that ideally encourage GHG abatement to start where it is most cost-effective— for example, in the developing world. Quite simply, it does not matter where emissions are reduced, as long as they are removed from the planet’s atmosphere.
- **The Kyoto Flexible Market Protocol mechanisms:**
 - Joint Implementation (JI)
 - The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)
 - Emission Trading

Refer: <https://unfccc.int/process/the-kyoto-protocol/mechanisms>

190. Consider the following statements regarding the mechanisms to reduce emissions forms

1. Electrostatic precipitator is used to remove over 90 per cent particulate matter present in the exhaust.
2. A scrubber can remove gases like oxides of sulfur.
3. Catalytic converters are used to convert unburnt hydrocarbons into carbon dioxide and water.

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:

- Smokestacks of thermal power plants, smelters and other industries release particulate and gaseous air pollutants together with harmless gases, such as nitrogen, oxygen, etc. These pollutants must be separated/ filtered out before releasing the harmless gases into the atmosphere.
- There are several ways of removing particulate matter; the most widely used of which is the electrostatic precipitator, which can remove over 99 per cent particulate matter present in the exhaust from a thermal power plant.
- A scrubber can remove gases like Sulphur dioxide. In a scrubber, the exhaust is passed through a spray of water or lime.
- Catalytic converters, having expensive metals namely platinum-palladium and rhodium as the catalysts, are fitted into automobiles for reducing emission of poisonous gases. As the exhaust passes through the catalytic converter, unburnt hydrocarbons are converted into carbon dioxide and water, and carbon monoxide and nitric oxide are changed to carbon dioxide and nitrogen gas, respectively.

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 26th-Oct-2020

191. Consider the following statements:

1. There is no evidence of dairy production was in place in the Indus Valley civilization.
2. Indus Valley people knew only copper and iron.

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 Indus valley people knew the use of copper, bronze, silver, gold but not iron. So, 2 is wrong.



- For the first time it's been proved scientifically that dairy production was in place in the Indus Valley civilization in 2500 BCE, and the earliest known evidence of dairy production.
 - The results were based on molecular chemical analysis of residue in shards of pottery found at the archaeological site of Kotada Bhadli located in Gujarat.
 - Of the 59 samples studied, 22 showed the presence of dairy lipids.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/26/evidence-of-dairy-production-in-the-indus-valley-civilisation/>

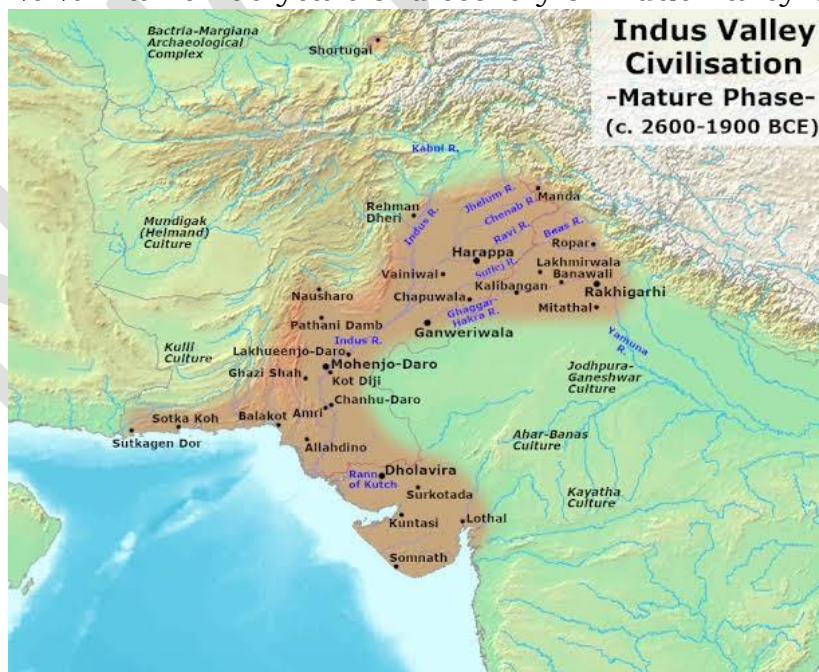
192. Which one of the following is not a Harappan site?

- (a) Chanhudaro
- (b) Kot Diji
- (c) Sohgauro
- (d) Desalpur

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- The **Sohgauro copper plate** inscription is an Indian copper plate inscription written in Prakrit in the Brahmi script. It was discovered in Sohgauro, a village on the banks of the Rapti River, about 20km south-east of Gorakhpur, in the Gorakhpur District, Uttar Pradesh.
- See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sohgauro_copper_plate_inscription
- 2020 marks 100 years of discovery of Indus Valley Civilisation.





Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/26/evidence-of-dairy-production-in-the-indus-valley-civilisation/>

193. Consider the following statements:

1. The 'Global Hunger Index' (GHI) is an annual peer-reviewed publication by Oxfam International.
 2. As per GHI scores, zero means no hunger at all.
- 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:

- It is **an annual peer-reviewed publication** by **Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe**.
- It **tracks hunger at global, regional and national levels**.
- It **uses four parameters to calculate its scores**:
 - **UNDERNOURISHMENT**: the share of the population that is undernourished (that is, whose caloric intake is insufficient).
 - **CHILD WASTING**: the share of children under the age of five who are wasted (that is, who have low weight for their height, reflecting acute undernutrition).
 - **CHILD STUNTING**: the share of children under the age of five who are stunted (that is, who have low height for their age, reflecting chronic undernutrition).
 - **CHILD MORTALITY**: the mortality rate of children under the age of five (in part, a reflection of the fatal mix of inadequate nutrition and unhealthy environments).
- **0 to 100 point scale**:
 - Zero means no hunger at all.
 - Countries scoring 9.9 and less are classified as having a low severity.
 - A score between 10 and 19.9 is considered moderate, that from 20 to 34.9 is serious, and a score of 35 or more is alarming.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/26/analysis-of-indias-performance-in-global-hunger-index-ghi/>

194. The 'Oslo Accords' was in news recently, which is related to:

- (a) Israel-Syria Conflict
- (b) Israel-Palestine Conflict



- (c) Saudi Arabia- Iran Conflict
(d) China- Afghanistan Conflict

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Israel-Palestine Conflict:**

- The Israeli-Palestinian conflict dates back to the end of the nineteenth century, primarily as a conflict over territory.
- After the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, the Holy Land was divided into three parts: The State of Israel, the West Bank (of the Jordan River), and the Gaza Strip.
- **The 1993 Oslo Accords mediated the conflict, to set up a framework for two state solution.** It recognized the Palestinian Authority tasked with limited self-governance of parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

1980-1981 Israel's history of annexations



East Jerusalem (1980)

Israel occupied East Jerusalem at the end of the 1967 War. In 1980, it passed a law making its annexation of East Jerusalem explicit.



Golan Heights (1981)

Israel unilaterally annexed the Syrian Golan Heights in 1981.

Annexation and territorial conquest are illegal under international law.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/26/u-s-allies-welcome-israel-sudan-deal/>

195. Consider the following statements about 'International Labour Organization' (ILO):

1. It was established as an agency for the League of Nations following World War II.
2. It became the first specialised agency of the United Nations (UN) in the year 1946.
3. It is the only tripartite U.N. agency.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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



(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **About ILO:**

- Established as **an agency for the League of Nations following World War I.**
- Established by **the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.**
- It became **the first specialised agency of the United Nations (UN) in the year 1946.**
- It got **the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969.**
- It is **the only tripartite U.N. agency.** It brings together governments, employers and workers.
- **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Key reports:**
 - World Employment and Social Outlook.
 - Global Wage Report.

The ILO's fundamental Conventions

These cover subjects considered to be fundamental principles and rights at work:

- **Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948**
- **Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949**
- **Forced Labour Convention, 1930**
- **Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957**
- **Minimum Age Convention, 1973**
- **Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999**
- **Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951**
- **Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/26/international-labour-organization/>



196. Which of the following is/are the technological applications of superconductivity?

1. magnetic resonance imaging
2. low-loss power cables
3. fast digital circuits
4. magnetic confinement fusion reactors

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **What are Superconductors?**

- Superconductors transmit electricity without resistance, allowing current to flow without any energy loss.
- When superconductivity was discovered in 1911, it was found only at temperatures close to absolute zero (-273.15°C).

- **Some of the technological applications of superconductivity include:**

- the production of sensitive magnetometers based on SQUIDs (superconducting quantum interference devices)
- fast digital circuits (including those based on Josephson junctions and rapid single flux quantum technology),
- powerful superconducting electromagnets used in maglev trains, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) machines, magnetic confinement fusion reactors (e.g. tokamaks), and the beam-steering and focusing magnets used in particle accelerators
- low-loss power cables
- RF and microwave filters (e.g., for mobile phone base stations, as well as military ultra-sensitive/selective receivers)
- fast fault current limiters
- high sensitivity particle detectors, including the transition edge sensor, the superconducting bolometer, the superconducting tunnel junction detector, the kinetic inductance detector, and the superconducting nanowire single-photon detector
- railgun and coilgun magnets
- electric motors and generators



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/26/first-room-temperature-superconductor/>

197. Consider the following statements about Himalayan brown bears:

1. It is the largest carnivore in the highlands of Himalayas.
2. It is naturally found in India only.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Also known as **Himalayan red bear, isabelline bear or Dzu-Teh**.
- It is the **largest carnivore** in the highlands of Himalayas.
- It is found in 23 protected areas including Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir.
- **IUCN Status:**
 - While the brown bear as a species is classified as Least Concern by the IUCN, this subspecies is highly endangered and populations are dwindling. It is Endangered in the Himalayas and Critically Endangered in Hindu Kush.
- **Why in News?**
 - A recent study on the Himalayan brown bear has predicted a significant reduction in suitable habitat and biological corridors of the species due to climate change, prompting scientists to suggest an adaptive spatial planning of the protected area network in the western Himalayas for conserving the species.





Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/26/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-26-october-2020/>

198. The Mount Girnar is situated in:

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Mount Girnar:**
- **Lord Dattatreya** performed penance at the top of the hill.
- Also a kshetra where **22nd Tirthankar Lord Neminath attained Nirvana.**
- Located near Junagadh in Junagadh district, **Gujarat.**
- **Why in News?**
- A 2.3-km-long ropeway project was recently launched by PM Modi on Mount Girnar in Junagadh city.
- The ropeway project is being touted as **the longest temple ropeway in Asia.**
- The ropeway has been developed by **Usha Breco Limited** at an investment of ₹130 crore.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/26/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-26-october-2020/>

199. Consider the following statements:

1. Asiatic lion is naturally found in India only.
2. Double-humped camel is naturally found in India only.
3. One-horned rhinoceros is naturally found in India only.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- S1: The Asiatic lion's range is restricted to the Gir National Park and environs in the Indian state of Gujarat.
- S2: The Bactrian camel (*Camelus bactrianus*) is a large, even-toed ungulate native to the steppes of Central Asia.
- S3: The one-horned rhinoceros is native to the Indian subcontinent (not only India). The Indian rhinoceros once ranged throughout the



entire stretch of the Indo-Gangetic Plain, but excessive hunting and agricultural development reduced their range drastically to 11 sites in northern India and southern Nepal.

Source: UPSC CSE 2019

200. In the context of which of the following do some scientists suggest the use of cirrus cloud thinning technique and the injection of sulphate aerosol into stratosphere?

- (a) Creating the artificial rains in some regions
- (b) Reducing the frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones
- (c) Reducing the adverse effects of solar wind on the Earth
- (d) Reducing the global warming

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- The ability of stratospheric sulfate aerosols to create a global dimming effect has made them a possible candidate for use in solar radiation management climate engineering projects to limit the effect and impact of climate change due to rising levels of greenhouse gases. Delivery of precursor sulfide gases such as sulfuric acid, hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) or sulfur dioxide (SO₂) by artillery, aircraft and balloons has been proposed.
- Cirrus cloud thinning is a proposed form of climate engineering. Cirrus clouds are high cold ice that, like other clouds, both reflect sunlight and absorb warming infrared radiation. However, they differ from other types of clouds in that, on average, infrared absorption outweighs sunlight reflection, resulting in a net warming effect on the climate. Therefore, thinning or removing these clouds would reduce their heat trapping capacity, resulting in a cooling effect on Earth's climate.
- See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cirrus_cloud_thinning and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stratospheric_aerosol_injection

Source: UPSC CSE 2019

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 27th-Oct-2020

201. With reference to Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020, Consider the following statements:

1. It seeks to extend the upper limit for permitting abortions from 24 weeks to 26 under special circumstances.



2. The Bill proposes requirement of opinion of one registered medical practitioner (RMP) for termination of pregnancy up to 20 weeks of gestation.

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 **Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020**, which seeks to amend the MTP Act, 1971, was passed in Lok Sabha recently.
- **Key changes:**
 - It seeks to **extend the upper limit for permitting abortions from 20 weeks to 24 under special circumstances.**
 - **The “special categories of women” include** rape survivors, victims of incest, the differently abled and minors.
 - The Bill proposes requirement of opinion of one **registered medical practitioner (RMP) for termination** of pregnancy up to 20 weeks of gestation.
 - It also provides for **the requirement of opinion of two RMPs for termination of pregnancy of 20 to 24 weeks.**
 - **Constitution of a Medical Board:** Every state government is required to constitute a Medical Board. These Medical Boards will consist of the following members: (i) a gynaecologist, (ii) a paediatrician, (iii) a radiologist or sonologist, and (iv) any other number of members, as may be notified by the state government.
 - Under the Bill, if any pregnancy occurs as a result of failure of any device or method used by a woman or her partner to limit the number of children, such an unwanted pregnancy may constitute a grave injury to the mental health of the pregnant woman.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/27/why-women-in-poland-are-protesting-a-recent-court-ruling-on-abortions/>

202. Consider the following statements:

1. Coal sector was nationalized by the Government of India under Indira Gandhi.
2. Now, coal blocks are allocated on lottery basis.
3. Till recently, India imported coal to meet the shortages of domestic supply, but now India is self-sufficient in coal production.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- India's coal industry was predominantly driven by the private sector after Independence until the Indira Gandhi government decided to transfer all coal holdings to Coal India through the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973. See <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/editorial/canary-in-coal-mine/article22838759.ece>
- S2 is done on an auction basis. See <http://www.pib.nic.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1566734>
- India is still import-dependent for coal supply.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/27/coal-scam/>

203. Consider the following statements:

1. Poliomyelitis is an acute viral infection caused by RNA virus.
 2. India adopted pulse polio immunization in 1982.
 3. In 2014, India was declared polio-free after three years on zero cases.
- 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:

- **S1: Poliomyelitis is an acute viral infection caused by RNA virus (picornavirus).** It is primarily an infection of human alimentary tract but may infect central nervous system (1%).
 - In polio cases, the virus is excreted in the feces commonly for 2-3 weeks but sometimes as long as 3-4 months.
 - There are two very potent vaccines, oral polio vaccine (OPV), and injectable polio vaccine (IPV), available for polio. Both vaccines induce high immunity and have very few side effects.
- **S2: India adopted pulse polio immunization in 1995** and since then biannual National immunisation days (NIDs) using fixed site OPV vaccination has been conducted to supplement routine OPV vaccination. The eradication program in India is coordinated by National Polio Surveillance Project with combined efforts of Government of India and WHO.



- **S3: In January 2014, India was declared polio-free after three years on zero cases.** In 2018, there was a brief scare when some vials of the polio vaccine were found contaminated with the polio 2 virus that had been eradicated from the country in 1999. However, WHO quickly issued a statement saying that all vaccines used in the government programme in India were safe. The last case due to wild poliovirus in the country was detected on January 13, 2011.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/27/world-polio-day/>

204. Recently, India signed a deal known as 'Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial cooperation' (BECA) with which of the following countries?

- (a) Russia
- (b) Japan
- (c) The United Kingdom
- (d) The United States of America

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- After LEMOA and COMCASA, New Delhi and Washington have signed Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial cooperation (BECA).
- **What is BECA?**
 - This agreement would facilitate exchange of geospatial information between India and United States for both military and civilian use.
- **Significance and benefits for India from BECA:**
 - BECA will allow India to use US expertise on geospatial intelligence and to enhance military accuracy of automated hardware systems and weapons like cruise, ballistic missiles and drones.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/27/basic-exchange-and-cooperation-agreement-for-geo-spatial-cooperation-beca/>

205. Consider the following statements:

1. Plasma is the liquid portion of blood.
2. Plasma carries water, salts and enzymes in the human body.

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 Plasma in Blood?**

- Plasma is the liquid portion of blood. About 55% of our blood is plasma, and the remaining 45% are red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets that are suspended in the plasma.
- Plasma is about 92% water. It also contains 7% vital proteins such as albumin, gamma globulin and anti-hemophilic factor, and 1% mineral salts, sugars, fats, hormones and vitamins.

- **Plasma serves four important functions in our bodies:**

- Helps maintain blood pressure and volume.
- Supply critical proteins for blood clotting and immunity.
- Carries electrolytes such as sodium and potassium to our muscles.
- Helps to maintain a proper pH balance in the body, which supports cell function.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/27/the-plasma-therapy-debate/>

206. Recently, our scientists have discovered a new and distinct species of fish which looks like a dragon, swims like an eel, and has remained hidden for a hundred million years. In which part of India has it been discovered?

- (a) Andaman Islands
- (b) Tropical rain forests of northeast
- (c) Western Ghats – Sri Lanka Hotspot
- (d) Indo-Burma region

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **Aenigmachanna gollum:**

- It belongs to an old family of fish, called **dragon snakeheads**.
- It lives in **underground aquifers**.
- The name has been inspired from the character **Gollum**, who always stays underground, in **the movie 'Lord of the Rings'**.
- It has been spotted recently in **Kerala**.
- The scientists came to know about the fish through social media.
- It is assumed that **they originated in the Gondwanaland** which later split into the continents of Asia and Africa.
- The researchers say that the area where Aenigmachanna was collected is part of **the Western Ghats – Sri Lanka Hotspot** — which is among the richest biodiversity hotspots in the world.



Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/27/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-27-october-2020/>

207. Consider the following pairs

Towns sometimes mentioned	Country in news
1. Oaxaca	Mexico
2. Beirut	Yemen
3. Mecca	Saudi Arabia
4. Mazar-i-sharif	Iran

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Oaxaca Khadi:**

- It is **the khadi being woven in Oaxaca, a place in Mexico**, about which PM Modi mentioned in **Mann ki Baat**.
- Khadi reached this place after a local resident became influenced by a film on **Mahatma Gandhi**.



- **Places in News- Mecca:**

- Mecca reopens for pilgrimage.
- Where is it located?



- It is the holiest city in Islam and the capital of the Makkah Province of Saudi Arabia.
- It is located in the Hejaz region, a 200 km (124 mi) wide strip of mountains separating the Nafud desert from the Red Sea.



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



- **Afghan cities of Mazar-e-Sharif and Herat** have been connected directly by air to Delhi. [source](#)



Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/27/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-27-october-2020/>

208. Atal Innovation Mission is set up under the

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **India–Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE):**
- Launched by **Atal Innovation Mission** in association with **CSIRO**.
- I-ACE will focus **on identification and development of innovative technology solutions** by bright-minded students, startups and MSMEs of both nations.
 - **The Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is a flagship initiative set up by the NITI Aayog** to promote innovation and entrepreneurship across the length and breadth of the country.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/27/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-27-october-2020/>

209. Consider the following statements regarding protection of Tigers

1. The All India tiger estimation is carried out once in every five years.
2. 'Project Tiger' is a Central Sector Scheme for providing funding support to tiger range States and for in-situ conservation of tigers in designated tiger reserves.

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:

- **The All India tiger estimation is carried out once in every four years.** Based on the Tiger Task Force approval, a refined double sampling method using camera traps in a statistical framework was first used in 2006 country level tiger assessment. The second round of such an assessment was completed in 2010.
- **'Project Tiger' is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Environment, Forests and Climate Change, providing funding support to tiger range States, for in-situ conservation of tigers**



in designated tiger reserves, and has put the endangered tiger on an assured path of recovery by saving it from extinction, as revealed by the recent findings of the All India tiger estimation using the refined methodology.

Refer: <https://ntca.gov.in/>

210. Consider the following statements regarding Forest-PLUS 2.0

1. It was launched by UNEP and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
2. It is a five-year programme that focuses on developing tools and techniques to bolster ecosystem management and harnessing ecosystem services in forest landscape management.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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


Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Forest-PLUS 2.0**
 - **US Agency for International Development (USAID) and India's Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) have launched Forest-PLUS 2.0.**
 - What is it?
 - Forest-PLUS 2.0 is a **five-year programme** initiated in December 2018 that focuses on developing tools and techniques to **bolster ecosystem management** and **harnessing ecosystem services in forest landscape management.**
- Forest-PLUS 2.0 comprises pilot project in **three landscapes — Gaya in Bihar, Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala and Medak in Telangana.** The choice of these sites was driven by the contrast in their landscapes – Bihar is a forest deficit area, Telangana is a relatively drier area where there is ample scope for community livelihood enhancement and Kerala is rich in biodiversity.
- **The targets of this set are:**
 - 1,20,000 hectares of land under improved management.
 - New, inclusive economic activity worth \$12 million.
 - Measurable benefits accrued to 800,000 households.
 - Three incentive mechanisms demonstrated in managing landscapes for ecosystem services.

Refer: <https://www.usaid.gov/India/partnership-sustainable-forests-india>



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RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 28th-Oct-2020

211. Land titles (a document that determines the ownership of land or an immovable property) in India are unclear due to which of the following reasons?

1. legacy issues of the zamindari system
2. gaps in the legal framework
3. poor administration of land records
4. states reorganisation

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Land as an asset is unique because it is immovable, its value depends on its location, and with growing population, its demand keeps increasing, while its supply is limited.** Access to land (or land rights) has a wide-ranging impact on livelihoods, industrial, economic, and social growth. It has been noted that people with extensive rights to land are better off than the landless, due to better access to markets and other economic opportunities that come with land rights.
- **Land ownership is broadly defined by the access to a land title.** Land title is a document that determines the ownership of land or an immovable property. Having a clear land title protects the rights of the title holder against other claims made by anyone else to the property. In India, land ownership is determined through various records such as sale deeds that are registered, property tax documents, government survey records, etc.
- However, **land titles in India are unclear due to various reasons such as legacy issues of the zamindari system, gaps in the legal framework, and poor administration of land records.** This has led to several legal disputes related to land ownership, and affected the agriculture and real estate sectors. Such issues have further highlighted the importance of having clear land titles, and a



well organised land records system. We discuss a few such issues in the following section.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/28/now-outsiders-can-buy-land-in-jk/>

212. Consider the following statements:

1. The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law is a United Nations specialized agency in the field of international trade law.
2. Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) is a not-for-profit international arbitration organisation based in Singapore.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Stat1: The **United Nations Commission on International Trade Law** is the **core legal body of the United Nations system** in the field of international trade law. A legal body with universal membership specializing in commercial law reform worldwide for over 50 years, UNCITRAL's business is the modernization and harmonization of rules on international business.
- Stat2: **Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC)** is a not-for-profit international arbitration organisation based in **Singapore**, which administers arbitrations under its own rules of arbitration and the **United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Arbitration Rules**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/28/singapore-international-arbitration-centre-siac/>

213. Consider the following statements about the European Union (EU):

1. EU is a group of 60 countries
2. In 2012, the EU was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

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 the European Union:**



- It is **a group of 27 countries** that operate as a cohesive economic and political block.
- The EU has often been described as **a sui generis political entity** (without precedent or comparison).
- **Origin of the European Union:**
 - Despite **not being officially formed until 1993**, the **European Union's** foundations actually reach further back to **1957**, when **the European Economic Community was established**.
 - The EEC was formed out of a previous group called **the European Coal and Steel Community – which had its own start in 1951**.
 - In 1993, the EEC morphed into the European Union following **the new Maastricht Treaty** (also known as the Treaty on European Union).
 - Additionally, **the Treaty of Lisbon**, enacted in 2009, gave the European Union more broad powers that included being authorized to sign international treaties, increase border patrol, and other security and enforcement provisions.
- In 2012, the EU was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for advancing the causes of peace, reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/28/the-european-union/>

214. With reference to 'Genomics for Public Health in India' (IndiGen) programme, consider the following statements:

1. IndiGen programme aims to undertake "whole genome sequencing" of all Indians.
2. IndiGen is funded by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) 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:

- S1: **The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** recently announced the conclusion of a six-month exercise (from April 2019) of conducting a **"whole-genome sequence" of a 1,008 Indians**. The project is part of a programme called **"IndiGen"** and is also seen as a precursor to a much larger exercise involving other government departments to map a larger swathe of the population in the country. Project proponents say



this will widen public understanding in India about genomes and the information that genes hide about one's susceptibility to disease.

- S2: IndiGen is **funded by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** India through grant MLP1809

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/28/indigen-program/>

215. Which of the following **pairs (Desert: Country)** not correctly matched?

- Gobi Desert: Mongolia
- Great Victoria Desert: Argentina
- Takla Makan Desert: China
- Mojave Desert: United States

Ans: (b)

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

- Gobi Desert: Mongolia and China
- **Great Victoria Desert: Australia**
- Takla Makan Desert: China
- Mojave Desert: United States
- Context:
 - Korean Central Television (KCTV) recently warned that a cloud of yellow dust would blow in from China.
 - North Korean authorities have warned that this dust could bring Covid-19 with it.
- **What is Yellow Dust?**
 - It is actually **sand from deserts in China and Mongolia** that high speed surface winds carry into both North and South Korea during specific periods every year.
 - The sand particles tend to mix with other toxic substances such as industrial pollutants, as a result of which the 'yellow dust' is known to cause a number of respiratory ailments.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/28/yellow-dust/>

216. With reference to Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, consider the following statements:

- Under UAPA, both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged.
- The Act empowers the Director General of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property when the case is investigated by the said agency.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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



Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **About the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act:**
 - Passed in 1967, the law aims at **effective prevention of unlawful activities associations in India.**
 - The Act assigns **absolute power to the central government**, by way of which if the Centre deems an activity as unlawful then it may, by way of an Official Gazette, declare it so.
 - It has death penalty and life imprisonment as highest punishments.
- **Key points:**
 - Under UAPA, **both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged.**
 - It will be **applicable to the offenders in the same manner, even if crime is committed on a foreign land, outside India.**
 - Under the UAPA, **the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in maximum 180 days after the arrests and the duration can be extended further after intimating the court.**
- **As per amendments of 2019:**
 - The Act empowers **the Director General of National Investigation Agency (NIA)** to grant approval of seizure or attachment of property when the case is investigated by the said agency.
 - The Act empowers the officers of the NIA, of the rank of Inspector or above, to investigate cases of terrorism in addition to those conducted by the DSP or ACP or above rank officer in the state.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/28/unlawful-activities-prevention-act-1967/>

217. Kuchipudi is the dance form of which of the following state?

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Odisha

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Parampara Series — National Festival of Music and Dance:**
 - The annual Parampara Series organised by Natya Tarangini in partnership with the United Nations will be held online this year.



- Background:
- 'Natya Tarangini' – Performing Arts Centre was started with an idea to globally popularize Kuchipudi style of Indian classical dance.
- Established in 1976 by Padmabhushan Awardees Drs. Raja and Radha Reddy and Kaushalya Reddy.
- Natya Tarangini has today evolved from a **simple Kuchipudi dance** school into a world-class performing arts centre in Delhi.
- **Kuchipudi (Southern India)**
 - Kuchipudi, one of the major dance forms of India was originated from Andhra Pradesh, where it grew largely as a product of Bhakti movement beginning in the 7th Century AD.
 - Kuchipudi derives its name from the village Kuchelapuram, where it was nurtured by great scholars and artists who built up the repertoire and refined the dance technique.
 - The Kuchipudi is a dance-drama of Nritta, Nritya and Natya. The Nritta consists of teermanams and jatis, the Nritya of Sabdams, and the Natya of acting with Mudras for the songs. Nritta encompasses steps and movements in the form of patterns of dance which, though ornate in themselves, have no meaning to convey.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/28/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-28-october-2020/>

218. The Instrument of Accession was a legal document first introduced by:

- (a) Indian Council Act of 1909
- (b) Government of India Act 1919
- (c) Government of India Act 1935
- (d) Indian Independence Act 1947

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- The **Instrument of Accession** was a legal document **first introduced by the Government of India Act 1935 and used in 1947** to enable each of the rulers of the princely states under British paramountcy to join one of the new dominions of India or Pakistan created by the Partition of British India.
- **Why is October 27 celebrated as Infantry Day?**
 - It was on this day that first Indian infantry soldiers took part in an action to defend Indian territory from external aggression.



- On October 26, 1947 the then Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir, Hari Singh, signed the **instrument of accession**, making his state a part of Indian dominion, and thus paving the day for Indian troops to be deployed in the state to fight against Pakistani invaders.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/28/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-28-october-2020/>

219. Consider the following statements regarding Lala Lajpat Rai:

1. Lala Lajpat Rai established the Dayanand Anglo-Vedic School in Lahore.
2. He became a follower of Dayanand Saraswati, the founder of the Arya Samaj.

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:

- **Lala Lajpat Rai was popularly called Punjab Kesari, Rai was born in Punjab's Moga in 1865. Early in life, he became a follower of Dayanand Saraswati, the founder of the Arya Samaj.**
- **He joined the Indian National Congress at the age of 16. In 1885, Rai established the Dayanand Anglo-Vedic School in Lahore.**
- He founded the Indian Home Rule League of America in New York City in 1917. Rai was elected President of the Indian National Congress during its Special Session in Kolkata in 1920, which saw the launch of Mahatma Gandhi's Non-cooperation Movement.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/01/28/lala-lajpat-rai-2/>

220. Which of the following is the best habitat/site to re-introduce cheetah in India?

- (a) Nauradehi
- (b) Bandipur
- (c) Nandadevi
- (d) Dachigam

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- African cheetahs, to be translocated in India from Namibia, will be kept at **Nauradehi wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh**, the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)



- Nauradehi is one of the most suitable area for the cheetahs as its forests are not very dense to restrict the fast movement of Cheetahs.

Refer: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/cheetahs-from-namibia-to-be-kept-at-nauradehi-sanctuary-ntca-tells-sc/articleshow/68114800.cms?from=mdr>



RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 29th-Oct-2020

221. Consider the following statements:

1. In order to set up a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), a motion is passed in one House and supported by the other House.
2. The mandate of a JPC is limited to the scrutiny of government finances.

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: A **Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)** is an **ad-hoc body**. It is set up for a **specific object and duration**. Joint committees are **set up by a motion passed in one house of Parliament and agreed to by the other**. The details regarding membership and subjects are also decided by Parliament.
- S2: The **mandate of a JPC depends on the motion constituting it**. This need not be limited to the scrutiny of government finances.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/29/what-is-a-joint-parliamentary-committee-jpc/>

222. The 'Annual State of Education Report' (ASER) survey has been conducted by which one of the following?

- (a) National Sample Survey Office
- (b) National Council of Educational Research and Training



(c) All India Survey on Higher Education

(d) NGO Pratham

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Findings of **the Annual State of Education Report (ASER) survey** conducted in **September**.
- The survey provides **a glimpse into the levels of learning loss that students in rural India are suffering, with varying levels of access to technology, school and family resources, resulting in a digital divide in education.**
- **About ASER:**
 - ASER is **a nationwide survey of rural education and learning outcomes in terms of reading and arithmetic skills.**
 - It has been **conducted by the NGO Pratham** for the last 15 years. This year, the survey was conducted via phone calls.
- **Key findings- impact of Covid- 19 Pandemic:**
 - About **20% of rural children have no textbooks at home.** In Andhra Pradesh, less than 35% of children had textbooks. More than 98% had textbooks in West Bengal, Nagaland and Assam.
 - In the week of the survey, **about one in three rural children had done no learning activity at all.**
 - About two in three had **no learning material or activity given by their school that week,** and only one in 10 had **access to live online classes.**
 - **3% of rural children aged 6-10 years had not yet enrolled in school this year,** in comparison to just 1.8% in 2018.
 - Enrolment patterns also show **a slight shift toward government schools,** with private schools seeing a drop in enrolment in all age groups.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/29/annual-state-of-education-report-aser-survey/>

223. Consider the following statements about the 'Central Information Commission' (CIC):

1. It was established by the Central Government under the provisions of Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.
2. The jurisdiction of the Commission extends over all Central Public Authorities.

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 Central Information Commission** has been constituted with effect from 12-10-2005 under the **Right to Information Act, 2005**.
- The **Chief Information Commissioner** heads the Central Information Commission.
- It hears appeals from information-seekers who have not been satisfied by the public authority and also addresses major issues concerning the RTI Act.
- CIC submits an **annual report to the Union government** on the implementation of the provisions of RTI Act.
- The **jurisdiction** of the Commission extends over **all Central Public Authorities**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/29/it-ministry-working-to-comply-with-cic-orders-on-aarogya-setu/>

224. Consider the following statements:

1. 'Green' crackers have a small shell size compared to traditional crackers.
2. 'Green' crackers release water vapour and allow the dust particles to rise.

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:

- In October 2018, the Supreme Court allowed bursting of low-emission crackers relaxing the 'complete ban' issued in 2017. Such 'green' crackers were researched and developed by scientists at **CSIR-NEERI** as per the court's directions.
- **'Green' crackers have a small shell size compared to traditional crackers.** They are produced using less harmful raw materials and have additives which reduce emissions by suppressing dust.
- Green crackers **don't contain banned chemicals** such as lithium, arsenic, barium and lead. They are called **Safe Water Releaser (SWAS)**, **Safe Thermite Cracker (STAR)** and **Safe Minimal Aluminium (SAFAL)** crackers.
- Green crackers **release water vapour** and **don't allow the dust particles to rise.** They are designed to have 30% less particulate matter pollution.



- QR codes on green cracker packages will help consumers scan and identify counterfeits.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/29/govt-green-lights-green-firecrackers-this-year/>

225. Which of the following statements is/are correct about 'SOFIA' (modified Boeing 747SP jetliner)?

- (a) It flies at altitudes up to 5,000 km
- (b) It is a joint project of NASA and ESA
- (c) Its mission is to look at dark and distant objects
- (d) All of the above

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **About SOFIA:**

- SOFIA is **a modified Boeing 747SP jetliner** that flies at altitudes up to **45,000 feet**.
- It is **a joint project of NASA and the German Aerospace Center**.
- It has an infrared camera that picks up the wavelength unique to water molecules.
- SOFIA's mission is **to look at dark and distant objects**. The Moon, on the other hand, is so close and bright that it fills the SOFIA guide camera's entire field of view.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/29/water-on-the-moon/>

226. Recently, which of the following has entered into a strategic partnership to develop India's fledgling international financial services center GIFT City?

- (a) France
- (b) Germany
- (c) Russia
- (d) United Kingdom

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **U.K. to partner for developing GIFT City:**

- The United Kingdom has entered into a strategic partnership to develop India's fledgling international financial services centre **GIFT City**.
- It has also agreed to set up **a new Fund of Funds** to be managed by the State Bank of India (SBI) group in order to route the U.K.'s future capital investments into India.
- **GIFT** (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City), located in Gandhinagar is **India's first International Financial Services Centre**.



Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/29/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-29-october-2020/>

227. The 'National Program and Project Management Policy Framework' (NPMPPF) was launched by:

- (a) ISRO
- (b) DRDO
- (c) CSIR
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **National Program and Project Management Policy Framework' (NPMPPF):**
- Launched by **NITI Aayog and Quality Council of India (QCI).**
- The framework envisages to bring radical reforms in the way infrastructure projects are executed in India.
- **It has an action plan to:**
 - Adopt a program and project management approach to infra development.
 - Institutionalize and promote the profession of program and project management and build a workforce of such professionals.
 - Enhance institutional capacity and capability of professionals.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/29/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-29-october-2020/>

228. Consider the following statements regarding the India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO):

1. The project is jointly funded by Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India.
2. The project includes the construction of an underground laboratory and associated surface facilities at Pottipuram in Bodi West hills of Tamil Nadu.

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:



- The **India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO) Project** is a multi-institutional effort aimed at building a world-class underground laboratory with a rock cover of approx. 1200 m for non-accelerator based high energy and nuclear physics research in India. **The project is jointly funded by Dept. of Atomic Energy (DAE) and the Dept. of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India.**
- The project includes:
 - Construction of an underground laboratory and associated surface facilities at Pottipuram in Bodi West hills of Theni District of Tamil Nadu.
 - construction of an Iron Calorimeter (ICAL) detector for studying neutrinos and setting up of an Inter Institutional Centre for High Energy Physics (IICHEP) at Madurai, for the operation and maintenance of the underground laboratory, human resource development and detector R&D along with its applications.

Refer: <http://www.ino.tifr.res.in/ino/>

229. Victoria Falls is located between:

- Zambia and Angola
- Zambia and Zimbabwe
- Zimbabwe and South Africa
- Botswana and Namibia

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Victoria Falls is a waterfall on the Zambezi River** in southern Africa, which provides habitat for several unique species of plants and animals. It is located on the **border between Zambia and Zimbabwe** and is considered to be one of the world's largest waterfalls due to its width of 1,708 metres. **It is a World Heritage Site.**





Refer: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/dec/07/victoria-falls-dries-to-a-trickle-after-worst-drought-in-a-century>

230. Consider the following statements regarding the phenomena of Western Disturbances:

1. It is an extra tropical storm originating in the Mediterranean region that brings sudden winter rain to the north-western parts of the Indian sub-continent.
2. This is beneficial for Rabi crops.

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: **What is Western Disturbance?**

- It is **an extra tropical storm originating in the Mediterranean region that brings sudden winter rain to the north-western parts of the Indian sub-continent**. It is a **non-monsoonal precipitation pattern driven by the westerlies**.
- Extra tropical storms are **a global phenomenon with moisture usually carried in the upper atmosphere, unlike their tropical counterparts where the moisture is carried in the lower atmosphere**. In the case of the Indian subcontinent, moisture is sometimes shed as rain when the storm system encounters the Himalayas.
- **Formation:**
 - Western Disturbance originates in the Mediterranean Sea as extra-tropical cyclones. A high-pressure area over Ukraine and neighborhood consolidates, causing the intrusion of cold air from Polar Regions towards an area of relatively warmer air with high moisture. This generates favorable conditions for cyclogenesis in the upper atmosphere, which promotes the formation of an eastward-moving extra tropical depression. They gradually travel across the middle-east from Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan to enter the Indian sub-continent.



- **Impact:**

- Plays important role in bringing moderate to heavy rain in low-lying areas and heavy snow to mountainous areas of the Indian Subcontinent.
- This **disturbance is usually associated** with **cloudy sky, higher night temperatures and unusual rain**. This precipitation has great importance in agriculture, particularly for the Rabi crops. Wheat among them is one of the most important crops, which helps to meet India's food security.
- Excessive precipitation due to this disturbance can cause crop damage, landslides, floods and avalanches. Over the Indo-Gangetic plains, it occasionally bring cold wave conditions and dense fog. These conditions remain stable until disturbed by another western disturbance. When western disturbances move across northwest India before the onset of monsoon, a temporary advancement of monsoon current appears over the region.

Refer: <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/western-disturbance-to-bring-rain/article30271589.ece>

**RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 30th-Oct-2020**

231. Consider the following statements:

1. A proclamation imposing President's Rule must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within one month from the date of its issue.
2. President's Rule can be extended for a maximum period of three years with the approval of the Parliament, every six months.

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: A proclamation imposing Presidents Rule must be approved by both the Houses of Parliament within two months from the date of its issue.** However, if the proclamation of Presidents Rule is issued at a time when the Lok Sabha has been dissolved or the dissolution of the Lok Sabha takes place during the period of two months without approving the proclamation, then the proclamation survives until 30 days from the first sitting of the Lok Sabha after its reconstitution, provided the Rajya Sabha approves it in the meantime.
- **S2: If approved by both the Houses of Parliament, the President's Rule continues for six months.** It can be extended for a maximum period of three years with the approval of the Parliament, every six months. However, if the dissolution of the Lok Sabha takes place during the period of six months without approving the further continuation of the Presidents Rule, then the proclamation survives until 30 days from the first sitting of the Lok Sabha after its reconstitution, provided the Rajya Sabha has in the meantime approved its continuance.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/30/imposition-of-article-356/>

232. Consider the following statements about the 'Central Vigilance Commission' (CVC):

1. Its establishment was recommended by the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption.
2. CVC is neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body.
3. The CVC is not controlled by any Ministry/Department.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 2 and 3



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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- S1: **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** is the main agency for preventing corruption in the Central government. It was established in 1964 by an executive resolution of the Central government. Its establishment was recommended by the **Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption**.
- S2: originally the CVC was neither a constitutional body nor a statutory body. Later, in 2003, the **Parliament enacted a law conferring statutory status on the CVC**.
- S3: The **CVC is not controlled by any Ministry/Department**. It is an independent body which is only responsible to the Parliament.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/30/central-vigilance-commission/>

233. The 'Line of Actual Control' (LAC) is a notional demarcation line that separates Indian-controlled territory from:

- (a) Pakistan Occupied Kashmir
- (b) Chinese controlled territory
- (c) Nepal controlled territory
- (d) Sri Lanka controlled territory

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- The **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** – the line that separates Indian and Chinese troops since 1962 – generally runs along the land except for the width of **Pangong Tso**. Here, it runs through water.
- Both sides have marked their areas announcing which side belongs to which country.
- **India controls about 45 km stretch of the Pangong Tso** and China the rest.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/30/lac-situation-critical-former-mp/>

234. Consider the following statements about Pangong Lake:

1. It is an endorheic lake
2. It was designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention

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: Pangong Lake is an **endorheic lake** spanning eastern Ladakh and West Tibet.
 - **endorheic lake** is a drainage basin that normally retains water and allows no outflow to other external bodies of water, such as rivers or oceans
- S2: The lake is **in the process of being identified under the Ramsar Convention** as a wetland of international importance. This will be the first trans-boundary wetland in South Asia under the convention.
- **About Pangong Tso:**
 - Pangong Tso literally translates into a “conclave lake”.
 - Situated at over 14,000 feet, the Lake is about 135 km long.
 - It is formed from Tethys geosyncline.
 - The Karakoram Mountain range ends at the north bank of Pangong Tso. Its southern bank too has high broken mountains sloping towards Spangur Lake in the south.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/30/lac-situation-critical-former-mp/>

235. Consider the following statements:

1. The jute plant needs a plain alluvial soil and standing water.
2. The first jute mill in India was set up in the year 1855 in Bombay.
3. India is the world's largest producer of raw jute and jute goods.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- S2: The word jute was first published by Roxburg, the then Superintendent of Botanical Garden, Shibpur, West Bengal in the year 1795, in his letter addressed to the Board of Directors of East India Company. **The first jute mill in India was set up in the year 1855 at Rishra, near Kolkata.**
- S1: Jute can grow in wide range of soil but **fertile loamy alluvial soil** is better suitable.
- S3: **India** is the **world's largest producer** of raw jute and jute goods.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/30/mandatory-packaging-in-jute-materials/>

236. Consider the following statements:

1. Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project was launched in 2012 by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) with assistance from World Bank.
2. India ranks third globally with more number of large dams in operation.
3. Hirakud Dam (Odisha) is the highest Dam in India.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- S2: **India ranks third globally** with 5334 large dams in operation and about 411 are under construction
- S1: **About DRIP:** The project was launched in 2012 by **Central Water Commission (CWC)** with assistance from **World Bank**.
 - The objectives of DRIP:
 - To improve the safety and operational performance of selected existing dams and associated appurtenances in a sustainable manner, and
 - To strengthen the dam safety institutional setup of participating States / Implementing Agencies.
- **Highest Dam in India- Tehri Dam(Uttarakhand)**
- Longest Dam in India- Hirakud Dam (Odisha)
- Hirakud Dam (Odisha)- Kallanai Dam(Tamil Nadu)

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/30/dam-rehabilitation-and-improvement-project/>

237. Consider the following statements:

1. The Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) is a statutory body.
2. The EPCA is mandated to enforce Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in the National Capital Region and adjoining areas as per the pollution levels.

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 **Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority** (EPCA) was **not a statutory body but drew legitimacy from the Supreme Court**, which has been looking at cases of air pollution as part of the judgment in M C Mehta vs Union of India (1988).
- S2: EPCA is **Supreme Court mandated body tasked** with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in the National Capital Region. It is mandated to enforce the **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)** in the city as per the pollution levels.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/30/ordinance-for-setting-up-commission-to-manage-ncr-air-quality/>

238. Consider the following statements:

1. The eight core industries comprise more than 60% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
2. With reference to Index of Eight Core Industries, the Crude Oil has got more weightage than Steel.

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: **Core Sector Industries:**

- The eight core sector industries include coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity
- The eight core industries comprise **nearly 40% of the weight of items** included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- The eight Core Industries in decreasing order of their weightage: Refinery Products> Electricity> **Steel**> Coal> **Crude Oil**> Natural Gas> Cement> Fertilizers.
- Why in News?
 - Lowest core sector shrinking since March.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/30/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-30-october-2020/>

239. A credit derivative transaction where credit protection is bought and sold is an example of:

- (a) Currency exchange



- (b) Credit insurance
- (c) Credit default swap
- (d) Credit risk mitigation

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **Credit default swap:**

- It is an example of a credit derivative transaction where credit protection is bought and sold.
- **In a Credit Default Swap (CDS), one party agrees to pay another party periodic fixed payments in exchange for receiving 'credit event protection', in the form of a payment,** in the event that a third party or its obligations are subject to one or more pre-agreed adverse credit events over a pre-agreed time period.
- Typical credit events include bankruptcy, failure to pay, obligation acceleration, restructuring, and repudiation/moratorium.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/30/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-30-october-2020/>

240. Consider the following statements:

1. National Productivity Council of India (NPC) was set up by NITI Aayog.
2. NPC provides consultancy and training services to the Government and Public & Private sector organizations.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **National Productivity Council (NPC):**

- NPC has been granted **accreditation conforming to ISO 17020:2012** by **National Accreditation Board for Certification Body (NABCB), Quality Council of India (QCI)** for undertaking inspection and audit work in the area of Food Safety Audit and Scientific Storage of Agricultural Products.
- This accreditation is **valid for a period of three years.**
- **Implications:** This accreditation will enable it to undertake **Independent Third-Party Audits of Food Business Operators** including Food Storage Warehouses as per **Food Safety and Standards (Food Safety Auditing) Regulations, 2018 of FSSAI** as well as inspections of Warehouses as per **Warehousing Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) Rules, 2017.**
- **About NPC:**



- Established by **the Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, Government of India in 1958, it is an autonomous, multipartite, non-profit organization.
- Besides undertaking research in the area of productivity, NPC has been providing consultancy and training services in areas of Industrial Engineering, Agri-Business, Economic Services, Quality Management, Human Resources Management, Information Technology, Technology Management, Energy Management, Environmental Management etc., to the Government and Public & Private sector organizations.
- NPC is a constituent of the Tokyo-based **Asian Productivity Organisation (APO)**, an Intergovernmental Body, of which the Government of India is a founder member.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/30/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-30-october-2020/>

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 31st-Oct-2020

241. Consider the following statements:

1. Model Code of Conduct (MCC) was first introduced in the state assembly elections in Kerala in 1960.
2. The MCC is not enforceable by law.

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: According to the Press Information Bureau, a form of the **MCC was first introduced in the state assembly elections in Kerala in 1960**. It was a set of instructions to political parties regarding election meetings, speeches, slogans, etc. In the 1962 general elections to the Lok Sabha, the MCC was circulated to recognised parties, and state governments sought feedback from the parties. The MCC was largely followed by all parties in the 1962 elections and continued to be followed in subsequent general elections. In 1979, the Election Commission added a section to regulate the



‘party in power’ and prevent it from gaining an unfair advantage at the time of elections. In 2013, the Supreme Court directed the Election Commission to include guidelines regarding election manifestos, which it has included in the MCC for the 2014 general elections.

- S2: Is the Model Code of Conduct legally binding?
 - **The MCC is not enforceable by law.** However, certain provisions of the MCC may be enforced through invoking corresponding provisions in other statutes such as the Indian Penal Code, 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, and Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/31/who-is-a-star-campaigner-3/>

242. Consider the following statements:

As per the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013:

1. The Act covers the rights of all women working or visiting any workplace, in any capacity.
2. Every employer must constitute an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) at each office or branch with 20 or more employees.
3. For the ICC to act, it is compulsory that the victim must write a complaint.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- S1: **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace** (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act was passed in 2013.
 - An aggrieved victim is a woman “of any age whether employed or not”, who “alleges to have been subjected to any act of sexual harassment”.
 - The Act thus covers the **rights of all women** working or **visiting any workplace, in any capacity.**
- S2 and S3: Every employer must constitute an **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)** at each office or branch with **10 or more employees.**
- For the ICC to act, it is **not compulsory** that the **victim must write a complaint.**



- If the woman is unable to make a complaint on account of her “physical or mental incapacity or death or otherwise”, her legal heir may do so.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/31/new-wage-code-bars-bonus-for-those-facing-sex-abuse-charges/>

243. Consider the following statements about the Food Corporation of India (FCI):

1. It is a statutory body under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
 2. As per the new guidelines, it procures rice and wheat only
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- S1: The Food Corporation of India is an organization created and run by the Government of India. It is a **statutory body** under the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**
- S2: The Food Corporation of India procures Paddy, Wheat and Coarse grain from farmers through many routes like paddy purchase centres/mill levy/custom milling and stores them in depots refer: **Systems of procurement of grains**
<https://fci.gov.in/procurements.php?view=89>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/31/what-is-rural-development-fund/>

244. Consider the following statements about Olive ridley turtles:

1. The Olive ridley turtles are the smallest and least abundant of all sea turtles found in the world.
 2. They inhabit warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans.
- 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 Olive ridley turtles are **the smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world.**



- They **inhabit warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans.**
- These turtles, along with their cousin **the Kemps ridley turtle**, are best known for their unique mass nesting called **Arribada**, where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs.
- **Rushikulya rookery coast** in the Ganjam district of Odisha, **Gahirmatha beach** and the mouth of the Debi River, are the major nesting sites in Odisha.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/31/159873/>

245. Arrange the following rivers from North to South:

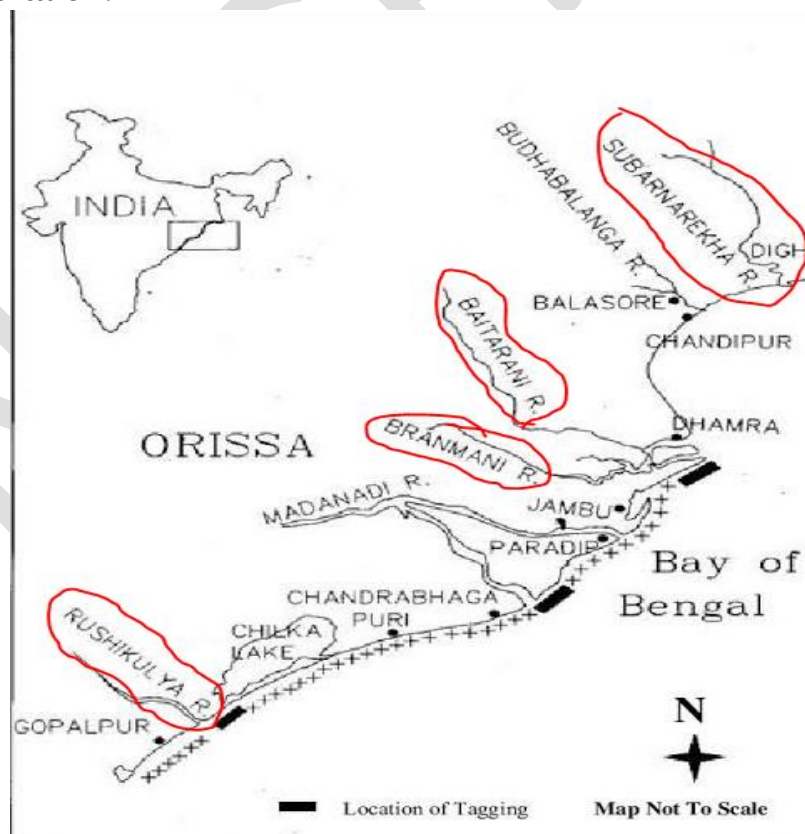
1. Subarnarekha River
2. Rushikulya River
3. Baitarani River
4. Brahmani River

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:





Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/31/159873/>

246. The 'Power' scheme was in news recently, is launched by:

- (a) Science and Engineering Research Board
- (b) The Energy and Resources Institute
- (c) National Institution for Transforming India
- (d) Coal India

Ans: (a)

Explanation: **Power scheme for women scientists:**

- **POWER-** Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research.
- It is a scheme **to mitigate gender disparity in science and engineering research funding** in various S&T programs in Indian academic institutions and R&D laboratories.
- Launched by **the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)**, a Statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- It will have two components namely: (1) SERB-POWER Fellowship; (2) SERB- POWER Research Grants.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/31/159873/>

247. Consider the following statements:

1. Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is an autonomous institution of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.
2. The national tiger census or the All India Tiger Estimation, is done by WII along with NTCA and state forest departments.

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 **Wildlife Institute of India (WII)**, an **autonomous institution** under the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate change, Government of India, was established in 1982.
- S2: **The national tiger census or the All India Tiger Estimation**, is done by WII along with NTCA and state forest departments.



Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/10/31/159873/>

248. Which of the following organizations release Global Microscope on Financial Inclusion Report?

- (a) International Monetary Fund
- (b) World Bank
- (c) OECD
- (d) The Economist Intelligence Unit

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- The **Economist Intelligence Unit** has released the 2019 edition of **Global Microscope on Financial Inclusion report**.
- The 2019 edition of Global Microscope report features 11 new gender focussed indicators that measure financial inclusion for both women as well as men.
- The Microscope report was first published in 2007 and was originally developed for countries in Latin American and Caribbean regions but in 2009 it was expanded into a global study.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/11/04/global-microscope-on-financial-inclusion-report/>

249. Consider the following statements regarding the Unified Payments Interface (UPI):

1. It was developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC).
2. It is based on the Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) platform.
3. Presently, accessing different bank accounts from single mobile application is not possible.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**
- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is a system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application (of any participating bank), merging several banking features, seamless fund routing & merchant payments into one hood.** It also caters to the “Peer to Peer” collect request which can be scheduled and paid as per requirement and convenience.
- **With the above context in mind, NPCI conducted a pilot launch with 21 member banks.**



- How is it unique?
 - **Immediate money transfer through mobile device round the clock 24*7 and 365 days.**
 - **Single mobile application for accessing different bank accounts.**
 - Single Click 2 Factor Authentication – Aligned with the Regulatory guidelines, yet provides for a very strong feature of seamless single click payment.
 - Virtual address of the customer for Pull & Push provides for incremental security with the customer not required to enter the details such as Card no, Account number; IFSC etc.
 - Bill Sharing with friends.
 - Best answer to Cash on Delivery hassle, running to an ATM or rendering exact amount.
 - Merchant Payment with Single Application or In-App Payments.
 - Utility Bill Payments, Over the Counter Payments, Barcode (Scan and Pay) based payments.
 - Donations, Collections, Disbursements Scalable.
 - Raising Complaint from Mobile App directly.

Refer: <https://www.npci.org.in/product-overview/upi-product-overview>

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

1. It is an inter-governmental organization which was established in 2017.
2. The Council of Foreign Ministers (COM) is IORA's apex body which meets annually.
3. The Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD) is a flagship initiative of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

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:


- The **Indian Ocean Rim Association** is an inter-governmental organisation which was established on 7 March 1997.
- The vision for IORA originated during a visit by late President Nelson Mandela of South Africa to India in 1995.
- IORA's apex body is the **Council of Foreign Ministers (COM)** which meets annually. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) assumed the role of Chair since November 2019 – November 2021, followed



by the People's Republic of Bangladesh. A committee of Senior Officials (CSO) meets twice a year to progress IORA's agenda and consider recommendations by Working Groups and forums of officials, business and academics to implement policies and projects to improve the lives of people within the Indian Ocean Member States.

- The **Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD)** is a flagship initiative of the **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**, with its origins in the 13th Council of Ministers meeting, held in November 2013 in Perth, Australia.

Refer: <https://www.iora.int/en/about/about-iora>



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