

Q. Recently, the world's oldest water has been explored in which of the following countries?

- (a) USA
- (b) France
- (c) Russia
- (d) Canada

Answer: d

Explanation:

The world's oldest water has been explored by a geochemist Dr Barbara Sherwood Lollar at the University of Toronto's isotope Geochemistry. It was found at a depth of 2.4 kilometres at the Kidd Creek mine, located on the 2.7 billion-year-old **Canadian Shield** which is one of the world's largest continental shields

Q. In the "Index of Eight Core Industries", which of the following industries has the highest weightage?

- (a) Steel Industry
- (b) Coal Industry
- (c) Electricity Industry
- (d) Refinery Products Industry

Answer: d

Explanation: Option D is correct: The eight core sector industries include coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity. The eight core industries comprise nearly 40% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP). The eight Core Industries in decreasing order of their weightage: Refinery Products > Electricity > Steel > Coal > Crude Oil > Natural Gas > Cement > Fertilizers.

Q. Lag B'Omer Festival, recently seen in the news, is celebrated by which of the following ethnic groups?

- (a) Persians
- (b) Jews
- (c) Greeks
- (d) Latins

Answer: b

Explanation:

Option B is correct: Lag B'Omer Festival is an annual Jewish festival observed during the Hebrew month of Iyar. It is celebrated on the 33rd day of the Omer, the 49-day period between Passover & Shavuot (festivals) and is the only day during this period when celebration is permitted. Jews schedule weddings on this day & young boys are brought here for the first hair cut.

Q. With reference to the Operation Twist, consider the following statements:

1. It is a fiscal policy strategy aimed at stimulating economic growth.
2. Under it, long-term Treasuries are sold in order to buy the short-term ones.

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

Answer: d

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct: Operation Twist is a monetary policy strategy used by central banks with an aim to stimulate economic growth through lowering long-term interest rates.

Statement 2 is not correct: This is achieved by selling near-term Treasuries to buy longer-dated ones. It effectively "twists" the ends of the yield curve

where short-term yields go up and long-term interest rates drop simultaneously.

Q. Consider the following statements:

Attorney General of India can

1. take part in the proceedings of the Lok Sabha
2. be a member of a committee of the Lok Sabha
3. speak in the Lok Sabha
4. vote in the Lok Sabha

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation: Statement 1, 2 and 3 are correct: The Attorney General of India (AGI) has the Right to Speak and to take part in the proceedings of both the Houses of Parliament or their joint sitting and any committee of the Parliament of which he/she may be named a member of.

Statement 4 is not correct. AGI does not have the Right to Vote in the House proceedings.

Q. With reference to the Olive Ridley Turtles, consider the following statements:

1. They are endemic to most tropical regions of the Indian Subcontinent.
2. They are herbivores and mostly feed on seaweeds and algae.
3. They exhibit the 'arribadas' phenomenon.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct: Their scientific name is *Lepidochelys olivacea* and they are also known as the Pacific ridley sea turtle. They are the smallest and most abundant of all sea turtles found in the world. They are found in warm waters of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans. They are vulnerable according to the IUCN Red List.

Statement 2 is not correct: They are not herbivores, these are carnivores and feed mainly on jellyfish, shrimp, snails, crabs etc.

Statement 3 is correct: These are best known for their unique mass nesting called Arribada, where thousands of females come together on the same beach to lay eggs. One unique feature about females is that they return to the very same beach from where they first hatched, to lay their eggs. The eggs hatch in 45 to 60 days, depending on the temperature of the sand and atmosphere during the incubation period.

Q. With reference to the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), consider the following statements:

- 1.It is constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- 2.It shall be used only for meeting the expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims.
- 3.The annual Central contribution is released in two equal installments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation: In News: Recently, the Ministry of Finance on the recommendation of the Ministry of Home Affairs has released the 1st instalment.

All the statements are correct: It was constituted under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005. It is the primary fund available with State Governments for responses to notified disasters. An order issued recently by the MHA treats COVID-19 as a “notified disaster” for the purpose of providing assistance under the SDRF. SDRF shall be used only for meeting the expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims. The Central Government contributes 75% of SDRF allocation for general

category States/UTs and 90% for special category States/UTs (NE States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir). The annual Central contribution is released in two equal installments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission.

Q. With reference to Polar Motion, consider the following statements:

1. It is the process of movement in Earth's axis, leading to a shift in poles' location.
2. Unsustainable groundwater consumption is one of the factors responsible for it.

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

Answer: c

Explanation: In News: According to the study published in Geophysical Research Letters of the American Geophysical Union (AGU), the significant melting of glaciers because of global temperature rise is causing movement of Earth's axis of rotation more than usual since the 1990s.

Statement 1 is correct: The location of the poles is not fixed, however, as the axis moves due to changes in how the Earth's mass is distributed around the planet. Thus, the poles move when the axis moves, and the movement is called "Polar Motion".

Statement 2 is correct: Normally, it is caused by changes in the hydrosphere, atmosphere, oceans or solid Earth. Faster ice melting under global warming and unsustainable consumption of groundwater for irrigation and for other anthropogenic activities also contribute to it, according to latest studies.

Q. Pox 186, recently seen in the news, is a?

- (a) Quasar
- (b) Galaxy
- (c) Star
- (d) Satellite

Answer: b

Explanation: Option B is correct. Pox 186 is the first ever galaxy to be found in a "blow-away" state. Blowing away means that the hydrogen clouds around the galaxy have been removed, allowing the high energy light to escape. The findings confirm that a blow-away is possible, furthering the idea that small galaxies were primarily responsible for the reionization of the Universe and giving more insight into how the Universe became what it is today.

Q. Consider the following pairs:

Sikh Guru	Contribution
1. Guru Angad	Gurumukhi
2. Guru Hargobind	Khalsa
3. Guru Gobind Singh	Akal Takhat
4. Guru Ram Das	Harmandir Sahib

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer: d

Explanation: In News: Recently, Sri Akhand Path has been inaugurated at Gurdwara Guru Ke Mahal to mark the 400th Prakash Purab (birth centenary) of Guru Tegh Bahadur.

Pair 1 is correctly matched: Guru Angad (1504-1552) was the second Sikh guru and he invented Gurumukhi (language of the Guru).

Pair 2 is not correctly matched: Guru Hargobind (1595-1644) was the sixth Sikh guru and erected Akal Takhat (throne of eternal God) and he established two swords, Miri-Piri (representing soldiers and saints).

Pair 3 is not correctly matched: Guru Gobind Singh (1666-1708) was the tenth and last Sikh guru and he introduced Khalsa (military group of men and women).

Pair 4 is correctly matched: Guru Ram Das (1534-1581) was the fourth Sikh guru and he started the construction of the Harmandir Sahib (now known as the Golden Temple) at Amritsar.

Q. With reference to the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005, consider the following statements:

1. It provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of skilled work in every financial year to adults in rural areas.
2. It comes under the category of Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
3. At least one-third beneficiaries have to be women.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation: In News: According to a recent study by the State Bank of India (SBI), the demand for work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) 2005 has increased.

Statement 1 is not correct: MGNREGA aims to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

Statement 2 is correct: It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the Central Government bears 100 per cent of the cost of unskilled labour, 75 per cent of the cost of semi-skilled and skilled labour, 75 per cent of the cost of materials and 6 per cent of the administrative costs. Central Sector Schemes are entirely and directly funded and executed by the central government. Centrally Sponsored Schemes are implemented by state governments with some help from the central government.

Statement 3 is correct: The Act mandates that at least one-third beneficiaries have to be women.

Q. *Xylophis deepaki*, recently seen in the news, is a species of?

- (a) Snakes
- (b) Algae
- (c) Butterflies
- (d) Frogs

Answer: a

Explanation: Option A is correct. *Xylophis deepaki* is a tiny wood snake of just 20 cm length with iridescent scales with a broad off-white collar. It is an endemic species of Tamil Nadu and was first found in a coconut plantation of the drier regions and in lower altitudes around Agasthyamalai hills in Kanyakumari. It is named in honour of Indian herpetologist Deepak Veerappan for his contribution in erecting a new subfamily Xylophiinae to accommodate wood snakes.

Q. With reference to the Network for Greening the Financial System, consider the following statements:

1. It is a voluntary group of central banks established at the 21st Conference of Parties.

2. India is not a member of the group.

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

Answer: d

Explanation: In News: Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has joined the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS).

Statement 1 is not correct: It is a voluntary group of central banks, established at the Paris “One Planet Summit” in December 2017 by eight central banks and supervisors.

Statement 2 is not correct: India is a member as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently joined the group.

Q. Sheikh Zayed Book Award is associated with which of the following countries ?

(a) Saudi Arabia

(b) Iran

(c) United Arab Emirates(UAE)

(d) Oman

Answer: c

Explanation: In News :Recently, Mumbai-born academician Dr Tahera Qutbuddin, a professor of Arabic Literature, Department of NELC,

University of Chicago, has been adjudged the winner of the 15th Sheikh Zayed Book Award.

The award commemorates the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Founding President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, and his pioneering role in promoting national unity and development. The Award, and its associated accolades, are presented annually to **outstanding writers, intellectuals, and publishers, as well as a young talent whose writing** and translation in humanities objectively enrich Arab intellectual, cultural, literary and social life.

It is an independent cultural initiative administered by the Department of Culture and Tourism **Abu Dhabi(UAE)**.

Q. The “Special 301 Report” is released by which of the following organisations?

- (a) World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).
- (b) United States Trade Representative(USTR)
- (c) United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
- (d) International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Answer: b

Explanation: In News : Recently, The Office of the United States Trade Representative(USTR) released its annual Special 301 Report. It provides the outcome of an annual review of the global state of IPR protection and enforcement. The review reflects to encourage and maintain enabling environments for innovation, including effective IPR protection and enforcement

It identifies the trading partners that do not adequately or effectively protect and enforce intellectual property (IP) rights. It aims to improve the environment for authors, brand owners, and inventors around the world. For countries that fail to address U.S. concerns, USTR takes appropriate actions against them which may include enforcement actions under Section 301 of the Trade Act.

Q. India is a party to which of the following given international convention(s)?

1. UN Refugee Conventions, 1951
2. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948
3. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966

Select the correct Answer: using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation: Option B is correct: India is not a party to the UN Refugee Conventions, 1951 but is a party to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948 and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 1966.

Q. With reference to Asiatic Lions, consider the following statements:

1. At present Gir National Park is their only natural abode.
2. They are listed as critically endangered in the IUCN Red List.

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

Answer: a

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat is the only natural abode of Asiatic lions. These are slightly smaller than African lions. Males have only moderate mane growth at the top of the head so that their ears are always visible and the most striking morphological character is a longitudinal fold of skin running along the belly.

Statement 2 is not correct: They are listed as Endangered in the IUCN Red List and are also protected under the Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972 and Appendix I of CITES.

Q. With reference to the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), consider the following statements:

1. It is an indicator of business activity both in the manufacturing and the services sectors.
2. It is prepared by the Central Statistical Organisation.
3. PMI above 50 means contraction and below 50 denotes expansion.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation: In News: According to a recent survey, the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) results for April 2021 showed a slowdown in rates of growth for new orders and output, both of which eased to eight-month lows amid the intensification of the Covid-19 crisis.

Statement 1 is correct: PMI is an indicator of business activity both in the manufacturing and services sectors. The data is calculated separately for the manufacturing and services sectors and then a composite index is constructed.

Statement 2 is not correct: It is compiled by IHS Markit for more than 40 economies worldwide, which is a London based global leader in information, analytics and solutions for the major industries and markets that drive economies worldwide.

Statement 3 is not correct: PMI is indicated by a number from 0 to 100 and PMI above 50 means expansion while a score below 50 denotes contraction. A reading at 50 indicates no change.

Q. Recently, R21/Matrix M was seen in the news, it is related to which of the following diseases?

- a. Tuberculosis
- b. Cancer
- c. Malaria
- d. Diabetes

Answer: c

Explanation:

The new vaccine candidate, called R21/Matrix M, is a modified version of RTS, S

This vaccine is designed to stop the Plasmodium falciparum **malaria parasite** from entering the liver and preventing the subsequent deadly blood stages

It has been developed by scientists at the University of Oxford.

Q. 'Which of the following statements is / are correct regarding recently developed 'Moorhen Yoga Mat' in Assam?

1. It is a Non-biodegradable Yoga Mat.
2. It has been developed from water hyacinth.

Select the correct Answer: using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation:

Statement 1 is not correct :A unique **biodegradable yoga mat**, called Moorhen Yoga Mat is developed in assam .The 'Moorhen Yoga mat' named after Kam Sorai (Purple moorhen, a resident bird of Deepor Beel Wildlife sanctuary), comes in a cotton canvas cloth bag where no zip or metal closures are used. The bag has an adjustable strap and closures effectively designed to be in sync with biodegradability.

Statement 2 is correct :It has been developed from **water hyacinth**.It could contribute significantly towards the environmental conservation and sustainability of Deepor Beel and also ensure local livelihood.

Q. With reference to Nitrogen dioxide, consider the following statements:

1. It is a non-reactive oxide of Nitrogen.
2. It is generated by high temperature burning of fossil fuels.
3. It makes the air hazy and can lead to acid rains.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct: Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) is one of a group of highly reactive gases known as oxides of nitrogen or nitrogen oxides (NO_x).

Statement 2 is correct: It is generated by burning fossil fuels like coal, oil, gas and diesel at high temperatures and from emissions from cars, trucks and buses, power plants, and off-road equipment.

Statement 3 is correct: It makes the air hazy and difficult to see though. It also interacts in the atmosphere to form acid rain, which harms sensitive ecosystems.

Q. Putola Nach, recently seen in the news, is a traditional string puppet theatre from which of the following states?

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Assam
- (d) Maharashtra

Answer: c

Explanation: Option C is correct. Putola Nach is a traditional string puppet theatre from Assam and is also called Putola bhaona due to its link with bhaona theatre. It usually depicts scenes from the epics such as Ramayana or Mahabharata.

Q. With reference to the National Commission for Backward Classes, consider the following statements:

1. It was set up by the Constitution (102nd Amendment) Act of 2018.
2. It is empowered to specify the socially and educationally backward communities in a State.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation: In News: Recently, a five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court (SC) has unanimously declared Maharashtra State Reservation for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBC) Act, 2018 unconstitutional.

Statement 1 is correct: The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) was set up by the Constitution (102nd Amendment) Act of 2018, which introduced Article 338B dealing with the newly established NCBC.

Statement 2 is not correct: NCBC has the authority to examine complaints and welfare measures regarding socially and educationally backward classes. However, Article 342A empowers the President to specify the

socially and educationally backward communities in a State and states that it is for the Parliament to include a community in the Central List for socially and backward classes for grant of reservation benefits.

Q. Section 142 of the Social Security Code - 2020, recently seen in the news, is related to

- (a) Payment of a cess for the welfare of construction workers
- (b) Administering the social security schemes
- (c) Collection of data of workers including migrant workers.
- (d) Exemptions to an employer

Answer: c

Explanation: Option C is correct: Section 142 of the Social Security Code, 2020 has been notified by the **Ministry of Labour & Employment** covering the applicability of Aadhar. It aims to establish the identity of an employee or an unorganised worker or any other person through the Aadhaar number for seeking benefits and availing services under the Code. The main purpose is to **facilitate database** creation, mainly covering people in informal sectors like **migrant workers**

However, the delivery of services under various social security schemes would not be denied due to the non-submission of Aadhaar.

Q. Cinco de Mayo (May the fifth in Spanish) is an annual joyous celebration associated with which of the following countries?

- (a) China
- (b) Germany
- (c) Japan
- (d) Mexico

Answer: d

Explanation: Option D is correct: Cinco de Mayo (May the fifth in Spanish) is an annual joyous celebration of **Mexico and the United States**. The day marks Mexico's military victory on its soil over French forces in 1862 at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Osteocytes :

1. They are the most abundant type of cell in mature bone tissue.
2. They form a network similar to the neurons in the brain.

3. They are involved in bone remodeling by transmitting signals.
Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation: Statements 1 ,2 and 3 are correct: They occupy a small chamber called a lacuna, which is contained in the calcified matrix of bone. They are the most abundant type of cell in mature bone tissue. They also are long-lived, surviving as long as the bone they occupy exists. These osteocytes form a network similar to the neurons in the brain. There are more than 23 trillion connections between 42 billion osteocytes that monitors bone health and responds to ageing and damage by signalling other cells to build more bone or break down old bone

Q. Recently, Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) was in the news, it is related to

- (a) Petroleum
- (b) Satellites
- (c) Security and Defence
- (d) Agriculture

Answer: c

Explanation: Option C is correct: The Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) in the area of security and defence policy was established by a Council decision on **11 December 2017, with 25 EU Member States**. It was introduced by the **Lisbon Treaty on European Union**. It offers a legal framework to jointly plan, develop and invest in shared capability projects, and enhance the operational readiness and contribution of armed forces.

Q. Down Syndrome is a genetic disorder which causes physical and mental developmental delays and disabilities in children born with it. It is caused by.

- (a) Additional copy of chromosome 21
- (b) Deletion of chromosome 4
- (c) Additional copy of chromosome X
- (d) Deletion of chromosome 5

Answer: a

Explanation: Option A is correct: Down Syndrome (also known as Trisomy 21) is caused by an extra partial copy of chromosome 21. At birth, babies have certain developmental disabilities like flat face, small head and ears, short neck, etc. There is no cure but a wide variety of support and educational programs can help both people with it and their families. Partial deletion of chromosome 4 causes Wolf-Hirschhorn syndrome, additional copy of chromosome X causes Klinefelter syndrome and partial deletion of chromosome 5 causes Cri du chat (Cat Cry) syndrome.

Q. With reference to the 'Black Fungus', recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It is a serious fungal infection caused by a group of molds called mucormycetes.
2. It is zoonotic in nature.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: Black Fungus (also called Mucormycosis) is a rare and fatal fungal infection caused by a group of molds called mucormycetes.

Statement 2 is not correct: These molds live throughout the environment and are transmitted through inhalation, inoculation or ingestion of spores from the environment. It does not spread between people or between people and animals so it is not zoonotic.

Q. With reference to the Cryptocurrency, consider the following statements

1. It is a digital currency based on blockchain technology.
2. Ethereum was the first crypto currency in the world.
3. A transaction done by cryptocurrency is irreversible.

Select the correct Answer: using the code given below.

- (a) 1 only

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

Answer: c

Explanation: In News: National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has refused to ban cryptocurrency transactions and has instead put an onus on banking institutions whether to ban crypto trades or not.

Statement 1 is correct: Cryptocurrency is a digital currency that can be used in place of conventional money. In cryptocurrencies, cryptography is used to secure and verify transactions. It is also used to control the supply of cryptocurrencies. It is supported by a decentralized peer-to-peer network called the blockchain.

Statement 2 is not correct: Bitcoin was the first cryptocurrency of the world. It was launched in 2009 by Satoshi Nakamoto.

Statement 3 is correct: While transacting in cryptocurrencies, use of pseudonyms and ledger systems conceals the identities providing security and a transaction done by cryptocurrency is irreversible and cannot be reversed.

Q. Consider the followings

1. Argentina
2. Australia
3. Brazil
4. Canada
5. Singapore

Which of the given countries are part of the Group of 20 (G 20)?

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

Answer: d

Explanation: Option d is correct: Group of 20(G 20)was established in September 1999 as a consultation forum between Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors of the world’s major economies. Following the 2008 economic crisis, it became a forum between Heads of State and Government. It comprises 19 countries and the European Union (EU), with representatives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World

Bank (WB). 19 Countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the UK, and the US.

It is a mix of the world's largest advanced and emerging economies, representing about 60 per cent of the world's population, 85 percent of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and 75 percent of global trade.

Q. Karen, recently seen in the news, is an ethnic minority from which of the following countries?

- (a) Myanmar
- (b) Philippines
- (c) Vietnam
- (d) Malaysia

Answer: a

Explanation: Option A is correct: The term Karen refers to a number of ethnic groups with Tibetan-Central Asian origins. These are indigenous to the Thailand-Myanmar border region in Southeast Asia. The Karen and the Kachin in northern Myanmar are the two major ethnic armed organisations that have allied themselves with the movement against the junta that took power in Myanmar.

Q. Consider the following statement:

1. The oaths of office for ministers are set out in the Fourth Schedule of the Constitution.
2. Governor administers these oaths.
3. Once the oath has been administered, it cannot be legally challenged.

Select the correct Answer: using the code given below.

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

Answer: b

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct: The oaths of office and of secrecy for ministers are set out in the Third Schedule of the Constitution.

Statement 2 is correct: Article 164(3) of the Indian Constitution states that before a Minister enters upon his office, the Governor shall administer these oaths.

Statement 3 is correct: Once the Governor takes it as read and the Secretary to the Governor has attested that the oath has been administered, it cannot be legally challenged.

Q. With reference to Lumpy Skin Disease, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. It is a zoonotic bacterial illness that causes prolonged morbidity in cattle and buffaloes.
2. It is confined to Africa only.

Select the correct Answer: using the code given below.

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

Answer: d

Explanation: Statement 1 and 2 are not correct: It is caused by the infection of cattle or buffalo with the poxvirus Lumpy skin disease virus (LSDV). The virus is one of three closely related species within the genus capripoxvirus, the other two species being Sheeppox virus and Goatpox virus. Historically, LSD has remained confined to **Africa**, where it was first **discovered in 1929**, and parts of West Asia. LSD was first reported in Asia and the Pacific region in 2019 in northwest China, Bangladesh and India.

Q. Thalassemia is related to

- (a) Kidney
- (b) Heart
- (c) Brain
- (d) Blood

Answer: d

Explanation: Option D is correct: It is a **blood** disorder in which the body has less haemoglobin than normal. The disorder results in the extreme damage of red blood cells, which leads to a condition where the body doesn't have sufficient regular healthy red blood cells. This condition in

medical terms is called Anaemia. The disorder is primarily inherited by individuals from their parents

Q. Consider the followings

1. Maize
2. Bajra
3. groundnut
4. Barley
5. Soyabean

Which of the following crops are grown in the Kharif season?

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

Answer: a

Explanation: Kharif crops are grown with the onset of monsoon in different parts of the country and these are harvested in September-October.

Important crops grown during this season are paddy, maize, jawar, bajra, tur (arhar), moong, urad, cotton, jute, groundnut and soybean.

Q. With reference to Methane, consider the following statements:

1. Among greenhouse gases, it is the biggest contributor to global warming.
2. It is more potent than carbon.
3. It takes a shorter time to break down in the atmosphere when compared to carbon.
4. Fossil fuels and waste are the only anthropogenic factors responsible for its production.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation: In News: Recently, the Climate and Clean Air (CCA) Coalition and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has

released the report titled “Global Methane Assessment: Benefits and Costs of Mitigating Methane Emissions”.

Statement 1 is not correct: Methane is the second biggest contributor to global warming after carbon dioxide.

Statement 2 and 3 are correct: It is 84 times more potent than carbon but it does not last as long in the atmosphere before it breaks down.

Statement 4 is not correct: Most anthropogenic (human-caused) methane emissions come from three sectors, namely fossil fuels, waste and agriculture.

Q. With reference to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), consider the following statements.

1. It was established by the Chicago Convention under the aegis of the United Nations.
2. It regulates the international aviation sector.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations. The Convention on International Civil Aviation (also known as the Chicago Convention), drafted in 1944 by 54 nations established the core principles permitting international transport by air and led to the creation of ICAO.

Statement 2 is not correct: It is not an international aviation regulator.

Q. With reference to the Battle of Haldighati, consider the following statements:

1. It was fought between Maharana Pratap and Mughal forces led by Raja Man Singh.
2. Aftermath of the battle, Goganda, Udaipur, and Kumbhalgarh were all under Maharana Pratap’s control.

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

Answer: a

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: It was fought in the year 1576 between **Maharana Pratap and** Mughal forces led by **Raja Man Singh of Amber** (general of the Mughal emperor Akbar). Maharana Pratap bravely fought the war but eventually lost it. According to some mythological texts, **Chetak** who was Maharana Pratap's loyal horse, also gave up his life when Maharana Pratap was leaving the battlefield. Maharana re-gathered his forces, fought and won against the Mughals after six years in 1582.

Statement 2 is not correct: After the battle, Maharana Pratap able to make a successful escape, the battle failed to break the deadlock between the two powers. Subsequently, Akbar led a sustained campaign against the Rana, and soon, Goganda, Udaipur, and Kumbhalgarh were all under Akbar's control.

Q. . Recently, Dahla Dam was in the news, it is located in which of the following countries?

- (a) Pakistan
- (b) Tajikistan
- (c) Afghanistan
- (d) Turkmenistan

Answer: c

Explanation: . The Dahla Dam, also known as Arghandab Dam is located in the Shah Wali Kot District of Kandahar Province in Afghanistan. It was constructed in 1952 by the USA on the Arghandab River.

Q. He played a key role in framing the Morley-Minto reforms of 1909 and advocated for the expansion of legislative councils at both the Centre and the provinces. Gandhi Ji, in his autobiography, described him as "pure as crystal, gentle as a lamb, brave as a lion and chivalrous to a fault and the most perfect man in the political field."

He was

- (a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

- (b) Gopal Krishan Gokhale
- (c) Aurobindo Ghosh
- (d) Bipin Chandra Pal

Answer: b

Explanation: Gopal Krishan Gokhale Born on May 9, 1866, in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra (then Bombay Presidency) **in a Brahmin family.** He founded the Servants of India Society(SIS) in Maharashtra's Pune on June 12, 1905. At the Imperial legislature, Gokhale played a key role in **framing the Morley-Minto reforms of 1909 and advocated for the expansion of legislative councils at both the Centre and the provinces.** A critic of British imperial bureaucracy, Gokhale favoured decentralisation and the promotion of panchayat and taluka bodies. Gokhale, a respected 'moderate' Congress leader, was a mentor to both Mahatma Gandhi and Mohammed Ali Jinnah.

Gandhi Ji, in his autobiography, described Gokhale as "pure as crystal, gentle as a lamb, brave as a lion and chivalrous to a fault and the most perfect man in the political field."

Similarly, Jinnah was so inspired by Gokhle that his aspiration, during the early years of his political life, was to become a "Muslim Gokhle".

Q. Consider the following statements about Hakki Pakki Tribe:

1. This tribe is based in the northern part of Tamil Nadu.
2. They typically speak Tamil and Kannada.

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

Answer: d

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect: It is a semi-nomadic tribe based largely in **Karnataka** and sparsely spread in other districts of **Telangana** and **Andhra Pradesh**. It is said that in earlier times, the Hakki Pikki community migrated from Northern India to Karnataka.

Statement 2 is incorrect: Their mother tongue is '**Vaagri**' (belongs to the Dravidian language). However, they speak 'Vaagri' at home but they speak Kannada for their daily business.

Q. . Which of the following statements regarding Pro-tem Speaker in Lok Sabha is/are correct?

1. He is selected among the newly elected members of the house.
2. He presides over the first sitting of the Lok Sabha.

Select the correct Answer: using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect: When the speaker of the Lok Sabha vacates the office immediately before the first meeting of the newly elected house, the **President appoints the senior-most Member of Parliament as a Protem Speaker**. However, once a new Speaker is elected, the Protem Speaker ceases to function in the same capacity.

Statement 2 is correct: The Pro-tem Speaker presides over the first sitting of the Lok Sabha, administers the oath of office to the newly elected MPs.

Q. Recently,Blocktrack was seen in the news, it is related to

- (a) Railway Infrastructure
- (b) Medical data
- (c) Election
- (d) Space Exploration

Answer: b

Explanation: Option b is correct: It is a **blockchain-based secure medical data and information** exchange system for mobile phone applications. Blocktrack aims to securely **digitise healthcare information systems** while **protecting sensitive personal information** and medical records by decentralising control and ownership of patient data through a **blockchain-based innovation**.

Q. With reference to Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant , consider the following statement :

1. It has been provided to the States under Article 275 of the Constitution.
2. It is released as per the recommendations of the Reserve Bank of India.

Select the correct Answer: using the code given below.

- (a) 1 only

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

Answer: a

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: The Centre provides the Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant to the States under **Article 275 of the Constitution**.

Statement 2 is not correct: The grants are released as per the recommendations of the **Finance Commission** in monthly instalments to meet the gap in revenue accounts of the States post-devolution. The eligibility of states to receive this grant and the quantum of the grant was decided by the Commission based on the gap between assessment of revenue and expenditure of the State after taking into account the assessed devolution for the financial year 2020-21.

Q. With reference to the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd., consider the following statements:

1. It is a Maharatna enterprise under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.
2. It is the only dedicated institution for financing Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency projects in India.

Which of the statements given is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct: Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) is a Miniratna enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). It was established as a Non-Banking Financial Institution in 1987.

Statement 2 is correct: It is the only dedicated institution for financing Renewable Energy (RE) & Energy Efficiency (EE) projects in India.

Q. Consider the following pairs:

Terms	Meaning
-------	---------

1. Silviculture	Fruit growing
2. Apiculture	Bee-keeping
3. Olericulture	Vegetable growing
4. Floriculture	Forest growing

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation: In News: Recently, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has provided an enhanced allocation of Rs. 2250 crore for 2021-22 for the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH).

Pair 1 is not correctly matched: Silviculture is the practice of controlling the growth, composition/structure, and quality of forests to meet values and needs, specifically timber production.

Pair 2 is correctly matched: Apiculture also known as beekeeping, is the maintenance of bee colonies, commonly in man-made hives, by humans.

Pair 3 is correctly matched: Olericulture is the science of vegetable growing, dealing with the culture of non-woody plants for food and production of plants for use of the edible parts. Vegetables are different from fruits which are dealt with and grown under Pomology.

Pair 4 is not correctly matched: Floriculture, also known as flower farming, is a discipline of horticulture concerned with the cultivation of flowering and ornamental plants for gardens and for floristry, comprising the floral industry.

Q. Before becoming an integral part of India, Puducherry was a colony of which of the following countries?

- (a) Portugal
- (b) Dutch Republic
- (c) France
- (d) Denmark-Norway

Answer: c

Explanation: In News: Recently, Puducherry has achieved the target of 100 per cent piped water connection (Har Ghar Jal) in rural areas under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).

Option C is correct: The Union Territory of Puducherry comprises the former French establishments of Puducherry, Karaikal, Mahe and Yanam. All the regions of Puducherry were under French rule for 138 years. On 1st November 1954, the French possessions in India were transferred to the Indian Union and became a Union Territory. However, in 1963, Puducherry officially became an integral part of India.

Q. With reference to the National Financial Reporting Authority, consider the following statements :

1. It is a regulatory body under Societies Registration Act, 1960.
2. It's jurisdiction extends to listed companies only.

Which of above the following statements is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation: Statements 1 and 2 are not correct :It is a regulatory body constituted on 01st October 2018 by the Government of India under **Sub Section (1) of section 132 of the Companies Act, 2013** to oversee **compliance with Accounting and Auditing Standards** by companies that can be described as **Public Interest Entities (PIEs)**.

The jurisdiction of NFRA for investigation of Chartered Accountants and their firms under section 132 of the Act would extend to listed **companies and large unlisted public companies**

Q. Consider the following pairs:

- | <i>Oceans</i> | <i>Trenches</i> |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Arctic | Java |
| 2. Pacific | Mariana |
| 3. Atlantic. | Puerto Rico |
| 4. Antarctic Ocean. | Factorian |

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation: :The Java Trench is the deepest point in the Indian Ocean.

Factorian Trench is the deepest point in the Antarctic Ocean.

Puerto Rico Trench is the deepest in the Atlantic Ocean.

Molloy Hole is the deepest point in the Arctic Ocean.

Mariana Trench, also called Marianas Trench, deep-sea trench on the floor of the western **North Pacific Ocean**, the deepest such trench known on Earth, located mostly east as well as south of the Mariana Islands. It is part of the western Pacific system of oceanic trenches coinciding with subduction zones – points where two adjacent tectonic plates collide, one being forced below the other

Q. What is “Iron Dome”, recently seen in the news?

- (a) An US anti-missile system
- (b) An Archaeological site
- (c) Israel’s air defense system
- (d) A space mission of NASA

Answer: c

Explanation: It is a mobile all-weather **air defence system** developed by Israel (with financial and technical support from the United States) to intercept and destroy short-range rockets (in mid-air) and artillery shells fired from short distances.

Q. Which of the following statements is /are correct regarding Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) scheme?

1. Gold Bonds are issued by the State Bank of India on behalf of the Union Government.
2. Interest on Gold Bonds are tax exempted under the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Select the correct Answer: using the codes given below:

- (a) 1 only

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

Answer: d

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct : Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme launched in November, 2015 to reduce the demand for physical gold and shift a part of the domestic savings (to purchase of gold) into financial savings. The Gold Bonds are issued as Government of India Stock under the Government Securities (GS) Act, 2006. These are **issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on behalf of the Government of India.** These bonds will be sold through various Commercial banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices (as may be notified) and recognised stock exchanges viz., National Stock Exchange of India Limited and Bombay Stock Exchange, either directly or through agents.

Statement 2 is not correct : A fixed rate of 2.5% per annum is applicable on the scheme, payable semi-annually. **The interest on Gold Bonds shall be taxable as per the provision of Income Tax Act, 1961.** It is restricted for sale to resident individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), trusts, universities and charitable institutions.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to the National Bamboo Mission.

1. It is a Central Sector Scheme.
2. It focuses on the development of bamboo in all the States and Union Territories.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are *not* correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation: Statements 1 and 2 are not correct : It is being implemented as a sub-scheme of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is the nodal agency for its implementation. It is a 100% **Centrally Sponsored Scheme.** The Mission will focus on the

development of **bamboo in limited States** where it has the social, commercial and economical advantage, particularly in the North-Eastern region and States including Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Q. With reference to the Arctic Council, consider the following statements:

1. It is an intergovernmental forum for sustainable development and environmental protection of the Arctic.
2. It is a treaty-based international legal entity for the allocation of resources to the member states.
3. India enjoys the status of an 'Observer' in the Council.

Select the correct Answer: using the code given below:

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

Answer: c

Explanation: In News: Recently, India has participated in the 3rd Arctic Science Ministerial (ASM3).

Statement 1 is correct: The Arctic Council is a high-level intergovernmental forum to promote cooperation, coordination and interaction towards sustainable development and environmental protection in the Arctic.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Arctic Council is not a treaty-based international legal entity like the UN bodies or trade, military or regional groupings like WTO, NATO or ASEAN. It is a much more informal grouping. It cannot and does not implement or enforce its guidelines, assessments or recommendations. That responsibility belongs to the individual Arctic States or international bodies.

Statement 3 is correct: Since 2013, India has enjoyed 'Observer' status in the Arctic Council with twelve other countries and it was renewed for another five-year term in 2018.

Q. "The crop is tropical and subtropical in nature. Well-drained soil, rich in humus and organic matter is suitable for the cultivation of this plantation crop. It requires a warm and moist frost-free climate throughout the year

with rainfall more than 150 centimeters.” Which one of the following is that crop?

- (a) Tea
- (b) Coffee
- (c) Rubber
- (d) Coconut

Answer: a

Explanation: Option A is correct. Tea cultivation is an example of plantation agriculture which requires tropical and subtropical climate; deep, fertile well-drained soil, rich in humus and organic matter; warm and moist frost-free climate throughout the year; rainfall of more than 1500 mm. It is a labour intensive industry as the leaves have to be plucked manually and major tea producing states in India are Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Q. With reference to fake drugs, consider the following statements:

1. Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients in such drugs are changed or replaced with other substances.
2. China is the world’s leading producer closely followed by India.
3. The Mashelkar Committee was formed to examine all aspects of fake drugs in India.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation: In News: Recently, courts have passed strict orders against fake drugs and hoarding and black-marketing of medicines and medical devices.

Statement 1 is not correct: Fake drugs are a type of counterfeit medicines which do not contain any Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs).

Statement 2 is not correct: According to a research by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the European Union’s Intellectual Property Office, India is the world’s leading producer of fake drugs.

Statement 3 is correct: In 2003, the Mashelkar Committee was formed to examine all aspects of fake drugs in India. It noted that although the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 has been in force, the level of enforcement in many States has been unsatisfactory.

Q. Nok culture, recently seen in the news, existed in which of the following countries?

- (a) Nigeria
- (b) Philippines
- (c) Yemen
- (d) Nepal

Answer: a

Explanation: Option A is correct. West African Nok culture was one of the earliest known societies of Western Africa and existed in modern-day Nigeria from around 500 BCE to 200 CE. It is known for its unique terracotta sculptures which represent the oldest figurative art in Africa. These clearly depict the triangular or oval-shaped eyes on human faces.

Q. With reference to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, consider the following statements:

1. It is an official United Nations observer.
2. It publishes the International Migration Outlook.
3. India became its member in 1961.
4. It maintains a blacklist of nations for being uncooperative tax havens.

Select the correct Answer: using the code given below:

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

Answer: c

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an official United Nations observer.

Statement 2 is correct: It publishes the International Migration Outlook and the OECD Better Life Index.

Statement 3 is not correct: India is not a member, but a key economic partner. Most OECD members are high-income economies with a very high

Human Development Index (HDI) and are regarded as developed countries.

Statement 4 is correct: It maintains a “blacklist” of nations that are considered uncooperative tax havens.

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 312 deals with the creation of one or more All India Services common to Union and States.
2. Both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha can pass a resolution in this regard.

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

Answer: a

Explanation: In News: Recently, Assistant Police Inspector was dismissed from service by Mumbai Police Commissioner under Article 311 (2) (b) without a departmental enquiry.

Statement 1 is correct: Article 312 deals with the creation of one or more All India Services common to the Union and the States.

Statement 2 is not correct: Article 312 is a special power of the Rajya Sabha where it can pass a resolution if it feels necessary or expedient in the national interest to create one or more All India Services.

Q. Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report is released by?

- (a) International Monetary Fund
- (b) Reserve Bank of India
- (c) World Bank
- (d) Securities and Exchange Board of India

Answer: d

Explanation: Option D is correct: The Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report is released by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The report will encourage businesses to go beyond regulatory financial compliance and will make businesses report on their social and environmental impacts.

Q. He was a 12th century Kannada social reformer, poet and philosopher. He gave two very important socio-economic principles namely Kayaka and Dasoha. He established the Anubhava Mantapa, which was an academy of mystics, saints and philosophers of the Lingayat faith and acted as the fountainhead of thoughts on common human values and ethics. He was:

- (a) Dayananda Saraswati
- (b) Kandukuri Veeresalingam
- (c) Basaveshwara
- (d) Prabodhankar Thackeray

Answer: c

Explanation: Option C is correct. Basaveshwara was a 12th century Kannada social reformer, poet and philosopher during the rule of the Kalachuri-dynasty king Bijjala I in Karnataka. He was the founding saint of the Lingayat sect and gave two very important socio-economic principles known as “Kayaka” (Work-Divine work) and “Dasoha” (Distribution-Equal distribution). He established the Anubhava Mantapa, which was an academy of mystics, saints and philosophers of the Lingayat faith and acted as the fountainhead of thoughts on common human values and ethics. It is often referred to as the “first Parliament of the world”.

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. A monetary policy that lowers interest rates and stimulates borrowing is a loose monetary policy.
2. A monetary policy that raises interest rates and reduces borrowing in the economy is a tight monetary policy.

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

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

Answer: d

Explanation: In News: Recently, there has been a rise in global commodity prices that is being billed as a new commodity super cycle.

Statement is 1 correct: A monetary policy that lowers interest rates and stimulates borrowing is an expansionary monetary policy or loose monetary policy. It increases the money supply in order to lower

unemployment, boost private-sector borrowing and consumer spending, and stimulate economic growth.

Statement 2 is correct: A monetary policy that raises interest rates and reduces borrowing in the economy is a contractionary monetary policy or tight monetary policy. It slows the rate of growth in the money supply or outright decreases the money supply in order to control inflation. While sometimes necessary, contractionary monetary policy can slow economic growth, increase unemployment and depress borrowing and spending by consumers and businesses.

Q. India holds the Nomadic Elephant, a joint military exercise, with which of the following countries?

- (a) France
- (b) Russia
- (c) Mongolia
- (d) Thailand

Answer: c

Explanation: In News: Recently, the Minister of State for Culture & Tourism discussed various issues under the Cultural Exchange Programme with his Mongolian counterpart.

Option C is correct: The Indo-Mongolian Joint Military Exercise is termed as Nomadic Elephant. It is a bilateral exercise between two nations. The troops of armies of both countries participate in Nomadic Elephant exercise.

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The Dhebar Commission played a significant role in the genesis of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
2. The Development of PVTGs scheme is a Central Sector Scheme.
3. Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of PVTGs in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: In 1973, the Dhebar Commission

created Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) as a separate category, which are less developed among the tribal groups.

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

Statement 2 is not correct: The 'Development of PVTGs scheme' was initiated by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in 2019. It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (fully funded by the Union). The Central Sector Schemes are jointly funded by the Centre and the States in different ratios.

Statement 3 is not correct: PVTGs are groups which are mostly homogenous, with a small population, relatively physically isolated, absence of written language, relatively simple technology and a slower rate of change, etc. Among the 75 listed PVTG's the highest number are found in Odisha.

Q. Consider the following pairs:

Name	Region
1. Hurricane	Australia
2. Typhoon	Philippines and Japan
3. Willy-Willy	American Continent
4. Cyclone	Indian Subcontinent

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation: In News: Cyclone Tauktae which formed over the Southeast Arabian Sea heads towards Gujarat, likely to intensify into a 'very severe' storm.

Pairs 1 and 3 are not correct: A cyclone is any low-pressure area with winds spiralling inwards and is caused by atmospheric disturbances around a low-pressure area distinguished by swift and often destructive air circulation. It is known by different names in different regions. It is known as Hurricane in American continents and as Willy-Willy in Australia.

Pairs 2 and 4 are correct: In the Philippines and Japan, it is known as Typhoon and In Indian subcontinent it is known as Cyclone or Tropical Cyclone.

Q. With reference to the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, consider the following statements:

1. It falls under the purview of the Ministry of Finance.
2. Persons prohibited to receive foreign funds are allowed to accept foreign contributions of upto Rs. 1 lakh from their relatives.
3. Foreign contribution has to be received only through banking channels.
4. Registered NGOs can receive foreign funds in a designated bank of their respective States or Union Territories.

Select the correct Answer: using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation: In News: Recently, the Delhi High Court (HC) has asked the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to consider a few changes regarding the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA).

Statement 1 is not correct: The FCRA was first enacted in 1976 and was amended in 2010 and 2020. It falls under the purview of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Statement 2 is correct: Even persons prohibited to receive foreign funds such as journalists, politicians, members of the judiciary “are allowed to accept foreign contributions from their relatives” if the amount does not exceed Rs. 1 lakh. MHA needs to be informed for any such transaction above Rs. 1 lakh.

Statement 3 is correct: Foreign contribution has to be received only through banking channels and it has to be accounted for in the prescribed manner.

Statement 4 is not correct: In September 2020, Section 17 of the Act was amended and a new provision was inserted, which made it mandatory for all NGOs to receive foreign funds in a designated bank account at the New Delhi branch of the State Bank of India.

Q. Winchcombe, recently seen in the news, is a?

- (a) Dwarf Planet
- (b) Black Hole
- (c) Natural Satellite
- (d) Meteorite

Answer: d

Explanation: Option D is correct: Winchcombe is the name of a meteorite, which will be displayed at the National History Museum, Gloucestershire (UK). It is known as a carbonaceous meteorite, meaning it cannot be modified, by either melting or differentiation of the parent body.

Meteoroids are objects in space that range in size from dust grains to small asteroids and are also known as “space rocks”. When meteoroids enter the Earth’s atmosphere they are called meteors but if a meteoroid enters the Earth’s atmosphere and hits the ground, it is called a meteorite.

Q. With reference to Zeolites, consider the following statements:

1. These are crystalline solid structures made of silicon, aluminium and oxygen.
2. These occur naturally and cannot be produced industrially.
3. These are used in the process of oxygen generation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: Zeolites are crystalline solid structures made of silicon, aluminium and oxygen.

Statement 2 is not correct: Zeolites occur naturally and are also produced industrially on a large scale.

Statement 3 is correct: These are often also referred to as molecular sieves and are used in oxygen generation.

Q. With reference to PM Kisan Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
2. It covers small and marginal farmers and institutional land holders irrespective of the size of their landholdings.

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

Answer: d

Explanation: In News: The first instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme for 2021-22 was released with Rs. 20,667 crore being transferred to more than 9.5 crores beneficiary farmer families.

Statement 1 is not correct: PM Kisan is a central sector scheme and is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. Central Sector Schemes are entirely and directly funded and executed by the central government. Centrally Sponsored Schemes are implemented by state governments with some help from the central government.

Statement 2 is not correct: The scheme aims to supplement the financial needs of the Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs). It initially provided income support to all Small and Marginal Farmers' families across the country, holding cultivable land up to 2 hectares. Later, it was expanded to cover all farmer families in the country irrespective of the size of their landholdings. Institutional land holders are exempted from the benefits of the scheme.

Q. .Recently, Bogs are seen in news , they are related to

- (a) Insects
- (b) Virus



- (c) Asteroid
- (d) Wetlands

Answer: d

Explanation: Bogs (also called quagmires) are soft, spongy wetlands that accumulate peat- a fossil fuel that is used for heating homes and businesses in northern Europe. They are formed in northern climates, and take thousands of years to develop. Bogs also act as carbon sinks, sequestering around 200 million tons of carbon from the environment in Siberia and Scandinavia. For centuries, however, they have been drained for extracting peat or for development, leading to the destruction of their delicate ecosystems, including damage to species such as cranes that breed here

Q. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) method?

1. Nursery preparation is involved in this method.
2. Land levelling is compulsory in DSR.

Select the correct Answer: using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation: In News: Recently, The Punjab government has decided to bring one million hectares under the Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) technique for the crop this year.

Statement 1 is not correct: Direct seeding is a method under which pre-germinated seeds are directly drilled into the field by a tractor-powered machine. There is no nursery preparation or transplantation involved in this method.

Statement 2 is correct: Land levelling is compulsory in DSR, which increases the cost. It is not suitable on certain types of soil and in such fields only transplanting methods work.

Q. Consider the following:

1. United States
2. Brazil

3. United Kingdom

4. Italy

Which among the given countries labelled themselves as being in the 'community transmission' stage of the Covid-19 pandemic?

(a) 1, 2 and 3 only

(b) 2 and 4 only

(c) 3 and 4 only

(d) 2, 3 and 4 only

Answer: a

Explanation: In News: India continues to label itself as a country with no community transmission (CT) according to the latest weekly report by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Option A is correct: Community transmission means that the health system has now lost track of the trajectory of the virus and infections are happening without the source of the infection being known. Countries such as the United States, Brazil, United Kingdom, France have all labelled themselves as being in 'community transmission'. Among the 10 countries with the most number of confirmed cases, only Italy and Russia do not label themselves as being in 'community transmission'.

Q. With reference to the Election Commission of India (ECI), consider the following statements:

1. The Chief Election Commissioner enjoys the security of tenure.

2. The retiring Election Commissioners are ineligible for reappointment by the government.

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

Answer: d

Explanation: In News: The Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) filed a petition before the Supreme Court seeking the formation of a "neutral and independent collegium or selection committee" for the appointment of members of the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Statement 1 is not correct: The Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners have tenure of six years, or up to the age of 65 years,

whichever is earlier. However, the Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office through impeachment by Parliament.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Constitution of India has not debarred the retiring Election Commissioners from any further appointment by the government.

Q. With reference to Qualifications for membership of the Legislative Council, consider the following statements:

1. A person must be enrolled on the voters' list of the particular state.
2. A person must be not less than 25 years of age.
3. A person must possess other qualifications prescribed by the Parliament.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation: In News: The West Bengal government will set up a Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad).

Statement 1 is correct: A person to be elected to the legislative Council must be an elector for an assembly constituency in the concerned state and to be qualified for governor's nomination, he must be a resident in the concerned state.

Statement 2 is not correct: He must be not less than 30 years of age in the case of the Legislative Council. A person must be not less than 25 years of age to be elected for the Legislative Assembly.

Statement 3 is correct: He must possess other qualifications prescribed by the Parliament, which are that he must be a citizen of India, he must make and subscribe to an oath or affirmation before the person authorised by the election commission for this purpose.

Q. With reference to the National Crisis Management Committee, consider the following statements:

1. It is chaired by the Prime Minister of India.
2. It works under the aegis of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Select the correct Answer: using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only

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

Answer: b

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct: The National Crisis Management Committee is headed by the Cabinet Secretary and secretaries of all concerned ministries/ departments.

Statement 2 is correct: The committee functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs and is an integral part of the National Disaster Management System. It ensures effective coordination and implementation of relief measures and operations in the wake of natural calamity.

Q. Which of the following statements is correct regarding the composition of the Legislative Council?

- (a) One-sixth of members are elected by the members of local bodies
- (b) One-sixth of members are elected by teachers who had spent at least three years teaching in educational institutions within the state not lower than secondary schools, including colleges and universities.
- (c) One-sixth of members are elected by persons who are graduates of three years' standing residing in that state.
- (d) One-sixth of members are nominated by the Governor from persons having knowledge or practical experience in various fields.

Answer: d

Explanation: Option D is correct: Members of Legislative Council (MLCs)

- One third are elected by the members of local bodies such as municipalities, gram panchayats, Panchayat Samiti and district councils.
- One third are elected by the members of the Legislative Assembly of the State from among the persons who are not members of the State Legislative Assembly.
- One-sixth are nominated by the Governor from persons having knowledge or practical experience in fields such as literature, science, arts, the co-operative movement and social services.
- One twelfth is elected by persons who are graduates of three years' standing residing in that state.



- One twelfth is elected by teachers who had spent at least three years teaching in educational institutions within the state not lower than secondary schools, including colleges and universities.

Q. Dongriya Kondhs, recently seen in the news, are native to?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Odisha
- (d) Madhya Pradesh

Answer: c

Explanation: Option C is correct: Dongriya Kondhs Native Area is located in Niyamgiri hills, Rayagada (Odisha). Niyamgiri is a hill range spread over 250 sq. km. and is a densely forested area with deep gorges and cascading streams. Dongriya Kondh is one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) and derives its name from dongar, meaning agricultural land on hill slopes. They speak the Kui language.

Q. With reference to Escrow Account, recently seen in the news, consider the following statements:

1. It provides security against scams and frauds.
2. The party receiving the money can make withdrawals from this account without the fulfilment of set obligations.

Select the correct Answer: using the codes given below:

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

Answer: a

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: Escrow Account is a third-party account where funds (also money, securities, funds, and other assets) are kept before they are transferred to the ultimate party. It provides security against scams and frauds especially with high asset value and dispute-prone sectors like Real Estate.

Statement 2 is not correct: The party receiving the money can not make withdrawals from an escrow account until the set obligations are fulfilled. However, they have mostly been restricted to large transactions, like mergers and acquisitions, cross-border deals, etc.

It reduces risk in specific-use transaction cases like procurement, supply chain, professional services.

Q. With reference to the rock paintings of Leang Sakapao Caves, consider the following statements:

1. These are much newer than the prehistoric cave art of Europe.
2. These contain the oldest hand stencil in the world.
3. The paintings were created with wet red-mulberry pigments.
4. These depict the socio-cultural life and habitats of the indigenous people.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct: The Leang Sakapao Caves, Sulawesi Island of Indonesia date back to back to 45,000 to 20,000 years ago and this cave art is much older than the prehistoric cave art of Europe.

Statement 2 is correct: The oldest dated hand stencil in the world (upper right) and possibly the oldest figurative depiction in cave art, a female babirusa (a hoglike animal also called a pig-deer), have been found in these caves.

Statement 3 is correct: The paintings were created by pressing the hand on a cave wall and spraying wet red-mulberry pigments over it.

Statement 4 is not correct: The painting indicates hunter-gatherer migration to the island.

Q. With reference to Electoral Bonds, consider the following statements:

1. They are interest-free bearer instruments.
2. They can be paid to an eligible Political Party through a Bank account only.
3. Electoral Bonds are valid for 6 months from the date of issue.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation: In News: Electoral bonds worth Rs. 695 crore sold during recent Assembly polls in West Bengal. The amount sold was the highest-ever for any Assembly elections since the scheme started in 2018.

Statement 1 is correct: Electoral Bonds may be purchased by a person who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established in India. They are interest-free bearer instruments.

Statement 2 is correct: The Electoral Bonds can be encashed by an eligible Political Party only through a Bank account with the Authorized Bank. As of now, only SBI has been authorised to do so.

Statement 3 is not correct: Electoral Bonds are valid for fifteen calendar days from the date of issue and no payment is made to any payee Political Party if the Electoral Bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period.

Q. With reference to Diplomatic Immunity, consider the following statements:

1. The immunity enjoyed by a diplomat posted in the embassy is inviolable.
2. It is the same for all diplomats and their families.

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

Answer: a

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: Diplomatic Immunity is a privilege of exemption from certain laws and taxes granted to diplomats by the country in which they are posted. According to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961, the immunity enjoyed by a diplomat posted in the embassy is "inviolable". The diplomat cannot be arrested or detained and his house will have the same inviolability and protection as the embassy.

Statement 2 is not correct: Immunity is not the same for all diplomats and their families.

The Vienna Convention classifies diplomats according to their posting in the embassy, consular or international organisations such as the UN.

Q. With reference to Global Entry Programme, consider the following statements:

1. It allows speedy clearance for low-risk travellers upon their arrival in the USA.

2. India is not a member of the Programme.

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

Answer: a

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct :Global Entry is a US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) program that allows speedy clearance for low-risk travellers upon their arrival in the US. The travellers are pre-approved for the programme after a rigorous background check. In-person interviews are also taken to check the 'low-risk' status of the applicants before the enrollment. Apart from this, the travellers may further be questioned when they enter the United States in case the need arises

Statement 2 is not correct :The pilot project started in 2008 and India became a member of Global Entry in 2017. The other countries that are part of this programme are Argentina, Australia, Canada, Colombia, Germany, Mexico, New Zealand, Panama, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan and the United Kingdom

Q. Consider the following sites:

1. Satpura Tiger Reserve

2. Ghats of Varanasi

3. Temples of Kanchipuram

4. Megalithic site of Hire Benkal

Which of the given cultural heritage sites from India have been added to UNESCO tentative list of world heritage sites?

(a) 1 , 2 and 3 only

(b) 2 and 4 only

(c) 3 and 4 only

(d)1, 2,3 and 4

Answer: d

Explanation: Option D is correct: Recently ,Six Indian sites, have been added to the tentative list of UNESCO world heritage sites, The sites on the tentative list are: Satpura Tiger Reserve, Iconic riverfront of the historic city of Varanasi, Megalithic site of Hire Benkal, Maratha Military Architecture in Maharashtra, Bhedaghat-Lameta Ghat in Narmada Valley- Jabalpur, and temples of Kanchipuram.

Q. With reference to International Maritime Organization (IMO), consider the following statements:

- 1.It is an entity of the United Nations (UN).
- 2.India is a member state to this.
- 3.The MARPOL convention was adopted at IMO.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct: IMO is the United Nations specialized agency (not an Entity) with responsibility for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine and atmospheric pollution by ships.

Statement 2 is correct: India is a member state of IMO since 1959.

Statement 3 is correct: The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) convention was adopted at IMO to prevent and minimize pollution from ships - both accidental pollution and that from routine operations.

Q. Recently,Gotipua traditional dance form was seen in news , it associated with the state of

- (a) Odisha.
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Rajasthan
- (d)Gujrat

Answer: a

Explanation: Option A is correct: In the Odia language, **Gotipua** means "single boy". It is the precursor of Odissi classical dance. Traditionally, it has been performed by young boys in groups, who dress as women to praise Lord Jagannath and Krishna. This dance form comprises acrobatic figures inspired by the life of Radha and Krishna. **Music Instruments:** Mardala, Gini (small cymbals), harmonium, violin, and bansuri.

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority works under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
2. The National Pension Scheme is a voluntary scheme for government employees only.

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

Answer: d

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct: The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is a pension regulatory body that works under the Ministry of Finance. It regulated the National Pension System (NPS).

Statement 2 is not correct: The NPS is a voluntary pension system. All citizens of the country including employees of the central government, state governments and employees of private institutions/organizations, self-employed professionals, and others in the unorganized sector can benefit from the scheme.

Q. Recently, Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) was seen in the news, it was conceptualized by

- (a) Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
- (b) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (c) Ministry of Science and Technology
- (d) Ministry of Power

Answer: a

Explanation: Option B is correct: It was conceptualized by the Ministry of Home Affairs in detailed consultation with all stakeholders and has been

implemented as a "Mission Mode Project (MMP)" since 2009. It is a centrally funded scheme. It is a secure application that links over 97% of police stations in the country and is being used for antecedent verification for Global Entry. It aims at creating a comprehensive and integrated system for enhancing efficiency and effective policing at all levels and especially at the Police Station level.

Q. With reference to Zebrafish, consider the following statements:

1. It is a tropical saltwater fish native to South Asia.
2. Its embryos are transparent and develop outside the mother's body.
3. It is a good research stand-in for humans due to similarities in brain, heart, liver and kidneys.
4. It has been classified as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation: In News: According to recent research by Queen's University Belfast in the United Kingdom, zebrafish's hibernating habits may prove helpful for humans in Mars missions.

Statement 1 is not correct: Zebrafish is a tropical freshwater fish belonging to the minnow family (Cyprinidae) of the order Cypriniformes and it is native to rivers and streams of South Asia.

Statement 2 is correct: Zebrafish embryos are transparent and develop outside the mother's body, so scientists can manipulate genes to model human diseases and directly observe disease changes in live animals

Statement 3 is correct: It is a good research stand-in for humans because of similarities in the brain, heart, liver, kidneys. Genome sequencing has shown that 84 per cent of the genes that cause disease in humans are also found in zebrafish.

Statement 4 is not correct: It has been classified as Least Concerned in the IUCN Red List.

Q. With reference to the States of Matter, consider the following statements:

1. The Sun and the stars glow because of the presence of plasma in them.
2. The Bose-Einstein Condensate (BEC) is formed by cooling a gas of extremely high density to super-low temperatures.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation: In News: Indian Scientists have recently developed a theory to shed light on the mystery behind complex phenomena in Plasma, the fourth state of matter.

Statement 1 is correct: The Plasma state consists of super energetic and super excited particles. The Sun and the stars glow because of the presence of plasma in them. The plasma is created in stars because of very high temperatures.

Statement 2 is not correct: The Bose-Einstein Condensate (BEC) is formed by cooling a gas of extremely low density, about one-hundred-thousandth the density of normal air, to super-low temperatures.

Q. Which of the following are the port cities of Sri Lanka?

1. Colombo
2. Tuticorin
3. Trincomalee
4. Hambantota
5. Galle
6. Kandy

Select the correct Answer: using the codes given below:

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

Answer: c

Explanation: In News: The Sri Lankan Parliament passed a controversial Bill on laws governing the China-backed Colombo Port city.

Option C is correct: Colombo, Trincomalee, Hambantota and Galle are port cities of Sri Lanka. Tuticorin (now Thoothukudi) is a port city in the

Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Kandy is a major city in Sri Lanka located in the Central Province.

Note: It is a map-based question. Please refer to the map of Sri Lanka and see the port cities (if the map is not visible).



Q. Consider the following statements about FASTag:

1. It is a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) passive tag.
2. It is an initiative of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
3. Sensors at toll plazas can detect tags even when it is not in the direct line of sight.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: c

Explanation: Option C is correct: FASTags are prepaid rechargeable tags for toll collection. FASTags do not have any expiry date, hence, they can be used as long as they are not tampered with and are readable at the toll plazas. They are based on radio frequency identification (RFID) technology. FASTag is affixed on the windscreen of vehicles. They are operated by The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Vehicles that have FASTag enabled on them, do not have to stop at toll gates as

charges are deducted from the prepaid or bank account when the vehicle is moving under the National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) programme.

Q. Competition Commission of India was recently seen in the news. It is a?

- (a) Constitutional Body
- (b) Statutory Body
- (c) Executive Body
- (d) Quasi-Judicial Body

Answer: b

Explanation: Option B is correct. Established in 2003, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a statutory body established by an act of Parliament, the Competition Act, 2002. It aims to promote competition throughout India and prevent activities that have an appreciable adverse effect on competition in India. It comprises a Chairperson and 6 other members appointed by the Central Government.

Q. With reference to the Kyasanur Forest Disease, consider the following statements:

1. It was first identified in the state of Andhra Pradesh in India.
2. Hard ticks are the main transmitter of this zoonotic disease.
3. It can cause epizootics with high fatality in primates.
4. It can be transmitted from person-to-person as well.

Select the correct Answer: using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation: In News: A new point-of-care test has been found to be highly sensitive in the rapid diagnosis of Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD).

Statement 1 is not correct: The Kyasanur Forest Disease is caused by the Kyasanur Forest Disease Virus (KFDV) which was identified in 1957 when it was isolated from a sick monkey from the Kyasanur Forest in Karnataka, India.

Statement 2 is correct: It is a zoonotic disease and hard ticks (*Hemaphysalis spinigera*) are the reservoir of the KFD virus.

Statement 3 is correct: Monkeys and small mammals are common hosts for KFDV and it has the potential to cause epizootics with high fatality in primates.

Statement 4 is not correct: Transmission to humans may occur after a tick bite or contact with an infected animal, most importantly a sick or recently dead monkey. However, no person-to-person transmission has been described.

Q. With reference to the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), consider the following statements:

1. It was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
2. It increases household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct: Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India as a restructured version of Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojna (SGSY). In November 2015, the programme was renamed Deendayal Antayodaya Yojana (DAY-NRLM).

Statement 2 is correct: The Mission aims at creating efficient and effective institutional platforms for the rural poor enabling them to increase household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and improved access to financial services.

Q. With reference to forest conservation movements, consider the following events:

1. Appiko movement
2. Narmada Bachao Andolan
3. Chipko Movement

What is the correct chronological sequence of the above mentioned events?

- (a) 1-2-3

(b) 2-1-3

(c) 3-1-2

(d) 3-2-1

Answer: c

Explanation: In News: One of the founders of Chipko Movement and a well-known environmentalist and Gandhian Sunderlal Bahuguna is no more.

Option C is correct: The Appiko movement took place in the Salkani village in Uttara Kannada district of Karnataka where men, women and children hugged the trees in Kalase forest in September 1983. The local term for hugging in Kannada is appiko. The Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) started in 1985 and was a social movement spearheaded by native tribes, farmers, environmentalists and human rights activists against a number of large dam projects across the Narmada River. The Chipko Movement was a forest conservation movement, which began in 1973 in Uttarakhand, then a part of Uttar Pradesh and went on to become a rallying point for many future environmental movements all over the world.

Q. He opposed superstitious practices, customs such as Sati, polygamy, child marriage, the rigidity of the caste system and its excesses, and sought property inheritance rights for women. He started the first Bengali language weekly newspaper and the first newspaper in an Indian language, called Sambad Kaumudi, in 1821.

He was

(a) Debendranath Tagore

(b) Keshub Chandra Sen

(c) Ram Mohan Roy

(d) Jyotirao Govindrao Phule

Answer: c

Explanation: In News: Recently, the 249th birth anniversary of Raja Ram Mohan Roy has been celebrated.

Option c is correct: Ram Mohan Roy was born on 22 May 1772 in a Hindu Brahmin family in Radhanagar village in West Bengal's Murshidabad district, Bengal. He studied Persian and Arabic along with Sanskrit, which influenced his thinking about God. He read Upanishads, Vedas and the Quran and translated a lot of the scriptures into English. He opposed

superstitious practices, customs such as Sati, polygamy, child marriage, the rigidity of the caste system and its excesses, and sought property inheritance rights for women. He was in favour of inter-caste marriages, women's education and widow remarriages. In 1814, he formed Atmiya Sabha. Atmiya Sabha tried to initiate social and religious reforms in the society. In 1828, he set up the Brahmo Samaj, a reformist movement of the Hindu religion that aimed at fighting social evils that were prevalent in society. He started the first Bengali language weekly newspaper and the first newspaper in an Indian language, called Sambad Kaumudi, in 1821. The weekly newspaper advocated reading habits, the importance of discussion as well as the need for education for all.

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Mount Nyiragongo is an active stratovolcano located west of African continent in Circum-Pacific Belt.
2. Virunga National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is located in Albertine Rift Valley.

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

Answer: b

Explanation: In News: Recently, Mount Nyiragongo in Congo saw a volcanic eruption.

Statement 1 is not correct: Mount Nyiragongo is an active stratovolcano located in Congo. Stratovolcanoes are also known as composite cones and their lower slopes are gentle. They are the most deadly volcanoes and have the largest percentage (60%) of the Earth's individual volcanoes.

Statement 2 is correct: Virunga National Park is located in the Albertine Rift Valley of Great Rift Valley in Congo. The park is listed in the List of World Heritage in Danger and UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Q. With reference to the Bonda Tribe, consider the following statements:

1. It belongs to the Bhil ethnic group.
2. They were the first forest settlers in India.

3. They speak Remo language and follow the Goti system.
4. The women enjoy a privileged position and dowry is prohibited.
5. They are included among the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups.

Select the correct Answer: using the code given below:

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

Answer: c

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct: The Bonda tribe is a native tribe in Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Andhra Pradesh, belonging to the Munda ethnic group.

Statement 2 is correct: They migrated to India from Africa about 60,000 years ago and were the first forest settlers in India.

Statement 3 is correct: They speak the Remo language (belonging to the Munda branch of the Austroasiatic language family). They follow the unfree labor or Goti system, which is known as Gufam by the Bonda people.

Statement 4 is not correct: The women of this tribe enjoy a privileged position and are the primary workers and providers of food for the community. However, the dowry system is not prohibited and still followed during marriages.

Statement 5 is correct: They are included among the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) identified by the Government of India.

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. Spiralling whitefly is an invasive species of African continent.
2. It has a mutualistic relationship with Entomopathogenic fungi for survival.
3. In India, it was first reported in Kerala and is now distributed throughout India except Jammu & Kashmir.

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

Answer: c

Explanation: In News: Recent studies have indicated that approximately 1.35 lakh hectares of coconut and oil palm in India are affected by the rugose spiralling whitefly.

Statement 1 is not correct: Rugose Spiralling Whitefly is an invasive pest that attacks a wide range of host plants including palms, woody ornamentals, and fruits. Coconut and banana are among the most preferred host plants. Most of the whiteflies species are native to the Caribbean islands or Central America or both.

Statement 2 is not correct: Entomopathogenic fungi can kill insects and the fungi specific to whiteflies are isolated, purified, grown in the lab or mass-produced and applied into the whitefly infested field in combination with the release of lab-reared potential predators and parasitoids.

Statement 3 is correct: The first invasive whitefly was reported from Kerala in 1995 and is currently distributed throughout India except for Jammu & Kashmir.

Q. With reference to Covid-19 vaccines, consider the following statements:

1. Covishield is a whole virion inactivated coronavirus vaccine.
2. Covaxin is a viral vector based vaccine.

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

Answer: d

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct: Covishield vaccine, manufactured by the Serum Institute of India (SII), is a Viral Vector-based Technology which is also used to manufacture Ebola vaccine.

Statement 2 is not correct: Covaxin vaccine, manufactured by Bharat Biotech, is a whole-virion Inactivated Coronavirus Vaccine which is also used to manufacture vaccines like Influenza, Rabies and Hepatitis-A.

Q. With reference to National Green Tribunal (NGT), consider the following statements:

1. It is a constitutional body.
2. It is chaired by a retired Judge of the Supreme Court.

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

Answer: b

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct: National Green Tribunal (NGT) was established in 2010. It is Headquartered in New Delhi. It handles the cases pertaining to environmental issues. It draws inspiration from Article 21 which relates to the Protection of life and personal liberty that assures the citizens of India the right to a healthy environment. It is a statutory body, established by an act of Parliament.

Statement 2 is correct: The retired Judge of the Supreme Court is the Chairperson of NGT and other Judicial members are retired Judges of High Courts. Each bench of the NGT will comprise at least one Judicial Member and one Expert Member.

Q. The IUCN red list classifies 'Gharial' as

- (a) Vulnerable
- (b) Endangered
- (c) Critically Endangered
- (d) Least Concern

Answer: c

Explanation: Option C is correct: The gharial is also known as the gavial or the fish-eating crocodile. It is the longest among all living crocodilians. IUCN Red List classifies it as Critically Endangered (IUCN Red List). Threats faced by Gharial are loss of habitat because of sand mining and conversion to agriculture, depletion of fish resources and detrimental fishing. Odisha is the only State in India having all three species of crocodiles (gharial, mugger and saltwater crocodiles). Gharial reserves of India: Uttar Pradesh (Ghaghara river), Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Q. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Geographical Indication (GI) tag?

1. It is given only to agricultural products.
2. The Department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) provides the GI tag in India.



Select the correct Answer: using the code given below:

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

Answer: b

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct: Geographical Indication (GI) is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. Geographical Indications are part of the intellectual property rights that come under the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property. Items Covered are agricultural products, foodstuffs, wine and spirit drinks, handicrafts, and industrial products.

Statement 2 is correct: In India, Geographical Indications registration is administered by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act of 1999. The Department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry provides the GI tag in India

Q. With reference to the Banni Grassland, consider the following statements:

1. It is spread across Jaisalmer, Barmer and Bikaner districts of Rajasthan.
2. It is a mixture of arid grassland and wetland.
3. It is the largest grassland of Asia.
4. The region is home to the Maldharis, a nomadic pastoralist community.
5. It has been declared as the last remaining habitat of Chinkara in India.

Select the correct Answer: using the code given below:

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

Answer: c

Explanation: In News: Recently, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has ordered the removal of encroachments in Banni grasslands.

Statement 1 is not correct: Banni Grassland is located in Rann of Kutch in Kutch District of Gujarat.

Statement 2 is correct: It is a mixture of two ecosystems, arid grassland and wetland. It was declared as Protected Forest in 1955 under Indian Forest Act, 1927.

Statement 3 is correct: It is the largest grassland in Asia.

Statement 4 is correct: This region is home to a nomadic pastoralist community, the Maldharis, which is fighting to maintain their community forest rights.

Statement 5 is not correct: Wildlife Institute of India (WII) declared it the last remaining habitat of the cheetah in India, along with the Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary (also located in Kutch).

Q. With reference to the One Stop Centre Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
2. It provides a wide range of services to women in distress and affected by violence in public spaces only.
3. It is a central sector scheme.

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

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

Answer: b

Explanation: In News: Till now, One Stop Centre (OSC) Scheme has provided assistance to over 3 lakh women so far.

Statement 1 is correct: The OSC Scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development. It is a sub-scheme of the National Mission for Empowerment of Women which also includes Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahayog Yojana.

Statement 2 is not correct: It aims to facilitate access to a wide range of services to women affected by violence and in distress, both in private and public spaces. It provides emergency and non-emergency access to a range of services including police, medical, legal aid and counseling, psychological support etc.

Statement 3 is not correct: It is a Centrally-Sponsored Scheme (CSS), funded by the Nirbhaya fund. Centrally Sponsored Schemes are fully

funded by the Union and the Central Sector Schemes are jointly funded by the Centre and states in different ratios.

Q. The Mahatma Buddha delivered his first sermon, known as 'Turning of the wheel of law' at?

- (a) Sravasti
- (b) Sarnath
- (c) Sanchi
- (d) Bodhgaya

Answer: b

Explanation: Option b is correct: Gautama Buddha was Born in 563 BC in Lumbini (modern-day Nepal) as Prince Siddhartha Gautama. His Parents were Suddhodana (father) was the chief of the Shakya clan and Maya Devi (real mother) and Prajapati Gautami (foster mother). Buddha is considered as the ninth avatar of Lord Vishnu. Gautama Buddha preached Dharma (duty), non-violence, harmony and kindness. He left his worldly possessions and princedom at the age of 30 to lead a life searching for the truth, seeking penance in the hopes of liberating himself from suffering (dukkha). Gautama attained Bodhi (enlightenment) under a pipal tree at Bodhgaya (Bihar), after 49 consecutive days of meditation. He delivered his first sermon at Sarnath (UP), which is known as Dharma-Chakra-Pravartana (turning of the wheel of law). He died (attained Mahaparinirvana) at the age of 80 in 483 BCE at Kushinagar (UP).

Q. The Dead Sea lies between which of the following countries?

- (a) Lebanon and Syria
- (b) Israel and Lebanon
- (c) Israel and Syria
- (d) Israel and Jordan

Answer: d

Explanation: Option d is correct: Dead Sea [also called Al-Baḥr Al-Mayyit (Sea of Death) or Salt Sea] is a **landlocked salt lake** between **Israel and Jordan** in southwestern Asia. Its eastern shore belongs to Jordan, and the southern half of its western shore belongs to Israel. The northern half of the western shore lies within the Palestinian West Bank and has been under Israeli occupation since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. The Jordan River, from

which the Dead Sea receives nearly all its water, flows from the north into the lake.

Note: Please refer to the map.

Q. Which of the following statements is/are correct regarding the Zero Shadow Day seen in the news?

1. It is a celestial event that occurs twice a year.
2. It occurs between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

Select the correct Answer: using the code given below:

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

Answer: c

Explanation: Statement 1 is correct: Recently, the residents of Bhubaneswar (Odisha) have witnessed zero shadow day. It is a special celestial event that occurs twice a year.

Statement 2 is correct: It occurs at every point on Earth between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn. During this time, no shadows appear of any object or living being when the sun is at its highest point in the sky. The highest point of this skydome is called the zenith. When the sun reaches the zenith, the shadow will fall under the object.

Reasons :Uttarayan (movement of the Sun from south to north from the winter solstice to summer solstice) and Dakshinayan (back from north to south) happen because Earth's rotation axis is tilted at an angle of roughly 23.5° to the axis of revolution around the Sun.

The Sun's location moves from 23.5°N to 23.5°S of Earth's equator and back.

All places whose latitude equals the angle between the Sun's location and the equator on that day will experience Zero Shadow Day.

Q. With reference to *Amorphophallus Titanum*, consider the following statements:

1. It is native to the rainforests of Sumatra in Indonesia.
2. It has the world's largest unbranched inflorescence of all flowering plants.

3. It is classified as Near Threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation: In News: Recently, a Corpse flower (*Amorphophallus titanum*) has been displayed in San Francisco, US.

Statement 1 is correct: It is a rare flower which is native to the rainforests of Sumatra in Indonesia. It emits a heady odour in order to attract pollinating insects in the wild such as scavenging flies and beetles.

Statement 2 is correct: It has the world's largest 'unbranched inflorescence' or a stalk bearing a cluster of flowers. It can grow up to 10 feet tall and unveils two of its key components namely the spathe, a deep red skirt-like petal and the yellow rod-like 'spadix'. Its fleshy underground plant stem 'Corm', acts as an energy storage organ.

Statement 3 is not correct: The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) declared it as an Endangered plant in 2018.

Q. With reference to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), consider the following statements:

- 1. It was set up on Santhanam committee's recommendations.
- 2. It is a statutory body.
- 3. It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
- 4. Its superintendence rests with the Department of Personnel and Training in corruption cases.

Select the correct Answer: using the code given below:

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

Answer: a

Explanation: In News: Recently, the Prime Minister led three-member selection committee has appointed a Maharashtra cadre IPS officer of 1985 batch as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director.

Statement 1 is correct: CBI is the premier investigating agency of India and was set up by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in 1963 after the Santhanam committee's recommendation.

Statement 2 is not correct: CBI is not a statutory body because the word 'CBI' is not mentioned in the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946 and the executive order of MHA did not mention CBI to be constituted under DSPE Act.

Statement 3 is correct: However, CBI derives its powers from the DSPE Act, 1946 and its Director is appointed as per section 4A of the DSPE Act.

Statement 4 is not correct: The superintendence of CBI rests with Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) in corruption cases and with the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) in other matters.

Q. With reference to Biomass, consider the following statements:

1. It is an integral part of Earth's carbon cycle.
2. It contains energy first derived from the Sun.
3. It is the only renewable energy source that can be converted into liquid biofuels.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: d

Explanation: In News: Recently, the Ministry of Power has decided to set up the National Mission on use of biomass in coal based thermal power plants.

Statement 1 is correct: Biomass is an integral part of Earth's carbon cycle, which is the process by which carbon is exchanged between all layers of the Earth: atmosphere, hydrosphere, biosphere, and lithosphere. In contrast to fossil fuels, biomass comes from recently living organisms. The carbon in biomass can continue to be exchanged in the carbon cycle.

Statement 2 is correct: Biomass contains energy first derived from the sun. Plants absorb the sun's energy through photosynthesis, and convert carbon

dioxide and water into nutrients (carbohydrates). This energy can be transformed into usable energy through direct and indirect means.

Statement 3 is correct: Biomass is the only renewable energy source that can be converted into liquid biofuels such as ethanol and biodiesel. These can be blended with gasoline to efficiently power vehicles and machinery and do not release the emissions associated with fossil fuels.

Q. With reference to K-shaped recovery, consider the following statements:

1. It happens when different sections of an economy recover at starkly different rates.

2. It describes the path of different disaggregated economic variables.

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

(a) 1 only

(b) 2 only

(c) Both 1 and 2

(d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: d

Explanation: In News: After facing downfall due to Covid-19 and lockdown-like restrictions, India's real estate sector sees a K-shaped recovery.

Statement 1 is correct: A K-shaped recovery happens when different sections of an economy recover at starkly different rates.

Statement 2 is correct: It describes the path of different disaggregated economic variables, such as income across different segments of society or employment in different industries.

Q. Recently, the Tigray region has been seen in the news ,it is a part of which of the following countries ?

(a) Libya

(b) South Africa

(c) Somalia

(d) Ethiopia

Answer: d

Explanation: Option D is correct: Ethiopia is Africa's most populous country after Nigeria. Tigray region is located in northern Ethiopia. This region is the homeland of the Tigrayan, Irob, and Kunama peoples. Its

Border Areas are Eritrea (North), Sudan (West), the Amhara Region (South), and the Afar Region (East and South East). In early November 2020, the region and the Ethiopian federal government entered into conflict, with some gunfire being reported in the capital of Tigray, Mekelle.

Q. With reference to the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) consider the following statements:

1. It is a constitutional body .
2. It adjudicates the insolvency resolution process of companies.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation: Statement 1 is not correct : National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) is **quasi-judicial body established in 2016** (on the recommendations of the V. Balakrishna Eradi committee) under Section 408 of the Companies Act, 2013.

Statement 2 is correct : Its adjudicates issues relating to Indian companies. NCLT has to adjudicate the insolvency resolution process of companies and limited liability partnerships under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016**

Q. Ireland is separated from the United Kingdom by

- (a) Atlantic Ocean
- (b) North Sea
- (c) English Channel
- (d) Irish Sea

Answer: d

Explanation: Option D is correct: The United Kingdom, mainly Northern Ireland shares its only land border with the Republic of Ireland. It is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean in the northwest; by the English Channel in the south; the North Sea in the east and the Celtic Sea in the southwest. Ireland is separated from the United Kingdom by the **Irish Sea**. For more clarification, please see the map.

Q. With reference to the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM), consider the following statements:

1. Under this, every Indian citizen will have unique health IDs, digitised health records with identifiers for doctors and health facilities.
2. The initiative is implemented by respective states under the National Health Mission.

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

Answer: a

Explanation: In News: Recently, the Prime Minister of India has chaired a high-level meeting to review progress of National Digital Health Mission (NDHM).

Statement 1 is correct: Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of the National Digital Health Mission on August 15, 2020, during his speech on India's 74th Independence Day. With the launch of the historic mission, every Indian will soon have a digital health account. Under the National Digital Health Mission, every Indian will get a Health ID card that will work as a health account comprising information regarding the person's past medical conditions, treatment and diagnosis.

Statement 2 is not correct: National Health Authority (NHA) is leading the implementation of the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) in coordination with different ministries/departments of the Government of India, State Governments, and private sector/civil society organizations. The NHA is governed by a Governing Board chaired by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

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

Border	Border Guarding Force
1. Indo-China	Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
2. India-Nepal	Assam Rifles
3. Indo-Myanmar	Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

Select the correct Answer: using the codes given below:

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

Answer: a

Explanation: Pair 1 is correctly matched: Indo-China Border extends for 3488 km in the Union Territory of Ladakh and States of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has been deployed as Border Guarding Force for the Indo-China Border.

Pair 2 is not correctly matched: India and Nepal share an open border of 1,751 km. The main challenges are to check the misuse of the open border by terrorists and criminals for illegal and anti-national activities and to improve the security along this border. 34 battalions of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) have been deployed as the Border Guarding Force (BGF) on this border.

Pair 3 is not correctly matched: India shares a 1,643 km long border with Myanmar. The States of Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Nagaland (215 km), Manipur (398 km) and Mizoram (510 km) have a common border with Myanmar. The Assam Rifles is guarding the Indo-Myanmar Border.

Q. With reference to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), consider the following statements.

1. It was established by the Chicago Convention.
2. India is not a member of the organisation.
3. It regulates the international aviation sector.

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

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

Answer: c

Explanation: In News: Recently, the European Union (EU) has put sanctions on Belarus and cut off its aviation links.

Statement 1 is correct: The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations. The Convention on

International Civil Aviation (also known as the Chicago Convention), drafted in 1944 by 54 nations established the core principles permitting international transport by air and led to the creation of ICAO.

Statement 2 is not correct: India is a member of the organisation along with 192 other countries which fund the organisation.

Statement 3 is not correct: The organisation is a specialized agency of the United Nations but it does not regulate international aviation.

Q. With reference to the Citizenship by Investment Programme, consider the following statements:

1. Under it, a person becomes a naturalised citizen of another country by investing in that country.
2. A foreigner can invest between Rs. 10 to 25 crores in India and get permanent residency status for a period of 10 years initially.
3. People from any country can avail this scheme in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation: In News: Recently, the Citizenship by Investment Programme has become a trend among wealthy Indians to settle abroad.

Statement 1 is correct: Citizenship by Investment or Economic Citizenship is a scheme by which a person becomes a naturalised citizen of another country by investing in that country. The amount of investment varies from country to country.

Statement 2 is correct: If a foreigner invests an amount from Rs. 10 to Rs. 25 crores in India then he/she will be granted permanent residency status for a period of 10 years initially with multiple entry facility.

Statement 3 is not correct: In India, this scheme will not be applicable to Pakistani citizens or third-country nationals of Pakistani origin.

Q. With reference to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) currency swap framework, consider the following statements:

1. It provides funding for short term foreign exchange liquidity requirements
2. It provides certain concessions for swap currency in Indian Rupees

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

Answer: c

Explanation: In News :Recently, Bangladesh's central bank has approved a \$200 million currency swap facility to Sri Lanka.

Statements 1 and 2 are correct: The SAARC currency swap framework came into operation on November 15, 2012, to provide a backstop line of **funding for short term foreign exchange liquidity requirements or short-term balance of payments** stress till longer-term arrangements are made. In November last year, the RBI, with the concurrence of the Government of India, had decided to put in place a revised framework on currency swap arrangement for SAARC countries 2019-2022 with an aim to further financial stability and economic cooperation within the SAARC region. The framework is valid from November 14, 2019, to November 13, 2022. Under the framework for 2019-22, RBI will continue to offer swap arrangements within the overall corpus of USD 2 billion. The drawals can be made in US Dollar, Euro or Indian Rupee. **The Framework provides certain concessions for swap drawals in Indian Rupee.** The facility is available to all SAARC member countries, subject to their signing the bilateral swap agreements

Q. With reference to the Bhitarkanika National Park, consider the following statements:

1. It is the only major mangrove patch in Odisha.
2. It has been declared a Ramsar site.
3. Olive Ridley Turtles can be spotted in its close vicinity.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: d

Explanation: In News: Recently, the cyclone 'Yaas' has affected the Bhitarkanika National Park.

Statement 1 is correct: It is located in Kendrapara district in Odisha and is the only major mangrove patch of the State of Odisha. It is India's second-largest mangrove forest after the Sundarbans in West Bengal.

Statement 2 is correct: It became a Ramsar site in 2002 and is the second Ramsar site after Chilika Lake in Odisha.

Statement 3 is correct: Estuarine Crocodile's largest population is found here in the Indian subcontinent) along with Indian python, king cobra, black ibis, etc. Located within the close vicinity of the Bhitarkanika National Park in Odisha's only Turtle Sanctuary. A part of the Gahirmatha Beach, the Turtle Sanctuary is the place where Olive Ridley Turtles can be spotted.

Q. Which of the following countries has recently approved the issuance of a 'Golden Card Visa' for certain professions?

- (a) Japan
- (b) United Kingdom
- (c) United Arab Emirate
- (d) South Africa

Answer: c

Explanation: In News: Recently, Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt has received his golden visa from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) government.

Option C is correct: The Golden Visa system essentially offers long-term residency (5 and 10 years) to people. The main benefit of the visa is security as through the issuance of the Golden Visa, the UAE government is committed to providing expatriates, investors and essentially everyone looking to make the UAE their home an extra reason to feel secure about their future.

Q. With reference to Blackbuck, consider the following statements:

1. It is a Schedule-I species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
2. It is critically endangered as per the IUCN Red List.
3. It is native to India and Pakistan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: b

Explanation: In News: Odisha's blackbuck population has doubled in the last six years, according to figures from the latest population census released recently by the Chief conservator of forest (wildlife).

Statement 1 is correct: Blackbuck is a Schedule-I species according to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

Statement 2 is not correct: Blackbuck has 'Least Concern' status under the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Statement 3 is not correct: The antelope is native to and found mainly in India and in some parts of Nepal, while it is extinct in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

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

- (a) The International Criminal Court's judges have 9-year, non-renewable terms.
- (b) The International Court of Justice has jurisdiction to try individuals accused of war crimes or crimes against humanity.
- (c) The International Court of Justice is not a criminal court.
- (d) The International Criminal Court is not a United Nation's organization.

Answer: b

Explanation:

Option A is correct: The International Criminal Court (ICC) has 18 judges who are elected by the Assembly of States Parties for their qualifications, impartiality and integrity and serve 9-year, non-renewable terms. While Judges of the International Court of Justice are eligible for re-election.

Option B is not correct: The International Court of Justice has no jurisdiction to try individuals accused of war crimes or crimes against humanity. The International Criminal Court (ICC) investigates and, where warranted, tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community.

Option C is correct: As the International Court of Justice is not a criminal court, it does not have a prosecutor able to initiate proceedings.

Option D is correct: While not a United Nations organization, the International Criminal Court has a cooperation agreement with the United Nations.

Q. Consider the following statements with reference to Vinayak Damodar Savarkar :

1. He wrote the book "The Indian War of Independence"
2. He supported the Quit India movement in 1942.

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

Answer: a

Explanation: In News: Recently, the Prime Minister paid tributes to Vinayak Damodar Savarkar on his 138th birth anniversary.

Statement 1 is correct: Vinayak Damodar Savarkar was born in a Hindu Marathi family in Nashik, Maharashtra on May 28, 1883. He was nicknamed 'Veer' for his courage from an early age. He, popularly known as Swatantryaveer Savarkar. He established a secret organization called Abhinav Bharat Society in 1904 with his brother, Ganesh Damodar Savarkar. He wrote 'The Indian War of Independence, 1857' during his jail time. In the book, he indicated the view that the Indian Mutiny of 1857 was the first expression of Indian mass rebellion against British colonial rule.

Statement 2 is not correct: In 1911, Savarkar was sentenced to 50 years in the cellular jail of Andamans, also known as Kala Pani for revolting against the Morley-Minto reforms (Indian Councils Act 1909). After several mercy petitions for not participating in politics, he was released in 1924. Serving as the president of the Hindu Mahasabha political party, he opposed the Quit India movement in 1942. He was a critic of the Indian National Congress and its acceptance of India's partition. After his release from jail, he worked on the abolishment of untouchability in Ratnagiri.

Q. She organised an exhibition called 'Numaish Masunuaat e Hind' in Bhopal to encourage women and promote handicrafts where she displayed her creations. She was a pioneer in the field of education and even

authored a book, Dars-e-Hayat, about the education and parenting of young girls. She was the first female Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University.

She was:

- (a) Savitribai Phule
- (b) Tarabai Shinde
- (c) Fatima Sheikh
- (d) Begum Sultan Jahan

Answer: d

Explanation: In News: Recently, the death anniversary of Begum Sultan Jahan was observed.

Option D is correct: Begum Sultan Jahan was a philanthropist, prolific writer, feminist, symbol of women empowerment. She was born in 1858 and ascended the throne in 1901, as the fourth and the last female ruler of Bhopal. She ruled from 1909 to 1926 after which she stepped down and was succeeded by her son. She organised an exhibition called 'Numaish Masunuaat e Hind' in Bhopal to encourage women and promote handicrafts where she displayed her creations. She was a pioneer in the field of education and even authored a book, Dars-e-Hayat, about the education and parenting of young girls. She was the first female Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University, which she had nurtured during its nascent stage when it was still known as the Mohammadan Anglo-Oriental College.

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The International Criminal Court is governed by the Rome Statute.
2. It is headquartered in the Hague and is the part of UN convention against crimes related to genocide.
3. India is a signatory to the Rome Statute.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: a

Explanation: In News: Germany for the first time has recognised that it committed genocide against the Herero and Nama people in present-day Namibia during its colonial rule over a century ago.

Statement 1 is correct: The International Criminal Court (ICC) investigates and tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression. It is governed by an international treaty called 'The Rome Statute', the ICC is the world's first permanent international criminal court.

Statement 2 is correct: The organisation is located in The Hague, The Netherlands. The Court was established by the Rome Statute. This treaty was negotiated within the UN, however, it created an independent judicial body distinct from the UN. The Rome Statute was the outcome of a long process of consideration of the question of international criminal law within the UN.

Statement 3 is not correct: India is not the party of Rome statute along with China and the US and hence not a member of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Due to sovereignty, national interest and impartial prosecution issues, India refrained from signing the statute.

Q. With reference to the YUVA Scheme, consider the following statements:

1. It is an author mentorship programme to train authors below the age of 20.
2. It is implemented by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

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

Answer: d

Explanation: In News: Recently, 'YUVA- Prime Minister's Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors' has been launched.

Statement 1 is not correct: YUVA stands for 'Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors' and is a part of India@75 Project Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. It is an author mentorship programme to train young and budding authors below the age of 30.

Statement 2 is not correct: It is implemented by the National Book Trust, Ministry of Education. Under this scheme, the authors can write on themes such as national movement, unsung heroes, freedom fighters.

Q. Match the following with respect to South China Sea disputes:

Islands

Countries

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Paracel | a. China, Brunei and Vietnam |
| 2. Spratly | b. Philippines, China and Taiwan |
| 3. Scarborough Shoal | c. China, Taiwan and Vietnam |

Select the correct Answer: using the codes given below:

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

Answer: a

Explanation: IN News: The Philippines has protested China's continuing illegal presence and activities near an island in the South China Sea held by it.

Option A is correct. The Paracel Islands are claimed by China, Taiwan and Vietnam. The Spratly Islands are claimed by China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei and the Philippines. The Scarborough Shoal is claimed by the Philippines, China and Taiwan.

Q. With reference to global arms control treaties, consider the following statements:

- 1. The Open Skies Treaty allows a member state to undertake surveillance on any part of the host nation, without the latter's consent.
- 2. The New START treaty is the only major arms control treaty between the USA and Russia.

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

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

Answer: a

Explanation: In News: Recently, the US has informed Russia that it will not rejoin the Open Skies Treaty.

Statement 1 is not correct: The Open Skies Treaty is an arms control deal that permits unarmed aerial flights over participating countries. Under it, a member State can undertake surveillance on any part of the host nation, with the latter's consent and only approved imaging equipment is permitted on the surveillance flights. Officials from the host state can also stay on board throughout the planned journey.

Statement 2 is correct: Currently, the New START treaty is the only major arms control treaty between the USA and Russia. Both nations were part of the Open Skies Treaty as well, however, the USA moved out of it and Russia is also planning to move out in 2021.

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