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Table of Contents

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 1 st -Sept-2020	5
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 2 nd -Sept-2020.....	11
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 3 rd -Sept-2020	19
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 4 th -Sept-2020	26
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 5 th -Sept-2020	33
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 7 th -Sept-2020	41
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 8 th -Sept-2020	49
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 9 th -Sept-2020	58
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 10 th -Sept-2020	65
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 11 th -Sept-2020	74
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 12 th -Sept-2020	80
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 14 th -Sept-2020	85
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 15 th -Sept-2020	92
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 16 th -Sept-2020	100
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 17 th -Sept-2020	108
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 18 th -Sept-2020	115
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 19 th -Sept-2020	123
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 21 th -Sept-2020	131
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 22 th -Sept-2020	139
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 23 th -Sept-2020	146
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 24 th -Sept-2020	153
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 25 th -Sept-2020	161
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 26 th -Sept-2020	169
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 28 th -Sept-2020	176
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 29 th -Sept-2020	182
RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 30 th -Sept-2020	188



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

1. In which of the following Chola era inscriptions throws light on the record of a gift of six marttus (a measuring unit) of land gifted to a person?

- (a) Chebrolu
- (b) Gottiprolu
- (c) Nagardhan
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Rare Renati Chola era inscription unearthed:**

- Context: This rare inscription was recently unearthed from a **remote village of Kadapa district in Andhra Pradesh.**
- **Key points:**
 - It was found engraved on a dolomite slab and shale.
 - The inscription was written in archaic Telugu.
 - It was assigned to the 8th Century A.D., when the region was under the rule of the Chola Maharaja of Renadu.
- **What this inscription reveals?**
 - It throws light on the record of a gift of six marttus (a measuring unit) of land gifted to a person.
 - The last lines of the inscription are indicative of the priority given to morality in those days.
 - “It says the people who safeguard this inscription for future generations will acquire the status of conducting Aswamedha Yaga, and those destroying it will incur sin equivalent to causing a death in Varanasi”.
- **Nagardhan excavations- findings on Vakataka dynasty:**
<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/01/27/nagardhan-excavations-findings-on-vakataka-dynasty/>
- **South India’s earliest Sanskrit Inscription found in Chebrolu village in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh.**
- <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/12/28/south-indias-earliest-sanskrit-inscription-found-in-ap/>
- **Excavation by Archaeological Survey of India in Gottiprolu, Andhra Pradesh indicate it as a Trade Centre of Early Historic Period.**
- <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/11/01/gottiprolu/>

refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/01/rare-renati-chola-era-inscription-unearthed/>



2. With reference to Indian history, Uttaramerur inscriptions (Chola) are related to?

- (a) Self-governance system
- (b) Land revenue and trade tax
- (c) Foreign trade
- (d) Art and architecture

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Uttaramerur inscriptions** speak much about the Chola administration.
- It is noted for its temple inscriptions that describe a **self-governance system existing around 7th to 9th century CE.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/01/rare-renati-chola-era-inscription-unearthed/>

3. Regarding the taxation system of Krishna Deva, the ruler of Vijayanagar, consider the following statements:

- 1. The tax rate on land was fixed depending on the quality of the land.
- 2. Private owners of workshops paid an industries tax.

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:

- Stat1: Land revenue was the chief source of income. Land was divided into four categories for purposes of assessment, wet land, dry land, orchards and woods. Usually the share was one sixth of the produce. Land revenue could be paid in cash or kind. **The rates varied according to the type of the crops, soil, method of irrigation, etc.** So, 1 is clearly correct.
- Stat2: Besides land tax, many professional taxes were also imposed. There were on shopkeepers, farm servants, workmen, postmen, shoemakers, musicians etc. There was also a tax on property. Grazing and house taxes were also imposed. Commercial taxes consisted of levies, duties and customs on manufactured articles of trade were also levied. **Private owners of workshops paid an industries tax**, which means 2 is correct.
- Source: UB Singh – Administrative System in India: Vedic Age to 1947 <http://tinyurl.com/js458vk>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/01/hampi-2/>



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

<i>Famous Temples</i>	<i>State</i>
1. Virupaksha Temple	Karnataka
2. Khajuraho Temple	Odisha
3. Konark Sun Temple	Madhya Pradesh
4. Ramanathaswamy Temple	Tamil Nadu

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Khajuraho temple: Madhya Pradesh
 - <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2018/02/23/insights-daily-current-affairs-23-february-2018/>
- Konark Sun Temple: Odisha
 - <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/02/14/konark-sun-temple/>
- Ramanathaswamy Temple: Tamil Nadu
 - <http://www.rameswaramtemple.tnhrce.in/>
- Virupaksha Temple: Karnataka

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/01/hampi-2/>

5. Consider the following statements:

1. Under Article 137 of the Constitution of India, the Supreme Court has the power to review any of its judgments or orders.
2. A Review Petition has to be filed within 3 months of the date of judgment or order.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **What is a review petition and when can it be filed?**
 - A **judgment of the Supreme Court becomes the law of the land**, according to the Constitution. It is final because it provides **certainty for deciding future cases**.
 - However, the Constitution itself gives, under **Article 137**, the Supreme Court the power to review any of its judgments or orders. This departure from the Supreme Court's final authority is entertained under **specific, narrow grounds**.
 - So, **when a review takes place**, the law is that **it is allowed not to take fresh stock of the case but to correct grave errors that have resulted in the miscarriage of justice**.



- Stat2: **Filing Review Petition:**
 - As per the Civil Procedure Code and the Supreme Court Rules, **any person aggrieved by a ruling can seek a review.** This implies that it is not necessary that only parties to a case can seek a review of the judgment.
 - A **Review Petition has to be filed within 30 days of the date of judgment or order.**
 - In certain circumstances, the court can condone the delay in filing the review petition if the petitioner can establish strong reasons that justify the delay.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/01/what-is-a-review-petition-2/>

6. In Roopa Hurra v Ashok Hurra case (2002), the Supreme Court of India evolved the concept of:

- (a) Special Leave Petition
- (b) Review Petition
- (c) Curative Petition
- (d) Basic Structure

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- In **Roopa Hurra v Ashok Hurra case (2002)**, the Court evolved the concept of a **curative petition**, which can be heard after a review petition is dismissed.
- A curative petition is also entertained on very narrow grounds like a review petition and is generally not granted an oral hearing.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/01/what-is-a-review-petition-2/>

7. Consider the following statements regarding Operation Twist.

- 1. Operation Twist is a move in which a central bank decides to simultaneously buy long-dated securities while selling short-term securities.
- 2. It is the usual practice carried out by RBI for the management of the yield curve.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Operation Twist** is a move in which a central bank decides to simultaneously buy long-dated securities while selling short-term



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

- Other central banks, including the US Federal Reserve, have used similar measures. **This is the first time RBI has undertaken such an unconventional policy measure with the aim of flattening the yield curve by lowering longer rates to boost lending and growth.**
- A conventional Operation Twist involves a central bank buying and selling securities of the same amounts.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/wp-admin/post.php?post=155678&action=edit&classic-editor>

8. 'Syngas' is a fuel gas mixture consisting primarily of:

1. Hydrogen
2. Carbon monoxide
3. Carbon dioxide
4. Methane

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Synthesis gas or Syngas** is a fuel gas mixture consisting primarily of **hydrogen, carbon monoxide**, and very often **some carbon dioxide**.
- The name comes from its use as intermediates in creating synthetic natural gas (SNG) and for producing ammonia or methanol.
- Syngas is usually a product of coal gasification and the main application is electricity generation.
- Syngas is combustible and can be used as a fuel of internal combustion engine.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/01/coal-gasification-and-liquefaction/>

9. Consider the following statements:

1. Coal gasification is one of the more water-intensive forms of energy production.
2. Chemicals & Fertilizers Ministry recently concluded a coal gasification plant contract in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh for the urea sector.

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 coal gasification?**

- It is **the process of producing syngas**, a mixture consisting carbon monoxide (CO), hydrogen (H₂), carbon dioxide (CO₂), natural gas (CH₄), and water vapour (H₂O).
- During gasification, coal is blown with oxygen and steam while also being heated under high pressure. During the reaction, oxygen and water molecules oxidize the coal and produce syngas.
- Concerns and challenges:
 - **Stat1:** Coal gasification is one of the more water-intensive forms of energy production.
 - There are also concerns about water contamination, land subsidence and disposing of waste water safely.
- Stat2: Government has awarded Lump Sum Turn Key (LSTK) contract for **Coal Gasification Plant PF Talcher (Odisha)** Fertilizers Limited to M/s Wuhuan Engineering Co. Ltd, China as a part of measures to revival closed units of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL) and Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Ltd (HFCL).
- <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/09/19/coal-gasification/>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/01/coal-gasification-and-liquefaction/>

10. Consider the following statements about Pangong Tso Lake:

1. It is a freshwater lake
2. It was listed under the Montreux Record
3. It is a part of Indus water basin

Which of the given above statements 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 Pangong Tso:**

- Pangong Tso literally translates into a “conclave lake”. Pangong means conclave in Ladakhi and Tso means a lake in Tibetan language.
- Situated at over 14,000 feet, the Lake is about 135 km long.
- It is formed from Tethys geosyncline.



- **Stat1:** The lake's water, while crystal clear, **is brackish**, making it undrinkable.
- **Stat2:** 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.
- **Stat3:** It is **not a part of the Indus River basin** area and geographically a separate landlocked river basin.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/01/what-is-the-importance-of-ladakhs-pangong-tsos-south-bank/>

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 2nd-Sept-2020

11. Consider the following statements:

1. International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) is a United Nations body whose mission is to promote and protect human rights around the world.
2. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights is monitored by International Commission of Jurists (ICJ).

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: What is International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)?**
 - It is **an international human rights non-governmental organization**.
 - **Composition:** It is a standing group of 60 **eminent jurists**—including senior judges, attorneys and academics.
 - **Functions:** To develop national and international human rights standards through the law.
 - **Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland.
- **Stat2: What is International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?**
 - It is a multilateral **treaty adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**.
 - Monitored by **the United Nations Human Rights Committee**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/02/international-covenant-on-civil-and-political-rights/>



12. Consider the following statements:

1. National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) was set up based on the recommendation of the Padmanabhaiah Committee on Police Reforms.
2. The Bureau is tasked with combating drug trafficking and the use of illegal substances.

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 NCRB:**

- Set -up in 1986 under the Ministry of Home Affairs to function as a repository of information on crime and criminals so as to assist the investigators in linking crime to the perpetrators.
- Set up based on the recommendations of **the National Police Commission (1977-1981) and the MHA's Task Force (1985).**
- **Mission**
 - To Empower Indian Police with Information Technology and criminal Intelligence to enable them to uphold law and protect people. To provide leadership and excellence in crime analysis particularly for serious and organized crime.
- **Objectives**
 - Create and maintain secure sharable National Databases on crimes and criminals for law enforcement agencies and promote their use for public service delivery.
 - Collect and process crime statistics at the national level and clearing house of information on crime and criminals both at National and International levels.
 - Lead and coordinate development of IT applications and create an enabling IT environment for Police organizations.
 - National repository of fingerprints of all criminals.
 - To evaluate, modernize and promote automation in State Crime Records Bureaux and State Finger Print Bureaux .
 - Training and capacity building in Police Forces in Information Technology and Finger Print Science.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/02/ncrb-report-on-accidental-deaths-suicides/>

13. Consider the following statements:

1. In India, the telecom sector was liberalised under the New Economic Strategy in 1991.
2. As per Department of Telecommunications, 'Adjusted Gross Revenue' (AGR) includes income only from telecom operations.

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 telecom sector was **liberalised under the National Telecom Policy, 1994** after which licenses were issued to companies in return for **a fixed license fee**.
- Stat2: The dispute between DoT and the mobile operators was mainly on **the definition of AGR**.
 - **The DoT argued that AGR includes all revenues (before discounts) from both telecom and non-telecom services.** The companies claimed that AGR should comprise just the revenue accrued from core services and not dividend, interest income or profit on sale of any investment or fixed assets.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/02/adjusted-gross-revenue-agr/>

14. The 'kafala system' governs which of the following?

- (a) Carbon Trade
- (b) Oil & Natural Gas
- (c) Foreign tourists
- (d) Migrant labourers

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Qatar is set to abolish its controversial exit visa system for all foreign workers by the end of 2019. The new law allows most workers to leave the country without exit permits from their employers.
- **What is kafala?**
 - The 'kafala' system is **a system that lays down obligations in the treatment and protection of foreign 'guests'**. Kafala means 'to guarantee' or 'to take care of' in Arabic.
 - Under the system, **a migrant worker's immigration status is legally bound to an individual employer or sponsor ('kafeel') during the contract period. The migrant worker cannot enter the country, transfer employment nor leave the country for any reason without first obtaining explicit written permission from the kafeel.**
- **When did the kafala system start?**
 - The kafala system began in the 1950s when several Middle East countries started hiring foreign workers to accelerate development following the discovery of oil.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/02/qatari-labour-laws-reforms/>



15. Consider the following statements:

1. In India insurance was mentioned in the writings of Manu (Manusmrithi), Yagnavalkya (Dharmasastra) and Kautilya (Arthashastra).
2. Insurance sector was nationalized by the Government of India under Indira Gandhi.
3. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is an autonomous body established under Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Stat1: In India insurance was mentioned in the writings of **Manu (Manusmrithi), Yagnavalkya (Dharmasastra) and Kautilya (Arthashastra)**, which examined the pooling of resources for redistribution after fire, floods, epidemics and famine
- Stat2: **An ordinance was issued on 19 January 1956, nationalising the life-insurance sector, and the Life Insurance Corporation was established that year.** The LIC absorbed 154 Indian and 16 non-Indian insurers and 75 provident societies. The LIC had a monopoly until the late 1990s, when the insurance industry was reopened to the private sector.
- Stat3: **Following the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee, in 1999 the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) was constituted to regulate and develop the insurance industry and was incorporated in April 2000.** Objectives of the IRDA include promoting competition to enhance customer satisfaction with increased consumer choice and lower premiums while ensuring the financial security of the insurance market.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/02/index-linked-products-in-the-life-insurance-segment/>

16. The expression 'Green Term Ahead Market' (GTAM) is sometimes mentioned in media in reference to:

- (a) Socially Responsible Investing (SRI)
- (b) Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR)
- (c) Sustainable Development Mechanism (SDM)



(d) None of the above

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) in electricity** launched as a first step towards greening the Indian short term power market.
- **What is GTAM?**
 - It is an alternative new model introduced for selling off the power by the renewable developers in the open market without getting into long term PPAs.
- **Key features of GTAM:**
 - **Transactions** through GTAM will be **bilateral in nature** with clear identification of corresponding buyers and sellers, there will not be any difficulty in accounting for Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPO).
 - GTAM **contracts will be segregated into Solar RPO & Non-Solar RPO** as RPO targets are also segregated.
 - **Daily & Weekly Contracts** – Bidding will take place on MWh basis.
 - **Price discovery will take place on a continuous basis.** price time priority basis. Subsequently, looking at the market conditions open auction can be introduced for daily & weekly contracts.
 - **Energy scheduled through GTAM contract** shall be considered as deemed RPO compliance of the buyer.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/02/green-term-ahead-market-gtam/>

17. Consider the following statements:

As per the National Security Act, the grounds for preventive detention of a person include:

1. acting in any manner prejudicial to the defence of India.
2. strong criticism against government policies and personalities.
3. depictions of an unresponsive or insensitive regime.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **As per the National Security Act, the grounds for preventive detention of a person include:**
 - acting in any manner prejudicial to the defence of India, the relations of India with foreign powers, or the security of India.



- regulating the continued presence of any foreigner in India or with a view to making arrangements for his expulsion from India.
- preventing them from acting in any manner prejudicial to the security of the State or from acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of public order or from acting in any manner prejudicial to the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the community it is necessary so to do.
- **Sedition' is an offence incorporated into the Indian Penal Code (IPC) in 1870. Section 124A of the IPC defines sedition and says:**
 - whoever by words either spoken or written or by signs or by visible representation or otherwise brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, the government established by law; or
 - whoever by the above means excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards the government established by law, has committed the offence of sedition.
 - **Under the present law, it offers scope to consider as seditious**
 - strong criticism against government policies and personalities
 - slogans voicing disapprobation of leaders
 - depictions of an unresponsive or insensitive regime
- more: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/09/16/rstv-the-big-picture-sedition-law-and-debate/>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/02/national-security-act-1980/>

18. The Gaza Strip is a self-governing territory of:

- (a) Israel
- (b) Jordan
- (c) Lebanon
- (d) Palestine

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

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

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/02/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-2-september-2020/>



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

<i>Islands in news</i>	<i>Country</i>
1. Crete Island	Greece
2. Galapagos Islands	Ecuador
3. Vanilla Islands	Malaysia

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Crete Island: Greece**
 - It is the largest and most populous of the Greek islands.
 - Crete became part of Greece in December 1913.
 - It is located in the southern part of the Aegean Sea separating the Aegean from the Libyan Sea.
- **Galapagos Islands: Ecuador**
 - The **Galapagos Islands**, spread over almost 60,000 sq km, are a part of **Ecuador**, and are located in the Pacific Ocean around 1,000 km away from the South American continent.
 - The giant tortoises found here – ‘Galápagos’ in old Spanish– give the islands its name.
 - Ecuador made a part of the Galapagos a wildlife sanctuary in 1935, and the sanctuary became the Galapagos National Park in 1959. In 1978, the islands became UNESCO’s first World Heritage Site.
 - Charles Darwin described the islands as a “world in itself”.
 - **Why in News?**
 - Ecuador was on alert earlier this week as a fleet of Chinese fishing vessels– what some called a “floating city”– was sighted near the Galapagos archipelago.
 - Chinese ships frequent Ecuador’s waters this time of the year when the cold Humboldt Current brings in nutrients that lead to a high congregation of marine species.
- **Vanilla Islands** is an **affiliation of the islands of Seychelles, Madagascar, Réunion (France), Mauritius, Comoros and Mayotte (France) in the Indian Ocean** to form a new travel destination brand. Aim of the co-operation that has been founded on August 4, 2010 at La Réunion is to pool forces and jointly market the region compared to the solely individual marketing of each island in the past.



- **More:** <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/07/indian-ocean-commission/>

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/02/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-2-september-2020/>

20. ASEEM portal has been launched recently by:

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoUHA)
- Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** has launched '**Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping**' (**ASEEM**) portal to help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- The Artificial Intelligence-based ASEEM will provide employers a platform to assess the availability of skilled workforce and formulate their hiring plans.

Get Guaranteed Jobs

Skill India
कौशल भारत - कुशल भारत
launches

ASEEM
AN INTEGRATED SKILL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

Providing candidates access to better job opportunities

Refer: facts for prelims: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/07/11/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-11-july-2020/>



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

21. Which of the following statements about Narayana Guru is/are correct?

1. He read Thomas Paine's book Rights of Man and developed a keen sense of social justice.
 2. Guru organized an All Region Conference in 1923.
 3. He propagated the motto, One Caste, One Religion, One God for All.
- Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Stat1: It is Mahatma Phule not Narayana Guru, who read Thomas Paine's book Rights of Man and developed a keen sense of social justice. He realized that lower castes and women were at a disadvantage in Indian society, and also that education of these sections was vital to their emancipation.
- Stat2: **Guru organized an All Region Conference in 1923 at Alwaye Advaita Ashram**, which was reported to be first such event in India. It was an effort to counter the religious conversions Ezhava community was susceptible to and at the entrance of the conference, he arranged for a message to be displayed which read, **We meet here not to argue and win, but to know and be known.** The conference has since become an annual event, organised every year at the Ashram.
- Stat3: he propagated the motto, **One Caste, One Religion, One God for All (Oru Jathi, Oru Matham, Oru Daivam, Manushyanu)** which has become popular as a saying in Kerala. He furthered the non-dualistic philosophy of Adi Sankara by bringing it into practice by adding the concepts of social equality and universal brotherhood.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/03/sree-narayana-guru/>

22. Consider the following statements:

1. 'Mission Karmayogi' is established under the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB).
2. NPCSCB will be governed by the Prime Minister's Science, Technology, and Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC).

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: **Mission Karmayogi:**

What is it?

- It is a **New National Architecture for Civil Services Capacity Building**.
- It is also a **Comprehensive reform of the capacity building apparatus at individual, institutional and process levels for efficient public service delivery**.
- **Institutional framework and implementation of the programme:**
 - PM led **Public Human Resources (HR) Council** to approve and monitor Civil Service Capacity Building Plans.
 - **Capacity Building Commission** to harmonize training standards, create shared faculty and resources, and have supervisory role over all Central Training Institutions.
 - **Wholly owned Special Purpose Vehicle** to own and operate the online learning platform and facilitate world-class learning content market-place.
 - **Coordination Unit** headed by the Cabinet Secretary.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/03/mission-karmayogi-national-programme-for-civil-services-capacity-building-npcscb/>

23. Consider the following statements:

1. The Merchandise Exports from India (MEIS) Scheme is notified by the DGFT (Directorate General of Foreign Trade) and implemented by the Ministry of Finance.
 2. MEIS was introduced in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2015-20.
- 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 MEIS- What is it?**

- **Stat2:** Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) under **Foreign Trade Policy of India (FTP 2015-20)** is one of the two schemes introduced in Foreign Trade Policy of India 2015-20, as a part of Exports from India Scheme (The other scheme is **Service Exports from India Scheme (SEIS)**).
 - The **rewards are given by way of duty credit scrips to exporters**.
- **Stat1:** The MEIS is **notified by the DGFT** (Directorate General of Foreign Trade) and **implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry**.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/03/merchandise-exports-from-india-scheme-meis/>

24. Consider the following statements:

1. The requirements for acquiring utility models are less stringent than for patents.
 2. The term of protection for utility models is longer than for patents.
- Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- What is Utility models?
 - **Similar to patents**, utility models protect new **technical inventions** through granting a limited exclusive right to prevent others from commercially exploiting the protected inventions without consents of the right holders. In order to obtain protection, an application must be filed, and a utility model must be granted. They are sometimes referred to as “short-term patents”, “utility innovations” or “innovation patents”. It is not easy to define a utility model, as it varies from one country to another. In general, utility models are considered particularly suited for protecting inventions that make small **improvements** to, and **adaptations** of, existing products or that have a **short commercial life**. Utility model systems are often used by local inventors.
- **The main differences between utility models and patents are the following:**
 - **Stat1: The requirements for acquiring utility models are less stringent than for patents.** While the requirement of “novelty” is always to be met, albeit some countries only on a local level, that of “inventive step” or “non-obviousness” may be lower or absent altogether. In practice, protection for utility models is often sought for innovations of a rather incremental character which may not meet the patentability criteria.
 - **Stat2: The term of protection for utility models is shorter than for patents, and varies from country to country** (usually between 6 and 15 years).
 - In most countries, **patent offices do not examine utility model applications as to substance prior to registration.**



This means that the registration process is often simpler and faster, sometimes taking six months or less.

- **Fees for obtaining and maintaining utility models are cheaper.**
- In some countries, **utility model protection can only be obtained for certain fields of technology**, such as mechanical devices and apparatus, and only for products but not for processes.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/03/red-bulls-plea-on-trademark-rejected/>

25. Consider the following statements:

1. According to the Indian Patents Act, a biological process to create a seed can be patented in India.
2. In India, there is no Intellectual Property Appellate Board.
3. Plant varieties are not eligible to be patented in India.

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

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

Ans: (a)

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

- Stat1: **Indian patent law prohibits patents on any plant and animals or any process through a genetically modified organism is 'created', as long as it was purely biological. The only notable exception was microorganisms.** So Article 27.3 of the TRIPS Agreement allowed governments to exclude "essentially biological" objects and processes – but microorganisms, and microbiological and non-biological processes weren't exempt from patents.
 - In *Monsanto v. Nuziveedu*, the Delhi high court overruled its own decision, in an earlier petition filed by the same parties, in May 2018. It said that section 3(j) of the Patents Act shall include within itself genetic modification and parts thereof as 'non-patentable' subject matter.
- Stat2 is wrong.
 - **Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB)** was constituted on September 15, 2003 by the Indian Government to hear and resolve the appeals against the decisions of the registrar under the Indian **Trademarks Act, 1999 and the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.**
 - Since April 2, 2007, IPAB has been authorized to hear and adjudicate upon the appeals from most of the decisions,



orders or directions made by the Patent Controller under the Patents Act. Therefore, all pending appeals of Indian High Courts under the Patents Act were transferred to IPAB.

- **S3: Article 3(j) of the India's patent Act excludes from patentability "plants and animals in whole or in any part thereof other than microorganisms** but including seeds, varieties, and species, and essentially biological processes for production or propagation of plants and animals".
- See <https://www.ifoam.bio/en/news/2018/05/08/indian-supreme-court-says-seeds-plants-and-animals-are-not-patentable>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/03/red-bulls-plea-on-trademark-rejected/>

26. India enacted The Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 in order to comply with the obligations

- (a) ILO
- (b) IMF
- (c) UNCTAD
- (d) WTO

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Article 22 of the TRIPS Agreements (WTO Agreement)** defines Geographical Indication as "indications which identify a good as originating in the territory of a Member, or a region or locality in that territory, where a given quality, reputation or other characteristic of the good is essentially attributable to its geographical origin".
- Consequently, upon India joining as a member state of the **TRIPS Agreement** sui-geneis legislation for the protection of geographical indication was enacted in 1999. Geographical Indications are covered as an element of Intellectual Property Rights under the TRIPS Agreement (WTO Agreement).

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/03/red-bulls-plea-on-trademark-rejected/>

27. Global Innovation Index has been published by which of the following?

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) World Bank Group
- (c) United States Chamber of Commerce
- (d) World Intellectual Property Organization

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **13th edition of Global Innovation Index released.**



- The index is a leading reference for measuring an economy's innovation performance.

- **Released By?**

- The GII is co-published by **Cornell University, INSEAD, and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**, a specialized agency of the United Nations.
- Theme: Who Will Finance Innovation? is timely given the human and global economic damage wreaked by the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/03/global-innovation-index-2020-released/>

28. Consider the following statements:

1. Section 69A of the IT Act provides for the central government to issue directions for blocking public access to any information through any computer resource.
2. National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal is a citizen-centric initiative that will enable citizens to report cyber-crimes online.

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: **Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000**, was introduced by an amendment to the Act in 2008. It gives the Central government the power to block public access to any information online — whether on websites or mobile apps.
- Stat2: **National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal:**
 - Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/01/11/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-11-january-2020/>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/03/ban-on-chinese-mobile-apps/>

29. 'National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations' (NIDHI) programme is an initiative of:

- (a) Department of Biotechnology
- (b) Department of Space
- (c) Department of Science & Technology
- (d) Department of Atomic Energy



Ans: (c)

Explanation: **What is NIDHI program?**

- **Department of Science & Technology has launched a NIDHI program (National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations)** under which programmes for setting up of incubators, seed fund, accelerators and 'Proof of concept' grant for innovators and entrepreneurs have been launched.
- Under NIDHI, PRAYAS (Promoting and Accelerating Young and Aspiring innovators & Startups) programme has been initiated in which established Technology Business Incubators (TBI) are supported with PRAYAS grant to support innovators and entrepreneurs with grants for 'Proof of Concept' and developing prototypes.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/03/entrepreneurs-in-residence-eir-programme/>

30. Consider the following statements:

1. Special Frontier Force (SFF) was raised in the immediate aftermath of the 1999 Kargil War.
 2. It falls under the purview of the Cabinet Secretariat.
- Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **What is the Special Frontier Force (SFF)?**

- SFF was raised in the immediate aftermath of the 1962 Sino-India war.
- It was a covert outfit which recruited Tibetans (now it has a mixture of Tibetans and Gorkhas) and initially went by the name of Establishment 22.
- It falls **under the purview of the Cabinet Secretariat** where it is headed by an Inspector General who is an Army officer of the rank of Major General.
- The units that **comprise the SFF are known as Vikas battalions.**
- Strictly speaking, **the SFF units are not part of the Army but they function under operational control of the Army.**
- **Women soldiers too form a part of SFF units** and perform specialised tasks.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/03/special-frontier-force/>



RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 4th-Sept-2020

31. Consider the following statements:

1. Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the poor people.
2. Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementing agency of PMBJP.

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: Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)** is a campaign launched by the **Department of Pharmaceuticals** to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the **masses i.e Quality Medicines at Affordable Prices for All**.
- **Stat2: Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI)** is the implementation agency for **PMBJP**.

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana

- ✓ Launched during the 11th plan period in November, 2008
- ✓ Number of Jan Aushadhi stores: 3000 by March 2017
- ✓ Coverage: All the Districts in the Country
- ✓ Number of medicinal products: 1000
- ✓ Type of Products: Medicines, Surgicals & Consumables, Stents & Replacements etc
- ✓ Income of Rs. 10,000/- per month up to a limit of Rs. 2.5 lakhs
- ✓ Income of Rs. 15,000 and total limit of Rs. 2.5 lakhs for NE

BPPI
Bureau of Pharma PSU of India (BPPI)
Under the Aegis of Department of Pharmaceuticals
Government of India

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/04/pradhan-mantri-bhartiya-janaushadhi-priyojana-pmbjp/>

32. Which Article of the Constitution of India safeguards one's right to marry the person of one's choice?

- (a) Article 19



- (b) Article 21
- (c) Article 25
- (d) Article 29

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **“The right to marry a person of one’s choice is integral to Article 21** (right to life and liberty) of the Constitution”, the Supreme Court had recently set aside a 2017 order of the Kerala High Court which annulled the marriage of Kerala Muslim convert girl Hadiya and Shefin Jahan.
- Refer: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/right-to-marry-supreme-court-hadiya-case-5131055/>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/04/special-marriage-act-1954/>

33. UNSC 1267 committee, sometimes mentioned in the news, is related to:

- (a) Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan
- (b) UAE-Israel Peace Deal
- (c) Hong Kong national security law
- (d) Combating global terrorism

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **What is UNSC 1267 committee?**

- It was **first set up in 1999**, and strengthened after the September 11, 2001 attacks.
- It is now known as **the Da’esh and Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee**.
- It **comprises all permanent and non-permanent members of the UNSC**.
- The **1267 list of terrorists is a global list, with a UNSC stamp**. It is full of Pakistani nationals and residents.
- **What is the process by which people are listed under UNSC 1267?**
 - **Any member state can submit a proposal** for listing an individual, group, or entity.
 - The 1267 **Committee meets as required with a notice of four working days**.
 - **Decisions** on listing and de-listing are adopted by **consensus**.
 - The proposal is sent to all the members, and if no member objects within five working days, the proposal is adopted. **An “objection” means** curtains for the proposal.
 - **Any member of the Committee may also put a “technical hold”** on the proposal, and ask for more information from the proposing member state. During this time, other members may also place their own holds.



- The matter remains on the “pending” list of the Committee until such time as the member state that has placed the hold decides to turn its decision into an “objection”, or until all those who have placed holds remove them within a timeframe laid down by the Committee.
- **Pending issues must be resolved in six months**, but the member state that has placed the hold may ask for an additional three months. At the end of this period, if an objection is not placed, the matter is considered approved.
- Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan:
<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/03/02/agreement-for-bringing-peace-to-afghanistan/>
- UAE-Israel Peace Deal:
<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/08/15/israel-uae-agreement/>
- Hong Kong national security law:
<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/05/29/china-passes-controversial-hong-kong-law/>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/04/unsc-1267-committee/>

34. With reference to Chemical Weapons Convention, consider the following statements:

1. It is an arms control treaty
2. It is administered by the United Nations Security Council
3. India was the First State Party to secure the distinction of chemical weapon free state Party

Which of the given above statements is/are correct:

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **CWC** is an **arms control treaty** that outlaws the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons and their precursors.
- Stat2: The CWC is implemented by the **Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)**, which is headquartered in The Hague (OPCW won the 2013 Nobel peace prize).
- [Source](#): Stat3: India signed the treaty at Paris on 14th day of January 1993. India, pursuant to provisions of the Convention enacted the Chemical Weapons Convention Act, 2000. **India was the First State Party to secure the distinction of chemical**



weapon free state Party by destructing all its stockpile of its chemical weapons amongst all State Parties of the Convention.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/04/novichok-and-the-cwc/>

35. Which of the following is not a member of Quadrilateral Security Group?

- (a) Japan
- (b) India
- (c) Australia
- (d) Russia

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Why in News?
 - Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Bipin Rawat has backed the 'Quad' as a "good mechanism" to ensure freedom of navigation in the Indian Ocean-Pacific region — a statement that could rile up China.
- **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/2020/09/04/the-quad/>

36. Consider the following statements:

1. Black holes can evaporate over time.
2. Primordial black holes formed as a result of collapsing radiations as opposed to the collapse of massive stars.
3. Sagittarius A* is the only black hole in our galaxy.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

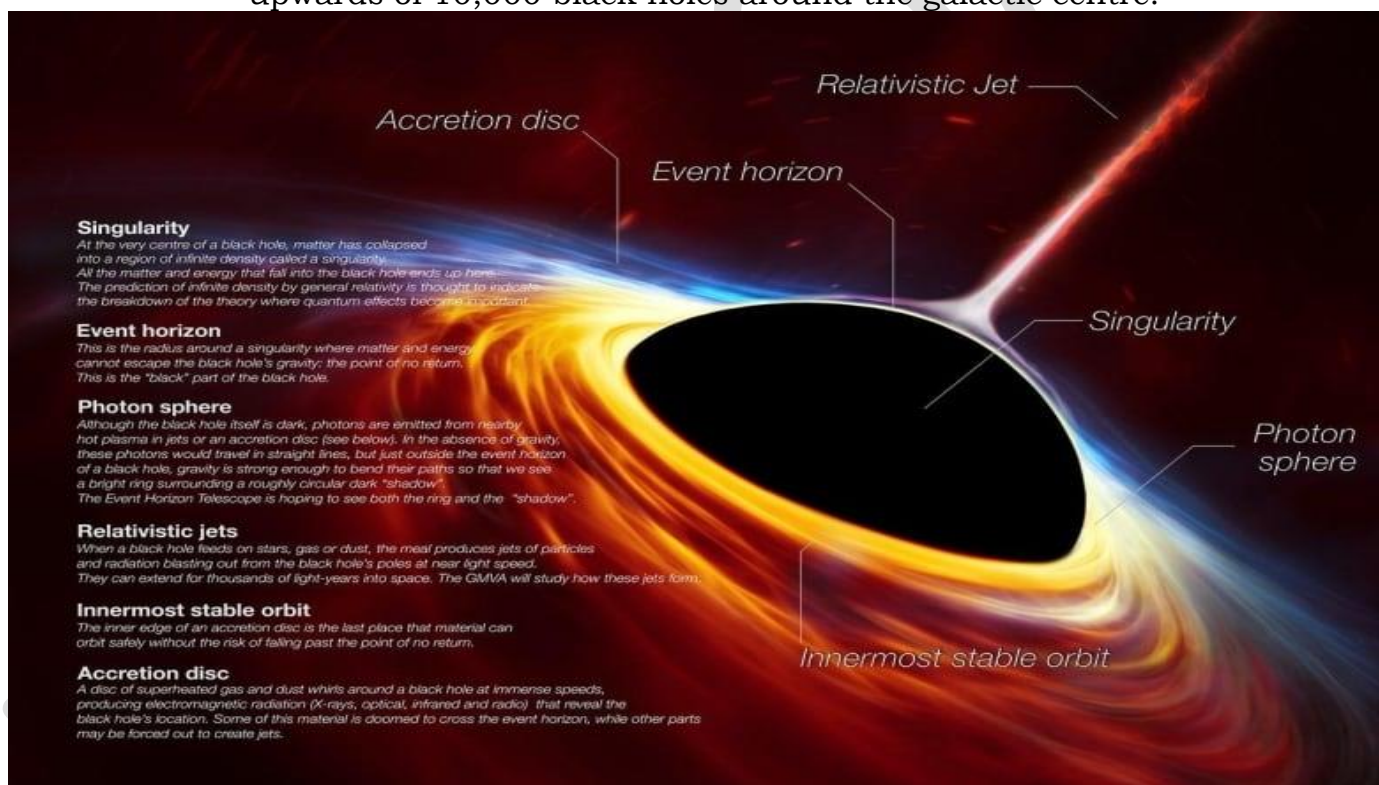
Explanation:

- Stat1: **Source: Black holes can actually lose mass. Stephen Hawking theorized in 1974 that black holes radiate small numbers of particles (mainly photons), a process known as "Hawking Radiation". This "evaporation" process can lead the black hole to shrink over time and ultimately to vanish completely.** However, it is a staggeringly slow process: it would take about 10^{67} years for a black hole the mass of the Sun to



evaporate, significantly longer than the 14 billion years the Universe has existed.

- Stat2: **Primordial black holes** are a hypothetical type of black hole that formed soon after the Big Bang. It is believed that **they are formed as a result of collapsing radiations as opposed to the collapse of massive stars, which is the case of any other black holes.**
- Stat3: Source: **Where are black holes found?**
 - **Supermassive black holes are found at the centre of most galaxies, including our own Milky Way.** The one in our galaxy is called Sagittarius A* and is one of those the Event Horizon Telescope has been attempting to photograph.
 - **Sagittarius A* isn't the only black hole in our galaxy, though.** Earlier this year, astronomers discovered another 12 within three light-years of it, suggesting there could be upwards of 10,000 black holes around the galactic centre.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/04/merger-of-two-black-holes/>

37. Asteroid belt is a region between the orbits of:

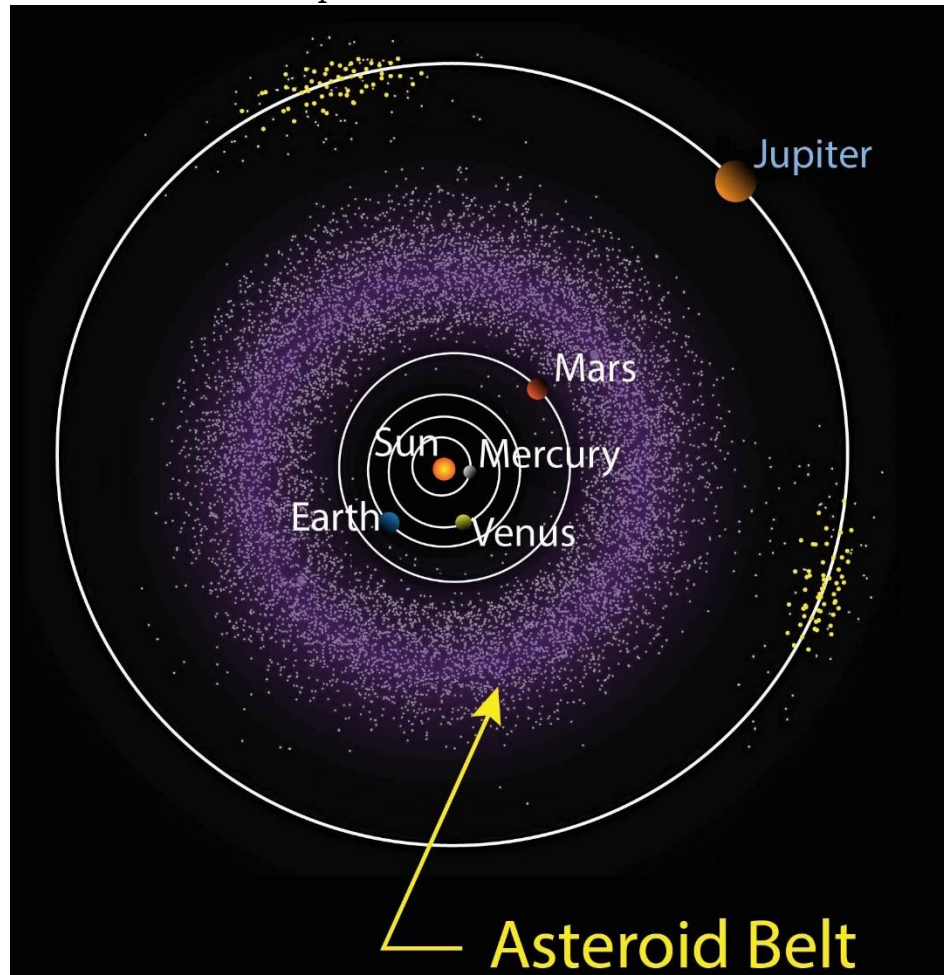
- (a) Venus and Earth.
- (b) Earth and Mars.
- (c) Mars and Jupiter.
- (d) Jupiter and Saturn.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:



- The **asteroid belt** is a torus-shaped region in the Solar System, located roughly between the orbits of the planets **Jupiter and Mars**, that is occupied by a great many solid, irregularly shaped bodies, of many sizes but much smaller than planets, called **asteroids** or minor planets.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/04/asteroid-465824/>

38. Under which of the following act, GOI notified its first Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) norms?

- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972
- Forest Conservation Act, 1980
- Environment Protection Act, 1986
- The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, India notified its first EIA norms in 1994**, setting in place a legal framework for regulating activities that access, utilise, and affect (pollute) natural resources.



- Every development project has been required to go through the EIA process for obtaining prior environmental clearance ever since.
- **The 1994 EIA notification was replaced with a modified draft in 2006.**
- Earlier this year, the government redrafted it again to incorporate the amendments and relevant court orders issued since 2006, and to make the EIA “process more transparent and expedient.”

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/04/draft-environment-impact-assessment-eia-notification-2020/>

39. Currently, the administrative control of Assam Rifles lies with:

- (a) Ministry of Defense
- (b) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (c) Cabinet Secretariat
- (d) Both (a) and (c)

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **About Assam Rifles:**

- **Who controls the force?**
 - It was after the Chinese aggression in 1962 that **the Assam Rifles battalions were placed under the operational control of the Army.**
 - Today, the **administrative control of Assam Rifles lies with the Home Ministry**, while **the operational control is with the Defence Ministry.**
- Assam Rifles which is also referred to as **the Sentinels of North East is the oldest paramilitary force of India.**
- It was formed as a single unit called **Cachar Levy in 1835** to assist the British rulers in maintaining peace in the Northeast.
- Incremental gains were accompanied by name changes for the primary law enforcement agency – **Assam Frontier Police to Assam Military Police to Eastern Bengal to Assam Military Police** – before **Assam Rifles became the official name in 1917.**
- It **served in both the World Wars.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/04/assam-rifles-2/>

40. The Service Area Approach was implemented under the purview of:

- (a) Integrated Covid19 Control Mechanism
- (b) Lead Bank Scheme
- (c) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
- (d) Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **The Service Area Approach (SAA) was introduced in April 1989** in order to bring about an orderly and planned development of



rural and semi-urban areas of the country. **It was extended to all Indian scheduled commercial banks including Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).**

- Under the SAA, all rural and semi-urban branches of banks were allocated specific villages, generally in geographical contiguous areas, the overall development and the credit needs of which were to be taken care of by the respective branches. See <https://rbi.org.in/scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=2044&Mode=0>

Source: UPSC CSE 2019

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

41. He was the first Indian to hold a chair at the University of Oxford, his book, 'The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore' attracted global attention to Indian philosophy. He also defended Hinduism against "uninformed Western criticism". He was
- (a) Rabindranath Tagore
 - (b) C. Rajagopalachari
 - (c) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
 - (d) Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **About Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan:**

- He was born **on September 5, 1888 in Thiruthani, Tamil Nadu.**
- He was **India's first Vice President and second President.**
- **His Philosophy and Literary works:**
- His book, '**The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore**' attracted global attention to Indian philosophy.
- His philosophy was grounded in **Advaita Vedanta.**
- He **defended Hinduism against "uninformed Western criticism"** and played a major role in the formation of contemporary Hindu identity.
- **His other works include** Indian Philosophy, (1923-27), The Philosophy of the Upanishads (1924), An Idealist View of Life (1932), Eastern Religions and Western Thought (1939), and East and West: Some Reflections (1955).
- **Positions held, Awards and honours:**
- He was awarded **the Bharat Ratna**, India's highest civilian award, in 1954.
- He received **a knighthood in 1931** and honorary **membership of the British Royal Order of Merit in 1963.**
- He was elected **chairman of UNESCO's executive board in 1948.**



- He was one of the founders of **Helpage India**, a renowned NGO for elderly underprivileged in India.
- He had also formed **the Krishnarpan Charity Trust** along with Ghanshyam Das Birla and some other social workers in the pre-independence era.
- He was **the first Indian to hold a chair at the University of Oxford** – the Spalding Professor of Eastern Religion and Ethics (1936-1952)
- In 1930, he was appointed **Haskell lecturer in Comparative Religion at the University of Chicago**.

Refer; <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/05/dr-radhakrishnan/>

42. Consider the following statements:

1. Advaita Vedanta advocates the idea that Brahman alone is ultimately real.
 2. Sri Ramanujacharya was the exponent of the qualified non-dualism.
- 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:

- Advaita Vedānta is a school of Hindu philosophy, and is a classic system of spiritual realization in Indian tradition. **The term Advaita refers to the idea that Brahman alone is ultimately real, the phenomenal transient world is an illusory appearance (maya) of Brahman, and the true self, atman, is not different from Brahman.** Although its roots trace back to the 1st millennium BCE, the most prominent exponent of the Advaita Vedānta is considered by tradition to be the 8th century scholar Adi Shankara.
- **Vishishtadvaita** is a **non-dualistic school of Vedanta philosophy**. It is non-dualism of the qualified whole, in which Brahman alone exists, but is characterized by multiplicity. It can be described as qualified monism or qualified non-dualism or attributive monism. It is a school of Vedanta philosophy which believes in all diversity subsuming to an underlying unity.
- **Sri Ramanujacharya** (1017–1137 CE), pioneer of Vishishtadvaita Vedanta and the foremost Jeeyar of Sri Vaishnava Sampradaya.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/05/dr-radhakrishnan/>

43. Consider the following statements:

1. Recusal is the act of abstaining from legal proceeding due to a conflict of interest of the presiding court official.



2. There are no written rules on the recusal of judges from hearing cases listed before them in constitutional courts.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **What is a recusal?**

- **Judicial disqualification**, referred to as **recusal**, is the act of abstaining from participation in an official action such as a legal proceeding due to a conflict of interest of the presiding court official or administrative officer.

- **General Grounds for Recusal:**

- Motions to recuse or disqualify judges and other adjudicators have been made for all sorts of reasons.
- Most commonly such motions are predicated upon a claim that **the judge is biased in favour of one party, or against another, or that a reasonable objective observer would think he might be.**

- But such motions are also made on many other grounds, including the challenged judge's:

- Interest in the subject matter, or relationship with someone who is interested in it.
- Background or experience, such as the judge's prior work as a lawyer.
- Personal knowledge about the parties or the facts of the case.
- Ex parte communications with lawyers or non-lawyers.
- Rulings, comments or conduct.

- **Are there any laws in this regard?**

- There are no definite rules on recusals by Judges.
- **Justice J. Chelameswar** in his opinion in **Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association v. Union of India (2015)** held that "Where a judge has a pecuniary interest, no further inquiry as to whether there was a 'real danger' or 'reasonable suspicion' of bias is required to be undertaken".
- Besides, In taking **oath of office**, judges, both of the Supreme Court and of the high courts, promise to perform their duties, to deliver justice, **"without fear or favour, affection or ill-will"**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/05/what-is-judicial-disqualification-or-recusal/>



44. 'State of the Young Child' in India report brought out by:

- (a) Amnesty International
- (b) Green Peace
- (c) Asha for Education
- (d) Mobile Creches

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **What is it?**
 - Both these indices are part of the **'State of the Young Child' in India report**.
 - It is a report brought out by non-governmental organisation **Mobile Creches**.
- **About the young child outcomes index:**
 - It measures health, nutrition and cognitive growth with the help of indicators such as infant mortality rate, stunting and net attendance at the primary school level.
- **Key findings:**
 - Top 5: Kerala, Goa, Tripura, Tamil Nadu and Mizoram are among the top five States for well-being of children.
 - Eight States have scores below the country's average: they are Assam, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- **About the young child environment index:**
 - Its objective is to understand the policy and environment enablers that influence a child's well-being.
- **How is it measured?**
 - It uses five policy enablers that influence child well-being outcomes, including poverty alleviation, strengthening primary healthcare, improving education levels, safe water supply and promotion of gender equity.
- **Key findings:**
 - Top 5: Kerala, Goa, Sikkim, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh secured the top five positions.
 - Eight States that have a below average score on the outcomes index also fared poorly on this one.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/05/the-young-child-outcomes-index-and-the-young-child-environment-index-released/>

45. With reference to New Development Bank (NDB), Consider the following statements:

1. It is a multilateral development bank operated by the BRICS states.
2. It was agreed to by BRICS leaders at the 5th BRICS summit held in Durban, South Africa in 2013.
3. The bank will be headquartered in Beijing, China.

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: (b)

Explanation: **About the New Development Bank:**

- It is a **multilateral development bank operated by the BRICS** states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa).
- The New Development Bank was agreed to by **BRICS leaders at the 5th BRICS summit held in Durban**, South Africa in 2013.
- It was established in 2014, at **the 6th BRICS Summit at Fortaleza**, Brazil.
- The bank is set up to foster greater financial and development cooperation among the five emerging markets.
- In the Fortaleza Declaration, the leaders stressed that the NDB will strengthen cooperation among BRICS and will supplement the efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global development.
- The bank will be headquartered in Shanghai, China.
- Unlike the World Bank, which assigns votes based on capital share, in the New Development Bank each participant country will be assigned one vote, and none of the countries will have veto power.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/05/brics-culture-ministers-meeting/>

46. With reference to Contingent Reserve Arrangement, consider the following statements:
1. The objective of this reserve is to provide protection against global liquidity pressures.
 2. During the Sixth BRICS Summit in Fortaleza (2014) the leaders signed the Agreement establishing the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement.

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:

- During **the Sixth BRICS Summit in Fortaleza (2014)** the leaders signed the Agreement establishing **the New Development Bank (NDB)**. They also signed **the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement**.
- The objective of this reserve is to provide protection against global liquidity pressures. This includes currency issues where members' national currencies are being adversely affected by global financial



pressures. The CRA is generally seen as a competitor to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and along with the New Development Bank is viewed as an example of increasing South-South cooperation.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/05/brics-culture-ministers-meeting/>

47. Consider the following statements about North Atlantic Treaty Organization:

1. It is an intergovernmental military alliance consists of more than 50 independent member countries.
2. It was established by Treaty of Vienna.

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 North Atlantic Treaty Organization:**

- It is an intergovernmental military alliance consists of 30 independent member countries.
- Established by Washington treaty.
- Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949.
- Headquarters — Brussels, Belgium.
- Headquarters of Allied Command Operations — Mons, Belgium.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/05/north-atlantic-treaty-organization/>

48. In the Indian context, what is the implication of ratifying the 'Additional Protocol' with the 'International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'?

- (a) The civilian nuclear reactors come under IAEA safeguards.
- (b) The military nuclear installations come under the inspection of IAEA.
- (c) The country will have the privilege to buy uranium from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).
- (d) The country automatically becomes a member of the NSG.

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Stat1: is correct because an Additional Protocol (AP) to the Safeguards Agreement between the Government of India and the IAEA for the *Application of Safeguards to Civilian Nuclear Facilities* entered into force on 25 July 2014.
- Stat2 is incorrect.
- Stat3: is incorrect as IAEA protocol ratification will not give the privilege to buy uranium from the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)



- Stat4 is incorrect because NSG membership is not based on IAEA Additional Protocol ratification.
- **Source:** <https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/indias-additional-protocol-enters-force>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/05/international-atomic-energy-agency-iaea-2/>

49. Which of the following national parks are located in Assam?

1. Manas National Park
2. Nameri National Park
3. Dibru-Saikhowa National Park
4. Orang National Park

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- At present, Assam has five national parks—**Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Nameri National Park, Dibru-Saikhowa National Park** and **Orang National Park**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/05/what-are-national-parks/>

50. The Yanomami are the largest relatively isolated tribe in:

- (a) Africa
- (b) Asia
- (c) North America
- (d) South America

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Yanomami live in the rainforests and mountains of northern Brazil and southern Venezuela**, and are, according to Survival International, **the largest relatively isolated tribe in South America**.
- They live in large, circular houses called **yanos or shabonos**, some of which can hold up to 400 people.
- It is a Yanomami custom that **a hunter does not eat the meat he has killed**.
- The Yanomami **consider all people to be equal, and do not have a chief**. Instead, all decisions are based on consensus after long discussions and debates.



- **Why in News?**
- Since the 1980s, the Yanomami have been facing an onslaught from illegal gold miners.
- It is believed that gold mined illegally in Yanomami land has most likely been coming to India since at least 2018.
- Calling the gold mined there as **blood gold**, they have recently asked the Indian government to stop buying this gold.



Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/05/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-5-september-2020/>

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

51. 'Thoovoor Kinar' famously associated with which of the following?

- (a) Paika Rebellion
- (b) Polygar Rebellions
- (c) Revolt of Velu Thambi Dalawa
- (d) Mapilla Rebellion

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **What's the issue?**
 - In the '**Dictionary of Martyrs**', published by the **Union Ministry of Culture** in collaboration with the **Indian Council of Historical Research, Variankunnath Kunhamad Haji and Ali Musliyar**, the chief architects of the Moplah Massacre, were deemed to be martyrs. The book was published in 2019.
 - However, a report by the **ICHR-constituted committee** has sought the removal of names of 387 'Moplah rioters' (Including leaders Ali Musliyar and Variamkunnath Ahmad Haji) from the list of martyrs.
- **Why?**
 - The report describes Haji as the "**notorious Moplah Riot leader**" and a "**hardcore criminal**," who "killed innumerable innocent Hindu men, women, and children during the 1921 Moplah Riot, and deposited their bodies in a well, locally known as **Thoovoor Kinar**".
 - It also noted that **almost all the Moplah outrages were communal**. They were against Hindu society and done out of sheer intolerance.
 - Thus, their names should be deleted.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/07/moplah-rioters-not-freedom-fighters-report/>

52. 'Wagon tragedy' is associated with:

- (a) Kakori Conspiracy
- (b) Chauri Chaura Incident
- (c) Jallianwala Bagh massacre
- (d) Mapilla rebellion



Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Wagon Tragedy:**
 - A noteworthy event of the British suppression was the wagon tragedy when approximately 60 Mappila prisoners on their way to prison, were suffocated to death in a closed railway goods wagon.
- **What was Mapilla rebellion?**
 - The Mapilla rebellion or Moplah Rebellion (Moplah Riots) of 1921 was the culmination of a series of riots by Moplahs (Muslims of Malabar) in the 19th and early 20th centuries against the British and the Hindu landlords in Malabar (Northern Kerala).
 - The year 2021 will mark the 100th year anniversary of the uprising.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/07/moplah-rioters-not-freedom-fighters-report/>

53. 4th edition of Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) ranking of states announced recently by:

- (a) NITI
- (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- (c) Department of Industrial Promotion and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- (d) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **4th edition of Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) ranking of states** announced recently by **the Department of Industrial Promotion and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.
- Ranking of States is based on the implementation of **Business Reform Action Plan started in the year 2015**.
- One “major change” in the current rankings is the government’s decision to **link the state’s performance “exclusively” to user feedback**.
- **The five ten states under State Reform Action Plan 2019 are:**
 - Andhra Pradesh
 - Uttar Pradesh
 - Telangana
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - Jharkhand
- **What is BRAP?**
 - The Business Reform Action Plan 2018-19 **includes 180 reform points covering 12 business regulatory areas** such



as Access to Information, Single Window System, Labour, Environment, etc.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/07/business-reform-action-plan-brap-ranking-of-states/>

54. Which one of the following is not a member of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)?

- (a) Tajikistan
- (b) Turkmenistan
- (c) Uzbekistan
- (d) Kazakhstan

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **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/2020/09/07/shanghai-cooperation-organisation-sco/>

55. Consider the following statements about G20 (or Group of Twenty):

1. The G20 was created on France's initiative during the crisis following the Asian Financial Crisis in 1997-1998.
2. It has no permanent staff of its own.
3. A G20 country from a rotating region takes on the presidency.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **The G20 (or Group of Twenty)** is an **international forum** for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the European Union (EU).
- **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.**

- **Presidency:**
 - The **group has no permanent staff of its own**, so every year in December, **a G20 country from a rotating region takes on the presidency.**
 - That country is then responsible for organising the next summit, as well as smaller meetings for the coming year.
 - They **can also choose to invite non-member countries** along as guests.
 - The first G20 meeting took place in Berlin in 1999, after a financial crisis in East Asia affected many countries around the world.
- **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.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/07/g20-2/>

56. With reference to Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), consider the following statements:

1. It is a sub component of Startup India is an initiative of the Government of India.
2. The long term vision of the SVEP is to provide support for start-up to 1 crore village enterprises and provide direct employment to 2 crore people
3. It promotes both individual and group enterprises, set-up and promote enterprises majorly on manufacturing, trading and service sectors.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Stat1: The Start up Village Entrepreneurship Program** is a sub component of **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development.** SVEP aims to support entrepreneurs in rural areas to set up local enterprises.
- **Stat2: Source:** The long term vision of the SVEP is to provide support for start-up to 1 crore village enterprises and provide direct employment to 2 crore people. The SVEP shall help the rural poor come out of poverty by helping them set up enterprises and provide



support till the enterprises stabilize. The programmatic intervention will address all three missing ecosystems – Knowledge, advisory and finance ecosystems.

- **Stat3:** SVEP promotes both individual and group enterprises, set-up and promote enterprises majorly on manufacturing, trading and service sectors.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/07/start-up-village-entrepreneurship-programme-svep/>

57. Consider the following statements:

1. Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) is a not-for-profit Public Sector Enterprise, set up by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
2. National Biopharma Mission (NBM) is being implemented by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

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: Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)?**
 - It is a **not-for-profit Public Sector Enterprise, set up by Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** as an Interface Agency to strengthen and empower the emerging Biotech enterprise to undertake strategic research and innovation, addressing nationally relevant product development needs.
- **Stat2: About National Biopharma Mission (NBM):**
 - It is an industry-academia **collaborative mission for accelerating biopharmaceutical development in the country.**
 - It was **launched in 2017** at a total cost of Rs 1500 crore and is **50% co-funded by World Bank loan.**
 - It is being **implemented by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).**
 - Under this Mission, the Government has launched **Innovate in India (i3) programme** to create an enabling ecosystem to promote entrepreneurship and indigenous manufacturing in the biopharma sector.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/07/national-biopharma-mission-nbm-2/>

58. Consider the following statements:

1. River Brahmaputra originates in Angsi glacier.



2. River Feni originates in South Tripura district and it is a tributary of river Brahmaputra.
3. The Barak River flows through the states of Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram and Assam in India before going to Bay of Bengal through Bangladesh.

Which of the following statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Stat1: The upper reaches of **the Brahmaputra River**, known as the **Yarlung Tsangpo** from the Tibetan language, originates on the **Angsi Glacier**, near **Mount Kailash**, located on the northern side of the Himalayas in Burang County of Tibet
- Stat2: **Feni river**:
 - The Feni river forms **part of the India-Bangladesh border**.
 - It **originates in the South Tripura** district, passes through **Sabroom town** on the Indian side, and **meets the Bay of Bengal after it flows into Bangladesh**
 - **Feni river and it's significance :**
<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/11/08/feni-river-and-its-significance/>
- Stat3: The **Barak River** flows through the states of **Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram and Assam** in India and into the **Bay of Bengal via Bangladesh**. The upper part of its navigable part is in India — 121 km between **Lakhipur and Bhanga, declared as National Waterway 6, (NW-6)** since the year 2016

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/07/low-ozone-over-brahmaputra-river-valley/>

59. 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 NITI.

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:

- **Why in News?**



- Govt. suspends FCRA clearance of four Christian groups for various reasons.
- **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: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/07/foreign-contribution-regulation-act-fcra-2/>

60. Images captured by ISRO's Chandrayaan-1 suggests that moon is rusting along the poles. What may be the possible reasons behind rusting of Moon?

1. atmosphere of its own
2. presence of iron
3. presence of water and oxygen

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **Moon may be rusting, shows ISRO's Chandrayaan 1 images:**

- We know **rusting exists on Earth and Mars**, but now scientists have found that there is on the moon as well. The images sent by ISRO's **Chandrayaan 1 orbiter** – India's first mission to the moon, show that **the moon may be rusting along the poles**.
- **Why is this so surprising?**
 - **Rust**, also known as **iron oxide**, is a reddish compound. It **forms when the iron is exposed to water and oxygen**. However, moon's surface is not known for the presence of water and oxygen. Hence, this is surprising.
- **Possible reason behind this? What is the role of earth's atmosphere in this phenomenon?**
 - **Stat2: For iron to turn rusty red**, it needs what's called an **oxidizer** — a molecule such as oxygen that removes electrons from a material such as iron.
 - **Stat1 and 3: But, the moon doesn't have an atmosphere of its own to provide sufficient amounts of oxygen**, but it **has trace amounts donated by Earth's atmosphere**. This terrestrial oxygen travels to the moon along an elongated extension of the planet's magnetic field called a **"magnetotail."**
 - At every full moon, **the magnetotail blocks 99% of solar wind from blasting the moon**, drawing a temporary curtain over the lunar surface, **allowing periods of time for rust to form**.
- **But, from where does the moon get water to form rust?**
 - The moon is **mostly devoid of water**, save for **frozen water found in lunar craters on the moon's far side** — far from where most of the hematite was found. But the researchers



propose that **fast-moving dust particles** that bombard the moon **might free water molecules locked into the moon's surface layer**, allowing the water to mix with the iron. These dust particles might even be carrying water molecules themselves, and their impact might create heat that could increase the oxidation rate.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/07/moon-may-be-rusting-shows-isros-chandrayaan-1-images/>

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

61. Consider the following statements:

1. Kesavananda Bharati case (1973) is popularly known as the Fundamental Rights Case.
2. In the Kesavananda Bharati case (1973), the Supreme Court held that Preamble is a part of the Constitution.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Stat2: In the **Kesavananda Bharati case (1973)**, the Supreme Court rejected the earlier opinion and **held that Preamble is a part of the Constitution**.
 - It observed that the Preamble is of extreme importance and the Constitution should be read and interpreted in the light of the grand and noble vision expressed in the Preamble.
 - In **the LIC of India case (1995)** also, the Supreme Court again held that the **Preamble is an integral part of the Constitution**.
- Stat1:



Sl. No.	Name of the Case (Year)	Elements of the Basic Structure (As Declared by the Supreme Court)
1.	Kesavananda Bharati case ³ (1973) (popularly known as the Fundamental Rights Case)	1. Supremacy of the Constitution 2. Separation of powers between the legislature, the executive and the judiciary 3. Republic and democratic form of government 4. Secular character of the constitution 5. Federal character of the constitution 6. Sovereignty and unity of India 7. Freedom and dignity of the individual 8. Mandate to build a welfare state 9. Parliamentary System 1. India as a sovereign democratic republic 2. Equality of status and

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/08/who-was-kesavananda-bharati/>

62. Consider the following statements:

1. According to the Supreme Court guidelines, government ad campaigns should 'not be directed at promoting political interests of a party'.
2. The Committee on Content Regulation in Government Advertising (CCRGA) can take suo-moto cognizance of any violation/ deviation of the Supreme Court guidelines.

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:

- **Why in News?**

- 19th meeting of Supreme Court -mandated **Committee on Content Regulation in Government Advertising (CCRGA)** was held recently.

- **What is CCRGA? When was it set up?**

- As per **the directions of Supreme Court in 2015**, the Government of India had set up a three member body in 2016 **to look into content regulation of government funded advertisements in all media platforms.**
- As per directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, **states are mandated to set up their respective three member committees on Content Regulation of Government Advertisements.**



- **Karnataka, Goa, Mizoram and Nagaland** States have already constituted state-level Three Member Committees.
- **What are its powers?**
 - It is empowered **to address complaints from the general public and can also take suo-moto cognizance** of any violation of the Supreme Court guidelines and recommend corrective actions.
 - The **Committee may, if necessary, also decide to summon the concerned official of the Govt. agencies** dealing with release of advertisements in the event of undue delay in responding to Committee's notices.
- **Supreme Court Guidelines:**
 - The content of government advertisements should be relevant to the government's constitutional and legal obligations as well as the citizen's rights and entitlements.
 - The advertisement materials should be designed to meet the objectives of the campaign and to ensure maximum reach in a cost effective way.
 - It should be accurate and not presenting pre existing policies and products as new. The advertisement content should also not promote the political interests of the ruling party.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/08/committee-on-content-regulation-in-government-advertising-ccrga/>

63. Consider the following statements:

1. Mid-day meal (MDM) is a wholesome freshly-cooked lunch served to children in government and government-aided schools in India.



2. The Midday Meal Scheme comes under the 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: (a)

Explanation:

- **Stat1: Mid-day meal (MDM) is a wholesome freshly-cooked lunch served to children in government and government-aided schools in India.** On 28 November 2001, the Supreme Court of India passed a mandate stating, *"We direct the State Governments/Union Territories to implement the Mid Day Meal Scheme by providing every child in every Government and Government assisted Primary School with a prepared midday meal."*
- **Stat2: About Mid-Day meal scheme:**
 - The scheme guarantees one meal to all children in government and aided schools and madaras supported under Samagra Shiksha.
 - Students up to Class VIII are guaranteed one nutritional cooked meal at least 200 days in a year.
 - **The Scheme comes under the Ministry of HRD.**
 - It was launched in the year 1995 as the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP – NSPE), a centrally sponsored scheme. In 2004, the scheme was relaunched as the Mid Day Meal Scheme.
- **Mid-Day Meal Scheme aims to:**
 - avoid classroom hunger
 - increase school enrolment
 - increase school attendance
 - improve socialisation among castes
 - address malnutrition
 - empower women through employment

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/08/mid-day-meal-scheme/>

64. Consider the following statements:

1. As per the Mid-Day Meal Rules, 2015, the place of serving meals to the children shall be school only.
2. The cost of the Mid-Day Meal scheme is shared between the central and state governments.

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: The MDM rules 2015, provide that:**
 - **The place of serving meals to the children shall be school only.**
 - If the Mid-Day Meal is not provided in school on any school day due to non-availability of food grains or any other reason, the State Government shall pay food security allowance by 15th of the succeeding month.
 - The meal shall be prepared in accordance with the Mid Day Meal guidelines issued by the Central Government from time to time.
 - Procuring AGMARK quality items for preparation of midday meals, tasting of meals by two or three adult members of the school management committee, including at least one teacher, before serving to children.
 - The School Management Committee mandated under the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 shall also monitor implementation of the Mid-day meal Scheme.
 - The State Steering-cum Monitoring Committee (SSMC) shall oversee the implementation of the scheme including establishment of a mechanism for maintenance of nutritional standards and quality of meals.
- **Stat2: Financing:**
 - The **cost of the MDMS is shared between the central and state governments.**
 - The central government provides free food grains to the states.
 - The cost of cooking, infrastructure development, transportation of food grains and payment of honorarium to cooks and helpers is shared by the centre with the state governments.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/08/mid-day-meal-scheme/>

65. Which of the following as the nodal agency has been assigned the responsibility of leveraging the monitoring mechanism of the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)?

- (a) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- (b) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- (c) NITI
- (d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

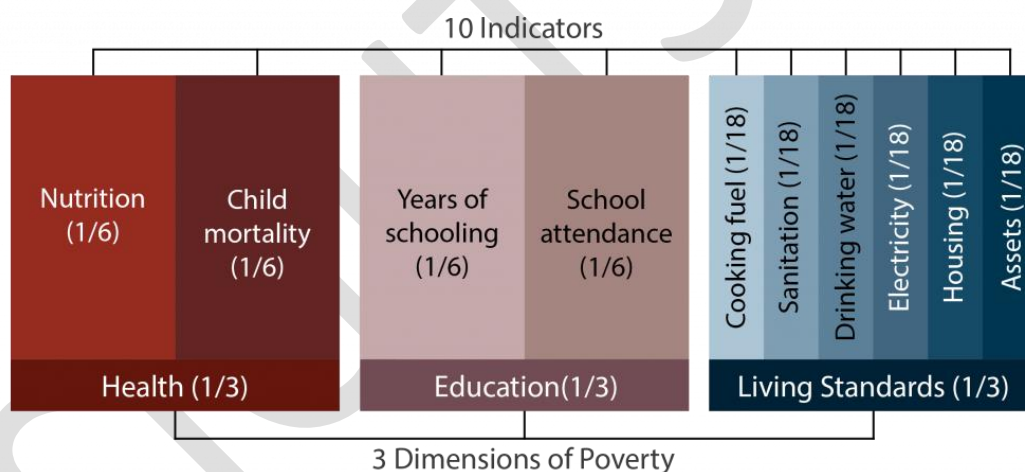
Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Why in News?**



- NITI Aayog is in the last stage for preparation of **Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) parameter dashboard** and a **State Reform Action Plan (SRAP)**.
- In this regard, the Niti Aayog will leverage the monitoring mechanism of the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index.
- **NITI Aayog is the Nodal agency for the MPI.**
- **Part of the “Global Indices to Drive Reforms and Growth (GIRG)” exercise:**
- **Global MPI** is part of Government of India’s decision to monitor the performance of the country in 29 select Global Indices.
 - The objective of **the “Global Indices to Drive Reforms and Growth (GIRG)” exercise** is to fulfil the need to measure and monitor India’s performance on various important social and economic parameters.
 - This will enable the utilisation of these Indices as tools for self-improvement, bring about reforms in policies, while improving last-mile implementation of government schemes.



© Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/08/global-multidimensional-poverty-index/>

66. Consider the following statements:

1. Hypersonic vehicles can travel six times faster than the speed of sound.
2. India recently tested the Hypersonic Test Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV).
3. The HSTDV is an unmanned ramjet demonstration aircraft for hypersonic speed flight.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

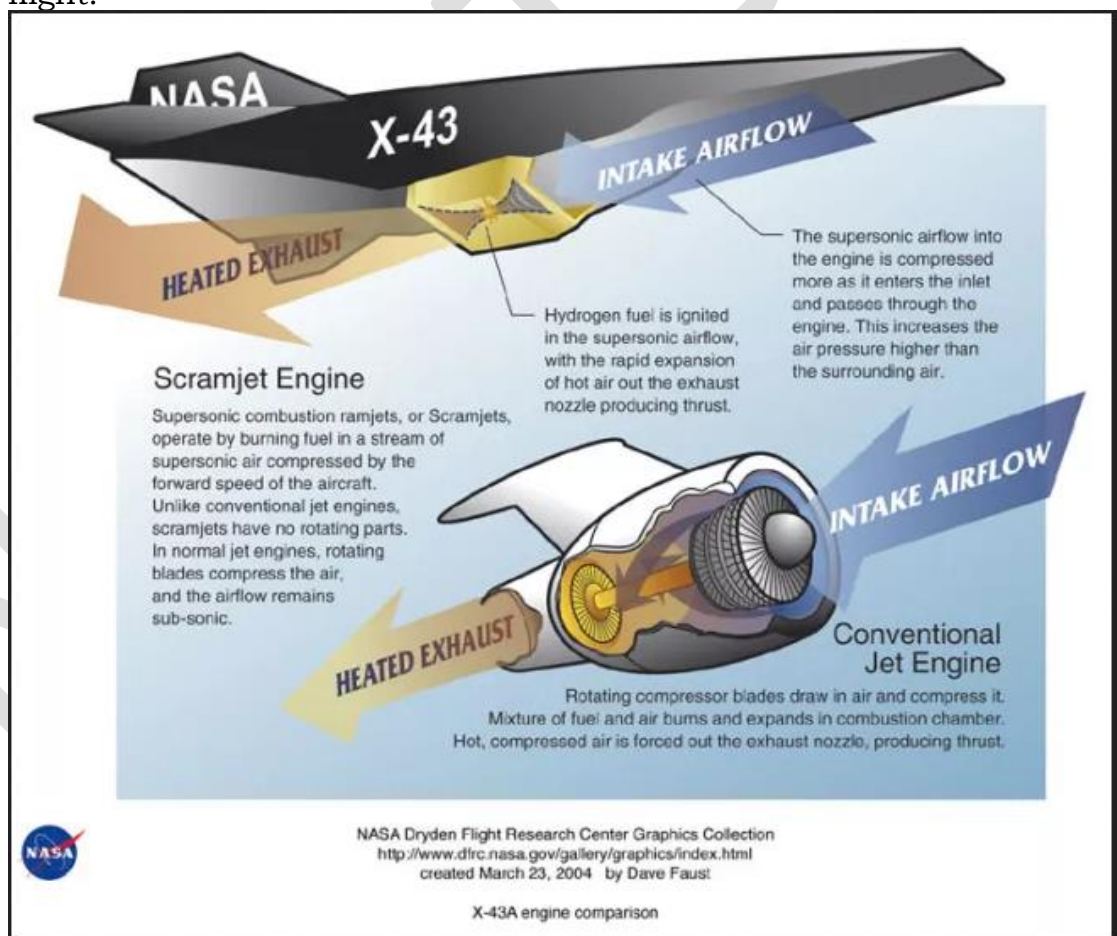


- (c) 1 and 3
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Stat1: In aerodynamics, a **hypersonic speed** is one that **greatly exceeds the speed of sound**, often stated as starting at speeds of **Mach 5 and above**.
- Stat2:
 - India has become **the fourth country after the United States, Russia and China to develop and successfully test hypersonic technology**.
 - **Why?**
 - India recently tested **the Hypersonic Test Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV)**.
 - **Developed by:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- Stat3: **Hypersonic Test Demonstrator Vehicle (HSTDV) is an unmanned scramjet demonstration aircraft** for hypersonic speed flight.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/08/india-joins-us-russia-china-hypersonic-missile-club/>



67. Who takes a call on central security cover to private individuals in India?

- (a) Cabinet Secretary
- (b) Prime Minister Office
- (c) Central Bureau of Investigation
- (d) Ministry of Home Affairs

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Who takes a call on central security cover to private individuals in India?**
- A call on central security to private individuals is taken by **the Home Ministry** based on inputs from intelligence agencies.
- **There are six kinds of central security covers:** X, Y, Y plus, Z, Z plus and SPG.
- While **the Special Protection Group protects only the Prime Minister**, the other categories can be provided to anyone based on the Centre's assessment.
- **Why in News?**
- Kangana Ranaut has been given Y-plus category security.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/08/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-8-september-2020/>

68. The Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC) was launched by the:

- (a) United Nations Environment Programme
- (b) United Nations Development Programme
- (c) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- (d) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- The **Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Reduce Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (CCAC)** was launched by the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and six countries** — Bangladesh, Canada, Ghana, Mexico, Sweden, and the United States — on 16 February 2012. The CCAC aims to catalyze rapid reductions in short-lived climate pollutants to protect human health, agriculture and the environment.
- The program is managed out of the United Nations Environmental Programme through a Secretariat in Paris, France

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/07/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-7-september-2020/>

69. Consider the following statements:

1. The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is termed as Question hour.



2. It is mentioned in the Rules of Procedure of 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: **Question Hour:**

- **The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is termed as Question hour.**
- It is mentioned in the **Rules of Procedure of the House.**
- During this time, the members ask questions and the ministers usually give answers.
- **Question Hour in both Houses is held on all days of the session.** But there are two days when an exception is made:
 - There is no Question Hour on the day the President addresses MPs from both Houses in the Central Hall.
 - Question Hour is not scheduled on the day the Finance Minister presents the Budget.
- **Why in News?**
 - The Lok Sabha Secretariat has officially released the schedule for the monsoon Parliament session that starts on September 14, with Question Hour being dropped.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/03/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-3-september-2020/>

70. Mundra Port is located on the shores of:

- (a) Gulf of Kutch
- (b) Gulf of Khambhat
- (c) Gulf of Mannar
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (a)

Explanation: **Mundra Port:**

- It is **the largest private port of India located on the north shores of the Gulf of Kutch.**
- **Why in News?**
 - Mundra Port terminal deal under scrutiny over link with Chinese company. In this regard, the government is evaluating an agreement between the Adani Ports' French joint venture partner CMA CGM and the China Merchants Group.



Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/03/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-3-september-2020/>

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

71. Which city in India is popularly known as the “Town of Victory”?

- (a) Vijayanagar
- (b) Fatehgarh Sahib
- (c) Ayodhya
- (d) Mumbai

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- The **city** of Fatehgarh Sahib is of special significance to Sikhs. The word “Fatehgarh”, means “**Town of Victory**”, and is so **called** because in 1710, Sikhs under the leadership of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur conquered the area and destroyed the mughal fort.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/09/dekhoapnadesh-webinar-series-on-punjab-a-historic-perspective/>

72. Consider the following statements:

1. “Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat” was announced by Hon’ble Prime Minister in 2015 on the 146th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
2. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has been designated Nodal Ministry for co-ordination of the programme.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only



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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme.**

- Stat1: The idea of a sustained and structured cultural connect between denizens of different regions was mooted by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during **the Rashtriya Ekta Divas** held on 31st October, 2015, **to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.**
- Stat2: **The Ministry of Human Resource Development**, which has been designated Nodal Ministry for co-ordination of the programme has intimated all States/UTs to nominate a nodal officer for the programme, sign the MoUs with the partner States/UTs and prepare an Action Plan showing the activities, time lines and implementation responsibilities , in consultation with the partner States/UTs.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/09/dekhoapnadesh-webinar-series-on-punjab-a-historic-perspective/>

73. Consider the following statements:

1. The Deputy Chairman is nominated by the Rajya Sabha itself from amongst its members.
2. The Deputy Chairman is not subordinate to the Chairman.

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 Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha:**

- It is **a constitutional position created under Article 89 of the Constitution**, which specifies that **Rajya Sabha shall choose one of its MPs to be the Deputy Chairman as often as the position becomes vacant.**
- **Stat1: Who can be a deputy chairman?**
 - The Deputy Chairman is **elected** by the Rajya Sabha itself **from amongst its members.**
 - Whenever the office of the Deputy Chairman falls vacant, the Rajya Sabha elects another member to fill the vacancy.
- **The Deputy Chairman vacates his office in any of the following three cases:**
 - if he ceases to be a member of the Rajya Sabha;
 - if he resigns by writing to the Chairman;



- if he is removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the members of the Rajya Sabha. Such a resolution can be moved only after giving 14 days' advance notice.
- **Functions:**
 - The Deputy Chairman performs the duties of the Chairman's office when it is vacant or when the Vice-President acts as President or discharges the functions of the President.
 - He also acts as the Chairman when the latter is absent from the sitting of the House. In both the cases, he has all the powers of the Chairman.
 - The Deputy Chairman also plays a critical role in ensuring the smooth running of the House.
- **Stat2: Powers:**
 - The Deputy Chairman is **not subordinate to the Chairman. He is directly responsible to the Rajya Sabha.**
 - The Deputy Chairman is entitled to a regular salary and allowance which are fixed by Parliament and are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.
- **Election Procedure:**
 - For electing the Deputy Chair any Rajya Sabha MP can submit a motion proposing the name of a colleague for this constitutional position. The motion has to be seconded by another MP.
 - Additionally, the member moving the motion has to submit a declaration signed by the MP whose name s/he is proposing stating that the MP is willing to serve as the Deputy Chairperson if elected. Each MP is allowed to move or second only one motion.
 - Then the majority of the House decides who gets elected as the Deputy Chairperson.
 - However, if the political parties arrive at a consensus candidate, then that MP will be unanimously elected as the Deputy Chair.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/09/deputy-chairman-of-rajya-sabha/>

74. Consider the following statements:

1. The Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959 exempts several posts from disqualification on the grounds of 'Office of Profit'.
 2. The above-mentioned Act was amended five times.
 3. The term 'Office of Profit' is well-defined in the Constitution of India.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 and 2
 - (b) 3 only



(c) 2 and 3

(d) 1 and 3

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Stat3: The expression **“office of profit” has not been defined in the Constitution** or in the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- According to Articles 102(1)(a) and 191(1)(a) of Constitution, legislators (MP or MLA) can be barred from holding office of profit under Central Government or state government as it can put them in position to gain financial benefit.
- The Supreme Court recently held that the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Act, 2006 exempting 55 offices occupied by members of Parliament from disqualification was constitutionally valid. See <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/Supreme-Court-upholds-office-of-profit-law/article16876481.ece>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/09/what-is-an-office-of-profit/>

75. With reference to latest findings in ‘Health in India’ report, which of the following statements is/are correct?

- (a) Across the country, only 35% of children under five years are fully immunised.
- (b) Among States, Manipur recorded the highest rates of full immunisation.
- (c) Roughly 85% of children do not complete their immunisation programme.
- (d) All of the above (a), (b) and (c) statements are correct.

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **‘Health in India’ report:**

- **Published by?**
- **National Statistical Organisation (NSO).**
 - The report is based on **the 75th round of the National Sample Survey (July 2017-June 2018) on household social consumption related to health.**
- **Key findings in the latest report:**
 - **Stat1:** Across the country, **only 59.2%** of children under five years are fully immunised.
 - **Stat3:** Roughly, **two out of five children do not** complete their immunisation programme.
 - About 97% of children across the country received at least one vaccination — mostly BCG and/or the first dose of OPV at birth.
 - However, only 67% of children are protected against measles.



- Only 58% got their polio booster dose, while 54% got their DPT booster dose.
- Stat2: Among States, **Manipur (75%)**, Andhra Pradesh (73.6%) and Mizoram (73.4%) recorded the **highest rates of full immunisation**.
- In Nagaland, only 12% of children received all vaccinations, followed by Puducherry (34%) and Tripura (39.6%).

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/09/health-in-india-report/>

76. Consider the following statements:

1. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an alliance of more than 167 countries.
2. All members of the United Nations can join the International Solar Alliance (ISA).
3. ISA has set a target of 100 TW of solar energy by 2030.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **About the International Solar Alliance (ISA)**

- It is an Indian initiative, which was **launched jointly by Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi and H.E. François Hollande, President of France** on 30 November 2015 in Paris, France on the side-lines of **the 21st Conference of Parties (CoP 21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change**.
- **The ISA Assembly** is the main decision-making body of the alliance and it decides on various administrative, financial and program-related issues.
- **What it does?**
 - As an action-oriented organisation, the ISA brings together countries with rich solar potential to aggregate global demand, thereby reducing prices through bulk purchase, facilitating the deployment of existing solar technologies at scale, and promoting collaborative solar R&D and capacity building.
- **When it entered into force?**
 - When the ISA Framework Agreement entered into force on December 6th, 2017, ISA formally became a de-jure treaty based International Intergovernmental Organization, headquartered at Gurugram, India.



- **Stat1 and 2: Membership:**
 - **All members of the United Nations can join the International Solar Alliance (ISA)** under the recently amended ISA Framework Agreement.
 - As on 30 July 2020, **87 Countries have signed the Framework Agreement of the ISA and of these 67 have deposited their instruments of ratification.**
- **Stat3: Goal:**
 - It has set a target of 1TW of solar energy by 2030.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/09/first-world-solar-technology-summit/>

77. Consider the following statements:

1. Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT) is a Collective Investment Scheme similar to a Venture Fund.
2. The InvITs are regulated by the SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014.

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 InvIT model?**

- Stat1: 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.
- Stat2: The InvITs are **regulated by the SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/09/infrastructure-investment-trust-inv-it-model/>

78. What is Real Mango, which was in news recently?

- (a) Some traditional food
- (b) New hybrid variety of Mango
- (c) Some illegal software
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **What is Real Mango, which was in news recently?**

- It is **an illegal software used for cornering confirmed Railway reservation**. This commonly banned software makes the complete process of Indian Rail ticket booking at a fly speed.



- **Why in News?**

- In a nation wide investigation, the Railway Protection Force has disrupted the operation of this illegal software.

Refer: Facts for prelims:

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

79. Narcotics Control Bureau is the apex coordinating agency under the:

- (a) Ministry of Finance
- (b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- (c) Ministry Of Corporate Affairs
- (d) Ministry of Home Affairs

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Narcotics Control Bureau:**

- It was **constituted by the Government of India in 1986** under **the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.**
- It is the apex coordinating **agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs.**
- The **National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances** is based on **Article 47 of the Indian Constitution** which directs the State to endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption, except for medicinal purposes, of intoxicating drugs injurious to health.
- Drug abuse control is the responsibility of the central government.

Refer: Facts for prelims:

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

80. Consider the following pairs:

- | <i>Tradition</i> | <i>State</i> |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Teej | Odisha |
| 2. Lohri | Punjab |
| 3. Hola Mahalla | Madhya Pradesh |

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

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Important festivals of Punjab:** Teej, Lohri, Basant Panchami, Baisakhi and Hola Mahalla.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/09/dekhoapnadesh-webinar-series-on-punjab-a-historic-perspective/>

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

81. With reference to Govind Ballabh Pant, which one of the following statements is not correct?

- (a) He was the first CM of Uttar Pradesh.
- (b) He established an organisation called Prem Sabha.
- (c) He organised a massive salt movement in the United Provinces.
- (d) He led the procession to protest against the Simon Commission.

Ans: (d)

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

About Govind Ballabh Pant:

- Pant was **born on 10 September 1887** in what is now **Uttarakhand, at Almora.**
- **Stat2:** In **Kashipur**, he established an organisation called **Prem Sabha** that started working towards several reforms.
- He also **saved a school from shutting down due to non-payment of taxes** to the British government.
- **Offices he held:**
 - **Before independence:**
 - In December 1921, he was **elected to the Legislative Assembly of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh**, which he later renamed Uttar Pradesh.
 - He was elected as a candidate of **the Swaraj Party from Nainital.**
 - **After independence:**
 - **Stat1: First chief minister of Uttar Pradesh.**
 - He served as **India's home minister from 1955 to 1961.** It was during his tenure that **states were reorganised on linguistic lines.**
 - **Key contributions:**
 - He **encouraged many cottage industries** in the country and raised his voice against the coolie-beggar law, which forced porters to transport the heavy luggage of British officials without any payment.
 - **Stat3:** Following Gandhi's footsteps, Pant also **organised a massive salt movement** in the United Provinces. In May 1930, he was arrested and held at Dehradun jail.
 - **Stat4:** He also protested **against the Simon Commission.**



- **Lala Lajpat Rai** led the procession to protest against the Simon Commission. His slogan was “Simon Go back”.
- Pant was always **against a separate electorate for minorities**, saying the step would further divide communities.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/10/govind-ballabh-pant/>

82. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 99 of the Constitution provides for the election of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker.
2. The date of election of the Deputy Speaker is fixed by the Speaker.
3. Whenever Deputy Speaker is appointed as a member of a parliamentary committee, he automatically becomes its chairman.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **About Deputy Speaker:**

- **Stat1: Article 93** of the Constitution provides for **the election of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker**.
 - The constitutional office of the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha is **more symbolic of parliamentary democracy than some real authority**.
 - There is **no need to resign from their original party though as a Deputy Speaker**, they have to remain impartial.
- **Stat2:** Like the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker is also elected by the Lok Sabha itself from amongst its members. He is elected after the election of the Speaker has taken place. **The date of election of the Deputy Speaker is fixed by the Speaker**. Whenever the office of the Deputy Speaker falls vacant, the Lok Sabha elects another member to fill the vacancy.
- **Stat3:** The **Deputy Speaker** has one **special privilege**, that is, **whenever he is appointed as a member of a parliamentary committee, he automatically becomes its chairman**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/10/deputy-speaker-of-lok-sabha/>

83. “Section 8 of the Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1951”, sometimes mentioned in the news, is related to:

- (a) Disqualification arising out of conviction and corrupt practices.



- (b) Prohibition of public meetings during period of forty-eight hours ending with hour fixed for conclusion of poll.
- (c) Registration of political parties by Election Commission.
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Section 8 of the Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1951 disqualifies a person convicted with a sentence of two years or more from contesting elections.** But those under trial continued to be eligible to contest elections.
- **Option (a):** Section 11(a) of Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1951
- **Option (b):** Section 126 of Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1951
- **Option (c):** Section 29 (a) of Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1951

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/10/criminalisation-of-politics/>

84. Consider the following statements:

1. Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) brings together both the citizens and their elected representatives in the decentralized planning processes.
2. Village Poverty Reduction Plan (VPRP) is a comprehensive demand plan prepared by the Gram Sabha for projecting peoples demands and local area 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: (a)

Explanation:

- **Stat1: What are Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP)?**
 - GPDP is conducted from **2nd October to 31st December, every year** across the country, under the **People's Plan Campaign (PPC)**.
 - Local bodies, across the country are expected to prepare context specific, need based GPDP.
 - **It brings together both the citizens and their elected representatives in the decentralized planning processes.**
- **Stat2: Village Poverty Reduction Plan (VPRP)** is a comprehensive demand plan **prepared by the Self Help Group (SHG) network**



and their federations for projecting their demands and local area development which needs to be integrated with the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP). **The VPRP is presented in the Gram Sabha meetings from Oct. to Dec. every year.**

- **Objectives of VPRP are three-fold**

- Prepare a comprehensive and an inclusive demand plan of the community for local development
- Facilitate an interface between the SHG federation and Panchayati Raj institutions for development of demand plan
- Strengthen the community based organisations and their leadership for active participation in poverty reduction activities

- **Components of VPRP**

- Demands under VPRP are categorized into five major components:
- Social inclusion - plan for inclusion of vulnerable people/household into SHGs under NRLM
- Entitlement - demand for various schemes such as MGNREGS, SBM, NSAP, PMAY, Ujjwala, Ration card etc.
- Livelihoods - specific demand for enhancing livelihood through developing agriculture, animal husbandry, production and service enterprises and skilled training for placement etc.
- Public Goods and Services - demand for necessary basic infrastructure, for renovation of the existing infrastructure and for better service delivery
- Resource Development - demand for protection and development of natural resources like land, water, forest and other locally available resources
- Social Development - plans prepared for addressing specific social development issues of a village under the low cost no cost component of GPDP

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/10/what-are-gram-panchayat-development-plans-gpdp-and-vprp/>

85. Consider the following statements with reference to Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana:

1. It is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of fisheries sector in the country with an estimated investment of Rs.5000 crores.
2. Scheme is designed to address critical gaps in fish production and productivity, post-harvest infrastructure and management.

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

(a) 1 only



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

Ans: (a)

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

- Stat1: The **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)** is a flagship scheme for focused and sustainable development of fisheries sector in the country with **an estimated investment of Rs. 20,050 crores** for its implementation during a period of 5 years from **FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25** in all States/Union Territories, as a **part of AatmaNirbhar Bharat Package**.
 - **The investment of Rs. 20,050 crores under PMMSY is the highest ever in the fisheries sector.** Out of this, an investment of about Rs 12340 crores is proposed for beneficiary-oriented activities in Marine, Inland fisheries and Aquaculture and about Rs 7710 crores investment for Fisheries Infrastructure.
- Stat2: PMMSY is designed to address critical gaps in fish production and productivity, quality, technology, post-harvest infrastructure and management, modernization and strengthening of value chain, traceability, establishing a robust fisheries management framework and fishers' welfare.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/10/pradhan-mantri-matsya-sampada-yojana-launched/>

86. Which of the following best describes/ describe the objective of 'Rashtriya Gokul Mission' of the Government of India?
1. Development and conservation of indigenous breeds.
 2. Undertake breed improvement programme for indigenous cattle breeds so as to improve the genetic makeup and increase the stock.
 3. Enhance milk production and productivity.
 4. Distribute disease free high genetic merit bulls for natural service.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **About Rashtriya Gokul Mission:**

- To conserve and develop indigenous bovine breeds, government has launched 'Rashtriya Gokul Mission' under the **National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development (NPBBD)**.
- **The Mission is being implemented with the objectives to:**



- development and conservation of indigenous breeds
- undertake breed improvement programme for indigenous cattle breeds so as to improve the genetic makeup and increase the stock;
- enhance milk production and productivity;
- upgrade nondescript cattle using elite indigenous breeds like Gir, Sahiwal, Rathi, Deoni, Tharparkar, Red Sindhi and e) distribute disease free high genetic merit bulls for natural service.
- **Implementation:**
 - Rashtriya Gokul Mission will be **implemented through the “State Implementing Agency (SIA viz Livestock Development Boards)**. State Gauseva Ayogs will be given the mandate to sponsor proposals to the SIA’s (LDB’s) and monitor implementation of the sponsored proposal. All Agencies having a role in indigenous cattle development will be the “Participating Agencies” like CFSPTI, CCBFs, ICAR, Universities, Colleges, NGO’s, Cooperative Societies and Gaushalas with best germplasm.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/10/rashtriya-gokul-mission-4/>

87. Which of the following pairs is/are matched correct?

Advanced fighter aircraft *Manufacturer*

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. F-35 Lightning II | Lockheed Martin |
| 2. Tejas Mk2 | DRDO |
| 3. Dassault Rafale | Airbus |
| 4. F-15 Eagle | Boeing |

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- F-35 Lightning II: Lockheed Martin
- **Tejas Mk2 : HAL & ADA**
- **Dassault Rafale: Dassault Aviation**
- F-15 Eagle: Boeing

Refer: facts for prelims:

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



88. Jigyasa is a student-scientist connect programme which will be implemented by:

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation: **Jigyasa:**

- It is a **student – scientist connect programme** launched in 2017.
- The programme would be **implemented by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in collaboration with Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS).**
- The focus of this scheme is on **connecting school students and scientists so as to extend student's classroom learning with well planned research laboratory based learning.**

Refer: facts for prelims:

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

89. Which of the following countries not share border with Thailand?

- (a) Vietnam
- (b) Malaysia
- (c) Cambodia
- (d) Laos

Ans: (a)

Explanation: **WHO South East Asia Region:**

- The **73rd session is being hosted by the Government of Thailand (from Bangkok) while the previous session was held in New Delhi.**
- South East Asia is One of the six WHO Regions.
- The Region has 11 Member States – Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste.



Refer: facts for prelims:

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

90. As per the 75th Round of the National Sample Survey (conducted between June 2017 and July 2018), consider the following statements:
1. One in five students in India supplements school education with private coaching.
 2. Some States in Southern India spend more on private coaching than the rest of the country.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation: **National Statistical Organisation's (NSO) latest report on education:**

The findings are based on **75th round of the National Sample Survey**, conducted between June 2017 and July 2018. The households were surveyed on consumption related to education.

Key findings:

- **Stat1:** One in five students in India supplements school education with private coaching, including almost one in three at the secondary school level or Classes 9 and 10.
- More than 52% of urban upper caste boys take coaching, in comparison to just 13.7% of rural boys and girls from scheduled tribe communities.
- Private coaching fees make up almost 20% of the total cost of education for those in secondary and higher secondary school.



- **Stat2:** Some States in **eastern India** seem to **spend more on private coaching than the rest of the country.**

Refer: facts for prelims:

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



INSIGHTSIAS
SIMPLIFYING IAS EXAM PREPARATION

ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಐಚ್ಛಿಕ ವಿಷಯ ತರಗತಿಗಳು

ಅತ್ಯಂತ ದಿಶ್ವಾಸಾರ್ಹ ಬಿಎಎಸ್ ತರಬೇತಿ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ, ಅತ್ಯಂತ ದಿಶ್ವಾಸಾರ್ಹ ಐಚ್ಛಿಕ ವಿಷಯವಾದ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ತರಗತಿಗಳು ಅಕ್ಟೋಬರ್ 8 ರಿಂದ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭವಾಗಲಿದೆ.

ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯವನ್ನು ಬರೆದ ಅರಿವಿನೊಂದಿಗೆ?

ಅ) ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಪಾಠ್ಯ ಪಠ್ಯಗಳು. ಆ) ಶಿ. 80%ರಷ್ಟು ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳ ಪರಿವರಣೆ.

ಇ) 300 ರಷ್ಟು ಅಂಶ-ಗಣಿತ ಸಾಧ್ಯತೆ ಮತ್ತು ತೋರಿಸುವ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಶಿ. 10%ರಷ್ಟು. ಈ) ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ-ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಬರಗುವ ಅಭಿಮಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಅಂಶ.







ತರಗತಿಯ ವಿಶೇಷತೆಗಳು:

- 1) ಸಮಗ್ರ ಪಠ್ಯಪ್ರಕಾಶನ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಶ್ಲೇಷಣಾತ್ಮಕವಾದ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ.
- 2) ಶಿಕ್ಷಕ ಮತ್ತು ಅರಮನೆಗೆ ಎರಡೂ ಸಮಾನ ಅಧ್ಯತೆ. ಹಾಗಾಗ ತರಗತಿ ಕೊಠಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 10ರಷ್ಟು ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದೆ.
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- 5) ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಪರಿಚಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ವಂತ ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳನ್ನು-ಅಭಿಮಾನಗಳ ಕೆಲಸದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪಾಠ್ಯ ಪರಿಚಯವಾಗಿಯೂ
- 6) ಮಾತೃ ಭಾಷೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಅರಿವಿನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯದ ಪರಿಚಯವಾಗಿಯೂ ಅರಮನೆಯ ಕೆಲಸದ ಮೇಲಿಂದ ತರಗತಿ.

ತರಗತಿಯ ದಿನವು

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Time Table



More Details



Intro Course

ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಾಹಿತ್ಯ ಐಚ್ಛಿಕ ವಿಷಯದ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಕಲಿಯಲು:



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

91. With reference Punnapara-Vayalar revolt, consider the following statements:

1. It was a communist uprising in the Princely State of Travancore.
2. The main objective of the revolt was to gain complete independence from the British rule.

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 Punnapara-Vayalar revolt:**

- It was an organized working class uprising in the Princely State of Travancore, British India against the Prime Minister, C. P. Ramaswami Iyer and the state.
- **The objectives of the revolt were:**
 - To overthrow the exploitative diwan of Travancore.
 - To liberate the working class from unjust taxation and exploitation of the establishment.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/11/punnapara-vayalar-revolt/>

92. Consider the following statements:

1. Swami Vivekananda introduced Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world.
2. Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa gave the name 'Vivekananda' to Narendra Nath Datta.

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:



- He preached '**neo-Vedanta**', an interpretation of Hinduism through a Western lens, and believed in **combining spirituality with material progress**.
- 'Raja Yoga', 'Jnana Yoga', 'Karma Yoga' are some of the books he wrote.
- **Stat1:** He introduced Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world and is credited with raising interfaith awareness, bringing Hinduism to the world stage during the late 19th century.
- More: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/01/17/insights-into-editorial-how-swami-vivekananda-became-the-messenger-of-indian-wisdom-to-west/>
- **Stat2:** **Narendra** left Bombay for Chicago on 31 May 1893 with the name "Vivekananda", as suggested by **Ajit Singh of Khetri**, which means "the bliss of discerning wisdom," from Sanskrit **viveka** and ānanda.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/11/parliament-of-worlds-religions/>

93. Who called Vivekananda as the "maker of modern India"?

- (a) Mahatma Gandhi
- (b) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (c) Gopal Krishna Gokhale
- (d) Subhas Chandra Bose

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** had called Vivekananda the "maker of modern India." In his honour, the government of India in 1984 declared his birthday as National Youth Day.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/11/parliament-of-worlds-religions/>

94. Which of the following pairs (**Epics/Literary works: Author**) is/are not correctly matched?

- (a) Ramayana: Maharishi Valmiki
- (b) Mahabharata: Sage Ved Vyas
- (c) Lilavati: Brahmagupta
- (d) Malavikagnimitram: Kalidasa

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Lilavati (The Beautiful): Bhaskara II** or as **Bhaskaracharya**
- More: https://mathshistory.st-andrews.ac.uk/Biographies/Bhaskara_II/



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/11/125th-birth-anniversary-celebrations-of-sri-viswanatha-satyanarayana/>

95. Consider the following statements:

1. Parliamentary privileges do not extend to the President of India.
2. Till now, Parliament of India has not made any special law to exhaustively codify all the privileges.

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: The Constitution has also extended the parliamentary privileges** to those persons who are entitled to speak and take part in the proceedings of a House of Parliament or any of its committees. These include the **attorney general of India and Union ministers**.
 - **It must be clarified here that the parliamentary privileges do not extend to the president who is also an integral part of the Parliament.**
- **Stat2:** Originally, the Constitution (Article 105) expressly mentioned two privileges, that is, freedom of speech in Parliament and right of publication of its proceedings.
- It should be noted here that the **Parliament, till now, has not made any special law to exhaustively codify all the privileges**. They are based on five sources, namely,
 - Constitutional provisions,
 - Various laws made by Parliament,
 - Rules of both the Houses,
 - Parliamentary conventions, and
 - Judicial interpretations.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/11/what-constitutes-a-breach-of-legislatures-privilege/>

96. Which of the following has launched a scheme called 'Five Star Villages'?

- (a) Ministry of Tourism
- (b) Ministry of Rural Development
- (c) Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation
- (d) Ministry of Communications

Ans: (d)

Explanation:



- The **Department of Posts (Ministry of Communications)** has launched a scheme called **Five Star Villages**, to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of the country.
- The scheme is being launched on pilot basis in Maharashtra.
- **The schemes covered under the Five Star scheme include:**
 - Savings Bank accounts, Recurrent Deposit Accounts, NSC / KVP certificates.
 - Sukanya Samridhi Accounts/ PPF Accounts.
 - Funded Post Office Savings Account linked India Post Payments Bank Accounts.
 - Postal Life Insurance Policy/Rural Postal Life Insurance Policy.
 - Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana Account / Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana Account.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/11/five-star-villages-scheme/>

97. 'SAROD-Ports', sometimes mentioned in the news in reference to:

- (a) Disinvestment of Ports
- (b) Food Processing And Storage
- (c) Coast Guard Operations
- (d) Dispute Resolution Mechanism

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **'SAROD-Ports'** stands for **Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes – Ports**.
- Launched by the **Union Shipping Ministry**.
- It is **Affordable Dispute Redressal Mechanism** for all kind of disputes of maritime sector.
- **SAROD-Ports is established under Societies Registration Act, 1860 with the following objectives:**
 - Affordable and timely resolution of disputes in fair manner.
 - Enrichment of Dispute Resolution Mechanism with the panel of technical experts as arbitrators.
- **Composition of the society:**
 - SAROD-Ports consists members from Indian Ports Association (IPA) and Indian Private Ports and Terminals Association (IPTTA).

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/11/sarod-ports-launched/>



98. 'EASE Reforms Agenda', often seen in the news, is associated with:

- (a) Banking sector
- (b) Environment Impact Assessment
- (c) Foreign Direct Investment in ISRO
- (d) Rationalization of Centrally Sponsored Scheme

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **What is EASE Reforms Agenda?**

- It was launched in January 2018 jointly by the government and PSBs.
- It was commissioned through Indian Banks' Association and authored by Boston Consulting Group.
- EASE Agenda is aimed at institutionalizing CLEAN and SMART banking.
- The Index measures performance of each PSB on 120+ objective metrics.

- **What is EASE 2.0?**

- EASE 2.0 builds on the foundation of EASE 1.0 and introduces new reform Action Points across six themes to make reforms journey irreversible, strengthen processes and systems, and drive outcomes.

- **The six themes of EASE are:**

- Responsible Banking.
- Customer Responsiveness.
- Credit Off-take.
- PSBs as UdyamiMitra (SIDBI portal for credit management of MSMEs).
- Financial Inclusion & Digitalisation.
- Governance and HR.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/11/ease-2-0-banking-reforms-index/>

99. With which country India recently signed an agreement on Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services?

- (a) Russia
- (b) France
- (c) South Africa
- (d) Japan

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **India and Japan sign agreement on Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services between Forces of both countries.**

- This agreement establishes the enabling framework for closer cooperation between the two Forces in reciprocal provision of



supplies and services while engaged in bilateral training activities, United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, Humanitarian International Relief and other mutually agreed activities.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/11/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-11-september-2020/>

100. With reference to National School of Drama, consider the following statements:

1. It was founded in 1950 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
2. It is an organisation dedicated to the promotion of literature in the languages 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: (d)

Explanation:

- Paresh Rawal, actor and former BJP MP, **has been appointed Chairperson** of the **National School of Drama Society by President Ram Nath Kovind.**
- Key facts:
 - **Set up by the Sangeet Natak Akademi** as one of its constituent units in **1959.**
 - In 1975, it became an independent entity and was registered as an **autonomous organization under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860**, fully financed by the **Ministry of Culture**, Government of India.
 - **Bharat Rang Mahotsav, or the 'National Theatre Festival'**, established in 1999, is the annual theatre festival of National School of Drama (NSD), held in New Delhi, today it is acknowledged as the largest theatre festival of Asia, dedicated solely to theatre.

Refer: Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/11/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-11-september-2020/>



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

101. Consider the following statements:

1. The PM Cares Fund is audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
 2. In certain circumstances, Central government can transfer funds from the PM CARES Fund to the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).
- 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: PM CARES Fund, being a public charitable trust, “there is no occasion for audit by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India”.
- Stat2: **Money collected under the PM CARES Fund for the Covid-19 pandemic need not be transferred to the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)**, the Supreme Court said today, **adding that the government is free to transfer money to the disaster response fund if it feels it is appropriate to do so.**

[source](#)

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/12/questions-over-fcra-nod-for-pm-cares/>

102. Consider the following statements:

1. The PM CARES Fund is a charitable trust registered under the Registration Act, 1908.
2. The trust does not receive any budgetary support or any Government money.
3. Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund and Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance, Government of India are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.

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 PM CARES Fund:**

- Set up on **March 28**, the PM CARES Fund is **a charitable trust registered under the Registration Act, 1908.**
- The **trust does not receive any Budgetary support or any Government money.**



- It was **constituted with an objective to extend assistance in the wake of public health emergency that is pandemic COVID-19**”.
- **Who administers the fund?**
- **Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund** and Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance, Government of India are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/12/questions-over-fcra-nod-for-pm-cares/>

103. 2nd edition of Ranking of States on Support to Startup Ecosystems have been released by:

- NITI
- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM)
- Startup Council of India (SCI)

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **About the Ranking of States on Support to Startup Ecosystems:**

- Conducted by **the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.
- The objective is **to foster competitiveness and propel States and Union Territories to work proactively towards uplifting the startup ecosystem**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/12/ranking-of-states-on-support-to-startup-ecosystems/>

104. Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) 2.0 has been recently launched by:

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I)
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Launched recently by **the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)**.
- **What is CSCAF?**
 - CSCAF initiative **intends to inculcate a climate-sensitive approach to urban planning and development in India**.
 - The objective of CSCAF is **to provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change** while planning and implementing their actions, including investments.



- The **Climate Centre for Cities** under **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)** is supporting MoHUA in implementation of CSCAF.
- **The framework has 28 indicators across five categories namely:**
 - Energy and Green Buildings.
 - Urban Planning, Green Cover & Biodiversity.
 - Mobility and Air Quality.
 - Water Management.
 - Waste Management.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/12/climate-smart-cities-assessment-framework-cscaf-2-0/>

105. The expression 'net present value', sometimes mentioned in the news in reference to:

- (a) Climate change
- (b) COVID 19 vaccine trail
- (c) Forest diversion
- (d) Framework on resolution of stressed assets

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **What is NPV?**

- The Net Present Value (NPV) is **a monetary approximation of the value that is lost when a piece of forest land has been razed.**
- This is on the basis of the services and ecological value and there are prescribed formulae for calculating this amount which depends on the location and nature of the forest and the type of industrial enterprise that will replace a particular parcel of forest.
- It was developed by a committee led by Professor Kanchan Gupta, of the Institute of Economic Growth.
- **When was it introduced?**
- To regulate forest diversions, **Supreme Court introduced a high 'net present value' (NPV) charge on the lands diverted.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/12/net-present-value-npv/>

106. Which of the following pairs (Tropical Storms: Affected Area) not correctly matched?

- (a) Cristobal: Gulf of Mexico
- (b) Haishen: Japan
- (c) Hagibis: Indonesia
- (d) Amphan: India

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Hagibis Typhoon:** It is the latest typhoon and is said to be Japan's worst storm in decades.



- **Typhoon Haishen:** Recently, Japan was hit by this typhoon.
 - It is categorised as a Category 4 storm which means well-built framed houses can suffer severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and exterior walls.
- **Cyclone Amphan** is the second pre-monsoon cyclone to form in the Bay of Bengal in two years.
- Recently, a **tropical Cyclone** named **Cristobal** has formed in the **southern Gulf of Mexico**.
-

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/12/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-12-september-2020/>

107. The staple commodities of export by the English East India Company from Bengal in the middle of the 18th century were

- (a) Raw cotton, oil-seeds and opium
- (b) Sugar, salt, zinc and lead
- (c) Copper, silver, gold, spices and tea
- (d) Cotton, silk, saltpetre and opium

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- The East India Company was originally formed in Britain for pursuing trade with the East Indies in Southeast Asia. In fact, it ended up trading mainly with the Indian subcontinent and China, where the main items of trade were cotton, silk, tea, opium, and saltpetre (potassium nitrate).

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_India_Company

108. Who among the following were the founders of the “Hind Mazdoor Sabha” established in 1948

- (a) Krislum Pillai, E.M.S. Namboodiripad and K.C. George
- (b) Jayaprakash Narayan, Deen Dayal Upadhyay and M.N. Roy
- (c) P. Ramaswamylyer, K. Kamaraj and Veeresalingam Pantulu
- (d) Ashok Mehta, T.S. Ramanulam and G.G. Mehta

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- The HMS was founded in Howrah in 1948 by socialists Forward Bloc followers and independent unionists which included Basawon Singh (Sinha), Ashok Mehta, R.S. Ruikar, Maniben Kara, Shibnath Banerjee, R.A. Khedgikar, T.S. Ramanujam, V.S. Mathur, G.G. Mehta. R.S. Ruikar was elected president and Ashok Mehta general secretary.
- HMS absorbed the Royist Indian Federation of Labour and the Hind Mazdoor Panchayat, which was formed in 1948 by socialists leaving the increasingly communist dominated AITUC.



Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hind_Mazdoor_Sabha

109. Which one of the following foreign travellers elaborately discussed about diamonds and diamond mines of India?

- (a) Francois Bernier
- (b) Jean Baptiste Tavernier
- (c) Jean de Thevenot
- (d) Abbe Barthel Carre

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Jean-Baptiste Tavernier** (1605 – 1689) was a 17th-century French gem merchant and traveller Tavernier, a private individual and merchant traveling at his own expense, covered, by his own account, 60,000 leagues (120,000 miles in making six voyages to Persia and India between the years 1630 and 1668.
- Tavernier is best known for his discovery or purchase of the 116-carat Tavernier Blue diamond, in 1666. The diamond was certainly Indian in origin and likely sourced by Tavernier in 1666[4] at the Kollur mine in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh.
- Tavernier sold it to Louis XIV of France.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Baptiste_Tavernier

110. Which one of the following statements does not apply to the system of Subsidiary Alliance introduced by Lord Wellesley?

- (a) To maintain a large standing army at other's expense
- (b) To keep India safe from Napoleonic danger
- (c) To secure a fixed income for the Company
- (d) To establish British paramountcy over the Indian States

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- The French assistance to Tipu Sultan in 1798 was the last instance of active intervention of any other European power in India. To counter the intrigues of Napoleon and any further development in French Power in India, Wellesley, who was extremely influenced with the imperial thoughts, came up with the scheme of eliminating the French Power from India for ever.
- He placed the British on the head of the great Indian confederacy. The Fourth Anglo Mysore war had placed England on the Military supremacy in India and now Wellesley used the Subsidiary Alliance System aggressively.
- It was a Treaty, between the company and the Indian native rulers. In return for a payment or subsidy, the company would place garrison troops in that ruler's territory to fight against their rivals.



- An Indian ruler entering into a subsidiary alliance with the British would accept British forces within his territory and to pay for their maintenance.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subsidiary_alliance

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

111. In India, the use of carbofuran, methyl parathion, phorate and triazophos is viewed with apprehension. These chemicals are used as

- pesticides in agriculture
- preservatives in processed foods
- fruit-ripening agents
- moisturising agents in cosmetics

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Carbofuran is one of the most toxic carbamate pesticides.** It is marketed under the trade names **Furadan**, by FMC Corporation and Curater, among several others. It is used to control insects in a wide variety of field crops, including potatoes, corn and soybeans.
- Excerpts from a news report:
- “CARDAMOM Planters Marketing Co-operative Society in Kerala has appealed to the high court to suspend the ban on the use of extremely toxic and highly toxic pesticides.
- To promote organic farming in Kerala, the state agriculture department had ordered a ban on the use of these two categories of pesticides on May 7. The order was to be implemented within 10 days.
- During this period the Kerala Agriculture University was asked to provide alternatives to the banned pesticides, which include carbofuran, phorate, methyl parathion, monocrotophos, methyl demethon, prophenophos and triazophos. The university suggested less hazardous pesticides, like acephate, carbaryl, dimethoate and flubendiamide.”

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/14/pesticides-management-bill-2020-2/>

112. Consider the following statements:

1. If a chemical figures in the prior informed consent (PIC) of Rotterdam Convention, the exporting country has to take the importing nation's prior consent before exporting it.



2. The Convention creates legally binding obligations for the implementation of the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure. 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:

- Pesticide Action Network (PAN), a civil society group, came up with a report on paraquat usage in India in 2015. It said paraquat dichloride is being used for 25 crops in India, whereas it is approved to be used on only nine crops by the Central Insecticide Board and Registration Committee. This is a violation of the Indian Insecticides Act.
- **Paraquat** is yet to be listed in the **prior informed consent (PIC) of Rotterdam Convention**, is an international treaty on import/export of hazardous chemicals signed in 1998, he said.
- **Stat1: India is also a party to the convention**, which has 161 parties. If a chemical figures in the PIC, the exporting country has to take the importing nation's prior consent before exporting it.
 - **Stat2: The Convention creates legally binding obligations for the implementation of the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure.** It built on the voluntary PIC procedure, initiated by UNEP and FAO in 1989 and ceased on 24 February 2006
- "The industry has been able to bulldoze all efforts to bring it under the PIC list and to regulate it in any way possible.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/14/pesticides-management-bill-2020-2/>

113. Consider the following statements regarding Trans-fats.

- 1. Trans fats are a form of unsaturated fat that come in both natural and artificial forms.
- 2. Industrial trans-fats are used in vegetable fats / oils and baked foods for longer shelf life.
- 3. FSSAI aims to reduce the industrially produced trans-fats on food supply to less than two per cent by 2022.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)



Explanation:

- Stat1: Trans fats, or trans-fatty acids, are a form of unsaturated fat. They come in both natural and artificial forms. **Natural trans fats** occur in the meat and dairy from ruminant animals, such as cattle, sheep, and goats.
- Stat2: **Industrial trans-fats** are used in vegetable fats / oils, vanaspati, margarine and baked foods for longer shelf life.
- Stat3: **FSSAI** aims to reduce the industrially produced trans-fats on food supply to **less than two per cent by 2022**.
- **India targets to eliminate trans-fat by 2022**, a year ahead of the global target by the World Health Organization.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/14/what-are-trans-fats/>

114. Consider the following statements about Trans-fats.

1. Trans-fat is a type of unsaturated fat.
2. Trans fats also occur naturally.
3. Trans fats give food a desirable taste and texture.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Trans fat, also called trans-unsaturated fatty acids or trans fatty acids**, is a type of unsaturated fat that occurs in small amounts in nature, but became widely produced industrially from vegetable fats starting in the 1950s for use in margarine, snack food, packaged baked goods, and for frying fast food.
- **Naturally-occurring trans fats** are produced in the gut of some animals and foods made from these animals (e.g., milk and meat products) may contain small quantities of these fats.
- **Artificial trans fats (or trans fatty acids)** are created in an industrial process that adds hydrogen to liquid vegetable oils to make them more solid.
- **Trans fats are easy to use, inexpensive to produce and last a long time. Trans fats give foods a desirable taste and texture.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/14/what-are-trans-fats/>

115. Consider the following statements:

1. The National Informatics Centre (NIC) is an attached office under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
2. Integrated Road Accident Database Project will be implemented by the National Informatics Centre.



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: The **National Informatics Centre (NIC)** is an **attached office** under the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)** in the Indian government. The NIC provides infrastructure to help support the delivery of government IT services and the delivery of some of the initiatives of Digital India.
- Stat2: **iRAD** stands for **Integrated Road Accident Database Project**.
 - The primary purpose of IRAD is **to enhance road safety**.
 - **Developed by:**
 - **Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M)** and will be implemented by **the National Informatics Centre**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/14/irad-app/>

116. Which of the following statements are correct about the deposits of 'methane hydrate'?

1. Global warming might trigger the release of methane gas from these deposits.
2. Large deposits of 'methane hydrate' are found in Arctic Tundra and under the seafloor.
3. Methane in atmosphere oxidizes to carbon dioxide after a decade or two.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- S1 and S2: Large but poorly known amounts of methane are trapped in the sediments beneath the sea floor (in Tundra region and elsewhere), frozen into a form of water ice called methane hydrate.
- At low temperatures the methane hydrates on the sea floor are stable, but if the water and the sea floor become warmer, then the hydrates can break down. Because microorganisms then oxidize the resulting methane gas to form the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane hydrates have recently become a topic of intense discussion within the context of climate change. See



<https://worldoceanreview.com/en/wor-1/energy/methane-hydrates/>

- S3: Methane is relatively short-lived in the atmosphere; a molecule of methane is oxidized to water and carbon dioxide within a decade or so, mainly by reaction with another trace gas, the hydroxyl radical OH-. Thus, unlike the case of carbon dioxide (which stays in the atmosphere longer than methane), a concerted effort to reduce methane emissions would have almost immediate results in terms of reduction of greenhouse effect. See

http://earthguide.ucsd.edu/virtualmuseum/climatechange1/03_3.shtml

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/14/methane-in-krishna-godavari-kg-basin/>

117. 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
- (b) 2, 3 and 4
- (c) 1 and 4
- (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/2020/09/14/methane-in-krishna-godavari-kg-basin/>

118. 'Living planet report' is released by which of the following?

- (a) International Union for Conservation of Nature
- (b) United Nations Development Programme
- (c) United Nations Environment Programme
- (d) World Wide Fund for Nature



Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Released by international non-profit **World Wide Fund for Nature**.
- This year's Living Planet Report, **a collaboration between WWF International and the Zoological Society of London**, is the **13th edition of the biennial publication tracking wildlife populations around the world**.
- **Key findings:**
 - The **population of vertebrate species declined by around 68 per cent between 1970 and 2016**. Living Planet Index was used by the report to calculate this decline.
 - **Wildlife populations in freshwater habitats suffered a decline of 84 per cent**, equivalent to four per cent per year, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean.
 - The average two-thirds decline in global populations of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish in less than 50 years in large parts is **due to the same environmental destruction**, which is contributing to emergence of zoonotic diseases such as Covid-19.
 - **75 per cent of earth's ice-free land has been significantly altered**, most of the oceans polluted and over 85 per cent area of wetlands lost ~ all due to human activity.
 - **One in five plants is threatened with extinction**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/14/living-planet-report-2020/>

119. Dibru-Saikhowa National Park is located in:

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- The sprawling **Dibru Saikhowa National Park**, spread over an area of 650sq km, is located close to the eastern border of **Assam**, straddling both the districts of Dibrugarh and Tinsukia.
- An identified Important Bird Area (IBA), it is most **famous** for the **rare white-winged wood ducks as well as feral horses**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/14/assam-oil-well-fire-gas-leakage-largely-tamed/>



120. The Constituent assembly of India adopted Hindi as the official language of the country on September 14, 1949 under which one of the following article of the Constitution of India?

- (a) Article 351
- (b) Article 350A
- (c) Article 350B
- (d) Article 343

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **National Hindi Divas or Hindi Day** is observed every year on September 14.
- **Objective:** The day is a celebration of the Hindi language and its cultural heritage and values among the people of the country and abroad.
- **Rajbhasha award:** As a part of the Hindi Diwas celebration every year, the President of India presents the Rajbhasha award to people who have contributed towards the language.
- **Why do we celebrate National Hindi Diwas?**
 - The Constituent assembly of India adopted Hindi as the official language of the country on September 14, 1949 under **Article 343**.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/14/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-14-september-2020/>

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

121. He was a poet, freedom fighter and social reformer from Tamil Nadu. He was known as Mahakavi Bharathiyar. He published the sensational “Sudesa Geethangal” in 1908. He was:

- (a) G. Subramania Iyer
- (b) C. Rajagopalachari
- (c) Kandukuri Veeresalingam
- (d) Subramaniya Bharathiyar

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Subramaniya Bharathi was born on **11th December 1882**, in Ettayapuram village of Tirunelveli District in **Tamil Nadu**.
- He was **a poet, freedom fighter and social reformer from Tamil Nadu**.
- He was known as **Mahakavi Bharathiyar**.
- **His songs on nationalism and freedom of India** helped to rally the masses to support the Indian Independence Movement in Tamil Nadu.
- **Literary works:** “Kannan Pattu” “Nilavum Vanminum Katrum” “Panchali Sabatam” “Kuyil Pattu”.
- **He** published the sensational **“Sudesa Geethangal” in 1908**.
- Sometime in mid-1908, Bharati began to serialise **Gnanaratham** in his political weekly, India.
- In 1949, he became **the first poet whose works were nationalised by the state government**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/15/who-was-subramaniya-bharathiyar/>

122. Which of the following pairs (Multipurpose projects/dam: River) is not correctly matched?

- (a) Renukaji Dam Multipurpose Project: Yamuna river
- (b) Bhadbhut project: Narmada river
- (c) Kaleshwaram project: Godavari river
- (d) Mekedatu project: Cauvery river

Ans: (a)

Explanation:



- Renukaji Dam Multipurpose Project: Giri river (tributary of Yamuna river)
- Read more: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/01/12/renuka-dam/>
- Bhadbhut project: Narmada river
- Read more: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/barrage-across-narmada-promise-of-sweet-water-worries-about-hilsa-6558972/>
- Kaleshwaram project: Godavari river
- Read more: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/06/21/kaleswaram-project/>
- Mekedatu project: Cauvery river
 - Mekedatu is a location along Cauvery in Kanakapura Taluk of Ramanagara District of Karnataka.
 - Karnataka wants a reservoir across Cauvery at Mekedatu, to meet Bengaluru's water problem.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/15/mekedatu-project-2/>

123. Consider the following rivers:

1. Palar
2. Hemavati
3. Lakshmantirtha
4. Kabani
5. Ponnaiyar

Which of the given above rivers are tributaries of Cauvery river?

- (a) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (b) 2, 3, 4 and 5
- (c) 2, 3 and 4
- (d) All of the above

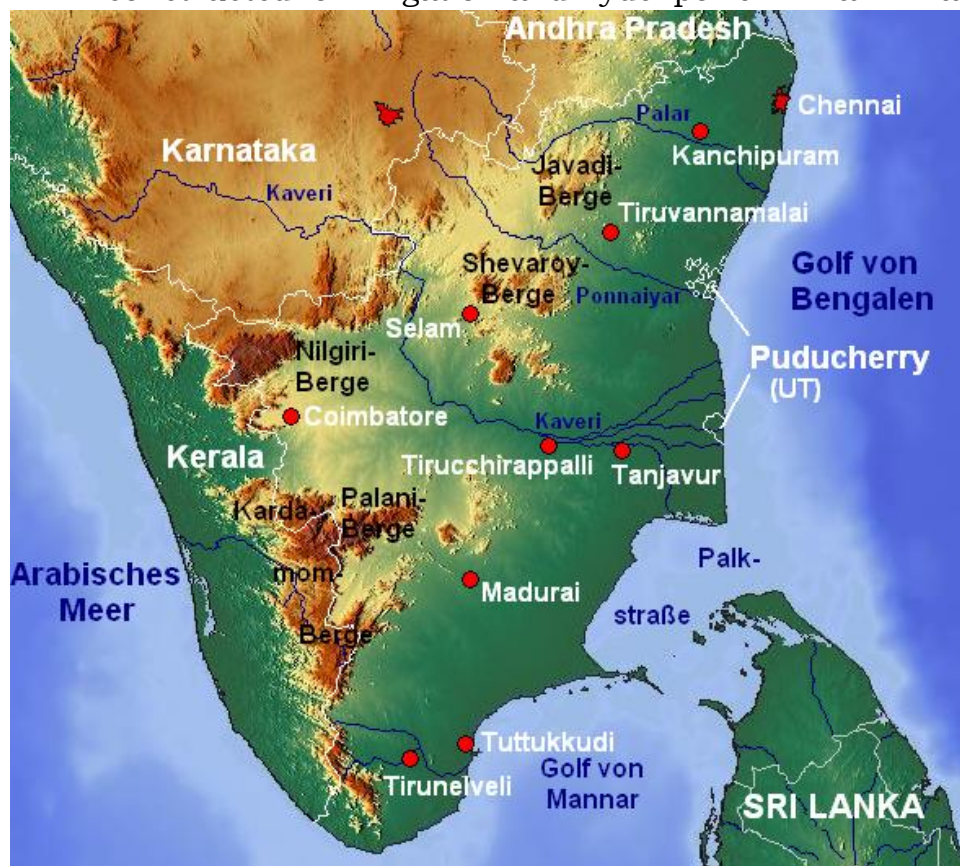
Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Facts for Prelims- Cauvery River:**
 - River rises on Brahmagiri Hill of the Western Ghats in south-western Karnataka state.
 - The river basin covers three states and a Union Territory as follows: Tamil Nadu, 43,868 square kilometres, Karnataka, 34,273 square kilometres, Kerala, 2,866 square kilometres and Puducherry.
 - **Key tributaries:** Hemavati, Lakshmantirtha, Kabani (Kabbani), Amaravati, Noyil, and Bhavani rivers.
 - Falls along the way: Upon entering Tamil Nadu, the Kaveri continues through a series of twisted wild gorges until it



reaches Hogenakal Falls. Dams: There the Mettur Dam was constructed for irrigation and hydel power in Tamil Nadu.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/15/mekedatu-project-2/>

124. "It is granted when a need has arisen during the current financial year for supplementary or additional expenditure upon some new service not contemplated in the Budget for that year".

The above given description refers to which of the following parliamentary grants?

- (a) Additional Grant
- (b) Excess Grant
- (c) Exceptional Grants
- (d) Token Grant

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Additional Grant:** It is granted when a need has arisen during the current financial year for supplementary or additional expenditure upon some new service not contemplated in the Budget for that year.
- **Excess Grant:** It is granted when money has been spent on any service during a financial year in excess of the amount granted for that year. The demands for excess grants are made after the



expenditure has actually been incurred and after the financial year to which it relates, has expired.

- **Exceptional Grants:** It is granted for an exceptional purpose which forms no part of the current service of any financial year.
- **Token Grant:** It is granted when funds to meet proposed expenditure on a new service can be made available by re-appropriation, a demand for the grant of a token sum may be submitted to the vote of the House and, if the House assents to the demand, funds may be so made available.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/15/what-are-supplementary-demands-for-grants/>

125. With reference to Singapore Convention on Mediation, consider the following statements:

1. The Convention will apply to international commercial settlement agreements resulting from mediation.
2. The Convention has 53 signatories, including India, China and the U.S.

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 **United Nations General Assembly** adopted the Convention on 20th December 2018 and it was **opened for signature on 7th August 2019 in Singapore.**
- It is also known as **the Singapore Convention on Mediation** and also **the first UN treaty to be named after Singapore.**
- **Key Features of the Convention:**
 - **Applicability:** The Convention will apply to international commercial settlement agreements resulting from mediation.
 - **Non- applicability:** It will not apply to international settlement agreements that are concluded in the course of judicial or arbitral proceedings and which are enforceable as a court judgment or arbitral award. It will also not apply to settlement agreements concluded for personal, family or household purposes by one of the parties (a consumer), as well as settlement agreements relating to family, inheritance or employment law.
 - **The courts of a contracting party** will be expected to handle applications either to enforce an international settlement agreement which falls within the scope of the



Convention or to allow a party to invoke the settlement agreement in order to prove that the matter has already been resolved, in accordance with its rules of procedure, and under the conditions laid down in the Convention.

- **Signatories:**

- The Convention has 53 signatories, including India, China and the U.S.
- India approved the signing of the Convention in July 2019.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/15/united-nations-convention-on-international-settlement-agreements-resulting-from-mediation/>

126. Consider the following statements:

1. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has launched MANAV: Human Atlas Initiative, towards improving knowledge on human physiology.
2. The IndiGen initiative was undertaken by Department of Biotechnology (DBT), aims at creating a database network of all tissues in the human body.
3. Recently NIMANS has developed Indian Brain Templates and Brain Atlas for tracking of brain development and ageing.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **MANAV: Human Atlas Initiative:**

- **Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has launched** MANAV : Human Atlas Initiative, towards improving knowledge on human physiology.
- **It is a project funded by DBT.**
- aims at creating a database network of all tissues in the human body from the available scientific literature.
- It is a project that involves scientific skill development for annotation, science outreach along with handling big data.
- The programme will involve gaining better biological insights through physiological and molecular mapping, develop disease models through predictive computing and have a wholistic analysis and finally drug discovery.
- Read more:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/05/13/manav-human-atlas-initiative/>



- **IndiGen initiative:**
 - Details of the IndiGen Genome project, **conducted by CSIR**, were recently announced.
 - The initiative was implemented by the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), Delhi and CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad.
 - **About Genomics for Public Health in India (IndiGen) programme:**
 - IndiGen programme aims to undertake whole genome sequencing of thousands of individuals representing diverse ethnic groups from India.
 - The objective is to enable genetic epidemiology and develop public health technologies applications using population genome data.
 - Read more:
<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2019/10/26/indigen-genome-project/>
- **Indian brain templates and a brain atlas**
 - The neuroscientists from **NIMHANS** studied over 500 brain scans of Indian patients to develop five sets of **Indian brain templates and a brain atlas** for five age groups covering late childhood to late adulthood (six to 60 years).
 - **Why this is significant?**
 - Currently, we are using Montreal Neurological Index (MNI) template. It is based on Caucasian brains and was made by averaging 152 healthy brain scans from just a small slice of the city's population in North America. But Caucasian brains are different from Asian brains.
 - But, India will now have a scale that will measure an Indian brain.
 - **Benefits of Indian Brain Templates and atlas:**
 - They will provide more precise reference maps for areas of interest in individual patients with neurological disorders like strokes, brain tumours, and dementia.
 - They will also help pool information more usefully in group studies of the human brain and psychological functions, aiding our understanding of psychiatric illnesses like Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), autism, substance dependence, schizophrenia, and mood disorders.
 - These new population- and age-specific Indian brain templates will allow more reliable tracking of brain development and ageing, similar to how paediatricians



monitor a child's height or weight, for example, using a growth chart.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/15/nimhans-develops-new-indian-brain-templates-brain-atlas/>

127. The Tashkent Declaration was the peace agreement between India and:

- (a) Nepal
- (b) China
- (c) Pakistan
- (d) Sri Lanka

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- The **Tashkent Declaration** was a peace agreement between **India and Pakistan** signed on 10 January **1966** that resolved the **Indo-Pakistani War of 1965**. Peace had been achieved on 23 September by the intervention of the external powers that pushed the two nations to cease fire, afraid the conflict could escalate and draw in other powers.
- The war between India and Pakistan in 1965 was an escalation of the small scale and irregular fighting from April 1965 to September 1965 between both countries. It was over control of the resources and population of the state of Jammu and Kashmir, a sore point between both countries ever since Partition in 1947.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/15/enemy-properties-3/>

128. Consider the following statements:

1. Unlike the zero hour, the question hour is not mentioned in the Rule of Procedure.
 2. Zero Hour is an Indian parliamentary innovation.
- 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: **Unlike the question hour, the zero hour is not mentioned in the Rules of Procedure.** Thus it is an informal device available to the members of the Parliament to raise matters without any prior notice.
- Stat2: Zero Hour is **an Indian parliamentary innovation.** It starts immediately after the question hour and lasts until the agenda for the day (i.e. regular business of the House) is taken up.



Refer: Facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/15/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-15-september-2020/>

129. Nioghalvfjærdsfjorden glacier is located in:

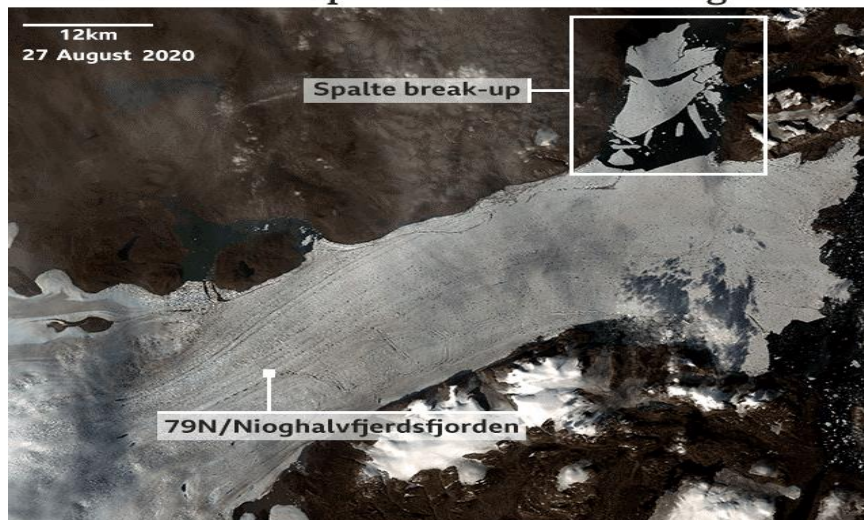
- (a) Himalaya
- (b) Greenland
- (c) Norway
- (d) Antarctica

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **Nioghalvfjærdsfjorden glacier:**

- It is located in Northeast Greenland.
- It is Arctic's largest ice shelf.
- **Why in News?**
- A massive chunk of ice has broken off from this ice shelf because of warmer temperatures in Greenland.

NE Greenland: Spalte Glacier disintegrates



Source: Copernicus Data/ESA/Sentinel-2B/PromiceGL

BBC

Refer: Facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/15/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-15-september-2020/>

130. Corresponding to the all India coverage of 75% and 50% in the rural and urban areas, currently State-wise coverage under National Food Security Act, (NFSA) 2013 determined by:

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) Ministry of Consumer
- (c) State implementing agencies
- (d) Food Commission of India

Ans: (a)

Explanation:



- NFSA covers upto 75% of the rural population and 50% of the urban population under under Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and priority households. While AAY households, which constitute poorest of the poor are entitled to 35 kg of foodgrains per family per month, priority households are entitled to 5 kg per person per month.
- **Corresponding to the all India coverage of 75% and 50% in the rural and urban areas, State-wise coverage under NFSA was determined by the erstwhile Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog) by using the NSS Household Consumption Survey data for 2011-12.**
- Within the coverage under TPDS determined for each State, the work of identification of eligible households is to be done by States/UTs. It is the responsibility of the State Governments/UTs, to evolve criteria for identification of priority households and their actual identification.
- Section 10 of the Act provides that within the number of persons determined for coverage under TPDS, the State Government shall identify the households under AAY as per guidelines applicable to the said scheme and the remaining households as priority households to be covered under TPDS, in accordance with such guidelines as the State Government may specify.

Refer: <https://dfpd.gov.in/pds-caeunfsa.htm>

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

131. Consider the following statements:

1. The 69th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1991 provided a special status to the Union Territory of Delhi.
2. State Election Commission (Delhi) administers elections to the Delhi legislative assembly.

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 **69th Constitutional Amendment Act of 1991** provided a special status to the Union Territory of Delhi, and



redesignated it the **National Capital Territory of Delhi** and designated the administrator of Delhi as the **lieutenant (lt.) governor**. It created a legislative assembly and a council of ministers for Delhi.

- Stat2: The **strength of the assembly** is fixed at **70 members**, directly elected by the people. **The elections are conducted by the election commission of India.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/16/the-national-capital-territory-of-delhi-amendment-bill-2020/>

132. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 106 of the Constitution empowers MPs to determine their salaries by enacting laws.
2. In India, salaries of legislators increased every five years, on the basis of GDP growth rate.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **Article 106 of the Constitution empowers MPs to determine their salaries by enacting laws.** In 1985, Parliament enacted a law that delegated the power to set and revise certain allowances of MPs such as constituency allowance, office allowance, and housing allowance to the central government.
 - Till 2018, MPs periodically passed laws to revise their salaries.
 - **The Finance Act, 2018** provided that the salary, daily allowance, and pension of MPs will be increased every five years, on the basis of the cost inflation index provided under the Income-tax Act, 1961.
- Stat2: In India, salaries of legislators **increased every five years**, on the basis of the **cost of inflation index**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/16/salary-allowances-and-pension-of-members-of-parliament-amendment-bill-2020-passed-in-lok-sabha/>

133. Consider the following statements:

As per the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020



1. The Act empowers both the central and state government to control the production, supply, distribution, trade, and commerce in certain commodities.
2. The Act empowers the central government to regulate the stock of an essential commodity that a person can hold.

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 Essential Commodities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020 was promulgated on June 5, 2020. It amends the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. **The Act empowers the central government to control the production, supply, distribution, trade, and commerce in certain commodities.** The Ordinance seeks to increase competition in the agriculture sector and enhance farmers' income. It aims to liberalise the regulatory system while protecting the interests of consumers.
- Stat2: **The Act empowers the central government to regulate the stock of an essential commodity that a person can hold.** The Ordinance requires that imposition of any stock limit on certain specified items must be based on price rise. A stock limit may be imposed only if there is: (i) 100% increase in retail price of horticultural produce; and (ii) 50% increase in the retail price of non-perishable agricultural food items. The increase will be calculated over the price prevailing immediately preceding twelve months, or the average retail price of the last five years, whichever is lower.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/16/essential-commodities-bill-passed/>

134. Currently, which of the following items included under the Essential Commodities Act of 1955?

1. Drugs
2. Inorganic fertilizers
3. Hank yarn made wholly from cotton
4. Face masks and hand sanitizers

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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



Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **At present, the “Schedule” contains 9 commodities** — drugs; fertilisers, whether inorganic, organic or mixed; foodstuffs, including edible oils; hank yarn made wholly from cotton; petroleum and petroleum products; raw jute and jute textiles; seeds of food-crops and seeds of fruits and vegetables, seeds of cattle fodder, jute seed, cotton seed; face masks; and hand sanitisers.
- **The latest items added to this schedule are face masks and hand sanitisers**, which were declared essential commodities with effect from March 13, 2020 in the wake of Covid-19 outbreak.
- By declaring a commodity as essential, the government can control the production, supply, and distribution of that commodity, and impose a stock limit.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/16/essential-commodities-bill-passed/>

135. With reference to Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), consider the following statements:

1. PMSSY is implemented by the National Health Agency.
2. Scheme was introduced to correct imbalances in the availability of tertiary healthcare services and improve the quality of medical 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: (b)

Explanation:

- Stat2: **PMSSY was introduced in 2003** to correct imbalances in the availability of tertiary healthcare services and improve the quality of medical education. The scheme has two components: **(i) setting up of new AIIMS, and (ii) upgradation of selected Government Medical College Institutions (GMCIs).**
- Stat1: The PMSSY is implemented by the **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
- **The National Health Authority or the NHA** is the apex body responsible for implementing India’s flagship public health insurance/assurance scheme **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**. NHA has **been set-up to implement the PM-JAY at the national level.**



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/16/pradhan-mantri-swasthya-suraksha-yojana-pmssy/>

136. Recently RBI has released the draft version of Rupee Interest Rate Derivatives (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2020. This move of RBI is aimed at:

1. Encouraging higher non-resident participation
2. Enhance the role of domestic market makers in the offshore market
3. Improve transparency and achieve better regulatory oversight

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- RBI has released the draft version of **Rupee Interest Rate Derivatives (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2020.**
- They are aimed at encouraging higher non-resident participation, enhance the role of domestic market makers in the offshore market, improve transparency, and achieve better regulatory oversight.
- **Key directions:**
 - It seeks to **allow foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to undertake exchange-traded rupee interest rate derivatives transactions** subject to an overall ceiling of Rs 5,000 crore.
 - **Net short position** of an FPI on exchange-traded IRDs should not exceed its long position in government securities and other rupee debt securities.
 - **The purpose of offering Rupee IRD contracts to a user, the market-maker** (entities which provide bid and offer prices to users in order to provide liquidity to the market) should classify the user either as a retail user or as a non-retail user.
 - **Non-retail users**, as per the draft, are entities regulated by RBI, SEBI, IRDAI or PFRDA; resident companies with a minimum net worth of Rs 500 crore; and non-residents, other than individuals.
- **What are IRDs?**
 - Interest Rate Derivatives (IRD) are contracts whose value is derived from one or more interest rates, prices of interest rate instruments, or interest rate indices.



- These may include interest rate futures, options, swaps, swaptions, and FRA's.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/16/rbi-issues-draft-on-rupee-ir-derivatives/>

137. Consider the following g statements with reference to Mission Shakti:

1. This was a technological mission carried out by DRDO.
2. The interceptor missile involved in the test had a hit-to-kill capable Kinetic kill vehicle.
3. As per the official sources, the missile was capable of shooting down targets moving at a speed of 100 km per second at an altitude as high as 2000 km.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully conducted an **Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) missile test 'Mission Shakti'** from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha on 27th March 2019.
 - A DRDO developed A-SAT Missile successfully engaged an Indian orbiting target satellite in **Low Earth Orbit (LEO)** in a 'Hit to Kill' mode.
- Stat2: The interceptor missile involved in the test had a **hit-to-kill capable Kinetic kill vehicle**. Thus the missile, by nature, was a direct-ascent anti-satellite weapon.
 - The interceptor missile was a three-stage missile with two solid rocket boosters.
- Stat3: As per DRDO, the missile was capable of shooting down targets moving at a speed of **10 km per second at an altitude as high as 1200 km**. However, in order to minimize the threat of debris, the interception was performed against an object moving at 7.4 km per second at an altitude below 300 km.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/16/postage-stamp-released-on-a-sat/>

138. Which one of the following is the first state to institutionalize snake handling in the country?

- (a) Odisha
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Kerala



Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Kerala becoming the first to institutionalise snake handling in the country**, the Kerala Forest Department has framed guidelines for rescuing snakes from human dominated places and releasing them in uninhabited areas.
- **Guidelines:**
 - **Mandatory certification:** It is mandatory for snake handlers, aged between 21 and 65 years, to seek certification.
 - **Selection process:** The applications will be screened by the Assistant Conservators of Forest (ACF, Social Forestry) to prepare lists of snake handlers in each district. Various parameters, including experience, age, health as well as track record will be considered during the selection process.
 - Those short-listed will be required to undergo mandatory training on safe and scientific handling of snakes.
 - **Validity of certificates:** While the certification will be valid for five years, the respective ACFs can withdraw or cancel the same if the snake handler is found to be involved in any illegal or unethical practices.
 - **Precautions:** Certified snake handlers will be required to wear protective gear and equip themselves with safety equipment while on the task.
 - Rescued snakes will also have to be released in the presence of forest officials at the earliest. If found injured, the snake can be released only after ascertaining its fitness. Non-native species, however, cannot be released and have to be handed over to the Forest Department.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/16/kerala-to-have-certified-snake-handlers/>

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

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

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Also known as **Swimming Camels**.



- **Found only in Gujarat's Bhuj area.**
- It has been recognized as a separate breed (one among nine such breeds found in India) of camel for better conservation.
- This camel is **adapted to the extreme climate of Ran of Kachh** where shallow seas and high salinity is prevalent.
- It can **live in both coastal and dry ecosystems. It grazes on saline / mangrove trees and is tolerant to high saline water.**
- It can **swim up to three kilometers** into the sea in search of mangroves, their primary food.



Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/16/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-16-september-2020/>

140. He was the chief engineer responsible for the construction of the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam in Mysore. He was knighted as a Knight Commander of the British Indian Empire by King George V for his contributions to the public good in 1915. He was

- (a) Satish Dhawan
- (b) Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya
- (c) APJ Abdul Kalam
- (d) Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **Engineer's Day:**

- India celebrates **Engineer's Day every year on September 15** as a tribute to the greatest Indian Engineer Bharat Ratna **Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya** on his birthday.
- He was the chief engineer responsible for the construction of the **Krishna Raja Sagara Dam in Mysore.**



- He was knighted as a Knight Commander of the British Indian Empire by King George V for his contributions to the public good in 1915.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/16/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-16-september-2020/>

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

141. The expression 'Serial Interval', sometimes mentioned in the news in reference to:

- (a) Indo-China border dispute
- (b) Israel-UAE peace agreement
- (c) Transmission of Covid-19
- (d) UN Committee on global terrorism

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- China, which has now gone over a month without any locally transmitted Covid-19 cases, was able to contain Covid-19 due to its ability to manage **the serial interval**.
- **What is it?**
 - The serial interval is **the duration between symptom onset of a primary case and symptom onset of secondary cases (contacts) generated by the primary case**.
 - In simple terms, the serial interval is **the gap between the onset of Covid-19 symptoms in Person A and Person B, who is infected by Person A**.
- **When was it first used?**
 - The term was first used by British physician William Pickles, who had initially referred to it as transmission interval with reference to a hepatitis epidemic in the United Kingdom during 1942-45.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/17/what-is-serial-interval-and-how-can-it-be-managed-to-control-covid-19/>

142. The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 empowers which of the following to undertake a scheme of amalgamation of a cooperative bank without placing it under moratorium?

- (a) Ministry of Finance
- (b) State government
- (c) Reserve bank of India
- (d) Both (a) and (c)



Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Context:**
 - Passed in Lok Sabha. The Bill replaces an ordinance to the same effect promulgated on June 26.
 - The Bill proposes amendments to **the Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
 - With this new Bill, the central government aims to bring **cooperative banks under the supervision of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**.
- **Key changes:**
 - Now, Provisions applicable to banking companies will also applicable to cooperative banks. This ensures that cooperative banks are equally subject to better governance and sound banking regulations through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
 - With the amendments, **RBI will be able to undertake a scheme of amalgamation of a bank without placing it under moratorium**.
 - It will help **the central bank to develop a scheme to ensure the interest of the public, banking system, account holders in the bank and banking company's proper management**, without disrupting any banking functionalities.
 - The amendments also allow **cooperative banks to raise money via public issues and private placements of equity or preference shares as well as unsecured debentures**, with the central's bank's nod.
 - However, **the changes will not:**
 - Affect the existing powers of the state registrars of co-operative societies under state laws.
 - Apply to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) or co-operative societies whose primary object and principal business is long-term finance for agricultural development, and which do not use the words "bank", "banker" or "banking".

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/17/banking-regulation-amendment-bill-2020/>

143. The beginning of a solar cycle is typically characterised by:

- (a) Big explosion on the surface of the sun
- (b) Condensation of molecules
- (c) Temporary dark spots on the surface of the sun
- (d) Both (a) and (c)



Ans: (c)

Explanation: **What is a solar cycle?**

- The Sun is a huge ball of **electrically-charged hot gas**. This charged gas moves, generating a powerful **magnetic field**. This magnetic field goes through a cycle, called **the solar cycle**.
- Every **11 years or so**, the **Sun's magnetic field completely flips**. This means that the Sun's north and south poles switch places. Then it takes about another 11 years for the Sun's north and south poles to flip back again.
- So far, astronomers have documented **24 such cycles**, the last one ended in 2019.
- **How do scientists track solar activity?**
 - Scientists track a solar cycle by using **sunspots**.
 - The **beginning of a solar cycle** is typically characterised by only **a few sunspots** and is therefore referred to as **a solar minimum**.
- **What is solar minimum and maximum?**
 - One way to track the solar cycle is by counting the number of sunspots.
 - The beginning of a solar cycle is a solar minimum, or when the Sun has the least sunspots. Over time, solar activity—and the number of sunspots—increases.
 - The middle of the solar cycle is the solar maximum, or when the Sun has the most sunspots. As the cycle ends, it fades back to the solar minimum and then a new cycle begins.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/17/what-is-solar-cycle-25/>

144. 'Global Initiative to reduce Land Degradation and Coral Reef program' emerged at:

- (a) Rio+20 Summit, 2012
- (b) UN Convention to Combat Desertification (COP 14), 2019
- (c) UN Climate Action Summit, 2019
- (d) Environment Ministerial Meeting (EMM) of the G20 countries

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Launched at the recently held **Environment Ministerial Meeting (EMM) of the G20 countries** which took place under **the Presidency of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**.
- **About the Initiative:**
- It aims to strengthen **the implementation of existing frameworks to prevent, halt, and reverse land degradation within G20 member states and globally**, taking into account



possible implications on the achievement of other SDGs and adhering to the principle of doing no harm.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/17/global-initiative-to-reduce-land-degradation-and-coral-reef-program/>

145. Consider the following statements:

As per the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act:

1. Under UAPA, both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged.
2. Under the UAPA, the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in maximum 90 days after the arrests.

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 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:**
 - Stat1: 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.
 - Stat2: 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.
- **Amendments and changes:**
- The 2004 amendment, added **“terrorist act”** to the list of offences to ban organisations for terrorist activities, under which 34 outfits were banned. Till 2004, “unlawful” activities referred to actions related to secession and cession of territory.
- 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/2020/09/17/unlawful-activities-prevention-act-6/>

146. Once the investment is classified as FDI (basis total holding), if the FDI holding comes back to <10%, then it is classified as:

- (a) Foreign portfolio investment
- (b) Foreign Investment
- (c) Alternative Investment Fund
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Ans: [Source](#): **Once an FDI always an FDI.**
- **Foreign Investment** means any investment made by a person resident outside India on a repatriable basis in capital instruments of an Indian company or to the capital of an LLP.
- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** is the investment through capital instruments by a person resident outside India (a) in an unlisted Indian company; or (b) in 10 percent or more of the post issue paid-up equity capital on a fully diluted basis of a listed Indian company.
- **Foreign Portfolio Investment** is any investment made by a person resident outside India in capital instruments where such investment is (a) less than 10 percent of the post issue paid-up equity capital on a fully diluted basis of a listed Indian company or (b) less than 10 percent of the paid up value of each series of capital instruments of a listed Indian company.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/17/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-17-september-2020/>

147. Foreign Direct Investment in India is currently not permitted in which of the following sectors?

1. Lottery Business
2. Chit funds
3. Nidhi company
4. Trading in Transferable Development Rights

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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



(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **FDI in India is currently not permitted in the following sectors:**
 - Lottery Business including Government /private lottery, online lotteries, etc;
 - Gambling and Betting including casinos etc.;
 - Chit funds;
 - Nidhi company (borrowing from members and lending to members only);
 - Trading in Transferable Development Rights (TDRs);
 - Real Estate Business or Construction of Farm Houses;
 - Manufacturing of Cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes;
 - Activities / sectors not open to private sector investment e.g. Atomic Energy.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/17/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-17-september-2020/>

148. Kosi Rail Mahasetu inaugurated recently in:

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **Kosi Rail Mahasetu:**
- Inaugurated recently in **Bihar**.
- Sanctioned by the Centre during 2003-04.
- Connects **Nirmali and Saraigarh districts of Bihar**.
- Provides **a shorter route to the Northeast**.
- The bridge is of strategic importance along the India-Nepal border.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/17/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-17-september-2020/>

149. Consider the following statements:

1. Saint Nimbarka was a contemporary of Akbar.
2. Saint Kabir was greatly influenced by Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi.

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:

- **Nimbarka**, was a Hindu philosopher and commentator, known for propagating the **Vaishnava doctrine** of **bhedabheda dvaitadvaita**, duality in unity. According to the Vedic scriptures, he was born **in 3096 B.C.E.**, but modern historical research places him in the **thirteenth or fourteenth century**. So, 1 is clearly wrong. See <https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Nimbarka>
- **Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi was born after Saint Kabir.** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmad_Sirhindi
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kabir>

Source: UPSE CSE 2019

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

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

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Stat1: **TallapākaAnnamācārya** (or **Annamayya**) was a **15th-century Hindu saint** and is the earliest known Indian musician to compose songs called sankirtanas in praise of the god **Venkateswara**, a form of Vishnu. Hence S1 is incorrect.
- Stat2: **Tyagaraja** took music training from **SontiVenkataramayya**. But that didn't stop him from taking musical inspirations from various earlier poets. He was an **ardent devotee of lord Rama**. In his praise and honour he wrote numerous musical operas, and about twenty four thousand songs, a claim that has been speculated among music historians. Hence, S2 is correct.
- Stat3: **Tyagaraja was born on 14th May 1767** in the village of Thiruvayaru in the Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu whereas TallapākaAnnamācārya (or Annamayya) (22 May 1408 – 4 April



1503) was a 15th-century Hindu saint. Hence, statement 3 is incorrect.

- Stat4: Tallapāka Annamācārya (or Annamayya) (22 May 1408 – 4 April 1503) was a 15th-century Hindu saint and is the earliest known Indian musician to compose songs called sankirtanas in praise of the god Venkateswara, a form of Vishnu. Hence, S4 is correct.
- **Source:** <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annamacharya>
- <https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/remembering-tyagaraja-guardian-saint-carnatic-music-his-250th-birth-anniversary-55754>

Source: UPSC CSE 2018

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

151. . With reference to Dhrupad, one of the major traditions of India that has been kept alive for centuries, which of the following statements are correct?

1. Dhrupad originated and developed in the Rajput Kingdom period.
2. Dhrupad is primarily a devotional and spiritual music.
3. Dhrupad Alap uses Sanskrit syllables from Mantras.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Dhrupad is **the most ancient style of Hindustani classical music** that has survived until today in its original form.
- The nature of Dhrupad music is **spiritual**. It does not seek to entertain, but to induce feelings of peace and spirituality in the listener.
- Stat2: It is primarily **a form of worship**, in which offerings are made to the divine through sound or Nada.
- Dhrupad was **initially sung only in the temples**, the singer facing the Lord. From this early chanting, Dhrupad evolved into **a sophisticated classical form of music**.
- **Characteristics:**
 - It lays emphasis on **maintaining purity of the Raga**.
 - The **language of Dhrupad changed from Sanskrit to Brij Bhasha** sometime between the 12th and the 16th century.



- **Stat1: Genesis:**
 - It is a form of devotional music that traces its origin to the ancient text of **SamVeda**. The SAM VEDA was chanted with the help of melody and rhythm called Samgana. Gradually this developed into other vocal style called '**Chhanda**' and '**Prabandha**' with introduction of verse and meter. The fusion of these two elements led to the emergence of Dhrupad.
- **Dhrupad during mediaeval times:**
 - In medieval India, Dhrupad had mainly **thrived under the patronage of Mughal and Rajput kings**. Later it declined with the shift of interest in **Khayal**.
- **Stat3: Performance:**
 - Performance of Dhrupad is done in two parts viz. **the Alap and Bandish**. In the Alap, the singer uses syllables from Sanskrit Mantra which add texture to the notes. The Raga is slowly and methodically developed in a meditative mode.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/18/in-news-dhrupad/>

152. Consider the following statements about National Human Rights Commission (NHRC):

1. It is a constitutional body
2. The chairperson of NHRC is a retired chief justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court.
3. The chairperson of hold office for a term of three years or until they attain the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **About National Human Rights Commission (NHRC):**

- It is **a statutory body** established on 12th October, 1993 under **the Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993**.
- The Act also provides for the creation of **the State Human Rights Commission** as well.
- **Composition:**
 - The chairperson is **a retired chief justice of India or a judge of the Supreme Court**.
 - They are **appointed by the President** on the recommendations of a six-member committee consisting of:
 - Prime Minister (head)
 - Speaker of the Lok Sabha



- Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha
- Leaders of the Opposition in both the Houses of Parliament
- Union Home Minister.
- **Term and removal:**
 - They hold office for a term of three years or until they attain the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.
 - The President can remove them from the office under specific circumstances.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/18/national-human-rights-commission-nhrc/>

153. Consider the following statements with reference to Gilgit-Baltistan.

1. Three of the world's longest glaciers outside the Polar Regions are found in Gilgit-Baltistan.
2. It borders China in the North, Afghanistan in the west and Kashmir in the south east.

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: **Where is Gilgit Baltistan located?**

- It borders China in the North, Afghanistan in the west and Kashmir in the south east.
- It shares a geographical boundary with **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir**, and India considers it as part of the undivided Jammu and Kashmir, while Pakistan sees it as a separate from PoK.
- It has **a regional Assembly and an elected Chief Minister**.
- **Key points:**
 - **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)** passes through this region.
 - The region is home to **five of the "eight-thousanders"** and to more than fifty peaks above 7,000 metres (23,000 ft).
 - **Three of the world's longest glaciers outside the polar regions** are found in Gilgit-Baltistan.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/18/gilgit-baltistan-4/>

154. Consider the following statements:

1. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN).
2. Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York.
3. The International Court of Justice is composed of 15 judges elected to nine-year terms of office by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.

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 ICJ:**

- The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the **principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN)**. It was established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946.



- The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in **The Hague (Netherlands)**. Of the six principal organs of the United Nations, it is the only one not located in New York (United States of America).
- **It has two primary functions:** to settle legal disputes submitted by States in accordance with established international laws, and to act as an advisory board on issues submitted to it by authorized international organizations.
- **Members:**
 - The International Court of Justice is **composed of 15 judges** elected to **nine-year terms** of office **by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council**.
 - In order to be elected, **a candidate must receive an absolute majority of the votes in both bodies**.
 - In order to ensure a measure of continuity, **one third of the Court is elected every three years. Judges are eligible for re-election**.
- **Qualifications of ICJ judges:**
 - A judge should have a high moral character.
 - A judge should fit to the qualifications of appointment of highest judicial officers as prescribed by their respective states or.
 - A judge should be a juriconsult of recognized competence in international law.
- **The 15 judges of the Court are distributed as per the regions:**
 - Three from Africa.
 - Two from Latin America and Caribbean.
 - Three from Asia.
 - Five from Western Europe and other states.
 - Two from Eastern Europe.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/18/pak-told-to-allow-queens-counsel/>

155. So far, India has not signed which one of the following foundational agreements between India and the US?

- (a) The Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA).
- (b) The Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA).
- (c) The General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA).
- (d) Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial cooperation (BECA).

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- The U.S. is expecting India to sign the last foundational agreement, **Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial cooperation**



(BECA), at the next **India-U.S. 2+2 ministerial dialogue** likely to held in October end.

- **Foundational agreements between India and the US:**
- So far, **India has signed three foundational agreements:**
 - The Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA).
 - The Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA).
 - The General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) was signed a long time ago. An extension to the GSOMIA, **the Industrial Security Annex (ISA)**, was signed at the last 2+2 dialogue.
- **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/2020/09/18/u-s-keen-on-finalising-beca-at-22-dialogue/>

156. “Tidal disruption events”, sometimes mentioned in the news, is related to:

- (a) Magnetic anomalies in the ocean.
- (b) Source of anomalies in the space.
- (c) Some consequence of massive black holes activity hidden in galaxy nuclei.
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Astronomers study Blackholes by watching for their effects on nearby stars and gas. Stars are disrupted when the black hole’s tidal gravity exceeds the star’s self-gravity, and this phenomenon is called **tidal disruption events (TDE)**.
- The tidal disruption events are crucial and useful phenomena to detect and predict the mass of supermassive black holes in quiescent galaxies.



Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/18/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-18-september-2020/>

157. Consider the following statements:

1. An air bubble is a temporary arrangement between two countries to restart commercial flight services.
2. Under the arrangement, only Indian air carriers were allowed to operate flights.

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:

- An air bubble is essentially a temporary arrangement between two countries to restart commercial flight services at a time when regular international flights are suspended due to COVID-19.
- Under the arrangement, airlines from both countries are allowed to operate, unlike Mission Vande Bharat where only Indian air carriers were allowed to operate flights.
- Why in News?
 - India has entered into Air Bubble agreements with 10 countries viz. USA, Canada, France, Germany, UK, Maldives, UAE, Qatar, Afghanistan and Bahrain, till 13.09.2020.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/18/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-18-september-2020/>

158. 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.

Source: UPSC CSE 2019

159. With reference to the Constitution of India, prohibitions or limitations or provisions contained in ordinary laws cannot act as prohibitions or limitations on the constitutional powers under Article 142. It could mean which one of the following?

- (a) The decisions taken by the Election Commission of India while discharging its duties cannot be challenged in any court of law.
- (b) The Supreme Court of India is not constrained in the exercise of its powers by laws made by the Parliament.
- (c) In the event of grave financial crisis in the country, the President of India can declare Financial Emergency without the counsel from the Cabinet.
- (d) State Legislatures cannot make laws on certain matters without the concurrence of Union Legislature.

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **As per Article 142**, “The Supreme Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction may pass such decree or make such order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it, and any decree so passed or orders so made shall be enforceable throughout the territory of India in such manner as may be prescribed by or under any law made by Parliament and, until provision in that behalf is so made, in such manner as the President may by order prescribe”.

Source: UPSC CSE 2019

160. Consider the following statements:

1. The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) has a ‘Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air’.
2. The UNCAC is the ever-first legally binding global anti-corruption instrument.
3. A highlight of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) is the inclusion of a specific chapter aimed at returning assets to their rightful owners from whom they had been taken illicitly.
4. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is mandated by its member States to assist in the implementation of both UNCAC and UNTOC.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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



(c) 2 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Stat1 is a protocol under UNTOC, and S3 is wrong as UNCAC has that provision.**
- The United Nations Convention against Corruption is the only legally binding international anti-corruption multilateral treaty
- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is mandated by its Member States to assist in the implementation of both Conventions, which along with the UN Drug Conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988 underpin all the operational work of UNODC.
- See <https://www.unodc.org/southasia/en/frontpage/2011/may/india-n-govt-ratifies-two-un-conventions.html>

Source: UPSC CSE 2019

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

161. Consider the following statements:

1. As per the right to education (RTE) Act, to be eligible for appointment as a teacher in a state, a person would be required to possess the minimum qualification laid down by the concerned State council of Teacher education.
2. As per the RTE Act, for teaching primary classes, a candidate is required to pass a Teacher Eligibility Test conducted in accordance with the National Council of Teacher Education guidelines.
3. In India, more than 90 % of teacher education institutions are directly under the State Governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2



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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect and statement 2 is correct because under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE), Act 2009, **National Council of Teacher Education (NCTE)**, has laid down the minimum educational & professional qualifications for a person to be eligible for an appointment as a teacher for classes I-VIII, which are applicable to all schools imparting elementary education, including the schools under the State Governments and to qualify under a Teacher Eligibility Test (TET).

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/21/delhi-hc-order-to-bridge-digital-divide/>

162. Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 lays down the norms and standards related to:

1. Pupil Teacher Ratios (PTRs).
2. Buildings and infrastructure.
3. School-working days.
4. Teacher-working hours.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **About the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009:**
- The RTE Act aims to **provide primary education to all children aged 6 to 14 years.**
- It enforces **Education as a Fundamental Right (Article 21).**
- The act **mandates 25% reservation for disadvantaged sections of the society.**
- It also makes **provisions for a non-admitted child to be admitted to an age appropriate class.**
- It also states that **sharing of financial and other responsibilities between the Central and State Governments.**
- It also provides for **prohibition of deployment of teachers for non-educational work**, other than decennial census, elections to local authority, state legislatures and parliament, and disaster relief.



- It had a clause for “**No Detention Policy**” which has been removed under **The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Act, 2019.**
- **It lays down the norms and standards related to:**
 - Pupil Teacher Ratios (PTRs).
 - Buildings and infrastructure.
 - School-working days.
 - Teacher-working hours.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/21/delhi-hc-order-to-bridge-digital-divide/>

163. Right to Privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of Right to Life and Personal Liberty. Which of the following in the Constitution of India correctly and appropriately imply the above statement?

- (a) Article 14 and the provisions under the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution
- (b) Article 17 and the Directive Principles of state Policy in Part IV.
- (c) Article 21 and freedom guaranteed in part III
- (d) Article 24 and provisions under the 44th Amendment to the constitution.

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Privacy is a constitutionally protected right** which emerges primarily from the guarantee of life and personal liberty in **Article 21 of the Constitution**. Elements of privacy also arise in varying contexts from the other facets of freedom and dignity recognized and guaranteed by the fundamental rights contained in Part III.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/21/delhi-hc-order-to-bridge-digital-divide/>

164. The Samarth Scheme, sometimes mentioned in the news, is primarily related to which of the following?

- (a) Women education
- (b) Formalization of Textile Industry
- (c) Capacity building in Textile Sector
- (d) Jobs creation

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **About Samarth Scheme:**

- Also known as **the ‘Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector (SCBTS)’**.
- Implemented by **the Ministry of Textiles**.



- It seeks to Provide demand driven, placement oriented **National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF)** compliant skilling programmes.
- **Target:**
- To train 10.00 lakh persons (9 lakhs in organised & 1 lakh in traditional sector) **excluding Spinning & Weaving in the organized Sector.**
- **Key features:**
 - Training of Trainers (ToT).
 - Aadhar Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS).
 - CCTV recording of training programme.
 - Dedicated call centre with helpline number.
- **Implementing Agencies:**
 - Textile Industry.
 - Institutions/Organization of the Ministry of Textiles/State Governments having training infrastructure and placement tie-ups with textile industry.
 - Reputed training institutions/ NGOs/ Societies/ Trusts/ Organizations/ Companies /Start Ups / Entrepreneurs active in textile sector having placement tie-ups with textile industry.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/21/samarth-scheme/>

165. As per the Indus Water Treaty, India has control over which of the following rivers?

1. Sutlej
2. Beas
3. Chenab
4. Jhelum

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **About the Indus Water Treaty:**

- It is a **Water-Distribution Treaty**, signed in **Karachi in 1960**, between India (PM Jawaharlal Nehru) and Pakistan (President Ayub Khan), brokered by the World Bank.
- **Who has control over what?**
 - Under the treaty, India has control over water flowing in the eastern rivers– Beas, Ravi and Sutlej.



- Pakistan has control over the western rivers– Indus, Chenab and Jhelum.
- **Water for other purposes:**
 - India is allowed to use 20% water of the western rivers for irrigation, power generation and transport purposes.
 - It also granted 3.6 million acre-feet (MAF) of “permissible storage capacity” to India on the western rivers.
- **Key features of the treaty:**
 - As per the treaty, the water commissioners of Pakistan and India are required to meet twice a year and arrange technical visits to projects’ sites and critical river head works.
 - Both the sides share details of the water flow and the quantum of water being used under the treaty.
 - The treaty sets out a mechanism for cooperation and information exchange between the two countries regarding their use of the rivers.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/21/indus-water-treaty-2/>

166. Consider the following statements:

1. The Blue Flag Programme for beaches and marinas is run by the United Nations Environment Programme.
2. Chandrabhaga beach is the first to complete the ‘Blue Flag’ tag certification process 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:

- 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.
- **Definition:**
- The ‘Blue Flag’ beach 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.



- **Key facts:**
 - **Japan and South Korea** are the only countries in South and southeastern Asia to have Blue Flag beaches.
 - **Spain** tops the list with 566 such beaches; Greece and France follow with 515 and 395, respectively.
- **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.
- **Beaches identified in India:**
 - **13 pilot beaches** have been identified for the certification.
 - **Chandrabhaga beach** of Odisha's Konark coast is the first to complete the tag certification process.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/21/blue-flag-programme-2/>

167. Consider the following statements:

1. 'Beach Environment and Aesthetics Management Services' (BEAMS) program has been prepared by the Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM) under MoEFCC.
2. The concept of 'Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan' (ICZM) was born in 1992 during the Earth Summit of Rio de Janeiro.

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 has launched its own eco-label **BEAMS** (Beach Environment & Aesthetics Management Services) under ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) **project**.
- **BEAMS** has been prepared over two years by **the Society of Integrated Coastal Management (SICOM)** under MoEFCC.
- Its objective is to:
 - Abate pollution in coastal waters.
 - Promote sustainable development of beach facilities.
 - Protect and conserve coastal ecosystems and natural resources.



- Maintain high standards of cleanliness, hygiene and safety for beachgoers in accordance with coastal environment and regulations.
- **What is ICZM Project?**
 - ICZM aims to improve livelihood of coastal communities and conserve the coastal ecosystem.
 - It is **a World Bank assisted project.**
 - The **National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management (NCSCM)**, Chennai, will provide scientific and technical inputs.
 - The concept of ICZM was born in **1992 during the Earth Summit of Rio de Janeiro.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/21/beach-environment-and-aesthetics-management-services-beams-program/>

168. Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary located in:

- (a) Assam
- (b) West Bengal
- (c) Odisha
- (d) Rajasthan

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- Concerns over the back-to-back deaths of two sloth bears at the park.
- IUCN status of Sloth Bear- Vulnerable.
- **About the Park:**
 - Located in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
 - Adjacent to **Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary.**
 - Chandaka- Dampara sanctuary 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

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/21/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-19-september-2020/>

169. At one of the places in India, if you stand on the seashore and watch the sea, you will find that the sea water recedes from the shore line a few kilometres and comes back to the shore, twice a day, and you can



actually walk on the sea floor when the water recedes. This unique phenomenon is seen at

- (a) Bhavnagar
- (b) Bheemunipatnam
- (c) Chandipur
- (d) Nagapattinam

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Chandipur-on-sea (Odisha) beach** is unique in that the water recedes up to 5 kilometers during the ebb tide.
- You can 'literally' walk into the beach as the sea water recedes away from the shore line during the ebb tide (time period between the high tide and the low tide).
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chandipur,_Odisha

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/21/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-19-september-2020/>

170. Kanjia Lake located in:

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Odisha

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- Concerns over the back-to-back deaths of two sloth bears at the park.
- IUCN status of Sloth Bear- **Vulnerable**.
- **About the Park:**
 - Located in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.
 - Adjacent to **Chandaka-Dampara Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- **Uniqueness of the Zoo:**
 - 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).
 - It is a natural lake on the northern outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India



- The lake is facing threat from uncontrolled quarrying, the dumping of solid waste and haphazard real estate construction on its fringe areas.
- The lake is a part of the Nandankanan Zoological Park and is used for recreational boating by visitors.
- Conservation Breeding Centres for **Indian Pangolin and Long billed vultures**.
- Largest pools for housing **Gharials and Hippopotamus**.
- 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.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/21/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-19-september-2020/>

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 21th-Sept-2020

171. Which one of the following was a very important seaport in the Kakatiya kingdom?

- (a) Kakinada
- (b) Motupalli
- (c) Machilipatnam (Masulipatnam)
- (d) Nelluru

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Option B: Some texts (<http://tinyurl.com/yby78f8d>) suggest that Motupalli, now in the Krishna district, was an important sea-port in the kingdom of Ganapati (an important Kakatiya ruler), frequented by foreign merchants.
- Option C: **Marco Polo**, who visited India probably some time around 1289–1293, made note of **Rudrama Devi's (a Kakatiya ruler) rule** and nature in flattering terms.
- Marco Polo referred to the kingdom as Mutfili, which was the name for the area around a major port of the dynasty, now known as Masulipatnam.
- But, Marco Polo's reference may actually be to Motupalli (Mutfilli). So, C is incorrect.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/21/kakatiya-dynasty/>

172. Which one of the following foreign travelers elaborately discussed about famous sea port of Kakatiya Dynasty and wrote about the prosperity and power of the kingdom under Rudramadevi?

- (a) Al-Biruni
- (b) Marco Polo
- (c) Domingo Paes
- (d) Jean Baptiste Tavernier

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- The great Italian traveller **Marco Polo** visited the Kakatiya Kingdom sometime during **Rudramadevi's tenure** as the ruler of the Kakatiya Dynasty and made note of her administrative style; admiring her extensively.
- **About kakatiya dynasty-Key facts:**
 - The 12th and the 13th centuries saw the emergence of the Kakatiyas.
 - They were at first the feudatories of the Western Chalukyas of Kalyana, ruling over a small territory near Warangal.
 - The dynasty saw powerful leaders like Ganapathi Deva and Rudramadevi.
 - Prataparudra I, also known as Kakatiya Rudradeva, was the son of the Kakatiya leader Prola II. It was under his rule that the Kakatiyas declared sovereignty. He ruled the kingdom till 1195 A.D.
 - It was under the rule of Prataparudra I that usage of Telugu language in inscriptions began.
 - Before the establishment of Orugallu/Warangal as the capital, Hanamakonda was the first capital of the Kakatiyas.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/21/kakatiya-dynasty/>

173. Consider the following statements:

1. The 1000 pillar temple in Warangal was built during the Kakatiya Rule.
2. The Koh-i-Noor Diamond was mined and first owned by the Kakatiya Dynasty.

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: **Art and architecture of Kakatiya Dynasty:**



- The iconic **Kakatiya Thoranam** was built by Rudramadevi's father in the 12th Century. This ornate arch is said to have many similarities with the gateways at the Sanchi Stupa and is also the emblem of Telangana.
- The scenic **Pakhal lake** in Warangal was built by Ganapathi Deva.
- The **1000 pillar temple** in Warangal was built during the Kakatiya Rule and is another example to the exquisite Kakatiya Architecture.
- The **Koh-i-Noor Diamond**, which is now among the jewels set in the British Crown, was mined and first owned by the Kakatiya Dynasty.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/21/kakatiya-dynasty/>

174. Consider the following statements with reference to “No Confidence Motion”:

1. A motion of “No Confidence Motion” against the Government can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha.
2. If the motion is passed in the house, the Government is bound to vacate the office.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **What is a no-confidence motion?**

- A no-confidence motion is a parliamentary motion which is moved in the Lok Sabha against the entire council of ministers, stating that **they are no longer deemed fit to hold positions of responsibility** due to their inadequacy in some respect or their failure to carry out their obligations. **No prior reason needs to be stated for its adoption in the Lok Sabha.**
- **Procedure to move a “No Confidence Motion”:**
 - A motion of “No Confidence Motion” against the Government **can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha under rule 198.**
 - The **Constitution of India does not mention** about either a Confidence or a No Confidence Motion. Although, **Article 75** does specify that the Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha.
 - A motion of No Confidence **can be admitted when a minimum of 50 members, support the motion in the house.**



- The Speaker then, once satisfied that the motion is in order, will ask the House if the motion can be adopted.
- If the motion is passed in the house, **the Government is bound to vacate the office.**
- A no-confidence motion **needs a majority vote to pass the House.**
- If individuals or parties abstain from voting, those numbers will be removed from the overall strength of the House and then the majority will be taken into account.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/21/no-confidence-motion-against-rs-deputy-chairman/>

175. Consider the following statements about the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha:

1. It is a constitutional position created under Article 89 of the Constitution.
2. Whenever the office of the Deputy Chairman falls vacant, the President of India appoints another member to fill the vacancy.
3. The Deputy Chairman is directly responsible to the Parliament of India.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **About the Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha:**

- It is **a constitutional position created under Article 89 of the Constitution**, which specifies that **Rajya Sabha shall choose one of its MPs to be the Deputy Chairman as often as the position becomes vacant.**
- **Who can be a deputy chairman?**
 - The Deputy Chairman is elected by the Rajya Sabha itself **from amongst its members.**
 - Whenever the office of the Deputy Chairman falls vacant, the Rajya Sabha elects another member to fill the vacancy.
- **The Deputy Chairman vacates his office in any of the following three cases:**
 - if he ceases to be a member of the Rajya Sabha;
 - if he resigns by writing to the Chairman;
 - if he is removed by a resolution passed by a majority of all the members of the Rajya Sabha. Such a resolution can be moved only after giving 14 days' advance notice.
- **Functions:**



- The Deputy Chairman performs the duties of the Chairman's office when it is vacant or when the Vice-President acts as President or discharges the functions of the President.
- He also acts as the Chairman when the latter is absent from the sitting of the House. In both the cases, he has all the powers of the Chairman.
- The Deputy Chairman also plays a critical role in ensuring the smooth running of the House.
- **Powers:**
 - The Deputy Chairman is **not subordinate to the Chairman. He is directly responsible to the Rajya Sabha.**
 - The Deputy Chairman is entitled to a regular salary and allowance which are fixed by Parliament and are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.
- **Election Procedure:**
 - For electing the Deputy Chair any Rajya Sabha MP can submit a motion proposing the name of a colleague for this constitutional position. The motion has to be seconded by another MP.
 - Additionally, the member moving the motion has to submit a declaration signed by the MP whose name s/he is proposing stating that the MP is willing to serve as the Deputy Chairperson if elected. Each MP is allowed to move or second only one motion.
 - Then the majority of the House decides who gets elected as the Deputy Chairperson.
 - However, if the political parties arrive at a consensus candidate, then that MP will be unanimously elected as the Deputy Chair.
- **Panel of Vice-Chairmen:**
 - The **Chairman shall, from time to time, nominate from amongst the members of the Council a panel of not more than six Vice-Chairmen**, any one of whom may preside over the Council in the absence of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman when so requested by the Chairman, or in his absence, by the Deputy Chairman.
 - A **Vice-Chairman nominated under sub-rule (1) shall hold office until a new panel of Vice-Chairmen is nominated.**

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/21/no-confidence-motion-against-rs-deputy-chairman/>



176. With reference to 'Point of order' (Indian parliamentary procedure), consider the following statements:

1. A member can raise a point of order when the proceedings of the House do not follow the normal rules of procedure.
2. It is an extraordinary device as it suspends the proceedings before the House.
3. No debate is allowed on a point of order.

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:

- In parliamentary procedure, a point of order occurs when someone draws attention to a rules violation in a meeting of a deliberative assembly.
- **Stat1:** A member can raise a point of order when the proceedings of the House do not follow the normal rules of procedure.
- A point of order should relate to the interpretation or enforcement of the Rules of the House or such articles of the Constitution that regulate the business of the House and should raise a question that is within the cognizance of the Speaker.
- It is usually raised by an opposition member in order to control the government.
- **Stat2 & 3:** It is an extraordinary device as it suspends the proceedings before the House. No debate is allowed on a point of order.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/21/no-confidence-motion-against-rs-deputy-chairman/>

177. In the context of which of the following do you recently find the phrase "universal eligibility" in procurements?

- (a) Asian Development Bank
- (b) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
- (c) World Bank
- (d) New Development Bank

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- The \$1 billion World Bank loan to curb covid pandemic for India comes with a condition of "**universal eligibility**" in procurements.
- **What is "universality eligibility" condition?**



- This would mean that all preferential market access policies, including Public Procurement Order, Micro Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) Policy, certain benefits to start-ups, shall not be applicable on purchases made while implementing the national project.
- **Other conditions set by the World Bank:**
- The World Bank would have the right to review the procurement documents, inspect/audit all accounts, records and other files relating to the project. Compliance to these conditions has been made mandatory for the funding.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/21/what-is-universal-eligibility-condition/>

178. 'A-WEB' institution is associated with:

- (a) Free and fair election worldwide
- (b) Prevention of global terrorism
- (c) Mitigation of natural disasters
- (d) Empowerment of women

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **Election Commission of India** has completed one year of Chairmanship of **the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB)**.
- **About The Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB):**
 - It is **the largest association of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) worldwide**.
 - **Established** on October 14, 2013 in Song-do, South Korea.
 - **Permanent secretariat** is located at Seoul.
 - **Aims** to foster efficiency and effectiveness in conducting free, fair, transparent and participative elections worldwide.
 - **Composition:**
 - 115 EMBs as Members & 16 Regional Associations/Organisations as Associate Members.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/21/association-of-world-election-bodies-a-web/>

179. 'Chendamangalam Saree' is the GI tagged product from:

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Gujarat
- (d) Kerala

Ans: (d)

Explanation:



- **Care 4 Chendamangalam**, which works with weavers in Kerala, brings the eponymous GI-tagged sari for a fund-raiser exhibition to Bengaluru.
- **Key facts:**
- Chendamangalam is a small town near Ernakulam that stands at the crossroads of three rivers.
- The town was part of the ancient port complex of Muziris and known for its fine cotton spun here by **the Devanga Chettiars**, a community of weavers originally from Karnataka.
- The **GI-tagged Chendamangalam saree** is recognisable by its **puliyilakara border**, a thin black line that runs abreast with the sari's selvedge.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/21/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-21-september-2020/>

180. The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the:

- (a) Sustainable Development Solutions Network.
- (b) International Peace Bureau.
- (c) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
- (d) United Nations General Assembly.

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **International Day of Peace:**

- Observed around the world on **21st September**.
- The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to **strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire**.
- **2020 Theme:** Shaping Peace Together.
- **Background:**
 - The **International Day of Peace** was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to designate the Day as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/21/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-21-september-2020/>



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

181. With reference to power to suspend Members of Parliament, Consider the following statements:

1. Unlike the Speaker, the Rajya Sabha Chairman does not have the power to suspend a MPs.
2. It is the role and duty of the Presiding Officer to maintain order so that the House can function smoothly.

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:

- Eight Rajya Sabha MPs were suspended on September 21 for **unruly behaviour in the House**.
- The government moved a motion seeking the suspension of these MPs and it was passed by voice vote.
- **Power to suspend Rajya Sabha MPs:**
 - The Chairman of Rajya Sabha is empowered under **Rule Number 255** to “direct any Member whose **conduct is in his opinion** grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately” from the House.
 - Unlike the Speaker, however, **the Rajya Sabha Chairman does not have the power to suspend a Member**. The House may, by another motion, terminate the suspension.
 - The **House may adopt a motion** suspending the Member from the service of the House **for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session**.
- **Background:**
 - It is **the role and duty of the Presiding Officer — Speaker of Lok Sabha and Chairman of Rajya Sabha** — to maintain order so that the House can function smoothly.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/22/insights-secure-2020-daily-upsc-mains-answer-writing-practice-22-september-2020/>

182. Consider the following statements:

1. Select Committee of the House are chaired by MPs from the ruling party.
2. Select Committees membership is limited to MPs from one 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: **What is a Select Committee?**

- This is formed **for examining a particular Bill** and its membership is **limited to MPs from one House**.
- They are **chaired by MPs from the ruling party**.
- Since Select Committees are constituted for a specific purpose, **they are disbanded after their report**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/22/roles-and-limitations-of-select-committees/>

183. 'Basel III Accord' or simply 'Basel III', often seen in the news, seeks to
- (a) develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity
 - (b) improve banking sector's ability to deal with financial and economic stress and improve risk management
 - (c) reduce the greenhouse gas emissions but places a heavier burden on developed countries
 - (d) transfer technology from developed Countries to poor countries to enable them to replace the use of chlorofluorocarbons in refrigeration with harmless chemicals

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **Basel III (or the Third Basel Accord) is a global, voluntary regulatory framework on bank capital adequacy, stress testing and market liquidity risk.** It was agreed upon by the members of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision in 2010–11.
 - Basel III norms aim at making most banking activities such as their trading book activities more capital-intensive.
 - The guidelines aim to promote a more resilient banking system by focusing on four vital banking parameters viz. capital, leverage, funding and liquidity.
- **What are Basel guidelines?**
 - Basel guidelines refer to broad supervisory standards formulated by group of central banks- called the **Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS)**. The set of agreement by the BCBS, which mainly focuses on risks to banks and the financial system are called Basel accord.
 - Basel is a city in Switzerland which is also the headquarters of Bureau of International Settlement (BIS).



- The purpose of the accords is to ensure that financial institutions have enough capital on account to meet obligations and absorb unexpected losses.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/22/basel-iii-compliant-bonds/>

184. CAROTAR 2020 Rules, sometimes mentioned in the news, are related to:

- (a) Free trade agreement
- (b) Agreement on agriculture
- (c) Base erosion and profit shifting
- (d) Guidelines for enforcement of the 'Rules of Origin'

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- The **Customs (Administration of Rules of Origin under Trade Agreements) Rules, 2020** (CAROTAR, 2020) came into force on September 21.
- **What are these rules?**
 - They set guidelines for enforcement of the 'rules of origin' for allowing preferential rate on imports under free trade agreements.
 - They supplement the existing operational certification procedures prescribed under different trade agreements (FTA/ PTA/ CECA/ CEPA).
- **Background:**
 - They were notified on 21st August, 2020 by the Department of Revenue. 30 day period was given to importers and other stakeholders to familiarize themselves with new provisions.
- **CAROTAR rules:**
 - An importer is now required to do due diligence before importing the goods to ensure that they meet the prescribed originating criteria.
 - A list of minimum information which the importer is required to possess has also been provided in the rules along with general guidance.
 - An importer would now have to enter certain origin related information in the Bill of Entry, as available in the Certificate of Origin.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/22/carotar-2020-rules/>

185. 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:

- **What is CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) technology?**
 - It is a gene editing technology and finds its use in correcting genetic defects and treating and preventing the spread of diseases.
 - The technology can detect specific sequences of DNA within a gene and uses an enzyme functioning as molecular scissors to snip it.
 - It also allows researchers to easily alter DNA sequences and modify gene function.
 - The technology can also be configured for detection of multiple other pathogens in the future.
- 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 was approved recently 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?**
 - developed **CRISPR gene-editing technology** to identify and target the genetic material of SARS-CoV2, the virus that causes Covid-19.
- **Significance:**
 - According to CSIR, the test matches accuracy levels of RT-PCR tests.
 - It has a quicker turnaround time and requires less expensive equipment.
 - 'Feluda' is also **the world's first diagnostic test to deploy a specially adapted Cas9 protein** to successfully detect the virus.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/22/what-is-the-feluda-test-for-covid-19-approved-by-india/>

186. Consider the following statements:

1. Infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) are institutions similar to hedge funds.
2. InvITs are regulated under the Sebi (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014.

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 Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** is preparing to come up with its **InvIT issue**.
 - It had received approval from the Union Cabinet in this regard in December 2019.
- **What are Infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs)?**
 - They are institutions similar to mutual funds, which **pool investment from various categories of investors** and **invest them into completed and revenue-generating infrastructure projects**, thereby creating returns for the investor.
 - They are regulated under the Sebi (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014 and the Indian Trust Act, 1882.
- **Structure of InvITs:**
 - They have a trustee, sponsor(s), investment manager and project manager.
 - Trustee (certified by Sebi) has the responsibility of inspecting the performance of an InvIT.
 - Sponsor(s) are promoters of the company that set up the InvIT.
 - **Investment manager** is entrusted with the task of supervising the assets and investments of the InvIT.
 - Project manager is responsible for the execution of the project.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/22/nhai-plans-to-monetise-its-highways-through-invits/>

187. For the first time 'Official Secrets Act' was enacted during the time of:

- (a) Lord Dalhousie
- (b) Lord Lytton
- (c) Lord Curzon
- (d) Lord Ripon

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **About the Official Secrets Act:**
 - Originally enacted during the time of Lord Curzon, Viceroy of India from 1899 to 1905.
 - One of the main purposes of the Act was to muzzle the voice of nationalist publications.



- The Indian Official Secrets Act (Act No XIX of 1923) replaced the earlier Act, and was extended to all matters of secrecy and confidentiality in governance in the country.
- **Ambit of the Act:**
 - It broadly deals with two aspects:
 - Spying or espionage, covered under Section 3.
 - Disclosure of other secret information of the government, under Section 5.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/22/official-secrets-act/>

188. Consider the following statements:

1. Bonda tribe and Didayi tribes are included in the list of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India.
2. These tribes are from Kerala.

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: **Bonda tribe and Didayi tribe:**

- These tribes are from **Odisha**. These groups are classified as **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups**.
- Of the 62 tribal groups in Odisha, 13 are recognised as **PVTGs – the highest in the country**.
- **Why in News?**
 - Members of these tribes have tested positive for the novel coronavirus.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/22/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-22-september-2020/>

189. Consider the following statements about Brucellosis:

1. Brucellosis is a bacterial disease.
2. Sexual transmission of Brucellosis disease is possible.

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: **Brucellosis:**



- **Brucellosis is a bacterial disease** that mainly infects cattle, swine, goats, sheep and dogs.
- **Humans can get infected if they come in direct contact with infected animals or by eating or drinking contaminated animal products or by inhaling airborne agents.**
- According to the WHO, most cases of the disease are caused by ingesting unpasteurised milk or cheese from infected goats or sheep.
- Why in News?
 - The health commission of Lanzhou City in China announced this week that a leak in a biopharmaceutical company last year caused an outbreak of brucellosis disease. More than 3,000 people have been infected with the disease since and no fatalities have been reported so far.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/22/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-22-september-2020/>

190. Tasmania is an island state of:

- (a) Papua New Guinea
- (b) New Zealand
- (c) Australia
- (d) China

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **Tasmania is an island state of Australia.** It is located 240 km to the south of the Australian mainland, separated by Bass Strait.
- **Mass Pilot Whale Strandings in Tasmania:**
 - Whale strandings are not uncommon in **Tasmania**, and whale strandings of this scale are not uncommon either. However, exact reasons for stranding are unknown yet. (The term stranding refers to an aquatic animal observed in an inappropriate location, for example, an offshore species found inshore. Most often, stranded animals are found on a beach or in shallow water)



Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/22/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-22-september-2020/>

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

191. The term “Two state Solution” is sometimes mentioned in the new in the context of the affairs of

- (a) China
- (b) Israel
- (c) Iraq
- (d) Yemen

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **The two-state solution to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict** envisages an independent State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel, west of the Jordan River
- **What is Arab League?**
 - It is a regional organization of Arab countries in and around North Africa, the Horn of Africa and Arabia.
 - Formed in Cairo on 22 March 1945 with six members: Kingdom of Egypt, Kingdom of Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria. Currently, the League has 22 members, but Syria’s participation has been suspended since November 2011, as a consequence of government repression during the Syrian Civil War.
 - Main goal is to “draw closer the relations between member States and co-ordinate collaboration between them, to



safeguard their independence and sovereignty, and to consider in a general way the affairs and interests of the Arab countries “.

- **Why in News?**

- In a response to the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain normalising their ties with Israel, the Palestinian Authority has formally stepped down from a key role in the Arab League.

- **What's the issue?**

- The United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Bahrain signed deals in Washington on September 15, which despite being hailed as “the dawn of the new Middle East” by the Trump Administration, drew criticism from the Palestinians – seen as a serious blow to their efforts to end illegal Israeli occupation and achieve an independent state.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/23/what-is-arab-league/>

192. Consider the following statements:

1. The first IFSC in India has been set up at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gandhinagar.
2. It was established by the state government to regulate financial services.

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: **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.
- **IFSCs in India:**
- The first IFSC in India has been set up at **the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)** in Gandhinagar.
- It was established by the central government, caters to customers outside the jurisdiction of the domestic economy.
 - Such centres deal with flows of finance, financial products and services across borders.
 - London, New York and Singapore can be counted as global financial centres.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/23/what-are-international-financial-services-centres-ifsc/>



193. 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.
- Floatation of State Government Loans (State Development Loans): As per the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the RBI may, by agreement with any State Government undertake the management of the public debt of that State. 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/2020/09/23/what-are-govt-securities/>



194. Consider the following statements with respect to difference between banks & NBFCs:

1. NBFC cannot accept demand deposits
2. NBFCs do not form part of the payment and settlement system and cannot issue cheques drawn on itself
3. Deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation is not available to depositors of NBFCs, unlike in case of banks

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: NBFCs are doing functions similar to banks. What is difference between banks & NBFCs?

NBFCs lend and make investments and hence their activities are akin to that of banks; however there are a few differences as given below:

- i. NBFC cannot accept demand deposits;
- ii. NBFCs do not form part of the payment and settlement system and cannot issue cheques drawn on itself;
- iii. deposit insurance facility of Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation is not available to depositors of NBFCs, unlike in case of banks.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/23/what-are-non-banking-financial-companies-microfinance-institutions-nbfc-mfis/>

195. With reference to regulation of 'net neutrality' in India, consider the following statements:

1. Net neutrality means service providers must treat all traffic equally, and not charge differently based on content.
2. It is not regulated under any law or by any institution 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: (a)

Explanation:

- Net neutrality means that **governments and internet service providers treat all data on the internet equally** and does not differentially charge consumers for higher-quality delivery or giving preferential treatment to certain websites.



- Network neutrality requires **all Internet service providers (ISPs) to provide the same level of data access and speed to all traffic**, and that traffic to one service or website cannot be blocked or degraded.
- **How net neutrality is treated/regulated in India?**
 - Telecom and Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has released the Prohibition of Discriminatory Tariffs for Data Services Regulations, 2016.
 - These regulations prohibit Telecom Service Providers from charging different tariffs from consumers for accessing different services online.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/23/what-is-net-neutrality/>

196. Consider the following statements:

1. Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority is the National Green Tribunal mandated body tasked with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in the National Capital Region.
2. It was notified in 1998 by Environment Ministry under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.

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:

- EPCA is a **Supreme Court mandated body** tasked with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in **the National Capital Region**.
- It was notified in **1998** by Environment Ministry under **the Environment Protection Act, 1986**.
- **Composition:**
 - Besides the chairman, the EPCA has 14 members, some of whom are the environment secretary of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCT), chairperson of the New Delhi Municipal Council, transport commissioner of the NCT, the commissioners of various municipal corporations of Delhi and professors at IIT Delhi and Jawaharlal Nehru University.
- **Powers:**
 - It has the power suo-moto, or on the basis of complaints made by any individual, representative body or organization functioning in the field of environment.



- **Functions:**

- To protect and improve quality of environment and prevent and control environmental pollution in National Capital Region.
- To enforce Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in NCR as per the pollution levels.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/23/environment-pollution-prevention-and-control-authority/>

197. Which one of the following body is the Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency?

- (a) National Security Guard (NSG)
- (b) Special Frontier Force (Vikas Battalion)
- (c) National Investigation Agency (NIA)
- (d) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **National Investigation Agency (NIA):**

- It is a **central agency to investigate and prosecute offences:**
- affecting the sovereignty, security and integrity of India, security of State, friendly relations with foreign States.
- against atomic and nuclear facilities.
- smuggling in High-Quality Counterfeit Indian Currency.
- It is also **the Central Counter Terrorism Law Enforcement Agency.**
- It is empowered to deal with terror related crimes across states **without special permission from the states.**
- Established under **the National Investigation Agency Act 2008.**
- **Works under** the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/23/national-investigation-agency-nia-2/>

198. Recently, which one of the following has conducted the successful flight test of ABHYAS–High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT)?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **DRDO** recently conducted the successful flight test of **ABHYAS–High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT).**
- **Key features:**



- Abhyas is designed and developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), DRDO.
- The vehicle is programmed for fully autonomous flight.
- **Usage:**
 - Abhyas's radar cross-section (RCS) and its visual and infrared signatures can be used to simulate a variety of aircraft for air-defense weapon practices. It can also function as a jammer platform and decoy.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/23/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-23-september-2020/>

199. The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India lists a/an/the:

- (a) Tribal area
- (b) Powers between center and states
- (c) Union and States
- (d) Official languages

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- The **Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India lists the official languages of the Republic of India.**
- As per Articles 344(1) and 351 of the Indian Constitution, the eighth schedule includes the recognition of the following 22 languages.
- **Why in news?**
 - The Lok Sabha has passed the J&K Official Languages Bill, 2020 that seeks to include Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi as the official languages in the newly-created Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
 - Earlier, only English and Urdu were the official languages in the former State.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/23/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-23-september-2020/>

200. Passage Exercise (PASSEX), is a military exercise between India and:

- (a) France
- (b) Japan
- (c) Australia
- (d) Russia

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **Passage Exercise (PASSEX):**



- Indian Navy (IN) is scheduled to undertake a **Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Royal Australian Navy (RAN)** in the East Indian Ocean Region from 23 to 24 Sep 20.
- PASSEXs are regularly conducted by IN with units of friendly foreign navies, whilst visiting each other's ports or during a rendezvous at sea.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/23/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-23-september-2020/>

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 24th-Sept-2020

201. Consider the following statements:

1. The presiding officer (Speaker or Chairman) of the House can also prorogue the House while in session.
2. The President is empowered to dissolve the Lok Sabha.

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:

- A sitting of Parliament can be **terminated by adjournment or adjournment sine die or prorogation or dissolution** (in the case of the Lok Sabha).
- **Adjournment:** It suspends the work in a sitting for a specified time, which may be hours, days or weeks.
- **Adjournment sine die:** It means terminating a sitting of Parliament for an indefinite period.
- In other words, when the House is adjourned without naming a day for reassembly.
- **The power of adjournment as well as adjournment sine die** lies with **the presiding officer (Speaker or Chairman) of the House.**
- **Stat1: Prorogation:** The President issues a notification for prorogation of the session after the business of a session is



completed and the presiding officer declares the House adjourned sine die. **The President can also prorogue the House while in session.**

- **Dissolution: Only the Lok Sabha is subject to dissolution.** Rajya Sabha, being a permanent House, is not subject to dissolution.
- A dissolution ends the life of the existing House, and a new House is constituted after general elections are held.
- Stat2: The **President is empowered to dissolve the Lok Sabha.**
- **Why in News?**
 - The Lok Sabha adjourned sine die recently in what is being termed one of the shortest sessions in India's parliamentary history, but which was packed with 25 Bills.
 - In this session, Lok Sabha productivity clocked at 167% with 25 Bills passed; 2,300 unstarred questions answered; 68% of the sittings dealing with legislative work; and 370 Zero Hour mentions.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/24/termination-of-session/>

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

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

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- **The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)**, statutory organisation, was constituted in September, 1974 under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**. Further, CPCB was entrusted with the powers and functions under **the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**.
 - Functions of the CPCB, as spelt out in the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, (i) to promote cleanliness of streams and wells in different areas of the States by prevention, control and abatement of water pollution, and (ii)



to improve the quality of air and to prevent, control or abate air pollution in the country.

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

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/24/about-the-central-pollution-control-board/>

203. Consider the following statements:

1. Swachh Vidyalaya Abhiyan (SVA) aims to meet the Right to Education Act's mandate that all schools must have separate toilets for boys and girls.
2. The SVA programme norms require the state government to build toilets with running water and hand washing facilities.

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: **Swachh Vidyalaya Abhiyan:**

- Launched in 2014 by the then Ministry of Human Resource Development (now Ministry of Education).
- Aim: to meet the Right to Education Act's mandate that all schools must have separate toilets for boys and girls.
- **Central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) were roped in to implement the program.**
 - **The programme norms require the CPSEs to build toilets with running water and hand washing facilities.**
 - It also requires CPSEs to maintain the toilets for three to five years while charging the annual expenses to their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) budgets.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/24/swachh-vidyalaya-abhiyan/>

204. Consider the following countries:

1. Brazil
2. South Africa
3. Germany
4. India
5. Australia
6. Japan

Which of the above are members of G4 grouping?

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Who are G4 Nations?**

- The G4 nations comprising **Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan** are four countries which **support each other's bids for permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council**.
- **Basis for these demands:**
 - Each of these four countries have figured among the elected non-permanent members of the council since the UN's establishment.
 - Their economic and political influence has grown significantly in the last decades, reaching a scope comparable to **the permanent members (P5)**.
- **Support:**
 - The United Kingdom and France have backed the G4's bid for permanent seats on the United Nations Security Council.
 - Japan has received support from the United States and the United Kingdom.
 - All the permanent members of P5 have supported India's bids for permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) but China had previously implied that it is only ready to support India's bid for a permanent seat on United Nations Security Council if India did not associate its bid with Japan.
 - Brazil has received backing from three of the current permanent members, namely France, Russia, and the United Kingdom.
- **Opposition:**



- There has been discontent among the present permanent members regarding the inclusion of controversial nations or countries not supported by them.
- For instance, Japan's bid is heavily opposed by China, Russia and South Korea who think that Japan still needs to make additional atonement for war crimes committed during World War II.
- Under the leadership of Italy, countries that strongly oppose the G4 countries' bids have formed **the Uniting for Consensus movement, or the Coffee Club**, composed mainly of regional powers that oppose the rise of some nearby country to permanent member status.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/24/g4-seeks-time-bound-reform-of-security-council/>

205. Which of the following statements is/are correct about 'Cess'?

- (a) It is charged over and above direct and indirect taxes.
- (b) It is collected for a particular purpose cannot be used for or diverted to other purposes.
- (c) It is not a permanent source of revenue for the government.
- (d) All of the above statements i.e. (a), (b) and (c) are correct

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **What is a cess?**

- It is a form of **tax levied or collected by the government for the development or welfare of a particular service or sector.**
- It is **charged over and above direct and indirect taxes.**
- Cess **collected for a particular purpose cannot be used for or diverted to other purposes.**
- It is **not a permanent source of revenue** for the government, and it is discontinued when the purpose levying it is fulfilled.
- **Examples:**
 - Education Cess, Swachh Bharat Cess, Krishi Kalyan Cess etc.
- **What is the difference between tax and cess? What is cess tax?**
 - Cess is different from taxes such as income tax, GST, and excise duty etc as **it is charged over and above the existing taxes.**
 - While **all taxes go to the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI)**, cess may initially go to the CFI but has to be used for the purpose for which it was collected.
 - **If the cess collected in a particular year goes unspent**, it cannot be allocated for other purposes. The amount gets



carried over to the next year and can only be used for the cause it was meant for.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/24/what-is-a-cess/>

206. “Kris Gopalakrishnan committee”, sometimes mentioned in the news, is associated with:

- (a) Committee of Experts on a Data Protection Framework for India
- (b) Committee on Revisiting and Revitalizing the PPP model of Infrastructure Development
- (c) Committee of Experts on Non-Personal Data Governance Framework
- (d) Committee on Comprehensive Financial Services for Small Businesses and Low Income Households

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **About the draft Policy on Non- Personal Data:**

- Committee of Experts on Non-Personal Data Governance Framework had released a draft in July this year.
- This committee (formed in 2019) headed by Infosys co-founder **Kris Gopalakrishnan** has suggested that non-personal data generated in the country be allowed to be harnessed by various domestic companies and entities.
- The committee has classified non-personal data into three main categories, namely:
 - Public non-personal data.
 - Community non-personal data.
 - Private non-personal data.
- **Key Suggestions made:**
 - Formulate a separate legislation to govern non-personal data.
 - Setup a new regulatory body- Non-Personal Data Authority (NPDA).
 - It has also set circumstances under which a private organisation, that collects non-personal data, needs to be remunerated.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/24/what-is-non-personal-data-2/>

207. ‘Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre’ (ISLRTC), an autonomous body under the:

- (a) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (b) Ministry of Culture
- (c) Ministry of Human Resource Development
- (d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Ans: (d)



Explanation: **International Sign Languages Day:**

- Observed on 23 September.
- **Theme:** 'Sign Languages are for everyone'.
- The day was celebrated in India by **ISLRTC**.
- Indian **Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC)**, an autonomous body under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016** recognizes Sign Language as a means of communication.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/24/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-24-september-2020/>

208. 'Shinkun La' is a mountain pass in India, on the border between:

- Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh
- Ladakh and Jammu
- Himachal Pradesh and Jammu
- Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand

Ans: (a)

Explanation: **World's Longest High-Altitude Shinkun La Tunnel:**

- National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL) has speeded up the detailed project report (DPR) work on this Tunnel.
- The tunnel is 13.5 Km long.
- The tunnel **connects the Union Territory of Ladakh and tribal Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh.**
- On completion of this tunnel, **the Manali – Kargil highway will remain open throughout the year.**

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/24/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-24-september-2020/>

209. 'Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana' is an initiative of:

- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)
- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)
- Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC)

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana:**

- It is an initiative of **the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)** for empowerment of potters community in the remotest of locations in the country.



- It was launched in 2018.
- This program provides the following support to potters.
 - Training for advanced pottery products.
 - Latest, new technology pottery equipments like the electric Chaak.
 - Market linkages and visibility through KVIC exhibitions.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/24/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-24-september-2020/>

210. Consider the following statements about Komodo Dragon:

1. They are the largest reptiles on Earth.
2. IUCN Status of the animal is Vulnerable.

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

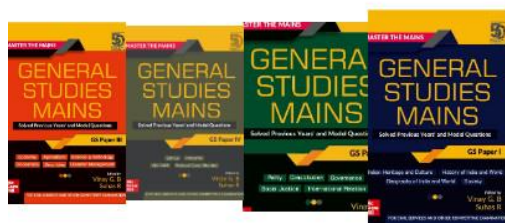
Ans: (b)

Explanation: **Komodo Dragon:**

- They are the **largest lizards** on Earth.
- They have venom glands loaded with toxins which have been shown to secrete anticoagulants.
- **Komodo National Park**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is situated in the Island of Komodo (eastern Indonesia) and is the habitat for this lizard species.
- **IUCN Status** of the animal is Vulnerable.
- **Why in News?**
 - According to a recent study, these lizards could become extinct in the next few decades due to climate change unless measures are taken to change the status quo.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/24/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-24-september-2020/>



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RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 25th-Sept-2020

211. Consider the following statements:

1. 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.
2. In practice, the Centre has been exercising this power in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Commission.

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:

- **Why states need centre's permission while borrowing? Is it mandatory for all states?**
 - **Article 293(3)** of the Constitution requires states to obtain the Centre's consent in order to borrow **in case the state is indebted to the Centre over a previous loan.**
 - This consent can also be granted subject to certain conditions by virtue of **Article 293(4).**
 - In practice, the Centre has been exercising this power in accordance with the recommendations of **the Finance Commission.**
 - Every single state is currently indebted to the Centre and thus, **all of them require the Centre's consent in order to borrow.**
- **Does the Centre have unfettered power to impose conditions under this provision?**
 - Neither does the provision itself offer any guidance on this, nor is there any judicial precedent that one could rely on.
 - Interestingly, even though **this question formed part of the terms of reference of the 15th Finance Commission,** it was **not addressed in its interim report.**
- **So, when can the centre impose conditions?**



- The Centre can impose conditions **only when it gives consent for state borrowing**, and it can only **give such consent when the state is indebted to the Centre**.
- **Why are such restrictions necessary?**
 - One possible purpose behind conferring this power upon the Centre was **to protect its interests in the capacity of a creditor**.
 - A broader purpose of **ensuring macroeconomic stability** is also discernible, since state indebtedness negatively affects the fiscal health of the nation as a whole.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/25/centre-allows-five-states-to-borrow/>

212. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 39A of the Constitution provides for free legal aid to the deprived and weaker sections of the society and to promote justice on the base of equal opportunity.
2. Under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 Lok Adalats have been given statutory status.
3. The decision made by the Lok Adalats is considered to be a verdict of a civil court and is ultimate and binding on all parties.
4. There is provision for an appeal against the verdict made by Lok Adalat.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **What is a Lok Adalat?**
 - Lok Adalat is one of **the alternative dispute redressal mechanisms**, it is a forum where **disputes/cases pending in the court of law or at pre-litigation stage** are settled/compromised amicably.
 - The Lok Adalats are formed **to fulfil the promise given by the preamble of the Indian Constitution**– securing Justice – social, economic and political of every citizen of India.
- **Constitutional basis:**
 - **Article 39A** of the Constitution provides for free legal aid to the deprived and weaker sections of the society and to promote justice on the base of equal opportunity.



- **Articles 14** of the Constitution also make it compulsory for the State to guarantee equality before the law.
- **Statutory provisions:**
 - Under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 Lok Adalats have been given **statutory status**.
- **Final award:**
 - The decision made by the Lok Adalats is considered to be a **verdict of a civil court and is ultimate and binding on all parties**.
- **No appeal:**
 - There is no provision for an appeal against the verdict made by Lok Adalat.
 - But, they are free to initiate litigation by approaching the court of appropriate jurisdiction by filing a case by following the required procedure, in exercise of their right to litigate.
- **Court fee:**
 - There is **no court fee** payable when a matter is filed in a Lok Adalat.
 - **Note:** If a matter pending in the court of law is referred to the Lok Adalat and is settled subsequently, the court fee originally paid in the court on the complaints/petition is also refunded back to the parties.
- **Nature of Cases to be Referred to Lok Adalat:**
 - Any case pending before any court.
 - Any dispute which has not been brought before any court and is likely to be filed before the court.
 - Provided that **any matter relating to an offence not compoundable under the law shall not be settled in Lok Adalat**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/25/lok-adalat/>

213. Consider the following statements:

1. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established with the signing of the SAARC Charter in Dhaka on 8 December 1985.
2. Afghanistan became the newest member of SAARC at the 17th annual summit in 2011.
3. The Headquarters and Secretariat of the Association are at Kathmandu, Nepal.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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



Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **What is SAARC? When was it established?**
 - South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established with the signing of the **SAARC Charter in Dhaka on 8 December 1985**.
 - **Afghanistan** became the newest member of SAARC at the 13th annual summit in 2005.
 - The **Headquarters and Secretariat** of the Association are at Kathmandu, Nepal.
- **Importance of SAARC:**
 - SAARC comprises **3% of the world's area, 21% of the world's population and 3.8% (US\$2.9 trillion) of the global economy**.
 - It is the world's **most densely populated region** and one of the most **fertile areas**.
 - SAARC countries have **common tradition, dress, food and culture and political aspects thereby synergizing their actions**.
 - All the **SAARC countries have common problems and issues** like poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, natural disasters, internal conflicts, industrial and technological backwardness, low GDP and poor socio-economic condition.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/25/south-asian-association-for-regional-cooperation-saarc/>

214. Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), sometimes in news, it is a/an/the:
- (a) International treaty
 - (b) International NGO
 - (c) Inter-governmental forum
 - (d) Multilateral treaty

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- **What is CICA?**
 - It is an **inter-governmental forum** for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in **Asia**.
 - The key idea of the Conference is based on **the priority of the indivisibility of security, joint initiative and mutually beneficial interaction of small and large states**.
 - **Secretariat: Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan**.
- **Meeting and summits:**



- The **CICA Summit** is convened every four years in order to conduct consultations, review the progress of, and set priorities for CICA activities.
- **Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs** is required to be held every two years.
- **Genesis:**
 - The idea of convening the CICA was **first proposed by Kazakhstan** in October 1992, at **the 47th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**.
 - However, the **first meeting of the CICA Ministers of Foreign Affairs was held on 14 September 1999** with participation of 15 Member States.
 - The **first CICA summit was held on 4 June 2002** with participation of 16 Member States and **Almaty Act**, the charter of the CICA, was adopted.
- **Membership:**
 - 27 member states; 8 observer states; 5 observer organizations.
 - For becoming a member of CICA, a state must have at least a part of its territory in Asia.
 - All decisions within CICA framework are taken by consensus.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/25/conference-on-interaction-and-confidence-building-measures-in-asia-cica/>

215. The 'Technology Vision for Cyber Security for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) 2020-2023' was recently released by:

- (a) Ministry of Finance
- (b) Registrar of Cooperative Societies
- (c) Reserve Bank of India
- (d) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- The **'Technology Vision for Cyber Security for Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) 2020-2023'** was recently released by RBI.
 - It has been formalised based on inputs from various stakeholders.
 - It seeks **to enhance cybersecurity of urban co-operative banks (UCBs)**.
- RBI plans to achieve its objective through a five-pillared strategic approach **GUARD**, viz.
 - Governance Oversight.
 - Utile Technology Investment.
 - Appropriate Regulation and Supervision.
 - Robust Collaboration.



- Developing necessary IT, cybersecurity skill sets.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/25/rbi-releases-document-on-ucbs-cybersecurity/>

216. With reference to digital payments, consider the following statements:

1. BHIM app allows the user to transfer money to anyone with a UPI-enabled bank account.
2. While a chip pin debit card has four factors of authentication, BHIM app has only two factors of authentication.

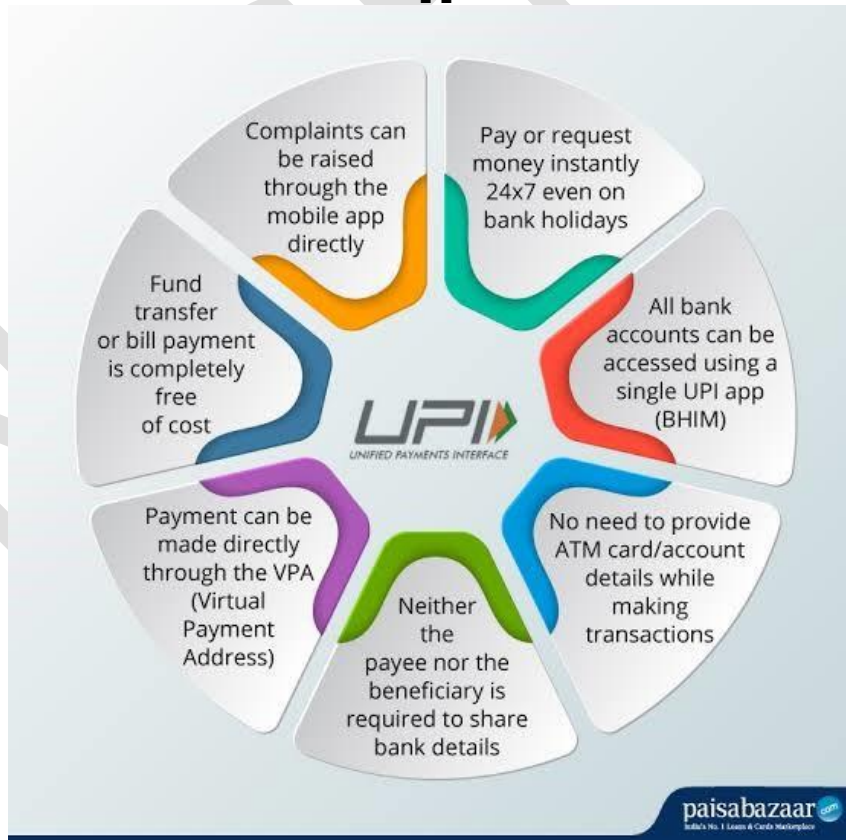
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct because BHIM app is powered by UPI and integrates the Payments platform as the official app of the government of India.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: Debit card does not have four factor authorization and **BHIM app has three factor authorization.**





Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/25/gpay-can-share-upi-data-under-law-says-google/>

217. Consider the following statements:

1. Under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, both Indian and foreign nationals can be charged.
2. Under the UAPA, the investigating agency can file a charge sheet in maximum 180 days after the arrests and the duration cannot be extended further after intimating the court.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- Stat1: 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.
- Stat2: 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.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/25/unlawful-activities-prevention-act-7/>

218. Consider the following statements about Jnanpith award:

1. It was instituted in 1953.
2. Any Indian citizen who writes in any of the official languages of India is eligible for the honour.

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 Award:**

- **Instituted** in 1961.
- **Eligibility:** Any Indian citizen who writes in any of the official languages of India is eligible for the honour.
- English language was added to the list of languages for consideration after the 49th Jnanpith Award.



Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/25/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-25-september-2020/>

219. Consider the following statements about International Commission of Jurists (ICJ):

1. It is an international human rights non-governmental organization.
2. It is a standing group of 60 eminent jurists—including senior judges, attorneys and academics.

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: **International Commission of Jurists (ICJ):**

- It is an international **human rights non-governmental organization**.
- **Composition:** It is a standing group of 60 eminent jurists—including senior judges, attorneys and academics.
- **Functions:** To develop national and international human rights standards through the law.
- **Why in News?**
- ICJ had observed that the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020 passed by Parliament was incompatible with international law.
- The legislation fails to comply with India's international legal obligations and constitutional provisions to respect and protect the rights to freedom of association, expression, and freedom of assembly.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/25/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-25-september-2020/>

220. RAISE Summit 2020 is being conducted by the:

- (a) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- (b) NITI Aayog
- (c) Observer Research Foundation (ORF)
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- It will be held in October.
- **RAISE 2020- 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020.'**



- It is being conducted by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and NITI Aayog**.
- It will be a global meeting of minds to exchange ideas and chart a course for using AI for social transformation, inclusion and empowerment in areas like healthcare, agriculture, education and smart mobility, among other sectors.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/25/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-25-september-2020/>

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 26th-Sept-2020

221. Which of the following is/are the mandated functions of the newly set up National Medical Commission?

1. laying down policies for regulating medical institutions and medical professionals.
2. assessing the requirements of human resources and infrastructure in healthcare.
3. ensuring compliance by the State Medical Councils with the regulations made under the Bill.
4. framing guidelines for determination of fee for up to 50% of the seats in the private medical institutions.

Select the correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **About the National Medical Commission:**

- The Centre has notified **the 33-member NMC**, which will be chaired for three years by Suresh Chandra Sharma.
- Apart from the Chairman, the NMC will **consist of 10 ex-officio members and 22 part-time members appointed by the Central government**.
- **Functions of NMC:**
 - laying down policies for regulating medical institutions and medical professionals.
 - assessing the requirements of human resources and infrastructure in healthcare.
 - ensuring compliance by the State Medical Councils with the regulations made under the Bill.



- framing guidelines for determination of fee for up to 50% of the seats in the private medical institutions.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/26/national-medical-commission-2/>

222. Consider the following statements:

1. The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) is an intergovernmental organization
2. The organization is not a United Nations agency, but the PCA is an official United Nations Observer.

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:** The **Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)** is an **intergovernmental** organization located in The Hague, Netherlands.
- It is not a court in the traditional sense, but provides services of arbitral tribunal to resolve disputes that arise out of international agreements between member states, international organizations or private parties.
- The cases span a range of legal issues involving territorial and maritime boundaries, sovereignty, human rights, international investment, and international and regional trade.
- The PCA is constituted through two separate multilateral conventions with a combined membership of 122 states.
- **Stat2:** The organization is **not a United Nations agency**, but the PCA is an **official United Nations Observer**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/26/retrospective-taxation-the-vodafone-case-and-the-hague-court-ruling/>

223. Consider the following statements:

1. The G20 (or Group of Twenty) is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).
2. G7 members suspended Russia's membership of the G-7 group, due to Russia's annexation of Crimea.



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:

- **Stat2:** On 24 March, 2014, the G7 members cancelled the planned G8 summit that was to be held in June of that year in the Russian city of Sochi, and **suspended Russia's membership of the group, due to Russia's annexation of Crimea**; nevertheless, they stopped short of outright permanent expulsion.
- **Stat1:** The G20 is an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 19 countries and the **European Union**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/26/g7-backs-extension-of-debt-freeze/>

224. The term 'too big or too important to fail' (TBTF), sometimes mentioned in the news in reference to:

- (a) USA's Economy
- (b) India's Economy
- (c) Reserve Bank of India
- (d) Domestic Systemically Important Insurers

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

Three insurers- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and New India Assurance Co.- have been recognised as **Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for 2020-21**.

- **By?**
 - Insurance Regulator and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- **What are D- SIIs?**
 - D-SIIs refer to insurers of such size, market importance and domestic and global inter-connectedness whose distress or failure would cause a significant dislocation in the domestic financial system.
 - D-SIIs are perceived as insurers that are **'too big or too important to fail' (TBTF)**.
 - Therefore, the continued functioning of D-SIIs is critical for the uninterrupted availability of insurance services to the national economy.
- **How are they classified?**



- To identify such insurers and put them to enhanced monitoring mechanism, **IRDAI has developed a methodology for identification and supervision of D-SIIs.**
- The parameters, as per the methodology, include:
- Size of operations in terms of total revenue, including premium underwritten and the value of assets under management.
- Global activities across more than one jurisdiction.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/26/domestic-systemically-important-insurers-d-siis/>

225. Consider the following statements:

1. The sonification project is led by the Chandra X-ray Center in collaboration with ISRO's Universe of Learning Program (UoL).
2. The objective of the project is to transform data from astronomical images into audio.

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 **sonification project** is led by the **Chandra X-ray Center** in collaboration with **NASA's Universe of Learning Program (UoL).**
- **The objective of the project is to transform data from astronomical images into audio.**
- This project allows audiences — including visually-impaired communities — to experience space through data.
- **What is data sonification?**
 - It refers to the use of sound values to represent real data. Simply put, it is the auditory version of data visualisation.
- **How did NASA translate astronomical images into sound?**
 - NASA's distant telescopes in space collect inherently digital data, in the form of ones and zeroes, before converting them into images.
 - The images are essentially visual representations of light and radiation of different wavelengths in space, that can't be seen by the human eye.
 - The Chandra project has created a celestial concert of sorts by translating the same data into sound. Pitch and volume are used to denote the brightness and position of a celestial object or phenomenon.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/26/nasas-sonification-project/>

226. Consider the following statements:

1. Under faceless appeals, all Income Tax appeals will be finalised in a faceless manner under the faceless ecosystem.
2. The 'Faceless Income Tax Appeals' system is not applicable in case of appeals relating to international tax and Black Money Act.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (c)

Explanation:

- The government has issued a notification operationalising '**Faceless Income Tax Appeals**' system. It was announced last month.
- It seeks to honour honest taxpayers of the country and promote transparency in tax collection.
- Under faceless appeals, all Income Tax appeals will be finalised in a faceless manner under the faceless ecosystem.
- **The system is not applicable in case of** appeals relating to serious frauds, major tax evasion, sensitive and search matters, international tax and Black Money Act.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/26/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-26-september-2020/>

227. Consider the following statements:

1. High-security number plates (HSRPs) are copper-based hologram plates manufactured through a process of hot-stamping and laser-branding.
2. The plates are also supposed to help authorities in tracking authenticity of vehicle ownerships.

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:

- HSRPs are **chrome-based hologram plates** manufactured through a process of hot-stamping and laser-branding a unique identification



number, which cannot be duplicated, linked to the central vehicular database of the Union government.

- The plates are also supposed to help authorities in tracking authenticity of vehicle ownerships, which will help in criminal probes, curb illegal sale in the grey market, and prevent thefts and forging of number plates.
- Through an amendment in **Rule 50 of the Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989**, of India has made HSRP mandatory.

Why in News?

The process of booking high security registration plates (HSRPs) has been made easier following the Delhi government's public appeal to citizens to get these installed

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/26/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-26-september-2020/>

228. Consider the following statements:

1. The Fridays for Future is a global climate strike movement that started in 2018.
2. It is an international movement of school students who take time off from class to participate in demonstrations to demand action to prevent further global warming.

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: **Fridays For Future:**

- The FFF is a global climate strike movement that started in August 2018, when 15-year-old Greta Thunberg began a strike in Sweden.
- It is an international movement of school students who take time off from class to participate in demonstrations to demand action to prevent further global warming

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/26/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-26-september-2020/>

229. JIMEX 20 is a bilateral maritime exercise between India and:

- (a) Jordan
- (b) Japan
- (c) Indonesia
- (d) Oman

Ans: (b)



Explanation:

- **It is a bilateral Maritime Exercise Between Japan and India.**
- The 4th edition of the exercise will be held in the North Arabian Sea from 26 to 28 September 2020.
- JIMEX is conducted biennially between the Indian Navy and the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).
- JIMEX series of exercises commenced in January 2012 with a special focus on maritime security cooperation.

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/26/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-26-september-2020/>

230. Consider the following statements:

1. Pinaka is a free flight artillery rocket system having a range of more than 75 km.
2. The weapon system is designed and developed by Pune-based DRDO lab, Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE).

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: **Pinaka rocket system:**

- In an important milestone in the induction of the Pinaka rocket system in the Armed forces, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently handed over the Authority Holding Sealed Particulars (AHSP) of the system to the Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) of the Ministry of Defence.
- Key points:
 - **Pinaka is a free flight artillery rocket system having a range of 37.5 km.**
 - Pinaka rockets are launched from a multi-barrel rocket launcher which has a capability to launch 12 rockets in 44 seconds.
 - The weapon system is designed and developed by **Pune-based DRDO lab, Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE).**

Refer: Facts for Prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/26/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-26-september-2020/>

**RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 28th-Sept-2020**

231. Consider the following statements about National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC):

1. It is a statutory corporation
2. Based on the recommendations of the NCDC, Government of India, declares Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for 22 crops before their sowing seasons.

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:

- Stat2: Based on the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices**, the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation, Government of India, **declares Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for 22 crops before their sowing seasons.**
- Stat1: **About NCDC:**
 - It is **a statutory corporation** set up under **the National Cooperative Development Corporation Act, 1962.**
 - **The objectives of NCDC** are planning and promoting programmes for production, processing, marketing, storage, export and import of agricultural produce, foodstuffs, industrial goods, livestock and certain other notified commodities and services on cooperative principles.
 - NCDC is a major financial institution for cooperatives, and has started **Mission Sahakar 22**, which aims to double farmers' income by 2022.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/28/national-cooperative-development-corporation-ncdc/>

232. 'Mission Sahakar 22', sometimes mentioned in the news, which aims to:

- (a) improve Cooperative banking system
- (b) double farmers income
- (c) enhance contract farming
- (d) provide teaser loan to farmers

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- NCDC is a major financial institution for cooperatives, and has started **Mission Sahakar 22, which aims to double farmers' income by 2022.**



- It also focusses on strengthening the farmers' economic condition by augmenting their income and fast track the pace of development in the State.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/28/national-cooperative-development-corporation-ncdc/>

233. Consider the following statements:

1. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) was constituted as an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
2. Under the provisions of DPCO 2013, only the prices of drugs that figure in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) are monitored and controlled by the regulator.

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 National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM:**

- Under the provisions of **Drug Prices Control Order, 2013**, only the prices of drugs that figure in **the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)** are monitored and controlled by the regulator, **the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority**.
 - The **National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)** is a government regulatory agency that controls the prices of pharmaceutical drugs in India.
 - National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) was constituted vide Government of India Resolution dated 29th August, 1997 **as an attached office of the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers** as an independent Regulator for pricing of drugs and to ensure availability and accessibility of medicines at affordable prices.
- Essential medicines are those that satisfy the priority healthcare needs of the majority of the population.
- The primary purpose of NLEM is to promote rational use of medicines considering the three important aspects i.e. cost, safety and efficacy.
- **Paragraph 19 of the DPCO, 2013**, deals with increase or decrease in drug prices under extraordinary circumstances. However, there is neither a precedent nor any formula prescribed for upward revision of ceiling prices.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/28/nppa-caps-price-of-liquid-medical-oxygen-and-medical-oxygen-cylinders/>

234. Consider the following statements:

1. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is an autonomous body established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.
2. FSSAI has prescribed a limit for Total Polar Compounds (TPC) at 25% in cooking oil to avoid the harmful effects of reused cooking oil.

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: About the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI):
 - It is **an autonomous statutory body** established under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 (FSS Act)**.
 - Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India is the administrative Ministry of FSSAI.
- Stat2: FSSAI has prescribed a limit for **Total Polar Compounds (TPC) at 25%** in cooking oil to avoid the harmful effects of reused cooking oil.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/28/sweet-sellers-need-to-display-best-before-date-from-1-october-orders-fssai/>

235. The UCPMP Code, sometimes mentioned in the news, it is primarily related to:

- (a) Recent farmers agitation over Farm Bills
- (b) Prevention of secession movements
- (c) Strengthening of Indian parliamentary democracy
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **What is UCPMP Code?**

- It is **a voluntary code issued by the Department Of Pharmaceuticals** relating to marketing practices for Indian Pharmaceutical Companies and as well medical devices industry.
Applicability: At present, the UCPMP Code is applicable on Pharmaceutical Companies, Medical Representatives, Agents of Pharmaceutical Companies such as Distributors, Wholesalers, Retailers, and Pharmaceutical Manufacturer's Associations.



Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/28/uniform-code-of-pharmaceutical-marketing-practices-ucpmp/>

236. 'SAATHI' application is an initiative of:

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) National Cooperative Development Corporation
- (c) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- **SAATHI is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism with Quality Council of India** to assist the hospitality industry to continue to operate safely and thereby instill confidence among the Staff, employees and the guests about the safety of the hotel/unit.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/28/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-28-september-2020/>

237. Which of the following countries surround Azerbaijan?

- 1. Russia
- 2. Georgia
- 3. Iran
- 4. Armenia

Selects correct answer using the code below:

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

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Nagorno-Karabakh region:**

- Why in News?
 - Azerbaijan has carried out an air and artillery attack on Nagorno-Karabakh.
- Key points:
 - **Nagorno-Karabakh is a breakaway region that is inside Azerbaijan but is run by ethnic Armenians.**
 - It broke away from Azerbaijan in a conflict that broke out as the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.
 - Though a ceasefire was agreed in 1994, Azerbaijan and Armenia frequently accuse each other of attacks around Nagorno-Karabakh and along the separate Azeri-Armenian frontier.
- Azerbaijan's land borders are with Russia (390km), Georgia (480km), Iran (765km), Armenia (1007,1km) and Turkey (15km),



and share maritime borders with Iran, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Russia via the Caspian Sea.



Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/28/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-28-september-2020/>

238. Consider the following statements about Sandalwood Spike Disease (SSD):

1. The disease is caused by fungal infection
2. It was first reported in Kodagu (Karnataka) in 1899
3. The disease is characterized by extreme reduction in leaf size accompanied by stiffening and reduction of internode length.

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: **Sandalwood Spike Disease (SSD):**

- The disease is caused by **phytoplasma** — **bacterial parasites of plant tissues** — which **are transmitted by insect vectors**.
- The disease was **first reported in Kodagu in 1899**.
- The disease is characterized by extreme reduction in leaf size accompanied by stiffening and reduction of internode length.
- In advanced stage, the entire shoot gives the appearance of a spike inflorescence.
- **Context:**
 - India's sandalwood trees are facing a serious threat with the return of the destructive Sandalwood Spike Disease (SSD).
 - The infection has resurfaced in Karnataka and Kerala.



- The present rapid spread of the infection is largely due to restrictions on green felling in forests, which has allowed vectors to spread the disease to healthy trees.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/28/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-28-september-2020/>

239. 'Haiyang-2C' is a new ocean-monitoring satellite launched recently by:

- (a) France
- (b) Japan
- (c) Italy
- (d) China

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Haiyang-2C:**

- **It is a new ocean-monitoring satellite launched recently by China.**
- It is the country's third ocean dynamic environment satellite.
- It can provide all-weather and round-the-clock observation of wave height, sea surface height, wind speed and direction, and temperature.
- HY-2C will form a network with the previous HY-2B and subsequent HY-2D, which is scheduled for launch next year, to carry out high-precision maritime environment monitoring.
- The planned satellite network will be capable of carrying out 80 percent of the world's sea surface wind monitoring within six hours.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/28/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-28-september-2020/>

240. 'Health in India' survey released recently by:

- (a) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- (b) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
- (c) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- (d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **'Health in India' survey:**

- Released recently by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.**
- Key findings:
 - As per the report, Zoroastrian community remains the most susceptible to ailments.



- The survey defines ailment as any deviation from a person's state of physical and mental well-being.
- (National Sample Survey (NSS)'s 75th Round released in July show that 31.1 per cent of Zoroastrians reported that they were suffering from an ailment at the time the survey was conducted).

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/28/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-28-september-2020/>

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 29th-Sept-2020

241. Consider the following statements about Cat Que virus:

1. It is one of the arthropod-borne viruses (arboviruses).
2. Its natural host is a bats.

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 Cat Que virus?**

- It is one of **the arthropod-borne viruses (arboviruses)**.
- **Spread:**
 - Its natural host is a mosquito.
 - Domestic pigs are the primary mammalian host of CQV.
- **Why India is more vulnerable?**
 - Availability of vector, primary mammalian host (swine) and confirmation of CQV from jungle myna.
 - Besides, National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune researchers have found antibodies for the virus in two out of the 883 human serum samples which were taken from various Indian states, indicating that people at some point contracted the virus.
- **Effects on Humans:**
 - It can cause febrile illnesses, meningitis and paediatric encephalitis in humans.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/29/cat-que-virus/>



242. Consider the following statements:

1. Under the MSF, banks can borrow overnight at their discretion by dipping into the statutory liquidity ratio (SLR).
2. The current Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate is 6.25%.

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 MSF?**

- Under the MSF, banks can borrow overnight at their discretion by dipping into **the statutory liquidity ratio (SLR)**.
- It is a window for scheduled banks to borrow overnight from the RBI in an emergency situation when interbank liquidity dries up completely.
- This scheme was launched by RBI while reforming the monetary policy in 2011-12.
- It is a **penal rate** at which banks can borrow money from RBI when they are completely exhausted of all borrowing assistance.
- As of September 25, 2020, the Policy **Rates** which include Repo **Rate** stood at 4.00%, Reverse Repo **Rate** at 3.35%, **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate** at 4.25% and Bank **Rate** at 4.25%.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/29/rbi-extends-enhanced-borrowing-limit-for-banks/>

243. Consider the following statements about the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) plan scheme:

1. It proposes a financial incentive to boost domestic manufacturing and attract large investments in the electronics value chain.
2. It was notified recently as a part of Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

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 PLI scheme:**

- 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.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/29/what-is-the-production-linked-incentive-scheme-for-electronics-manufacturers-2/>

244. In the context of proposals to the use of hydrogen-enriched CNG (H-CNG) as fuel for buses in public transport, consider the following statements:

1. The main advantage of the use of H-CNG is the elimination of carbon monoxide emissions.
2. H-CNG as fuel reduces carbon dioxide and hydrocarbon emissions.
3. Hydrogen up to one-fifth by volume can be blended with CNG as fuel for buses.
4. H-CNG makes the fuel less expensive than CNG.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

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

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- HCNG is a mixture of compressed natural gas (CNG) and some % Hydrogen by energy.
- HCNG which may be used as a fuel of Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) is considered a cleaner source of fuel, more powerful and offers more mileage than even CNG.
- **Some advantages of HCNG:**
 - **HCNG reduces emissions of CO up to 70%.** S1 is incorrect since it is not possible.
 - **Enables up to 5 % savings in fuel.**
 - Better performance due to higher Octane rating of H₂.
 - S3: Delhi Government has tied up with Indian Oil Corporation Limited to study the technology and infrastructure needs to induct 50 HCNG buses on a trial basis. IOCL has plans to mix (18-20) % Hydrogen in these buses.



- S4: Current cost of H2 is more than the cost of Natural Gas. So, HCNG's cost is more than CNG.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/29/hydrogen-enriched-compressed-natural-gas-hcng/>

245. The Directorate of Enforcement is a part of which of the following?

- (a) Department of Revenue
- (b) Department of Financial Services
- (c) Department of Internal Security
- (d) Narcotics control Bureau

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- The **Directorate of Enforcement** is a law enforcement agency and economic intelligence agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and fighting economic crime in India.
- It is part of the **Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance**, Government Of India.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/29/fugitive-economic-offenders-feo/>

246. The Bharat Rang Mahotsav, or the 'National Theatre Festival', is the annual theatre festival of:

- (a) National Academy of Art is India's national academy of fine arts.
- (b) Sangeet Natak Akademi.
- (c) National School of Drama.
- (d) Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **National School of Drama:**

- It is one of the foremost theatre training institutions in the world and the only one of its kind in India.
- It was set up by the **Sangeet Natak Akademi** as one of its constituent units in 1959.
- In 1975, it became an independent entity and was registered as an autonomous organization under the Societies Registration Act of 1860, financed by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.
- **Bharat Rang Mahotsav, or the 'National Theatre Festival'**, established in 1999, is the annual theatre festival of National School of Drama (NSD). It is acknowledged as the largest theatre festival of Asia, dedicated solely to theatre.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/29/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-28-september-2020-2/>



247. The 'Defence Acquisition Council' (DAC) is headed by:

- (a) Prime Minister
- (b) Defence Minister
- (c) Defence Secretary
- (d) National Security Advisor

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC):**

- It is headed by the **Defence Minister**.
- Functions: The DAC is responsible to give policy guidelines to acquisitions, based on long-term procurement plans. It also clears all acquisitions, which includes both imported and those produced indigenously or under a foreign license.
- It was formed, after the Group of Ministers recommendations on 'Reforming the National Security System', in 2001, post Kargil War (1999).

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/29/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-28-september-2020-2/>

248. Consider the following statements:

1. UMANG platform provides three-tier system (PMO, Union Government Secretaries, and Chief Secretaries of the States).
2. It will take into consideration various correspondences to PM's office by the common people or from high dignitaries of States and/or developers of public projects.

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 UMANG:**

- **UMANG (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance)** is developed by **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National e-Governance Division (NeGD)** to drive Mobile Governance in India.
- UMANG provides a single platform for all Indian Citizens to access pan India e-Gov services ranging from Central to Local Government bodies and other citizen centric services.
- PRAGATI platform: <https://vikaspedia.in/e-governance/digital-india/pragati-platform>



Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/29/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-28-september-2020-2/>

249. 'Ultra-Violet Imaging Telescope' is one of the payloads onboard of a/an/the:

- (a) Gaganyaan
- (b) Mangalyaan
- (c) ASTROSAT
- (d) Mission Shakti

Ans: (c)

Explanation: **Ultra-Violet Imaging Telescope:**

- UVIT is a remarkable **3-in-1 imaging telescope** simultaneously observing in **the visible, the near-ultraviolet (NUV), and the far-ultraviolet (FUV) spectrum**.
- It is one of the five payloads onboard India's first multi-wavelength astronomical observatory **AstroSat**.
- Its superior spatial resolution capability has enabled astronomers to probe star formation in galaxies as well as resolve the cores of star clusters (3 times better than the last NASA mission, GALEX).
- Observations from UVIT has recently led to the discovery of a galaxy located at a distance of about 10 billion light-years from Earth and emitting extreme ultraviolet radiation that can ionize the intergalactic medium.
- **Why in News?**
 - It completed five years of operation in the sky by imaging astronomical objects on 28 September 2020.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/29/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-28-september-2020-2/>

250. Consider the following statements about Himalayan Chandra Telescope:

1. The Telescope is housed within the Indian Astronomical Observatory at Ladakh.
 2. It is a 20-m diameter optical-infrared telescope.
- 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: **Himalayan Chandra Telescope:**

- The Telescope is housed within **the Indian Astronomical Observatory at Ladakh**.



- It is a **2-m diameter optical-infrared telescope**.
- The telescope is used to make observations of extrasolar planets and it also looks for comets and asteroids whizzing around in our solar system.
- It is operated remotely by **the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bangalore**.
- It is operated using a dedicated satellite communication link from the Centre for Research & Education in Science & Technology (CREST).
- **Why in News?**
 - The telescope is celebrating its 20th Birthday.

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/29/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-28-september-2020-2/>

RTM- REVISION THROUGH MCQS – 30th-Sept-2020

251. Naujawan Bharat Sabha was founded by:

- (a) Sardar Ajit Singh
- (b) Bhagat Singh
- (c) Ram Prasad Bismil
- (d) Lala Lajpat Rai

Ans: (b)

Explanation: **About Bhagat Singh:**

- Born in September, 1907.
- **Gandhi's influence:** Initially, he supported Mahatma Gandhi and the Non-Cooperation Movement. However, when Gandhi withdrew the movement in the wake of the Chauri Chaura incident, Bhagat Singh turned to revolutionary nationalism.
- **Associations he was associated with:**
 - In 1924 in Kanpur, he became a member of **the Hindustan Republican Association**, started by Sachindranath Sanyal a year earlier.
 - In 1925, Bhagat Singh returned to Lahore and within the next year he and his colleagues started a militant youth organisation called **the Naujawan Bharat Sabha**.
 - In 1928, he was associated with **the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA)** along with Sukhdev, Chandrashekhar Azad and others.



- Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev also organized **the Lahore Students Union** for open, legal work among the students.
- **Revolutionary activities he was involved in:**
 - Lahore Conspiracy case.
 - 1929 Central Assembly Bombing Case.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/30/bhagat-singh/>

252. Which one of the following has conducted the first Time Use Survey (TUS) in India?

- (a) Securities and Exchange Board of India
- (b) Physical Research Laboratory
- (c) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
- (d) National Statistical Office

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- The **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, which is a wing of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, has conducted **the first Time Use Survey (TUS) in India** during January to December 2019.
- About the Survey:
 - The primary objective is to measure participation of men and women in paid and unpaid activities.
 - It is an important source of information on the time spent in unpaid caregiving activities, volunteer work, unpaid domestic service producing activities of the household members.
 - It also provides information on time spent on learning, socializing, leisure activities, self-care activities, etc., by the household members.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/30/nso-time-use-survey/>

253. Consider the following statements:

1. Sero surveys are conducted by drawing blood samples and checking for a specific class of antigens called IgG that appear within two weeks of an infection.
2. Recently, the results of the second national sero-survey have been released by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

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:



- Stat2: Results of **the second national sero-survey** have been released by **the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**.
- **What are Sero-surveys?**
 - Stat1: They are conducted by drawing blood samples and checking for a specific class of **antibodies** called **IgG** that **appear within two weeks of an infection**. Because it is yet unclear how long antibodies detectably persist in the body, **their presence only indicates past exposure to — and not presence of — the virus**.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/30/second-national-sero-survey/>

254. Consider the following statements:

1. As per recent amendment to the Indian Forest Act, 1927, forest dwellers have the right to fell the bamboos grown on forest areas.
2. As per the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, bamboo is a minor forest produce.
3. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 allows ownership of minor forest produce to forest dwellers.

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:

- S1: Under the original Act, the definition of tree includes palms, bamboos, stumps, brush-wood, and canes. The amendment act amends this definition of tree to remove the word bamboos.
- Since bamboo is defined as a tree under the Act, its inter-state movement requires permit when in transit in other states. Consequent to the amendment, felling or transportation of bamboos growing in non-forest areas will not require any permits.
- See <https://www.prsindia.org/billtrack/indian-forest-amendment-bill-2017>
- S2: The Act recognises bamboo as an MFP and vests the “right of ownership, access to collect, use and dispose of minor forest produce” with Scheduled Tribes and traditional forest dwellers
- See <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/bamboo-now-a-minor-forest-produce-33239>



- S3: Section 3(1) of the act provides a right of ownership, access to collect, use, and dispose of minor forest produce(includes all non-timber forest produce of plant origin) which has been traditionally collected within or outside village boundaries.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/30/maharashtra-modifies-forest-rights-act/>

255. Under which Schedule of the Constitution of India can the transfer of tribal land to private parties?

- Third Schedule
- Fifth Schedule
- Ninth Schedule
- Twelfth Schedule

Ans: (b)

Explanation:

- Straightforward question.
- See

<https://www.casemine.com/judgement/in/5609ad2ee4b0149711410b90>

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/30/maharashtra-modifies-forest-rights-act/>

256. Consider the following statements about Namami Gange Programme:

1. It an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as a 'Flagship Programme' in 2014.
2. It is being operated under Ministry of Jal Shakti.
3. National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) is the implementation wing of National Ganga Council and it is headed by Prime Minister.

Which of the given above statements is/are correct?

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

Ans: (a)

Explanation:

- **About Namami Gange Programme:**

- It an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as a 'Flagship Programme' in June 2014.
- It seeks to accomplish **the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution and conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.**
- It is being operated under **Ministry of Jal Shakti.**

- **Implementation:**



- The program is being implemented by **the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)**, and its state counterpart organizations i.e., State Program Management Groups (SPMGs).
- NMCG is **the implementation wing of National Ganga Council** (set in 2016; which replaced **the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NRGBA)**).
- **National Ganga Council (NGC)** was Created in October 2016 under **the River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016**. It is **Headed by Prime Minister**.
- **Funding:**
 - It has a Rs. 20,000-crore, centrally-funded, non-lapsable corpus and consists of nearly 288 projects.

Refer: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/30/namami-gange-programme/>

257. Consider the following statements about Global Counter Terrorism Council (GCTC):

1. It is an intergovernmental organisation founded in 2011.
2. The flagship report of the GCTC is the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) which provides a comprehensive summary of the key global trends and patterns in terrorism.

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: **Global Counter Terrorism Council:**

- It is a **registered non-profit International Think Tank** initiated by public spirited individuals to awaken further issues of national interest and global conscience about terrorism as a threat to humanity, human security etc.
- **Members** belong to different faculties & background like senior bureaucrats, academicians, officers from the armed forces & paramilitary services, distinguished diplomats, leading researchers, media analysts, parliamentarians, professionals, corporate heads, human rights groups.
- They provide support and regularly contribute with the aim to deliberate on the root causes of Global Terrorism and to present effective solutions to the problems faced by society and the government.
- **Why in News?**



- International Energy Security Conference 2020 was recently organised by Global Counter-Terrorism Council (GCTC).

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/30/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-30-september-2020/>

258. 'Ganga Avalokan', the nation's first museum on Ganga, located at:

- (a) Dashashwamedh Ghat
- (b) Lalita Ghat
- (c) Assi Ghat
- (d) Chandi Ghat

Ans: (d)

Explanation: **Ganga Avalokan:**

- It is the first museum on the river located at Chandi ghat in Haridwar.
- It was inaugurated recently.
- It is aimed at showcasing the culture, biodiversity and rejuvenation activities done in the river,

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/30/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-30-september-2020/>

259. Recently with which one of the following country India has elevated its relations to a "green strategic partnership"?

- (a) Norway
- (b) Sweden
- (c) Switzerland
- (d) Denmark

Ans: (d)

Explanation:

- India-Denmark agree to elevate relations to a Green Strategic Partnership:
- **India and Denmark recently elevated their relations to a "green strategic partnership".**
- The Green Strategic Partnership is a mutually beneficial arrangement to advance political cooperation, expand economic relations and green growth, create jobs and strengthen cooperation on addressing global challenges and opportunities; with focus on an ambitious implementation of the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/30/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-30-september-2020/>

260. Consider the following statements:

1. Amnesty International is a non-governmental organisation focused on human rights.
2. The organisation was awarded the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize for its “campaign against torture”.

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: **Why in News?**

- Amnesty International halts India operations following the freezing of its bank accounts by the Enforcement Directorate.
- The government case against Amnesty India broadly rests on two investigations, one alleging discrepancies under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, and another case that was registered by the CBI alleging violations under the FCRA.
- **Amnesty International is a non-governmental organisation focused on human rights.**
- The stated objective of the organisation is “to conduct research and generate action to prevent and end grave abuses of human rights, and to demand justice for those whose rights have been violated.”
- The organisation was awarded **the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize** for its “campaign against torture,” and the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights in 1978.
- In the field of international human rights organisations, **Amnesty has the second longest history, after the International Federation for Human Rights and broadest name recognition.**

Refer: facts for prelims:

<https://www.insightsonindia.com/2020/09/30/insights-daily-current-affairs-pib-summary-30-september-2020/>



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