

## UPSC Monthly Magazine Answer Key – May 2020

**Q1. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. India is the largest producer of Saffron in the world.
2. Saffron cultivation in India is limited to only Jammu and Kashmir.
3. Kashmir saffron is the only saffron in the world grown at an altitude of 1,600 m to 1,800 m above mean sea level.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Iran is the largest producer of saffron.
- Saffron in India is mainly cultivated in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.
- Kashmir saffron, which is cultivated and harvested in the Karewa (highlands) of Jammu and Kashmir is the only saffron in the world grown at an altitude of 1,600 m to 1,800 m AMSL (above mean sea level).
- Kashmir saffron is grown in some regions of Kashmir, including Pulwama, Budgam, Kishtwar and Srinagar.

**Q2. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies scheme is directed at incentivizing exports from India.
2. The Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies scheme is applicable for the export of garments and made-ups only.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The Union Cabinet has given its approval for continuation of the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) from 1st April, 2020 onward until it is merged with the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP).

- Continuation of RoSCTL is expected to make the textile sector competitive by rebating all taxes/levies which are currently not being rebated under any other mechanism. This would make exports from India competitive globally.
- RoSCTL is offered for embedded state and central duties and taxes that are not refunded through Goods and Services Tax (GST). It was available only for garments and made ups. It was introduced by the Ministry of Textiles.

**Q3. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to the One Nation One Ration card scheme?**

1. It is being implemented under the Ministry of Home affairs.
2. It is applicable throughout India.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The one nation one ration card scheme comes under the Ministry of Consumer affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- Only 17 states and UT's have joined the national cluster under the Food Ministry's One Nation One Ration Card scheme.
  - Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

**Q4. Which of the following are the features of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act scheme?**

1. Providing at least 150 days of wage employment in a financial year to willing adults in rural areas.
2. Only people from BPL households are eligible for benefit under the scheme.
3. Employment is to be provided within 5 km of an applicant's residence.
4. If work is not provided within 15 days of applying, applicants are entitled to an unemployment allowance.
5. Social Audit of MGNREGA works is mandatory.

**Options:**

- a. 1,2,3 and 4
- b. 1,3,4 and 5

- c. 3,4 and 5
- d. 1,2,3,4 and 5

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The MGNREGA provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage.
- The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), Govt of India is monitoring the entire implementation of this scheme in association with state governments
- The employment will be provided within a radius of 5 km: if it is above 5 km extra wage will be paid.
- Within 15 days of submitting the application or from the day work is demanded, wage employment will be provided to the applicant. Right to get unemployment allowance in case employment is not provided within fifteen days of submitting the application or from the date when work is sought.
- Receipt of wages within fifteen days of work done.
- Social Audit of MGNREGA works is mandatory, which lends to accountability and transparency.

**Q5. Which of the following countries border Venezuela?**

1. Colombia
2. Brazil
3. Ecuador
4. Suriname
5. Guyana
6. French Guiana
7. Panama

**Options:**

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

**Answer:**

**Option: a**

**Explanation:**



**Q6. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The US Commission of International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) was created by the American International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.
2. The US Commission of International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) recommendations are binding on the U.S. administration.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The Office of International Religious Freedom (IRF) in the State Department and the US Commission of International Religious Freedom were created by the American International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.
- The U.S. State department hasn't always followed the USCIRF's recommendations and has followed its own procedure to designate states. The USCIRF's recommendations are non-binding on the State Department.

**Q7. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The Indian diaspora comprises the largest share of the global migrant population.
2. The United Arab Emirates houses the largest number of Indian diaspora.
3. India is the largest recipient of inward remittances in the world.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- According to the UN's International Migrant Stock 2019 compiled by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs Division, the count of the Indian diaspora currently stands at around 17.5 million making it the largest in the world. It now comprises 6.4% of the total global migrant population.
- The United Arab Emirates was the top destination for Indian migrants followed by the US and Saudi Arabia.
- India tops the list of countries with the largest inward remittances as per a new World Bank report.

**Q8. Arrange the following tiger reserves from east to west:**

1. Namdapha Tiger Reserve
2. Pakke Tiger Reserve
3. Manas Tiger Reserve
4. Buxa Tiger Reserve

**Options:**

- a. 1-2- 3- 4
- b. 2- 1- 3- 4
- c. 4- 3- 2- 1
- d. 1- 2-4- 3

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**



**Q9. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The Suez Canal lies on the eastern part of the Sinai Peninsula.
2. The Sinai Peninsula is bound by the Gulf of Suez on its eastern margin and by the Gulf of Aqba on its western margin.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Suez Canal lies on the western part of the Sinai Peninsula.
- The Sinai Peninsula is bound by the Gulf of Suez on its western margin and by the Gulf of Aqba on its eastern margin.



**Q10. Which of the following Indian states share a border with Bangladesh?**

1. West Bengal
2. Assam
3. Meghalaya
4. Tripura
5. Mizoram
6. Manipur

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**



**Q11. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. African swine fever is a haemorrhagic fever with high mortality rates in domestic pigs.

2. African swine fever does not cause disease in humans.
3. In April 2020, India reported the first African swine fever disease outbreak in the state of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- African swine fever is a haemorrhagic fever with high mortality rates in domestic pigs.
- African swine fever does not cause disease in humans.
- The virus can be spread by ticks and can also be transmitted by direct or indirect contact with infected pigs, faeces or body fluids.
- As of 2020, no vaccine is commercially available.
- In April 2020, India reported the first African swine fever disease outbreak in the state of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

**Q12. The Global Press Freedom Index is released by which of the following organizations?**

- a. Amnesty International
- b. UNESCO
- c. Reporters without Borders
- d. United Nations Development Programme

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The Global Press Freedom Index is brought out by Reporters without Borders.

**Q13. Consider the following statements with respect to Sa-Dhan:**

1. Sa-Dhan is an association of microfinance institutions (MFIs) recognized by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
2. It is the first association in the business of micro-lending to be given the self-regulatory organization (SRO) status by RBI.
3. Sa-Dhan is empowered to monitor MFIs and ensure the lenders are in compliance with the rules.

**Choose the correct option:**

- a. 1 and 3 only

- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Sa-Dhan is an association of microfinance institutions (MFIs) recognized by the RBI.
- It is also recognized as National Support Organization (NSO) by the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).
- It was given the status of a self-regulatory organization (SRO) by RBI in 2015.
- This gave it the powers to monitor MFIs and ensure the lenders are in compliance with the rules.
- Sa-Dhan was the second association in the business of micro-lending to be given the SRO status by RBI.
- The first one to be given SRO status was the Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN).

**Q14. Consider the following statements with respect to Rath Yatra:**

1. The Puri Rath Yatra is also called the Gundicha Yatra.
2. Rath Yatra is included in the UNESCO's List of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- RathYatra is a festival dedicated to Lord Jagannath (Lord Krishna), Goddess Subhadra (his sister) and Lord Balaram (his elder brother).
- RathYatra is widely celebrated and is one of the biggest festivals of India.
- The term especially refers to the annual Rath Yatra in Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal and other East Indian states, particularly, the Odia festival.
- The Puri Yatra to the maternal uncle's place is also called the Gundicha Yatra, named after Gundicha Devi, the maternal aunt of Lord Jagannath.
- It is not included in the UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage.

**Q15. Consider the following statements:**

1. The world's largest riverine island is on the Brahmaputra River.



2. The Brahmaputra River flows through the Kaziranga National Park (KNP).
3. Dibang and Lohit are Brahmaputra's left bank tributaries.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 2 only
- d. None of the above

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

The Brahmaputra River originates in the Kailash range near the Mansarovar Lake to the north of the Himalayas in the southwest Tibet region. The world's largest riverine island, Majuli Island, is on the Brahmaputra River in the state of Assam. The Brahmaputra River flows through the Kaziranga National Park (KNP). Dibang and Lohit are Brahmaputra's main left bank tributaries.

**Q16. Consider the following statements:**

1. INS Jalashwa is an amphibious transport dock indigenously developed by the Indian Navy.
2. It is the largest combat warship in the Indian Navy.
3. It can be used to operate vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) aircraft.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- INS Jalashwa is an amphibious transport dock currently in service with the Indian Navy.
- INS Jalashwa was acquired from the United States.
- INS Vikramaditya is the Indian Navy's biggest warship.
- Unlike regular warships, this ship has a flight deck for helicopter operations from which four medium helicopters can operate simultaneously.
- This deck can also be used to operate vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) aircraft like the Sea Harrier, in special circumstances.

- Since the ship is capable of embarking over 1000 troops, she is fully equipped with extensive medical facilities including four operation theatres, 12-bed ward, laboratory and a dental centre to ensure the health care of the embarked personnel.

**Q17. Consider the following statements with respect to Qutb Minar:**

1. It is named after Qutub-ud-din-Aibak who laid the foundation of the monument.
2. It was completed by Firoz Shah Tughlaq.
3. It is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Qutub-ud-din-Aibak laid the foundation of the Qutb Minar in Delhi.
- It was named after a Sufi saint Khwaja Qutb-ud-din Bakhtiyar Kaki.
- Qutb Minar was completed by Aibak's successor and son-in-law Iltutmish.
- Firoz Shah Tughlaq replaced the top storey which was damaged in a lightning and also added one more storey.
- Qutub Minar is a centrally-protected monument under the ASI, and a UNESCO World Heritage site.

**Q18. Consider the following statements:**

1. Operation Samudra Setu: INS Sunayna
2. Operation Vanilla: INS Airavat
3. Operation Nistar: INS Jalashwa

**Which of the given pairs are correctly matched?**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The Navy has dispatched two ships – INS Jalashwa and INS Magar, to Male (Maldives) under Operation “SamudraSetu” to repatriate stranded Indian citizens.
- The Indian Navy in January 2020 conducted “Operation Vanilla”, with INS Airavat delivering relief material such as food, clothing, medicines, and water to Madagascar devastated by a cyclone and the subsequent rainfall and landslide.
- Operation Nistar, in 2018, was the operation of the Indian Navy using INS Sunayna to evacuate Indian citizens from the Island of Socotra (part of Yemen) when they were stranded by Cyclone Mekenu.

**Q19. Consider the following statements:**

1. A geosynchronous orbit synchronizes with the rotation of the Earth at any inclination.
2. Geostationary orbit lies on the same plane as the equator.
3. Geosynchronous satellites are particularly useful for telecommunications and remote sensing applications.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- A geosynchronous orbit synchronizes with the rotation of the Earth at any inclination. More specifically, the time it takes for the Earth to rotate on its axis is 23 hours, 56 minutes and 4.09 seconds, which is the same as a satellite in a geosynchronous orbit. This makes geosynchronous satellites particularly useful for telecommunications and other remote sensing applications.
- While geosynchronous satellites can have any inclination, the key difference to geostationary orbit is the fact that they lie on the same plane as the equator.
- About 35,786 kilometres above the Earth’s surface, satellites are in geostationary orbit.

**Q20. Consider the following statements:**

1. Milan is the bilateral military exercise conducted between India and Maldives.
2. Recently, Operation Sanjeevani was conducted by the Indian Navy, delivering essential medicines to Maldives.
3. India is the largest trade partner of Maldives.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

- a. 1 only
- b. 1 and 3 only

- c. 1, 2 and 3
- d. 3 only

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- “Ekuverin” is the bilateral military exercise conducted between India and Maldives.
- The Indian Air Force recently delivered 6.2 million tonnes of essential medicines to Maldives under Operation Sanjeevani.
- India is the fourth largest trade partner of Maldives after the UAE, China and Singapore.

**Q21. Consider the following statements:**

1. Plasma makes up more than 55% of blood in the human body.
2. Plasma carries hormones, nutrients and proteins to different parts of the body.
3. Plasma lacks clotting factor.

**Which of the following statement/s is/are incorrect?**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

Plasma is the major part of the blood. Apart from RBC, WBC and platelets in the blood, all the other fluid content is referred to as Plasma. It makes up more than 55% of blood in the human body. The main role of plasma is to carry hormones, nutrients and proteins to different parts of the body. Composed of 90% water, salts, lipids and hormones, it is especially rich in proteins (including its main protein albumin), immunoglobulin, clotting factors and fibrinogen. Plasma is composed of serum and clotting factor.

**Q22. Primary Deficit is:**

- a. The surplus of Revenue Expenditure over Revenue Receipts.
- b. Fiscal Deficit net of Interest Payment.
- c. The excess of total expenditure over total receipts excluding borrowings.
- d. None of the above.

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- **Primary Deficit is Fiscal Deficit net of Interest Payment.** Primary Deficit is the difference between the current year's fiscal deficit (total income – total expenditure of the government) and the interest paid on the borrowings.
- The surplus of Revenue Expenditure over Revenue Receipts is Revenue Deficit.
- The excess of total expenditure over total receipts excluding borrowings is called Fiscal Deficit.

**Q23. Consider the following statements with respect to Classical Swine Fever:**

1. It is a contagious viral disease of domestic and wild pigs.
2. It is caused by the H1N1 virus strain.
3. The disease does not harm humans.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

Swine Fever or classical swine fever (CSF) is a contagious viral disease of domestic and wild pigs. CSF is caused by a small RNA virus with a lipid envelope, the Classical swine fever virus. The virus, which was previously called Hog cholera virus, is closely related to the ruminant pestiviruses which cause Bovine viral diarrhoea and Border disease of sheep. Humans are not affected by this virus. Swine are the only species known to be susceptible.

**Q24. Consider the following statements with respect to National Health Authority (NHA):**

1. National Health Authority is the apex body responsible for implementing Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan ArogyaYojana (PMJAY).
2. It is the successor of the National Health Agency.
3. It is governed by a Governing Board chaired by the Prime Minister.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- National Health Authority is the apex body responsible for implementing Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).
- National Health Authority is the successor of the National Health Agency, which was functioning as a registered society.
- NHA is governed by a Governing Board chaired by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare. It is headed by a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), an officer of the rank of Secretary to the Government of India, who manages its affairs.

**Q25. Consider the following statements with respect to Luhman 16:**

1. Luhman 16 is a binary star system.
2. It is a brown-dwarf system in the southern constellation Vela.
3. It is the second closest system to the Sun after Alpha Centauri.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Luhman 16 is a binary star system.
- It is the third closest system to the Sun after Alpha Centauri and Barnard's star.
- This pair of brown dwarfs referred to as Luhman 16A and Luhman 16B orbit each other, casting a dim light.
- They are at a distance of about 6.5 light years from the Sun.

**Q26. Consider the following statements with respect to Sundarbans in India:**

1. Indian Sundarbans was accorded the status of 'Wetland of International Importance' under the Ramsar Convention in 1992.
2. It is the 27<sup>th</sup> Ramsar Site in India.
3. It is a UNESCO world heritage site.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- On January 30 2019, the Indian Sundarbans was accorded the status of 'Wetland of International Importance' under the Ramsar Convention.
- It is the 27th Ramsar Site in India.
- The part of the Sundarbans delta, which lies in Bangladesh, was accorded the status of a Ramsar site in 1992.
- It is a UNESCO world heritage site.

**Q27. Consider the following statements regarding the Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate (MCLR):**

1. MCLR is the minimum lending rate below which a bank is not permitted to lend, except in some cases allowed by the RBI.
2. MCLR is an internal benchmark or reference rate for the bank.
3. MCLR replaced the base rate system.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) refers to the minimum interest rate of a bank below which it cannot lend, except in some cases allowed by the RBI.
- It is an internal benchmark or reference rate for the bank.
- The MCLR methodology for fixing interest rates for advances was introduced by the Reserve Bank of India with effect from April 1, 2016. This new methodology replaced the base rate system introduced in July 2010.

**Q28. Consider the following statements with respect to Styrene:**

1. It is an organic compound and is produced naturally in some plants.
2. It is used in the manufacture of rubber and latex.
3. Short-term exposure to Styrene can result in respiratory problems.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

- a. 1 only
- b. 1 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 2 only
- d. None of the above

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Styrene is an organic compound with the formula  $C_8H_8$ . It is a derivative of benzene ( $C_6H_6$ ).
- Styrene is also produced naturally in some plants.
- Short-term exposure to the substance can result in respiratory problems, irritation in the eyes, irritation in the mucous membrane, and gastrointestinal issues.
- Styrene is a chemical used to make latex, synthetic rubber, and polystyrene resins.

**Q29. Which of the following countries are not members of the Gulf Cooperation Council?**

1. Oman
2. Yemen
3. UAE
4. Iraq
5. Saudi Arabia
6. Bahrain
7. Jordan
8. Qatar

**Options:**

- a. 1,3,5,6 and 8 only
- b. 1,2,3,5 and 6 only
- c. 2,4 and 7 only
- d. 2,4,7 and 8 only

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf originally known as the Gulf Cooperation Council is a regional intergovernmental political and economic union consisting of all Arab states of the Persian Gulf except Iraq, namely: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.
- Despite the rift between Qatar and Saudi and its allies, Qatar continues to remain a member of the GCC.

**Q30. Which of the following pair is wrongly matched?**

- a. Lopinavir-ritonavir: HIV
- b. Ribavirin: hepatitis C virus
- c. Interferon beta-1b: Sclerosis
- d. BCG: Polio



**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- BCG vaccine is primarily used to protect children against TB in high-risk countries.
- Lopinavir-ritonavir is used for treating HIV, ribavirin for treating chronic hepatitis C virus, and injectable interferon beta-1b is used by multiple sclerosis patients.

**Q31. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. Schedule 10 of the Indian Constitution deals with Anti-defection provisions.
2. The 52nd amendment in 1985 added the tenth schedule of the Indian Constitution.
3. The 91st amendment in 2003 strengthened the anti-defection provisions in India by prescribing disqualification of defectors and barring them from being appointed as ministers for a period.

Options:

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

Self explanatory.

**Q32. The Patriot Missile system has been developed by which of the following country?**

- a. United States of America
- b. Russia
- c. Israel
- d. China

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Patriot (MIM-104) is a long-range, all-altitude, all-weather air defence system to counter tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and advanced aircraft. It has been developed by the U.S.

**Q33. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The Sal forest tortoise is widely distributed over eastern and northern India and Southeast Asia.
2. Sal forest tortoise has been recently assessed as critically endangered.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c****Explanation:**

- Sal forest tortoise has been recently assessed as critically endangered.
- According to the IUCN the population of the species may have fallen by about 80% in the last three generations (90 years). Once widely distributed the Sal tortoise is now no longer common over its habitat.
- Being widely distributed does not mean that it cannot be threatened.

**Q34. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)?**

1. EIA comes under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. EIA is compulsory for all industrial projects.
3. The environmental clearance for development projects based on EIA is given only by the Central government.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: a****Explanation:**

- EIA comes under Notification on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of developmental projects 1994 under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- EIA is only mandatory for 30 categories of projects. There are several projects that are exempted from EIA.
- Environment Impact Assessment Notification of 2006 has decentralized the environmental clearance projects by categorizing the developmental projects into two categories, i.e., Category A (national level appraisal) and Category B (state level appraisal).
  - Category A projects require mandatory environmental clearance.
  - Category B projects undergo screening process and are classified into two types.
    - Category B1 projects (Mandatory requires EIA).
    - Category B2 projects (Do not require EIA).

**Q35. The places Kalapani and Susta are often in news with respect to which of the following countries?**

- a. Bangladesh
- b. Bhutan
- c. Nepal
- d. Myanmar

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The boundary issue with respect to the two places- Kalapani and Susta is between India and Nepal.

**Q36. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. 2016 is the warmest year on record for Earth.
2. Apart from the earth's warming trend, the global temperatures in 2016 were majorly influenced by strong El Nino conditions that prevailed at the beginning of 2016.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- NOAA and NASA analyses both indicate that 2016 was the hottest year on record globally.
- The global temperatures in 2016 were majorly influenced by strong El Niño conditions that prevailed at the beginning of the year.
- Earth's warming trend continued in 2019, making it the second-hottest year in NOAA's 140-year climate record just behind 2016.

**Q37. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to Pangong Tso Lake?**

1. It lies in the western Ladakh region of India.
2. It is the origin for the Shyok River.

**Options:**

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

- c. Both 1 and 2
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Pangong Tso or Pangong Lake is an endorheic lake in the Himalayas situated in Eastern Ladakh region.
- An endorheic basin is a limited drainage basin that normally retains water and allows no outflow to other external bodies of water, such as rivers or oceans.
- It is not a part of the Indus river basin area and forms a separate geographically landlocked river basin.
- It extends from India to the Tibetan Autonomous Region, China. Approximately 60% of the length of the lake lies within the Tibetan Autonomous Region.

**Q38. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. ELISA is a commonly used analytical biochemistry assay.
2. ELISA has been used in HIV diagnosis.
3. ELISA finds application in the food industry.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) is a commonly used analytical biochemistry assay.
- ELISA assay technique is designed for detecting and quantifying substances such as peptides, proteins, antibodies and hormones.
- Because the ELISA can be used to evaluate either the presence of antigen or the presence of antibody in a sample, it is a useful tool for detecting various kind of diseases, such as dengue, malaria, HIV test or West Nile virus.
- It has also found applications in the food industry in detecting potential food allergens, such as milk, peanuts, walnuts, almonds and eggs.
- ELISA can also be used in toxicology as a rapid presumptive screen for certain classes of drugs.

**Q39. Which of the following pairs is incorrectly matched?**

- a. Halakki: Karnataka

- b. Cholanaikkans: Telangana
- c. Todas: Tamil Nadu
- d. Chenchu: Andhra Pradesh

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Cholanaikkans are a prominent tribe of Kerala.

**Q40. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. League of Nations was formed in the aftermath of World War I.
2. It was headquartered at Geneva.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The League of Nations was the first worldwide intergovernmental organisation whose principal mission was to maintain world peace.
- It was founded on 10 January 1920 following the Paris Peace Conference that ended the First World War.
- On 1 November 1920, the headquarters of the League was moved from London to Geneva, where the first General Assembly was held on 15 November 1920.
- The League lasted for 26 years. The United Nations (UN) replaced it after the end of the Second World War and inherited several agencies and organisations founded by the League.

**Q41. Consider the following statements:**

1. Article 23 of the Indian Constitution provides for the right against forced labour.
2. Article 42 of the Indian Constitution that deals with ensuring just human conditions of work is legally enforceable by law.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only
- c. 1 and 2 only
- d. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Article 23 of the Indian Constitution provides for the right against forced labour.
- Article 42 of the Indian Constitution deals with ensuring just human conditions of work and maternity leaves.
- It is one of the Directive Principles of State Policy and is not legally enforceable by law.

**Q42. Consider the following statements with respect to Rajya Sabha:**

1. It is a permanent body.
2. Rajya Sabha came into being in 1952.
3. Dr.Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan was the first Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
4. A no-confidence motion against the Union Government can be initiated only in the Rajya Sabha.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

- a. 1 and 4 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 4 only
- d. 1 and 3 only

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Rajya Sabha was constituted for the first time on April 3rd, 1952.
- It is a permanent body.
- SarvepalliRadhakrishnan was the first Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- A no-confidence motion against the Union Government can be initiated only in the Lok Sabha.

**Q43. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?**

1. Nathu la – Sikkim
2. Lipulekh Pass – Himachal Pradesh
3. Jelep la – Arunachal Pradesh

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Nathu la – Sikkim
- Lipulekh Pass – Uttarakhand
- Jelep la – Sikkim

**Q44. Consider the following statements with respect to “Kalapani region”:**

1. It is manned by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
2. River Mahakali flows through the region.
3. China has ongoing claims to the Kalapani territory.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Since 1962, Kalapani has been manned by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
- River Mahakali, earlier known as river Kali (also known as Kali Ganga in Uttarakhand), flows through Kalapani.
- Nepal has ongoing claims to Kalapani territory, which is controlled by India.

**Q45. Arrange the following from North to South:**

1. Tso Kar
2. Tso Moriri
3. Kiagar Tso
4. Pangong Tso

**Choose the correct option:**

- a. 4, 1, 3, 2
- b. 4, 3, 1, 2
- c. 1, 2, 3, 4
- d. 2, 3, 1, 4

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**



**Q46. Consider the following statements with respect to Global Nutrition Survey:**

1. Global Nutrition Survey is published by the World Health Organisation.
2. It assesses progress in meeting Global Nutrition Targets established by the World Health Assembly.
3. The first Global Nutrition Survey was published in 1949.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The Global Nutrition Report is produced by the Independent Expert Group, supported by the Global Nutrition Report Stakeholder Group. It is an independently produced annual stock-take of the state of the world's nutrition.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) is a Global Nutrition Report Partner.
- It was conceived following the first Nutrition for Growth Initiative Summit (N4G) in 2013. The first report was published in 2014.
- It assesses progress in meeting Global Nutrition Targets established by the World Health Assembly.

**Q47. Consider the following statements:**

1. The joint sitting of the Parliament is called and presided over by the Rajya Sabha Chairman.
2. The Parliament of India has never held Joint Sitzings.
3. Constitution Amendment Bill and Money Bill cannot be referred to a joint sitting of the Parliament.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

- a. 1 and 2 only



- b. 1 only
- c. 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The joint sitting of the Parliament is called by the President (Article 108) and is presided over by the Speaker or, in his absence, by the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha or in his absence, the Deputy-Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. A joint sitting is not presided over by the Rajya Sabha Chairman.
- So far, Parliament has held only three Joint Sittings to resolve differences between both the Houses.
- Constitution Amendment Bill and Money Bill cannot be referred to a joint sitting of the Parliament.

**Q48. Consider the following statements:**

1. India shares the longest border with China, followed by Bangladesh.
2. Line of Actual Control (LAC) runs from the eastern limit of Bhutan to a point near the Talu Pass.
3. Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh touch the Indian boundary with China.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- India shares the longest border with Bangladesh, followed by China.
- Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh touch the Indian boundary with China.
- India shares a 1,140 km long boundary with China in the Eastern sector. It runs from the eastern limit of Bhutan to a point near the Talu Pass at the trijunction of Tibet, India and Myanmar. This boundary line is called McMahon Line.

**Q49. Which of the following is/are correctly matched?**

1. Sohrai Khovar painting – Telangana
2. Telia Rumal – Jharkhand
3. Devanahalli Pomelo – Karnataka

**Options:**

- a. 1 and 2 only

- b. 1 and 3 only
- c. 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Recently, Geographical Indication tags were given to Jharkhand's Sohrai Khovar painting and Telangana's Teliya Rumal.
- The Sohrai Khovar painting is a traditional and ritualistic mural art being practised by local tribal women during local harvest and marriage seasons using local, naturally available soils of different colours in the area of Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand.
- Teliya Rumal cloth involves intricate handmade work with cotton loom displaying a variety of designs and motifs in three particular colours — red, black and white.
- Devanahalli Pomelo, the citrus fruit, is popularly known as chakota. It is exclusively grown in the region around Devanahalli taluk, Bangalore Rural District, Karnataka, as an exotic crop variety. The fruit enjoys a Geographical Indication tag.

**Q50. Which of the following Indian states share a border with Nepal?**

1. Bihar
2. Uttar Pradesh
3. Uttarakhand
4. West Bengal
5. Sikkim

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

All five states share a boundary with Nepal.



**Q51. Consider the following statements with respect to PM CARES Fund:**

1. Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund.
2. Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance, Government of India are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.
3. The fund consists entirely of voluntary contributions from individuals or organizations and does not get any budgetary support.
4. It is exempt from the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM CARES Fund.
- Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance, Government of India are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.
- The fund consists entirely of voluntary contributions from individuals or organizations and does not get any budgetary support.
- It is exempt from the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 and a separate account for receiving foreign donations has been opened. This enables PM CARES Fund to accept donations and contributions from individuals and organizations based in foreign countries.

**Q52. Consider the following statements with respect to Polavaram Project:**

1. Polavaram Project is a multi-purpose irrigation project across the Godavari River.
2. It was accorded national status in 2014.
3. Its reservoir backwater spreads into parts of Chhattisgarh and Odisha.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

- a. 2 only

- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. None of the above

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

Polavaram Project is a multi-purpose irrigation project across the Godavari River. It was accorded national status in 2014. It is a national project which implies that its implementation is monitored by the Central Water Commission. The dam across the Godavari River is under construction, located in West Godavari District and East Godavari District in Andhra Pradesh state and its reservoir spreads into parts of Chhattisgarh and Odisha States also.

**Q53. “Shishu”, “Kishor”, “Tarun” categories are associated with which of the following schemes?**

- a. Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)
- b. Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)
- c. Rashtriya Bal SwasthyaKaryakram (RBSK)
- d. Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI)

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) aims to enable Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs), Non-Banking financial institutions/Companies (NBFCs), Small Finance Banks, RBRs, Commercial Banks, Cooperative Banks, etc. to provide Low Rate Loans to eligible entities.
- The Mudra Yojana (PMMY) has three products as per the funding requirements of the Beneficiary or the Entrepreneur, i.e, Shishu, Kishor, Tarun.
  - Shishu: covering loans upto 50,000.
  - Kishor: covering loans above 50,000/- and upto 5 lakh.
  - Tarun: covering loans above 5 lakh and upto 10 lakh.

**Q54. Consider the following statements:**

1. DNA and RNA are both nucleic acids.
2. While DNA is a double-stranded molecule consisting of a long chain of nucleotides, RNA is a single-strand helix having shorter chains of nucleotides.
3. Both DNA and RNA contain Adenine, Guanine and Cytosine.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

- a. 1 only
- b. 3 only

- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. None of the above

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The particles in nucleus of the cell, responsible for heredity, are called chromosomes which are made up of proteins and another type of biomolecules called nucleic acids.
- Nucleic acids are responsible for the transfer of characters from parents to off springs. There are two types of nucleic acids — DNA and RNA.
- While DNA is a double-stranded molecule consisting of a long chain of nucleotides, RNA is a single-strand helix having shorter chains of nucleotides.
- The purines adenine (A) and guanine (G) and the pyrimidine cytosine (C) are present in both DNA and RNA.
- The pyrimidine thymine (T) present in DNA is replaced by the pyrimidine uracil (U) in RNA.

**Q55. Consider the following statements:**

1. Pangong Tso is a salt water lake in the Himalayas.
2. It is the first trans-boundary wetland in South Asia, identified as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

Pangong Tso is an endorheic lake in the Himalayas. It is a salt water lake. The lake is in the process of being identified as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. It will then be the first trans-boundary wetland in South Asia under the convention.

**Q56. Consider the following statements:**

1. Reverse Transcription is the process in cells by which an enzyme makes a copy of DNA from RNA.
2. Reverse Transcriptase is found in HIV retrovirus.
3. Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) is a laboratory technique used to make many copies of specific genetic sequence for analysis.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Reverse Transcription is the process in cells by which an enzyme makes a copy of DNA from RNA.
- The enzyme that makes the DNA copy is called reverse transcriptase and is found in retroviruses, such as the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
- Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) is a laboratory technique used to make many copies of specific genetic sequence for analysis.
- It is primarily used to measure the amount of a specific RNA.

**Q57. Which of the following would qualify as advantages of Contract farming?**

1. Farmers can have improved access to technology, credit, marketing channels and information.
2. Farmers can have an assured market for their produce.
3. It reduces the risk of price fluctuations for both the seller and the buyer.
4. It ensures a consistent supply of agricultural produce with quality, at the right time and lesser cost for the buyers.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Contract farming can be defined as agricultural production carried out according to an agreement between a buyer and farmers, which establishes conditions for the production and marketing of a farm product or products.
- Contract farming is beneficial for both the farm-producers as well as the buyers.
  - Makes small scale farming competitive – small farmers can access technology, credit, marketing channels and information while lowering transaction costs
  - Assured market for their produce at their doorsteps, reducing marketing and transaction costs
  - It reduces the risk of production, price and marketing costs.

- Contract farming can open up new markets which would otherwise be unavailable to small farmers.
- It also ensures higher production of better quality, financial support in cash and /or kind and technical guidance to the farmers.
- In case of firms, it ensures consistent supply of agricultural produce with quality, at right time and lesser cost.

**Q58. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. NABARD was established on the recommendations of B.Sivaramman Committee.
2. NABARD is a statutory body.
3. The Government of India and Reserve Bank of India hold equal shares in NABARD.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- NABARD is one of the premier agencies providing developmental credit in rural areas. NABARD is India's specialised bank for Agriculture and Rural Development in India.
- NABARD was established on the recommendations of B.Sivaramman Committee. It is a statutory body based on the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act 1981.
- It replaced the Agricultural Credit Department (ACD) and Rural Planning and Credit Cell (RPCC) of Reserve Bank of India, and Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation (ARDC).
- Consequent to the revision in the composition of share capital between Government of India and RBI, the Government of India holds 100% share in NABARD.

**Q59. Which of the following factors affect Monsoon arrival in India?**

1. Western Disturbances
2. Cyclones in the Bay of Bengal
3. Summer temperatures over North India
4. Jet streams
5. Cross-equatorial flow of winds

**Options:**

- a. 1,2 and 3 only
- b. 1,2,3,4 and 5

- c. 1,3 and 5 only
- d. 2,3 and 4 only

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The high summer temperatures over north India creates a Low Pressure zone which helps pull in moisture laden winds.
- Western disturbances bring rainfall into north Indian region which helps cool the temperatures. This impacts the formation of a low pressure zone over Indian landmass.
- The shifting of the jet stream north of the Himalayas leads to the sudden burst of Monsoons in India.
- The cross-equatorial flow of winds is another factor which is responsible for the onset of Monsoon. The significant cross equatorial flow of winds wherein winds from the Southern Hemisphere cross to the Equator becoming southwesterly. A significant cross equatorial wind pattern is quite capable of bringing a strong Monsoon surge towards the Indian mainland.

**Q60. The Ship 'Sachet' recently inducted into service is a:**

- a. Offshore patrol vessel of the Indian Coast Guard
- b. Interceptor boats of the Indian Coast Guard
- c. Frigate of the Indian Navy
- d. Guided Missile destroyer of the Indian Navy

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Ship ICGS Sachet is the first in a series of five offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) being built by the Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).
  - It is designed to carry a twin-engine helicopter and four high-speed boats and one inflatable boat for swift boarding and search and rescue operations.
  - The ship is also capable of carrying limited pollution response equipment to undertake oil spill pollution response at sea.
  - The ships will be deployed extensively for Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance, coastal security and other duties as enshrined in the Coast Guard charter of duties, to safeguard the maritime interests of the nation.

**Q61. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The Department of Military Affairs is headed by the Chief of the Defence Staff.
2. The Defence Planning Committee is headed by the National Security Adviser (NSA).



**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Q62. Which of the following country is not part of the RCEP negotiations?**

- a. Australia
- b. Japan
- c. US
- d. South Korea

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- There were 16 countries involved in RCEP: the 10 members of ASEAN—Brunei-Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam plus the six countries with which ASEAN has free trade agreements—Australia, China, India, Japan, Korea, and New Zealand. However India has pulled out of the negotiations.

**Q63. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to India's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC)?**

1. India aims to reduce its emission intensity by 33-35% by 2030 below 2015 levels.
2. India aims to have an installed renewable energy capacity of 175 GW by 2030.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- India aims to reduce its emission intensity by 33-35% by 2030 below 2005 levels.
- India aims to have a installed renewable energy capacity of 175 GW by 2022.

**Q64. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The Commonwealth of Nations was formally constituted by the London Declaration in 1949.
2. India is not a member country of the Commonwealth of Nations.

Options:

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The Commonwealth of Nations, generally known as the Commonwealth is a political association of 54 member states, nearly all former territories of the British Empire.
- The current Commonwealth of Nations was formally constituted by the London Declaration in 1949, which modernised the community and established the member states as “free and equal”.
- The Commonwealth comprises 54 countries, across all continents. The members have a combined population of 2.4 billion people, almost a third of the world population, of whom 1.37 billion live in India or 94% live in Asia and Africa combined.

**Q65. Which of the following statements is/are correct with respect to the National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA)?**

1. It is a statutory body.
2. It organizes the Lok Adalats for speedy resolution of cases.
3. The Chief Justice of India is the executive Chairman of NALSA.

Options:

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA) was formed on 9 November 1995 under the authority of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987.
- Its purpose is to provide free legal services to eligible candidates and to organize LokAdalats for speedy resolution of cases. The prime objective of NALSA is speedy disposal of cases and reducing the burden of the judiciary.

- The Chief Justice of India is patron-in-chief of NALSA while the second senior-most judge of the Supreme Court of India is the Executive-Chairman.

**Q66. Which of the following are the advantages of the Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) technology being propounded in Punjab?**

1. Less time consuming
2. Less labour intensive
3. Lesser weed problem
4. Lesser water requirements
5. Crops mature earlier
6. Aids groundwater recharge

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The DSR technology recommended in Punjab as an alternative method of rice (paddy) planting offers several advantages:
  - It will help save irrigation water and energy (power) in contrast to the conventional method.
  - The DSR technique is less time consuming and labour intensive than the conventional practice.
  - There is lesser weed problem, besides the reduced incidence of nutrient deficiency, especially iron, owing to lesser leaching of nutrients and deeper root development.
  - The technology has a wide adaptability as it is suitable for medium to heavy textured soils including sandy loam, loam, clay loam and silt loam, which account for 87% area of paddy cultivation in Punjab.
  - The DSR offers avenue for groundwater recharge as well as it prevents the development of hard pan just beneath the plough layer.
  - Under DSR, the crop matures 7-10 days earlier than puddle transplanted rice, hence it gives more time for the management of paddy straw, for the timely sowing of the next wheat crop.
  - Results from research trials and farmers' field survey have also indicated that wheat grain yield, after DSR, is 1.0-1.2 quintal per acre higher than puddle transplanted rice.
  - The DSR involves more precision in timing and greater accuracy in operations compared to conventional transplanted rice.

**Q67. The severe cyclonic storm 'AMPHAN' is associated with which of the following regions?**

- East coast of India
- West coast of India
- South east Asia
- West Asian region

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The severe cyclonic storm 'AMPHAN' over southeast Bay of Bengal is very likely to move nearly northwards slowly during the next 24 hours and then re-curve north-north-eastwards.
- Odisha is bracing for heavy rain under the influence of severe cyclonic storm Amphan, which is set to skirt away from the State's northern coast to make landfall between West Bengal and Bangladesh.

**Q68. The National Executive Committee (NEC) of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is chaired by**

- Union Home Minister
- Prime Minister
- Union Home Secretary
- Cabinet Secretary

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The NDMA has been established under the Disaster Management Act.
- The Disaster Management Act under Section 8 enjoins the Central Government to Constitute a National Executive Committee (NEC) to assist the National Authority.
- The NEC is composed of Secretary level officers of the Government of India in the Ministries of home, agriculture, atomic energy, defence, drinking water supply, environment and forests, finance (expenditure), health, power, rural development, science and technology, space, telecommunication, urban development, and water resources, with the Home Secretary serving as the Chairperson, ex officio.
- The Chief of the Integrated Defence Staff of the Chiefs of Staff Committee is an ex officio member of the NEC.
- The NEC is responsible for the preparation of the National Disaster Management Plan for the whole country and to ensure that it is "reviewed and updated annually".

**Q69. Consider the following statements with respect to River Galwan:**

1. The River flows through India and Pakistan.
2. It is a tributary of River Shyok.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

The Galwan River flows from the disputed Aksai Chin region in Xinjiang of China to Ladakh of India. It originates in the area of Samzungling on the eastern side of the Karakoram Range and flows west to join the Shyok River. Shyok River is a tributary of the Indus River.

**Q70. Consider the following statements:**

1. Saharias of Madhya Pradesh are classified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
2. The highest number of PVTGs is found in Madhya Pradesh.
3. Some of the PVTGs are distributed in more than one State.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Saharias of Madhya Pradesh are classified as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- Among the 75 listed PVTGs, the highest number are found in Odisha (13), followed by Andhra Pradesh (12), Bihar including Jharkhand (9), Madhya Pradesh including Chhattisgarh (7), Tamil Nadu (6), Kerala and Gujarat having five groups each. The remaining PVTGs live in West Bengal (3), Maharashtra (3), two each in Karnataka and Uttarakhand and one each in Rajasthan, Tripura and Manipur. All the four tribal groups in Andamans, and one in Nicobar Islands, are recognised as PVTGs.
- Some of the PVTGs are distributed in more than one State.

**Q71. Consider the following statements with respect to National Board for Wildlife (NBWL):**

1. NBWL is a statutory organization constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 with an advisory role.

2. No alternation of boundaries in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries can be done without approval of the NBWL.
3. The NBWL is chaired by the Environment Minister.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) is a statutory organization constituted under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 with an advisory role. No alternation of boundaries in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries can be done without approval of the NBWL. The NBWL is chaired by the Prime Minister.

**Q72. Cyclone Amphan is named by:**

- a. India
- b. Thailand
- c. Bangladesh
- d. Oman

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Amphan is the first tropical cyclone of the 2020 North Indian Ocean cyclone season.
- According to the India Meteorological Department forecast, it will make landfall as a very severe cyclone between the Sagar islands of West Bengal and the Hatiya islands of Bangladesh.
- It has been named by Thailand.

**Q73. Consider the following statements:**

1. More cyclones are formed in the Bay of Bengal than in the Arabian Sea.
2. Tropical cyclones are characterised by a low-pressure centre.
3. The most dangerous and destructive part of a tropical cyclone is the eyewall.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

- a. 1 and 3 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 2 and 3 only

d. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- More cyclones are formed in the Bay of Bengal than the Arabian Sea.
- A tropical cyclone is a rapidly rotating storm system characterized by a low-pressure centre, a closed low-level atmospheric circulation, strong winds, and a spiral arrangement of thunderstorms that produce heavy rain or squalls.
- The most dangerous and destructive part of a tropical cyclone is the eyewall. Here winds are strongest, rainfall is heaviest, and deep convective clouds rise from close to Earth's surface to a height of 15,000 metres (49,000 feet).

**Q74. 'Cerberus' recently seen in news is a:**

- a. Trojan
- b. Ransomware
- c. Denial of service malware
- d. Worm

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Based on the inputs received from Interpol, the agency has issued an alert about a banking Trojan known as 'Cerberus'.
- In computing, a Trojan horse, or trojan, is any malware which misleads users of its true intent.
- Cerberus virus can enter phone by clicking on an SMS.
- Ethical hackers have warned that once 'Cerberus' is installed in a mobile phone, it can collect huge amounts of sensitive and personal data, including password, and it relays this information to a remote server.
- This Trojan primarily focuses on stealing financial data such as credit and debit card numbers and other details.

**Q75. Consider the following statements with respect to Olive Ridley Turtle:**

1. They are classified as vulnerable in the IUCN Red List.
2. They are classified under Schedule 1 in the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
3. Hope Island of Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh is one of the major breeding grounds for these turtles.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

- a. 1 only

- b. 3 only
- c. 1 and 2 only
- d. None of the above

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

The major breeding grounds for these Olive Ridley turtles are Rushikulya (Odisha), Dhamra or Dhamara (Odisha), Devi estuary (Odisha), Astaranga Coast (Odisha), Gahirmatha beach (Odisha) and Hope Island of Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary (Andhra Pradesh).

**Conservation Status:**

- It is listed as vulnerable under the IUCN Red List.
- In India, it is protected under Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. Trading in its products is banned under CITES.

**Q76. Consider the following pairs:**

1. Hatiya Island : Bangladesh
2. Sagar Island: India
3. Bhashan Char Island : Myanmar

**Which of these is/are correctly matched?**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Hatiya Island : Bangladesh
- Sagar Island: India
- Bhashan Char Island : Bangladesh

**Q77. 'Kunduz', frequently seen in the news, is in which country?**

- a. Israel
- b. Iran
- c. Afghanistan
- d. Kyrgyzstan



**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

Kunduz is a strategic city in northern Afghanistan, which serves as the capital of Kunduz Province.

**Q78. Consider the following statements with respect to “Horn of Africa”:**

1. Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia form the Horn of Africa.
2. It lies along the southern side of the Red Sea.
3. Horn of Africa extends into the Gulf of Aden, Somali Sea.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

All the statements are correct.

**Q79. Consider the following statements with respect to River Luni:**

1. River Luni originates in the Pushkar valley of the Aravalli Range.
2. The Dantiwada dam and Sipu dam are built on the Luni River.
3. Jojari is its only right-bank tributary.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

River Luni is a major river in the Thar Desert. It is a west flowing river. It originates in the Pushkar valley of the Aravalli Range. Jojari is its only right-bank tributary while its left bank has 10 tributaries. The main tributaries of Luni are the Jawai, Sukri, Guhiya, Bandi and Jojari rivers. The Dantiwada dam and Sipu dam are built on the Luni River.

**Q80. Consider the following pairs:**

1. Durand Line: Afghanistan – India

2. Radcliffe Line: Afghanistan – Pakistan
3. Line of Control: India – Pakistan
4. Line of Actual Control: India – China

**Which of the given pairs are correctly matched?**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The Durand Line is an international border between Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- The Radcliffe Line was the boundary demarcation line between the Indian and Pakistani portions of the Punjab and Bengal provinces of British India.
- Line of Control refers to the military control line between the Indian and Pakistani controlled parts of the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Line of Actual Control (LAC) is a demarcation line that separates Indian-controlled territory from Chinese-controlled territory in the former princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.

**Q81. Consider the following statements:**

1. India is the largest producer of coffee in the world.
2. India exports both Robusta and Arabica varieties of coffee.
3. India is the only country in the world where the entire coffee cultivation is grown under shade, hand-picked and sun dried.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

India is the sixth largest producer of coffee in the world, accounting for about 5% of world coffee production.

Brazil is the world's largest coffee producer. India exports both robusta and Arabica varieties of coffee. India is the only country in the world where the entire coffee cultivation is grown under shade, hand-picked and sun dried.

**Q82. "Operation Juniper" refers to:**

- a. Operation launched to repatriate Indian citizens stranded in Maldives in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- b. Operation launched by Indian Navy to help cyclone-hit Madagascar.
- c. Operation launched by Indian Army to stop Chinese from constructing a road in Doklam that would have given them access to Indian Territory.
- d. Operation launched by India to assist the victims of the 2018 Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia.

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- In 2017, Indian Army executed "Operation Juniper" and positioned armed troops in the Doklam area of Bhutan.
- This mobilization was intended to deter a team of Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) soldiers from constructing a road that would have given the Chinese access to Indian Territory.
- The road would have circumvented Indian posts in Dokala, and provided the Chinese access to Jampheri Ridge and a clear line of sight to the narrow Siliguri Corridor.
- It was called 'Operation Juniper' as junipers are trees found in Eastern Tibet.

**Q83. Consider the following statements:**

1. Sonic boom is a continuous sound which is emitted by the aircraft all the while it is travelling at a supersonic speed.
2. A sonic boom is said to occur when an object travels through the air faster than the speed of sound and creates shock waves.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

Both the statements are correct.

**Q84. Consider the following statements:**

1. Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) issues statutory licences to cultivate opium.
2. India is the only country which legally produces opium gum.

3. India is a signatory to the UN Convention on Narcotic Drugs 1961.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Licetopium poppy cultivation is permitted by the Government of India.
- The cultivation is carried out in India in selected tracts notified by the Central Government annually in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- Licences are issued by the Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN) to eligible cultivators.
- India is one of the few countries that legally grow opium poppy and the only country which legally produces opium gum.
- As a signatory to the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 and as a licit producer of opium, India is required to adhere to the regulations under the said convention.

**Q85. The Treaty of Sugauli of 1816 was signed between the East India Company and which other of the following?**

Options:

- a. Marathas
- b. Kingdom of Nepal
- c. Rajputs
- d. Kingdom of Myanmar

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The Treaty of Sugauli, which established the boundary line of Nepal, was signed in 1815 between the East India Company and King of Nepal following the Anglo-Nepalese War of 1814-16.

**Q86. Which of the following health conditions are considered under Metabolic syndrome?**

- 1. High blood pressure
- 2. Abdominal obesity
- 3. Elevated triglycerides
- 4. Low HDL cholesterol
- 5. High blood sugar

Options:

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Metabolic syndrome is defined as a cluster of five conditions: high blood pressure, abdominal obesity, elevated triglycerides, low HDL cholesterol, and high blood sugar.

**Q87. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to the Open skies Treaty?**

1. It is a treaty involving only Russia and the U.S.
2. It envisages the right to freedom of passage of domestic flights over each other's territories without prior approval.

Options:

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Open Skies Treaty was signed in 1992 and came into effect in 2002.
- The agreement allows its 34 signatories to conduct unarmed reconnaissance flights over the territory of treaty countries to monitor signatories' arms development activities.

**Q88. The term Dongfeng-41 is associated with:**

- a. Nuclear submarine
- b. Intercontinental ballistic missile
- c. Aircraft carrier
- d. Heavy lift cryogenic engine

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- China's Dongfeng-41 is an advanced intercontinental ballistic missile with an estimated 14,000 km range.

**Q89. Arrange the following cities from east to west:**

1. Beijing
2. Xian
3. Urumqi
4. Kuala Lumpur
5. Hanoi

**Options:**

- a. 1- 2- 5- 4- 3
- b. 1- 5- 2- 3- 4
- c. 1- 2- 5- 3- 4
- d. 1- 4- 5- 2- 3

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The cities arranged from east to west: Beijing, Xian, Hanoi, Kuala Lumpur and Urumqi.

**Q90. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. Acute Encephalitis Syndrome is always a viral infection.
2. Japanese Encephalitis has no available vaccine.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) is a serious public health problem in India. It involves inflammation of the brain.
- Viruses are the main causative agents in AES cases, although other sources such as bacteria, fungus, parasites, spirochetes, chemicals, toxins and non-infectious agents have also been reported over the past few decades.
- Japanese Encephalitis Virus (JEV) is the major cause of AES in India (ranging from 5%-35%).
- Vaccine against Japanese encephalitis (JE) has been under Universal Immunization Program in the 181 endemic districts of India.

**Q91. Arrange the following places from North to south.**

1. Pangong Tso
2. Galwan Nalah
3. Demchok

**Options:**

- a. 1- 2- 3
- b. 1- 3- 2
- c. 2- 1- 3
- d. 2- 3- 1

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The places arranged from north to south:
  - Galwan Nalah
  - Pangong Tso
  - Demchok

**Q92. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. Brazil shares its borders with 6 other countries.
2. Brazil is the largest country in South America both area-wise and population-wise.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Brazil borders 10 other countries and is the largest country in South America both area-wise and population-wise.

**Q93. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. Somalia shares its land borders with two countries.
2. Somalia is bound by the Gulf of Aden to the north.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Somalia is located in the Horn of Africa.
- It is bordered by Ethiopia to the west, the Gulf of Aden to the north, the Somali Sea to the east, and Kenya to the southwest. It also shares a land border with Djibouti in North-west.

**Q94. The Dehing Patkai Elephant Reserve is located in which of the following states?**

**Options:**

- a. Assam
- b. West Bengal
- c. Meghalaya
- d. Manipur

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the Dibrugarh and Tinsukia Districts of Assam. This sanctuary is also a part of Dehing-Patkai Elephant Reserve.
- It is part of the Assam valley tropical wet evergreen forest. The Dehing Patkai forms the largest stretch of tropical lowland rainforests in India.
- The Dibru-Deomali Elephant Reserve is also in Assam.

**Q95. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The Nallamalla Hills are spread over the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
2. The Nallamalla hills run in a nearly north-south alignment, parallel to the Coromandel Coast between the rivers, Krishna and Pennar.

**Options:**

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



**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The Nallamalas (also called the Nallamalla Range) are a section of the Eastern Ghats spread over the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, in India.
- They run in a nearly north-south alignment, parallel to the Coromandel Coast for close to 430 km between the rivers, Krishna and Pennar.
- The Nallamalas are an extremely old system, the hills have extensively weathered and eroded over the years.
- The rocks of the Nallamala ranges belong to the Kadapa system.

**Q96. Which of the following statement/s is/are incorrect?**

1. The Jama Masjid in Delhi was built by the Mughal Emperor Akbar.
2. The Badshahi Masjid in Lahore was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The Jama Masjid in Delhi was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan.
- The architecture and plan of Badshahi Masjid, which was built by Shah Jahan's son Aurangzeb in Lahore, is closely related to that of the Jama Masjid of Delhi.

**Q97. Consider the following statements with respect to Purandara Dasa:**

1. He is a contemporary of Kanakadasa.
2. Kaginele AdiKeshava was his pen name.
3. He is known as the "Pitamaha of Carnatic Music".

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Purandara Dasa (1484–1564) was a Haridasa, great devotee of Lord Krishna.
- He is a contemporary of Kanaka dasa.
- He is known as the “Pitamaha of Carnatic Music”.
- ‘Purandara Vithala’ was the pen name of his compositions.

**Q98. Consider the following statements with respect to National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF):**

1. It comes under the Public Accounts of the Government of India under “Reserve Funds not bearing interest”.
2. National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) was renamed as National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) with the enactment of the Disaster Management Act.
3. A National Calamity Contingency Duty is levied to finance the NDRF.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The National Disaster Response Fund is defined in Section 46 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (DM Act) as a fund managed by the Central Government for meeting the expenses for emergency response, relief and rehabilitation due to any threatening disaster situation or disaster.
- NDRF is located in the “Public Accounts” of Government of India under “Reserve Funds not bearing interest”.
- A National Calamity Contingency Duty (NCCD) is levied to finance the NDRF and additional budgetary support is provided as and when necessary.
- National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) was renamed as National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) with the enactment of the Disaster Management Act.

**Q99. Consider the following statements with respect to International Labour Organisation:**

1. It was established by the Treaty of Versailles in 1919.
2. It is the only tripartite U.N. agency.
3. It received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969.
4. India is a founding member of the ILO and also a permanent member of the ILO Governing Body since 1922.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

- a. 2, 3 and 4 only
- b. 1, 3 and 4 only

- c. 1 and 2 only
- d. 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The International Labour Organization (ILO) is the only tripartite U.N. agency with government, employer and worker representatives.
- Established in 1919 by the Treaty of Versailles as an affiliated agency of the League of Nations, it became the first affiliated specialized agency of the United Nations in 1946.
- India, a Founding Member of the ILO, has been a permanent member of the ILO Governing Body since 1922. The first ILO Office in India started in 1928.
- It received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969.

**Q100. Which of the following countries form the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD) or Quad?**

1. United States
2. China
3. Japan
4. Russia
5. Australia
6. India

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QSD, also known as the Quad) is an informal strategic dialogue between the United States, Japan, Australia and India that is maintained by talks between member countries.

**Q101. Consider the following statements with respect to Financial Stability and Development Council:**

1. It is chaired by the RBI Governor.
2. The heads of RBI, SEBI, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), IRDA & FMC are its members.
3. No funds are separately allocated to the Council for undertaking its activities.

Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- With a view to strengthening and institutionalizing the mechanism for maintaining financial stability, enhancing inter-regulatory coordination and promoting financial sector development, the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was set up by the Government as the apex level forum in December 2010.
- The Chairman of the Council is the Finance Minister and its members include the heads of financial sector Regulators (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, IRDA & FMC) Finance Secretary and/or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, and Chief Economic Adviser
- No funds are separately allocated to the Council for undertaking its activities.

**Q102. Which of the following Locusts are found in India?**

1. Desert Locust
2. Migratory Locust
3. Bombay Locust
4. Tree Locust
5. Red Locust
6. Brown Locust

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

There are 10 important species of locusts in the world. Only four species viz. Desert Locust (*Schistocerca gregaria*), Migratory Locust (*Locustamigratoria*), Bombay Locust (*Nomadacrissuccincta*) and Tree locust (*Anacridium sp.*) are found in India. The desert locust is the most important pest species in India as well as in intercontinental context.



Desert Locust



Migratory Locust



Bombay Locust



Tree Locust

**Q103. Which of the following is/are the recommendation/s of Shekatkar Committee?**

1. Creation of the post of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).
2. The Government Owned Contractor Operated (GOCO) model for its base workshops and ordnance depots.
3. India's defence budget should be in the range of 2.5 to 3 per cent of the GDP.

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

Some of the recommendations of the Shekatkar Committee include the following:

- India's defence budget should be in the range of 2.5 to 3 per cent of the GDP, keeping in mind possible future threats.
- A Joint Services War College for training middle-level officers should be established.
- It had also recommended that the Military Intelligence School at Pune be converted to a tri-service intelligence training establishment.
- The Committee recommended the enhancement in standards for recruitment of clerical staff and drivers in the Army.
- Other recommendations of the committee that are already being implemented include optimisation of Signals establishments, restructuring of repair echelons, redeployment of Ordnance echelons, better utilisation of supply and transportation echelons and animal transport units, closure of military farms and Army postal establishments in peace locations, enhancement in standards for recruitment of clerical staff and drivers in the Army, improving the efficiency of the National Cadet Corps.

- The Army has started implementing the Government Owned Contractor Operated (GOCO) model for its base workshops and ordnance depots, aiming to improve operational efficiency as recommended by the committee.
- The creation of the post of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) is also one of the recommendations of the Shekatkar Committee.

**Q104. “Bug Bounty” programme has been launched by the government to:**

- a. Kill and contain the locust swarm upsurge
- b. Find vulnerability in the AarogyaSetu app or suggest improvements to its source code
- c. Protect the computers at the Kundankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP) from malwares
- d. Keep a check on cyber-threats in India during the COVID-19 pandemic

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The government has launched a “Bug Bounty” programme, under which financial rewards will be given to security researchers for finding any vulnerability in the application or suggesting improvements to the source code.
- With the release of the source code in the public domain, the government is looking to expand collaboration and leverage the expertise of top technical brains to collectively build a robust and secure technology solution to help support the work of frontline health workers in fighting this pandemic together.
- This is believed to improve transparency on how the data is used, improve security by minimising bugs and empower experts to improve the app via public contributions.
- The “Bug Bounty” programme will be open to Indian and foreign nationals, but only Indians will be eligible for rewards offered under the scheme.

**Q105. Consider the following statements:**

1. Fifth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration and control of Scheduled Areas as well as of Scheduled Tribes residing in the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
2. The power to decide whether any central or state legislation implies over the state having scheduled areas, lies in the hands of the Governor.
3. Governor can also repeal or amend any regulations w.r.t to the state having scheduled areas but only with the assent of the President of India.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are incorrect?**

- a. 1 only
- b. 1 and 3 only
- c. 2 and 3 only

d. 1 and 2 only

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration and control of Scheduled Areas as well as of Scheduled Tribes residing in any State other than the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- The power to decide whether any central or state legislation implies over the state having scheduled areas, lies in the hands of the Governor.
- Governor can also repeal or amend any regulations w.r.t to the state having scheduled areas but only with the assent of the President of India.

**Q106. Consider the following statements with respect to Dibru-Saikhowa National Park:**

1. It was designated a Biosphere Reserve in 2019.
2. It is bound by the Brahmaputra and Lohit Rivers in the North.
3. The National Park is located in Arunachal Pradesh.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Dibru-Saikhowa National Park is a national park in Assam, India, located in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts.
- It was designated a Biosphere Reserve in July 1997.
- The park is bounded by the Brahmaputra and Lohit Rivers in the north and Dibru river in the south.

**Q107. Consider the following statements w.r.t LCA Tejas:**

1. It is an indigenous aircraft designed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and being produced by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
2. It is the smallest and lightest Multi-Role Supersonic Fighter Aircraft of its class.
3. It can carry a range of air-to-air, air-to-surface, precision-guided and standoff weaponry.

**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only

- c. 1 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The LCA Tejas is an Indian single-engine, delta wing, fourth-generation, multirole light fighter designed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and being produced by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- It is the smallest and lightest Multi-Role Supersonic Fighter Aircraft of its class. It is designed to carry a range of air-to-air, air-to-surface, precision-guided and standoff weaponry.

**Q108. Consider the following statements:**

1. Focus on reducing maternal, newborn and child mortality is covered under Sustainable Development Goal 3.
2. Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn Child plus Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A) was launched by India for reducing maternal and child morbidity and mortality.
3. India's National Health Policy Target is to reduce Under 5 Mortality Rate to 16 deaths per 1000 live births by 2025.

**Which of the given statement/s 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:**

- Focus on reducing maternal, newborn and child mortality is covered under Sustainable Development Goal 3
- Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn Child plus Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A) was launched by India for reducing maternal and child morbidity and mortality.
- India's National Health Policy (NHP) 2017 set a target of 23 deaths per 1000 live births for under-5 mortality and 16 deaths per 1000 live births for neonatal mortality by 2025.

**Q109. Bimal Jalan panel was appointed-**

- a. To look into the faster resolution of stressed assets
- b. To review the Regulatory and Supervisory Framework for Core Investment Companies (CICs)
- c. For strengthening digital payments ecosystem
- d. To review the Economic Capital Framework of the Central Bank



**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in consultation with the central government, had constituted a Committee (Chair: Dr.BimalJalan) to review the economic capital framework.
- The economic capital framework provides a methodology for determining the appropriate level of risk provisions and profit distribution to be made under Section 47 of the RBI Act, 1934.
- As per this provision, the central bank is required to pay balance of its profits to the central government after making provision for bad and doubtful debts, depreciation in assets, and contributions to staff.

**Q110. Consider the following statements about Indian Rhinoceros:**

1. Its IUCN status is Critically Endangered.
2. India has two populations containing more than 100 rhinos in Kaziranga National Park and Chitwan National Park (CNP) in Assam.

**Which of the above statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- It is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.
- Chitwan National Park (CNP), established in 1973, was Nepal's first National Park.



**Q111. With reference to FDI investments in India, which of following statement/s is/are incorrect?**

1. Foreign direct investment (FDI) in India grew by 13% in the 2019-20 financial year.
2. Singapore is the top source nation in FY20.
3. The sectors which attracted maximum foreign inflows during 2019-20 include first computer software and hardware, followed by telecommunications, and then services.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Foreign direct investment (FDI) in India grew by 13% to a record of \$49.97 billion in the 2019-20 financial year.
- The country had received an FDI of \$44.36 billion during April-March 2018-19. The sectors which attracted maximum foreign inflows during 2019-20 include services (\$7.85 billion), computer software and hardware (\$7.67 billion), telecommunications (\$4.44 billion), trading (\$4.57 billion), automobile (\$2.82 billion), construction (\$2 billion), and chemicals (\$1 billion).
- Singapore emerged as the largest source of FDI in India during the last fiscal with \$14.67 billion investments.
- It was followed by Mauritius (\$8.24 billion), the Netherlands (\$6.5 billion), the U.S. (\$4.22 billion), Caymen Islands (\$3.7 billion), Japan (\$3.22 billion), and France (\$1.89 billion).

**Q112. Which of the following is/are correctly matched with respect to location of the passes?**

1. Zoji La –Ladakh
2. Nathu La – Sikkim
3. Bomdi La –Arunachal Pradesh

**Options:**

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

**Ans: c**

**Q113. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. Dredging activity is a routine necessity in waterways for movement of ships and boats.
2. Dredging is also performed to reduce the exposure of fish, wildlife, and people to contaminants.

**Options:**

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

**Ans: c**

**Explanation:**

- Dredging is the removal of silt, sediments and debris from the bottom of lakes, rivers, harbours and other water bodies.
- Dredging is a routine necessity in waterways because sedimentation—the natural process of sand and silt washing downstream—gradually fills channels and harbors.
  - Dredging often is focused on maintaining or increasing the depth of navigation channels, anchorages, or berthing areas to ensure the safe passage of boats and ships.
  - Dredging is also performed to reduce the exposure of fish, wildlife, and people to contaminants and to prevent the spread of contaminants to other areas of the water body.
    - This environmental dredging is often necessary because sediments in and around cities and industrial areas are frequently contaminated with a variety of pollutants.

**Q114. The term “D10” club is associated with which of the following?**

- a. The group of countries working towards demilitarization of the Kurds inhabited region in West Asia.
- b. The non-governmental grouping from 10 countries aiming to ensure that the Paris climate deal terms are successfully implemented.
- c. The group of countries working towards ensuring the speedy development of COVID-19 vaccine.
- d. A group of 10 democratic countries for partnership on 5G technology

**Ans: d**

**Explanation:**

- Britain is proposing a “D10” club of democratic partners that groups the G7 nations with Australia and the Asian technology leaders South Korea and India.
- Britain has been insisting to form a club of 10 nations that could develop its own 5G technology and reduce dependence on Huawei.

**Q115. The central government’s ‘Swamitva yojana’ deals with:**

- a. Empowering Panchayats
- b. Rural land ownership records
- c. Skill development programme
- d. Refinancing MSMEs

**Ans: b**

**Explanation:**

- Under the Centre's 'Swamitva yojana' rural areas would be surveyed to help prepare land records.
- Swamitva Yojana is aimed to create property ownership record of land in villages and empower rural population with grant of official document confirming their ownership of land titles.

**Q116. Which of the following statement/s is/are incorrect with respect to the National Career Service project?**

1. It is a project under the Ministry of Electronics.
2. It involves revamping the existing nation-wide set-up of Employment Exchanges into IT-enabled Career Centers.

**Options:**

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

**Ans: a**

**Explanation:**

- The National Career Service project is a Mission Mode Project launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment (India) Government of India for establishing quick and efficient career related services across the country by revamping the existing nation-wide set-up of Employment Exchanges into IT-enabled Career Centers.

**Q117. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The State Election Commissioner is appointed by the Governor.
2. The conditions of service and tenure of office of the State Election Commissioner shall be such as the Governor may determine.
3. The State Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like ground as a Judge of a High Court.

**Options:**

- a. 3 only

- b. 1 and 3 only
- c. 1, 2 and 3
- d. 2 and 3 only

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

Under Article 243(K) of the Indian Constitution:

- The superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls for, and the conduct of, all elections to the Panchayats shall be vested in a State Election Commission consisting of a State Election Commissioner to be appointed by the Governor
- Subject to the provisions of any law made by the Legislature of a State, the conditions of service and tenure of office of the State Election Commissioner shall be such as the Governor may by rule determine: Provided that the State Election Commissioner shall not be removed from his office except in like manner and on the like ground as a Judge of a High Court and the conditions of service of the State Election Commissioner shall not be varied to his disadvantage after his appointment.

**Q118. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The decision of the Central Information Commission can be challenged in the Supreme Court.
2. The Central Information Commission shall consist of the Chief Information Commissioner and not more than 2 Central Information Commissioners.
3. Chief Information Commissioner shall hold office for a term of three years and shall not be eligible for reappointment.

**Options:**

- a. 1 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. None of the above

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Central Information Commission has been constituted under the Right to Information Act, 2005. The jurisdiction of the Commission extends over all Central Public Authorities.
- The Commission has certain powers and functions mentioned under the RTI Act, 2005.
  - These broadly relate to adjudication in second appeal for giving information; direction for record keeping, suo motu disclosures receiving and enquiring into a complaint on inability to file RTI, etc.;

imposition of penalties and Monitoring and Reporting including preparation of an Annual Report.

The decisions of the Commission are final and binding.

- The Central Information Commission shall consist of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and such number of Central Information Commissioners not exceeding 10 as may be deemed necessary.
- The committee for recommendation of the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) and Central Information Commissioners shall consist of:
  - The Prime Minister as the Chairperson of the committee
  - The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha
  - A Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister
- Section 13 of the RTI Act 2005 provides that the Chief Information Commissioner shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office and shall not be eligible for reappointment.
- Section 13(5)(a) of the RTI Act 2005 provides that the salaries and allowances payable to and other terms and conditions of service of the Chief Information Commissioner shall be the same as that of the Chief Election Commissioner.

**Q119. Which of the following pairs of glacier and the state/UT is wrongly matched?**

- a. Lonak glacier: Ladakh
- b. Kangto glacier: Arunachal Pradesh
- c. Zemu glacier: Sikkim
- d. Pindari glacier: Uttarakhand

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

Lonak glacier: Sikkim

**Q120. Arrange the following battles fought by the British in chronological order:**

1. First Anglo-Mysore battle
2. First Anglo-Maratha battle
3. First Anglo-Afghan battle
4. Anglo-Nepalese war

**Options:**

- a. 1, 2, 4, 3
- b. 1, 2, 3, 4
- c. 2, 1, 3, 4
- d. 2, 1, 4, 3

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- First Anglo-Mysore battle (1767-69)
- First Anglo-Maratha battle (1775-82)
- First Anglo-Afghan battle (1839-42)
- Anglo-Nepalese war (1816)

