

PRESTORMING™ 2020

MOCK TEST II - EXPLANATION

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MOCK TEST II - EXPLANATION

1. With reference to the Political philosophies, consider the following statements:

- 1. True Liberalism believes in political equality but not in economic equality.**
- 2. Without achieving economic equality, true political liberty cannot be achieved.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Liberalism is a political and moral philosophy based on liberty, consent of the governed and equality before the law. Liberals espouse a wide array of views depending on their understanding of these principles, but they generally support free markets, free trade, limited government, individual rights (including civil rights and human rights), capitalism, democracy, secularism, gender equality, racial equality, internationalism, freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of religion. Liberalism believes in Political equality but not in economic equality (to achieve economic equality, an active role of government is need which reduces individual liberty). **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

A very intimate relationship exists between political liberty and economic equality. It has been asserted that there cannot be any political liberty without economic equality. This assertion contains a great amount of truth because the political liberties like right to vote, right to contest election, right to hold public office etc. cannot be genuine unless there is economic equality in the state. As the successful working of the present democratic system depends on the active and effective participation of the people, it is indeed difficult to envisage that such participation can be possible in a society suffering from economic inequalities.

Further, as the public opinion is greatly molded by media like press, radio, films etc. the capitalist classes who own these media are able to use them for furthering their own interests. As a result the poor people are not able to make an honest use of their political liberty. Hence, political freedom becomes meaningless in the absence of economic equality. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

2. If “One Nation and One Ration Card” Scheme is implemented throughout India, then

- 1. A ration cardholder can get his/her entitled food grains in a fair-price shop from his/her native state for that particular month and can buy from fair price shops in the neighbouring state for the subsequent months.**
- 2. In a particular month, a ration cardholder can buy his/her entitled food grains in a fair price shop from his/her native state and the subsidised pulses from fair price shops in the neighbouring states.**

- 3. By this scheme, a state with high in-migration can borrow food grains from the states with high out-migration.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

A ration card holder can get his/her rations at any fair price shops in the country. He/she can buy in his native state in one month and any other state of India for other months (wherever he/she resides). **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

It is applicable only for food grains. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

There are no such provisions in this scheme. Moreover, FCI will allocate based on the needs of the State governments. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

3. Consider the following statements about the Bird Sanctuaries in India:

- 1. Currently, India has more than 70 Bird Sanctuaries but none exists to the east of Standard Time Meridian of India.**
- 2. Vedanthangal in Tamil Nadu is the oldest bird sanctuary in India and is located on the banks of River Palar.**
- 3. Ranganthittu Bird Sanctuary shares its border with Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra.**

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

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

EXPLANATION:

Currently, India has more than 70 Bird Sanctuaries. There are bird sanctuaries existing in West Bengal and Mizoram (Lengteng) which are located to the east of Standard Meridian. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

Vedanthangal is the oldest water bird sanctuary in the country. Vedanthangal in Tamil language means 'hamlet of the hunter'. This area was a favourite hunting spot of the local landlords in the early 18th century. The region attracted a variety of birds because it was dotted with small lakes that acted as feeding grounds for the birds. Vedanthangal is home to migratory birds such as pintail, garganey, grey wagtail, blue-winged teal, common sandpiper and the like. But it is not located on a river bank. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary (also known as Pakshi Kashi of Karnataka), is a bird sanctuary in the Mandya District of the state of Karnataka in India. It is the largest bird sanctuary in the state and comprises six islets on the banks of the Kaveri river. It is located in the southern part of Karnataka. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

4. Which of the following is/are the function(s) of the Department of Military Affairs under the Union Ministry of Defence in India?

- 1. Preparation of Defence Budget.**
- 2. Promotion of Defence cooperation with foreign countries.**
- 3. Management of Defence PSUs in the production aspects.**
- 4. Advising the Government of India on scientific aspects of military equipment.**
- 5. Promoting jointness among the three Armed forces of India.**

Select the correct code using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

The principal functions of all the Departments of Union Ministry of Defence:

The Department of Defence - The Department of Defence is mandated with Defence of India including defence policy. It deals with Inter-Services Organizations, Defence Accounts Department, Coast Guard, National Cadet Corps, Border Roads Organisation, Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis, National Defence College etc. It is responsible for the Defence Budget, defence lands and cantonments, matters relating to Parliament, and defence cooperation with foreign countries.

The Department of Defence Production - The Department of Defence Production is headed by a Secretary and deals with matters pertaining to defence production, indigenisation of imported stores, equipment and spares, planning and control of departmental production units of the Ordnance Factory Board and Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).

The Department of Defence Research and Development - The Department of Defence Research and Development is headed by a Secretary. Its function is to advise the Government on scientific aspects of military equipment and logistics and the formulation of research, design and development plans for equipment required by the Services.

The Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare - The Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare is headed by a Secretary and deals with all resettlement, welfare and pensionary matters of Ex-Servicemen.

The Department of Military Affairs - This Department deals with the Armed Forces of the Union

namely, Army, Navy and Air Force; Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence; the Territorial Army; Works relating to the three services etc. The Department promotes jointness among the three Services.

So, Option (a) is correct.

5. Consider the following statements about the Acts related to the forests in India:

- 1. The Indian Forest Act, 1927 was enacted to ‘consolidate the law related to forest, the transit of forest produce and the duty liable on timber and other forest produce’.**
- 2. The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was enacted to regulate diversion of forest lands for non-forestry purposes.**
- 3. The Environment Protection Act, 1986 was enacted to increase the forest and tree cover in India up to 33 percent of the total geographical area.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Indian Forest Act, 1927- was enacted to ‘consolidate the law related to forest, the transit of forest produce, and the duty liable on timber and other forest produce’. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was enacted to regulate diversion of forest lands for non-forestry purposes. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The Environment (Protection) Act was enacted in the year 1986. It was enacted with the main objective to provide the protection and improvement of environment and for matters connected therewith. The Act is one of the most comprehensive legislations with a pretext to protection and improvement of the environment.

The first mention of 33% of forest area appears to have been mentioned in the Forest Policy of 1952. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently released the biennial “India State of Forest Report (ISFR)” for 2019.

What is the ISFR?

- The report is published by the Forest Survey of India (FSI).
- FSI has been mandated to assess the forest and tree resources of the country including wall-to-wall forest cover mapping in a biennial cycle.

- Starting 1987, 16 assessment have been completed so far. ISFR 2019 is the 16th report in the series.

What are the key findings?

- **Rankings** - Area-wise, Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest cover in the country.
- This is followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Maharashtra.
- In terms of forest cover as percentage of total geographical area, the top 5 States are:
 1. Mizoram (85.41%)
 2. Arunachal Pradesh (79.63%)
 3. Meghalaya (76.33%)
 4. Manipur (75.46%)
 5. Nagaland (73.1%)
- **Share** - India's forest cover has increased by 3,976 sq km or 0.56% since 2017.
- For the second successive time since 2007, the SFR recorded a gain (an impressive 1,275 sq km) in dense forest.
- This includes Very Dense Forest with a canopy density of over 70%, and Moderately Dense Forest with a canopy density of 40-70%.
- Around 2,140 sq km of dense forests became non-forests since 2017.
- [A dense forest can deteriorate into an open forest (10-40% canopy density) but conversion to non-forest signifies total destruction.]
- Since 2017, plantations with high canopy density have added 2,441 sq km to the dense forest category.
- On the other hand, 1,858 sq km of non-forests have become dense forests.
- These are plantations of fast-growing species since natural forests rarely grow so fast.
- Since 2003, close to 18,000 sq km of dense forests have become non-forests in the country.
- Nearly half of this (8,552 sq km) were in the last 4 years alone.
- While hill forests have gained in quality, large tracts of tropical forests have fallen off the "dense" category since 2017.
- The biggest loss is under the tropical semi-evergreen head in SFR 2019 - close to 23,500 sq km.
- [In India, tropical semi-evergreen forests are found along the western coast, lower slopes of the eastern Himalayas, Odisha and Andamans.]

- Of India's 7.12 lakh sq km forest cover, 52,000 sq km is plantations.
- This means that it cannot substitute natural forests in biodiversity or ecological services.
- Of the nearly 7,28,500 sq km recorded forest area, around 2,15,000 sq km (nearly 30%) recorded no forest cover in SFR 2019.
- In other words, forestland roughly the combined area of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal holds no forests.
- The total mangrove cover in the country is 4,975 sq km.
- An increase of 54 sq Km in mangrove cover has been observed as compared to the previous assessment of 2017.
- Top three states showing mangrove cover increase are Gujarat (37 sq km) followed by Maharashtra (16 sq km) and Odisha (8 sq km).
- The extent of bamboo bearing area of the country has been estimated 16 million hectare.
- There is an increase of 0.32 million hectare in bamboo bearing area as compared to ISFR 2017.
- Under the current assessment, the total carbon stock in the country's forest is estimated at around 7,100 million tonnes.
- There is an increase of 42.6 million tonnes in the carbon stock of the country as compared to 2017.
- The annual increase in the carbon stock is 21.3 million tonnes, which is 78.2 million tonnes CO₂ equivalent.

SOURCE:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1597987>

6. Consider the following pairs:

<i>Temple</i>	<i>River associated</i>
1. Kashi Vishwanath	- Ganga
Temple	
2. Sringeri Sharadamba	- Tungabhadra
Temple	
3. Srirangam Temple	- Kaveri

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

- (a) 1 only
(b) 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

EXPLANATION:-

Kashi Vishwanath Temple is one of the most famous Hindu temples dedicated to Lord Shiva. It is located in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India. The Temple stands on the western bank of the holy river Ganga, and is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas, the holiest of Shiva Temples. **So, Pair 1 is correctly matched.**

Dakshinamnaya Sringeri Sharada Peetha is one of the four Advaita Vedanta monastery established by Adi Shankara in Sringeri, the others being Dwaraka, Govardhana and Jyotirmath. The Sringeri matha is on the banks of the Tunga River in Chikkamagalur district located in the Western Ghats. **So, Pair 2 is correctly matched.**

The Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple or Thiruvaramam is a Hindu temple dedicated to Ranganatha, a reclining form of the Hindu deity Maha Vishnu, located in Srirangam on the banks of river kauvery, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu. **So, Pair 3 is correctly matched.**

7. Consider the following:

1. Bahishkrit Hitkarnini Sabha

2. Independent Labour Party

3. People's Education Society

Which of the establishments mentioned above is/are associated with B.R. Ambedkar?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

EXPLANATION:

B.R. Ambedkarestablished the BahishkritHitakarini Sabha to promote education and socio-economic improvements among the Dalits.

Ambedkar founded the Independent Labour Party (later transformed into the Scheduled Castes Federation) in 1936.

The People's Education Society was founded by BharatratnaDr. Babasaheb Ambedkar at Mumbai in 1945. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Popularly known as Baba Saheb. He was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly and is called the 'Father of the Indian Constitution'.
- He was a brilliant student and had doctoral degrees in economics from Columbia University and the London School of Economics.
- Ambedkar was against the caste-based discriminations in society and advocated the Dalits to organise and demand their rights.
- He promoted the education of Dalits and made representations to the government in various capacities in this regard. He was part of the Bombay Presidency Committee that worked with the Simon Commission in 1925.
- He established the BahishkritHitakarini Sabha to promote education and socio-economic improvements among the Dalits. He started magazines like Mooknayak, Equality Janta and Bahishkrit Bharat.
- He advocated separate electorates for the 'Depressed Classes', the term with which Dalits were called at that time. He was in disagreement with Mahatma Gandhi at that time since Gandhi was against any sort of reservation in the electorates. When the British government announced the 'Communal Award' in 1932, Gandhi went on a fast in Yerwada Jail. An agreement was signed between Gandhi and Ambedkar in the jail whereby it was agreed to give reserved seats to the depressed classes within the general electorate. This was called the Poona Pact.
- Ambedkar founded the Independent Labour Party (later transformed into the Scheduled Castes Federation) in 1936 and contested in 1937 from Bombay to the Central Legislative Assembly. He also contested from Bombay (north-central) after independence in the country's first general elections. But he lost both times.
- He also worked as Minister of Labour in the Viceroy's Executive Council. After independence, Ambedkar became the first Law Minister in 1947 under the Congress-led government. Later he resigned due to differences with Jawaharlal Nehru on the Hindu Code Bill.
- He was appointed to the Rajya Sabha in 1952 and remained a member till his death.
- He authored several books and essays. Some of them are: The Annihilation of Caste, Pakistan or the Partition of India, The Buddha and his Dhamma, The Evolution of Provincial Finance in British India, Administration and Finance of the East India Company, etc.

8. In the context of Economy, which one of the following best defines the term "Counter-Cyclical Fiscal Policy" of the Government?

- (a) A policy that aims at reducing taxes and increasing expenditure during Recession**
(b) A policy that aims at increasing taxes and decreasing expenditure during Recession
(c) A policy of increasing corporate taxes and redistributing wealth to the public by investing in the Social Sector
(d) A policy that aims at reducing taxes and increasing expenditure during Boom

EXPLANATION:

Counter-Cyclical Fiscal Policy is the strategy adopted to counter recession or boom through fiscal measures. During recession, the Counter cyclical fiscal policy aims at reducing taxes and increasing expenditure. It aims to create demand in the country to bring an upswing in the country. On the other hand, during boom in an economy, the counter-cyclical fiscal policy aims at increasing taxes and reducing public expenditure. This is because, allowing amplification of boom can be disastrous. This is because, it may increase inflation and debt crisis. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Counter-cyclical fiscal policy

- A counter-cyclical fiscal policy refers to strategy by the government to counter boom or recession through fiscal measures. It works against the ongoing boom or recession trend; thus, trying to stabilize the economy. Understandably, countercyclical fiscal policy works in two different direction during these two phases.

Countercyclical fiscal policy during recession

- Recession is a business cycle situation where there is slowing demand and falling growth in the economy. Here, the Government's responsibility is to generate demand by fine-tuning taxation and expenditure policies. Reducing taxes and increasing expenditure will help to create demand and producing upswing in the economy.

Countercyclical fiscal policy during boom

- In the case of boom, economic activities will be on upswing. Amplifying the boom is disastrous as it may create inflation and debt crisis and the government's responsibility here is to bring down the pace of economic activities. Increasing taxes and reducing public expenditure will make boom mild. Thus, slowing down demand should be the nature of countercyclical fiscal policy during boom.

Procyclical fiscal policy

- Procyclical is the opposite of countercyclical. Here, fiscal policy goes in line with the current mood of the business cycle; amplifying them. For example, during the time of boom, government makes high expenditure and doesn't hike taxes. Thus, boom grows further. Such a policy is dangerous and brings instability in the economy.
- Boom: total government spending as a percentage of GDP goes up and tax rates go down, increasing government deficit.
- Recession: total government spending as a percentage of GDP goes down and tax rates go up, decreasing government deficit.
- So procyclical fiscal policy is undesirable for the economy.

SOURCE:

<https://www.indianeconomy.net/splclassroom/what-is-countercyclical-fiscal-policy/>

9. With reference to Sufi Literature, the term “Maktubat” refers to

- (a) manuals dealing with Sufi thought and practices
- (b) conversations of the Sufi saints
- (c) collection of Letters written by Sufi masters**
- (d) biographical accounts of the Sufi saints

EXPLANATION:

The Kashf-ul-Mahjub: A manual dealing with Sufi thoughts and practices and authored by Ali bin Usman Hujwiri (died c. 1071) - is an example of this genre. **So, Option (a) is not correct.**

The Malfuz texts, also known as the malfuzat, record the teachings of the mystic or Sufi saints and of the pirs and sheikhs. **So, Option (b) is not correct.**

Maktubat is the common term referred to the letters of Sufi sheikhs and scholars. The Maktubat of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi are indeed the most popular among the letters of Sufi sheikhs. This book is a classical and most venerated book of Sufism that covers classical Sufism, methodologies, beliefs and practices of Islam and many other spiritual secrets. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

Tazkiras are the hagiographies that were compiled after a saint's death. Mir Khwurd Kirmani's Siyar ul Auliya was the first Sufi tazkira written in India. **So, Option (d) is not correct.**

10. Consider the following statements about the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and the State Administrative Tribunal (SAT) in India:

- 1. The Constitution of India empowers the Indian Parliament to constitute CAT and SAT.**
- 2. CAT and SAT exercise appellate jurisdiction over cases of recruitment and all service matters of the public servants.**
- 3. CAT and SAT are guided by the principle of Natural Justice.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 323 A empowers the Parliament to provide for the establishment of administrative tribunals for the adjudication of disputes relating to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services of the Centre, the states, local bodies, public corporations and other public authorities.

In pursuance of Article 323 A, the Parliament has passed the Administrative Tribunals Act in 1985. The act authorises the Central government to establish one Central administrative tribunal and the state administrative tribunals. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The CAT exercises original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all service matters of public

servants covered by it. Its jurisdiction extends to the all-India services, the Central civil services, civil posts under the Centre and civilian employees of defence services. However, the members of the defence forces, officers and servants of the Supreme Court and the secretarial staff of the Parliament are not covered by it.

Like the CAT, the SATs exercise original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all service matters of state government employees. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

The CAT is not bound by the procedure laid down in the Civil Procedure Code of 1908. It is guided by the principles of natural justice. These principles keep the CAT flexible in approach. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT)

- The Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) was set up in 1985 with the principal bench at Delhi and additional benches in different states. At present, it has 17 regular benches, 15 of which operate at the principal seats of high courts and the remaining two at Jaipur and Lucknow¹. These benches also hold circuit sittings at other seats of high courts.
- The CAT exercises original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all service matters of public servants covered by it. Its jurisdiction extends to the all-India services, the Central civil services, civil posts under the Centre and civilian employees of defence services. However, the members of the defence forces, officers and servants of the Supreme Court and the secretarial staff of the Parliament are not covered by it.
- The CAT is a multi-member body consisting of a chairman and members. Earlier, the CAT consisted of a Chairman, Vice-Chairmen and members. With the amendment in Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 in 2006, the members have been given the status of judges of High Courts. At present (2016), the sanctioned strength of the Chairman is one and sanctioned strength of the Members is 65. They are drawn from both judicial and administrative streams and are appointed by the president. They hold office for a term of five years or until they attain the age of 65 years, in case of chairman and 62 years in case of members, whichever is earlier.
- The appointment of Members in CAT is made on the basis of recommendations of a high powered selection committee chaired by a Sitting Judge of Supreme Court who is nominated by the Chief Justice of India. After obtaining the concurrence of Chief Justice of India, appointments are made with the approval of Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).
- The CAT is not bound by the procedure laid down in the Civil Procedure Code of 1908. It is guided by the principles of natural justice. These principles keep the CAT flexible in approach. Only a nominal fee of 50 is to be paid by the applicant. The applicant may appear either in person or through a lawyer.
- Originally, appeals against the orders of the CAT could be made only in the Supreme Court and not in the high courts. However, in the Chandra Kumar case² (1997), the Supreme Court declared this restriction on the jurisdiction of the high courts as unconstitutional, holding that judicial review is a part of the basic structure of the Constitution. It laid down that appeals against the orders of the CAT shall lie before the division bench of the concerned

high court. Consequently, now it is not possible for an aggrieved public servant to approach the Supreme Court directly against an order of the CAT, without first going to the concerned high court.

State Administrative Tribunals

- The Administrative Tribunals Act of 1985 empowers the Central government to establish the State Administrative Tribunals (SATs) on specific request of the concerned state governments. So far (2016), the SATs have been set up in the nine states of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Kerala. However, the Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh Tribunals have since been abolished. The Kerala Administrative Tribunal was set up with effect from 26th August, 2010. But subsequently Himachal Pradesh re-established the SAT and the state of Tamil Nadu has also requested now to re-establish the same.
- Like the CAT, the SATs exercise original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all service matters of state government employees.
- The chairman and members of the SATs are appointed by the president after consultation with the governor of the state concerned.
- The act also makes a provision for setting up of joint administrative tribunal (JAT) for two or more states. A JAT exercises all the jurisdiction and powers exercisable by the administrative tribunals for such states.
- The chairman and members of a JAT are appointed by the president after consultation with the governors of the concerned states.

SOURCE:

Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth

11. Consider the following riverine islands in India and the Indian states associated with them:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| 1. Majuli | - | Assam |
| 2. Nongkhnum | - | Arunachal Pradesh |
| 3. Omkareshwar | - | Madhya Pradesh |
| 4. Munroe | - | West Bengal |

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

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

EXPLANATION:

Majuli or Majoli is a river island in the Brahmaputra River, Assam and in 2016 it became the first

island to be made a district in India. So, Pair 1 is correctly matched.
Nongkhnum River Island is the biggest river island in the Indian state of Meghalaya and the second biggest river island in Asia, after Majuli Island in Assam. The island is formed by the river Wah Kynshi on the west and south and river Namiliang on the north and east. So, Pair 2 is not correctly matched.
Omrakeshwar is an island formed by the river Narmada in Madhya Pradesh. So, Pair 3 is correctly matched.
Munroe Island or Munderthuruthu is an inland island group located at the confluence of Ashtamudi Lake and the Kallada River, in Kollam district, Kerala, South India. So, Pair 4 is not correctly matched.

12. Consider the following statements about the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms:

- 1. It introduced the provision for joint sitting in cases of deadlock between the legislative bodies at the Centre.**
- 2. This Act, for the first time, separated the provincial and the central budgets.**
- 3. It provided for the establishment of Federal Public Service Commission.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Government of India Act, 1935 introduced provision for joint sitting in cases of deadlock between the houses. There were to be three subject lists—the Federal Legislative List, the Provincial Legislative List and the Concurrent Legislative List. Residuary legislative powers were subject to the discretion of the governor-general. Even if a bill was passed by the federal legislature, the governor-general could veto it, while even Acts assented to by the governor-general could be disallowed by the King-in-Council. So, Statement 1 is not correct.
Government of India Act, 1919 (Montague-Chelmsford Reforms) separated for the first time the provincial and central budgets, with provincial legislatures being authorised to make their budgets. So, Statement 2 is correct.
Government of India Act, 1935 recommended the establishment of a Federal Public Service Commission and Provincial Public Service Commission under their spheres. But the positions of control and authority remained in British hands and the process of Indianisation of the civil service did not put effective political power in Indian hands since the Indian bureaucrats acted as the agents of colonial rule. So, Statement 3 is not correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Government of India Act, 1919

- This Act was based on what are popularly known as the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms. In August 1917, the British government for the first time declared that its objective was to gradually introduce responsible government in India, but as an integral part of the British Empire. The Act of 1919, clarified that there would be only a gradual development of self-governing institutions in India and that the British Parliament—and not self-determination of the people of India—would determine the time and manner of each step along the path of constitutional progress.
- Under the 1919 Act, the Indian Legislative Council at the Centre was replaced by a bicameral system consisting of a Council of State (Upper House) and a Legislative Assembly (Lower House). Each house was to have a majority of members who were directly elected. So, direct election was introduced, though the franchise was much restricted being based on qualifications of property, tax or education.
- The principle of communal representation was extended with separate electorates for Sikhs, Christians and Anglo-Indians, besides Muslims.
- The Act introduced dyarchy in the provinces, which indeed was a substantial step towards transfer of power to the Indian people.
- The provincial legislature was to consist of one house only (legislative council).
- The Act separated for the first time the provincial and central budgets, with provincial legislatures being authorised to make their budgets.
- A High Commissioner for India was appointed, who was to hold his office in London for six years and whose duty was to look after Indian trade in Europe. Some of the functions hitherto performed by the Secretary of State for India were transferred to the high commissioner.
- The Secretary of State for India who used to get his pay from the Indian revenue was now to be paid by the British Exchequer, thus undoing an injustice in the Charter Act of 1793.
- Though Indian leaders for the first time got some administrative experience in a constitutional set-up under this Act, there was no fulfilment of the demand for responsible government. Though a measure of power devolved on the provinces with demarcation of subjects between centre and provinces, the structure continued to be unitary and centralised. Dyarchy in the provincial sector failed.

SOURCE:

A Brief History of Modern India by Spectrum

13. In recent times, the climate activists demand “Net-Zero Emission by 2030”. In this context, consider the following statements:

- 1. Net Zero Emission can be achieved by removal all man-made greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere through reduction measures.**
- 2. Currently, Bhutan is the only country in the world to achieve Net Zero Emission.**
- 3. The Global Stocktake reviews all global countries’ performance, every five years, towards the achievement of Net-Zero emission.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Net zero emission means that all man-made greenhouse gas emissions must be removed from the atmosphere through reduction measures, thus reducing the Earth's net climate balance, after removal via natural and artificial sink, to zero. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Currently, Bhutan is the only country in the world to achieve Net Zero Emission. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The Global Stocktake does not reviews all global countries' performance, every five years, towards the achievement of Net-Zero emission.

So, Statement 3 is not correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The IPCC demonstrates in its most recent report of 2018 that net emissions must be reduced to zero in order to stabilize global temperatures. The report also states that any scenario that does not involve a reduction to zero will not stop climate change. This objective has been ratified by Switzerland, the EU and many other countries, under the Paris Agreement.
- Since the Earth already reacts strongly to small changes in the amount of CO₂, methane and other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, emissions of these gases must be reduced until the whole system is back in balance again.
- Net zero emission means that all man-made greenhouse gas emissions must be removed from the atmosphere through reduction measures, thus reducing the Earth's net climate balance, after removal via natural and artificial sink to zero. This way humankind would be carbon neutral and global temperature would stabilise.

SOURCE:

<https://www.myclimate.org/information/faq/faq-detail/detail/News/what-does-net-zero-emissions-mean/>

<https://www.wri.org/blog/2019/09/what-does-net-zero-emissions-mean-6-common-questions-answered>

14. Consider the following statements about the Compensation Cess on the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India:

- 1. It was introduced as a relief for the Indian States for the loss of revenues arising from the implementation of GST.**

2. It is levied on all the Goods and Services under the GST regime.
3. The collected Compensation Cess directly flows into the Public Accounts of India which was constituted under Article 266 (2) of the Indian Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Compensation cess was introduced as relief for States for the loss of revenues arising from the implementation of GST. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Compensation cess is levied on certain notified products considered to be 'sin' or luxury goods not levied on all the Goods and Services under the GST regime. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

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. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Compensation cess was introduced as relief for States for the loss of revenues arising from the implementation of GST.
- 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. 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 five products considered to be 'sin' or luxury goods. For example, SUV vehicles (more than 4 metres) are charged 50 per cent GST, of which the GST tax rate is 28 per cent and the compensation cess is 22 per cent.
- 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.

SOURCE:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/columns/slate/all-you-wanted-to-know-about-compensation-cess/article30321925.ece>

15. Consider the following statements about the hill stations in India:

- 1. Pachmarhi is the only hill station in Madhya Pradesh.**
- 2. Shimla is also referred to as the "Princess of Hill stations".**
- 3. Mount Abu in Rajasthan was a summer retreat of the rulers of Chola dynasty.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Pachmarhi is the only hill station and is the highest point in Madhya Pradesh. Pachmarhi is also often known as "Satpura ki Rani" or the "Queen of the Satpura Range". Situated at an altitude of 1,067 metres, the picturesque town is a part of UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, home to leopards and bison. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Shimla is Often called as the 'Queen of Hills'. Kodaikanal in Tamil Nadu is considered as "Princess of Hill Stations". **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Mount Abu in Rajasthan is not a summer retreat of the rulers of the Chola dynasty. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

16. "Climate Change Performance Index, 2020" is released by

- (a) United Nations Environment Programme
(b) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
(c) **Germanwatch and Climate Action Network International**
(d) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

EXPLANATION:

The Climate Change Performance Index is published by German watch, Climate Action Network International and the New Climate Institute.

Its aim is to put political and social pressure on those countries that have, until now, failed to take ambitious action on climate protection, and to highlight those countries with best practice climate policies. It evaluates the climate protection performance of 60 countries, responsible for over 90% of global energy-related CO₂ emissions. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

India's performance

- The report states that the current level of per capita emissions and energy use in India ranks **ninth** in the higher category.
- The Indian government has yet to develop a roadmap for the phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies that would consequently reduce the country's high dependence on coal.
- In short, more stringent laws and amendments should be made to achieve climate change targets.

Global scene

- The 2015 accord saw nations agree to work towards limiting global temperature rises to “well below” two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.
- The U.S. and Saudi Arabia are among major polluters showing “hardly any signs” of reducing their greenhouse gas production.
- While climate performance varied greatly — even within the EU, with Sweden leading the way — the report found that none of the countries surveyed were currently on a path compatible with the Paris climate goals.
- China, the world's largest single emitter, was found to have taken “medium action” due to its high investment in renewables.

SOURCE:

<https://www.climate-change-performance-index.org/ccpi-2020-international-press-release>

17. Consider the following pairs:

<i>Buddhist Monastery</i>	<i>Located in</i>
1. Tawang Monastery	- Sikkim
2. Hemis Monastery	- Ladakh
3. Tabo Monastery	- Himachal Pradesh
4. Ghum Monastery	- West Bengal

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

EXPLANATION:

Tawang Monastery, located in Tawang city of Tawang district in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, is the largest monastery in India and second largest in the world after the Potala Palace in

Lhasa, Tibet. It is situated in the valley of the Tawang River, near the small town of the same name in the northwestern part of Arunachal Pradesh, in close proximity to the Tibetan and Bhutanese border.

Tawang Monastery is known in Tibetan as Gaden Namgyal Lhatse, which translates to "celestial paradise in a clear night." **So, Pair 1 is not correctly matched.**

Hemis Monastery is a Himalayan Buddhist monastery (gompa) of the Drukpa Lineage, in Hemis, Ladakh, India. Situated 45 km from Leh, the monastery was re-established in 1672 by the Ladakhi king Sengge Namgyal. The annual Hemis festival honouring Padmasambhava is held in early June. **So, Pair 2 is correctly matched.**

Tabo Monastery (or Tabo Chos-Khor Monastery) is located in the Tabo village of Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh, northern India. It was founded in 996 CE in the Tibetan year of the Fire Ape by the Tibetan Buddhist lotsawa (translator) Rinchen Zangpo (Mahauru Ramabhadra), on behalf of the king of western Himalayan Kingdom of Guge, Yeshe-Ö.

Tabo is noted for being the oldest continuously operating Buddhist enclave in both India and the Himalayas. A large number of frescoes displayed on its walls depict tales from the Buddhist pantheon. There are many priceless collections of thankas (scroll paintings), manuscripts, well-preserved statues, frescos and extensive murals which cover almost every wall. **So, Pair 3 is correctly matched.**

Yiga Choeling Monastery of Ghoom is one of the oldest Tibetan Buddhist monasteries in the Darjeeling area of West Bengal built in the year 1850. This is the original or the old Ghoom Monastery. The Monastery belongs to the Yellow Hat sect also known as the Gelupka. One of the key attractions inside the monastery is the 15-foot model of the Lord Buddha which is known as The Maitreya Buddha or the Gyalwa Shampa which means the Buddha of the future or the Coming Buddha. **So, Pair 4 is correctly matched.**

18. Who among the following can establish a new High Court or establish common High Court for two or more Indian states?

- (a) President of India
- (b) The Collegium system in India
- (c) **Indian Parliament by law**
- (d) Union Government of India

EXPLANATION:

The Constitution of India specifically provides that, Parliament may by law establish a common High Court for two or more States or for two or more States and a Union territory. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Constitution of India provides for a high court for each state, but the Seventh Amendment Act of 1956 authorised the Parliament to establish a common high court for two or more states or for two or more states and a union territory.

- The territorial jurisdiction of a high court is co-terminus with the territory of a state.
- Similarly, the territorial jurisdiction of a common high court is co-terminus with the territories of the concerned states and union territory.
- At present, there are 24 high courts in the country. Out of them, four are common high courts.
- Delhi is the only union territory that has a high court of its own (since 1966). The other union territories fall under the jurisdiction of different state high courts.
- The Parliament can extend the jurisdiction of a high court to any union territory or exclude the jurisdiction of a high court from any union territory.
- Articles 214 to 231 in Part VI of the Constitution deal with the organisation, independence, jurisdiction, powers, procedures and so on of the high courts.

SOURCE:

Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth

19. Consider the following statements about Jyotiba Phule:

- 1. Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak gave Jyotirao Phule the title of “Mahatma” in recognition of his selfless services to humanity.**
- 2. He served as a member of Bombay Legislative Council for three successive terms in the latter half of Nineteenth Century.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The great reformer from Mumbai, Rao Bahadur Vithalrao Krishnaji Vandeekar gave Jyotirao Phule the title of “Mahatma” in May 1888 in recognition of his selfless services to humanity. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

Both Jyotiba Phule and his wife worked together in the field of Dalit and female education; he was a diligent and a social worker. He did not serve as a member of Bombay Legislative Council. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Jyotiba Phule (1827-1890), born in Satara, Maharashtra, belonged to the mali (gardener) community and organized a powerful movement against upper caste domination and brahminical supremacy.
- Phule founded the Satyashodhak Samaj (Truth Seekers' Society) in 1873, with the leadership of the samaj coming from the backward classes, malis, telis, kunbis, saris and dhangars.

- The main aims of the movement were (i) social service, and (ii) spread of education among women and lower caste people.
- Phule's works, *Sarvajanik Satyadharma* and *Gulamgiri*, became sources of inspiration for the common masses. Phule used the symbol of Rajah Bali as opposed to the Brahmins' symbol of Rama.
- Phule aimed at the complete abolition of the caste system and socio-economic inequalities; he was against Sanskrit Hinduism. This movement gave a sense of identity to the depressed communities as a class against those Brahmins who used religion and the blind faith of the masses to exploit the masses for personal monetary gain.
- Phule, a firm believer in gender equality, was a pioneer in women's education; he with the help of his wife, Savitribai, opened a girls' school at Poona; he was a pioneer of widow remarriage movement in Maharashtra and also opened a home for widows in 1854. Phule was awarded the title 'Mahatma' for his social reform work.

SOURCE:

A Brief History of Modern India by Spectrum

20. Consider the following statements about the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF):

- 1. It is a subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).**
- 2. It aims to strengthen political commitment to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests.**
- 3. The forum includes all United Nations member states and permanent observers.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) is a subsidiary body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

It aims to strengthen political commitment to the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The Forum has universal membership, and is composed of all Member States of the United Nations and specialized agencies. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)

- The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), established the UNFF in October 2000, a subsidiary body

- with the main objective to promote “the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and to strengthen long-term political commitment to this end” based on the Rio Declaration, the Forest Principles, Chapter 11 of Agenda 21 and the outcome of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF) I intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF)

Processes and other key milestones of international forest policy.

- The Forum has universal membership, and is composed of all Member States of the United Nations and specialized agencies
- Enhance the contribution of forests to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

The four Global Objectives seek to:

- Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management (SFM), including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;
- Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits; including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people;
- Increase significantly the area of sustainably managed forests, including protected forests, and increase the proportion of forest products derived from sustainably managed forests; and
- Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly-increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM.

SOURCE:

<https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/events/2019/un-forum-forests>

21. With reference to the functioning of Legislatures in India, which one of the following statements is correct about the comparison of Rajya Sabha and Vidhan Parishad?

- Rajya Sabha has substantial powers to shape non-financial legislation while the State Legislative Councils lack the constitutional mandate to do so**
- Legislative Assemblies of the Indian States have the power to override suggestions/amendments made to legislation by the respective State Legislative Council but Lok Sabha does not have this power in case of the passage of any bills
- Members of State Legislative Councils cannot vote in the Presidential election whereas all Rajya Sabha Members can
- All of the above

EXPLANATION:

The Councils are less powerful than the Rajya Sabha. Unlike, the Rajya Sabha, which has substantial powers to shape non-financial legislation, Legislative Councils lack a constitutional mandate to do so. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

Legislative Assemblies have the power to override suggestions/amendments made to legislation by the Council but Lok Sabha does have this power in case of passage of money bills (not ordinary bills and constitutional amendment bills).

The legislative assembly can override the legislative council by passing the bill for the second time and not vice versa.

Money bill It can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha and not in the Rajya Sabha. It cannot be rejected or amended by the Rajya Sabha. It should be returned to the Lok Sabha within 14 days, either with or without recommendations. **So, Option (b) is not correct.**

Members of Legislative Councils can't vote in Presidential election whereas not all Rajya Sabha Members can. Nominated Members of Lok Sabha (2) and Rajya Sabha (12) cannot vote in the presidential election. **So, Option (c) is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Even though both the council and the Rajya Sabha are second chambers, the Constitution has given the council much lesser importance than the Rajya Sabha due to the following reasons:

- The Rajya Sabha consists of the representatives of the states and thus reflect the federal element of the polity. It maintains the federal equilibrium by protecting the interests of the states against the undue interference of the Centre. Therefore, it has to be an effective revising body and not just an advisory body or dilatory body like that of the council. On the other hand, the issue of federal significance does not arise in the case of a council.
- The council is heterogeneously constituted. It represents different interests and consists of differently elected members and also include some nominated members. Its very composition makes its position weak and reduces its utility as an effective revising body. On the other hand, the Rajya Sabha is homogeneously constituted. It represents only the states and consists of mainly elected members (only 12 out of 250 are nominated).
- The position accorded to the council is in accordance with the principles of democracy. The council should yield to the assembly, which is a popular house. This pattern of relationship between the two Houses of the state legislature is adopted from the British model. In Britain, the House of Lords (Upper House) cannot oppose and obstruct the House of Commons (Lower House). The House of Lords is only a dilatory chamber—it can delay an ordinary bill for a maximum period of one year and a money bill for one month.

SOURCE:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-andhra-moves-to-scrap-vidhan-parishad-why-some-states-have-legislative-council-6237770/>

22. Europe has a high percentage of energy produced by nuclear technology compared to other continents. The main reason is

- (a) The abundance of Fissionable materials in Europe
- (b) They were the first to develop nuclear power
- (c) Optimised technology which reduced the cost of production**
- (d) Energy can be produced throughout the year

EXPLANATION:

Australia now tops the list as the country with the largest quantities of recoverable uranium reserves within its borders. So, Option (a) is not correct.
United States of America (USA) was the first to develop nuclear power. So, Option (b) is not correct.
The main reason for Europe has a high percentage of energy produced by nuclear technology compared to other continents is Optimised technology which reduced cost of production. The 109 nuclear power reactors (107 GWe) operating in 15 of the 27 EU member states account for over one-quarter of the electricity generated in the whole of the EU. Half of the EU's nuclear electricity is produced in only one country – France. So, Option (c) is correct.
Nuclear power reactors generally operate at or near their rated generating capacity throughout the year and have relatively high annual capacity factors. But this factor is not unique to Europe. So, Option (d) is not correct.

23. Consider the following statements about the Jainism:

1. **Bhagvati Sutra is a law book governing the functioning of the Jain religious order.**
2. **Mula Sangh and Kashtha Sangh are the two main orders of Shvetambara school of Jainism.**
3. **Most of the Jaina texts were written in Aradhamagadhi language.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Vyākhyāprajñapti commonly known as the Bhagavati Sūtra is the fifth of the 12 Jain Agamas said to be promulgated by Mahāvīra. The Vyākhyāprajñapti is said to have been composed by Sudharmaswami by the Śvētāmbara school of Jainism; it is written in Jain Prakrit. It is the largest text of the canon, said to contain 36,000 questions answered by Mahavira. The subject matter of the answers ranges from doctrine to rules of ascetic behaviour. So, Statement 1 is not correct.
Digambar tradition has two main monastic orders Mula Sangh and the Kashtha Sangh, both led

by Bhattarakas. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

The earliest versions of Jain Agamas known were written in Ardhamagadhi Prakrit language. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The word 'Jain' is derived from jina or jaina which means the 'Conqueror'. They believe that their religion is comprised of people who have managed to control and conquer their desires. Jainism does not have a single founder, instead of that the truth comes to the world in difficult and different times by a teacher who shows the way or a Tirthankara.
- There were 23 Tirthankaras or great-learned men in Jain religion before Mahavira. It is commonly mistaken that Mahavira was the founder of Jainism, instead he was the last and 24th tirthankara. He would achieve the goal of spirituality and teach the others the right way to get moksha or liberation. He is like an incarnation of god who is in the form of a human body and has to go through penance and meditation to reach the pure stage of the soul.
- Jainism, like Buddhism, rejects the authority of Vedas.
- However, unlike Buddhism, it believes in the existence of soul (atman). Soul is the core and the fundamental focus of the Jain philosophy. It is the soul that experiences existence and gains knowledge, not mind nor body as both are believed to be a heap of matter.
- Major Jain pilgrimages in India include Dilwara temple in Mount Abu (Rajasthan), Palitana temples (Gujarat), Girnar (Gujarat), Shikharji (Jharkhand) and Shravanabelagola (Karnataka).
- They believe that through three-jewel (fold) path of: right belief (samyakdarshana), right knowledge (samyakjnana) and right conduct (samyakcharita), one can get rid of the bad karma and also pull themselves out of the cycle of rebirth and achieve salvation.
- Jains need to follow these five constraints in life:
 - Ahimsa (non-violence);
 - Satya (truthfulness);
 - Asteya (not stealing);
 - Aparigraha (non-acquisition) and
 - Brahmacharya (chaste living).
- The fifth tenet was propounded by Mahavira.
- Jainism has two major ancient sub traditions:
 - Digambaras [Sub-sects include Mula Sangh (original community) and Terapanthi, Taranpathi and Bispanthi (these three are modern communities)]
 - Svetambaras (Sub-sects include Sthanakavasi and Murtipujaka)

SOURCE:

Indian Art and Culture by Nitin Singhania

24. The term "Multi-party interim appeal arrangement", sometimes seen in the news recently, is related to the affairs of

- (a) European Union
- (b) Association of Southeast Asian Nations
- (c) International Court of Justice
- (d) World Trade Organization**

EXPLANATION:

The European Union, China, Australia, Singapore and Canada, among others, have agreed for an interim mechanism for appeals to resolve trade disputes with the World Trade Organization's (WTO) dispute settlement mechanism becoming defunct.

The Multi-party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA), set up under Article 25 of the Dispute Settlement Undertaking, offers arbitration outside the Appellate Body contingent upon mutual agreement of the parties. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The European Union, China, Australia, Singapore and Canada, among others, have agreed for an interim mechanism for appeals to resolve trade disputes with the World Trade Organization's (WTO) dispute settlement mechanism becoming defunct.
- The Multi-party Interim Appeal Arbitration Arrangement (MPIA), set up under Article 25 of the Dispute Settlement Undertaking, offers arbitration outside the Appellate Body contingent upon mutual agreement of the parties.
- As per the agreement, final arbitration rulings will be binding and notified to the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB), although they will not be adopted as Appellate Body reports. Members in an individual dispute can "mutually agree to depart from the procedures set out in the appeal arbitration agreement".
- The mechanism comes in the wake of the US blocking the appointment of judges for more than two years, crippling the multilateral trade agency's dispute settlement mechanism.
- It applies to any future dispute between any two or more participating members and will apply only as long as the Appellate Body is unable to hear new appeals.

SOURCE:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/business/eu-china-propose-interim-dispute-settlement-system/articleshow/74878948.cms>

25. Consider the following pairs:

(Tribal Uprising)

(Leader)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. Khasi Uprising | - | Tirath Singh |
| 2. Khond Uprising | - | Sewaram |
| 3. Bhil uprising | - | Chakra Bisoi |

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

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

(d) 1, 2 and 3

EXPLANATION:

After having occupied the hilly region between Garo and Jaintia Hills, the East India Company wanted to build a road linking the Brahmaputra Valley with Sylhet. For this, a large number of outsiders including Englishmen, Bengalis and the labourers from the plains were brought to these regions. The Khasis, Garos, Khamptis and the Singphos organised themselves under Tirath Singh to drive away the strangers from the plains. The uprising developed into a popular revolt against British rule in the area. By 1833, the superior English military force had suppressed the revolt. **So, Pair 1 is correctly matched.**

From 1837 to 1856, the Khonds of the hilly tracts extending from Odisha to the Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam districts of Andhra Pradesh revolted against Company rule. Chakra Bisnoi, a young raja, led the Khonds who were joined by the Ghumsar, Kalahandi and other tribals to oppose the suppression of human sacrifice, new taxes, and the entry of zamindars into their areas. With Chakra Bisnoi's disappearance, the uprising came to an end. **So, Pair 2 is not correctly matched.**

Bhil Uprising 1817-19 uprising took place in Khandesh region of Maharashtra under the leadership of Sewaram due to the agrarian hardships. They revolted against Company rule in 1817-19, as they had to face famine, economic distress and misgovernment. The British used both force and conciliatory efforts to control the uprising. However, the Bhils revolted again in 1825, 1831 and in 1846. Later, a reformer, Govind Guru helped the Bhils of south Rajasthan (Banswara, Sunth states) to organise themselves to fight for a Bhil Raj by 1913. **So, Pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

SOURCE:

A Brief History of Modern India by Spectrum

26. Consider the following passage about a Biosphere Reserve in India:

“Satpura hills runs across it. It covers three protected areas. It is a natural habitat for Sal forests, Leopard, Giant Squirrel and Flying Squirrel. The most primitive Bharia tribes live here.”

Which one of the following Biosphere Reserve is mentioned in the above passage?

- (a) Similipal Biosphere Reserve
- (b) Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve**
- (c) Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve
- (d) Seshachalam Biosphere Reserve

EXPLANATION:

The Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve is a non-use conservation area and biosphere reserve in the Satpura Range of Madhya Pradesh state in central India. The conservation area was created in 1999 by the Indian government. It also contains animals from the Himalayan peaks and from the lower

western ghats. UNESCO designated it a biosphere reserve in 2009.

The biosphere reserve's total area is 4,926.28 square kilometres (1,217,310 acres). It includes three wildlife conservation units:

- Bori Sanctuary (518.00 sq. km)
- Pachmarhi Sanctuary (461.37 sq.km)
- Satpura National Park (524.37 sq.km)

Satpura National Park is designated as the core zone and the remaining area of 4401.91 sq.km, including the Bori and Pachmarhi sanctuaries, serves as the buffer zone.

The forests are dominated by Teak(Tectonagrandis). They include the westernmost groves of sal (Shorea robusta), which is the dominant tree of eastern India's forests. Other endemic vegetation includes wild mango, silver fern, jamun and arjun.

Large mammal species include tigers, leopard, wild bear, gaur (Bos gaurus), chital deer (Axis axis), muntjac deer, sambar deer (Cervus unicolor), and rhesus macaque.

The endemic fauna includes chinkara, nilgai, wild dogs, the Indian wolf, bison, Indian giant squirrels, and flying squirrels. Gond, Korku and Bharia tribes living in the Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

27. With reference to the graphical illustrations of the population of a country, which one of the following countries has a population pyramid with a wide top?

- (a) Zaire
- (b) Bolivia
- (c) Japan**
- (d) Mexico

EXPLANATION:

Zaire, Bolivia and Mexico are having Expansive pyramid. A population pyramid that is very wide at the younger ages, characteristic of countries with high birth rate and low life expectancy. The population is said to be fast-growing, and the size of each birth cohort gets larger than the size of the previous year. **So, Options (a), (b) and (d) are not correct.**

Japan is facing Constrictive pyramid. A population pyramid that is narrowed at the bottom. The population is generally older on average, as the country has long life expectancy, a low death rate, but also a low birth rate. However, the percentage of younger population are extremely low, this can cause issues with dependency ratio of the population. This pyramid is more common when immigrants are factored out. This is a typical pattern for a very developed country, a high level of education, easy access to and incentive to use birth control, good health care, and few negative environmental factors. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

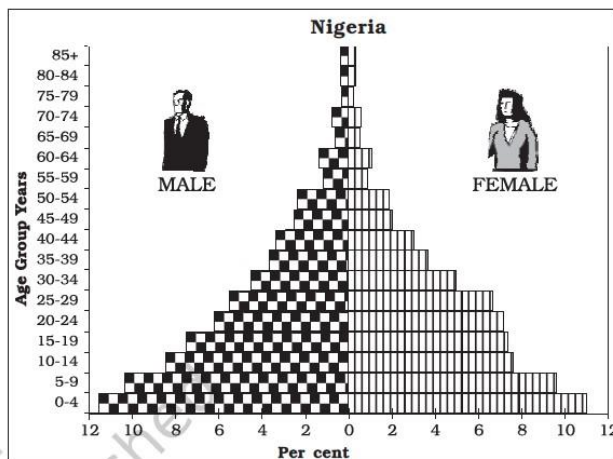
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Age-Sex Pyramid

- The age-sex structure of a population refers to the number of females and males in different age groups. A population pyramid is used to show the age-sex structure of the population. The shape of the population pyramid reflects the characteristics of the population.
- The left side shows the percentage of males while the right side shows the percentage of females in each age group.
- Fig. 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3 show different types of population pyramids.

Expanding Populations

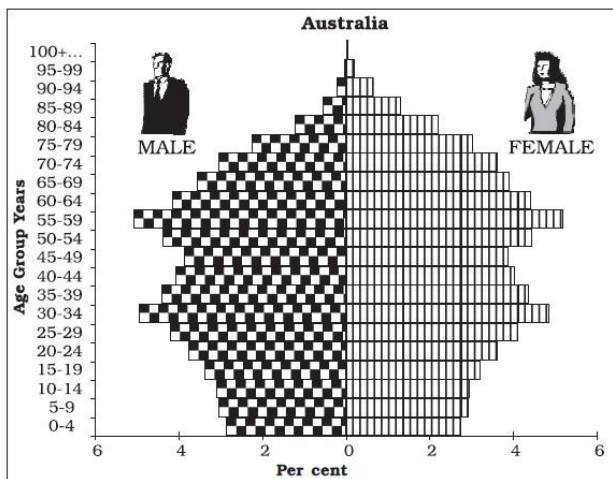
- The age-sex pyramid of Nigeria as you can see is a triangular shaped pyramid with a wide base and is typical of less developed countries.
- These have larger populations in lower age groups due to high birth rates. If you construct the pyramids for Bangladesh and Mexico, it would look the same.



Source: Demographic Year Book, 2009-10

Constant Population

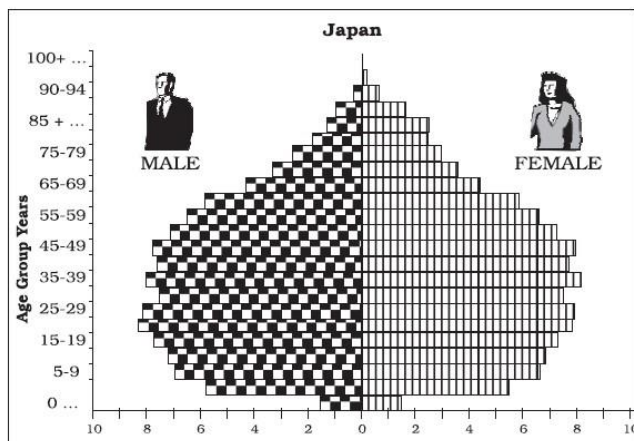
- Australia's age-sex pyramid is bell shaped and tapered towards the top. This shows birth and death rates are almost equal leading to a near constant population.



Source: Demographic Year Book, 2009-10

Declining Populations

- The Japan pyramid has a narrow base and a tapered top showing low birth and death rates. The population growth in developed countries is usually zero or negative.



Source: Demographic Year Book, 2009-10

SOURCE:

12th Fundamentals of Human Geography

28. Which one of the following statements is *not* correct about the Coral Reefs?

- (a) Coral Reefs are the source of nitrogen for marine food chains
- (b) Coral Reefs need shallow and sediment-free clear water to grow
- (c) Coral Reefs are also found in colder regions of the world
- (d) **Lakshadweep Islands has the richest Coral reef species diversity in India**

EXPLANATION:

Corals also require sediment-free, clean water, which is disturbed by ocean waves and currents is beneficial for the corals. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

Coral Reefs occur in shallow tropical areas where the seawater is clean, clear and warm. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

Cold-water corals inhabit deep, cold (39-55 degrees F), water. The United Nations Environment Programme reports that there are more cold-water coral reefs worldwide than tropical reefs. There are only about 6 different coral species associated in building with these reefs. The largest cold water coral reef is the Rost Reef off Norway. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

Among the four major reef areas of India, Andaman and Nicobar Islands are found to be very rich in species diversity followed by the Lakshadweep Islands, the Gulf of Mannar and finally the Gulf of Kachchh. **So, Option (d) is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CORAL REEFS

- Coral is actually a living animal. Coral has a symbiotic relationship (each gives something to the other and gets something back in return) with 'zooxanthellae' microscopic algae which live on coral [i.e. instead of living on the sea floor, the algae lives up on the coral which is closer to the ocean surface and so that the algae gets adequate light].
- Zooxanthellae assist the coral in nutrient production through its photosynthetic activities. These activities provide the coral with fixed carbon compounds for energy, enhance calcification, and mediate elemental nutrient flux.
- The tissues of corals themselves are actually not the beautiful colors of the coral reef, but are instead clear (white). The corals receive their coloration from the zooxanthellae living within their tissues.
- The host coral polyp in return provides its zooxanthellae with a protected environment to live within, and a steady supply of carbon dioxide for its photosynthetic processes.
- There are two types of corals: hard corals and soft corals, such as sea fans and gorgonians. Only hard corals build reefs.
- The builders of coral reefs are tiny animals called polyps. As these polyps thrive, grow, then die, they leave their limestone (calcium carbonate) skeletons behind. The limestone is colonized by new polyps. Therefore, a coral reef is built up of layers of these skeletons covered ultimately by living polyps.
- The reef-building, or hermatypic corals can form a wider range of shapes. Coral reefs may be branched, table-like, or look like massive cups, boulders or knobs.
- While the majority of coral reefs are found in tropical and sub-tropical water, there are also deep water corals in colder regions.

Features

- They occur in shallow tropical areas where the seawater is clean, clear and warm.
- The coral reef cover in Indian waters is roughly estimated up to 19,000 sq. Km.
- Coral reefs are one of the most productive and complex coastal ecosystems with high biological diversity.
- The high productivity is owing to the combination of its own primary production and support from its surrounding habitat.
- Reef building corals are a symbiotic association of polyps (coral animals) and 'zooxanthellae' (the microscopic algae)
- The corals are generally slow growing colonies of animals while zooxanthellae are fast growing plants.
- Even though corals live in nutrient poor waters, their capability to recycle the scarce nutrients (by the whole nutrient community) is enormous.
- In coral reef ecosystem, many invertebrates, vertebrates, and plants live in close association to the corals, with tight resource coupling and recycling, allowing coral reefs to have extremely high productivity and biodiversity, such that they are referred to as 'the Tropical Rainforests of the Oceans'.

SOURCE:

Environment by Shankar IAS Academy

29. Which of the following action can be considered as the violation of strict “Separation of Power” doctrine?

- 1. Re-promulgation of Ordinance by the executive authorities.**
- 2. Imposing cess on diesel cars by the Federal Court.**
- 3. Legislative body scrutinizing the budget prepared by the Finance Ministry.**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

The Judiciary, Legislature and Executive are the three pillars on which the effective functioning of the Government rests. A balance as opposed to conflicts is very necessary to achieve the ultimate public welfare and smooth functioning of the constitutional machinery.

Legislation making is the function of Legislature. But executives making ordinance which having effect on law is violation of the doctrine of “Separation of power”. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Cess is a form of tax charged/levied over and above the base tax liability of a taxpayer. A cess is usually imposed additionally when the state or the central government looks to raise funds for specific purposes. All these levies are usually imposed as a percentage of the taxpayer's basic tax liability. Hence, Imposing cess on diesel cars by the Federal Court not state or the central government is the violation of the Separation of Power. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Legislature is the guardian of public purse in a democracy. Executives can prepare budget but they are dependent on legislature for allocation of funds. Hence, legislative body scrutinizing budget cannot be considered as violation. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

30. Which one of the following is *not* a recommendation of the Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946?

- (a) Constituent Assembly would frame Constitution separately for Union and Provinces**
- (b) An interim government was to be formed from the Constituent Assembly
- (c) Provinces were to have full autonomy and all residuary powers would vest in the Provinces
- (d) Three-tier Executive and Legislative structure at Union, Provincial and Section levels

EXPLANATION:

It recommended single constitution.

So, Option (a) is not correct.

An interim government was to be formed from the constituent assembly.

Provinces were to have full autonomy and residual powers.

Three-tier executive and legislature at provincial, section and union levels.

These three are the recommendations of the Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946. **So, Options (b), (c) and (d) are correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Cabinet Mission Plan—Main Points

- Rejection of the demand for a full-fledged Pakistan, because
 - i. the Pakistan so formed would include a large non-Muslim population—38 per cent in the North-West and 48 per cent in the North-East;
 - ii. the very principle of communal self-determination would claim separation of Hindu-majority western Bengal and Sikh- and Hindu-dominated Ambala and Jullundur divisions of Punjab (already some Sikh leaders were demanding a separate state if the country was partitioned);
 - iii. deep-seated regional ties would be disturbed if Bengal and Punjab were partitioned;
 - iv. partition would entail economic and administrative problems, for instance, the problem of communication between the western and eastern parts of Pakistan; and
 - v. the division of the armed forces would be dangerous.
- Grouping of existing provincial assemblies into three sections:
 - Section-A: Madras, Bombay, Central Provinces, United Provinces, Bihar and Orissa (Hindu-majority provinces)
 - Section-B: Punjab, North-West Frontier Province and Sindh (Muslim-majority provinces)
 - Section-C: Bengal and Assam (Muslim-majority provinces).
- Three-tier executive and legislature at provincial, section and union levels.
- A constituent assembly was to be elected by provincial assemblies by proportional representation (voting in three groups—General, Muslims, Sikhs). This constituent assembly would be a 389-member body with provincial assemblies sending 292, chief commissioner's provinces sending 4, and princely states sending 93 members. (This was a good, democratic method not based on weightage.)
- In the constituent assembly, members from groups A, B and C were to sit separately to decide the constitution for provinces and if possible, for the groups also. Then, the whole constituent assembly (all three sections A, B and C combined) would sit together to formulate the union constitution.
- A common centre would control defence, communication and external affairs. A federal structure was envisaged for India.
- Communal questions in the central legislature were to be decided by a simple majority of both communities present and voting.
- Provinces were to have full autonomy and residual powers.
- Princely states were no longer to be under paramountcy of the British government. They would be free to enter into an arrangement with successor governments or the British government.

- After the first general elections, a province was to be free to come out of a group and after 10 years, a province was to be free to call for a reconsideration of the group or the union constitution.
- Meanwhile, an interim government was to be formed from the constituent assembly.

SOURCE:

A Brief History of Modern India by Spectrum

31. With reference to the recent developments in the Space industry, which one of the following statements is *not* correct about the “Artemis Mission”?

- (a) **It is an ongoing joint spaceflight program of the NASA, Japan Space Agency and the European Space Agency**
- (b) The mission consists of a spacecraft to measure the impact of Sun’s radiation on Earth’s rocky moon
- (c) It aims to send astronauts to the Moon by 2024
- (d) The spacecraft will take the crew to the lunar orbit and its ultimate goal to land humans on Mars

EXPLANATION:

Artemis Mission is a proposed mission by the NASA of the USA and ESA (not JAXA). So, Option (a) is not correct.
This mission is called ARTEMIS, or Acceleration, Reconnection, Turbulence and Electrodynamics of Moon's Interaction with the Sun. As the name suggests, the two spacecraft will measure what happens when the Sun's radiation hits our rocky moon, where there is no magnetic field to protect it. So, Option (b) is correct.
It aims to send astronauts to the Moon by 2024 with the ultimate goal to land humans on Mars. So, Option (c) is correct.
NASA’s powerful new rocket, the Space Launch System (SLS), will send astronauts aboard the Orion spacecraft nearly a quarter million miles from Earth to lunar orbit. Astronauts will dock Orion at the Gateway and transfer to a human landing system for expeditions to the surface of the Moon. They will return to the orbital outpost to board Orion again before returning safely to Earth. So, Option (d) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

NASA Artemis mission

- NASA’s ongoing Artemis program aims to send astronauts to the Moon by 2024 with the ultimate goal to land humans on Mars.
- With the Artemis program, NASA will land the first woman and next man on the Moon by 2024, using innovative technologies to explore more of the lunar surface than ever before.
- The astronauts will be first sent to the Orion spacecraft using the new Space Launch System (SLS) rocket.
- The spacecraft will take the crew to the lunar orbit and will return them to Earth as well.

- The Orion spacecraft will be docked at the Gateway, from where the astronauts will take expeditions to the surface of the Moon in the human landing system.
- For the mission, NASA announced it will also be accepting proposals from private space corporations to use their technologies for the exploration program.
- Boeing has submitted a proposal to NASA about its integrated Human Lander System (HLS) that will minimise mission complexity with its 'Fewest Steps to the Moon' approach.

SOURCE:

<https://www.nasa.gov/what-is-artemis/>

32. When the Central Bank of an economy carries out the Quantitative Easing (QE) practice, then

- (a) that economy would face severe cash crunch due to higher interest rates in the market
- (b) there will be a huge accumulation of Forex reserves due to the increase in the export of goods and services
- (c) **there will be infusing of money into that economy so that the market interest rates will be reduced**
- (d) there will neither reduction nor increase in the interest rate in that economy

EXPLANATION:

Quantitative easing (QE) is a monetary policy whereby a central bank buys government bonds or other financial assets in order to inject money into the economy to expand economic activity. The economy would face more cash flow and the interest rate will be low. **So, Option (a) is not correct.**

Quantitative easing (QE) would make exports relatively cheaper, which is another way to help stimulate the economy. This will reduce export and increase import. **So, Option (b) is not correct.**

There will be infusing of money into the economy so that the interest rate will be reduced in the Economy. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

There will be a reduction in the interest rate in the economy. **So, Option (d) is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Quantitative easing (QE) is a form of extraordinary monetary policy used by central banks to quickly increase the domestic money supply and spur economic activity.
- It usually involves the central bank purchasing longer-term government bonds as well as other types of assets such as mortgage-backed securities (MBS).
- To execute quantitative easing, central banks increase the supply of money by buying government bonds and other securities. Increasing the supply of money is similar to increasing supply of any other asset—it lowers the cost of money. A lower cost of money means interest rates are lower and banks can lend with easier terms. This strategy is used when interest rates approach zero, at which point central banks have fewer tools to influence economic growth.

- If central banks increase the money supply, it can cause inflation. In a worst-case scenario, the central bank may cause inflation through QE without economic growth, causing a period of so-called stagflation. Although most central banks are created by their countries' government and are involved in some regulatory oversight, central banks can't force the banks to increase lending or force borrowers to seek loans and invest. If the increased money supply does not work its way through the banks and into the economy, QE may not be effective except as a tool to facilitate deficit spending (i.e., fiscal policy).
- Another potentially negative consequence is that quantitative easing can devalue the domestic currency. For manufacturers, this may help stimulate growth because exported goods would be cheaper in the global market. However, a falling currency value makes imports more expensive, which can increase the cost of production and consumer price levels.

SOURCE:

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/q/quantitative-easing.asp>

33. Consider the following statements about the “Bodo Peace Accord”:

- 1. By this Accord, Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) was provided with more administrative and legislative powers by amending Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.**
- 2. According to this Accord, the Government of Assam will notify Bodo language in Devanagiri script as the associate official language in that state.**
- 3. Under this accord, the non-tribal population will be allowed inside BTR after the permission from Bodoland Territorial Council.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

By this Accord, Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) was provided with more administrative and legislative powers by amending Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

According to this Accord, the Government of Assam will notify Bodo language in Devanagiri script as the associate official language in that state. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Non-tribals living inside BTR were given option to stay or leave. But there is no such proposal that only tribals will be allowed inside BTR. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Recently, the central government, the Assam government and the Bodo groups, including all factions of the militant National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB), signed an agreement to redraw and rename the Bodoland Territorial Area District (BTAD) as the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), in Assam.
- BTAD is spread over four districts of Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa and Udalguri.
- The BTAD and other areas mentioned under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution have been exempted from the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019.
- Bodoland Territorial Region would include the villages which are dominated by Bodos but are outside BTAD presently. Villages with non-Bodo population would be excluded from it.
- A committee will be formed to decide the exclusion and inclusion of new areas. Subsequently, the total number of Assembly seats will go up to 60, from the existing 40.
- Both the representatives of the All Bodo Students Union (ABSU) and of Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) will be present in the committee.
- Bodo-Kachari Welfare Council will be set up for focused development of Bodo villages outside BTAD.
- Bodos living in the hills would be conferred a Scheduled Hill Tribe status.
- Bodo language with Devanagari script would be the associate official language for the entire Assam.
- However, the agreement has not addressed the issue of “citizenship or work permit” for non-domiciles in the BTAD yet.
- Around 1500 cadres of NDFB will be rehabilitated and assimilated by the Central and the state governments.
- The criminal cases registered against factions of NDFB members for non-heinous crimes shall be withdrawn and the cases of heinous crimes will be reviewed.
- Comprehensive solutions have been made to redress the grievances of the people.
- Families of the people killed during the Bodo movement would get ₹5 lakh each.
- A Special Development Package of ₹1500 crore would be given by the Centre to undertake specific projects for the development of Bodo areas.

SOURCE:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/govt-signs-accord-with-ndfb-absu-to-resolve-bodo-issue/article30665589.ece>

34. Consider the following traits of a tribal Group:

- 1. They are one of the 21 Scheduled Tribes of the Indian state of Tripura.**
- 2. In India, they may also be found in Mizoram and Assam.**
- 3. They speak the Kokborok language which is of Tibeto-Burmese origin and is locally referred to as KauBru.**

Which one of the following tribal community is described by the traits given above?

- (a) Kuki Tribe
(b) Nishi Tribe

(c) Angami Tribe

(d) Reang Tribe

EXPLANATION:

Reang (aka Bru in Mizoram) are one of the 21 scheduled tribes of the Indian state of Tripura. The Bru can be found all over the Tripura state in India. However, they may also be found in Mizoram and Assam. They speak the Reang dialect of Kokborok language which is of Tibeto-Burmese origin and is locally referred to as Kau Bru. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- An agreement was signed recently among the Bru leaders and the Governments of India, Tripura, and Mizoram.

What is in the Bru agreement?

- This agreement gives the Bru community their choice of living in either the state of Tripura or Mizoram.
- All Bru currently living in temporary relief camps in Tripura will be settled in the state, if they want to stay on.
- The Bru who returned to Mizoram in the eight phases of repatriation since 2009, cannot, however, come back to Tripura.
- To ascertain the numbers of those who will be settled, a fresh survey and physical verification of Bru families living in relief camps will be carried out.
- The Centre will implement a special development project for the resettled Bru; this will be in addition to the Rs 600 crore fund announced for the process, including benefits for the migrants.

What benefits will the Bru community get?

- Each resettled family will get 0.03 acre of land for building a home, Rs 1.5 lakh as housing assistance, and Rs 4 lakh as a one-time cash benefit for sustenance.
- They will also receive a monthly allowance of Rs 5,000, and free rations for 2 years from the date of resettlement.
- All cash assistance will be through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- The state government will expedite the opening of bank accounts and the issuance of Aadhaar, permanent residence certificates, ST certificates, and voter identity cards to the beneficiaries.
- All dwelling houses will be constructed and payments completed within 270 days of the signing of the agreement.

Where will the Bru be resettled?

- Revenue experts reckon 162 acres will be required. Tripura Chief Minister (CM) has said that the effort will be to choose government land.

- But since Tripura is a small state, this government would explore the possibility of diverting forest lands, even reserve forest areas if necessary, to grant the new entitlements.
- However, diverting forest land for human settlements will need clearance from the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests, which is likely to take at least 3 months.

What is the condition of the migrants now?

- The Bru or Reang are a community indigenous to Northeast India, living mostly in Tripura, Mizoram, and Assam.
- In Tripura, they are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG).
- In October 1997, following ethnic clashes, nearly 37,000 Bru fled Mizoram to Tripura, where they were sheltered in relief camps. Of this,
 - 5,000 people have returned to Mizoram in 9 phases of repatriation,
 - 32,000 people still live in 6 relief camps in North Tripura.
- Under a relief package announced by the Centre, a daily ration of 600 g rice was provided to every adult Bru migrant and 300 g to every minor.
- They depended on the wild for vegetables, and some of them have been practising slash-and-burn (jhum) cultivation in the forests.
- They live in makeshift bamboo thatched huts, without permanent power supply and safe drinking water, with no access to proper healthcare services or schools.

SOURCE:

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/who-are-the-bru-refugees-11579233818774.html>

35. Consider the following statements about the “Wetland Conservation Rules” which was recently notified by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change:

- 1. According to these rules, a wetland is a land area that is saturated with water, either permanently or seasonally, and it takes on the characteristics of a distinct ecosystem.**
- 2. These rules prohibit setting up or expansion of industries and disposal of construction and demolition waste within the wetlands.**
- 3. It emphasised ‘decentralised approach’ based on which the Local Bodies will develop and define the strategies for the conservation and wise use of wetlands within their jurisdiction.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

According to this, a wetland is a land area that is saturated with water, either permanently or seasonally, and it takes on the characteristics of a distinct ecosystem. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The rules prohibit setting up or expansion of industries and disposal of construction and demolition waste within the wetlands. The new rules also prohibit activities like conversion of wetland for non-wetland uses, setting up of industries, waste dumping, discharge of untreated wastes and effluents. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The new rules stipulate setting up of a State Wetlands Authority in each State and union territories that will be headed by the State's environment minister and include a range of government officials. These authorities will need to develop a comprehensive list of activities to be regulated and permitted within the notified wetlands and their zone of influence, recommend additional prohibited activities for specific wetlands, define strategies for conservation and wise use of wetlands, and undertake measures for enhancing awareness within stakeholders and local communities on values and functions of wetlands. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Wetland Conservation Rules

- Union government has notified new rules that prohibit setting up or expansion of industries, and disposal of construction and demolition waste within the wetlands.
- The rules, provide for setting up an authority in each state and Union Territory.
- The authority will prepare a list of all wetlands of the state or UT within three months and make strategies for conservation and wise use of wetlands within their jurisdiction.
- It (authority) shall recommend mechanisms for maintenance of ecological character through promotional activities for land within the boundary of notified wetlands.
- The authority will include one expert each in the fields of wetland ecology, hydrology, fisheries, landscape planning and socio-economics.
- The wetlands are land areas covered by water, either temporarily/ seasonally or permanently.
- Marsh, fen and peatland come under this category, The wetlands play a key role in hydrological cycle and flood control, water supply and providing food, fibre and raw materials.
- The Centre had in September 2019, identified 130 wetlands for priority restoration in the next five years and asked states to submit their respective integrated management plan.
- The highest number of such identified wetlands are in Uttar Pradesh (16) followed by Madhya Pradesh (13), Jammu & Kashmir (12), Gujarat (8), Karnataka (7) and West Bengal (6).
- ISRO had in 2011 come out with a national wetlands atlas on the basis of satellite image, mapping over two lakh wetlands covering around 4.63% of the total geographic area of India.
- India's prominent wetlands include
 1. Chilika lake - Odisha
 2. Wular lake - J&K ,
 3. Renuka - Himachal Pradesh ,
 4. Sambhar lake - Rajasthan,
 5. DeeporBeel - Assam,
 6. East Kolkata wetlands - West Bengal,
 7. Nal Sarovar - Gujarat,
 8. Harika - Punjab,

9. Rudra Sagar – Tripura,
10. Bhoj wetland - Madhya Pradesh.

SOURCE:

<https://www.livemint.com/Politics/y6Tr3tkrr3q28AmGKaBFII/Environment-ministry-notifies-new-wetland-rules.html>

36. Consider the following statements:

1. Tax revenue collection in India is more from the direct tax than the indirect tax.
2. Tax base in India is more in indirect tax than the direct tax.

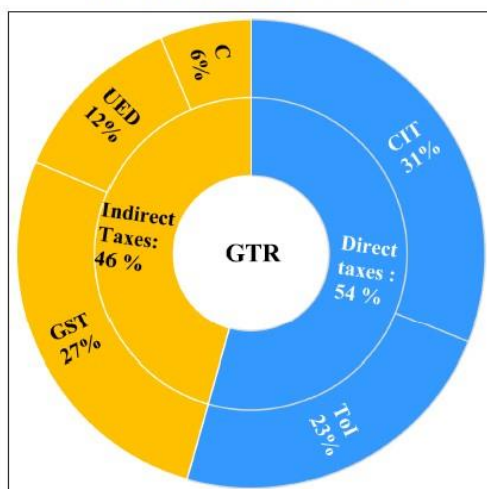
Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Tax revenue collection in India is more from the direct tax than the indirect tax. Direct taxes are expected to grow at 12.7 percent, whereas indirect taxes at 11.1 percent, over the revised target for FY20. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Figure 3: Composition of taxes in Gross Tax Revenue in 2019-20 BE



Source: Union Budget Documents & CGA
 GTR: Gross Tax Revenue, CIT: Corporation Tax,
 ToI: Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax
 (includes STT), C: Customs, UED: Union Excise
 Duties, GST: Goods and Services Tax

Widening of tax base due to increase in the number of indirect tax filers in the GST regime has also led to improved tax buoyancy. Hence, Tax base in India is more in indirect tax than the direct tax. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

SOURCE:

Economic Survey 2019-20 volume 2

37. Which of the following monuments in India were constructed during the reign of Deccan Sultanates?

- 1. Bidar Fort**
- 2. Gol Gumbaz**
- 3. Golconda Fort**
- 4. Safdarjung Tomb**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

Bidar Fort is one of the grandest forts in India. It has a six-mile long wall made of huge stone blocks of reddish laterite stone. The fort contains many palaces and two large mosques, the Jami Masjid and the SolhaKhumba Masjid. It is considered as an architecture of the Deccan Sultanate period.

The most remarkable monuments in Bijapur are the Gol Gumbaz and Ibrahim Rouza. Gol Gumbaz is the tomb of Mohammed Adil Shah and it contains the second largest dome in the world constructed before modern age. The external diameter of the hemispherical dome is 44 m. Ibrahim Rouza is the tomb for Ibrahim Adil Shah II and it is one of the most beautiful monument in Bijapur. It is considered as an architecture of the Deccan Sultanate period.

The most remarkable achievements of the Qutb Shahi dynasty is Golkonda fort. It is one of the most impregnable fort in India. It is also famous for its acoustic features and water management. It is considered as an architecture of the Deccan Sultanate period.

Safdarjung's Tomb is a sandstone and marble mausoleum in Delhi, India. It was built in 1754 in the late Mughal Empire style for Nawab Safdarjung. The monument has an ambience of spaciousness and an imposing presence with its domed and arched red brown and white coloured structures. Safdarjung, Nawab of Oudh, was made prime minister of the Mughal Empire (Wazir ul-Mamlak-i-Hindustan) when Ahmed Shah Bahadur ascended the throne in 1748. It is not an architecture of the Deccan Sultanate period. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Deccan sultanates were five dynasties that ruled late medieval kingdoms, namely, Bijapur, Golkonda, Ahmadnagar, Bidar, and Berar in south-western India. The Deccan sultanates were located on the Deccan Plateau. Their architecture was a regional variant of Indo-Islamic architecture, heavily influenced by the styles of the Delhi Sultanate and later Mughal architecture, but sometimes also directly from Persia and Central Asia.

- The rulers of five Deccan sultanates had a number of cultural contributions to their credit in the fields of art, music, literature and architecture. Deccan sultanates have constructed many grand and impregnable forts. Bidar and Golconda forts are classic example of military planning of Deccan sultanates. Apart from forts, they have constructed many tombs, mosques and madrasas. Gol Gumbaz (tomb of Mohammed Adil Shah), was the second largest dome in the world.

Bidar

- Bidar is famous for Bidar Fort, Mahmud Gawan Madrasa, the Bahamani tombs at Ashtur and the Barid Shahi tombs.
- Bidar Fort is one of the grandest fort in India. It has six-mile long wall made of huge stone blocks of reddish laterite stone. The fort contains many palaces and two large mosques, the Jami Masjid and the SolhaKhumba Masjid. The Ashtur tomb complex contains 12 tombs of Bahmani rulers out of which the tomb of Ahmad Shah I Wali has a large dome. Madrasa of Mahmud Gawana is one of the most beautiful Madrasa created by the Deccan sultanate. The tomb of Ali Barid Shah I contains s Persian charbagh garden.

Bijapur

- The most remarkable monuments in Bijapur are the Gol Gumbaz and Ibrahim Rouza. Gol Gumbaz is the tomb of Mohammed Adil Shah and it contains the second largest dome in the world constructed before modern age. The external diameter of the hemispherical dome is 44 m. Ibrahim Rouza is the tomb for Ibrahim Adil Shah II and it is one of the most beautiful monument in Bijapur.
- The Jami Masjid is one of the finest mosques in India having courtyard of 11,000 square feet. Other important architectural works of this period in Bijapur are the Chini Mahal, Jal Mandir, Sat Manzil, Gagan Mahal, Anand Mahal and the Asar Mahal (1646).

Golkonda

- The most remarkable achievements of the Qutb Shahi dynasty is Golkonda fort. It is one of the most impregnable fort in India. It is also famous for its acoustic features and water management.
- The Jami Masjid (1518) built by QuliQutb Mulk is a notable mosque in Golkonda. The tombs of QutbShahis are a mausoleum complex, a royal necropolis of 30 tombs of the royal family. These were erected from 1543 to 1672.
- Char Minar, in the heart of Hyderabad, was completed in 1591. It has four minarets of 56 m. height. The construction of the Makkah Masjid was started in 1617 during the reign of Muhammad Qutb Shah but completed only in 1693.

Gulbarga

- Gulbarga was the initial capital of Bahamani sultanate. It has Gulbarga Fort and Great Mosque in the Fort and the Haft Gumbad complex.

38. Consider the following pairs:

<i>Lakes</i>		<i>Key Habitat Species</i>
1. Chilika Lake	-	Irrawaddy Dolphin
2. Loktak Lake	-	Sangai Deer
3. Sambhar Lake	-	Sambar Deer
4. Kolleru Lake	-	Spot-billed Pelicans

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Irrawaddy dolphin (*Orcaella brevirostris*) is the flagship species of Chilika lake. Chilika is home to the only known population of Irrawaddy dolphins in India and one of only two lagoons in the world that are home to this species. **So, Pair 1 is correctly matched.**

Sangai Deer (*Rucervus eldii*) also called the Dancing Deer. It is the state animal of Manipur. Once it was found across Manipur Valley in abundant now only its remaining natural habitat is found in Keibul Lamjao National Park (KLNP), only floating national park in the world. KLNP is floating biomass in Manipur's Loktak Lake. **So, Pair 2 is correctly matched.**

Sambhar has been designated as a Ramsar site (recognized wetland of international importance) because the wetland is a key wintering area for tens of thousands of pink flamingos and other birds that migrate from northern Asia and Siberia. **So, Pair 3 is not correctly matched.**

The Kolleru lake was an important habitat for an estimated 20 million resident and migratory birds, including the grey or spot-billed pelican (*Pelecanus philippensis*). **So, Pair 4 is correctly matched.**

39. Akhilesh Ranjan Task Force is related to

- (a) Coastal Regulation Zone
- (b) Illegal river sand mining
- (c) E-mobility
- (d) **Direct Tax Code**

EXPLANATION:

A committee headed by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) member Akhilesh Ranjan submitted its report on replacing the Income Tax Act with a new Direct Tax Code. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Key Suggestions

Litigation Management:

- Amendments in Section 147 and Section 148 of the I-T Act, empowering the tax officer to reopen assessment cases based on predefined criteria.
- The I-T officer can go back up to six years to scrutinise the books of accounts of the assessee.
- Currently, these provisions are prone to the interpretation. 40% of litigation happens because assessee challenge reasons given by officers for reopening cases.
- Increasing the threshold limit for opening cases: Currently it is Rs 1 lakh and above. Also, the pre-defined criteria to select cases for scrutiny will be tightened.
- Reopening cases should be supported by proper reasoning. Often cases are reopened due to information received from banks, financial institutions, and other sources.
- Assessment proceedings should be made faceless, and an option be allowed to the public to seek clarifications on tax matters from CBDT.

Reduced Burden of Tax Compliance:

- Tax compliance based on global trends and best practices. This is expected to increase clarity among taxpayers and also expand the tax base.
- Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the tax-compliance and administration process.
- Proposal of introducing collaborative compliance in direct tax administration, which would integrate data from banks, financial institutions and the Goods and Services Tax (GST) network to ensure that the scope of taxable income increases.

Personal Income Tax:

- A rejig in rates between 5% to 20%.
- Currently, the personal income tax structure has three categories based on age — for people below the age of 60, for people above the age of 60 but less than 80, and the third for people of 80 years and above.
- The first category has four slabs – nil tax on income up to Rs 2.5 lakh; 5% tax rate for income between Rs 2.50 lakh and Rs 5 lakh, 20% tax rate for income between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 10 lakh and 30% for income above Rs 10 lakh. The second category has the basic slab of Rs 3 lakh while the third category has 'nil' rate for income up to Rs 5 lakh.

SOURCE:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/committee-submits-report-on-replacing-i-t-act-with-direct-tax-code-119081900700_1.html

40. Consider the following statements about the reservations in government jobs in India:

- 1. Reservation in appointments in government jobs is a fundamental right guaranteed to the citizens of India under Article 16(4) and Article 16(4A) of the Indian Constitution.**
- 2. There is no consequential seniority in the promotion to any social classes in India.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Supreme Court ruled that there is no fundamental right to reservations in appointments and promotions under articles 16(4) and 16(4A) of the Constitution. The apex court ruled that it was the discretion of the governments, either at the state or central level, to grant reservation in promotions. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

SCs and STs have been provided reservation in promotions since 1955. This was discontinued following the judgement in the case of Indra Sawhney wherein it was held that it is beyond the mandate of Article 16(4) of the Constitution.

Subsequently, the Constitution was amended by the Constitution (77th Amendment) Act, 1995 and a new clause (4A) was inserted in Article 16 to enable the government to provide reservation in promotion.

Later, clause (4A) was modified by the Constitution (85th Amendment) Act, 2001 to provide consequential seniority to SC and ST candidates promoted by giving reservation. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

What does the Constitution say on reservations?

- Article 14 of the Constitution guarantees equality before law and equal protection of laws to everyone. Similarly, Article 16(1) and 16(2) assure citizens equality of opportunity in employment or appointment to any government office.
- Article 15(1) generally prohibits any discrimination against any citizen on the grounds of religion, caste, sex or place of birth.
- Additionally, Article 29(2) bars discrimination against any citizen with regard to admission to educational institutions maintained by the government or receiving aid out of government funds on grounds of religion, race, caste etc.
- However, Articles 15(4) and 16(4) state that these equality provisions do not prevent the government from making special provisions in matters of admission to educational institutions or jobs in favour of backward classes, particularly the Scheduled Castes (SCs) and the Scheduled Tribes (STs).

- Article 16(4A) allows reservations to SCs and STs in promotions, as long as the government believes that they are not adequately represented in government services.

SOURCE:

<https://theprint.in/theprint-essential/sc-quota-ruling-is-nothing-new-reservation-in-jobs-was-never-a-fundamental-right/363200/>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/promotion-quota-if-passed-to-be-implemented-from-1995/article3877363.ece>

41. Consider the following statements about the GEMINI (GAGAN Enabled Mariner's Instrument for Navigation and Information):

- It is to provide disaster warnings to fishermen by utilizing GAGAN (GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation) satellite systems.
- The data coverage of GEMINI covers the entire Indian Ocean.
- It is developed by INCOIS under Union Ministry of Earth Sciences and Airport Authority of India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

GEMINI (GAGAN Enabled Mariner's Instrument for Navigation and Information) is to provide disaster warnings to fishermen by utilizing GAGAN (GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation) satellite systems of the Airports Authority of India and ISRO. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The data coverage of GEMINI covers the entire India Ocean full-time, which will help in information transmission to the fishermen far away from coastal areas. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

It is developed by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences and Airport Authority of India (AAI). **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

GEMINI system

- GEMINI (GAGAN Enabled Mariner's Instrument for Navigation and Information) is a new marine information dissemination system.
- It is to provide disaster warnings to fishermen by utilizing GAGAN (GPS Aided Geo Augmented Navigation) satellite systems of the AAI and ISRO.

- It is a portable device which receives data from the GAGAN satellites and sends it to the user's cellphone App, which decode the alerts.
- It is developed by INCOIS under Ministry of Earth Sciences and Airport Authority of India.
- INCOIS regularly provides information, advisories, ocean data, weather forecasts, potential fishing zones data to beneficiaries like fishermen, Indian Navy, marine industries, shipping etc.
- But due to the limited range of mobile networks, the disaster warning couldn't reach beyond 10-12km of the coastline which was acutely felt during 2017 Ockhi cyclone.
- The data coverage of GEMINI covers the entire India Ocean full-time, which will help in information transmission to the fishermen far away from coastal areas.

SOURCE:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/gemini-system-to-aid-fishermen/article29629523.ece>

42. Which of the following gas/gases is/are known as “Ozone precursor”?

- 1. Nitrogen Oxide**
- 2. Carbon Monoxide**
- 3. Volatile Organic Compounds**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

The majority of tropospheric ozone formation occurs when nitrogen oxides (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), react in the atmosphere in the presence of sunlight, specifically the UV spectrum. Nitrogen oxides (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are considered ozone precursors. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Ozone

- It occurs naturally in the upper layers of the atmosphere.
- This important gas shields the earth from the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun.
- However, at the ground level, it is a pollutant with highly toxic effects.
- Vehicles and industries are the major source of ground level ozone emissions.
- Ozone makes our eyes itch, burn, and water. It lowers our resistance to cold and pneumonia.

Nitrogen oxide (Nox)

- It causes smog and acid rain. It is produced from burning fuels including petrol, diesel, and coal.
- Nitrogen oxide can make children susceptible to respiratory diseases in winters.

Carbon monoxide (CO)

- It is a colourless, odourless gas that is produced by the incomplete burning of carbon-based fuels including petrol, diesel, and wood.
- It is also produced from the combustion of natural and synthetic products such as cigarettes.
- It lowers the amount of oxygen that enters our blood.
- It can slow our reflexes and make us confused and sleepy.

SOURCE:

Environment by Shankar IAS Academy

43. In which one of the following mythology-based theatrical performances, saint-reformer Srimanta Sankardeva experimented with the literary language of Brajvali?

- (a) Dashavatar
- (b) **Bhaona**
- (c) Krishnattam
- (d) Yakshagana

EXPLANATION:

Bhaona, a mythology-based theatrical performance, is a traditional form of entertainment, with religious messages, prevalent in Assam, India.

It is a creation of Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankardeva, written in the early sixteenth century. The plays of bhaona are popularly known as Ankiya Nats and their staging is known as bhaona. There are some special characteristics of Bhaona like the plays, dialogues, costumes, ornaments, entry and foot-steps of the characters.

The bhaonas are written in the Assamese and Brajvali languages. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

SOURCE:

<https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/assamese-bhaona-to-make-an-english-debut-in-abu-dhabi/article29826079.ece>

44. In India, members of Upper House of the Parliament are indirectly elected. Which one of the following statement is correct about "Indirect Election"?

- (a) Elected members are responsible to the Legislature
- (b) Elected members are responsible to the Executive

(c) Elected members are responsible to the Judiciary

(d) Elected members are responsible to the People

EXPLANATION:

Broad responsibilities of the members of parliament of Rajya Sabha are:

- Legislative responsibility: To pass Laws of India in the Rajya Sabha.
- Oversight responsibility: To ensure that the executive (i.e. government) performs its duties satisfactorily.
- Representative responsibility: **To represent the views and aspirations of the people of their constituency in the Parliament of India (Rajya Sabha).**
- Power of the purse responsibility: To approve and oversee the revenues and expenditures proposed by the government.
- The Union Council of Ministers, who are also members of parliament have an additional responsibility of the executive as compared to those who are not in the Council of Ministers.

So, Option (d) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- A Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha is the representative of the Indian states to the upper house of the Parliament of India (Rajya Sabha).
- Rajya Sabha MPs are elected by the electoral college of the elected members of the State Assembly with a system of proportional representation by a single transferable vote. Parliament of India is bicameral with two houses; Rajya Sabha (Upper house i.e. Council of States) and the Lok Sabha (Lower house i.e. House of the People).
- The total number of members of Rajya Sabha are lesser than the Members of Parliament in the Lok Sabha and have more restricted power than the lower house (Lok Sabha).
- Unlike membership to the Lok Sabha, membership to the Rajya Sabha is permanent for a term of six years and cannot be dissolved at any time.

SOURCE:

Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth

45. Which of the following is/are the possible impacts of creating “Credit Guarantee Enhancement Corporation” in India?

- 1. It eases the infrastructure financing in India.**
- 2. It reduces Non-Performing Assets of the Scheduled Commercial Banks.**
- 3. It gives greater insurance protection to the bank’s demand and term deposits.**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

Finance minister had announced in the budget for 2019-20 that Credit Guarantee Enhancement Corporation would be set up to increase sources of capital for infrastructure financing. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Credit Guarantee Enhancement Corporation will not deal with existing NPA. It focuses in providing capital for infrastructure financing. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Credit Guarantee Enhancement Corporation will not deal with insurance protection limit to the bank's deposits. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- India's proposed infrastructure finance entity – Credit Guarantee Enhancement Corporation (CGEC) – is expected to free up lending of up to Rs 3.5 lakh crore by banks to the sector.
- CGEC will be set up with an authorised capital of Rs 20,000 crore and provide guarantee to bonds issued by completed projects
- Rs 500 crore has already been provided as initial corpus.
- Finance minister had announced in the budget for 2019-20 that such an entity would be set up to increase sources of capital for infrastructure financing.
- the proposed entity would be set up in 2019-20 and that the regulations had been notified by the Reserve Bank of India.

SOURCE:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/govt-to-set-up-credit-guarantee-enhancement-corporation-with-rs-20k-cr-capital/articleshow/70287133.cms?from=mdr>

46. Consider the following statements about the Hallmarking process in India:

1. **Hallmarking is the accurate determination and official recording of the proportionate content of precious metals.**
2. **The standards for Hallmark certification are laid by the Bureau of Indian Standards only.**
3. **Hallmarking is now mandatory for all the ornaments made up of Gold, Silver, Diamond and Platinum.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

EXPLANATION:

Hallmarking is the accurate determination and official recording of the proportionate content of precious metal in precious metal articles. Hallmarks are thus official marks used in many countries as a guarantee of purity or fineness of precious metal articles. The principle objectives of the Hallmarking Scheme are to protect the public against adulteration and to obligate manufacturers to maintain legal standards of fineness. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Hallmarking is a certification of standards laid by the Bureau of Indian Standards, the national standards organization of India. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts will be made mandatory across the country from January 15, 2021 to ensure purity of the precious metal. Hallmarking is not mandatory for all the ornaments made up of Silver, Diamond and Platinum. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The government has made hallmarking for gold jewellery and artefacts mandatory from 15 January 2021, to ensure quality.
- The Department of Consumer Affairs will issue a notification for making gold hallmarking mandatory.
- Currently gold hallmarking is voluntary, this will become mandatory from January 15, 2021.
- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is already running a hallmarking scheme for gold jewellery since April 2000 and around 40% of gold jewellery is being hallmarked currently.
- Instead of 10 grades earlier, hallmarked gold jewellery will now be available in three grades of 14 carat, 18 carat and 22 carat.
- For violation of the norms, there is a provision for a fine of a minimum Rs 1 lakh and up to 5 times of the value of article as well as 1 year jail.
- In India, at present 2 precious metals namely gold and silver have been brought under the purview of hallmarking.

SOURCE:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/wealth/personal-finance-news/hallmarking-to-be-mandatory-for-gold-jewellery-from-2021-paswan/articleshow/72293419.cms?from=mdr>

47. Consider the following statements about the National Disaster Management Authority of India:

1. It is a statutory body constituted under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 which was enacted by the Parliament of India.
2. It comes under the administrative jurisdiction of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. It prepares national and state-wise plans for Disaster Management to ensure a timely and effective response to disasters.
4. The Chairman of this Authority is the Prime Minister of India.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The National Disaster Management Authority has been constituted under the Disaster Management Act 2005. Hence, It is a statutory body created under the Act enacted by the Parliament of India. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is an agency of the Ministry of Home Affairs whose primary purpose is to coordinate the response to natural or man-made disasters and for capacity-building in disaster resiliency and crisis response. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

SDMA prepares state-wise plans. NDMA will only assist them. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

The National Disaster Management Authority has been constituted under the Disaster Management Act 2005, with the Prime Minister of India as its Chairman-; a Vice Chairman with the status of Cabinet Minister, and eight members with the status of Ministers of State. **So, Statement 4 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the apex statutory body for disaster management in India.
- The NDMA was formally constituted on 27th September 2006, in accordance with the Disaster Management Act, 2005 with Prime Minister as its Chairperson and nine other members, and one such member to be designated as Vice-Chairperson.
- **Mandate:** Its primary purpose is to coordinate response to natural or man-made disasters and for capacity-building in disaster resiliency and crisis response. It is also the apex body to lay down policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster Management to ensure timely and effective response to disasters.
- **Vision:** To build a safer and disaster resilient India by a holistic, proactive, technology driven and sustainable development strategy that involves all stakeholders and fosters a culture of prevention, preparedness and mitigation.

NDMA, as the apex body, is mandated to lay down the policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster Management to ensure timely and effective response to disasters. Towards this, it has the following responsibilities:-

- Lay down policies on disaster management ;
- Approve the National Plan;
- Approve plans prepared by the Ministries or Departments of the Government of India in accordance with the National Plan;
- Lay down guidelines to be followed by the State Authorities in drawing up the State Plan;

- Lay down guidelines to be followed by the different Ministries or Departments of the Government of India for the Purpose of integrating the measures for prevention of disaster or the mitigation of its effects in their development plans and projects;
- Coordinate the enforcement and implementation of the policy and plans for disaster management;
- Recommend provision of funds for the purpose of mitigation;
- Provide such support to other countries affected by major disasters as may be determined by the Central Government;
- Take such other measures for the prevention of disaster, or the mitigation, or preparedness and capacity building for dealing with threatening disaster situations or disasters as it may consider necessary;
- Lay down broad policies and guidelines for the functioning of the National Institute of Disaster Management.

SOURCE:

<https://vikaspedia.in/social-welfare/disaster-management-1/disaster-management-in-india>

48. Consider the following statements about the Hinayana School of Buddhism:

1. **It was divided into two sects known as Shunyavaad and Vigyanvaad in the later times.**
2. **They believed in helping themselves over others to attain salvation.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Hinayana was later divided into two sects i.e. Vaibhashika and Sautrantika. Mahayanawas later divided into two sects i.e. Shunyavaad and Vigyanvaad. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

They believe in individual salvation and try to attain individual salvation through self discipline and meditation. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Hinayana Buddhism

- It means the lesser vehicle.
- The school includes the followers of the original preaching of the Buddha. It is more of an orthodox school.
- They did not believe in idol or image worship of Buddha.
- They believe in individual salvation and try to attain individual salvation through self discipline and meditation.
- Ultimate aim of Hinayana is thus nirvana.
- One of the sub-sects of Hinayana is Sthaviravada or Theravada.
- The Hinayana scholars used Pali language to interact with the masses.

- Emperor Ashoka patronised Hinayana sect as Mahayanaschool came into being much later.
- Hinayana school in its original form is almost non-existent in the present age.

SOURCE:

Indian Art and Culture by Nitin Singhanian

49. Which of the following species are found in the 'New World' naturally?

- 1. Sun Bear**
- 2. Jaguar**
- 3. Condor**
- 4. Ostrich**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

Old World refers to Africa, Asia, and Europe while New World refers to the Americas, including North America, Central America, and South America.

The sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*) is a bear species occurring in tropical forest habitats of Southeast Asia. It is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. The global population is thought to have declined by more than 30% over the past three bear generations.

The jaguar (*Panthera onca*) is a large felid species and the only extant member of the genus *Panthera* native to the Americas. The jaguar's present range extends from Southwestern United States and Mexico in North America, across much of Central America, and south to Paraguay and northern Argentina in South America.

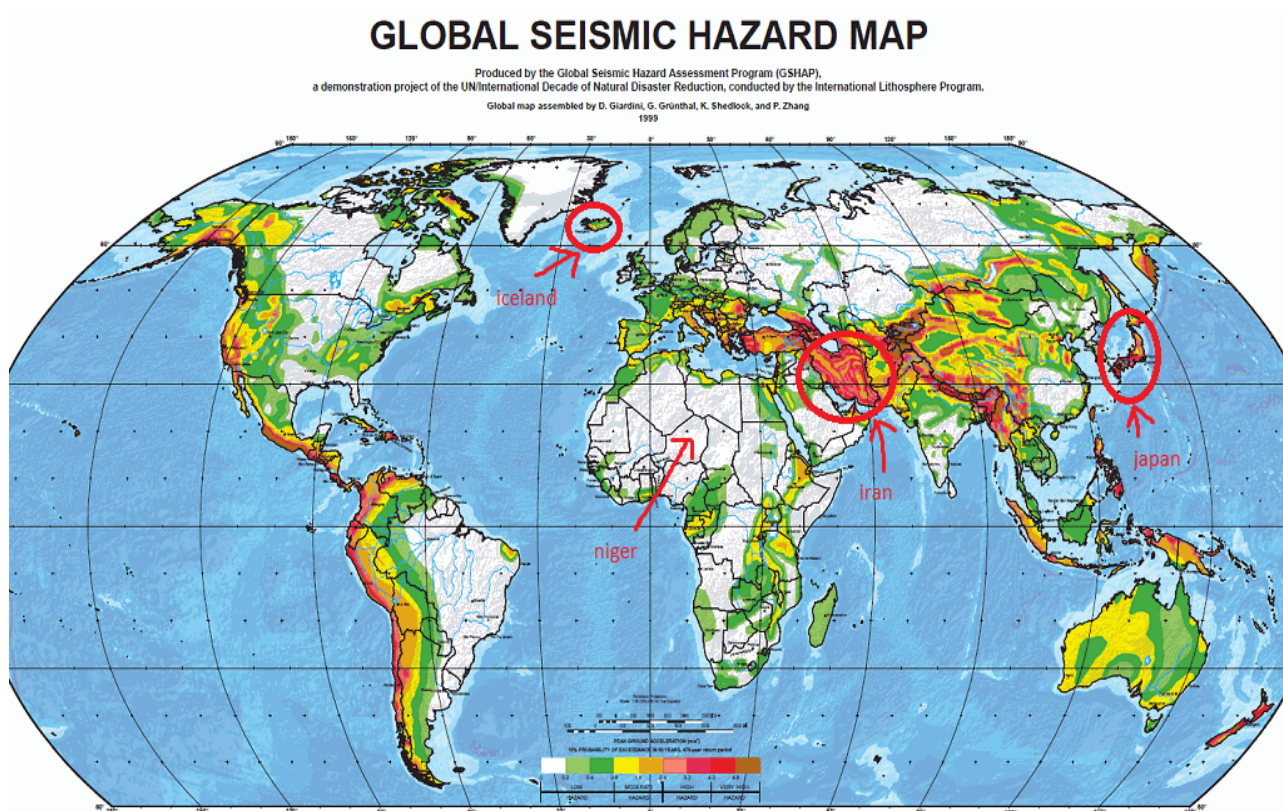
Condor is the common name for two species of New World vultures, each in a monotypic genus. The name derives from the Quechua *kuntur*. They are the largest flying land birds in the Western Hemisphere. They are: The Andean condor (*Vultur gryphus*) which inhabits the Andean mountains.

Wild ostriches live in the dry, hot savannas and woodlands of Africa. They once roamed all over Asia, Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, but because they have been hunted so extensively, wild ostriches' range has been reduced to sub-Saharan Africa. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

50. If a person is planning a vacation to a country with the least seismic activity, then that person shall visit which among the following countries?

- (a) Iceland
(b) Japan
(c) **Niger**
(d) Iran

EXPLANATION:



51. International Platform on Sustainable Finance (IPSF), sometimes seen in the news recently, is launched by

- (a) United Nations Environment Programme
- (b) World Bank
- (c) European Union**
- (d) World Economic Forum

EXPLANATION:

International Platform on Sustainable Finance (IPSF) is launched by the European Union. It is launched to reach the Paris targets, trillions of investments in sustainable infrastructure will be needed over the next decades. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

International Platform on Sustainable Finance

- The European Union is launching the International Platform on Sustainable Finance (IPSF) together with relevant authorities from Argentina, Canada, Chile, China, India, Kenya, and Morocco
- It will be introduced at the IMF and World Bank Group Annual Meetings, in Washington D.C.

- To reach the Paris targets, trillions of investments in sustainable infrastructure will be needed over the next decades.
- The launch of this Platform is essential to stimulate investment and redirect capital flows towards our climate objectives at the scale required for the most important economic transition.
- It will act as a forum for facilitating exchanges and, where relevant, coordinating efforts on initiatives and approaches to environmentally sustainable finance, while respecting national and regional contexts.
- It will focus on environmentally sustainable initiatives in particular in the areas of taxonomies, disclosures, standards and labels, which are fundamental for investors to identify and seize green investment opportunities worldwide.

SOURCE:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/QANDA_19_6116

52. Consider the following statements about Arsenic contamination in India:

- 1. Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of people affected by groundwater Arsenic contamination in India.**
- 2. Recently, India has developed a new variety of rice called “Muktoshri” which has resistance to inorganic Arsenic.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of people affected by groundwater Arsenic contamination in India. A new study has found that as many as 2.34 crore people in rural areas of Uttar Pradesh are exposed to high levels of arsenic in groundwater. A total of 40 districts in the state are exposed to high concentration of arsenic in groundwater. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Recently, West Bengal government's rice research centre has developed a new variety of rice called “Muktoshri” which has resistance to inorganic Arsenic. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Arsenic is a natural component in the earth's crust.
- It is widely distributed throughout the environment in the air, water and land.
- It is highly toxic in its inorganic form.
- Contaminated water used for drinking, irrigation of food crops and food preparation poses the greatest threat to public health from arsenic

- Long-term exposure to arsenic from drinking-water and food can lead to chronic arsenic poisoning.
- It can cause cancer, skin lesions, developmental effects, cardiovascular disease, neurotoxicity and diabetes.
- The most important action in affected communities is the prevention of further exposure to arsenic by providing them of a safe water supply.
- It is a high-profile problem in the Ganges Delta, due to the use of deep tubewells for water supply.
- The groundwater in these tubewells have high concentrations of arsenic in deeper levels.
- Arsenic is one of WHO's 10 chemicals of major public health concern. WHO recommended current limit of arsenic in drinking-water is 10 µg/L.

SOURCE:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/high-levels-of-arsenic-found-in-groundwater-in-up/article27329332.ece>

53. Which one of the following Ashoka's Inscriptions mentions about Ashoka's first visit to Bodh Gaya and the Bodhi tree?

- (a) Major Rock Edict XIII
- (b) Pillar Edict II
- (c) Nigali Sagar Pillar Inscription
- (d) Major Rock Edict VIII**

EXPLANATION:

List of Major Rock edicts

- Major Rock Edict I - Prohibits animal slaughter and bans festive gathering.
- Major Rock Edict II - Care for man and animals. Mentions the Pandyas, Satyapuras and Keralaputras of South India.
- Major Rock Edict III - Generosity to Brahmins. About Yuktas, Pradeshikas and Rajukas who would go every five years to different parts of his empire to spread Dhamma.
- Major Rock Edict IV - Dhammaghosha (sound of Dhamma/righteousness) over Bherighosha (sound of war).
- Major Rock Edict V - About Dhammamahamatras. Talks about treating slaves right.
- Major Rock Edict VI - King's desire to know about his people's conditions. About welfare measures.
- Major Rock Edict VII - Tolerance for all religions.
- **Major Rock Edict VIII - Ashoka's first visit to Bodh Gaya and the Bodhi tree (his first Dhamma Yatra).**
- Major Rock Edict IX - Condemns popular ceremonies.
- Major Rock Edict X - Disapproves of the individual's desire for fame and glory and stresses on Dhamma.
- Major Rock Edict XI - Elaborates on Dhamma.

- Major Rock Edict XII - Tolerance for all religions and sects.
- Major Rock Edict XIII - Mentions victory over Kalinga. Mentions Ashoka's Dhamma victory over Greek Kings Antiochus of Syria (Amtiyoko), Ptolemy of Egypt (Turamaye), Magas of Cyrene (Maka), Antigonus of Macedon (Amtikini), Alexander of Epirus (Alikasudaro). Also mentions Pandyas, Cholas, etc.
- Major Rock Edict XIV - Engraving of inscriptions installed in various parts of the country.

So, Option (d) is correct.

54. Consider the following reports:

- 1. World Energy Statistics**
- 2. World Energy Balances**
- 3. Energy Technology Perspectives**

Which one of the following agencies publishes the reports mentioned above?

- (a) International Renewable Energy Agency
(b) International Energy Forum
(c) International Energy Agency
(d) World Energy Council

EXPLANATION:

- Energy subsidies: Evolution in the global energy transformation to 2050
- Global Renewables Outlook: Energy transformation 2050
- Renewable Capacity Statistics 2020
- Electricity Storage Valuation Framework

These reports are published by International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). **So, Option (a) is not correct.**

Energy outlooksreport is published by International Energy Forum (IEF). **So, Option (b) is not correct.**

- World Energy Statistics
- World Energy Balances
- Energy Technology Perspectives
- Oil Market Report
- Tracking Clean Energy Progress
- World Energy Outlook

These reports are published by International Energy Agency (IEA). **So, Option (c) is correct.**

The global energy network report is published by World Energy Council. **So, Option (d) is not correct.**

55. Consider the following statements about the Indian Judiciary:

1. Chief Justice of India can increase the strength of the Supreme Court judges under his/her administrative capacity.
2. Transfer of judges from one High Court to another High Court is made by the President after consultations with the Chief Justice of India.
3. To set up a Regional bench of Supreme Court, an amendment to the Indian Constitutional is not required.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Parliament by law increases the number of Supreme Court judges. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

According to Article 130 of the Indian Constitution, Chief Justice of India will decide about regional benches with approval of president. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

56. Consider the following statements about the “Goldilocks Zone”:

1. Planets in this zone might contain liquid water.
2. Every planet will have a Goldilocks Zone around it.
3. The Earth is in the Solar System’s Goldilocks zone.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Goldilocks Zone refers to the habitable zone around a star where the temperature is just right - not too hot and not too cold - for liquid water to exist on a planet. Liquid water is essential for life. **So, Statement 1 is correct and statement 2 is not correct.**

The Earth is in the Solar System’s Goldilocks zone because it is a habitable zone. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

SOURCE:

https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/kepler/overview/index.html

<https://exoplanets.nasa.gov/resources/323/goldilocks-zone/>



57. With reference to Medieval India, consider the following pairs:

<i>Term</i>		<i>Meaning</i>
1. Charai	-	Tax on Land
2. Araghatta	-	Water-wheel
3. Barids	-	Landowners

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

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

58. Which one of the following cities has the highest time difference with Greenwich Meridian Time?

- (a) Los Angeles
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Buenos Aires
- (d) Abuja

EXPLANATION:



59. The term ‘Plasticrust’, sometimes seen in the news recently, is a

- (a) recyclable plastic-like substance produced from the sand processing
- (b) layer of plastic present in the ocean rocks**
- (c) newly-identified microbe which has ability to decompose microbeads
- (d) crust-like structure made of decomposed plastics by using Ideonella sakaiensis

EXPLANATION:

Plastic Rust is a layer of plastic encrusted onto ocean rocks. In 2016, researchers first observed blue and grey plastic patches on Madeira. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Plastic rust, a form of plastic pollution never-before-seen on Earth’s coastlines, was found on shoreline rocks in Madeira, Portugal.
- Plastic Rust is a layer of plastic encrusted onto ocean rocks.
- In 2016, researchers first observed blue and grey plastic patches on Madeira.
- The single patch discovered three years ago now covers 10 percent of its shore.
- The artificial crust is replacing natural crusts and films, making it difficult for barnacles and snails to adhere to their preferred habitat.
- The snails may be unknowingly ingesting plastic as they feed on algae perched on the plastic rust.

SOURCE:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/alert-mankind-a-new-type-of-pollution-is-knocking-on-your-door/hello-plasticrust/slideshow/69969420.cms>

60. While comparing deficit trends of the revised estimate of 2019-20 and the budget estimate of 2020-21, the percentage change in fiscal deficit with respect to GDP decreased from 3.8 to 3.5 and the percentage change in revenue deficit with respect to GDP increased from 2.4 to 2.7 and the percentage change in effective revenue deficit with respect to GDP increased from 1.5 to 1.8 and the percentage change in primary deficit with respect to GDP decreased from 0.7 to 0.4. In light of the above statement, which one of the following is correct?

- (a) Budgeted allocation of interest payment increased from the 2019-2020 revised estimates
- (b) Budgeted allocation of grants for the creation of capital assets increased from the 2019-2020 revised estimates
- (c) Budgeted allocation of interest payment did not change from the 2019-2020 revised estimates**

(d) Budgeted allocation of grants for the creation of capital assets decreased from the 2019-2020 revised estimates

EXPLANATION:

The percentage change in fiscal deficit with respect to GDP decreased from 3.8 to 3.5 and the percentage change in primary deficit with respect to GDP decreased from 0.7 to 0.4.

Both fiscal deficit and primary deficit has reduced compared to previous year. So, there is overall reduction in the expenditure. Here total expenditure includes both interest payment and grants for the creation of capital assets. So, reduction in the expenditure reduction in any of the parts in the total expenditure including interest payment and grants for the creation of capital assets.

Budgeted allocation of interest payment may decreased or didn't change from the 2019-2020 revised estimates. **So, Option (a) is not correct.**

Budgeted allocation of grants for the creation of capital assets may decreased or didn't change from the 2019-2020 revised estimates. **So, Option (b) is not correct.**

The percentage change in effective revenue deficit with respect to GDP increased from 1.5 to 1.8. The increase in effective revenue deficit shows the revenue expenditure increased from the 2019-2020 revised estimates. **So, Option (d) is not correct.**

So, Option (c) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Revenue Deficit:

- It refers to the excess of government's revenue expenditure over revenue receipts.
- Revenue Deficit = Revenue expenditure – Revenue receipts
- The revenue Deficit includes only such transactions that affect the current income and expenditure of the government.
- When the government incurs a revenue deficit, it implies that the government is dissaving and is using up the savings of the other sectors of the economy to finance a part of its consumption expenditure.

Fiscal Deficit:

- It is the gap between the government's expenditure requirements and its receipts. This equals the money the government needs to borrow during the year. A surplus arises if receipts are more than expenditure.
- Fiscal Deficit = Total expenditure – (Revenue receipts + Non-debt creating capital receipts).
- It indicates the total borrowing requirements of the government from all sources.
- From the financing side: Gross fiscal deficit = Net borrowing at home + Borrowing from RBI + Borrowing from abroad
- The gross fiscal deficit is a key variable in judging the financial health of the public sector and the stability of the economy.

Primary Deficit:

- Primary deficit equals fiscal deficit minus interest payments. This indicates the gap between the government's expenditure requirements and its receipts, not taking into account the expenditure incurred on interest payments on loans taken during the previous years.
- $\text{Primary deficit} = \text{Fiscal deficit} - \text{Interest payments}$

Effective revenue deficit is defined as the difference between revenue deficit and grants for creation of capital assets.

61. Which one of the following organizations is granting the “developing country status” to a country?

- (a) United Nations
- (b) World Trade Organisation
- (c) World Bank
- (d) None of the above**

EXPLANATION:

There are no WTO definitions of “developed” and “developing” countries. Members announce for themselves whether they are “developed” or “developing” countries.

However, other members can challenge the decision of a member to make use of provisions available to developing countries. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The WTO Agreements contain special provisions which give developing countries special rights. These provisions are referred to as “Special and Differential Treatment” (S&D) provisions.

The special provisions include:

- Longer time periods for implementing Agreements and commitments,
- Measures to increase trading opportunities for developing countries,
- Provisions requiring all WTO members to safeguard the trade interests of developing countries,
- Support to help developing countries build the capacity to carry out WTO work, handle disputes, and implement technical standards, and
- Provisions related to least-developed country (LDC) Members.

Benefits to Developing Countries in the WTO:

- The Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization (also known as “the WTO Agreement”) specifies that international trade should benefit the economic development of developing and least-developed countries.

- General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)— gives developing countries the right to restrict imports, if doing so would promote the establishment or maintenance of a particular industry, or assist in cases of balance-of-payments difficulties.
- Part IV of the GATT includes provisions on the concept of non-reciprocal preferential treatment for developing countries, i.e. when developed countries grant trade concessions to developing countries they should not expect the developing countries to make matching offers in return.
- However, developing countries claim that Part IV has been without practical value as it does not contain any obligations for developed countries.

SOURCE:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/trump-targets-developing-countries-wants-wto-to-end-unfair-benefits-in-90-days/articleshow/70410938.cms>

62. Which of the following Act(s) does *not* come under the jurisdiction of the National Green Tribunal (NGT)?

- 1. Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006**
- 2. Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**
- 3. Indian Forest Act, 1927**
- 4. Biological Diversity Act, 2002**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

The NGT has the power to hear all civil cases relating to environmental issues and questions that are linked to the implementation of laws listed in Schedule I of the NGT Act. These include the following:

- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974;
- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977;
- The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980;
- The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;
- The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;
- The Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991;
- The Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

The NGT has not been vested with powers to hear any matter relating to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and various laws enacted by States relating to forests, tree preservation etc. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

What is the National Green Tribunal?

- The National Green Tribunal, established in 2010, as per the National Green Tribunal Act is a specialised judicial body equipped with expertise solely for the purpose of adjudicating environmental cases in the country.
- Recognising that most environment cases involve multi-disciplinary issues which are better addressed in a specialised forum, the Tribunal was setup as per recommendations of the Supreme Court, Law Commission and India's international law obligations to develop national laws on environment and implement them effectively.
- The Tribunal is tasked with providing effective and expeditious remedy in cases relating to environmental protection, conservation of forests and other natural resources and enforcement of any legal right relating to environment. The Tribunal's orders are binding and it has power to grant relief in the form of compensation and damages to affected persons.

What is the Tribunal's composition?

- The Tribunal has a presence in five zones- North, Central, East, South and West. The Principal Bench is situated in the North Zone, headquartered in Delhi.
- The Central zone bench is situated in Bhopal, East zone in Kolkata, South zone in Chennai and West zone in Pune.
- The Tribunal is headed by the Chairperson who sits in the Principal Bench and has at least ten but not more than twenty judicial members and at least ten but not more than twenty expert members.

SOURCE:

<https://greentribunal.gov.in/faqs>

63. Which of the following is/are the mandate of "New Space India Limited"?

- 1. Productionisation of PSLV and GSLV through Indian Industries.**
- 2. Manufacture of SSLV in collaboration with Private Sector.**
- 3. To handle ISRO's commercial deals for satellite launch, with local and foreign customers.**
- 4. Marketing ISRO's spin-off technologies.**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

Productionisation of PSLV not GSLV through Indian Industries. So, Statement 1 is not correct.
Manufacture of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) in collaboration with Private Sector. So, Statement 2 is correct.
Antrix Corporation looks at foreign markets whereas NSIL will focus mostly on domestic industries for commercialisation activities. So, Statement 3 is not correct.
Marketing spin-off technologies and products both in India and abroad. So, Statement 4 is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

New Space India Limited.

- New Space India Ltd. (NSIL) is a Public Sector Enterprise under the administrative control of 'Department of Space'.
- It has been incorporated as a new commercial arm of ISRO.
- It will commercialise ISRO's space products.
- It has been incorporated to carry out the following roles and functions,
 1. Small Satellite technology transfer to industries from ISRO
 2. Manufacture of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) in collaboration with Private Sector.
 3. Productionisation of PSLV through Indian Industries.
 4. Marketing of Space based products and services.
 5. Transfer of technology developed by ISRO Centres.
 6. Marketing spin-off technologies and products both in India and abroad.
- NSIL will act in the presence of another commercial arm of ISRO, Antrix.
- Antrix Corporation looks at foreign markets whereas NSIL will focus mostly on domestic industries for commercialisation activities.

SOURCE:

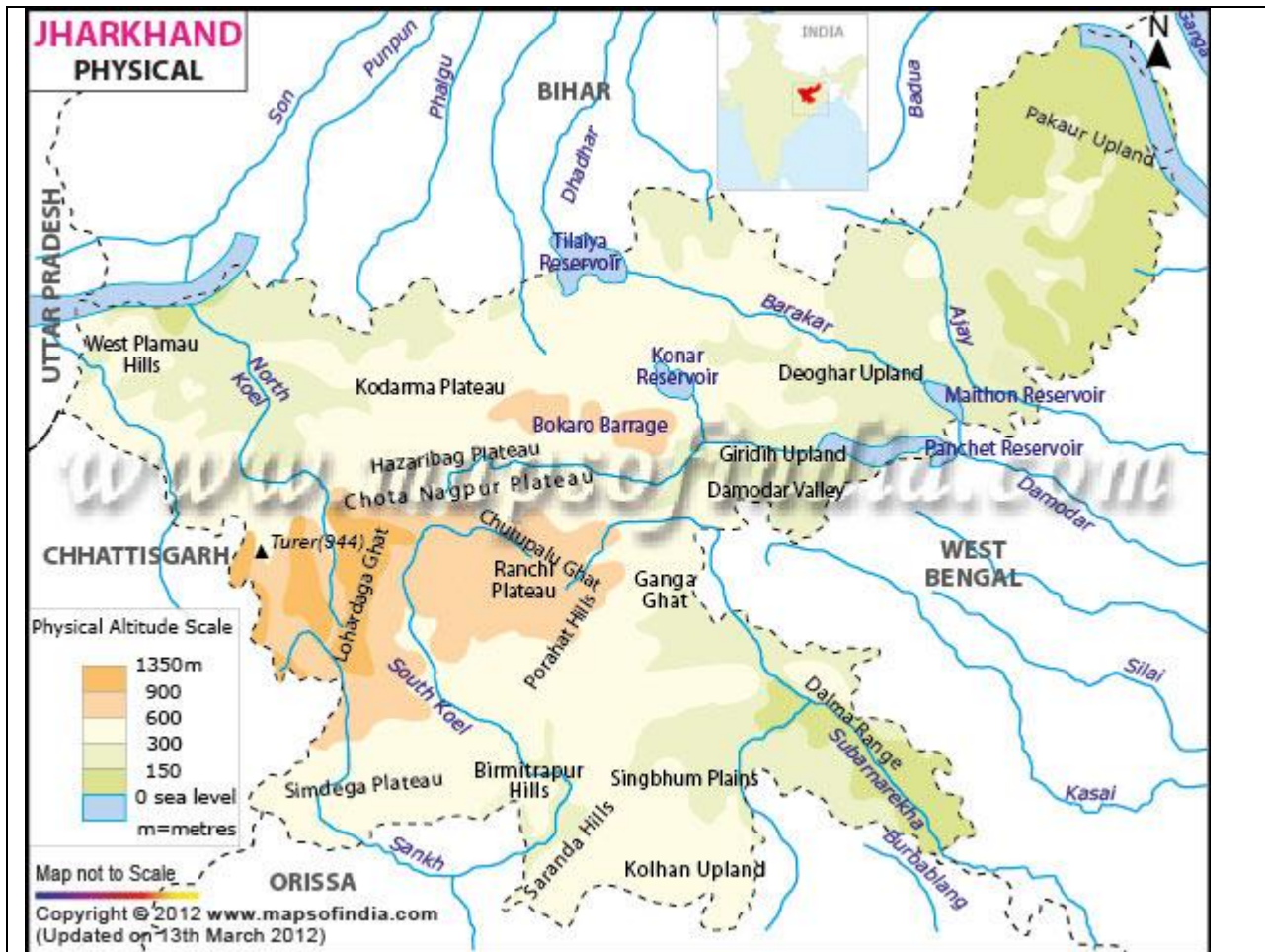
<http://www.nsilindia.co.in/>

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=192201>

64. Which one the following rivers does *not* flow through the Indian state of Jharkhand?

- (a) Ganga
- (b) Damodar
- (c) Subarnarekha
- (d) Vamsadhara**

EXPLANATION:-



Vamsadhara, which originates in Kalahandi district of Odisha, flows 154 km in Odisha and then flows another 29 km along the common boundary between Odisha and AP and another 82 km in AP before joining the sea.

So, Option (d) is correct

SOURCE:-

Indian physical geography NCERT

65. Sadarang and Adarang were the court musicians of who among the following Mughal rulers?

- (a) Akbar
- (b) Shah Jahan
- (c) Farrukh-siyar
- (d) **Muhammad shah**

EXPLANATION:

Sadarang and Adarang were the court musicians served in the court of Mughal Emperor Muhammad Shah (ruled 1719-1748). **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Sadarang (1670–1748) was the pen name of the Hindustani musical composer and artist Naimat Khan.
- Sadarang was active in the eighteenth century. He and his nephew Adarang changed the Khayal style of Hindustani music into the form performed today.
- Naimat Khan composed Khyal for his disciples and he never performed Khyal.
- He served in the court of Mughal Emperor Muhammad Shah (ruled 1719-1748).
- Sadarang and Adarang remain influential in Hindustani classical music, mainly through their compositions.

66. Consider the following statements about the National Nutrition Survey which was conducted recently in India:

- 1. It was the first-ever comprehensive nutrition survey conducted by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare along with the United Nations Children's Fund.**
- 2. It records only micro-nutrient deficiencies among the children and adolescent population in the country.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

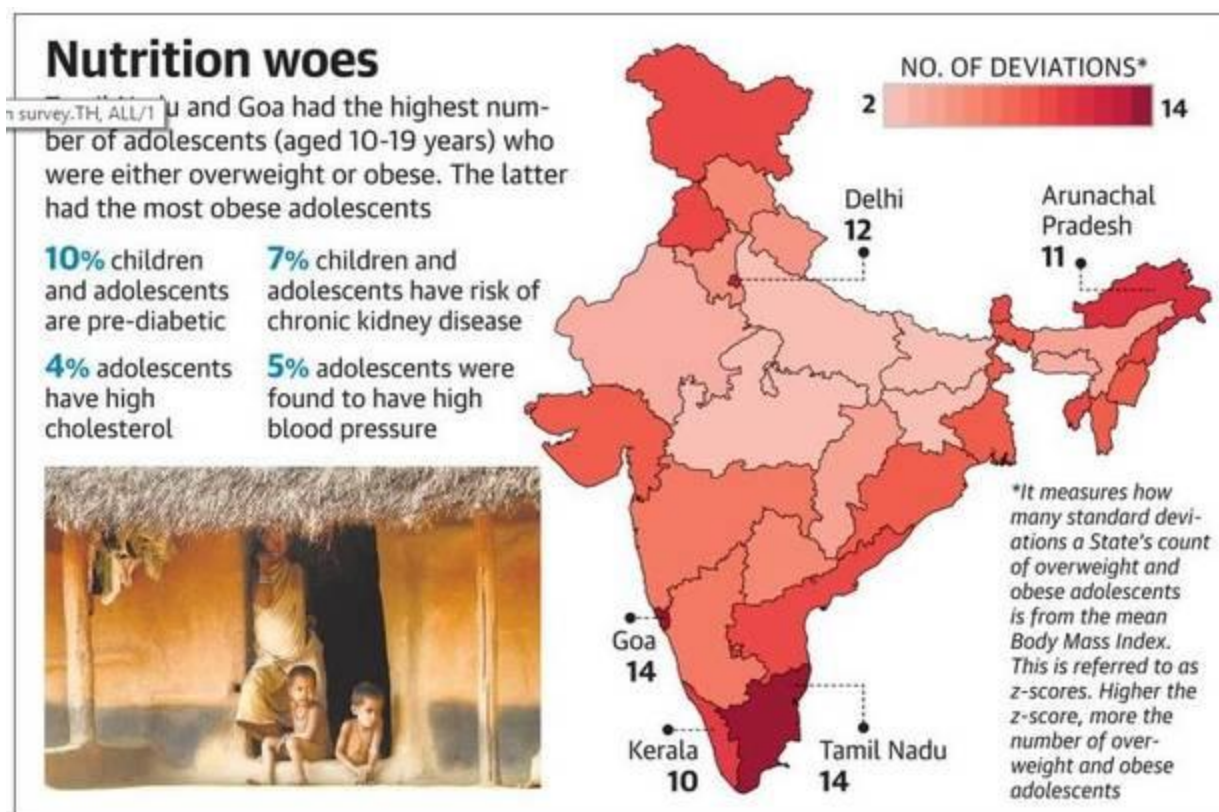
The first-ever comprehensive National Nutrition Survey has been conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) to measure malnutrition. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The survey recorded not only micronutrient deficiencies but also details of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, cholesterol and kidney function in children and adolescents. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Key findings of the survey

- Around 10% of children in the age group of 5 to 9 years and adolescents in the age group 10 to 19 years are pre-diabetic. 5% of them were overweight and 5% suffered from blood pressure.
- The survey for the first time proved the coexistence of obesity and undernutrition.
- One in five children in the age group 5 to 9 years were stunted.
- Tamil Nadu and Goa had the highest number of adolescents who were obese or overweight.



SOURCE:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/obesity-and-undernutrition-coexist-finds-study/article29550673.ece>

67. Recently, State governments in India, to combat COVID-19, have imposed restrictions under Section 144 (Unlawful assembly) of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) of 1973. Consider the following statements about the Section 144 of CrPC:

1. Section 144 of CrPC is a law retained from the colonial era.
2. Section 144 authorises the Judicial Magistrate of any state or territory to issue an order to prohibit the assembly of four or more people in an area.

3. No order under Section 144 shall remain in force for more than two months but the respective State government can extend the validity for two months and maximum up to six months in that State.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Section 144 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) is a law retained from the colonial era. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) of 1973 authorises the **Executive Magistrate** (like District Magistrate) of any state or territory to issue an order to prohibit the assembly of four or more people in an area. According to the law, every member of such 'unlawful assembly' can be booked for engaging in rioting. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

No order under Section 144 shall remain in force for more than two months but the state government can extend the validity for two months and maximum up to six months. It can be withdrawn at any point of time if situation becomes normal. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) of 1973 authorises the Executive Magistrate of any state or territory to issue an order to prohibit the assembly of four or more people in an area. According to the law, every member of such 'unlawful assembly' can be booked for engaging in rioting.
- Section 144 is imposed in urgent cases of nuisance or apprehended danger of some event that has the potential to cause trouble or damage to human life or property. Section 144 of CrPC generally prohibits public gathering.
- Section 144 has been used in the past to impose restrictions as a means to prevent protests that can lead to unrest or riots. The orders to impose Section 144 have been conferred to Executive Magistrate when there is an emergency situation.
- Section 144 also restricts carrying any sort of weapon in that area where it has been imposed and people can be detained for violating it. The maximum punishment for such an act is three years.
- According to the order under this section, there shall be no movement of public and all educational institutions shall also remain closed and there will be a complete bar on holding any kind of public meetings or rallies during the period of operation of this order.
- Moreover, obstructing law enforcement agencies from dispersing an unlawful assembly is a punishable offence. Section 144 also empowers the authorities to block the internet access.
- 144 CrPC bars the conduct of certain activities or actions or events which are allowed to be done in regular course. It is imposed to ensure maintenance of peace and tranquillity in an area.

Duration of Section 144 order

- No order under Section 144 shall remain in force for more than two months but the state government can extend the validity for two months and maximum up to six months. It can be withdrawn at any point of time if situation becomes normal.

SOURCE:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/what-is-section-144-crpc-prohibitory-orders-india-cao-citizenship-act-6175056/>

68. Consider the following terms:

- 1. Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure**
- 2. Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism 2017**
- 3. Sary-Arka-Antiterror 2019**

Which of the terms mentioned above is/are associated with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, is a permanent organ of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) which serves to promote cooperation of member states against the three evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism. **So, Option 1 is correct.**

Sary-Arka-Antiterror 2019 is the first joint military exercise of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was announced during the 34th meeting of the RATS council held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The exercise is to be held SaryArka, Kazakhstan. **So, Option 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), or Shanghai Pact, is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance, the creation of which was announced on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan;
- the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Charter, formally establishing the organisation, was signed in June 2002 and entered into force on 19 September 2003. The original five nations, with the exclusion of Uzbekistan, were previously members of the Shanghai Five group, founded on 26 April 1996.

- Since then, the organisation has expanded its membership to eight countries when India and Pakistan joined SCO as full members on 9 June 2017 at a summit in Astana, Kazakhstan.
- The Heads of State Council (HSC) is the supreme decision-making body in the SCO, it meets once a year and adopts decisions and guidelines on all important matters of the organisation.
- Military exercises are also regularly conducted among members to promote cooperation and coordination against terrorism and other external threats, and to maintain regional peace and stability.
- The SCO is the largest regional organisation in the world in terms of geographical coverage and population, covering three-fifths of the Eurasian continent and nearly half of the human population.

SOURCE:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-china-pakistan-other-sco-members-to-hold-joint-anti-terrorism-exercise-in-2019/articleshow/68439187.cms>

69. Consider the following statements about the Agriculture Credit in India:

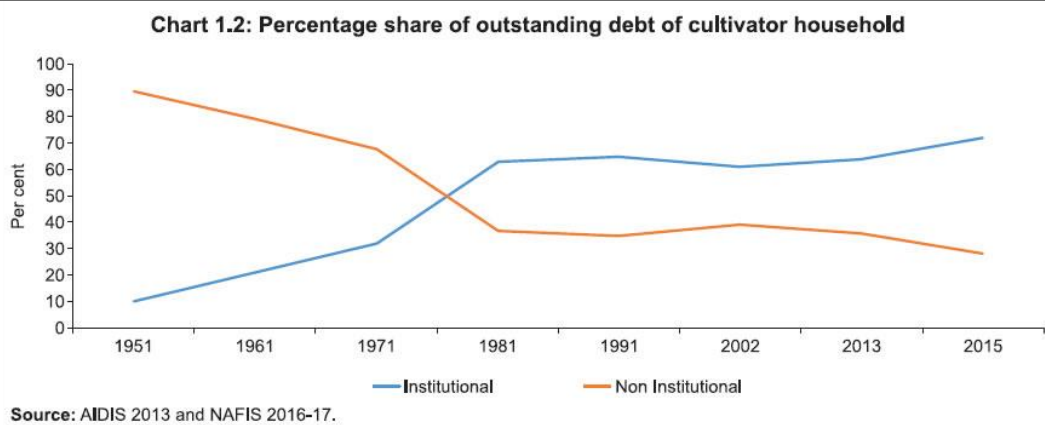
- 1. Non-institutional sources of credit accounts for higher agricultural credit than the institutional sources.**
- 2. Among the institutional credit, the contribution of Micro Finance Institutions is lower than Regional Rural Banks.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The evolution of the institutional structure through various Government policy interventions changed the scenario, whereby institutional sources, primarily through commercial banks became the major source for rural credit. The share of institutional credit vis-à-vis non-institutional credit as per AIDIS 2013 is shown in the chart below. Position for 2015 has been plotted based on NAFIS 2016-17. As per NAFIS, in 2015 the share of institutional credit was approximately 72 per cent. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**



The Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) are the leading institutions in providing agricultural credit in all the states. RRBs and cooperative banks are next in line in providing agricultural credit. Micro Finance Institutions play a very small role in providing agricultural credit. Hence, among institutional credits, the contribution of Micro Finance Institutions is lower than Regional Rural Banks. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

SOURCE:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/PublicationReportDetails.aspx?UrlPage=&ID=942#CP13>

70. “Not all animals migrate by choice” campaign, sometimes seen in the news recently, covers

1. Tiger
2. Pangolin
3. Asiatic Lion
4. Star Tortoise
5. Indian grey mongoose
6. Tokay Gecko

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

In First Phase of ‘Not all animals migrate by choice’ campaign, Tiger, Star Tortoise, Pangolin and Tokay Gecko are featured. They have been chosen as they are highly endangered because of illegal trading in International markets. Second Phase will see more threatened species.

- Tiger is trafficked for its skin, body parts and bones.
- Pangolin, is most illegally traded wild mammal on the planet. It is trafficked for its meat and for its scales which are used in traditional medicines.

- Star Tortoise is trafficked for pet trade and meat.
- Tokay Gecko is trafficked for its use in traditional medicine, mostly into South East Asia (SEA) but mainly Chinese Markets.

So, Option (c) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Key Highlights about ‘Not all animals migrate by choice’ Campaign

- Objective:
 - To raise awareness on illegal wildlife trade
 - To garner public support for conservation and protection of wildlife, prevention from smuggling and for reduction in demand of wildlife products.
 - It also complements worldwide action taken on illegal trade in wildlife via UN Environment’s global campaign called Wild for Life.
- It was launched by United Nation (UN) Environment India and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) of India. Both WCCB and UN Environment started a comprehensive approach with focus on awareness building towards issue of prevention of illegal trade, smuggling of wildlife (and wildlife products) through exit points.
- Illegal wildlife trade drives a species to brink of extinction. With a thriving organized wildlife crime industry, the crime chains are spreading across world and India is also seeing a sharp rise in its illegal trade in wildlife. Thus there is an urgent need for awareness, action and stringent law enforcement to curb illegal wildlife trade which is threatening biodiversity and conservation in wild.
- Conservation is natural to India’s ethos. Although, while wildlife faces global threat and India’s flora and fauna’s demand continues to rise in illegal global markets, India’s stringent provisions for protection of wildlife under its Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972, and efforts towards creating awareness among public at large would still have to go a long way to help protect our wildlife. Thus, campaign is an important step forward in creating much-needed awareness and regaining public attention on wildlife trafficking which threatens very survival of these species.
- Species covered: In First Phase of the campaign, Tiger, Star Tortoise, Pangolin and Tokay Gecko are featured. They have been chosen as they are highly endangered because of illegal trading in International markets. Second Phase will see more threatened species.
 - Tiger is trafficked for its skin, body parts and bones.
 - Pangolin, is most illegally traded wild mammal on the planet. It is trafficked for its meat and for its scales which are used in traditional medicines.
 - Star Tortoise is trafficked for pet trade and meat.
 - Tokay Gecko is trafficked for its use in traditional medicine, mostly into South East Asia (SEA) but mainly Chinese Markets.

About Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)

- WCCB is a statutory multi-disciplinary body established by Government of India (GoI) under Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), to combat organized wildlife crime in India.

- It assists Customs authorities in inspection of consignments of flora & fauna as per the provisions laid down in Wild Life Protection Act (WPA), 1972, (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and Export-import (EXIM) Policy governing such an item.

SOURCE:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=190050>

71. Who among the following foreign traveller mentioned about “Motupalli port” of Kakatiya dynasty?

- (a) Marco Polo
- (b) Abdul Razzaq
- (c) Domingo Paes
- (d) Nikitin

EXPLANATION:

The great Italian traveller Marco Polo visited the, the Venetian traveler who visited Motupalli in 1293 A.D. sometime during Rudramadevi's tenure as the ruler of the Kakatiya Dynasty and made note of her administrative style; admiring her extensively. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

Abdur Razzaq (1443-1444 AD) was a Persian traveller, came to India and stayed at the court of the Zamorin at Calicut. He has given a vivid account of the Vijaynagar empire. **So, Option (b) is not correct.**

DominigoPaes (1520-1522 AD) was Portuguese traveller, visited the court of Krishnadeva Raya of the Vijaynagar Empire. **So, Option (c) is not correct.**

Athanasius Nikitin (1470-1474 AD) was a Russian merchant, describes the condition of the Bahmani kingdom under Muhammad III (1463-82). **So, Option (d) is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Sufis tried to purify their inner self by rigid introspection and mental struggle so as to remove even the smallest sign of selfishness and attain ikhlās, absolute purity of intention and act.
- The mystics realized that beyond the knowledge of outward sciences, intuitive knowledge was required in order to receive that illumination to which reason has no access. Dhawq, direct “tasting” of experience, was essential for them.
- Sufism strictly follow the concept of pir-murshidie. Guru Shisya tradition. Sufis emphasise that Islamic knowledge should be learned from teachers and not exclusively from books.
- The ultimate goal of Sufism is Union with God.
- According to Sufism, Love of God meant love of humanity, they believe service to humanity equals service of God Sufism inculcated a spirit of tolerance among its followers.
- The essential characteristics of Sufism are
 - Fana: Spiritual merger of devotee with Allah
 - Insan-e-kamil: Perfect human with all good virtues,

- Zikr-tauba: remembrance of god all the time(zikr),
- Wahadatul-wazudi: one god for entire universe; unity of god and being.
- Sama: spiritual dance and music to promote their concepts, though music is un-Islamic.
- They rejected elaborate rituals but didn't promote strict asceticism like the Bhakti saints. Their religious outlook borrowed not only from Islam but Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism etc. Most of the Sufis in India conceived and preached divine unity in terms of idealistic monoism and many Hindus found the Sufi ideas very similar to those of Vedantic philosophy.
- They believed in the essential unity of all religions.
- They believed in the equality of all human beings and universal brotherhood of man.
- The early Sufis were not only ascetics but also lived a life of voluntary poverty shunning all types of worldly pleasures Most Sufis use the vocabulary of love and intimate affection while describing their experience with god. It was a badge of honor for the Sufi to be known as the lover of god or of their Sufi masters. They were even called 'ahl-I dil or master of the heart'.

72. Recently, the Indian Railways has decided to tag all coaches with radio-frequency identification (RFID). In this context, consider the following statements:

- 1. An RFID tag is an electronic tag that transmits data with an RFID reader through radio waves.**
- 2. The RFID is a technology where an antenna broadcasts energy to the tag, which in turn returns the modulated energy in the form of back-scatter.**
- 3. RFID technology will help railways track each of its coaches and wagons as a result of which they can be suitably deployed on time wherever necessary.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

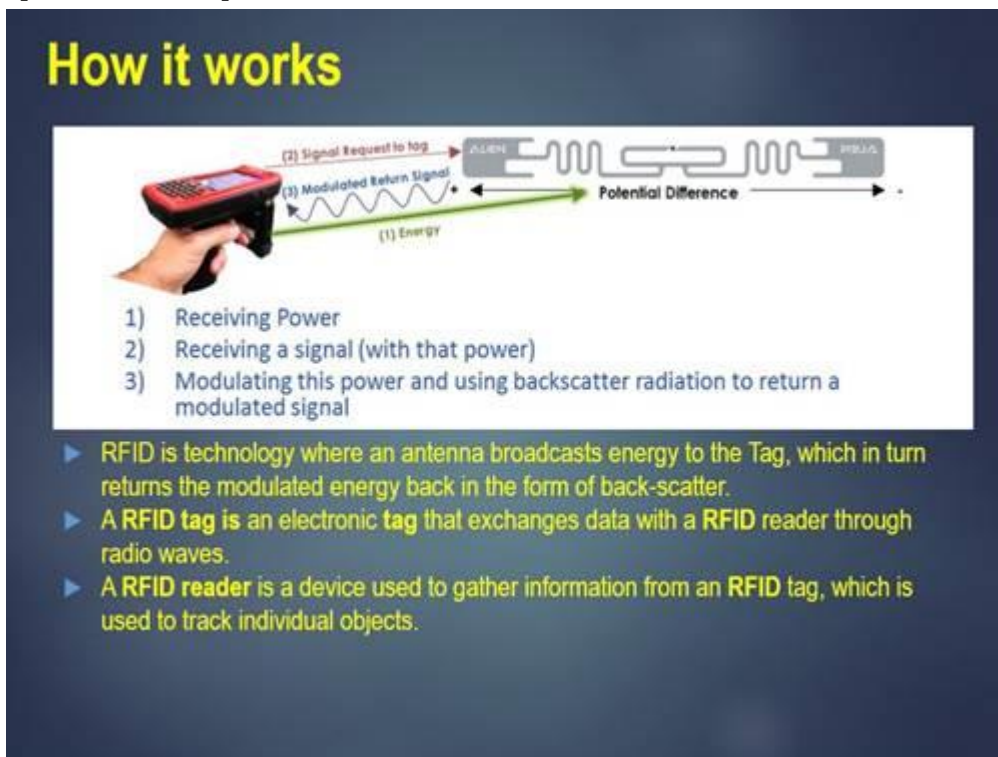
A Radio Frequency Identification Tag (RFID tag) is an electronic tag that exchanges data with a RFID reader through radio waves. Most RFID tags are made up of at least two main parts. The first is an antenna, which receives radio frequency (RF) waves. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The RFID is a technology where an antenna broadcasts energy to the tag, which in turn returns the modulated energy back in the form of back-scatter. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

This technology will help railways track each of its coaches and wagons as a result of which they can be suitably deployed on time wherever necessary. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- RFID project has been taken up which aims to automatically and accurately track and trace rolling stock as they move across the country with a special focus on improving their safety and reliability.
- The RFID project undertaken by CRIS, the IT arm of Indian Railways, can read data even at a speed of 182 kmph



- A RFID reader is a device used to gather information from an RFID tag, which is used to track individual objects.
- The complete solution also includes the integration of RFID readers with various equipment such as Train Presence Detectors (TPDs), trackside condition monitoring equipment etc.
- The combination of all of these allows for an early identification of rolling stock that may need maintenance. This will enable a paradigm shift on the Indian Railways in its move to improve reliability of its Rolling Stock, by moving from a predominantly time based maintenance methodology to a condition based maintenance.
- The Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS, the IT arm of the Indian Railways), GS1 India and the Indian Industry have come together in alignment with the 'Make in India' initiative.

SOURCE:

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/all-coaches-of-indian-railways-to-be-rfid-tagged-how-it-works-11580392262846.html>

73. Consider the following pairs:

Folk Painting

Practising Regions

- | | | |
|--------------|---|--------------|
| 1. Warli | - | Vidarbha |
| 2. Kalamkari | - | Dandakaranya |
| 3. Madhubani | - | Mithila |

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

74. Which one of the following statement is *not* correct about the Swadeshi Movement during the earlier half of the Twentieth Century?

- (a) The 'Swadeshi' and 'Boycott' were adopted as methods of struggle for the first time in India
(b) **Aurobindo Gosh toured the country urging Indians to boycott Manchester cloth and Liverpool salt**
(c) 'Boycott Resolution' was passed by the Indian National Congress in Calcutta Town Hall Meeting under the leadership of Anand Mohan Bose
(d) Swadesh Bandhab Samiti garnered unparalleled mass support particularly from Muslim Peasantry

EXPLANATION:

The 'Swadeshi' and 'Boycott' were adopted as methods of struggle for the first time. Boycott included boycott and public burning of foreign cloth, boycott of foreign-made salt or sugar, refusal by priests to ritualise marriages involving exchange of foreign goods, refusal by washermen to wash foreign clothes. **So, Option (a) is correct.**

The formal proclamation of the Swadeshi movement was made on August 7, 1905 at a meeting held at the Calcutta Town hall. Leaders like Surendranath Banerjee, Ananda Mohan Bose, K. K. Mitra. Prithwischandra Ray attempted to bring the people of Bengal through addressing a huge gathering. **So, Option (c) is correct.** After this, the leaders dispersed to other parts of Bengal to propagate the message of boycott of Manchester cloth and Liverpool salt. **So, Option (b) is not correct.**

Samitis such as the Swadesh Bandhab Samiti of Ashwini Kumar Dutta (in Barisal) emerged as a very popular and powerful means of mass mobilisation particularly from Muslim Peasantry. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

New Forms of Struggle

- The militant nationalists put forward several fresh ideas at the theoretical, propaganda and programme levels. Among these several forms of struggle thrown up by the movement were the following.

Boycott of Foreign Goods

- Boycott included boycott and public burning of foreign cloth, boycott of foreign-made salt or sugar, refusal by priests to ritualise marriages involving exchange of foreign goods, refusal by washermen to wash foreign clothes. This form of protest met with great success at the practical and popular level.

Public Meetings and Processions

- Public meetings and processions emerged as major methods of mass mobilisation. Simultaneously they were forms of popular expression.

Corps of Volunteers or 'Samitis'

- Samitis such as the Swadesh Bandhab Samiti of Ashwini Kumar Dutta (in Barisal) emerged as a very popular and powerful means of mass mobilisation. In Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, V.O. Chidambaram Pillai, Subramania Siva and some lawyers formed the Swadeshi Sangam which inspired the local masses. These samitis generated political consciousness among the masses through magic lantern lectures, swadeshi songs, providing physical and moral training to their members, social work during famines and epidemics, organisation of schools, training in swadeshi crafts and arbitration court.

Imaginative use of Traditional Popular Festivals and Melas

- The idea was to use traditional festivals and occasions as a means of reaching out to the masses and spreading political messages. For instance, Tilak's Ganapati and Shivaji festivals became a medium of swadeshi propaganda not only in western India, but also in Bengal. In Bengal also, the traditional folk theatre forms were used for this purpose.

Emphasis given to Self-Reliance

- Self-reliance or 'atma shakti' was encouraged. This implied re-assertion of national dignity, honour and confidence and social and economic regeneration of the villages. In practical terms, it included social reform and campaigns against caste oppression, early marriage, dowry system, consumption of alcohol, etc.

Programme of Swadeshi or National Education

- Bengal National College, inspired by Tagore's Shantiniketan, was set up with Aurobindo Ghosh as its principal. Soon national schools and colleges sprang up in various parts of the country. On August 15, 1906, the National Council of Education was set up to organise a

system of education—literary, scientific and technical—on national lines and under national control. Education was to be imparted through the vernacular medium. A Bengal Institute of Technology was setup for technical education and funds were raised to send students to Japan for advanced learning.

Swadeshi or Indigenous Enterprises

- The swadeshi spirit also found expression in the establishment of swadeshi textile mills, soap and match factories, tanneries, banks, insurance companies, shops, etc. These enterprises were based more on patriotic zeal than on business acumen. V.O. Chidambaram Pillai's venture into a national shipbuilding enterprise—Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company—at Tuticorin, however, gave a challenge to the British Indian Steam Navigation Company.

Impact in the Cultural Sphere

- The nationalists of all hues took inspiration from songs written by Rabindranath Tagore, Rajnikant Sen, Dwijendralal Ray, Mukunda Das, Syed Abu Mohammad and others. Tagore's *Amar Sonar Bangla* written on this occasion was later to inspire the liberation struggle of Bangladesh and was adopted by it as its national anthem. In Tamil Nadu, Subramania Bharati wrote *Sudesh Geetham*.
- In painting, Abanindranath Tagore broke the domination of Victorian naturalism over the Indian art scene and took inspiration from Ajanta, Mughal and Rajput paintings. Nandalal Bose, who left a major imprint on Indian art, was the first recipient of a scholarship offered by the Indian Society of Oriental Art, founded in 1907.
- In science, Jagdish Chandra Bose, Prafulla Chandra Ray and others pioneered original research which was praised the world over.

SOURCE:

A Brief History of Modern India by Spectrum

75. Consider the following statements about the “Hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC)-141 b”:

- 1. It is a chemical used by foam manufacturing enterprises.**
- 2. It is one of the most potent ozone-depleting chemical after Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).**
- 3. In India, its production is prohibited under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

HCFC-141 b is mainly used as a blowing agent in the foam manufacturing industries. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

HCFC-141 b is one of the most powerful ozone-depleting chemicals after Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) notified that the issuance of import license for HCFC-141b is prohibited from 1st January 2020 under Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Amendment Rules, 2019 issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Hydro chlorofluorocarbon (HCFC)-141 b, which is a chemical used by foam manufacturing enterprises and one of the most potent ozone depleting chemical after Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) .
- (HCFC)-141 b is used mainly as a blowing agent in the production of rigid polyurethane (PU) foams.
- India had proactively and successfully taken the challenge of complete phase out of Hydro chlorofluorocarbon (HCFC)-141 b, by 1.1.2020.
- In 2019 December, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) brought out a notification in the Gazette of India through which the issuance of import license for HCFC-141b is prohibited from 1st January, 2020 under Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Amendment Rules, 2019 issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- HCFC-141b is not produced in the country and all the domestic requirements are met through imports.
- With this notification, prohibiting the import of HCFC-141 b, the country has completely phased out the important ozone-depleting chemical.
- Nearly, 50 % of the consumption of ozone depleting chemicals in the country was attributable to HCFC-141 b in the foam sector.
- The phase out of HCFC-141b from the country has twin environmental benefits viz. Assisting the healing of the stratospheric ozone layer, and Towards the climate change mitigation due to transitioning of foam manufacturing enterprises at this scale under HPMP to low global warming potential alternative technologies.

SOURCE:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1600233>

76. Consider the following statements about the National Pension Scheme (NPS) and Employee Pension Fund (EPF):

- 1. EPF is open only for salaried employees of private sector organisations whereas NPS is compulsory for Government employees who have joined service after April 2004.**
- 2. All contributions made in the EPF accounts are to be done by the employer, however in NPS; Government will not contribute to the NPS accounts.**
- 3. In EPF, 100% allocation is towards Debt instruments whereas in NPS, the investor is offered choices either between Equity and Debt instruments.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 2 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

EXPLANATION:

EPF is open only for salaried employees of private sector organizations. It is compulsory for each employee of organizations with 20 employees or more. NPS is compulsory for Government employees who have joined service after April 2004. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

In EPF, it is a disciplined approach and employee does not have to do anything as 12% of his basic salary is deducted towards contribution to EPF and a similar amount is added by the employer. In NPS, government will contribute to the NPS account. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

In EPF, 100% allocation is towards Debt instruments. In case of NPS, investor is offered two choices – either to decide his own asset allocation between Equity and Debt or he can also opt for default option. Under default option, allocation to Equity continues to decrease with every passing year up to retirement whereas in other option, the maximum allocation to Equity can be only 50%. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Comparison Between EPF & NPS

1. Eligibility

- EPF is open only for salaried employees of private sector organizations. It is compulsory for each employee of organizations with 20 employees or more. NPS is compulsory for Government employees who have joined service after April 2004. However, NPS is also open to general public including businessmen, self-employed, housewives and persons working in

organized/un-organized sector. Thus, a private sector employee can do his retirement planning by using both the options i.e. EPF as well as NPS but a businessman or a self-employed person can do his retirement planning only through NPS or in a limited manner through PPF.

2. Mode of Investment

- In EPF, it is a disciplined approach and employee does not have to do anything as 12% of his basic salary is deducted towards contribution to EPF and a similar amount is added by the employer. However, in NPS, it is completely voluntary and investors may invest either lump sum or in any kind of instalments.

3. Minimum/Maximum Amount of Investment

- In NPS minimum investment in one financial year is Rs.6,000 and there is no upper limit. On the other hand, in EPF employer contribution is restricted to 12% of monthly basic salary and employee can also opt for extra voluntary contribution. Hence, there is a restriction on the amount which an employee can contribute towards his EPF.

4. Asset Allocation

- In EPF, 100% allocation is towards Debt instruments. Recently, EPFO has been allowed to invest 5% of incremental corpus in Equity markets with a maximum cap of 15% of fresh annual contribution. In case of NPS, investor is offered two choices – either to decide his own asset allocation between Equity and Debt or he can also opt for default option. Under default option, allocation to Equity continues to decrease with every passing year up to retirement whereas in other option, the maximum allocation to Equity can be only 50%. Also, there is a choice of six Pension Fund Managers to choose from.

5. Expected Returns

- in EPF return is assured and is same for all subscribers. For last financial year, the interest rate applicable for EPF members was 8.7% pa and in future it is expected to be similar or slightly lower as the interest rates go down in our economy. On the other hand, investors in NPS may expect a slightly higher return due to allocation to Equity. Over a long tenure of 10 years or over, returns generated by NPS Scheme may be 2 to 3 % higher than those generated by EPF.

6. Tax Benefits

- As per current provisions, contributions to EPF qualify for deduction U/s 80C up to a maximum limit of Rs.1.5 lacs but U/s 80C there are other alternatives also like PPF, ELSS, Insurance Plans, Tuition Fees, 5 year Bank deposits, etc. For NPS investors, there is an

exclusive deduction up to a maximum limit of Rs.50,000 U/s 80CCD (1B) over and above Section 80C and there is no other alternative for this.

- On maturity total amount in EPF will be tax-free and the entire amount can be withdrawn at the time of retirement. However, in case of NPS, up to 40% of corpus can be withdrawn without paying any tax. Balance 60% may be invested in buying an Annuity i.e. an immediate pension plan. Please remember that in case of NPS, under no circumstances 100% of corpus can be withdrawn at retirement. Minimum 40% of corpus has to be invested in purchase of an annuity plan. However, one can also buy an Annuity Plan by investing 100% of corpus.

77. "It is one of the pleasant nights in the vacation. As you sip the local Pais wine, you look up at the December sky. Though it is summer, there wasn't a drop of rain you have seen in the last two weeks". Based on the above description which country are you in?

- (a) United States of America
(b) China
(c) Portugal
(d) Chile

EXPLANATION:

Mediterranean Climate (Western Margin Climate) have Clear skies and high temperatures; hot, dry summers and cool, wet winters. In summer when the sun is overhead at the Tropic of Cancer, the belt of influence of the Westerlies is shifted a little pole wards. Rain bearing winds are therefore not likely to reach the Mediterranean lands. The prevailing Trade Winds [tropical easterlies] are off-shore and there is practically no rain. The Mediterranean lands receive most of their precipitation in winter when the Westerlies shift equator wards.

Some parts of the western side of the USA experience the Mediterranean Climate (Western Margin Climate). But they do not have local Pais wine. **So, Option (a) is not correct.**

Some parts in Portugal experience the Mediterranean Climate (Western Margin Climate). But they do not have local Pais wine. **So, Option (c) is not correct.**

Some parts in Chile experience the Mediterranean Climate (Western Margin Climate). But they have local Pais wine which is a sweet wine produced from Pais grapes. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

Temperate Monsoon or China Type climate is observed in most parts of China. They are characterized by a warm moist summer and a cool, dry winter. There is the fairly uniform distribution of rainfall throughout the year. Rain comes either from convectional sources or as orographic rain in summer, or from depressions in prolonged showers in winter. **So, Option (b) is not correct.**

78. With reference to the Medieval India, who among the following rulers introduced the “Karori system”?

- (a) Aurangzeb
- (b) Akbar**
- (c) Sher Shah Sur
- (d) Jahangir

EXPLANATION:

Karori / Crori System was introduced by Raja Todar Mal under Mughal Emperor Akbar. All the Parganas and fiscal unions of the nation were to be measured and every piece of land which produced revenue worth 1 crore was to be placed under the officer known as Crori. Thus the measurement of the lands in towns, hills deserts, jungles, rivers, reservoirs was started. The measurement began from Fatahpur and first Crori was named Adampur. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Land revenue was the major source of the income.
- Akbar had instituted a system of Dahsala/BandobastArazi/the Zabti system.
- Under which, the average produce of different crops and the average prices from the last ten years were calculated. One-third of the average was the share of the state that was mentioned in cash.
- Land revenue was fixed considering both, continuity and productivity of cultivation.
- Polaj (land continually cultivated), parauti (fallow lands for an year) paid full prices when under cultivation.
- After assessing land revenue in kind, value was converted into cash using price list or dastur-ul-amal, prepared at regional level for various food crops.
- The empire was divided into numerous regions-dastur, at pargana level, that had similar productivity. The government provided the dastur-ul-amal at tehsil level and it explained the style of land revenue payment. Each cultivator got a title for land holding or patta and qubuliyat (deed of agreement by which he pays state revenue).
- Various other assessment system were followed under Akbar’s reign
- The most common was called batai or ghallabakshi (crop-sharing) subdivided into three parts (i) bhaoli -reaped and stacked crops divided in the presence of the parties. (ii) khet batai – dividing fields after sowing. (iii) langbatai- division of grain heaps.
- Kankut—In Kankut –measuring the land by Jrib or through pacing and estimating standing crops by inspection. Nasaq—a rough calculation of payable amount by the peasant, keeping in minds his past experience.

79. Which of the following fuels can be derived from Algae?

- 1. Butanol**
- 2. Biodiesel**

3. Gasoline

4. Methane

5. Ethanol

6. Jet Fuel

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1, 3 and 4 only

(b) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only

(c) 1, 2, 5 and 6 only

(d) 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

EXPLANATION:

Algae fuel, algal biofuel, or algal oil is an alternative to liquid fossil fuels that uses algae as its source of energy-rich oils. Also, algae fuels are an alternative to commonly known biofuel sources, such as corn and sugarcane.

Algae can be converted into various types of fuels, depending on the technique and the part of the cells used. The lipid, or oily part of the algae biomass can be extracted and converted into biodiesel through a process similar to that used for any other vegetable oil, or converted in a refinery into "drop-in" replacements for petroleum-based fuels. Alternatively or following lipid extraction, the carbohydrate content of algae can be fermented into bioethanol or butanol fuel.

The following fuels can be derived from algae

- Butanol
- Biodiesel
- Gasoline
- Methane
- Ethanol
- Jet Fuel
- Green Diesel

So, Option (d) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Advantages

- Ease of growth
 - One of the main advantages that using microalgae as the feedstock when compared to more traditional crops is that it can be grown much more easily. algae can be grown without taking up arable land that would otherwise be used for producing food crops, and better resources can be reserved for normal crop production. Microalgae also require fewer resources to grow and little attention is needed, allowing the growth and cultivation of algae to be a very passive process.
- Impact on food
 - Using algae as a source of biodiesel can alleviate this problem in a number of ways.
 - First, algae is not used as a primary food source for humans, meaning that it can be used solely for fuel and there would be little impact in the food industry.

- Second, many of the waste-product extracts produced during the processing of algae for biofuel can be used as a sufficient animal feed. This is an effective way to minimize waste and a much cheaper alternative to the more traditional corn- or grain-based feeds.
- Minimalisation of waste
 - It is able to utilize run-off, water contaminated with fertilizers and other nutrients that are a by-product of farming, as its primary source of water and nutrients. Because of this, it prevents this contaminated water from mixing with the lakes and rivers that currently supply our drinking water.
 - In addition to this, the ammonia, nitrates, and phosphates that would normally render the water unsafe actually serve as excellent nutrients for the algae, meaning that fewer resources are needed to grow the algae.
 - Many algae species used in biodiesel production are excellent bio-fixers, meaning they are able to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere to use as a form of energy for themselves. Because of this, they have found use in industry as a way to treat flue gases and reduce GHG emissions.

Disadvantages

- Commercial viability
 - Algae biodiesel is still a fairly new technology. While the technology exists to harvest and convert algae into a usable source of biodiesel, it still hasn't been implemented into a large enough scale to support the current energy needs.
- Stability
 - The biodiesel produced from the processing of microalgae differs from other forms of biodiesel in the content of polyunsaturated fats.
 - Polyunsaturated fats are known for their ability to retain fluidity at lower temperatures. While this may seem like an advantage in production during the colder temperatures of the winter, the polyunsaturated fats result in lower stability during regular seasonal temperatures.

80. In which of the following appliances, the Lithium-ion batteries are used?

- 1. Mobile and Laptops**
- 2. Electric Vehicles and Hybrid Vehicles**
- 3. Electronic Cigarettes**
- 4. Grid Storage system**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

A lithium-ion battery or Li-ion battery (abbreviated as LIB) is a type of rechargeable battery. Lithium-ion batteries are commonly used for portable electronics and electric vehicles and are growing in popularity for military and aerospace applications.

The above mentioned are all related to the field of portable electronics and electric vehicles. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Advantages of lithium-ion battery

- High energy density - potential for yet higher capacities.
- Does not need prolonged priming when new. One regular charge is all that's needed.
- Relatively low self-discharge - self-discharge is less than half that of nickel-based batteries.
- Low Maintenance - no periodic discharge is needed; there is no memory.
- Specialty cells can provide very high current to applications such as power tools.

Limitations

- Requires protection circuit to maintain voltage and current within safe limits.
- Subject to aging, even if not in use - storage in a cool place at 40% charge reduces the aging effect.
- Transportation restrictions - shipment of larger quantities may be subject to regulatory control. This restriction does not apply to personal carry-on batteries.
- Expensive to manufacture - about 40 percent higher in cost than nickel-cadmium.
- Not fully mature - metals and chemicals are changing on a continuing basis.

81. Consider the following pairs:

Geographical Region Forest Type

- Western Ghats - Tropical Evergreen**
- Haryana Plains - Tropical Thorny**
- Chota Nagpur - Tropical Moist
Plateau Deciduous**

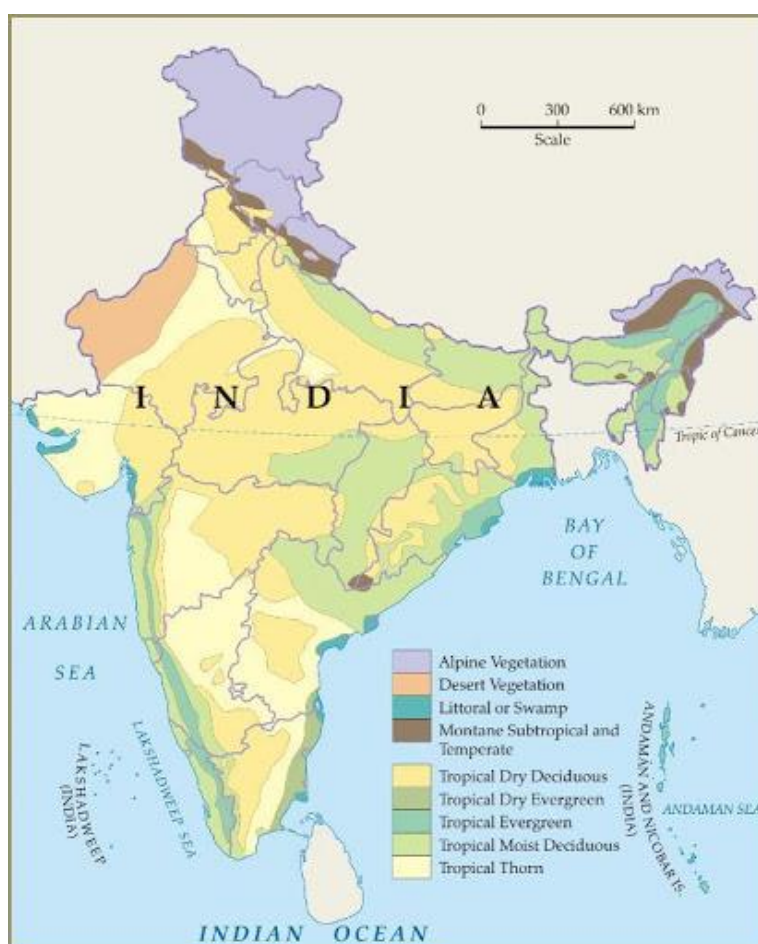
Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

EXPLANATION:-

Western ghats- Tropical evergreen. (above 200 cm rainfall area)	So, Pair 1 is correctly matched
Haryana - Tropical thorny forest.(defecit rainfall and extension of deseart)	So, Pair 2 is correctly matched
Chotanagpur plateau - Tropical moist deciduous. (moderate rainfall)	So, Pair 3 is correctly matched

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-



SOURCE:-

Indian physical geography NCERT

82. Consider the following statements about the Lok Adalats in India:

1. It can hear both civil and criminal cases.
2. The decision of the Lok Adalat is binding on the parties to the dispute and its order is capable of execution through the legal process.
3. No appeal lies against the order of the Lok Adalat.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Lok Adalat can deal with not only the cases pending before a court but also with the disputes at pre-litigation stage.

Matters such as Matrimonial / Family Disputes, Criminal (Compoundable Offences) cases, Land Acquisition cases, Labour disputes, Workmen's compensation cases, Bank Recovery cases, Pension cases, Housing Board and Slum Clearance cases, Housing Finance cases, Consumer Grievance cases, Electricity matters, Disputes relating to Telephone Bills, Municipal matters including House Tax cases, Disputes with Cellular Companies etc. are being taken up in Lok Adalats.

But, the Lok Adalat shall have no jurisdiction in respect of any case or matter relating to an offence not compoundable under any law. In other words, the offences which are non-compoundable under any law fall outside the purview of the Lok Adalat. Hence, it can hear all civil cases but only compoundable criminal cases. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

An award of a Lok Adalat shall be deemed to be a decree of a Civil Court or an order of any other court. Every award made by a Lok Adalat shall be final and binding on all the parties to the dispute. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

No appeal shall lie to any court against the award of the Lok Adalat. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

SOURCE:

Indian Polity by M Laxmikanth

83. Consider the following statements about the "Indian Ocean Commission":

- 1. It is an intergovernmental organization composed of all the countries bordering the Indian Ocean.**
- 2. It is an initiative of India to revive the spirit of multilateralism and to strengthen rules-based global order.**
- 3. Recently, China and the European Union became an observer of this organization.**

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

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

EXPLANATION:

The Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) is an intergovernmental body created in 1984 to protect the interests of the Western Indian Ocean islands. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

India recently joined it. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

The Commission has five observers — India, China, European Union (EU), Malta and International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF). But China and EU did not join it recently. India joined IOC recently. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Indian Ocean Commission is an intergovernmental organization that links African Indian Ocean nations: Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Réunion (an overseas region of France), and Seychelles.
- There are also five observers: China, India, Malta, the European Union and the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie.
- The commission was created in 1982 in Port-Louis, Mauritius, and institutionalised in 1984. The secretariat is based in Mauritius.

Objectives

- The COI works on four pillars which have been adopted in 2005 by the Summit of Heads of States:
 - Political and diplomatic cooperation,
 - Economic and commercial cooperation
 - Sustainable development in a globalisation context, cooperation in the field of agriculture, maritime fishing, and the conservation of resources and ecosystems
 - Strengthening of the regional cultural identity, cooperation in cultural, scientific, technical, educational and judicial fields.
- The original ideas were to encourage trade and tourism. Recently, cooperation has focused on marine conservation and fisheries management. The COI has funded a number of regional and national conservation and alternative livelihoods projects through ReCoMAP, Regional Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Coastal Zones of the Countries of the Indian Ocean (PROGECO in French). This project ended in 2011.
- An example of these projects is project to catalyze the development of sea cucumber and seaweed aquaculture in South West Madagascar with the NGOs, Transmad, Blue Ventures, and Madagascar Holothuria.

SOURCE:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/india-joins-indian-ocean-commission-as-observer/article31006737.ece>

84. Which of the following service sectors are identified as “Champion Services Sectors” by the Government of India for promoting their development and realizing their potential?

- 1. Communication Services**
- 2. Environmental Services**
- 3. Legal Services**
- 4. Education Services**
- 5. Audio Visual Services**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

Champion Services Sectors refers to the 12 identified sectors where the Government wants to give focused attention to promoting their development and realizing their potential.

12 identified sectors are:

- Technology & Information Technology enabled Services (IT&ITeS)
- Tourism and Hospitality Services
- Medical Value Travel
- Transport, and Logistics Services
- Accounting and Finance Services
- Audio Visual Services
- Legal Services
- Communication Services
- Construction, and Related Engineering Services
- Environmental Services
- Financial Services, and
- Education Services.

So, Option (d) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Champion Services Sectors refers to the 12 identified sectors where the Government wants to give focused attention for promoting their development, and realizing their potential.
- These include Information Technology & Information Technology enabled Services (IT&ITeS), Tourism and Hospitality Services, Medical Value Travel, Transport and Logistics Services, Accounting and Finance Services, Audio Visual Services, Legal Services, Communication Services, Construction and Related Engineering Services, Environmental Services, Financial Services and Education Services.
- A dedicated fund of Rs. 5000 crores has been proposed to be established to support initiatives for sectoral Action Plans of the Champion Sectors.

- The respective line Ministries/Departments finalizes the Action Plans and the implementation timelines along with a monitoring mechanism to monitor implementation under the overall guidance of the Committee of Secretaries (CoS) under Cabinet Secretary. The idea was launched and accepted on 28 February 2018.

Rationale and Objective

- This initiative is expected to enhance the competitiveness of India's service sectors thereby creating more jobs in India, contributing to a higher GDP and export of services to global markets.

Targets

- The share of India's services sector in global services exports was 3.3% in 2015. Based on this initiative, a goal of 4.2% has been envisaged for 2022. The share of services in Gross Value Added (GVA) was about 53% for India in 2015-16 (61% including construction services). This initiative is expected to raise the share of services in GVA to 60% (67% including construction services) by the year 2022.

Origin

- The Group of Secretaries in their recommendations to the Prime Minister, had identified ten Champion Sectors, including seven (7) manufacturing related sectors and three (3) services sectors, for promoting their development and achieving their potential. It was subsequently decided that Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), the nodal department for 'Make in India', would spearhead the initiative for the Champion Sectors in manufacturing and Department of Commerce would coordinate the proposed initiative for the Champion Sectors in Services. Accordingly, Department of Commerce, with wide stakeholder consultation coordinated the preparation of draft initial sectoral reform plans for several services sectors and, subsequently the action plan.

SOURCE:

http://www.arthapedia.in/index.php?title=Champion_Services_Sectors

85. Consider the following statements about the “High-Temperature Fuel Cell System”:

- 1. This system generates power in a green manner using bio-methane as the input and produces heat and water as its bi-products.**
- 2. High-Temperature Proton-Exchange-Membrane is the core of the fuel cell that runs above 150 °C.**
- 3. It was developed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research under India’s flagship program named “New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative”.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

EXPLANATION:

High Temperature Fuel Cell System takes methanol or bio-methane as the input and produces heat and water as its bi-products, which can be further used. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

High-Temperature Proton-Exchange-Membrane (HTPEM) is the core of the fuel cells that run above 150 °C. It works on two modes of operation with respect to the source of fuel. One mode is based on the conversion of natural gas into Hydrogen by means of steam reforming. The second mode is based on the operation of Hydrogen with Oxygen obtained by the process of electrolysis. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

It is developed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in partnership with Indian industries under India's flagship programme named 'New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI)'. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Indigenous Fuel Cell System

- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has unveiled the first indigenous high temperature fuel cell system.
- It was launched in partnership with Indian industries under the flagship programme "New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI)".
- A fuel cell is an electrochemical device which directly converts the chemical energy of a fuel into electrical energy.
- In a fuel cell, the fuel and the oxidant, which is usually oxygen or air, are supplied continuously from an external source and power is also drawn continuously.
- In a conventional battery, on the other hand, the fuel and the oxidant are contained within and when these reactants are consumed the battery must be replaced or recharged.
- A high temperature fuel cell using a solid oxide electrolyte, and operated at temperatures above 700°C, is a highly efficient energy conversion device utilizing primarily gaseous fuels like H₂ and CO.
- It can also be operated in the reverse manner as a high temperature steam electrolyser to produce hydrogen.
- It would replace Diesel Generating (DG) sets and help reduce India's dependence on crude oil.

SOURCE:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=193440>

86. Which one of the following is *not* correct about Lok Sabha Secretary-General?

- (a) She/he is appointed by the President of India**
- (b) She/he remains in the office till the retirement age of 60 years
- (c) She/he is the principal advisor to the Presiding Officer of Lok Sabha on parliamentary proceedings and functions
- (d) She/he summons the Members of Parliament to attend the legislative session on behalf of the President of India

EXPLANATION:

The secretariat of each House is headed by a secretary-general. He is a permanent officer and is appointed by the presiding officer of the House. **So, Option (a) is not correct.**

The Secretary General remains in office till his/her retirement at the age of 60. **So, Option (b) is correct.**

His functions are to provide a link between changing members and keeping the records of the house. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

On behalf of the President of India, he summons members to attend session of Parliament and authenticates bills in the absence of the Speaker. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Functions of Secretariat

- The Rajya Sabha Secretariat functions under the overall guidance and control of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha. The main activities of the Secretariat inter alia include the following :-
 - providing secretarial assistance and support to the effective functioning of the Lok Sabha and Council of States (Rajya Sabha);
 - payment of salary and other allowances to the Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha;
 - providing amenities as admissible to Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha;
 - servicing the various Parliamentary Committees;
 - preparing research and reference material and bringing out various publications;
 - recruitment of manpower in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariat and attending to personnel matters; and

preparing and publishing a record of the day-to-day proceedings of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and bringing out such other publications, as may be required concerning the functioning of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and its Committees.

87. Consider the following statements about the “Convention on Migratory Species” (CMS):

- 1. It is the only global and intergovernmental organization established exclusively for the conservation and management of terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species.**

- 2. It is also known as the Bonn Convention, was signed under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme.**
- 3. Recently, India has been designated as the President of the Conference of this Convention for the next three years.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) is the only global and UN-based intergovernmental organization established exclusively for conservation and management of terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, also known as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) or the Bonn Convention, is an international agreement that aims to conserve migratory species within their migratory ranges. The Agreement was signed under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme and is concerned with conservation of wildlife and habitats on a global scale. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Recently India has been designated as the President of the Conference of this Convention for the next three years. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

- CMS is an international treaty under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- It is also known as the Bonn Convention.
- CMS aims to conserve terrestrial, marine and avian migratory species throughout their range.
- CMS is only global and UN-based intergovernmental organization established exclusively for conservation and management of terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range.
- The convention provides a global platform for deliberations on the conservation and sustainable use of migratory wild animals and their habitat. The convention was signed in 1979 at Bonn (hence the name Bonn Convention), Germany and entered into force in 1983.
- Its headquarters are in Bonn, Germany. Since its entry into force, the membership has grown steadily to include over 120 Parties from Africa, Central and South America, Asia, Europe and Oceania.

SOURCE:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1602644>

88. Which one of the following rivers has an inland drainage basin?

- (a) Rio Grande
- (b) Euphrates
- (c) Murray
- (d) Amu Darya**

EXPLANATION:

An inland drainage is the drainage (rivers & streams) which do not empty into any ocean or sea, but meet a lake, an inland sea or disappear in desert. Luni & West Banas are two major examples of inland drainage. Both the rivers rise in Rajasthan, enter Gujarat & end their journey in the Rann of Kachchh. Many small rivers from north Gujarat also empty into the Little Rann of Kachchh.

The Rio Grande is one of the principal rivers (along with the Colorado River) in the southwest United States and northern Mexico. The Rio Grande begins in south-central Colorado in the United States and flows to the Gulf of Mexico. **So, Option (a) is not correct.**

The Euphrates is the longest and one of the most historically important rivers of Western Asia. Together with the Tigris, it is one of the two defining rivers of Mesopotamia. Originating in the Armenian Highlands (eastern Turkey), the Euphrates flows through Syria and Iraq to join the Tigris in the Shatt al-Arab, which empties into the Persian Gulf. **So, Option (b) is not correct.**

The Murray River is Australia's longest river, at 2,508 kilometres (1,558 mi) in length. The Murray rises in the Australian Alps, draining the western side of Australia's highest mountains, and then meanders across Australia's inland plains, forming the border between the states of New South Wales and Victoria as it flows to the northwest into South Australia. It turns south at Morgan for its final 315 kilometres (196 mi), reaching the ocean at Lake Alexandrina. **So, Option (c) is not correct.**

The Amu Darya is a major river in Central Asia. It is formed by the junction of the Vakhsh and Panj rivers, in the Tigravaya Balka Nature Reserve on the border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan, and flows from there north-westwards into the southern remnants of the Aral Sea. **So, Option (d) is correct.**



89. A modest cave known as “Ravana Ka Khai” with the stone sculpture of Ravana shaking Kailasa is located at

- (a) Khandagiri
- (b) Edakkal
- (c) Bhaja
- (d) Ellora**

EXPLANATION:

Cave 14 of Ellora caves is a modest cave known as Ravana Ka Khai, dates from the early 7th century AD and was converted from a Buddhist vihara. This cave has a huge pillared courtyard, a mandapa with 16 kumbhavalli pillars, and a shrine containing a linga with a wide pradakshinapath around it. The doorway is guarded by the river goddess Ganga and Yamuna. The walls on both sides of the mandapa are divided into five compartments by kalasa-topped pilasters. The side walls of aisles of the courtyard are adorned with sculptural representations from Saiva as well as Vaishnava faith. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Ellora Caves

- It is located nearly 100 Kms away from Ajanta caves in the Sahyadri range of Maharashtra.
- It is a group of 34 caves – 17 Brahmanical, 12 Buddhist and 5 Jain.
- These set of caves were developed during the period between the 5th and 11th centuries A.D. (newer as compared to Ajanta Caves) by various guilds from Vidarbha, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.
- That is why the caves reflect a natural diversity in terms of theme and architectural styles.
- The Ellora complex was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1983.
- The most remarkable of the cave temples is Kailasa (Kailasanatha; cave 16), named for the mountain in the Kailasa Range of the Himalayas where the Hindu god Shiva resides.

Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves

- Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves, formerly called Kattaka Caves or Cuttack caves, are partly natural and partly artificial caves of archaeological, historical and religious importance near the city of Bhubaneswar in Odisha, India.
- The caves are situated on two adjacent hills, Udayagiri and Khandagiri, mentioned as Kumari Parvata in the Hathigumpha inscription.
- They have a number of finely and ornately carved caves built during the 1st century BCE.
- It is believed that most of these caves were carved out as residential blocks for Jaina monks during the reign of King Kharavela. Udayagiri means "Sunrise Hill" and has 18 caves while Khandagiri has 15 caves.

- The caves of Udayagiri and Khandagiri, called lēna or lēṇa in the inscriptions, were dug out mostly during the reign of Kharavela for the abode of Jaina ascetics. The most important of this group is Ranigumpha in Udayagiri which is a double storeyed monastery. Other important caves include Hathi gumpha, Ananta gumpha, Ganeshagumpha, Jaya Vijaya gumpha, Mancapurigumpha, Bagha/Byaghra/Vyaghragumpha and Sarpagumpha.
- Archaeological Survey of India has listed Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves in the list of "Must See" Indian Heritage

SOURCE:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/visitor-centres-at-ajanta-ellora-shut-due-to-pending-dues/article30310749.ece>

90. Recently, the Indian Parliament has passed the Code on Wages Act, 2019. With reference to Wages and Labour in India, consider the following Statements:

- 1. Article 43 of the Constitution of India directs the State to secure to all workers a living wage, conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life.**
- 2. Under the Constitution of India, Labour is a subject in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule where both the Central and State Governments are competent to enact legislation.**
- 3. Minimum wages set by both Central as well as State government must be higher than the floor wage set by Central Government.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

According to Article 43, the State shall endeavour to secure, by suitable legislation or economic organisation or in any other way, to all workers, agricultural, industrial or otherwise, work, a living wage, conditions of work ensuring a decent standard of life and full enjoyment of leisure and social and cultural opportunities and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to promote cottage industries on an individual or co-operative basis in rural areas. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Under the Constitution of India, Labour is a subject in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule where both the Central & State Governments are competent to enact legislation subject to certain matters being reserved for the Centre. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The central government will set the national floor rate for wages after taking into account the minimum living standards of workers varying across geographical areas; where existing minimum wages are higher than the floor wages, the same shall be retained. State governments will fix the

minimum wages for their region which cannot be lower than the national floor rate for wages. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The new wage code removes the multiplicity of wage definitions, which can significantly reduce litigation as well as compliance cost for employers.
- The new Act links minimum wage across the country to the skills of the employee and the place of employment.
- It seeks to universalizes the provisions of minimum wages and timely payment of wages to all employees irrespective of the sector and wage ceiling.
- It seeks to ensure "Right to Sustenance" for every worker and intends to increase the legislative protection of minimum wage.
- It subsumes the following four labour laws:
 - The Payment of Wages Act, 1936
 - The Minimum Wages Act, 1948
 - The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965
 - The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976.
- Minimum wages: The central government will set the national floor rate for wages after taking into account the minimum living standards of workers varying across geographical areas; where existing minimum wages are higher than the floor wages, the same shall be retained. State governments will fix the minimum wages for their region which cannot be lower than the national floor rate for wages. The code also provides that there would be a review/revision of minimum wages at intervals not exceeding five years. Further, the rate of wages for overtime work shall not be less than twice the rate for normal wages
- Equal remuneration: Provisions relating to equal remuneration now prescribe that no discrimination is permitted on the basis of the gender of said employees. This is slightly wider than the earlier provision which specified no discrimination on the basis of "Men" and "Women".
- Payment of wages: Settlement period for monthly wages has been specified as on the 7th of the succeeding month, as against 10th of the succeeding month. In case the employee is removed, dismissed, retrenched, resigns or becomes unemployed due to closure of an establishment, the wages are required to be paid within two working days. The earlier Act did not provide for any specific timelines for resignation cases. The limitation period for filing the claims for minimum wages, bonus, equal remuneration etc., by workers has been raised to 3 years as against the varying period between 6 months to 2 years.
- Payment of Bonus: Similar to the provisions of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, the chapter relating to bonus payments under the code shall apply to only those establishments employing at least 20 employees on any day in that accounting year. All employees whose wages do not exceed a specific monthly amount (to be notified by the central or state government) will be entitled to an annual bonus. Bonus is payable on higher of minimum wage or the wage ceiling fixed by the appropriate government for payment of bonus. Minimum bonus prescribed under the Code is 8.33 percent and the maximum bonus payable is 20 percent.

- Other provisions: The code provides the appropriate government to appoint Inspectors-cum-Facilitators (in the place of Inspectors), to carry out inspections. Such Inspectors-cum-Facilitators may advise employers and employees for better compliance. This has been done with the objective of removing the arbitrariness and malpractices in inspection. The quantum of penalties specified under the code is also significantly high which varies depending on the nature of the offence. The maximum penalty being imprisonment for three months and/ or with a fine of up to INR 100,000.

SOURCE:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/legal/the-code-on-wages-2019-understanding-the-key-changes-to-wages-remuneration-and-bonus/articleshow/72913106.cms?from=mdr>

91. Crop Residue Burning or Burning of agricultural biomass residue has been identified as a major health hazard. Which one of the following crops generates maximum residues?

- (a) Sugarcane
- (b) Fibres
- (c) **Cereals**
- (d) Oilseeds

92. The term “Track and Trace Platform for Businesses”, sometimes seen in the news recently, is related to the affairs of

- (a) World Bank
- (b) World Trade Organisation
- (c) European Union
- (d) **World Economic Forum**

EXPLANATION:

The World Economic Forum launches blockchain track and trace platform for businesses. The World Economic Forum launched the first-ever public blockchain-based platform built to help businesses across industries respond to consumer demands for ethical and environmentally friendly products. **So, Option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The World Economic Forum launched the first-ever public blockchain-based platform built to help businesses across industries respond to consumer demands for ethical and environmentally friendly products.
- It would be a neutral and safe space for collaboration provided by the World Economic Forum (WEF) and first-movers Everledger, the International Trade Centre (ITC) and Lenzing Group, the Geneva-based organisation said during its 50th annual meeting here.

- Joining the open call to pilot and co-design the second phase will be Asia Pacific Rayon (APR), EVRYTHNG and PlataformaVerde.
- The WEF said consumers today are more concerned than ever about the social and environmental impacts of the products they purchase.
- Almost 90 per cent would like big brands to help them be more environmentally friendly and ethical.
- While blockchain technology offers a way to showcase sustainability and environmentally friendly practices, private blockchains do not address rising customer transparency demands, it added.
- To date, companies have self-published such data or relied on blockchain solution providers to do so.
- The pilot platform resulting from this initiative, however, can ingest blockchain-based data from multiple sources and visualise it on a neutral site.

SOURCE:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/wef-launches-blockchain-track-and-trace-platform-for-businesses/articleshow/73557629.cms>

93. The Public Financial Management System (PFMS)

- 1. is a web-based online software application developed and implemented by the Office of Controller General of Accounts (CGA).**
- 2. monitors programs in the social sector and tracks funds disbursed.**
- 3. is envisaged to cater to all payments as well as all tax and non-Tax receipts of the Government of India.**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

The Public Financial Management System (PFMS), earlier known as Central Plan Schemes Monitoring System (CPSMS), is a web-based online software application developed and implemented by the Office of Controller General of Accounts (CGA). **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

PFMS was initially started during 2009 as a Central Sector Scheme of Planning Commission with the objective of tracking funds released under all Plan schemes of the Government of India, and real time reporting of expenditure at all levels of Programme implementation. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Subsequently in the year 2013, the scope was enlarged to cover direct payment to beneficiaries under both Plan and non-Plan Schemes. The enhanced application is envisaged to cater to all Plan and Non Plan payments of GoI, all tax and non-Tax receipts. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Public Financial Management System (PFMS), earlier known as Central Plan Schemes Monitoring System (CPSMS), is a web-based online software application developed and implemented by the Office of Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
- PFMS was initially started during 2009 as a Central Sector Scheme of Planning Commission with the objective of tracking funds released under all Plan schemes of GoI, and real time reporting of expenditure at all levels of Programme implementation. Subsequently in the year 2013, the scope was enlarged to cover direct payment to beneficiaries under both Plan and non-Plan Schemes.
- The latest enhancement in the functionalities of PFMS commenced in late 2014, wherein it has been envisaged that digitization of accounts shall be achieved through PFMS and the additional functionalities would be built into PFMS in different stages.
- Beginning with Pay & Accounts Offices payments, the O/o CGA did further value addition by proposing to bring in more financial activities of the Government of India in the ambit of the project.
- The primary objective of PFMS is to facilitate sound Public Financial Management System for Government of India (GoI) by establishing an efficient fund flow system as well as a payment cum accounting network. PFMS provides various stakeholders with a real time, reliable and meaningful management information system and an effective decision support system, as part of the Digital India initiative of GoI
- The enhanced application is envisaged to cater to all Plan and Non Plan payments of GoI, all tax and non-Tax receipts and also functions such as a comprehensive HRMIS and self-contained pension as well as GPF modules. Futuristically, all the existing standalone systems currently catering to various functions in Government of India will be subsumed in PFMS.
- The biggest strength of PFMS is its integration with the Core banking system in the Country. As a result, PFMS has the unique capability to push online payments to almost every beneficiary/vendor. At present, PFMS interface is having interface in addition to the Core Banking System (CBS) of all Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks, major private sector banks, Reserve Bank of India, India post and Cooperative Banks.

SOURCE:

<http://cga.nic.in/Page/PFMS.aspx>

94. Which one of the following ports is open to the Pacific Ocean?

- (a) **Brisbane**
- (b) Perth
- (c) Boston
- (d) Cape Town

EXPLANATION:

Port of Brisbane is the shipping port and coastal suburb of the City of Brisbane, on the east coast of Queensland, Australia. Hence, it is open to the Pacific Ocean. So, Option (a) is correct.
Port of Perth is located on the west coast of Australia. Hence, It is open to the Indian Ocean. So, Option (b) is not correct.
The Port of Boston, is a major seaport located in Boston Harbor and adjacent to the City of Boston. It is the largest port in Massachusetts as well as being one of the principal ports on the east coast of the United States. Hence, it is open to the Atlantic Ocean. So, Option (c) is not correct.
The Port of Cape Town is the port of the city of Cape Town, South Africa. It is situated in Table Bay. Hence, It is open to the Atlantic Ocean. So, Option (d) is not correct.

95. With reference to the Advent of Europeans in India, which among the following events happened earlier?

- (a) Bombay was given to the British as a part of the dowry by the Portuguese
- (b) The English East India Company got the golden Farman from the Sultan of Golconda**
- (c) The English defeated the Dutch in Battle of Bedara
- (d) Fort St. George replaced Masulipatnam as the English headquarters on the eastern coast of India

EXPLANATION:

Bombay had been gifted to King Charles II by the King of Portugal as dowry when Charles married the Portuguese princess Catherine in 1662 . Bombay was given over to the East India Company on an annual payment of ten pounds only in 1668. Later Bombay was made the headquarters by shifting the seat of the Western Presidency from Surat to Bombay in 1687. So, Option (a) is not correct.
The English Company's position was improved by the 'Golden Farman' issued to them by the Sultan of Golconda in 1632 . On a payment of 500 pagodas a year, they earned the privilege of trading freely in the ports of Golconda. So, Option (b) is correct.
The Dutch were defeated and humbled by the English forces at Bedara in November 1759 . So, Option (c) is not correct.
A member of the Masulipatnam council, the British merchant Francis Day, in 1639 received from the ruler of Chandragiri permission to build a fortified factory at Madras which later became the Fort St. George and replaced Masulipatnam as the headquarters of the English settlements in East coast. So, Option (d) is not correct.

SOURCE:

A Brief History of Modern India by Spectrum

96. Consider the following statements about the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India:

- 1. They are empowered to inquire into the violations of human rights committed by state authorities, either upon petitions presented to them or upon their initiative.**
- 2. Protection of Human Rights empowers NHRC to 'recommend' to the concerned government to initiate prosecution against the erring state authorities and such recommendations are binding on the concerned government.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

NHRC can only recommend government to initiate actions against the state authorities. But it is not binding on the government (both Central and State). **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

97. Consider the following statements about the National Parks in India:

- 1. All the North-eastern states in India have National Park.**
- 2. Punjab and Ladakh do not have any National Park.**
- 3. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand have only one National Park each.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The northeastern states of Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram collectively have more than 30 national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, bird sanctuaries and tiger reserves in North East India. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Only Punjab do not have any National Park. Hemis National Park (or Hemis High Altitude National Park) is a high altitude national park in the eastern Ladakh Union Territory of the Republic of India. Globally famous for its snow leopards, it is believed to have the highest density of them in any protected area in the world. It is the only national park in India that is north of the Himalayas, the largest notified protected area in India (largest National park) and is the second largest contiguous protected area, after the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve and surrounding protected areas. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

Uttarpradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand each have one National Park only. They are Dudhwa

National Park of Uttar Pradesh, Valmiki National Park of Bihar and Betla National Park of Jharkhand. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Dudhwa National Park is a national park in the Terai belt of marshy grasslands of northern Uttar Pradesh, India. It is part of the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in the Kheri and Lakhimpur districts. It represents one of the few remaining areas of the diverse and productive Terai ecosystem, supporting many endangered species, obligate species of tall wet grasslands and species of restricted distribution.
- Betla National Park is a national park located on the Chota Nagpur Plateau in the Palamu district of Jharkhand, India. The park hosts a wide variety of wildlife.
- Valmiki National Park, Tiger Reserve and Wildlife Sanctuary is located at the India-Nepal border in the West Champaran district of Bihar, India on the bank of river Gandak. It is the only National park in Bihar. The extensive forest area of Valmikinagar (formally known as BHAINSA LOTAN) was previously owned by the Bettiah Raj and Ramanagar Raj until the early 1950s. Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) is one of the natural virgin recesses in east India, situated in the north west corner of Bihar. The pristine forest and wilderness of VTR is an excellent example of Himalayan Terai landscape. VTR comprises the Valmiki National Park and Valmiki Wildlife Sanctuary.

98. Consider the following statements about the bank deposit insurance scheme implemented by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) in India:

- 1. This scheme covers all the Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks operating in India.**
- 2. The deposit insurance premium is borne entirely by the insured bank.**
- 3. It also insures the deposits of Central and State governments in India.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Currently, as per the RBI guidelines, deposits with all commercial banks and cooperative banks are insured under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC). Only Primary Cooperative Societies are not covered under DICGC. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

Deposit insurance premium is borne entirely by the insured bank. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The DICGC insures all deposits such as savings, fixed, current, recurring, etc. deposits except the following types of deposits

1. Deposits of foreign Governments;
2. Deposits of Central/State Governments;

3. Inter-bank deposits;
4. Deposits of the State Land Development Banks with the State co-operative bank;
5. Any amount due on account of and deposit received outside India
6. Any amount, which has been specifically exempted by the corporation with the previous approval of Reserve Bank of India

So, Statement 3 is not correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- GC came into existence in 1978 after the merger of Deposit Insurance Corporation (DIC) and Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd. (CGCI) after passing of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961 by the Parliament.
- It is a fully owned subsidiary of and is governed by the Reserve Bank of India.
- Currently, as per the RBI guidelines, deposits with all commercial banks and cooperative banks are insured under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC). Only Primary Cooperative Societies are not covered under DICGC.
- DICGC charges 10 paise per ₹ 100 of deposits held by a bank. The premium paid by the insured banks to the Corporation is paid by the banks and is not to be passed on to depositors.

What does the DICGC insure?

- The DICGC insures all deposits such as savings, fixed, current, recurring, etc. deposits except the following types of deposits
- Deposits of foreign Governments;
- Deposits of Central/State Governments;
- Inter-bank deposits;
- Deposits of the State Land Development Banks with the State co-operative bank;
- Any amount due on account of and deposit received outside India
- Any amount, which has been specifically exempted by the corporation with the previous approval of Reserve Bank of India

What is the maximum deposit amount insured by the DICGC?

- Each depositor in a bank is insured upto a maximum of ₹ 5,00,000 (Rupees Five Lakhs) for both principal and interest amount held by him in the same right and same capacity as on the date of liquidation/cancellation of bank's licence or the date on which the scheme of amalgamation/merger/reconstruction comes into force.

SOURCE:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/wealth/save/bank-deposit-insurance-hiked-to-rs-5-lakh-per-depositor-by-budget-2020/articleshow/73834680.cms?from=mdr>

99. “World Wide Education for Future Index” is released by which one of the following organization?

- (a) World Economic Forum
- (b) UNICEF
- (c) Economic Intelligence Unit**
- (d) UNESCO

EXPLANATION:

India ranked 35th in the Worldwide Educating for the Future Index (WEFFI) 2019, as per a report published by The Economist Intelligence Unit. The index and report are commissioned by the Yidan Prize Foundation.

It was developed to assess the effectiveness of education systems in preparing students for the demands of work and life in a rapidly changing landscape. It is the first comprehensive global index to evaluate inputs to education systems rather than outputs such as test scores and concentrates on the 15-24 age band in 35 economies. **So, Option (c) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Key Points

- India ranked 35th in the Worldwide Educating for the Future Index (WEFFI) 2019, as per a report published by The Economist Intelligence Unit.
- This year, India scored 53 and has jumped five ranks from the 40th rank with an overall score of 41.2 across categories in 2018.
- Finland topped the index followed by Sweden.
- WEFFI ranks countries based on their abilities to equip students with skill-based education.
- The rankings are based on three categories:
 - Policy environment.
 - Teaching environment.
 - Overall socio-economic environment.
- The report analyses the education system from the perspective of skill-based education in areas such as critical thinking, problem-solving, leadership, collaboration, creativity and entrepreneurship as well as digital and technical skills.
- Among the world's largest economies, the US, UK, France and Russia fell back in the index while China, India and Indonesia took steps forward.

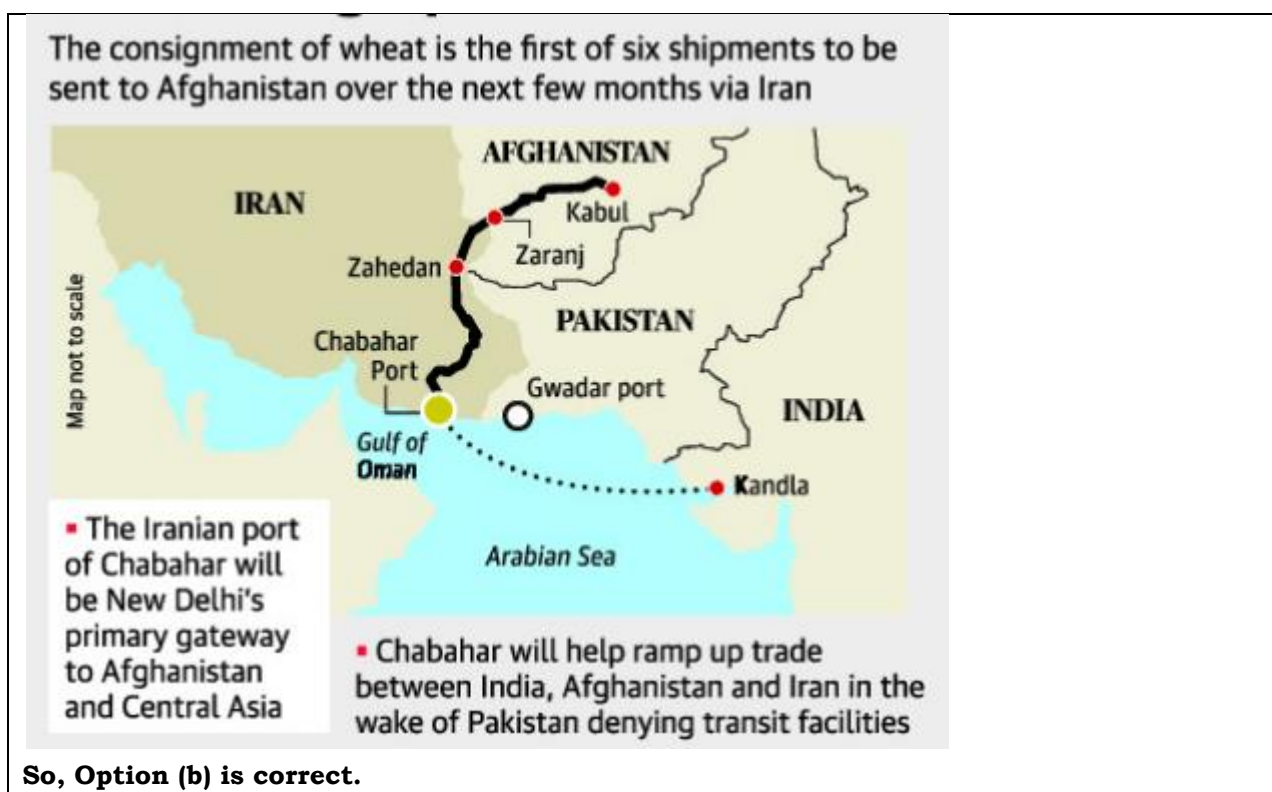
SOURCE:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/education/india-jumps-5-ranks-to-35th-in-worldwide-education-for-the-future-index-2019/article30851541.ece>

100. “Chabahar port” is closer to which one of the following places?

- (a) Persian Gulf
- (b) Gulf of Oman**
- (c) Gulf of Aden
- (d) Red Sea

EXPLANATION:



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Iran's Chabahar port is located on the Gulf of Oman and is the only oceanic port of the country. The port gives access to the energy-rich Persian Gulf nations' southern coast.

The first and foremost significance of the Chabahar port is the fact that India can bypass Pakistan in transporting goods to Afghanistan. Chabahar port will boost India's access to Iran, the key gateway to the International North-South Transport Corridor that has sea, rail and road routes between India, Russia, Iran, Europe and Central Asia.