

## UPSC Monthly Magazine Answer Key – June 2020

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

1. Cyclonic storms are common in the pre-monsoon season.
2. The 2019, Cyclone Vayu, which formed in the Bay of Bengal, stalled the monsoons after it entered Kerala.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Cyclonic storms are common in the pre-monsoon season. The path taken by the cyclones can have a bearing on the progress of the monsoons.
- In 2019, Cyclone Vayu, which formed in the Arabian Sea, stalled the monsoons after it entered Kerala.

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

1. The Gulf of Mannar is a large shallow bay forming part of the Laccadive Sea in the Indian Ocean.
2. The Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve is the largest biosphere in India area-wise.
3. Dugong, the endangered herbivorous marine mammal, is found in the Gulf of Mannar.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The Gulf of Mannar is a large shallow bay forming part of the Laccadive Sea in the Indian Ocean. It lies between the west coast of Sri Lanka and the south-eastern tip of India, in the Coromandel Coast region.
- The Gulf of Mannar, endowed with three distinct coastal ecosystems namely, coral reef, seagrass bed and mangroves, is considered one of the world's richest regions from a marine biodiversity perspective, and is known for its unique biological wealth. It is a storehouse of marine diversity of global significance.
- The sea bottom of the inshore area around the islands are carpeted with seagrass beds which serve as ideal feeding ground for Dugong, the endangered herbivorous marine mammal.
- Kachchh is the largest biosphere in India area-wise.

**Q3. Which of the following is not a centrally sponsored scheme?**

- a. Nutrient Based Subsidy
- b. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana
- c. Mid-day meal scheme
- d. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- In India's developmental plan exercise, we have two types of schemes viz; central sector and centrally sponsored scheme. The nomenclature is derived from the pattern of funding and the modality for implementation.
  - The Central sector schemes are 100% funded by the Union Government and implemented by the Central Government machinery. Central sector schemes are mainly formulated on subjects from the Union List. In addition, the Central Ministries also implement some schemes directly in States/UTs, which are called Central Sector Schemes but resources under these Schemes are not generally transferred to States.
  - Under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), a certain percentage of the funding is borne by the States in the ratio of 50:50, 70:30, 75:25 or 90:10 and the implementation is by the State Governments. Centrally Sponsored Schemes are formulated in subjects from the State List to encourage States to prioritise in areas that require more attention.
- Nutrient Based Subsidy scheme of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers is a central sector scheme.

**Q4. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. India is the largest milk producer in the world.
2. Close to 90% of the marketable surplus of milk production in India is handled by the organised sector.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- India ranks first in milk production, accounting for 20 per cent of world production.
- The 2018-19 Economic Survey notes that though India maintains its position as the world's top milk producer, with production of 176.3 million tonne in 2017-18, more than 50% of the marketable surplus is still handled by the unorganised sector.

**Q5. Consider the following statements with respect to Bar Council of India:**

1. It is a constitutional body.
2. The Attorney General of India and the Solicitor General of India are its ex officio members.
3. It sets standards for legal education and grants recognition to Universities whose degree in law will serve as qualification for enrolment as an advocate.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The Bar Council of India is a statutory body created by Parliament to regulate and represent the Indian bar.
- It was established by Parliament under the Advocates Act, 1961.

- It performs the regulatory function by prescribing standards of professional conduct and etiquette and by exercising disciplinary jurisdiction over the bar.
- It also sets standards for legal education and grants recognition to Universities whose degree in law will serve as qualification for enrolment as an advocate.
- Attorney General of India and the Solicitor General of India are ex officio members of the Bar Council of India.

**Q6. Consider the following statements with respect to Minimum Support Price (MSPs):**

1. Minimum Support Price (MSP) helps insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices by announcing a guarantee price for their produce.
2. Government announces MSPs for 14 Kharif crops, 6 Rabi crops and 2 commercial crops.
3. MSP is recommended by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs and approved by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

**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:**

- Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a form of market intervention by the Government of India to insure agricultural producers against any sharp fall in farm prices. MSP is price fixed by Government of India to protect the producer - farmers - against excessive fall in price during bumper production years. The minimum support prices are a guarantee price for their produce from the Government.
- The minimum support prices are announced by the Government of India at the beginning of the sowing season
- Government announces minimum support prices (MSPs) for 22 mandated crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane.
- The mandated crops are 14 crops of the Kharif season, 6 Rabi crops and two other commercial crops.
- MSP is recommended by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and approved by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

**Q7. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Constitution provides that the Rajya Sabha shall consist of 245 members, of which 12 members shall be nominated by the President.
2. Elections to the Rajya Sabha are conducted in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.
3. The Third Schedule to the Constitution provides for the allocation of seats to the States and Union Territories in Rajya Sabha.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The Constitution provides that the Rajya Sabha shall consist of 250 members, of which 12 members shall be nominated by the President.
- The present strength, however, is 245 members of whom 233 are representatives of the states and union territories and 12 are nominated by the President.
- Elections to the Rajya Sabha are indirect; members representing States are elected by elected members of legislative assemblies of the States in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.
- The Fourth Schedule to the Constitution provides for the allocation of seats to the States and Union Territories in Rajya Sabha.

**Q8. "Earthquake Swarm" refers to:**

- a. A series of earthquakes occurring in a region within a relatively short period of time, without a major earthquake.
- b. The point where the energy is released during an earthquake.
- c. A mild earthquake preceding the violent shaking movement of an earthquake.
- d. Earthquakes of volcanic origin.

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- An earthquake swarm is a sequence of seismic events occurring in a local area within a relatively short period of time.
- Large numbers of small earthquakes may occur in a region for months without a major earthquake. Such series of earthquakes are called earthquake swarms.
- Hypocentre is the point where the energy is released during the earthquake.
- A mild earthquake preceding the violent shaking movement of an earthquake is known as a foreshock.

**Q9. Consider the following statements:**

1. Corona is the outermost shell of the Sun's atmosphere.
2. Chromosphere is a transparent layer between the corona and the photosphere.
3. Photosphere is the visible surface of the Sun.

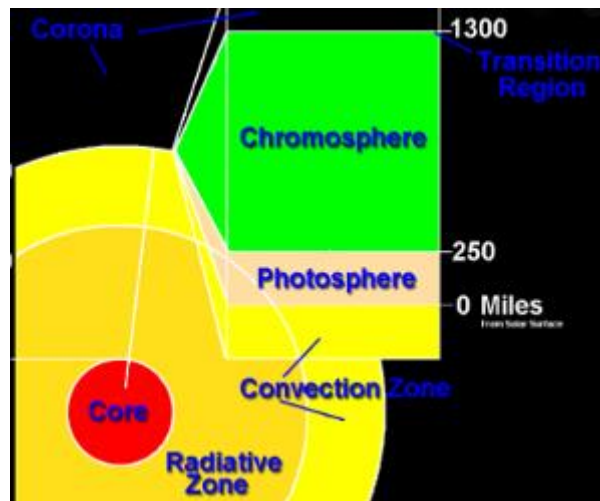
**Which of the given statement/s is/are correct?**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Corona is the outermost shell of the Sun's atmosphere. Chromosphere is a transparent layer between the corona and the photosphere. Photosphere is the visible surface of the Sun.



**Q10. Which among these tribes rear Changthangi and are the traditional producers of the Pashmina wool in the Ladakh region?**

- a. Changpa Tribe
- b. Bakarwal Tribe
- c. Dogra Tribe
- d. Balti Tribe

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

The Changthangi or Pashmina goat is a special breed of goat indigenous to the high altitude regions of Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir. The Changpa tribe, from the Changthang region are known to be the traditional producers of Pashmina Wool in the Ladakh region.

**Q11. Consider the following statements with respect to National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT):**

- 1. It was constituted under the Companies Act, 2013.
- 2. It hears appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
- 3. It is the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) was constituted under Section 410 of the Companies Act, 2013. It hears appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). It is also the Appellate Tribunal to hear and dispose of appeals against any direction issued or decision made or order passed by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

**Q12. Gilgit-Baltistan borders:**

1. China
2. Afghanistan
3. Tajikistan

**Choose the correct option:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Gilgit-Baltistan borders China in the North, Afghanistan in the west and Kashmir and Ladakh to the southeast.
- It shares a geographical boundary with Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), and India considers it as part of the undivided Jammu and Kashmir, while Pakistan considers it as separate from PoK.

**Q13. Consider the following statements:**

1. Deep Web is the area of the Internet which is not accessible through search engines.
2. Dark Web is part of the Deep Web.
3. Dark Web is shielded by specialised software and is deliberately hidden.

**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: d**

**Explanation:**

- Dark Net (or Darknet) is an umbrella term describing the portions of the Internet not open to public view or hidden networks whose architecture is superimposed on that of the Internet.
- Deep Web is the area of the Internet which is not accessible through search engines. What can be accessed through search engines is called Surface Web.
- To get into the Deep Web one should know the right address.
- Dark Web is part of the Deep Web.
- While the Deep Web is accessible, the Dark Web is deliberately hidden.
- While incognito mode disables browsing history and web cache, the Dark Web is shielded by specialised software.

**Q14. Consider the following pairs:**

1. Border Security Force (BSF) – Bangladesh
2. Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) – China
3. Sashastra Seema Bal – Myanmar border
4. Assam Rifles – Nepal border

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Border Security Force (BSF) is deployed along the Bangladesh and Pakistan borders.
- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) is deployed on the China border.
- The Sashastra Seema Bal is deployed along the Nepal border.
- The Assam Rifles stationed is deployed along the Myanmar border.

**Q15. Consider the following statements with respect to Border Area Development Programme (BADP):**

1. Ministry of Defence has been implementing the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) as part of a comprehensive approach to Border Management.
2. The funds under BADP are provided to the States as a 100% non-lapsable Special Central Assistance.
3. The BADP schemes include construction of primary health centres, schools, supply of drinking water and other socio-economic aspects.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Details:**

- The Department of Border Management, Ministry of Home Affairs has been implementing the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) through the State Governments as part of a comprehensive approach to Border Management.
- The funds under BADP are provided to the States as a 100% non-lapsable Special Central Assistance.
- Initially, the programme laid emphasis on the development of infrastructure to facilitate deployment of the Border Security Force. Later, the ambit of the programme was widened to include other socio-economic aspects such as education, health, agriculture and other allied sectors.
- The BADP schemes include construction of primary health centres, schools, supply of drinking water and other socio-economic aspects.

**Q16. Consider the following statements with respect to River Yamuna:**

1. It is declared a living person.
2. Tons, Hindon and Giri Rivers are its tributaries.
3. It is a major left bank tributary of River Ganga.

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

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



**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The Uttarakhand High Court, in March 2017, declared the rivers Ganga and Yamuna as “living persons.”
- However, the Supreme Court in July 2017, overruled the order made by the High Court in Uttarakhand state, which said that the two rivers had the same legal status as human beings by stating that “India’s revered Ganges and Yamuna rivers cannot be viewed as living entities”.
- River Yamuna is a major Right bank Tributary of River Ganga.
- Tons, Hindon, Ken, Betwa, Sengar, Rind and Giri Rivers are the tributaries of River Yamuna.

**Q17. Consider the following statements with respect to River Amarnaya:**

1. It is a river in Siberia, within the Arctic Circle.
2. It flows in a northerly direction into Lake Pyasino.

**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:**

- River Amarnaya is a river in Siberia.
- The river lies within the Arctic Circle.
- It flows in a northerly direction into Lake Pyasino.
- It is heavily polluted by the mining industry of Norilsk.

**Q18. Consider the following statements with respect to PM CARES Fund:**

1. PM CARES Fund is barred from accepting donations and contributions from individuals and organizations based in foreign countries.
2. It is a Public Authority under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.
3. The fund gets annual budgetary support in addition to voluntary contributions from individuals or organizations.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Under the PM CARES Fund, a separate account for receiving the donations from the foreign countries has been opened. This enables PM CARES Fund to accept donations and contributions from individuals and organizations based in foreign countries. Foreign donations in the PM CARES Fund would also get exemption under the FCRA.



- The fund does not get any budgetary support and consists entirely of voluntary contributions from individuals or organizations.
- It is not a Public Authority under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

**Q19. Consider the following statements with respect to Chief of Defence Staff (CDS):**

1. CDS as a single-point military adviser to the government was suggested by the Kargil Review Committee in 1999.
2. CDS has the direct command of tri-service organizations.
3. Both Defence Acquisition Council and Defence Planning Committee are chaired by the CDS.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Chief of Defence Staff is the single-point military adviser to the government as suggested by the Kargil Review Committee in 1999.
- CDS coordinates the working of the three Services. CDS has the direct command of tri-service organizations.
- CDS will be member of Defence Acquisition Council chaired by Raksha Mantri and Defence Planning Committee chaired by National Security Advisor.

**Q20. Consider the following statements with respect to Silent Valley National Park:**

1. It is located in the Nilgiri Hills of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.
2. River Periyar flows through the national park.
3. It has a large population of lion-tailed macaques.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Silent Valley National Park is located in the Nilgiri Hills, at the heart of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. River Kunthi flows through the National Park. It has a large population of lion-tailed macaques.

**Q21. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The 10 non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council are elected by the United Nations General Assembly for a term of four years.
2. The non-permanent members of the Council would be elected according to a regional grouping basis with the highest representation for the western European region.
3. A retiring member of the UNSC is eligible for immediate re-election.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d****Explanation:**

- The Security Council consists of five permanent members (China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America) and 10 non-permanent members elected by the General Assembly for a term of two years.
- The General Assembly elects each year, five non-permanent members of the Security Council.
- The non-permanent members of the Council should be elected according to the following pattern:
  - Five from African and Asian States;
  - One from Eastern European States;
  - Two from Latin American States;
  - Two from Western European and other States.
- A retiring member is not eligible for immediate re-election. The election is held by secret ballot and there are no nominations. The non-permanent members of the Security Council are elected by a two-thirds majority.

**Q22. The Payments Infrastructure Development Fund has been set up by which of the following?**

- a. The Reserve Bank of India
- b. Indian Banks Association
- c. Ministry of Finance
- d. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

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

- The RBI has created a Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) to encourage acquirers to deploy Points of Sale (PoS) infrastructure — both physical and digital modes — in tier-3 to tier-6 centres and north eastern states.

**Q23. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. LiDAR technology is limited to the use of ultraviolet light for imaging objects.
2. LiDAR technology is employed in high-resolution imaging, obstacle detection and avoidance for autonomous vehicles, meteorological applications.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: b****Explanation:**

- LiDAR, is a remote sensing method that uses light in the form of a pulsed laser to measure ranges (variable distances) to the Earth.
- Lidar uses ultraviolet, visible, or near infrared light to image objects. It can target a wide range of materials, including non-metallic objects, rocks, rain, chemical compounds, aerosols, clouds and even single molecules.
- This technology finds application in diverse areas like preparation of high-resolution maps, in autonomous vehicles and meteorological applications.

**Q24. Petrapole is located in which of the following states?**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- India's Customs port, Petrapole in West Bengal, on the India-Bangladesh border accounts for a majority of bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh. The trade happens through Petrapole (India) and Benapole (Bangladesh).
- It is the largest international land port in India.

**Q25. Which of the following statement/s is/are incorrect?**

1. Insulin is a hormone secreted by the pancreas.
2. Type 1 diabetes is the most common type of diabetes and accounts for around 90% of all diabetes cases.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Diabetes is a chronic disease that occurs when the pancreas is no longer able to make insulin, or when the body cannot make good use of the insulin it produces.
- Insulin is a hormone made by the pancreas. Insulin helps glucose get into the cells.
- Not being able to produce insulin or use it effectively leads to raised glucose levels in the blood (known as hyperglycaemia). Over the long-term high glucose levels are associated with damage to the body and failure of various organs and tissues.
- There are three main types of diabetes – type 1, type 2 and gestational.
  - **Type 1 diabetes** can develop at any age, but occurs most frequently in children and adolescents. When you have type 1 diabetes, your body produces very little or no insulin, which means that you need daily insulin injections to maintain blood glucose levels under control.
  - **Type 2 diabetes** is more common in adults and accounts for around 90% of all diabetes cases. When you have type 2 diabetes, your body does not make good use of the insulin that it produces. The cornerstone of type 2 diabetes treatment is healthy lifestyle, including increased physical activity and

healthy diet. However, over time most people with type 2 diabetes will require oral drugs and/or insulin to keep their blood glucose levels under control.

- **Gestational diabetes (GDM)** is a type of diabetes that consists of high blood glucose during pregnancy and is associated with complications to both mother and child. GDM usually disappears after pregnancy but women affected and their children are at increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes later in life.

**Q26. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. TRAFFIC was founded as a strategic alliance of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
2. TRAFFIC's headquarters is located in Cambridge, United Kingdom.
3. TRAFFIC promotes sustainable wildlife trade and combats wildlife crime and trafficking.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- TRAFFIC, the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network, is a leading non-governmental organisation working globally on the trade of wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity and sustainable development.
- It was founded in 1976 as a strategic alliance of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- The organisation's aim is to 'ensure that trade in wild plants and animals are not a threat to the conservation of nature'. It states that through research, analysis, guidance and influence, it promotes sustainable wildlife trade (the green stream work) and combats wildlife crime and trafficking (the red stream work).
- TRAFFIC's headquarters, established in 1979, is located in Cambridge, United Kingdom. It has offices located in 15 strategically important locations in Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and Oceania.

**Q27. Which of the following pairs is not a converging system of plates?**

- a. Eurasian Plate and the Indian Plate
- b. Australian Plate and the Pacific Plate
- c. Eurasian and North American Plate
- d. Nazca Plate and the South American Plate

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The Mid-Atlantic Ridge (MAR) is a mid-ocean ridge, a divergent or constructive plate boundary located along the floor of the Atlantic Ocean, and part of the longest mountain range in the world.
- In the North Atlantic, it separates the Eurasian and North American plates, and in the South Atlantic, it separates the African and South American plates.
- Some examples of converging plates:
  - The collision between the Eurasian Plate and the Indian Plate that is forming the Himalayas.

- The collision between the Australian Plate and the Pacific Plate that formed the Southern Alps in New Zealand
- Subduction of the Nazca Plate beneath the South American Plate to form the Andes.

**Q28. Which of the following statement/s is/are incorrect?**

1. River Vamsadhara is an east flowing river, with its basin spread over the states of Odisha, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh states.
2. River Vamsadhara lies to the south of the Rushikulya River.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- River Vamsadhara is an important east-flowing river between Rushikulya and Godavari, in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh states in India.

**Q29. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)?**

1. The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) is monitoring the implementation of the scheme in association with state governments.
2. It provides a legal guarantee for 100 days of employment in every financial year to adult members of BPL households only.
3. There is a provision for right to get unemployment allowance in case employment is not provided within 30 days of application for the job.
4. Social Audit of MGNREGA works is mandatory.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), also known as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), is an Indian legislation enacted on August 25, 2005.
- The Ministry of Rural Development (MRD), Govt. of India, is monitoring the entire implementation of this scheme in association with state governments.
- The salient aspects of the scheme include:
  - The MGNREGA provides a legal guarantee for one hundred 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.

- 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.

**Q30. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. Odisha has the largest tribal population among the states of India.
2. Odisha has the maximum number of PVTGs among the states of India.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- According to 2011 Census, Odisha's tribal population constitutes 9.17% of the country's tribal population. In Odisha, tribal population is 22.85% of State's total population.
- With 62 tribal communities, Odisha has the most diverse tribes in India. In terms of tribal population, Odisha occupies the third position in India.
- Out of a total of 75 particularly vulnerable tribal groups in India, 13 reside in Odisha, which is the highest among the states of India.

**Q31. If a person is travelling by road from Keonjhar to Imphal, what is the minimum number of states that he/she will have to pass through including the source and destination states?**

- a. 3
- b. 4
- c. 5
- d. 6

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Odisha (Keonjhar) – West Bengal – Assam – Manipur (Imphal)

**Q32. Which of the following statement/s is/are incorrect?**

1. India is the largest producer of natural rubber in the world.
2. Kerala is the largest producer of natural rubber in India.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Thailand is the largest producer of natural rubber in the world followed by Indonesia.
- In India, Kerala is the largest producer of natural rubber.

**Q33. Which of the given pair/s is/are NOT correctly matched?**

1. Global Competitiveness Report: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
2. Global Economic Prospects: World Economic Forum
3. World Economic Outlook: World Bank
4. Global Financial Stability Report: International Monetary Fund

**Options:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Global Competitiveness Report: World Economic Forum
- Global Economic Prospects: World Bank
- World Economic Outlook: International Monetary Fund
- Global Financial Stability Report: International Monetary Fund

**Q34. Consider the following statements with respect to National Human Rights Commission (NHRC):**

1. National Human Rights Commission is a constitutional body.
2. The recommendations made by the NHRC are not binding.
3. Violation of human rights by private parties cannot be considered under NHRC jurisdiction.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- National Human Rights Commissions (NHRC) is an autonomous public body constituted under the Protection of Human Rights Ordinance. It was given a statutory basis by the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
- NHRC can only make recommendations, without the power to enforce decisions. NHRC recommendations are not binding.
- Violation of human rights by private parties cannot be considered under NHRC jurisdiction.

**Q35. Consider the following statements:**



1. RBI carries out the Open Market Operations through commercial banks and does not directly deal with the public.
2. When the RBI wants to infuse liquidity into the monetary system, it will sell government securities in the open market.
3. Repurchase Agreement (REPO) is used by the central bank as a tool of open market operations.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- RBI carries out the Open Market Operations through commercial banks and does not directly deal with the public.
- The objective of OMO is to regulate the money supply in the economy.
- When the central bank wants to infuse liquidity into the monetary system, it will buy government securities in the open market. It sells government securities to suck out liquidity from the system.
- REPOs are typically used to raise short-term capital. They are also a common tool of central bank open market operations.

**Q36. 'Oncomirs' recently in news refer to:**

- a. The process of controlling micro RNAs for bio-fortification.
- b. Micro RNAs associated with cancer.
- c. Magnetocaloric materials used for cancer treatment.
- d. An artificial intelligence-based computer diagnosis framework for rapid and accurate diagnosis of oral cancers.

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are short noncoding RNAs containing 20–24 nucleotides that participate in virtually all biological pathways in animals.
- The miRNAs affect cancer growth through inhibiting or enhancing the functions of certain proteins.
- The miRNAs associated with cancer are called 'Oncomirs'.
- Many of the Oncomirs affect cancer by suppressing the performance of tumour-suppressing agents. Some of them can prevent the growth and spread of cancer cells and yet others prevent tumour growth itself.

**Q37. Consider the following statements:**

1. Currently 6 states in India have a Legislative Council.
2. The number of members in the Legislative Council should not be less than 40.
3. Total number of members in the legislative Council of a state must not exceed two-third of the members in the Legislative Assembly of that state.

**Which of the given statement is/are INCORRECT?**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- As per Article 171 clause (1) of the Indian Constitution, the total number of members in the Legislative Council of a state shall not exceed one third of the total number of the members in the Legislative Assembly of that state and the total number of members in the Legislative Council of a state shall in no case be less than 40.
- Currently Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh have a Legislative Council.

**Q38. Which of the following pairs of Tiger Reserves and their locations is/are correctly matched?**

1. Tadoba-Andhari : Maharashtra
2. Nagarhole : Karnataka
3. Pilibhit : Uttar Pradesh
4. Simlipal : Mizoram

**Options:**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

There are 50 Tiger Reserves in India.

- TadobaAndhari Tiger Reserve : Maharashtra
- Nagar Hole : Karnataka
- Pilibhit : Uttar Pradesh
- Simlipal : Odisha

**Q39. Which of these are East flowing rivers that originate in the Western Ghats?**

1. Godavari
2. Krishna
3. Kaveri
4. Mahanadi

**Options:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Rivers Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri originate in the Western Ghats. River Mahanadi rises from a place near Sihawa in Bastar hills in the state of Chhattisgarh. Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri are all East flowing rivers.

**Q40. Consider the following statements with respect to the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS):**

1. The scheme is applicable to MSMEs and MUDRA borrowers only.
2. Under the scheme 100% guarantee coverage is provided for additional funding of up to Rs. 3 lakh crore in the form of a Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line facility.
3. Tenor of the loan under the scheme is four years with a moratorium period of one year on the principal amount.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Under Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) provides 100% guarantee coverage for additional funding of up to Rs. 3 lakh crore to eligible MSMEs and interested MUDRA borrowers in the form of a Guaranteed Emergency Credit Line (GECL) facility.
- Tenor of the loan under the scheme is four years with a moratorium period of one year on the principal amount.

**Q41. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) of India was created on the recommendations of the Malhotra Committee report.
2. IRDA is headquartered in Mumbai.
3. Insurance is a subject listed in the Union List in the Seventh Schedule.

**Which of the above 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

**Ans: c**

- IRDA is headquartered in Hyderabad.

**Q42. With reference to Dibru Saikhowa National Park, which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. It is also designated as a Biosphere Reserve and is situated in the state of Assam.
2. It is the largest salix swamp forest in north-eastern India.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

- Dibru-Saikhowa is a National Park as well as a Biosphere Reserve situated in the state of Assam.
- It is the largest salix swamp forest in north-eastern India.
- The park is bounded by the Brahmaputra and Lohit Rivers in the north and Dibru River in the south.
- The forest type of Dibru-Saikhowa comprises of semi-evergreen forests, deciduous forests, littoral and swamp forests and patches of wet evergreen forests.

**Q43. Which of the following statement/s is/are incorrect about Teesta River?**

1. It originates from the Pahunri glacier.
2. It flows through the states of Sikkim and Assam.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: b**

- Teesta River originates from the Pahunri (or Teesta Kangse) glacier
- It flows through the Indian states of Sikkim and West Bengal through Bangladesh and enters the Bay of Bengal.

**Q44. India is party to which of the following conventions?**

1. Biological Weapons Convention
2. Chemical Weapons Convention
3. Convention on Cluster Munitions

**Options:**

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

**Answer: a**

- In 2008, the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) was adopted by 107 countries at a diplomatic conference in Dublin, Ireland. India is not a party to this Convention.
  - Both India and Pakistan are non-signatories of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.
- Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) bans the use, production, stockpiling, and transfer of cluster munitions, and places obligations on countries to clear affected areas, assist victims, and destroy stockpiles.

**Q45. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to Gaur (Indian bison)?**

1. It is currently limited only to India in the South Asian region.
2. It is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and listed in Schedule-1 of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. It has been domesticated in north east India and is referred to as Mithun.

**Options:**

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The gaur, *Bos gaurus*, also called the Indian bison, is one of the largest extant bovines. It is native to South and Southeast Asia. In Malaysia, it is called seladang, and pyaung in Myanmar. It is also found in Nepal and Bhutan.
- It is categorized as vulnerable in the IUCN Red list of threatened species, 2009 and listed in Schedule-1 of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- The global population has been estimated at maximum 21,000 mature individuals by 2016. It declined by more than 70% during the last three generations, and is extinct in Sri Lanka and probably also in Bangladesh.
- The domesticated form of the gaur is called gayal (*Bos frontalis*) or Mithun.

**Q46. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to the International Criminal Court?**

1. It is based in Geneva, Switzerland.
2. It has jurisdiction over all UN General Assembly members.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Hague-based International Criminal Court (ICC) has been set-up to prosecute war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity. It was established in 2002.
- It has jurisdiction only if a member state (those who accede to the Rome Statute) is unable or unwilling to prosecute atrocities itself.
  - The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court is the treaty that established the International Criminal Court.

**Q47. Which of the following are parameters considered in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)?**

1. Perception of the stakeholders
2. Outreach and inclusivity
3. Graduation outcomes
4. Research outcome
5. Teaching and learning resources

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The parameters considered for NIRF include the following:
  - Teaching, Learning & Resources – These parameters are related to the core activities of any place of learning. These lay emphasis on measuring numbers and quality of faculty, library and lab resources and general facilities for development of young persons.
  - Research, Professional Practice & Collaborative Performance – Excellence in teaching and learning is closely associated with the scholarship of the faculty and students. Equally, faculty members are expected to make their knowledge and expertise available to benefit the society and industry. These parameters, therefore, attempt to measure the quantity and quality of research output as n through international data bases, IPR generation and interface with industry and fellow professionals.
  - Graduation Outcomes – This parameter forms the ultimate test of the effectiveness of the core teaching/learning activity, and measures the student graduation rate and their success in finding appropriate placement in industry and Government or taking up higher studies.
  - Outreach – This Ranking framework lays special emphasis on representation of women and socially challenged persons in student and/or faculty populations, and also on outreach activities of the institution.
  - Perception – The ranking methodology gives a significant importance to the perception of the institution by its stakeholders.

**Q48. Which of the following statement correctly describes white label ATMs?**

- a. ATMs set up, owned and operated by non-bank entities.
- b. ATMs which are owned and maintained by service providers whereas a sponsor bank whose brand is used on ATM takes care of cash management and network connectivity.
- c. ATMs which use security features like fingerprint scanner and eye scanner of the customer to access the bank details.
- d. ATMs limited to operation only in rural areas.

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) set up, owned and operated by non-bank entities are called “White Label ATMs” (WLAs).
- Brown Label ATMs are ATMs where the banks have outsourced the ATM operations to a third party. These ATMs are owned and maintained by service providers whereas a sponsor bank whose brand is used on ATM takes care of cash management and network connectivity.

**Q49. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. States are guaranteed a 14 per cent tax revenue growth in the first five years after GST implementation.
2. As per the GST act, the Centre must pay the States full compensation for any shortfall in GST revenue collections until 2022.
3. The compensation cess meant to finance the compensation paid to the states is levied on all goods.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- States, in lieu of giving up their powers to collect taxes on goods and services after local levies were subsumed under the GST, were guaranteed a 14 per cent tax revenue growth in the first five years after GST implementation by the Central government.
- Under GST law, states are guaranteed full compensation for any revenue loss for the first five years after the introduction of the goods and services tax (GST) in July 2017.
- States' tax revenue as of FY16 is considered as the base year for the calculation of this 14 per cent growth.
- Any shortfall against it is supposed to be compensated by the Centre using the funds specifically collected as compensation cess.
- Compensation cess is levied on products considered to be 'sin' or luxury goods. The collected compensation cess flows into the Consolidated Fund of India, and then transferred to the Public Account of India, where a GST compensation cess account has been created. States are compensated bi-monthly from the accumulated funds in this account.

**Q50. In which of the following fields does Doppler Effect find application?**

1. Weather forecasting
2. Flow measurement
3. Radar technology
4. Medical field
5. Aerospace navigation
6. Military applications

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The Doppler Effect also called the Doppler shift refers to the change in the wavelength or in the frequency of a wave for a viewer who is walking relative to the source of the wave.
- A Doppler radar uses the Doppler Effect to produce velocity data about objects at a distance. It does this by bouncing a microwave signal off a desired target and analyzing how the object's motion has altered the frequency of the returned signal.
- Doppler Effect has numerous applications.

**Q51. Which of the following correctly describes the term Phishing?**

- a. It involves making a machine or network resource unavailable to its intended users by temporarily or indefinitely disrupting services of a host connected to the Internet.
- b. It involves disguising oneself as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication to obtain sensitive information.
- c. It involves gaining access to personal electronic devices through mimicking of biometric details of the original user.



- d. It involves locking the user out of their files or their device and demanding an anonymous online payment to restore access.

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Phishing is the fraudulent attempt to obtain sensitive information such as usernames, passwords and credit card details by disguising oneself as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication.

**Q52. Which of the following pairs is wrongly matched?**

- a. Lonar lake: Maharashtra
- b. Loktak lake: Manipur
- c. Wular lake: Jammu and Kashmir
- d. Bhojtal: Haryana

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Bhojtal Lake is located in Madhya Pradesh.

**Q53. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct about Sant Dnyaneshwar?**

1. He was a 13th-century saint philosopher from the Matura region.
2. He authored Dnyaneshwari which is a commentary on the Bhagavad Gita.
3. He is regarded as one of the founders of the Varkari Bhakthi movement.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Sant Dnyaneshwar also referred to as Jnaneshwar was a 13th-century Indian Marathi saint, poet, philosopher and yogi of the Nath Vaishnava tradition.
- He authored Dnyaneshwari (a commentary on the Bhagavad Gita) and Amrutanubhav. These are the oldest surviving literary works in the Marathi language, under the patronage of the Yadava dynasty of Devagiri, and these are considered to be milestones in Marathi literature.
- Dnyaneshwar's ideas reflect the non-dualistic Advaita Vedanta philosophy. He was an ardent devotee of Lord Vitthala (a form of Lord Vishnu) of Pandharpur.
- His legacy inspired saint-poets such as Eknath and Tukaram, and he has been regarded as one of the founders of the Varkari (Vithoba-Krishna) Bhakti movement tradition of Hinduism in Maharashtra.

**Q54. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to the Attorney General?**

1. He/she is appointed by the President of India on the advice of Union Cabinet and holds office during the pleasure of the President.
2. He/she must be a person qualified to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court.

3. The Attorney General has the right of audience in all Courts in India as well as the right to participate in the proceedings of the Parliament, though not to vote

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Attorney General for India is the Indian government's chief legal advisor and is a primary lawyer in the Supreme Court of India.
- They are appointed by the President of India on the advice of Union Cabinet under Article 76(1) of the Constitution and holds office during the pleasure of the President.
- They must be a person qualified to be appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court. (They must have been a judge of some high court for five years or an advocate of some high court for ten years or an eminent jurist, in the opinion of the President and must be a citizen of India.)
- The Attorney General has the right of audience in all Courts in India as well as the right to participate in the proceedings of the Parliament, though not to vote.

**Q55. The RECOVERY trial is associated with which of the following?**

- a. It is the experiment conducted by ISRO to test the efficacy of its pad abort system.
- b. It is the experiment involving the study of novel bacteria in absorbing oil spill in the Russian Arctic region.
- c. It is a large randomised controlled trial to test the efficacy of potential drugs for treating COVID-19 patients.
- d. It is a mock drill conducted by the NDRF to check its preparedness to the landfall of severe cyclones

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The RECOVERY trial is a large randomised controlled trial to test five drugs, including hydroxychloroquine and convalescent plasma therapy for treating COVID-19 in patients in U.K. hospitals.

**Q56. Which of the following correctly describes the goal of the Jal Jeevan Mission?**

- a. It envisages providing piped drinking water to all rural households by 2024.
- b. The scheme aims to provide piped water to every household within the next 5 years
- c. It is envisaged as a demand-driven and community centred program to provide sustainable access to drinking water to people in rural areas.
- d. It envisages providing piped drinking water to all BPL households by 2022.

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The Jal Jeevan Mission envisages providing piped drinking water to all rural households by 2024.

**Q57. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?**

- 1. Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR): Gurugram

2. Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC): Madagascar
3. European maritime surveillance initiative in the Strait of Hormuz: Abu Dhabi

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Indian Navy set up the Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) in Gurugram in December 2018 to track maritime movements in the Indian Ocean region.
- The Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) in Madagascar, functions under the aegis of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC).
- The European maritime surveillance initiative in the Strait of Hormuz is headquartered at the French naval base in Abu Dhabi.

**Q58. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to Indian Ocean Commission (IOC):**

1. It is an intergovernmental organisation headquartered in Mauritius.
2. India is an observer member of IOC.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) is an intergovernmental regional forum in the Southwest Indian Ocean, comprising five nations — Comoros, France (Reunion), Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles.
- It is headquartered in Mauritius.
- India has been recently granted observer status in the Indian Ocean Commission.

**Q59. Which of the following cities lies on a longitude closest to Bangalore?**

- a. Hyderabad
- b. Nagpur
- c. Bhopal
- d. Thiruvananthapuram

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Bangalore (77.59 deg E longitude) and Bhopal (77.41 deg E longitude)

**Q60. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The Non-Cooperation Movement arose in the backdrop of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and the controversy surrounding the Rowlatt Act.
2. Post the Chauri Chaura incident in February 1922, Gandhi called off the Non-Cooperation Movement.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The Non-Cooperation Movement was launched in 1920 by Mahatma Gandhi with the aim of self-governance and obtaining full independence following the Rowlatt Act of 1919, and the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 13 April 1919.
- Rowlatt Act was a legislation passed by the Imperial Legislative Council, the legislature of British India. The acts allowed certain political cases to be tried without juries and permitted internment of suspects without trial.
- Post the Chauri Chaura incident in February 1922, Gandhi called off the Non-Cooperation Movement.

**Q61. Consider the following statements with respect to “Talamaddale”:**

1. It is a variant of the traditional Indian theatre form, Yakshagana.
2. Major highlights of this art form are dance, costumes and stage conventions.
3. The chief narrator in the Talamaddale performance is known as Arthadhari.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Talamaddale is a variant of the traditional Indian theatre form, Yakshagana.
- Unlike the Yakshagana performance, in the conventional ‘talamaddale,’ the artists sit across in a place without any costumes and engage in testing their oratory skills based on the episode chosen.
- If music is common for both Yakshagana performance and ‘talamaddale’, the latter **has only spoken word without any dance or costumes. Hence, it is an art form minus dance, costumes and stage conventions.**
- The chief narrator is known as Bhagavata and his associates are called as Arthadharis.
- ‘Arthadhari’ in a talamaddale performance is an artist who is an orator.

**Q62. Under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 1961:**

1. A diplomat enjoys immunity from the criminal jurisdiction of the receiving State.
2. The diplomat is exempt from the jurisdiction of the sending State.
3. The private residence of a diplomatic agent shall enjoy the same inviolability and protection as the premises of the mission.

**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: c**

**Explanation:**

- A diplomatic agent shall enjoy immunity from the criminal jurisdiction of the receiving State.
- The immunity of a diplomat from the jurisdiction of the receiving State does not exempt him from the jurisdiction of the sending State.
- The private residence of a diplomatic agent shall enjoy the same inviolability and protection as the premises of the mission.

**Q63. Consider the following statements:**

1. Russia and the USA together possess over 90 per cent of the global nuclear weapons.
2. Both China and Pakistan have larger nuclear arsenals than India.
3. The New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, to which India, Russia, USA and China are party, would lapse in 2021.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Russia and the USA together possess over 90 per cent of the global nuclear weapons.
- Both China and Pakistan have larger nuclear arsenals than India.
- The U.S. and Russia have reduced their nuclear arsenals under the 2010 New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START) – a bilateral agreement, but it is set to lapse in February 2021.

**Q64. Consider the following statements with respect to International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA):**

1. IAEA is one of the specialised agencies of the United Nations.
2. India is a founding member of the IAEA.
3. Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) is a programme created by IAEA.

**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: a**

**Explanation:**

- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is a Vienna-based, United Nations agency working in the field of nuclear cooperation. However, it is not a specialised agency of the UN.

- It was set up as the world's "Atoms for Peace" organization in 1957 within the United Nations family.
- India is a founding member of the IAEA.
- Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT) is a programme created by the IAEA in 2004 to build upon the Agency's experience in radiation medicine and technology, and enable developing countries to improve their cancer care capacity and services in a sustainable manner by integrating radiotherapy into a comprehensive cancer control programme that maximizes its therapeutic effectiveness and impact.

**Q65. Consider the following statements with respect to Lonar Lake:**

1. It is a volcanic crater.
2. It is a National Geo-heritage Monument.
3. Lonar Lake and surrounding regions are declared as a wetland of ecological importance under the Ramsar Convention.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Lonar Lake was created by an asteroid collision with earth impact during the Pleistocene Epoch. It is not a volcanic crater.
- It is a notified National Geo-heritage Monument.
- Lonar Lake and surrounding regions are **proposed to be declared as a wetland of ecological importance under the Ramsar Convention.**
- The oval-shaped Lonar Lake is a part of the 383-hectare Lonar Wildlife Sanctuary.

**Q66. Consider the following statements with respect to Gangetic River Dolphins:**

1. They are blind and catch their prey using ultrasonic sound waves.
2. They are categorised as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
3. It is the National Aquatic Animal of India.
4. It is the official animal of Guwahati.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Details:**

- Gangetic River Dolphins are blind and catch their prey using ultrasonic sound waves.
- They are categorised as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.
- It is the National Aquatic Animal of India.
- Assam's Guwahati became the first city in the country to have its own city animal with the district administration declaring Gangetic River Dolphins as the official animal of Guwahati.

**Q67. Consider the following statements:**

1. Once in every two years, the UN General Assembly elects five non-permanent members of the Security Council.
2. The non-permanent members of the Security Council are elected by a two-thirds majority.
3. A retiring member of the UNSC is not eligible for immediate re-election.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The Security Council consists of five permanent members (China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America) and 10 non-permanent members elected by the General Assembly for a term of two years.
- The General Assembly elects each year, five non-permanent members of the Security Council.
- The non-permanent members of the Security Council are elected by a two-thirds majority.
- A retiring member is not eligible for immediate re-election. The election is held by secret ballot and there are no nominations.

**Q68. DeeporBeel is located in:**

- a. Arunachal Pradesh
- b. Gujarat
- c. Assam
- d. Sikkim

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- DeeporBeel is located to the south-west of Guwahati city, in Assam.
- It is a permanent freshwater lake.
- It is also a wetland under the Ramsar Convention which had listed the lake as a Ramsar Site in November 2002.

**Q69. Consider the following statements about Dibru-Saikhowa National Park:**

1. It is also a Biosphere Reserve situated on the south bank of the river Brahmaputra.
2. The park is bounded by the Brahmaputra and Lohit Rivers in the north.
3. It is an Important Bird Area (IBA) notified by the Bombay Natural History Society.

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

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



**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Dibru-Saikhowa is a National Park as well as a Biosphere Reserve situated on the south bank of the river Brahmaputra in Assam.
- The park is bounded by the Brahmaputra and Lohit Rivers in the north.
- It is an identified Important Bird Area (IBA) notified by the Bombay Natural History Society.

**Q70. Consider the following statements with respect to Qualified Institutional Placements (QIPs):**

1. The QIP allows an Indian-listed company to raise capital from foreign markets
2. QIPs are a way to issue shares to the public without the submission of pre-issue filings to SEBI.

**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:**

- A qualified institutional placement (QIP) is, at its core, a way for listed companies to raise capital, without having to submit legal paperwork to market regulators.
- Qualified Institutional Placements are a way to issue shares to the public without going through standard regulatory compliance such as the submission of pre-issue filings to SEBI.
- The QIP allows an Indian-listed company to **raise capital from domestic markets** without the need to submit any pre-issue filings to market regulators.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) created the rule to avoid the dependence of companies on foreign capital resources.

**Q71. Consider the following statements with respect to Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB):**

1. India is the second-largest shareholder in the bank, followed by Russia standing third.
2. All the G-20 nations are members of the AIIB.
3. It is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia.
- It is headquartered in Beijing, China.
- India is the second-largest shareholder in the bank, followed by Russia standing third.
- Only 14 of the G-20 nations are members of AIIB.

**Q72. Consider the following statements:**

1. A housing finance company is considered a non-banking financial company (NBFC) under the RBI's regulations.
2. A company is treated as an NBFC if its financial assets are more than 50% of its total assets and income from financial assets is more than 50% of the gross income.

**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: c**

**Explanation:**

- A housing finance company is considered a non-banking financial company (NBFC) under the RBI's regulations.
- A company is treated as an NBFC if its financial assets are more than 50% of its total assets and income from financial assets is more than 50% of the gross income.

**Q73. Consider the following statements:**

1. Largest reserves of coal in the world is found in India.
2. India is the second largest producer of coal.
3. India is the second largest importer of coal.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Largest reserves of coal in the world is found in the U.S.
- India is the second largest producer of coal.
- India is the second largest importer of coal.

**Q74. "Rule of Law Index" is released by:**

- a. International Court of Justice
- b. World Justice Project
- c. International Criminal Court
- d. European Court of Justice

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- World Justice Project (WJP) releases Rule of Law Index.

- The Rule of Law Index is a quantitative assessment tool by the World Justice Project (WJP) designed to offer a detailed and comprehensive picture of the extent to which countries adhere to the rule of law in practice.
- The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working to advance the rule of law worldwide.
- It engages advocates from across the globe and from diverse interests and disciplines to advance the rule of law.
- The Index measures countries' rule of law performance across eight factors:
  1. Constraints on Government Powers,
  2. Absence of Corruption,
  3. Open Government,
  4. Fundamental Rights,
  5. Order and Security,
  6. Regulatory Enforcement,
  7. Civil Justice, and
  8. Criminal Justice.

**Q75. Consider the following statements:**

1. References of Megalithic culture can be found in ancient Tamil Sangam literature.
2. Majority of megalithic sites are found in Peninsular India.
3. A Menhir is a burial monument, or tomb, of the megalithic age.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Megalithic culture finds several references in ancient Tamil Sangam literature.
- Megaliths are spread across the Indian subcontinent.
- The majority of megalithic sites are found in Peninsular India, concentrated in the states of Maharashtra (mainly in Vidarbha), Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- A menhir is a burial monument, or tomb, of the megalithic age.

**Q76. Consider the following statements with respect to International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC):**

1. It is a multi-modal transportation network established in 2015.
2. The corridor connects Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via Iran.
3. Russia, India and Iran are the founding member states of INSTC.
4. Syria, Oman and Azerbaijan are members of INSTC.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a multi-modal transportation network **established in 2000** for the purpose of promoting transportation cooperation among the Member States.
- This corridor connects Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf to the Caspian Sea via Iran, and is then connected to Saint Petersburg and North Europe via Russia.
- Russia, India and Iran are the founding member states of INSTC.
- Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Oman, Turkey, Syria and Ukraine are the other members.

**Q77. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), previously known as the Bangkok Agreement was signed in 2015.
2. India and China are the founding members of the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA).

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement (APTA), previously known as the Bangkok Agreement was signed in 1975. It is the oldest preferential trade agreement between countries in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Seven Participating States- Bangladesh, China, India, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, and Sri Lanka are the parties to the APTA. APTA is open to all members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which serves as the APTA Secretariat.
- India is a founding member. China acceded to APTA in 2001.
- APTA's key objective is to promote economic development and cooperation through the adoption of trade liberalization measures.

**Q78. The Keeladi Excavation site is situated in which of the following states?**

- a. Karnataka
- b. Tamil Nadu
- c. Kerala
- d. Telangana

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Keeladi excavation site is a Sangam period settlement that is being excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India. This site is located southeast of Madurai, in Tamil Nadu, near the town of Keeladi in Sivagangai district.
- The settlement lies on the bank of the Vaigai River and it reflects the ancient culture of Tamil people.

**Q79. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to the World Food Programme (WFP)?**

1. It is a member of the United Nations Development Group.

2. It is headquartered in Rome.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The World Food Programme (WFP) is the food-assistance branch of the United Nations and the world's largest humanitarian organization addressing hunger and promoting food security.
- It is a member of the United Nations Development Group and a part of its executive committee.
- It is headquartered in Rome.

**Q80. Which of the following statement/s is/are incorrect with respect to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)?**

1. It was established by the UN General Assembly in 1957.
2. It reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The International Atomic Energy Agency is an international organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons.
- Though established independently of the United Nations, the IAEA reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council. It acts as the UN's nuclear watchdog.

**Q81. Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?**

1. Titan: Saturn
2. Enceladus: Saturn
3. Europa: Jupiter
4. Tethys: Jupiter
5. Deimos: Mars
6. Ganymede: Jupiter

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Tethys moon: Saturn

**Q82. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The Bosphorus strait connects the Black sea with the Sea of Marmara.
2. The Dardanelles connects the Aegean Sea and Mediterranean Sea.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Bosphorus strait is a natural strait connecting the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara. Also known as the Strait of Istanbul, this water way links the European part of the city from its Asian part and thus remains as a very strategic waterway in the region.
- The Bosphorus strait is one of the world's important maritime routes for the transportation of oil from the Caspian Sea region and Russia to regions including Asia, Western and Southern Europe.
- The Bosphorus connects the Black Sea with the Sea of Marmara.
- The Dardanelles connects the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas.

**Q83. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The ungulate Chiru is native to the Tibetan plateau.
2. They are hunted for their soft, light and warm underfur, known as Shahtoosh.
3. Chiru is classified as 'near threatened' under the IUCN red list.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The Tibetan antelope or Chiru is native to the Tibetan plateau. In 1980s and 1990s, they had become endangered due to massive illegal poaching. They are hunted for their extremely soft, light and warm underfur which is usually obtained after death. This underfur, known as Shahtoosh is used to weave luxury shawls.
- Currently Chiru is classified as near threatened under IUCN classification.

**Q84. Which of the following correctly describes beta biodiversity?**

- a. It refers to the diversity within a particular area or ecosystem.
- b. It measures the change in diversity of species from one environment to another.
- c. It is a measure of the overall diversity for the different ecosystems within a region.

- d. It refers to the diversity or variability within species.

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Whittaker (1972) described three terms for measuring biodiversity over spatial scales: alpha, beta, and gamma diversity.
  - Alpha diversity refers to the diversity within a particular area or ecosystem, and is usually expressed by the number of species (i.e., species richness) in that ecosystem.
  - Beta diversity measures the change in diversity of species from one environment to another. In simpler terms, it calculates the number of species that are not the same in two different environments. Thus, beta diversity allows us to compare diversity between ecosystems.
  - Gamma diversity is a measure of the overall diversity for the different ecosystems within a region.
  - Genetic diversity is the diversity or variability within species, community or assemblage.

**Q85. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. Jal Jeevan Mission envisages providing drinking water tap connections to every rural household by 2024.
2. Jal Jeevan Mission envisages supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household.
3. Jal Jeevan Mission focuses on both demand and supply-side management of water at the local level.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) envisages providing drinking water tap connections to every rural household by 2024. Only 18% of households are currently covered.
- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) envisages supply of 55 litres of water per person per day to every rural household through Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) by 2024.
- JJM focuses on integrated demand and supply-side management of water at the local level.

**Q86. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct with respect to Gee's golden langur?**

1. It is endemic to Assam and Bhutan.
2. It is classified as endangered under the IUCN classification.
3. Chakrashila is India's first wildlife sanctuary with golden langur as the primary species.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**



- Gee's golden langur (*Trachypithecus geei*), also known as, simply the golden langur, is an Old World monkey found in a small region of western Assam and in the neighbouring foothills of the Black Mountains of Bhutan. It is one of the most endangered primate species of India and is listed as endangered under the IUCN classification.
- It is endemic to the semi-evergreen and mixed-deciduous forests straddling India and Bhutan.
- Chakrashila is India's first wildlife sanctuary with golden langur as the primary species. As a part of MGNREGA, around 27.24 lakh trees will be planted in Assam to sustain the colonies of the Golden Langurs in Bongaigaon district.

**Q87. Which of the following pair/s is/are correctly matched?**

1. CH-47 Chinook: Heavy lift helicopters
2. AH-64 Apache: Attack helicopter
3. MH-60 Romeo: Anti submarine warfare helicopters

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The Boeing CH-47 Chinook is an American twin-engined, tandem rotor, heavy-lift helicopter. The CH-47 is among the heaviest lifting Western helicopters.
- The Boeing AH-64 Apache is an American twin-turboshaft attack helicopter.
- The MH-60R is also referred to as 'Romeo'. The helicopter is equipped for a range of missions including anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (ASuW), search-and-rescue (SAR), naval gunfire support (NGFS), surveillance, communications relay, logistics support and personnel transfer and vertical replenishment (VERTREP). The helicopter operates from frigates, destroyers, cruisers, amphibious ships and aircraft carriers.

**Q88. The SAMADHAN doctrine is directed at**

- a. Indian Ocean domain awareness
- b. Left wing extremism
- c. North East insurgency
- d. Developmental work in Jammu and Kashmir

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The SAMADHAN doctrine is proposed for the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) problem. It encompasses the entire strategy of government from short-term policy to long-term policy formulated at different levels. SAMADHAN stands for-
  - S- Smart Leadership,
  - A- Aggressive Strategy,
  - M- Motivation and Training,
  - A- Actionable Intelligence,

- D- Dashboard Based KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) and KRAs (Key Result Areas),
- H- Harnessing Technology,
- A- Action plan for each Theatre,
- N- No access to Financing.

**Q89. Consider the following statements with Respect to UN Arms Trade Treaty:**

1. The treaty regulates global arms trade as well as the domestic sale or use of weapons in the member states.
2. It establishes common international standards for the regulation of the international trade in ammunition, weapons parts, and arms components.
3. India has not signed the treaty.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The UN Arms Trade Treaty is a multilateral treaty aimed at regulating the global arms trade.
- It establishes common international standards for the regulation of the international trade in ammunition, weapons parts, and arms components.
- It does not regulate the domestic sale or use of weapons in any country.
- India has not signed the treaty.

**Q90. Senkaku Islands - a disputed territory, is located in which sea?**

- a. Sea of Japan
- b. East China Sea
- c. Yellow Sea
- d. South China Sea

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The Senkaku Islands are located in the East China Sea between Japan, the People's Republic of China, and Taiwan.

**Q91. Consider the following statements with respect to the Malabar Rebellion of 1921:**

1. It was the riots by Moplahs, directed against the British and also the Hindu landlords.
2. The British viceroy in India during the rebellion was Lord Reading.

**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: c**

**Explanation:**

- Moplah Rebellion or the Malabar Rebellion of 1921 was the culmination of a series of riots by Moplahs (Muslims of Malabar) against the British as well as the Hindu landlords.
- Lord Chelmsford was succeeded by Lord Reading in 1921 as Governor-General and Viceroy of India.

**Q92. Consider the following statements with respect to CITES:**

1. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.
2. It classifies plants and animals according to five categories based on how threatened they are.
3. It is administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
4. CITES is legally binding on state parties to the convention.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- CITES: Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora is an international agreement between governments.
- Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.
- It classifies plants and animals according to three categories/appendices based on how threatened they are.
- It is administered by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- CITES is legally binding on state parties to the convention.
- India is a party to the convention.

**Q93. "New START Treaty" refers to:**

- a. A nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation.
- b. A multilateral trade agreement between BRICS nations.
- c. A multilateral treaty aimed at regulating the global arms trade.
- d. Bilateral energy security cooperation between the Russian Federation and the U.S.A.

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- New START is a nuclear arms reduction treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation with the formal name of Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms.
- It was signed on 8 April 2010 in Prague.

**Q94. Consider the following statements with respect to Government e Marketplace (GeM):**

1. It is a state-of-the-art national public procurement platform of the Ministry of Agriculture.
2. It facilitates online procurement of common use goods and services required by various Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings.

3. It provides e-bidding, reverse e-auction and demand aggregation tools.

**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: c**

**Explanation:**

- Government e Marketplace (GeM) is a state-of-the-art national public procurement platform of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- It provides the tools of e-bidding, reverse e-auction and demand aggregation to facilitate the government users achieve the best value for their money. It facilitates online procurement of common use goods and services required by various Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings.

**Q95. Kunjahammad Haji is associated with which of the following uprisings?**

- a. Paika Rebellion
- b. Moplah Rebellion
- c. Faraizi Revolt
- d. Poligar Revolt

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

Variyam kunnath Kunjahammad Haji led the Moplah uprising against the British in Kerala's Malabar region.

**Q96. Consider the following statements with respect to India's renewable energy targets:**

1. India has set a target of installing 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by the year 2022.
2. It has set a target of 20 GW of solar capacity by 2022.

**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:**

- The Government of India has set a target of installing 175 GW of renewable energy capacity by the year 2022, which includes 100 GW from solar, 60 GW from wind, 10 GW from bio-power and 5 GW from small hydro-power.
- The government had an initial target of 20 GW of solar capacity by 2022, which was achieved four years ahead of schedule.
- In 2015, the target was raised to 100 GW of solar capacity by 2022.

**Q97. Consider the following statements with respect to Koundinya wildlife sanctuary:**

1. Koundinya wildlife sanctuary is also an Elephant Reserve.

- It is the only sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh with a population of Asian Elephants.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Kaundinya Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary and an elephant reserve situated in Andhra Pradesh.
- It is the only sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh with a population of Asian Elephants.

**Q98. Consider the following statements with respect to Bal Gangadhar Tilak:**

- He is the author of Geeta rahasya.
- He founded two newspapers – Kesari in English and Mahratta in Marathi.
- He was one of the founders of the All India Home Rule League.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Tilak founded two newspapers 'Kesari' in Marathi and 'Mahratta' in English. Both the newspapers actively propagated the cause of national freedom and stressed on making the Indians aware to be self-reliant.
- The two important books are written by Tilak are Gita Rahasya and Arctic Home of the Vedas.
- He was one of the founders of the All India Home Rule League.

**Q99. Consider the following statements with respect to The Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA):**

- It is a regulatory mechanism that enables RBI to pass regulations and the Central Government to pass rules relating to foreign exchange in tune with the Foreign Trade policy of India.
- Violation of FEMA is a criminal offence.
- Enforcement Directorate is responsible for enforcement of the provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act.

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

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) is a regulatory mechanism that enables RBI to pass regulations and the Central Government to pass rules relating to foreign exchange in tune with the Foreign Trade policy of India.

- This act seeks to make offenses related to foreign exchange civil offenses.
- Enforcement Directorate is responsible for enforcement of the provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act.

**Q100. Which of the following are literary works of Aurobindo Ghosh?**

1. Hour of God
2. Savitri
3. The Future Evolution of Man
4. Bhagavad Gita and Its Message

**Choose the correct option**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

Aurobindo Ghosh was an eminent nationalist, philosopher, yogi, guru and a poet.

**Some of Aurobindo's many literary works:**

- Bhagavad Gita and Its Message
- The Future Evolution of Man
- Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol
- Hour of God

**Q101. Consider the following statements:**

1. Ozone is produced naturally in the stratosphere.
2. Ground level Ozone damages crops, trees and other vegetation.
3. Ground Level Ozone is one of the pollutants tracked by the Air Quality Index.

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

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Ozone occurs in two layers of the atmosphere. The layer closest to the Earth's surface is the troposphere. Here, ground-level or "bad" ozone is an air pollutant that is harmful to breathe and it damages crops, trees and other vegetation.
- Ozone is produced naturally in the stratosphere. But this "good" ozone is gradually being destroyed by man-made chemicals referred to as ozone-depleting substances (ODS).
- Air Quality Index (AQI) tracks five major air pollutants:
  - Ground level ozone
  - Carbon monoxide
  - Sulfur dioxide
  - Nitrogen dioxide

- Airborne particles, or aerosols

**Q102. Consider the following statements with respect to IN-SPACe:**

1. It is the only commercial arm of the Department of Space.
2. It is tasked with regulating and promoting building of routine satellites, rockets and commercial launch services through Indian industry and start-ups.

**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: a**

**Explanation:**

- IN-SPACe is the second commercial arm of the Department of Space. (First being Antrix Corporation Limited).
- It is tasked with regulating and promoting building of routine satellites, rockets and commercial launch services through Indian industry and start-ups.

**Q103. Consider the following statements:**

1. International Criminal Court (ICC) is an independent entity governed by the Rome Statute.
2. ICC is the world's first permanent international criminal court.
3. ICC settles disputes between states and gives advisory opinions on international legal issues referred to it by the UN.
4. India is a party to the Rome Statute.

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

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- International Criminal Court (ICC) is an independent entity governed by the Rome Statute.
- It is the world's first permanent international criminal court.
- The ICC adjudicates complaints against individuals, whereas it is the ICJ (International Court of Justice) that judges disputes between states.
- India is not a party to the Rome Statute.

**Q104. Consider the following statements with respect to Financial Action Task Force (FATF):**

1. FATF is a policy-making body with no investigative authority.
2. It was established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris.
3. It works towards combating money laundering and terrorist financing.
4. It is headquartered in Paris.

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



- a. 1 and 4 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 3 only
- d. None of the above

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is a policy-making body with no investigative authority. It was established in 1989 during the G7 Summit in Paris.
- It works towards combating money laundering and terrorist financing. It is headquartered in Paris.

**Q105. Which of the following correctly explains DiEM25?**

- a. It is a pan-European political movement aiming for creation of political organisations at a pan-European level.
- b. It is an intergovernmental disaster management initiative involving 25 developing countries.
- c. It is a global denuclearization movement aiming for a universal denuclearization agreement by 2025.
- d. It is an initiative of the WHO to help the developing and under developed countries in the management of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The Democracy in Europe Movement 2025, or DiEM25, is a pan-European political movement launched in 2015 by former Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis.
- The movement's main tendencies are alter-globalisation, social ecology, ecofeminism, post-growth and post-capitalism with an emphasis on implementation of a universal basic income.
- DiEM25 argues for creation of political organisations at a pan-European level and calls for a pan-European movement to confront the great economic, political and social crisis that Europe is going through.

**Q106. Which of the following are the right bank tributaries of the Brahmaputra River?**

- 1. Kameng
- 2. Lohit
- 3. Manas
- 4. Teesta
- 5. Dhansiri
- 6. Subansiri

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- Tributaries of Brahmaputra River
  - Left bank tributaries: Dibang, Lohit, Dhansiri and Kolong
  - Right bank tributaries: Kameng, Manas, Beki, Raidak, Jaldhaka, Teesta and Subansiri.

**Q107. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The United Nations was founded in 1945.
2. The United Nations is headquartered in New York City.
3. India is a founding member of the United Nations.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The United Nations (UN) is an intergovernmental organization that aims to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations and achieve international cooperation. The UN is headquartered on international territory in New York City, with its other main offices in Geneva, Nairobi, Vienna and The Hague.
- The UN was established after World War II with the aim of preventing future wars, succeeding the ineffective League of Nations. On 25 April 1945, 50 governments met in San Francisco for a conference and started drafting the UN Charter, which was adopted on 25 June 1945 and took effect on 24 October 1945, when the UN began operations.
- **India is a founding member of the United Nations**, signing the **UN Charter**, along with 50 other countries, on 26 June, 1945.

**Q108. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. The Finance Commission is a constitutionally mandated body under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution.
2. The 15th Finance commission recommendations are for the period 2020-2025.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The Finance Commissions are periodically constituted by the President of India under Article 280 of the Indian Constitution to define the financial relations between the central government of India and the individual state governments. The Finance Commission is a constitutionally mandated body that is at the centre of fiscal federalism.
- The 15th Finance commission recommendations are valid for the period 2020-2025.

**Q109. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)?**

1. Exclusive economic zone (EEZ) extends to 100 nautical miles from the baseline set as per the UNCLOS.

2. It establishes general obligations for protecting freedom of scientific research on the high seas.
3. It has established a legal regime for controlling mineral resource exploitation in deep seabed areas beyond national jurisdiction.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

Exclusive economic zones (EEZs):

- These extend to 200 nautical miles from the baseline. Within this area, the coastal nation has sole exploitation rights over all natural resources. In casual use, the term may include the territorial sea and even the continental shelf.
- Foreign nations have the freedom of navigation and overflight, subject to the regulation of the coastal states. Foreign states may also lay submarine pipes and cables.
- Aside from its provisions defining ocean boundaries, the UNCLOS establishes general obligations for safeguarding the marine environment and protecting freedom of scientific research on the high seas, and also creates an innovative legal regime for controlling mineral resource exploitation in deep seabed areas beyond national jurisdiction, through an International Seabed Authority and the common heritage of mankind principle.
- Landlocked states are given a right of access to and from the sea, without taxation of traffic through transit states.

**Q110. Which of the following statements are correct with respect to Financial Action Task Force (FATF)?**

1. FATF was established in 1989.
2. India is a founding member of the FATF.
3. The FATF focuses on Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) and Anti-Money Laundering.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was established in 1989 after a decision by members of the G-7 and the European Commission. It functions out of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development headquarters in Paris.
- In October 2001, in the wake of the 9/11 terror attacks in the U.S., the FATF adopted an eight-point amendment to its charter that added Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) to its tasks on Anti-Money Laundering (AML/CFT).
- India became an observer in the grouping in 2006, and was inducted as a full member in 2010.

**Q111. Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?**

1. Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) indicates the irregular oscillation of sea surface temperatures between the western Indian Ocean and the eastern Indian Ocean.
2. A positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) indicates the western Indian Ocean becoming warmer than the eastern Indian Ocean.
3. A positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is associated with higher monsoon rainfall in India.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), also known as the Indian Niño, is an irregular oscillation of sea surface temperatures in which the western Indian Ocean becomes alternately warmer (positive phase) and then colder (negative phase) than the eastern part of the ocean.
- A positive IOD is found to be beneficial for the Indian monsoon.

**Q112. Which of the following pairs is/are correctly matched?**

1. Human beta cells: Insulin
2. Human alpha cells: Glucagon

**Options:**

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

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Islets of Langerhans are micro-organs located in the pancreas and composed of at least four types of endocrine cells. The  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -cells are the most abundant and also the most important in that they secrete hormones (glucagon and insulin, respectively) crucial for glucose homeostasis.
- Human beta cells produce insulin which reduces the sugar level in the blood and the alpha cells produce glucagon, which increases the blood sugar. A fine balance between the two helps maintain the blood sugar level in humans.

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

1. Narcondam hornbill is classified as endangered under the IUCN Red List.
2. Narcondam hornbill is endemic to the Narcondam Island in the Lakshwadeep Islands.

**Options:**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- Narcondam hornbill is an endangered species and is endemic to the Narcondam Island in Andamans. The dormant volcanic island of Narcondam is a protected habitat for the hornbills.
- The Narcondam hornbill has the smallest home range out of all the species of Asian hornbills. Being endemic to an isolated, uninhabited island, the Narcondam hornbill faces the threat of extinction in the event of a natural calamity causing a species wipe-out.

**Q114. Which of the following correctly describes the term 'gynandromorphism'?**

- a. Condition in which a species individual has alternating male and female characteristics over its lifetime.
- b. Condition in which a species individual has both male and female tissues at the same time.
- c. Condition in which a species exhibits multi-habitat adaptation capabilities by morphological changes.
- d. Condition in which a species exhibits adaptability to drastic changes in climatic conditions.

**Answer: b**

**Explanation:**

- The Scarlet Skimmer (*Crocothemisservilia*), a species of dragonfly spotted in the Kole wetlands, Kerala has exhibited a rare biological phenomenon referred to as 'gynandromorphism'.
- Gynandromorphs are chimeric individuals having both male and female tissues and it is viewed by the scientific community as a genetic aberration.

**Q115. The Kole wetland is situated in which of the following states?**

- a. Tamil Nadu
- b. Andhra Pradesh
- c. Kerala
- d. Karnataka

**Answer: c**

**Explanation:**

- Thrissur Kole Wetlands is a wetland lying in Thrissur District in Kerala, India. It gives 40 percent of Kerala's rice requirement and acts as a natural drainage system for Thrissur city and Thrissur District.
- The Kole Wetlands is one of the largest, highly productive and threatened wetlands in Kerala and it comes in the Central Asian Flyway of migratory birds.

**Q116. Which of the following is the correct description of the S-400 Triumf?**

- a. Anti-submarine warfare helicopter
- b. Naval surveillance system
- c. Third generation Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle
- d. Anti-aircraft weapon system

**Answer: d**

**Explanation:**

- The S-400 Triumf is an anti-aircraft weapon system developed by Russia.

- In 2016, India and Russia signed an Inter-governmental Agreement (IGA) for the supply of five S-400 regiments.

**Q117. Consider the following statements with respect to Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program (STARS):**

1. It aims to improve the quality and governance of school education in all the States and Union Territories of India.
2. The project will be implemented through the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan.

**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 World Bank approved 500 million USD to improve learning outcomes in India. The fund allocated by the World Bank is to be used to implement the project called STARS (Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States).
- The programme is to be implemented through SamagraShikshaAbhiyan.
- The **six states** that are to benefit under the programme include Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Odisha, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.

**Q118. Kholongchhu hydropower project is a joint venture between India and which one of these countries?**

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- The 600 MW Kholongchhu project is India-Bhutan's first hydropower joint venture project in Bhutan's less developed eastern region of Trashiyangtse. It is one of four additional projects agreed to in 2008, as a part of India's commitment to help Bhutan create a total 10,000 MW of installed capacity by 2020.

**Q119. Consider the following statements with respect to Rafale jets:**

1. Rafale is a Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft.
2. It can be used to perform ground and sea attacks.
3. It is a twin-engine jet capable of nuclear strike deterrence.

**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: d**

**Explanation:**

- Rafale is a Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA).
- The twin-engine jet is capable of carrying out a variety of missions – ground and sea attack, air defence and air superiority, reconnaissance.
- It is also capable of nuclear strike deterrence.

**Q120. Consider the following statements with respect to PM SVANidhi scheme:**

1. It is a Special Micro-Credit Facility Scheme providing affordable loans to women Self Help Groups in urban areas.
2. A working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000 can be availed, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of one year.
3. It is a Central Sector Scheme.

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

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

**Answer: a**

**Explanation:**

- PM SVANidhi (PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi) scheme is a Special Micro-Credit Facility Scheme providing affordable loans to street vendors.
- Under the scheme, the vendors can avail of a working capital loan of up to Rs. 10,000, which is repayable in monthly instalments in the tenure of one year.
- It is a Central Sector Scheme to facilitate street vendors to access affordable working capital loans for resuming their livelihood activities.



