



PRESTORMING™ 2020

MOCK TEST IV - EXPLANATION

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PRESTORMING™ 2020

MOCK TEST IV - EXPLANATION

1. Which one of the following statements best describes the term “Spectrum-Roentgen-Gamma” which was seen in the news recently?

- (a) It is the first hard X-ray space based telescope used to map the universe in a 3D manner**
- (b) First practical device got derived from Raman effect to study about the body fluids in a microscopic manner
- (c) Low dose radiotherapy device developed by CSIR to treat cancer
- (d) It is a compact device used to measure radioactive leakage in nuclear reactor

EXPLANATION:

A joint team of German-Russian scientists will be launching a Spectrum-Roentgen-Gamma (SRG) space telescope. It will create a three-dimensional (3D) X-ray map of the universe and unveil unknown supermassive black holes, dark energy and stars. **So, option (a) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Spectrum-Roentgen-Gamma (SRG) Telescope

- The telescope will be launched into space on a Russian-built Proton-M rocket from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan in June 2019.
- The four-year mission will survey the entire sky eight times and track the evolution of the universe and dark energy, a mysterious repulsive force that is accelerating its expansion.
- Besides, it also aims to detect up to three million supermassive black holes — many of which are unknown — and X-rays from as many as 700,000 stars in the Milky Way.
- The telescope is the first to be sensitive to high-energy ‘hard’ X-rays and map the entire sky.
- The SRG will also find how dark matter — the main engine of galaxy formation — is spread in the universe.
- The mission will have two independent telescopes:
 - A German-built eROSITA (Extended Roentgen Survey with an Imaging Telescope Array).



- A Russian-built ART-XC (Astronomical Roentgen Telescope X-ray Concentrator)
- Each of them covers X-ray bands stretching to relatively much higher energies: 0.2–10 kilo-electron volts (keV) for eROSITA, and 5–30 keV for ART-XC.

SOURCE:

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/science-technology/new-space-telescope-to-create-a-3d-x-ray-map-of-universe-65063>

2. Which one of the following pair of places has the longest time for air travel between them?

- (a) Cape Town and Montevideo
- (b) Toronto and London
- (c) Melbourne and Perth
- (d) San Francisco and Tokyo**

EXPLANATION:-

Cape Town and Montevideo- 8 hrs 49 min

Toronto and London- 7hrs

Melbourne and Perth- 4 hrs 10 min

San Francisco and Tokyo- 10 hr 50 min. **So, option (d) is correct.**

3. Consider the following pairs:

Ancient Text Deals with

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| 1. Sushruta Samhita | - Unani |
| 2. Charaka Samhita | - Ayurveda |
| 3. Garga Samhita | - Siddha |

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

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

EXPLANATION:

The Sushruta Samhita is an ancient Sanskrit text on medicine and surgery, and one of the most



important such treatises on this subject to survive from the ancient world. The Compendium of Suśruta is one of the foundational texts of Ayurveda (Indian traditional medicine), alongside the Caraka-Samhita, the Bhela-Samhita, and the medical portions of the Bower Manuscript.

It is one of the two foundational Hindu texts on medical profession that have survived from ancient India. The Sushruta Samhita is of great historical importance because it includes historically unique chapters describing surgical training, instruments and procedures. One of the oldest Sushruta Samhita palm-leaf manuscripts is preserved at the Kaiser Library, Nepal. It is dated to 878 CE. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

The Charaka Samhita or Compendium of Charaka is a Sanskrit text on Ayurveda (Indian traditional medicine). Along with the Sushruta Samhita, it is one of the two foundational Hindu texts of this field that have survived from Indian Subcontinent.

The pre-2nd century CE text consists of eight books and one hundred twenty chapters. It describes ancient theories on human body, etiology, symptomology and therapeutics for a wide range of diseases. The Charaka Samhita also includes sections on the importance of diet, hygiene, prevention, medical education, the teamwork of a physician, nurse and patient necessary for recovery to health. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

4. Consider the following statements about the “National Common Mobility Card” (NCMC) of India:

- 1. It is India's first indigenously developed Payment Platform.**
- 2. It enables its users to pay a uniform monthly fare and travel in any required modes of transportation in the country to reach any destinations within India.**
- 3. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has prepared the standards and specifications of the NCMC.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

National Common Mobility Card is India's First Indigenously developed Payment Platform. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

The customer may use this single card for payments across all segments including metro, bus, suburban railways, toll, parking, smart city and retail. The stored value on card supports offline transaction across all travel needs with minimal financial risk to involved stakeholders. The service area feature of this card supports operator specific applications e.g. monthly passes,



season tickets etc. But there is nothing such as monthly fare or single payment. Cost of the transportation must be paid using this card. There is no such thing as single fare in all mode of transportation. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has prepared the standards & specifications of the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC). **So, statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) - One Nation, One Card for transport mobility is an initiative of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to enable seamless travel by different metros and other transport systems across the country besides retail shopping and purchases.
- The Indigenous Automatic Fare Collection System based on One Nation One Card Model is the first of its kind in India.
- Key Features of NCMC

Key Functionalities/Particulars	NCMC Proposition
Payment Model	Card based payment model
Transaction Type	Supports online (contact & contactless) & off-line (contactless) transactions
Stored Value	Provision to store balance on card for offline payments
Provision for multiple service areas	Multiple service areas (optional to use with mutual concurrence) to support acquirer/operator specific programs e.g. Passes / Season Tickets / Smart City Specific application / Loyalty points etc.
Card usage	Same card to be used at ATMs, Merchant establishments & online (e-commerce) payments in addition to other areas of contactless payments viz., transit, toll, parking& other small value



merchant payments	
Card issuance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can be issued by any member authorized by RBI• On the platform of Debit/Prepaid/Credit Cards
Topping up the stored value	Provision of Topping up the stored value through any mode of payment viz., Online using card, Internet Banking, IVR, ATM, Cash at customer service point, auto top-up etc.at the option of the issuing entity
Offline Transaction Risk	Since the offline transaction is permitted against stored value on card, there is minimal risk of any loss to the bank or merchants
Security	Underlying technology i.e. EMV is best available globally.
Cost of providing contactless card to the customer	RBI has mandated that effective Feb 01, 2016, all cards issued by banks in India would be EMV. Therefore, cost of providing contactless card to the customer will be only marginal as against steep increase in territories where mag-stripe ecosystem exists.
Synergy with existing technology	NCMC specifications can co-exist with the existing technology being used by acquirer/operator and migration to common standards may be achieved gradually to suit the convenience.

SOURCE:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1567345>



5. Consider the following statements about the “National Legal Services Authority” (NALSA) of India:

- 1. It is a statutory body to provide free legal services to weaker sections of society.**
- 2. It provides legal aid with respect to both civil and criminal matters.**
- 3. Any Judge of Supreme Court of India shall be the Patron-in-Chief of NALSA.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:-

The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) was constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 which came into force on 9th November, 1995 to establish a nationwide uniform network for providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society. **So statement 1 is correct.**

It provides free legal aid with respect to both civil and criminal matters. **So statement 2 is correct.**

The Chief Justice of India is the Patron-in-Chief and the second senior most Judge of Supreme Court of India is the Executive Chairman of the Authority. **So statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

National Legal Services Authority

- The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) was constituted under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 which came into force on 9th November, 1995 to establish a nationwide uniform network for providing free and competent legal services to the weaker sections of the society.
- The Chief Justice of India is the Patron-in-Chief and the second senior most Judge of Supreme Court of India is the Executive Chairman of the Authority.
- Article 39 A of the Constitution provides for free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of the society, to promote justice on the basis of equal opportunity. Article 14 and Article 22 (1), obligates State to ensure equality before law.
- It can be noted that the role played by NALSA and its networks is very much relevant to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal-16 , which seeks to "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels".



Persons Eligible for Free Legal Services:

- Women and Children
- Persons with disability
- Member of Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribes
- Industrial Workmen
- Persons in custody
- Victims of natural disasters, ethnic/caste violence, industrial disaster
- Victims of Human Trafficking or Begar
- Persons with an annual income of less than Rs. 1,00,000/- or as notified by the Central/State Governments.

Legal Services Institutions for providing Free Legal Services:

- National Level : National Legal Services Authority
- State Level : State Legal Services Authority. It is headed by the Chief Justice of the State High Court who is its Patron-in-Chief. A serving or retired Judge of the High Court is nominated as its Executive Chairman.
- District Level : District Legal Services Authority. The District Judge of the District is its ex-officio Chairman.
- Taluka/ Sub-Division Level : Taluka/ Sub-Divisional Legal Services Committee. It is headed by a senior Civil Judge.
- High Court : High Court Legal Services Committee
- Supreme Court: Supreme Court Legal Services Committee
- In carrying out all these responsibilities, NALSA works in close coordination with the various State Legal Services Authorities, District Legal Services Authorities and other agencies for a regular exchange of relevant information, monitoring and updating on the implementation and progress of the various schemes in vogue and fostering a strategic and coordinated approach to ensure smooth and streamlined functioning of the various agencies and stakeholders.

SOURCE:-

Indian Polity - Laxmikanth

6. Consider the following statements about the “Blue Flag Certification”:

1. It is one of the world's most recognised eco-labels granted by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas.
2. If a beach obtains this certification, then that beach should be closed for any new construction or tourism activities.



3. Rushikonda beach in Andhra Pradesh is the first in India to get the Blue Flag Certification.

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

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

EXPLANATION:

Blue Flag Certification is accorded by an international agency called Foundation for Environment Education based in Denmark. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

The Blue Flag is one of the world's most recognised voluntary eco-labels awarded to beaches, marinas, and sustainable boating tourism operators. Tourism activities are allowed. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

Chandrabhaga beach located on the Konark coast of Odisha is the first beach in the country to receive 'Blue Flag Certification'. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Blue Flag Certification

- 'Blue Flag' is an international certification of environmental properties and cleanliness on beaches.
- A 'Blue Flag' beach provides hygienic and clean bathing water, basic infrastructure to tourists and sustainable development in the area.
- Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) runs the Blue Flag program across the world.
- This concept was started in France in 1985 while Europe adopted the 'Blue Flag' program in 1987. However, South Africa was the first outside European country that joined the program in 2001.
- Spain has the largest number of 566 Blue Flag beaches while Greece and France have 515 and 395 such blue flag beaches respectively.
- Chandrabhaga beach located on the Konark coast of Odisha is the first beach in the country to receive 'Blue Flag Certification'.
- The certification is based on 33 stringent criteria in four major heads i.e.
 - Environmental Education and Information,
 - Bathing Water Quality,
 - Environment Management and Conservation and
 - Safety and Services in the beaches.



- 13 pilot beaches that have been identified for the certification, in consultation with concerned coastal States/UTs, are Ghoghala Beach (Diu), Shivrajpur beach (Gujarat), Bhogave (Maharashtra), Padubidri and Kasarkod (Karnataka), Kappad beach (Kerala), Kovalam beach (Tamil Nadu), Eden beach (Puducherry), Rushikonda beach (Andhra Pradesh), Miramar beach (Goa), Golden beach (Odisha), Radhanagar beach (Andaman & Nicobar Islands) and Bangaram beach (Lakshadweep).

SOURCE:

<https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1594507>

7. With reference to the land revenue systems during the British rule in India, consider the following statements about the “Permanent Settlement System”:

1. **The zamindars, recognized as proprietors of the land, had the rights to sell and transfer his/her land.**
2. **The zamindars had to give the tenant a patta which described the area of the land given to the tenant and the rent that tenant had to pay to the zamindars.**
3. **A fixed amount of cash or farm produce must be paid by the zamindar to the government.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Transferability of land was one feature of the Permanent Settlement system which caused great insecurity to the tenants who lost all their traditional rights in land. Hence, the Zamindars could sell or transfer the land as they wished. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

The Zamindar also had to give the tenant a patta which described the area of the land given to him and the rent he had to pay the landlord. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

The fixed amount was 10/11th portion of the revenue for the government and 1/10th was for the Zamindar. It can be paid as cash or as agricultural produce. **So, statement 3 is correct.**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Features of the Permanent Settlement

- Lord Cornwallis under directions from the then British PM, William Pitt, proposed the Permanent Settlement system in 1786. This came into effect in 1793, by the Permanent Settlement Act of 1793.
- Landlords or Zamindars were recognised as the owners of the land. They were given hereditary rights of succession of the lands under them.
- The Zamindars could sell or transfer the land as they wished.
- The Zamindars' proprietorship would stay as long as he paid the fixed revenue at the said date to the government. If they failed to pay, their rights would cease to exist and the land would be auctioned off.
- The amount to be paid by the landlords was fixed. It was agreed that this would not increase in future (permanent).
- The fixed amount was 10/11th portion of the revenue for the government and 1/10th was for the Zamindar. This tax rate was way higher than the prevailing rates in England.
- The Zamindar also had to give the tenant a patta which described the area of the land given to him and the rent he had to pay the landlord.

SOURCE:

A Brief History of Modern India by Spectrum

8. Consider the following statements about the Presiding Officer of the Lok Sabha:

1. Even a person who is not a member of Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha can be elected as the Speaker provided he/she becomes a member of that House within 6 months after the election.
2. Since the first Lok Sabha, after independence, all the Speakers were elected from the ruling party only.
3. The speaker can be disqualified from being a member of Lok Sabha under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



9. Consider the following statements about the “Kisan Credit Card” (KCC) scheme:

- 1. KCC is not applicable to village craftsmen, fisheries and animal husbandry farmers.**
- 2. Only Public Sector Banks are allowed to issue KCC to the farmers.**
- 3. Money allocated under Priority Sector Lending cannot be used for lending activities under this scheme by the banks.**

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

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

Kisan Credit Card

- The Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme was introduced in 1998 for providing adequate and timely credit support from the banking system under a single window with flexible and simplified procedure to the farmers for their cultivation and other needs like purchase of agriculture inputs such as seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc. and draw cash for their production needs.
- The scheme was further extended for the investment credit requirement of farmers viz. allied and non-farm activities in the year 2004.
- KCC covers post-harvest expenses, produce marketing loan, consumption requirements of farmer household, working capital for maintenance of farm assets and activities allied to agriculture, investment credit requirement for agriculture and allied activities.
- The Kisan Credit Card Scheme is implemented by Commercial Banks, RRBs, Small Finance Banks and Cooperatives.

SOURCE:-

<https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/content/pdfs/CRB5100512AN.pdf>

10. Indian Scientists had developed a new material known as “Black gold”, which holds enormous amount of applications in our society. Which among the following has the potential applications of “Black gold”?

- 1. Nano-heater**
- 2. Water purifier**



3. Catalyst

4. Hydrosilylation

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

Using gold nanoparticles Indian scientists have developed a new material called “black gold”, which can potentially be used for applications ranging from solar energy harvesting to desalinating seawater.

One of the most fascinating properties of the new material is its ability to absorb the entire visible and near-infrared region of solar light. It does so because of inter-particle plasmonic coupling as well as heterogeneity in nanoparticles size. Black gold could also act as a catalyst and could convert CO₂ into methane at atmospheric pressure and temperature using solar energy. If we develop an artificial tree with leaves made out of black gold, it can perform artificial photosynthesis, capturing carbon dioxide and converting it into fuel and other useful chemicals. The efficiency of conversion of CO₂ into fuel, at present, is low but researchers believe it could be improved in future. The material can be used as a nano-heater to convert seawater into potable water with good efficiency.

Nano-heater, Water purifier, Catalyst and Hydrosilylation are potential applications of “Black gold”. **So, option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Black Gold

- To develop the material, the team from Mumbai-based Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) rearranged size and gaps between gold nanoparticles.
- It has unique properties such as capacity to absorb light and carbon dioxide (CO₂).
- Gold does not have these properties therefore ‘black gold’ is being called a new material.
- In appearance it is black, hence the name ‘black gold’, according to the findings published in Chemical Science



- The researchers varied inter-particle distance between gold nanoparticles using a cycle-by-cycle growth approach by optimizing the nucleation-growth step.
- They used dendritic fibrous nanosilica, whose fibers were used as the deposition site for gold nanoparticles.

SOURCE:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/indian-scientists-develop-wonder-material-black-gold/article28320764.ece>

11. Consider the following statements about the “Green Turtles” which was sometimes seen in the news recently:

1. They are named because of greenish colour of their shells.
2. They are one of the smallest among sea turtles.
3. They are not naturally present in India.
4. They are herbivore in nature.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Green turtles are named after the greenish colour of their cartilage and the fat deposits around their internal organs not of their shells. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

The smallest sea turtle is the Kemp's ridley. These are the smallest of the seven sea turtle species.

Green Turtles are one of the largest among sea turtles. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

They are naturally present in India (near Andaman Islands). **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

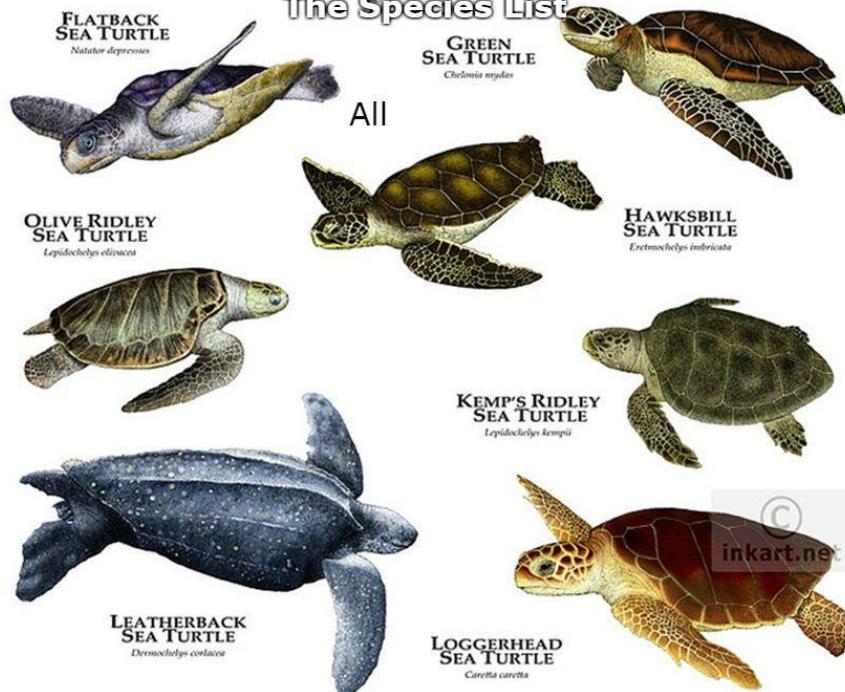
Green turtles are herbivore in nature. It feeds on sea grass beds. **So, statement 4 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- There are five species of sea turtles in Indian waters:
 - Leatherback
 - Loggerhead
 - Hawksbill
 - Green
 - Olive Ridley



All Sea Turtle Species The Species List



- The turtle breeding season is usually between November and December.
- E.g. Olive Ridley nests between December and April along the Chennai-Kancheepuram coastline in Tamil Nadu.
- The eastern coastline is the feeding area for Olive Ridley, juvenile Hawksbills and Green turtles.
- Off-shore waters are also migratory routes for the Olive Ridley while moving towards beaches in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

Significance

- Sea turtles, especially the leatherback, keep jellyfish under control.
- This in turn helps maintain healthy fish stocks in the oceans.
- The Green turtle feeds on sea grass beds.
- Turtle populations could improve seagrass ecosystem health by removing seagrass biomass and preventing sediment formation.
- By cropping the grass, they provide a nursery for numerous species of fish, shellfish and crustaceans.
- The Hawksbill feeds on sponges in the coral reef ecosystem and opens up crevices for other marine life to live in.
- Turtles are also transporters of nutrients and energy to coastal areas.
- Unhatched eggs, eggshells and fluids help foster decomposers and create much needed fertilizer in sandy beaches.



Threats:

- In India, sea turtles are protected under the Indian Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, under the Schedule I Part II.
- Despite this legal protection they face grave threats.
- Bycatch is one such example, which is the name given to ocean animals that are unintentionally caught by fishing gear.
- Notably, high number of dead turtles washing up ashore is recorded each year.
- Thousands of sea turtles are accidentally captured, injured or killed.
- The mechanised boats, trawl nets and gill nets operated and used by commercial fishermen are the major causes.
- The heavy toll of injuries and deaths occurs when turtles begin migrating.
- It could be to their nesting grounds on beaches or fishing areas that are their feeding grounds.

EXPLANATION:

Green turtles are named after the greenish colour of their cartilage and the fat deposits around their internal organs not of their shells. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

The smallest sea turtle is the Kemp's ridley. These are the smallest of the seven sea turtle species. Green Turtles are not one of the smallest among sea turtles. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

They are naturally present in India. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

Green turtles are herbivore in nature. It feeds on sea grass beds. **So, statement 4 is correct.**

12. Which one of the following forest type has the largest percentage of global tree cover?

- (a) Broad Leaved Evergreen forest
- (b) Mixed forest
- (c) Flooded Saline water forest
- (d) Coniferous Evergreen forest

EXPLANATION:-

Globally Broad Leaved Evergreen forest type has the largest percentage of global tree cover. **So option (a) is correct.**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

Global Forest Resources Assessment

The Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) reports on the status and trends of the world's forest resources.

It is led by the Forestry Department of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The FRA reports the extent of the world's forest area as well as other variables, including land tenure and access rights, sustainable forest management (SFM), legal and institutional frameworks for forest conservation, and sustainable use.

Highlights of the 2020 report

- The rate of forest loss in 2015–2020 declined to an estimated 10 million hectares (mha), down from 12 million hectares (mha) in 2010–2015, according to the FRA 2020.
- The FRA 2020 has examined the status of, and trends in, more than 60 forest-related variables in 236 countries and territories in the period 1990–2020.
- The world lost 178 mha of forest since 1990, an area the size of Libya, according to the report.
- However, the rate of net forest loss decreased substantially during 1990–2020 due to a reduction in deforestation in some countries, plus increases in the forest area in others through afforestation.
- The largest proportion of the world's forests were tropical (45 per cent), followed by boreal, temperate and subtropical.

Data on losses and gains

- The world's total forest area was 4.06 billion hectares (bha), which was 31 per cent of the total land area. This area was equivalent to 0.52 ha per person.
- Among the world's regions, Africa had the largest annual rate of net forest loss in 2010–2020, at 3.9 mha, followed by South America, at 2.6 mha.
- On the other hand, Asia had the highest net gain of forest area in 2010–2020, followed by Oceania and Europe.
- However, both Europe and Asia recorded substantially lower rates of the net gain in 2010–2020 than in 2000–2010.
- Oceania experienced net losses of forest area in the decades 1990–2000 and 2000–2010.
- More than 54 per cent of the world's forests were in only five countries — the Russian Federation, Brazil, Canada, the United States of America and China.



- The highest per cent of plantation forests were in South America while the lowest was in Europe.
- Posted

13. With reference to the status of women in the Rig Vedic society, consider the following statements:

1. There are no hymns composed by women in the Rig veda.
2. There are no women priests during the Rig Vedic period.
3. The household was clearly patriarchal and patrilineal.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:-

Panini in his Ashtadhyayi, refers to Kathi as female students of the Katha Shaakha of the Vedic school. He also refers to Bahvrichi as female students who were well-versed in many hymns of the Rig Veda." Many Vedic hymns are also attributed to women. **So statement 1 is not correct.**

It is possible to find women spiritual mentors, including those who preside over private shrines, but they are not considered as priests. **So statement 2 is correct.**

The household was clearly patriarchal and patrilineal. Also joint family system was followed. **So statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

Male and Female, the two basic components of our human society, depend upon each other and each one of them constitutes about half of the population. Over years sociologists and other scholars have tried to assess the problems faced by women and to study changes in their status around the globe in general and in Indian society in particular. We find that man and woman have been established as the two wheels of a chariot.

The status represents the position of individual in the group. The word status denotes the position of an individual in a system with attendant rights and duties. It is the position which the individual occupies in the group by virtue of his or her sex, age, family, occupation, marriage and achievement.

The status of women refers to her position in the network of social role structure, privileges, rights and duties. It refers to her rights and duties in family and social life. The status of a woman is



generally measured in the comparative amount of prestige and respect accorded to her with that of man.

The status of Hindu women in India has been fluctuating. It has gone through several changes during various historical stages. Historically speaking, women in India have passed through two phases of their life – the period of subjugation and the period of liberation. At times she has been suppressed and oppressed and at times she is regarded as the deity of the home. From the Vedic age till today, her status and position has been changing with the passing of time.

SOURCE:-

[https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/wife-mother-lawyer-priest/article7522954.ece#:~:text=It%20is%20important%20to%20note%20that%20Hinduism%20by%20itself%20does,they%20also%20studied%20the%20Vedas.](https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/wife-mother-lawyer-priest/article7522954.ece#:~:text=It%20is%20important%20to%20note%20that%20Hinduism%20by%20itself%20does,they%20also%20studied%20the%20Vedas)

14. Recently, a new and distinct species of cat snake called ‘Boiga thackerayi’, has tiger like stripes on its body, is discovered in which one of the following places in India?

- (a) Andaman Islands
- (b) Anamalai Forests
- (c) Western Ghats**
- (d) Tropical Rainforest of Northeastern part of India

EXPLANATION:

A new species of cat snake called Thackeray’s Cat Snake (Boigathackerayi), named after Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray’s son, Tejas, a wildlife researcher, has been discovered in the Western Ghats after 125 years. Cat snakes or cat-eyed snakes are identified by the genus Boiga and are named after their vertical pupils, similar to cats. **So, option (c) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The discovery is the first since 1894, when a species from the genus was found in the Western Ghats.
- The findings were published in the Journal of Bombay Natural History Society on Thursday.
- Currently spotted only at a few localities around the Sahyadri Tiger Reserve and near Koyna in Satara district, the snake has been named after Tejas Thackeray for his contribution towards various research studies and discoveries of freshwater crabs across India.



- Snakes belonging to this genus are widely distributed, but a few species are endemic to the northern Western Ghats, which indicates the importance of protecting this area from developmental threats.
- Growing up to a maximum length of three-foot, Thackeray's Cat Snake is a non-venomous, nocturnal and arboreal species (living in trees and active mostly during night).
- Its habitat includes rain-fed streams across tropical forests. With tiger-like stripes on its body, the species has a light yellow texture, dotted with black marks from its head to the mid-section. The texture turns pink towards the latter half of its form.

SOURCE:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/new-snake-species-named-after-uddhav-thackerays-son/articleshow/71323305.cms?from=mdr>

15. In the Budget 2019-20, Government of India had announced formation of 10,000 new Farmers Producer Organization. Consider the following statements about the “Farmers Producer Organization” (FPO’s):

1. An FPO, formed by a group of farm producers, is a registered body with producers as shareholders in the organisation.
2. FPOs will be promoted under ‘One District One Product’ cluster to promote specialisation and better processing, marketing, branding and export by the FPOs.
3. Krishi Vigyan Kendras are the assigned agency to promote and support FPOs.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

An FPO, formed by a group of farm producers, is a registered body with producers as shareholders in the organisation. It deals with business activities related to the farm produce and it works for the benefit of the member producers. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

FPOs will be promoted under “One District One Product” cluster to promote specialization and better processing, marketing, branding & export by FPOs. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

There will be three implementing Agencies to form and promote FPOs, namely Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium (SFAC), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). **So, statement 3 is not correct.**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Farmer Producer Organizations

- A Producer Organisation (PO) is a legal entity formed by primary producers, viz. farmers, milk producers, fishermen, weavers, rural artisans, craftsmen.
- A PO can be a producer company, a cooperative society or any other legal form which provides for sharing of profits/benefits among the members.
- In some forms like producer companies, institutions of primary producers can also become member of PO.
- FPO is one type of PO where the members are farmers. Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) is providing support for the promotion of FPOs.

About the Formation and Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) Scheme

- It would be a new Central Sector Scheme titled "Formation and Promotion of Farmer Produce Organizations (FPOs)" to form and promote 10,000 new FPOs.
- Initially there will be three implementing Agencies to form and promote FPOs, namely Small Farmers Agri-business Consortium (SFAC), National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
- States may also, if so desire, nominate their Implementing Agency in consultation with DAC&FW.
- DAC&FW will allocate Cluster/States to Implementing Agencies which in turn will form the Cluster-Based Business Organization in the States.

Modes for promotion

- FPOs will be promoted under "One District One Product" cluster to promote specialization and better processing, marketing, branding & export by FPOs.
- There will be a provision of Equity Grant for strengthening equity base of FPOs.
- There will be a Credit Guarantee Fund of up to Rs. 1,000.00 crore in NABARD.

Benefits

- Small and marginal farmers do not have the economic strength to apply production technology, services and marketing including value addition.
- Through the formation of FPOs, farmers will have better collective strength for better access to quality input, technology, credit and better marketing access through economies of scale for better realization of income.

SOURCE:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1603627>



16. Consider the following pairs:

<i>Embroidery designs</i>	<i>State</i>	
1. Dorukha	-	Uttar Pradesh
2. Phulkari	-	Punjab
3. Gota	-	Rajasthan

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

EXPLANATION:

Dorukha, as the name suggests, basically means ‘two-sided or double-faced’- hence, the Dorukha are Kashmiri shawls that have two different sides and can be draped either ways. The Dorukha shawls have been in Kashmir since the 1860s and have been known since then for their unique combination of twill-tapestry weave and embroidery that provide the wearer of two different sides that have different designs and colors. **So, pair 1 is not correct.**

Phulkari refers to the folk embroidery of the Punjab. Although Phulkari means floral work, the designs include not only flowers but also cover motifs and geometrical shapes. The main characteristics of Phulkari embroidery are use of darn stitch on the wrong side of coarse cotton cloth with coloured silken thread. **So, pair 2 is correct.**

17. Consider the following statements about the “Foreigners Tribunals” in India:

- 1. They are the quasi-judicial bodies to determine if a person staying illegally in India is a “foreigner” or not.**
- 2. Only the state administration could move the tribunal against a suspect.**
- 3. The powers to constitute foreigners tribunals were vested only with Parliament of India.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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



EXPLANATION:-

They are the quasi-judicial bodies, to determine if a person staying illegally in India is a “foreigner” or not. **So statement 1 is correct.**

The amended order (Foreigners (Tribunal) Order, 2019) also empowers individuals to approach the Tribunals. Earlier, only the State administration could move the Tribunal against a suspect. **So statement 2 is not correct.**

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has amended the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, and has empowered district magistrates in all States and Union Territories to set up tribunals (quasi-judicial bodies) to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not. **So statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

A series of judgments delivered by the Gauhati High Court over the course of the last few weeks has brought into sharp focus the utter brutality of the regime governing the Foreigners’ Tribunals in Assam.

What is a Foreigners tribunal?

In 1964, the govt brought in the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order.

Composition: Advocates not below the age of 35 years of age with at least 7 years of practice (or) Retired Judicial Officers from the Assam Judicial Service (or) Retired IAS of ACS Officers (not below the rank of Secretary/Addl. Secretary) having experience in quasi-judicial works.

Who can setup these tribunals?

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has amended the Foreigners (Tribunals) Order, 1964, and has empowered district magistrates in all States and Union Territories to set up tribunals (quasi-judicial bodies) to decide whether a person staying illegally in India is a foreigner or not.

Earlier, the powers to constitute tribunals were vested only with the Centre.

Typically, the tribunals there have seen two kinds of cases: those concerning persons against whom a reference has been made by the border police and those whose names in the electoral roll has a “D”, or “doubtful”, marked against them.

Who can approach?

The amended order (Foreigners (Tribunal) Order, 2019) also empowers individuals to approach the Tribunals. Earlier, only the State administration could move the Tribunal against a suspect.



How a person is declared foreigner by these tribunals?

Foreigners Tribunals, quasi-judicial authorities in Assam, have been deciding on matters pertaining to citizenship in order to identify foreigners.

1. The process begins by the border police or the Election Commission referring the case of a suspected foreigner to the Foreigners Tribunal.
2. The tribunal calls on the person to appear before it and prove that they are not a foreigner, and then passes an order in favour or against them.

Identity documentation:

1. Persons appearing before Foreigners Tribunals need to produce identity documentation proving that they were born in India and are descended from persons who entered India before March 24, 1971.
2. Such persons are allowed to produce secondary evidence such as university certificates or gaon panchayat certificates for this purpose.
3. However, in order for such secondary evidence to be considered valid proof of their presence in India pre-1971, the person issuing the certificate must appear before the tribunal to testify and prove that the document is genuine

SOURCE:-

<https://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/concerns-with-foreigners-tribunal-abdul-kuddus-case>

18. Consider the following statements about the “Western Ghats” of India:

1. Its width is maximum in Maharashtra and minimum in Tamil Nadu.
2. Western Ghats are spread along in six states in India.
3. The maximum diversity of Pteridophytes found in the Western Ghats.

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:

The Western Ghats has maximum width in Tamil Nadu and minimum width in Maharashtra. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

The Western Ghats, also known as Sahyadri are a mountain range parallel to the western coast of



the Indian peninsula, traversing the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

The maximum diversity of Pteridophytes found in the Eastern Himalayas of India. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Western Ghats, also known as Sahyadri (Benevolent Mountains), are a mountain range parallel to the western coast of the Indian peninsula, traversing the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of the eight "hottest hot-spots" of biological diversity in the world.
- It is sometimes called the Great Escarpment of India. It contains a large proportion of the country's flora and fauna, many of which are only found in India and nowhere else in the world.
- According to UNESCO, the Western Ghats are older than the Himalayas.
- They influence Indian monsoon weather patterns by intercepting the rain-laden monsoon winds that sweep in from the south-west during late summer.
- The range runs north to south along the western edge of the Deccan Plateau, and separates the plateau from a narrow coastal plain, called Konkan, along the Arabian Sea. A total of thirty-nine areas in the Western Ghats, including national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and reserve forests, were designated as world heritage sites in 2012 – twenty in Kerala, ten in Karnataka, six in Tamil Nadu and four in Maharashtra.
- The range starts near the Songadh town of Gujarat, south of the Tapti river, and runs approximately 1,600 km through the states of Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu ending at MarunthuvazhMalai, at Swamithope, near the southern tip of India. These hills cover 160,000 km² and form the catchment area for complex riverine drainage systems that drain almost 40% of India. The Western Ghats block southwest monsoon winds from reaching the Deccan Plateau. The average elevation is around 1,200 m (3,900 ft).
- The area is one of the world's ten "hottest biodiversity hotspots" and has over 7,402 species of flowering plants, 1,814 species of non-flowering plants, 139 mammal species, 508 bird species, 179 amphibian species, 6,000 insects species and 290 freshwater fish species; it is likely that many undiscovered species live in the Western Ghats. At least 325 globally threatened species occur in the Western Ghats.



19. “United for Biodiversity” coalition, sometimes seen in the news recently, is launched by

- (a) Convention on Biological Diversity
- (b) United Nations Environment Programme
- (c) European Commission**
- (d) International Union for Conservation of Nature

EXPLANATION:-

The European Commission (EC) has launched the ‘United for Biodiversity’ coalition. **So option (c) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

The European Commission (EC) has launched the ‘United for Biodiversity’ coalition.

It was launched on World Wildlife Day 2020- 3rd March.

1. The coalition is made up of zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens, national parks, and natural history and science museums from around the world.
2. The coalition offers the opportunity for all such institutions to “join forces and boost public awareness about the nature crisis, ahead of the crucial COP-15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Kunming, China in October 2020.

A common pledge adopted:

The coalition adopted a common pledge, citing the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Global Assessment finding that one million species were already at risk of extinction, and appeals to visitors to each of their institutions to “raise their voice for nature.”

SOURCE:-

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/wildlife-biodiversity/global-coalition-for-biodiversity-launched-on-world-wildlife-day-69573>

20. Which one of the following statement is not correct about the term “Colistin” that acts as the last-resort antibiotic drug in saving the human life?

- (a) In India, its usage has been banned in food-producing animals, poultry and in the aqua farms
- (b) It is highly used in veterinary field for therapeutic purpose and as a growth promoter in poultries



(c) It is a kind of reserve antibiotic that gives scope for the patients when all other alternatives had failed

(d) Since no resistance had witnessed so far it is considered to be the last-resort antibiotic to save the life

EXPLANATION:

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued an order prohibiting the manufacture, sale and distribution of Colistin and its formulations for food-producing animals, poultry, aqua farming and animal feed supplements. **So, option (a) is correct.**

It is highly used in veterinary field for therapeutic purpose and as a growth promoter in poultries. **So, option (b) is correct.**

It's a kind of reserve antibiotic that gives scope for the patients when all other alternatives had failed. **So, option (c) is correct.**

Colistin is a valuable, last-resort antibiotic that saves lives in critical care units but in recent years, there have been patients who have exhibited resistance to the drug. **So, option (d) is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- According to the WHO, Colistin is a “reserve” antibiotic, which means it is supposed to be considered a “last-resort” option in treatment and used only in the most severe circumstances, when all other alternatives have failed.
- However, this strong antibiotic has been “highly misused” in India’s livestock industry to prevent diseases and as promote growth of such animals.
- Medical professionals have been alarmed by the number of patients who have exhibited resistance to the drug.
- Most are not aware of the presence of colistin, since it comes mixed in the feed. A bulk of colistin (nearly 95%) is imported from China.
- A 2017 global study on antibiotic use in farm animals projected the consumption of antibiotics through animal sources to nearly double during 2013-2030.
- This means India’s AMR problem is expected to worsen due to the consumption of antibiotics through animal sources.



- The study ranked India the fourth largest consumer of antibiotics in food animals globally after China, the United States and Brazil.

SOURCE:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/centre-bans-antibiotic-drug-colistin-for-use-in-poultry-industry/story-xzX7oxDAGeeQVP2WsqnTwL.html>

21. With reference to the Governor Generals during the colonial rule in India, consider the following statements:

1. Lord Cornwallis himself knew Sanskrit and Persian and encouraged translation of many Persian and Sanskrit works into English.
2. Lord Minto I abandoned the policy of non-intervention and declared war on the Gurkhas of Nepal.
3. Lord Hastings removed press restrictions introduced by Lord Wellesley including pre-censorship.

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:

Lord Warren Hastings himself knew Sanskrit and Persian and encouraged translation of many Persian and Sanskrit works into English. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

Lord Hastings abandoned the policy of non-intervention and declared war on the Gurkhas of Nepal.

So, statement 2 is not correct.

Lord Wellesley enacted Censorship of Press Act, 1799, anticipating French invasion of India. It imposed almost wartime press restrictions including pre-censorship. These restrictions were relaxed under Lord Hastings, who had progressive views, and in 1818, precensorship was dispensed with. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Lord Hastings 1813-1823 important events

- Anglo-Nepal War (1814-16) and the Treaty of Sagauli, 1816.
- Third Maratha War (1817-19) and dissolution of Maratha Confederacy; creation of Bombay Presidency (1818).
- Strife with Pindaris (1817-1818).
- Treaty with Sindhia (1817).



- Establishment of Ryotwari System by Thomas Munro, governor of Madras (1820).

SOURCE:

A Brief History of Modern India by Spectrum

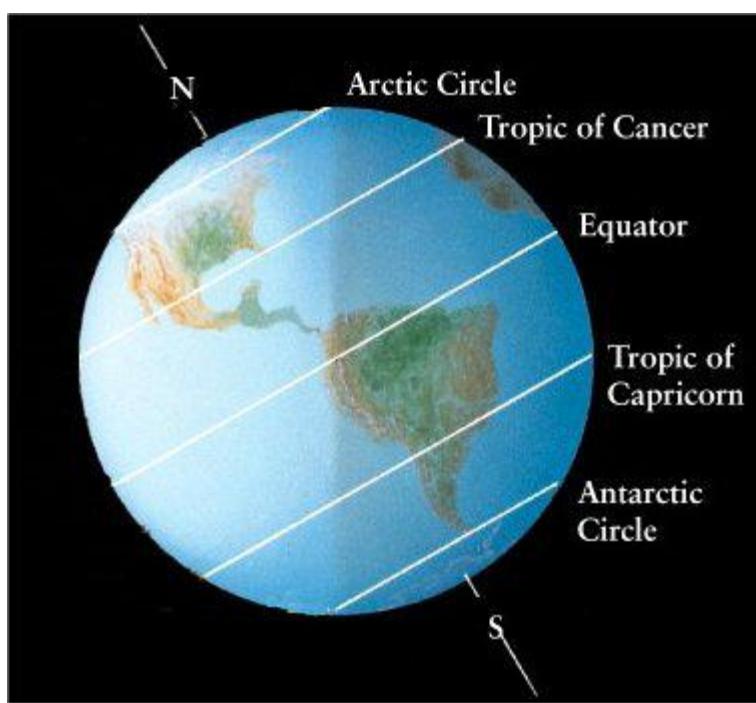
22. Why does rotational velocity of the Earth decrease as one move away from the equator to the poles?

- (a) Coriolis force begins to increase from equator to the poles of the Earth
- (b) While moving towards poles, there is decrease in the average annual global temperature
- (c) Radius of latitude decreases from equator to the poles of the Earth**
- (d) Presence of Glaciers in the polar regions of the Earth

EXPLANATION:-

Because the rotational speed of Earth should be measured by angular speed and not linear speed. The angular speed of Earth is 360° in 24 hours give or take. That means the angular speed at the equator is the same as it is at the poles.

If you imagine a pole connecting north and south pole then that is the axis on which Earth rotates. The equator is further from this central pole compared to the poles so the same point on the equator has to travel a larger circumference than the polar points which have a smaller circumference to get back to the same point. So the speed is greater at equator.





So option (c) is correct.

SOURCE:-

G.C. Leong

23. Consider the following statements about the “Epidemic Diseases Act of 1897”:

1. It was passed in the wake of the outbreak of the bubonic plague in Bombay presidency during colonial times.
2. It gives power only to the state government to take necessary steps to prevent the spread or outbreak of the disease.
3. It makes the disobedience of any regulation or order made under this Act a punishable offence.
4. It provides for the protection of government officials acting under this Act as no suit or other legal proceeding can be initiated against any officials for anything done under this Act.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Epidemic Diseases Act, which was passed in February 1897 in the wake of the outbreak of the bubonic plague in India (particularly in the Bombay presidency), gave draconian powers to the colonial government. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

This Act gives power to the government (both state and Centre) that if at any time the central or state government is satisfied that India or the state, or any part thereof is visited by, or threatened with, an outbreak of any dangerous epidemic disease, the central or state government, if it thinks that the ordinary provisions of the law for the time being in force are insufficient for the purpose, may take, or require or empower any person to take, such measures and, by public notice, prescribe such temporary regulations to be observed by the public or by any person or class of persons as it shall deem necessary to prevent the outbreak of such disease or the spread thereof, and may determine in what manner and by whom any expenses incurred (including compensation if any) shall be defrayed. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**



It also makes disobedience of any regulation or order made under this Act a punishable offence.

So, statement 3 is correct.

It provides for the protection of persons or officials acting under this Act as no suit or other legal proceeding can be initiated against any person for anything done or in good faith intended to be done under this Act. **So, statement 4 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 is a law which was first enacted to tackle bubonic plague in Mumbai (formerly Bombay) in former British India.
- The law is meant for containment of epidemics by providing special powers that are required for the implementation of containment measures to control the spread of the disease.
- The Act has been routinely used to contain various diseases in India such as swine flu, cholera, malaria and dengue. In 2018, the Act was enforced as cholera began to spread in a region of Gujarat. In 2015, it was used to deal with dengue and malaria in Chandigarh and in 2009 it was invoked in Pune to combat swine flu. Starting in March 2020, the act is being enforced across India in order to limit the spread of coronavirus disease 2019 during the COVID-19 pandemic in India

Legal provisions

- Power to take special measures and prescribe regulations as to dangerous epidemic disease
 - When at any time the [State Government] is satisfied that [the State] or any part thereof is visited by, or threatened with, an outbreak of any dangerous epidemic disease, the [State Government], if [it] thinks that the ordinary provisions of the law for the time being in force are insufficient for the purpose, may take, or require or empower any person to take, such measures and, by public notice, prescribe such temporary regulations to be observed by the public or by any person or class of persons as [it] shall deem necessary to prevent the outbreak of such disease or the spread thereof, and may determine in what manner and by whom any expenses incurred (including compensation if any) shall be defrayed.
- Powers of Central Government
 - When the Central Government is satisfied that India or any part thereof is visited by, or threatened with, an outbreak of any dangerous epidemic disease and that the ordinary provisions of the law for the time being in force are insufficient to prevent the outbreak of such disease or the spread thereof, the Central Government may take measures and prescribe regulations for the inspection of any ship or vessel leaving or arriving at any port and for such detention thereof, or of any person intending to sail therein, or arriving thereby, as may be necessary.



- Penalty.
 - Any person disobeying any regulation or order made under this Act shall be deemed to have committed an offence punishable under section 188 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860).
- Protection to persons acting under Act.
 - No suit or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything done or in good faith intended to be done under this Act.

SOURCE:

<https://thewire.in/history/colonialism-epidemic-diseases-act>

24. With reference to the Part IX of the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

1. All the seats in Panchayat Raj institutions shall be filled by direct election from territorial constituencies in that Panchayat area.
2. One-third offices of chairpersons at all levels of Panchayat Raj Institutions are reserved for women.

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:-

Not all seats are directly elected. Only all members are directly elected. Chairperson at intermediated and district level is indirectly elected. **So statement 1 is not correct.**

One-third offices of chairpersons at all levels reserved for women in Panchayat Raj Institutions. **So statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

Salient Features of the Constitution 73rd and 74th Amendments

- These amendments added two new parts to the Constitution, namely, added Part IX titled “The Panchayats” (added by 73rd Amendment) and Part IXA titled “The Municipalities” (added by 74th Amendment).
- Basic units of democratic system-Gram Sabhas (villages) and Ward Committees (Municipalities) comprising all the adult members registered as voters.



- Three-tier system of panchayats at village, intermediate block/taluk/mandal and district levels except in States with population is below 20 lakhs (Article 243B).
- Seats at all levels to be filled by direct elections Article 243C (2).
- Seats reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) and the chairpersons of the Panchayats at all levels also shall be reserved for SCs and STs in proportion to their population.
- One-third of the total number of seats to be reserved for women.
- One third of the seats reserved for SCs and STs also reserved for women.
- One-third offices of chairpersons at all levels reserved for women (Article 243D).
- Uniform five year term and elections to constitute new bodies to be completed before the expiry of the term.
- In the event of dissolution, elections compulsorily within six months (Article 243E).
- Independent Election Commission in each State for superintendence, direction and control of the electoral rolls (Article 243K).
- Panchayats to prepare plans for economic development and social justice in respect of subjects as devolved by law to the various levels of Panchayats including the subjects as illustrated in Eleventh Schedule (Article 243G).
- 74th Amendment provides for a District Planning Committee to consolidate the plans prepared by Panchayats and Municipalities (Article 243ZD).
- Budgetary allocation from State Governments, share of revenue of certain taxes, collection and retention of the revenue it raises, Central Government programmes and grants, Union Finance Commission grants (Article 243H).
- Establish a Finance Commission in each State to determine the principles on the basis of which adequate financial resources would be ensured for panchayats and municipalities (Article 243I).
- The Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution places as many as 29 functions within the purview of the Panchayati Raj bodies

SOURCE:-

Indian Polity - Laxmikanth

25. Consider the following statements about the “UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2030”:

1. It provides a global framework for action at all levels to sustainably manage all types of forests and trees outside the forest areas.
2. It aims to increase forest area by 3 percent worldwide by 2030.
3. It has 6 Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets which are mandatory for the members of the United Nations to adhere to and enact domestic legislation to achieve the same.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



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

EXPLANATION:

UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 provides a global framework for actions at all levels to sustainably manage all types of forests and trees outside forests and halt deforestation and forest degradation. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

It includes a target to increase forest area by 3% worldwide by 2030, signifying an increase of 120 million hectares, an area over twice the size of France. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

The Strategic Plan features a set of six Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets to be reached by 2030, which are voluntary and universal. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2017–2030

- The agreement on the first-ever UN Strategic Plan for Forests was forged at a special session of the UN Forum on Forests held in January 2017 and provides an ambitious vision for global forests in 2030.
- The plan was adopted by the UN Economic and Social Council and was subsequently adopted by the UN General Assembly.
 - The Strategic Plan features a set of six Global Forest Goals and 26 associated targets to be reached by 2030, which are voluntary and universal.
 - It includes a target to increase forest area by 3% worldwide by 2030, signifying an increase of 120 million hectares, an area over twice the size of France.
 - It builds on the vision of the 2030 Agenda and recognizes that real change requires decisive, collective action, within and beyond the UN System.

SOURCE:

<https://www.un.org/esa/forests/documents/un-strategic-plan-for-forests-2030/index.html#:~:text=United%20Nations%20Strategic%20Plan%20for%20Forests%202017%E2%80%932030&text=It%20includes%20a%20target%20to,twice%20the%20size%20of%20France>

26. With reference to the medieval history of India, Akbar established a formal place called “Tasvir Khana” for



- (a) conducting discussion with various religious leaders
- (b) painting and scribing his documents**
- (c) discussion of political history of the Indian subcontinent
- (d) translation of the famous works of Persian literatures

EXPLANATION:

The IbadatKhana (House of Worship) was a meeting house built in 1575 CE by the Mughal Emperor Akbar at Fatehpur Sikri to gather spiritual leaders of different religious grounds so as to conduct a discussion on the teachings of the respective religious leaders. **So, option (a) is not correct.**

The studio established by Akbar for painters called the tasvir khana. Paintings became one of the Mughal Empire's achievements as they introduced a new painting technique. Akbar established a formal artistic studio which was earlier brought by Humayun, his father. Many of the painters in the studio depicted illustrated manuscripts, calligraphers, and individual portraits. Painters in the studios were from Iranian artists, Hindu and Muslim artists from across the continent. **So, option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Some of the important buildings in Fatehpur Sikri, both religious and secular are:

- Buland Darwaza: Set into the south wall of the congregational mosque, the Buland Darwaza at Fatehpur Sikri is 55 metres (180 ft) high, from the ground, gradually making a transition to a human scale in the inside. The gate was added around five years after the completion of the mosque c. 1576-1577 as a victory arch, to commemorate Akbar's successful Gujarat campaign.
- Jama Masjid: It is a Jama Mosque meaning the congregational mosque and was perhaps one of the first buildings to be constructed in the complex, as its epigraph gives AH 979 (A.D. 1571-72) as the date of its completion, with a massive entrance to the courtyard, the Buland Darwaza added some five years later. It was built in the manner of Indian mosques, with iwans around a central courtyard.
- Tomb of Salim Chishti: A white marble encased tomb of the Sufi saint, Salim Chisti (1478–1572), within the Jama Masjid's sahn, courtyard.
- Diwan-i-Aam: Diwan-i-Aam or Hall of Public Audience, is a building typology found in many cities where the ruler meets the general public. In this case, it is a pavilion-like multi-bayed rectangular structure fronting a large open space. South west of the Diwan-i-Am and next to the Turkic Sultan's House stand Turkic Baths.



- Diwan-i-Khas: the Diwan-i-Khas or Hall of Private Audience, is a plain square building with four chhatris on the roof. It is here that Akbar had representatives of different religions discuss their faiths and gave private audience.
- IbadatKhana: (House of Worship) was a meeting house built in 1575 CE by the Mughal Emperor Akbar, where the foundations of a new Syncretistic faith, Din-e-Ilahi were laid by Akbar.
- Anup Talao: Anup Talao was built by Raja Anup Singh Sikarwar A ornamental pool with a central platform and four bridges leading up to it. Some of the important buildings of the royal enclave are surround by it including, Khwabgah (House of Dreams) Akbar's residence, Panch Mahal, a five-storey palace, Diwan-i-Khas(Hall of Private Audience), Ankh Michauli and the Astrologer's Seat, in the south-west corner of the Pachisi Court.
- Hujra-i-Anup Talao: Said to be the residence of Akbar's Muslim wife, although this is disputed due to its small size.
- Mariam-uz-Zamani's Palace: The building of Akbar's Rajput wives, including Mariam-uz-Zamani, shows Gujarati influence and is built around a courtyard, with special care being taken to ensure privacy.
- NaubatKhana: Also known as NaqqarKhana meaning a drum house, where musician used drums to announce the arrival of the Emperor. It is situated ahead of the Hathi Pol Gate or the Elephant Gate, the south entrance to the complex, suggesting that it was the imperial entrance.
- Pachisi Court: A square marked out as a large board game, the precursor to modern day Ludo game where people served as the playing pieces.
- Panch Mahal: A five-storied palatial structure, with the tiers gradually diminishing in size, till the final one, which is a single large-domed chhatri. Originally pierced stone screens faced the facade and probably sub-divided the interior as well, suggesting it was built for the ladies of the court. The floors are supported by intricately carved columns on each level, totalling to 176 columns in all.
- Birbal's House: The house of Akbar's favourite minister, who was a Hindu. Notable features of the building are the horizontal sloping sunshades or chajjas and the brackets which support them.
- HiranMinar: The HiranMinar, or Elephant Tower, is a circular tower covered with stone projections in the form of elephant tusks. Traditionally it was thought to have been erected as a memorial to the Emperor Akbar's favourite elephant. However, it was probably a used as a starting point for subsequent mileposts.



27. With reference to Human Capital and Physical Capital, consider the following statements :

1. Physical capital is completely mobile between countries except for some artificial trade restrictions while the movement of human capital restricted by nationality and culture.
2. Physical capital formation can be built even through imports, whereas human capital formation is to be done through conscious policy formulations in consonance with the nature of the society, economy and expenditure by the State and the individuals.

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

28. Consider the following statements about the recent Cheetah reintroduction plan of India:

1. Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal have been declared potentially suitable places for their reintroduction by the Wildlife Institute of India.
2. According to the IUCN Red List, the Asiatic cheetah is classified as a “critically endangered” species and is believed to survive only in Iran.
3. The Asiatic Cheetah was last spotted at the then Madhya Pradesh region and later declared extinct in India.
4. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is assigned as the nodal agency for the implementation of this plan.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

In India, both Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are the most suitable places for this relocation. The Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary and Kuno-Palpur Wildlife Sanctuaries in Madhya Pradesh and the Shahgarh bulge landscape in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan have been declared potentially suitable for the reintroduction of the cheetah. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

The Asiatic cheetah is classified as a “critically endangered” species by the IUCN Red List, and is believed to survive only in Iran. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

The last physical evidence of the Asiatic cheetah in India was thought to be three, all shot by the



Maharajah Ramanuj Pratap Singh Deo of Surguja State in 1947, in eastern Madhya Pradesh or northern Chhattisgarh, but a female was sighted in Koriya district, in what is now Chhattisgarh, in 1951. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has planned the reintroduction of Cheetah from Namibia in Africa. **So, statement 4 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- With India's own cheetahs vanishing, a plea for this had been filed by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), seeking permission to introduce the African cheetah from Namibia.
- 'Reintroduction' of a species means releasing it in an area where it is capable of surviving.
- Before Namibia, India had approached Iran for Asiatic cheetahs, but had been refused. The Asiatic cheetah is classified as a "critically endangered" species by the IUCN Red List, and is believed to survive only in Iran.
- From 400 in the 1990s, their numbers are estimated to have plummetted to 50-70 today, because of poaching, hunting of their main prey (gazelles) and encroachment on their habitat.

Asiatic cheetahs in India

- In 1947, Maharaja Ramanuj Pratap Singh Deo of Koriya (now in Chhattisgarh) reportedly killed the last known Asiatic cheetah in India.
- In 1952, the cheetah was officially declared extinct from India.

Why does NTCA want to reintroduce cheetahs?

- A section of conservationists has long advocated the reintroduction of the species in the country. During the UPA-II regime, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), in consultation with two Indian cheetah experts, put forward a detailed plan to reintroduce the species.

SOURCE:

<https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/wildlife-biodiversity/cheetah-reintroduction-project-comes-up-at-cms-cop-13-69376>

29. Which of the following diseases gets spread to the human beings through "Bats"?

- NIPAH**
- ZIKA**



3. SARS

4. EBOLA

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only**
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) None of the above

EXPLANATION:

A Nipah virus infection is a viral infection caused by the Nipah virus. The Nipah virus (NiV) is a type of RNA virus in the genus Henipavirus. The virus normally circulates among specific types of fruit bats. It can both spread between people and from other animals to people. Spread typically requires direct contact with an infected source.

Zika virus (ZIKV) is a member of the virus family Flaviviridae. It is spread by daytime-active Aedes mosquitoes, such as *A. aegypti* and *A. albopictus*. Its name comes from the Ziika Forest of Uganda, where the virus was first isolated in 1947. Zika virus is related to the dengue, yellow fever, Japanese encephalitis, and West Nile viruses. **So, it is not spread through the bat.**

Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) is a viral respiratory disease of zoonotic origin caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV or SARS-CoV-1), the first-identified strain of the SARS coronavirus species severe acute respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus (SARSr-CoV). The syndrome caused the 2002–2004 SARS outbreak. In late 2017, Chinese scientists traced the virus through the intermediary of Asian palm civets to cave-dwelling horseshoe bats in Yunnan province.

Ebola, also known as Ebola virus disease (EVD), is a viral haemorrhagic fever of humans and other primates caused by ebolaviruses. Fruit bats are believed to be the normal carrier in nature, able to spread the virus without being affected by it. **So, option (b) is correct.**

30. Consider the following statements:

- 1. During Rig Vedic age, river Ganga was revered as Mother Goddess.**
- 2. The river Saraswati is coterminous with Ghaggar-Hakra river.**
- 3. Chirand, a important city during ancient and medieval India, located at the junction of Ganges and Ghagra.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?



(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 1, 2 and 3

(d) **2 and 3 only**

EXPLANATION:

In rig vedic times, river Saraswati is mentioned in all but the fourth book of the Rigveda. The goddess Sarasvati was originally a personification of this river, but later developed an independent identity. But river Ganga is not revered as mother goddess. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

The Ghaggar-Hakra River is an intermittent river in India and Pakistan that flows only during the monsoon season. The river is known as Ghaggar before the Ottu barrage and as the Hakra downstream of the barrage. Nineteenth and early 20th century scholars, but also some more recent authors, have suggested that the Ghaggar-Hakra might be the defunct remains of the mythological Sarasvati River of the Rig Veda, fed by Himalayan-fed rivers which changed their course due to tectonics. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

Chirand became important city because it was located in the junction of ganges and ghagra. It has a large pre-historic mound which is known for its continuous archaeological record from the Neolithic age (about 2500–1345 BC) to the reign of the Pala dynasty who ruled during the pre-medieval period. The excavations in Chirand have revealed stratified Neolithic, Chalcolithic, and Iron Age settlements, and transitions in human habitation patterns dating from 2500 BC to 30 AD. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

31. Consider the following statements about the “Central Repository of Information on Large Credits” (CRILC):

1. **It was set up by Reserve Bank of India for early recognition of financial distress in the banking system.**
2. **Banks will have to report all exposures of Rs 5 Crore and above to CRILC.**
3. **It is applicable to all Scheduled Commercial banks, Regional Rural Banks and Urban Cooperative Banks.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) **1 and 2 only**

(d) 1, 2 and 3



EXPLANATION:

CRILC was set up by RBI in 2014-15 for early recognition of financial distress, enabling prompt action for resolution and fair recovery for lenders and as part of a framework for revitalizing distressed assets in the economy. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

Banks will have to report about their borrowers having aggregate fund based and non-fund-based exposure of Rs 5 Crore and above. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

It is applicable to all Scheduled Commercial banks, regional rural banks, urban cooperative banks (having assets above 500 crore.) if below 500 crore it is not applicable, all India financial institutions and certain non-banking financial companies. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

SOURCE:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11768&Mode=0#:~:text=The%20Reserve%20Bank%20has%20created,supervision%20and%20early%20recognition%20of>

32. Consider the following statements about the Renewable Energy Certificates:

1. Renewable Energy Corporation of India (RECI) is the designated Central Agency for coordination and implementation of Renewable Energy Certificate Mechanism.
2. It represents 1MW-hour of power produced from a renewable energy source and is tradable at all stock exchanges in India.
3. Both Indian companies and foreign companies failed to meet emission standards can purchase this certificate as compensation.

Which of the statements given above are not correct?

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

EXPLANATION:-

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) is the designated Central Agency for coordination and implementation of Renewable Energy Certificate Mechanism. **So statement 1 is not correct.**

Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs), also known as green energy certificates or tradable renewable certificates are proof that energy has been generated from renewable sources such as solar or wind power. Each REC represents the environmental benefits of 1MWh of renewable energy generation. When you purchase RECs, renewable energy is generated on your behalf. But it is not tradable in all stock exchange (Traded only in power exchanges). **So statement 2 is not correct.**



Only Indian companies failed to meet emission standards can purchase this certificate as compensation. **So statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs)

- Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) or green energy certificates or tradable renewable certificates are proof that energy has been generated from renewable sources such as solar or wind power.
- Each REC represents the environmental benefits of 1MWh of renewable energy generation.
- When you purchase RECs, renewable energy is generated on your behalf.
- It is a market-based mechanism which will help the states meet their regulatory requirements (such as Renewable Purchase Obligations (RPOs)) by overcoming the geographical constraints on the existing renewable potential in different states.
- In India, RECs are being charged GST, while bundled power (RECs plus electricity, irrespective of source) or even just electricity are devoid of the same.

SOURCE:-

<https://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/prelim-bits-20-04-2019>

33. Consider the following statements:

1. According to the Indian Constitution, the advice given by the Union Council of Ministers to the President of India shall not be inquired in any court of law in India.
2. The salary and allowances of the Union Council of Ministers cannot be reduced, by any means, when one of the Houses or both Houses of the Parliament is not in session.

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:-

As per the Indian Constitution, the advice given by the council of minister to the President shall not be inquired into in any court. **So statement 1 is correct.**

It can be passed by ordinance. Recently an ordinance was passed to reduce the salaries of PM and MP's by 30%. **So statement 2 is not correct.**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

Article 74 and Article 75 of the Indian Constitution deal with the Council of Ministers. Where article 74 mentions that the council will be headed by the Prime Minister of India and will aid and advise the President, article 75 mentions the following things:

- They are appointed by the President on the advice of Prime Minister
- They along with the Prime Minister of India form 15% of the total strength of the lower house i.e. Lok Sabha. (The number cannot exceed 15%)
- 91st Amendment Act provided for the disqualification of the minister when he stands disqualified as a member of Parliament. (Difference between Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha can be referred to in the linked article.)
- A Minister ceased to exist as one if he is not a member of either house of Parliament for six consecutive months.
- Parliament decides the salary and allowances of the council of ministers.

SOURCE:-

Indian Polity - Laxmikanth

34. An increase in the tax expenditure by the Government of India in the economy may lead to

- (a) increase in the Tax-to-GDP ratio
- (b) decrease in indirect subsidies given by the government
- (c) increase in personal disposable income**
- (d) decrease in public debt

EXPLANATION:

Tax-to-GDP ratio represents the size of a country's tax kitty relative to its GDP. It is a representation of the size of the government's tax revenue expressed as a percentage of the GDP. Higher the tax to GDP ratio the better financial position the country will be in. The ratio represents that the government is able to finance its expenditure. A higher tax to GDP ratio means that the government is able to cast its fiscal net wide. It reduces a government's dependence on borrowings. Higher the Tax-to-GDP ratio leads to better financial position of the country and it may lead to increase in the tax expenditure, not vice versa. **So, option (a) is not correct.**

An increase in the tax expenditure in the economy may lead to higher government spending. It may lead to increase in indirect subsidies given by the government. **So, option (b) is not correct.**

A tax expenditure program is government spending through the tax code. Tax expenditures alter



the horizontal and vertical equity of the basic tax system by allowing exemptions, deductions, or credits to select groups or specific activities. For example, two people who earn exactly the same income can have different effective tax rates if one of the tax payers qualifies for certain tax expenditure programs by owning a home, having children, and receiving employer health care and pension insurance. Hence, it will increase in personal disposable income. **So, option (c) is correct.**

An increase in the tax expenditure in the economy may lead to high pressure on government finance. Hence it may lead to increase in public debt. **So, option (d) is not correct.**

35. Which of the following is/are affected by an El Niño event?

Rainfall pattern in the Tropical countries.

- 1. Fish productivity in coastal areas of Pacific.**
- 2. Position and movement of the Jet streams.**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:-

India receives less rainfall during El Niño while Australia receives more. It also affects Australia's rainfall pattern; many other tropical countries' rainfall patterns are affected. **So option 1 is correct.**

In the Pacific Ocean, during the warm (El Niño) phase, the thickness of the top layer of the eastern Pacific Ocean classically increases, thus preventing cold and nutrient-rich deep waters from reaching the surface, dampening production on which fish depend for food. **So option 2 is correct.**

During El Niño events, the jet stream over the Pacific Ocean becomes less wavy and splits into a strengthening subtropical jet stream near the equator and a weaker polar jet stream, and can result in a greater number of storms and above-average precipitation across the Southwest during winter and early spring. **So option 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

El Niño



El Nino means 'little boy' or 'Christ child' in Spanish. The phenomenon was thus named because it was first recognised by South American fishermen in the early part of the 17th century. The events, i.e., warm waters in the Pacific Ocean, tended to occur in December, hence, the name was chosen.

El Nino refers to the large-scale ocean-atmosphere climate interaction linked to a periodic warming in sea surface temperatures across the central and east-central Equatorial Pacific. It is associated with high pressure in the western Pacific. El Nino adversely impacts the Indian monsoons and hence, agriculture in India.

In a normal monsoon year (without El Nino), the pressure distribution is as follows:

- (a) The coast of Peru in South America has a higher pressure than the region near northern Australia and South East Asia.
- (b) The Indian Ocean is warmer than the adjoining oceans and so, has relatively lower pressure. Hence, moisture-laden winds move from near the western Pacific to the Indian Ocean.
- (c) The pressure on the landmass of India is lower than on the Indian Ocean, and so, the moisture-laden winds move further from the ocean to the lands.

If this normal pressure distribution is affected for some reason, the monsoons are affected.

What happens because of El Nino?

The cool surface water off the Peruvian coast goes warm because of El Nino. When the water is warm, the normal trade winds get lost or reverse their direction. Hence, the flow of moisture-laden winds is directed towards the coast of Peru from the western Pacific (the region near northern Australia and South East Asia). This causes heavy rains in Peru during the El Nino years robbing the Indian subcontinent of its normal monsoon rains. The larger the temperature and pressure difference, the larger the rainfall shortage in India

SOURCE:-

Indian physical geography NCERT

36. Consider the following features:

- 1. It is a form of scroll painting.**
- 2. It is the famous art in Bihar region.**
- 3. It uses snake motifs.**

Which one of the following paintings has the above mentioned features?

- (a) Warli
- (b) Phad



(c) Pattachitra

(d) Manjusha

EXPLANATION:

Warli painting is a style of tribal art mostly created by the tribal people from the North Sahyadri Range in India. This range encompasses cities such as Dahanu, Talasari, Jawhar, Palghar, Mokhada, and Vikramgad of Palghar district. This tribal art was originated in Maharashtra, where it is still practiced today. **So, option (a) is not correct.**

Phad painting or phad is a style religious scroll painting and folk painting, practiced in Rajasthan state of India. This style of painting is traditionally done on a long piece of cloth or canvas, known as phad. The narratives of the folk deities of Rajasthan, mostly of Pabuji and Devnarayan are depicted on the phads. The Bhopas, the priest-singers traditionally carry the painted phads along with them and use these as the mobile temples of the folk deities, who are worshipped by the Rebari community of the region. **So, option (b) is not correct.**

Pattachitra or Patachitra is a general term for traditional, cloth-based scroll painting, based in the eastern Indian states of Odisha and West Bengal. Pattachitra artform is known for its intricate details as well as mythological narratives and folktales inscribed in it. Pattachitra is one of the ancient artworks of Odisha. Pattachitras are a component of an ancient Bengali narrative art, originally serving as a visual device during the performance of a song. **So, option (c) is not correct.**

Manjushas are an Indian art form. They are temple-shaped boxes comprising eight pillars. They are made of bamboo, jute and paper. It is a Scroll Painting. They also contains paintings of Hindu gods and goddesses and other characters. These boxes are used in Bishahari puja, a festival dedicated to the Snake God that is celebrated in Bhagalpur of Bihar and nearby regions. **So, option (d) is correct.**

37. With reference to the legislations in British India, which one of the following statements is not correct about the Indian Council Act, 1861?

- (a) It provided for the inclusion of non-official Indian members in the Viceroy's Legislative Council
- (b) It established limited self-government in Bengal, Madras and Bombay presidencies
- (c) It provided for establishment of Legislative Council in the provinces of Punjab and North-West Frontier Province
- (d) For the first time, discussion on the annual financial statement was permitted in the Imperial Legislative Council**



EXPLANATION:

The 1861 Act made a beginning of representative institutions by associating Indians with the law-making process. It thus provided that the viceroy should nominate some Indians as non-official members of his expanded council. In 1862, Lord Canning, the then viceroy, nominated three Indians to his legislative council—the Raja of Benaras, the Maharaja of Patiala and Sir Dinkar Rao.

So, option (a) is correct.

The 1861 Act initiated the process of decentralisation by restoring the legislative powers to the Bombay and Madras Presidencies. It thus reversed the centralising tendency that started from the Regulating Act of 1773 and reached its climax under the Charter Act of 1833. This policy of legislative devolution resulted in the grant of almost complete internal autonomy to the provinces in 1937. **So, option (b) is correct.**

The 1861 Act also provided for the establishment of new legislative councils for Bengal, North-Western Frontier Province (NWFP) and Punjab, which were established in 1862, 1866 and 1897 respectively. **So, option (c) is correct.**

As per the Indian Council Act, 1892 the members of the legislatures were now entitled to express their views upon financial statements which were henceforth to be made on the floor of the legislatures. **So, option (d) is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Features of the Act of 1861

- It made a beginning of representative institutions by associating Indians with the law-making process. It thus provided that the viceroy should nominate some Indians as non-official members of his expanded council. In 1862, Lord Canning, the then viceroy, nominated three Indians to his legislative council—the Raja of Benaras, the Maharaja of Patiala and Sir Dinkar Rao.
- It initiated the process of decentralisation by restoring the legislative powers to the Bombay and Madras Presidencies. It thus reversed the centralising tendency that started from the Regulating Act of 1773 and reached its climax under the Charter Act of 1833. This policy of legislative devolution resulted in the grant of almost complete internal autonomy to the provinces in 1937.
- It also provided for the establishment of new legislative councils for Bengal, North-Western Frontier Province (NWFP) and Punjab, which were established in 1862, 1866 and 1897 respectively.
- It empowered the Viceroy to make rules and orders for the more convenient transaction of business in the council. It also gave a recognition to the ‘portfolio’ system, introduced by Lord Canning in 1859. Under this, a member of the Viceroy’s council was made in-charge of one or



more departments of the government and was authorised to issue final orders on behalf of the council on matters of his department(s).

- It empowered the Viceroy to issue ordinances, without the concurrence of the legislative council, during an emergency. The life of such an ordinance was six months.

Features of the Act of 1892

- It increased the number of additional (non-official) members in the Central and provincial legislative councils, but maintained the official majority in them.
- It increased the functions of legislative councils and gave them the power of discussing the budget and addressing questions to the executive.
- It provided for the nomination of some non-official members of the (a) Central Legislative Council by the viceroy on the recommendation of the provincial legislative councils and the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, and (b) that of the Provincial legislative councils by the Governors on the recommendation of the district boards, municipalities, universities, trade associations, zamindars and chambers.
- The act made a limited and indirect provision for the use of election in filling up some of the non-official seats both in the Central and provincial legislative councils. The word "election" was, however, not used in the act. The process was described as nomination made on the recommendation of certain bodies.

SOURCE:

A Brief History of Modern India by Spectrum

38. Consider the following statements about the "National Biodiversity Authority":

1. It is an autonomous body under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
2. It was established to implement the provisions under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
3. It grants permission for commercial utilization and bio-utilization of any biological resource in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:



The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) is a statutory autonomous body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and climate change, Government of India established in 2003 to implement the provisions under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, after India signed Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 1992. **So, statement 1and 2 is correct.**

State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) regulate, by granting of approvals or otherwise upon requests for commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization of any biological resource by the Indians.

So, statement 3 is not correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established by the Central Government in 2003 to implement India's Biological Diversity Act (2002).
- The NBA is a Statutory Body and it performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory functions for the Government of India on issues of conservation, sustainable use of biological resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources.
- The Biological Diversity Act (2002) mandates implementation of the provisions of the Act through decentralized system with the NBA focusing on advising the Central Government on matters relating to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources; and advising the State Governments in the selection of areas of biodiversity importance to be notified under Sub-Section (1) of Section 37 as heritage sites and measures for the management of such heritage sites. The NBA considers requests by granting approval or otherwise for undertaking any activity referred to in Sections 3,4 and 6 of the Act.
- The State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) focus on advising the State Governments, subject to any guidelines issued by the Central Government, on matters relating to the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of biological resources;
- The SBBs also regulate, by granting of approvals or otherwise upon requests for commercial utilization or bio-survey and bio-utilization of any biological resource by the Indians. The local level Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) are responsible for promoting conservation, sustainable use and documentation of biological diversity including preservation of habitats, conservation of land races, folk varieties and cultivars, domesticated stocks and breeds of animals and microorganisms and chronicling of knowledge relating to biological diversity.
- The NBA with its headquarters in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India delivers its mandate through a structure that comprises of the Authority, Secretariat, SBBs, BMCs and Expert Committees.

SOURCE:



<http://nbaindia.org/content/22/2/1/aboutnba.html>

39. The term “Maze”, sometimes seen in the news, is related to

- (a) It is a malware that had aimed to carry out DDoS attack in the cyber world
- (b) Ransomware that got reported with a private software company led to disruptions to its clients**
- (c) DRDO's robot employed for identifying and dismantling the land mines
- (d) Augmented reality headset that got developed by CSIR for the scientists

EXPLANATION:

New Jersey-headquartered IT services provider Cognizant had faced a ransomware attack that has caused disruptions to its clients. The Maze ransomware was discovered in 2019 and has since gained notoriety.

Typically the goal of any ransomware attack is to infect computers in a network and encrypt files on these computers and then demand a ransom to recover the files. Maze, however is different, according to experts. The attacker in this case has the ability to exfiltrate or transfers the data onto his or her server. The data is then held on this server until a ransom is paid to recover it. If the victim does not pay the ransom, the attackers then publish the data online. **So, option (b) is correct.**

SOURCE:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/internet/cognizant-hit-by-maze-ransomware-attack/articleshow/75228505.cms>

40. With reference to the agricultural marketing in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. Agricultural Produce Market Committees (APMCs) are established by the acts of state governments but the union government of India has the power to dismantle them.**
- 2. National Agriculture Market (eNAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities.**
- 3. e-RaKAM is a digital initiative to bring farmers, Farmer Producer Organizations, and buyers together on a single platform to ease the selling and buying process of agricultural products.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?



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

EXPLANATION:

An Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) is a marketing board established by a state government in India to ensure farmers are safeguarded from exploitation by large retailers, as well as ensuring the farm to retail price spread does not reach excessively high levels. They cannot be dismantled by the central government. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

National Agriculture Market (eNAM) is a pan-India electronic trading portal which networks the existing APMC mandis to create a unified national market for agricultural commodities. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

E-RaKAM is a digital initiative bringing together the farmers, FPOs, PSUs, civil supplies and buyers on a single platform to ease the selling and buying process of agricultural products. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The government launched a portal, e-RaKAM, to provide a platform to sell agricultural produce.
- E-RaKAM is a first-of-its-kind initiative that leverages technology to connect farmers of the smallest villages to the biggest markets of the world through internet and e-RaKAM centres.
- E-RaKAM is developed by MSTC Limited and supported by marketing & logistics partner CRWC Limited.
- E-RaKAM is a digital initiative bringing together the farmers, FPOs, PSUs, civil supplies and buyers on a single platform to ease the selling and buying process of agricultural products.
- Under this initiative, e-RaKAM centres are being developed in a phased manner throughout the country to facilitate farmers for online sale of their produce.
- The farmers would be paid through e-Payment directly into their bank accounts.

SOURCE:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/government-launches-e-rakam-portal-for-selling-agri-produce/articleshow/59868582.cms?from=mdr>



41. Consider the following pairs:

Mountain	Countries
Range	Separated

1. Pyrenees - Italy and France
2. Zagros - Iran and Iraq
3. Andes - Chile and Uruguay

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

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

EXPLANATION:-



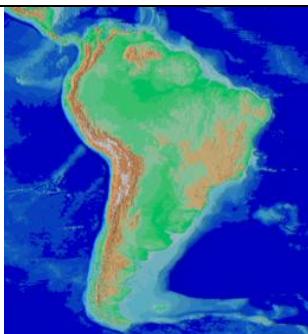
It is between Spain and France. So option (a) is not correct.





It is between iran and iraq

So option (b) is correct



It is along the coast of chile and not between uruguay and chile. **So option (c) is not correct.**

42. Consider the following statements about the “Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations” (PM-CARES) Fund:

1. Prime Minister is the ex-officio Chairman of the PM-CARES Fund.
2. It can also accept donations and contributions from individuals and organizations based in foreign countries.
3. Donations to the fund by Indian companies will be qualified to be counted as Corporate Social Responsibility expenditure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:-

Composition of PM-CARES:

- Prime Minister as chairperson
- Members:-Defence Minister, Home Minister, Finance Minister
- Three trustees nominated by the Prime Minister “who shall be eminent persons in the field of research, health, science, social work, law, public administration and philanthropy”. **So statement 1 is correct.**

It is also exempt from the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, and accepts foreign contributions, although the Centre has previously refused foreign aid to deal with disasters such as the Kerala floods. **So statement 2 is correct.**



Donations have been made tax-exempt, and can be counted against a company's corporate social responsibility (CSR) obligations. **So statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

PM-CARES fund:-

- PM-CARES was set up as a public charitable trust with the trust deed registered on March 27, 2020.
- It is meant for supporting relief or assistance of any kind relating to a public health emergency or any other kind of emergency, calamity or distress, either man-made or natural.
- It includes the creation or upgradation of healthcare or pharmaceutical facilities, funding relevant research or any other type of support.
- Composition of PM-CARES:
- Prime Minister as chairperson
- Defence Minister, Home Minister, Finance Minister
- Three trustees nominated by the Prime Minister "who shall be eminent persons in the field of research, health, science, social work, law, public administration and philanthropy".
- Donations to fund can avail 100% tax exemption.
- PM-CARES is different from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF).

SOURCE:-

<https://www.iasparliament.com/current-affairs/prelim-bits-5/upsc-daily-current-affairs-prelim-bits-11-05-2020>

43. Consider the following statements about the "Coastal Regulation Zone" (CRZ):

1. Only natural gas exploration and salt extraction are prohibited in the No Development Zone (NDZ) of CRZ.
2. There is no restriction on the traditional fishing activities undertaken by the local communities in CRZ-IV.

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:

Between 0-200 metres from HTL is a No Development Zone where no construction shall be permitted. Only certain activities relating to agriculture, forestry, projects of Department of Atomic



Energy, mining of rare minerals, salt manufacture, regasification of petroleum products, non-conventional energy sources and certain public facilities may be permitted in this zone. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

The aquatic area from low tide line up to territorial limits is classified as CRZ-IV including the area of the tidal influenced water body. There is no restriction on the traditional fishing undertaken by local communities. No untreated sewage or solid waste shall be let off or dumped in these areas.

So, statement 2 is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Salient Features of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification 2018

- Floor Space Index Norms Eased: In CRZ, 2011 Notification, for CRZ-II (Urban) areas, Floor Space Index (FSI) was frozen as per 1991 Development Control Regulation (DCR) levels. In the CRZ, 2018 Notification, it has been decided to de-freeze the same and permits FSI for construction projects to enable redevelopment of these areas to meet the emerging needs.
- New Categories for densely populated rural areas: For CRZ-III (Rural) areas, two separate categories have now been stipulated as below:
 - CRZ-III A - These are densely populated rural areas with a population density of 2161 per square kilometer as per 2011 Census. Such areas will have a No Development Zone (NDZ) of 50 meters from the High Tide Line as against 200 meters from the High Tide Line stipulated in the CRZ Notification, 2011.
 - CRZ-III B - Rural areas with a population density of below 2161 per square kilometer as per 2011 Census. Such areas shall continue to have an NDZ of 200 meters from the HTL.
- Tourism infrastructure in coastal areas: Temporary tourism facilities such as toilet blocks, change rooms, drinking water facilities etc. have now been permitted in Beaches. However, a minimum distance of 10 m from HTL should be maintained for setting up of such facilities.
- CRZ Clearances streamlined: Only such projects/activities, which are located in the CRZ-I (Ecologically Sensitive Areas) and CRZ IV (area covered between Low Tide Line and 12 Nautical Miles seaward) will be required to be cleared by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. For, the CRZ-II (urban) or CRZ III (rural) areas, the CRZ clearance will be considered at the state level by the Coastal Zone Management Authority (CZMA).
- No Development Zone (NDZ) of 20 meters for Islands: For islands close to the mainland coast and for all Backwater Islands in the mainland, NDZ of 20 m has been stipulated.
- Ecologically Sensitive Areas have been accorded special importance: Specific guidelines related to their conservation and management plans have been drawn up as a part of the CRZ Notification.



- Pollution abatement: In order to address pollution in Coastal areas treatment facilities have been made permissible activities in CRZ-I B area (the area between the Low tide line and High tide line) subject to necessary safeguards.
- Defense and strategic projects are exempted from regulations.

SOURCE:

<https://vikaspedia.in/energy/policy-support/environment-1/coastal-regulation-zone-notification-2018>

44. The Global Investment Trend Monitor Report is annually released by which one of the following organization?

- (a) World Bank
- (b) International Monetary Fund
- (c) **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development**
- (d) World Economic Forum

EXPLANATION:

Global Investment Trend Monitor Report was released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) under which it listed the countries on the basis of receipts of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and stated that due to weaker macroeconomic performances, the global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) had declined by 1 percent in 2019 as compared to 2018 from USD 1.41 trillion to USD 1.39 trillion. **So, option (c) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- As per the report, the United States was the largest recipient of FDI in 2019 with the inflow of investments amounting to \$251 billion.
- The second-largest recipient was China at \$140 billion in 2019.
- India was also among the top 10 FDI recipients in 2019, which attracted investments worth \$49 billion. This is 16% higher than the previous year's FDI inflow of the country.
- The report also stated that the majority of India's FDI inflow went to its service sector.
- United Kingdom's Brexit unfold had led to a 6 percent decline in FDI in 2019 while Brazil's privatization program has shown a 26 percent increase in FDI of the country.

SOURCE:

[https://unctad.org/en/pages/publications/Global-Investment-Trends-Monitor-\(Series\).aspx](https://unctad.org/en/pages/publications/Global-Investment-Trends-Monitor-(Series).aspx)



45. With reference to the Indian freedom struggle, consider the following pairs:

Newspapers	Founder
1. Sanjivani	Bipin Chandra Pal
2. Sudharak	Gopal Ganesh Agarkar
3. The Independent	Jawaharlal Nehru

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

EXPLANATION:

Krishna Kumar Mitra (1852-1936) was an Indian freedom fighter, journalist and leader of the Brahmo Samaj. He is remembered for his contributions to the Swadeshi movement through his journal Sanjibani or Sanjivani. **So, pair 1 is not correct.**

Sudharak, meaning Reformer, was a newspaper in India. It was founded in 1888 by Gopal Ganesh Agarkar, who had previously edited Kesari. The Newspaper was an Anglo-Marathi-language work and was published in the city of Pune in the present day Indian state of Maharashtra. **So, pair 2 is correct.**

The Independent was an Allahabad based newspaper begun by Motilal Nehru in 1919. The paper closed down under British repression two years later. The Independent was started on February 9, 1919 with the primary aim of countering the moderate political line adopted by the then leading Allahabad daily The Leader. **So, pair 3 is not correct.**

SOURCE:

A Brief History of Modern India by Spectrum

46. Which of the following species can sense the Earth's magnetic field and use them for navigation?

- 1. Turtles**
- 2. Birds**
- 3. Bees**
- 4. Bacteria**
- 5. Frogs**

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:-

All Turtles, Birds, Bees, Bacteria, Frogs can sense the earth's magnetic field and use them for navigation. **So option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

Magnetoreception (also magnetoception) is a sense which allows an organism to detect a magnetic field to perceive direction, altitude or location. This sensory modality is used by a range of animals for orientation and navigation, and as a method for animals to develop regional maps.

Magnetoreception is present in bacteria, arthropods, molluscs, and members of all major taxonomic groups of vertebrates. Humans are not thought to have a magnetic sense, but there is a protein (a cryptochrome) in the eye which could serve this function.

SOURCE:-

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-017-00633-7#:~:text=Iron%2Dbinding%20proteins%20could%20help,magnetic%20fields%20may%20be%20involved.>

47. In an economy, usually which one of these entities is the smallest in magnitude (in per capita terms)?

- (a) Disposable Income**
- (b) NNP at Factor Cost
- (c) Personal Income
- (d) GNP at market prices

EXPLANATION:

Disposable income, also known as disposable personal income (DPI), is the amount of money that households have available for spending and saving after income taxes have been accounted for. Its value is less than personal income among the given options. **So, option (a) is correct.**

NNP at Factor Cost(Net National Product at Factor Cost) is the net money value of all the goods and services produced by normal residents of a country. It includes income of Indian citizens



whether living in or outside India. It is net of the national income which means, it do not include depreciation. Its value is less than GNP at market price among the given options. **So, option (b) is not correct.**

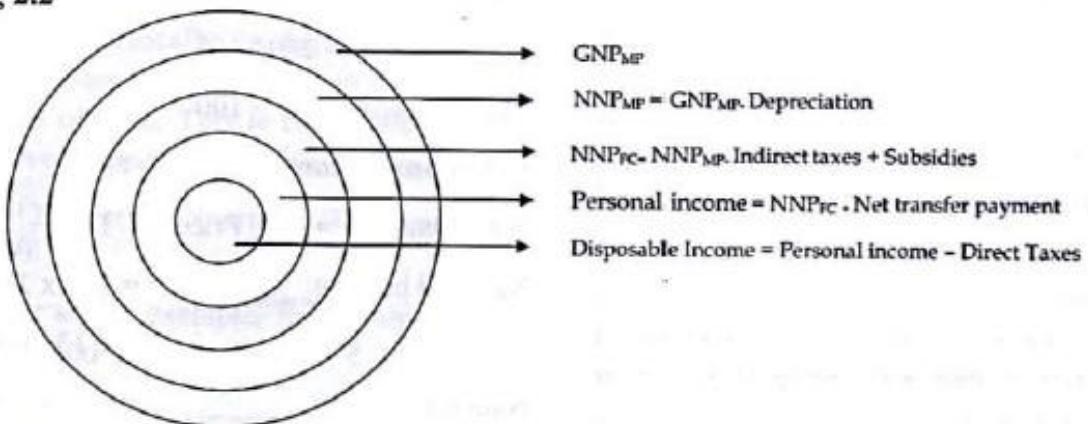
In economics, personal income refers to an individual's total earnings from wages, investment enterprises, and other ventures. It is the sum of all the incomes received by all the individuals or household during a given period. Personal income is that income which is received by the individuals or households in a country during the year from all sources. In general, it refers to all products and money that you receive. Its value is less than NNP at Factorcost among the given options. **So, option (c) is not correct.**

GNP at market price is defined as “the market value of all the final goods and services produced in the domestic territory of a country by normal residents during an accounting year including net factor income from abroad. It is largest in magnitude of the given options. **So, option (d) is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

A graphical representation that shows relationship between various measures³

Fig 2.2



48. Consider the following pairs:

- | Theater form | State | |
|---------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Ramman | - | Uttarakhand |
| 2. Tamasha | - | Uttar Pradesh |
| 3. Mudiyettu | - | Andhra Pradesh |
| 4. Yakshagana | - | Karnataka |

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?



(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

EXPLANATION:

Ramman is a religious festival and ritual theatre of the Garhwal region in India. It is a festival of the Hindu community in the Saloor Dungra village of the Painkhanda Valley in the Chamoli district in Uttarakhand. The festival and the eponymous art form are conducted as an offering to the village deity, BhumiyalDevta, in the courtyard of the village temple. The Ramman is unique to the village and is neither replicated nor performed anywhere else in the Himalayan region. **So, pair 1 is correct.**

Tamasha is a traditional form of Marathi theatre, often with singing and dancing, widely performed by local or travelling theatre groups within the state of Maharashtra. Traditional Tamasha is influenced by many Indian art forms and draws from such diverse traditions as kaveli, ghazals, Kathak dance, dashavatara, lalit and kirtan. There are two types of Tamasha: dholkibhaari and the older form, sangeet baari which contains more dance and music than drama. In Maharashtra, the Kolhati groups are traditionally associated with the performance of Tamasha. **So, pair 2 is not correct.**

Mudiyett or Mudiyettu is a traditional ritual theatre and folk dance drama from Kerala that enacts the mythological tale of a battle between the goddess Kali and the demon Darika. The ritual is a part of the bhagavathi or bhadrakali cult. The dance is performed in bhadrakali temples, the temples of the Mother Goddess, between February and May after the harvesting season. In 2010 Mudiyettu was inscribed in the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, becoming the second art form from Kerala after Koodiyattam. **So, pair 3 is not correct.**

Yakshagana is a traditional Indian theatre form, developed in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Uttara Kannada, Shimoga and western parts of Chikmagalur districts, in the state of Karnataka and in Kasaragod district in Kerala that combines dance, music, dialogue, costume, make-up, and stage techniques with a unique style and form. It is believed to have evolved from pre-classical music and theatre during the period of the Bhakti movement. It is sometimes simply called "Aata" or āṭa ("the play" in Tulu Language). This theatre style is mainly found in coastal regions of Karnataka in various forms. Yakshagana is traditionally presented from dusk to dawn. Its stories are drawn from Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavata and other epics from both Hindu and Jain and other ancient Indic traditions. **So, pair 4 is correct.**



49. With reference to the global fisheries and aquaculture, consider the following statements:

- 1. China is the largest producer of fisheries both from inland and marine waters.**
- 2. In India, the contribution of aquaculture to total fish production has decreased consistently in the last 10 years.**

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:-

China is the largest producer of both inland and marine fishing. India ranks second. **So statement 1 is correct.**

The contribution of aquaculture to total fish production has increased in the last 10 years. **So statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

Despite fluctuations in supply and demand, caused by the changing state of fisheries resources, the economic climate and environmental conditions, fisheries and aquaculture remain very important as a source of food, employment and revenue in many countries and communities.

Reported global capture fisheries and aquaculture production contracted from a figure of 122 million tonnes in 1997 to 117 million tonnes in 1998. This was mainly owing to the effects of the climate anomaly, El Niño, on some major marine capture fisheries (Figure 1, p. 4 and Table 1). However, production recovered in 1999, for which the preliminary estimate is about 125 million tonnes. The production increase of 20 million tonnes over the last decade was mainly due to aquaculture, as capture fisheries production remained relatively stable.

For the two decades following 1950, world marine and inland capture fisheries production increased on average by as much as 6 percent per year, trebling from 18 million tonnes in 1950 to 56 million tonnes in 1969. During the 1970s and 1980s, the average rate of increase declined to 2 percent per year, falling to almost zero in the 1990s. This levelling off of the total catch follows the general trend of most of the world's fishing areas, which have apparently reached their maximum potential for capture fisheries production, with the majority of stocks being fully exploited. It is therefore very



unlikely that substantial increases in total catch will be obtained. In contrast, growth in aquaculture production has shown the opposite tendency. Starting from an insignificant total production, inland and marine aquaculture production grew by about 5 percent per year between 1950 and 1969 and by about 8 percent per year during the 1970s and 1980s, and it has increased further to 10 percent per year since 1990.

The global patterns of fish production owe much to the activities of China, which reports production in weight that accounts for 32 percent of the world total. Other major producer countries are Japan, India, the United States, the Russian Federation and Indonesia.

When China is excluded, however, the production of fish used as food for humans has remained relatively stable (Figure 2), but the production of fish destined for animal feed has decreased in recent years - the decline registered in 1998 was largely due to the El Niño effect, particularly on the anchoveta fishery which supplies a significant proportion of the fish used for fishmeal and fish oil. However, the event had much less impact on the supply of fish for food, which declined only slightly to 11.8 kg per capita. Outside China, the world's population has been increasing more quickly than total fish production and the per capita fish supply has declined since the mid-1980s.

In contrast, China has reported increases in fish production and shows little sign of slowing growth (Figure 3). Most of the production is used domestically and for human consumption, but there has also been a recent expansion in the production of feed. There has been a major growth of aquaculture, which now dominates China's production, although capture fisheries have also seen increases. Per capita fish supply, based on reported production, has increased dramatically over the last 20 years, indicating the growing importance of fish as food. This increased supply has been helped by China's slowing population growth.

SOURCE:-

<http://www.fao.org/3/X8002E/x8002e04.htm>

50. Which one of the following statements is *not* correct about the President's Rule imposed on any Indian State under article 356 of the Indian Constitution?

- (a) The President of India has the power to declare the respective state legislature's powers would be exercised by the Indian Parliament
- (b) **That state's Legislative Assembly cannot be suspended by the President before parliamentary approval for the imposition of Article 356**
- (c) A proclamation for the revocation of President's Rule does not require the approval of the Indian Parliament
- (d) Any action by that state government that leads to the security of secularism cannot be grounds for the imposition of the President's rule



EXPLANATION:-

In the S.R. Bommai case (1994), the Supreme Court of India put forth strict guidelines for the imposition of Article 356. In that Supreme Court has said that, The state assembly cannot be dissolved before parliamentary approval for the imposition of Article 356 and the President can only suspend the assembly. **So option (b) is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

Article 356

Article 356 of the Constitution of India is based on Section 93 of the Government of India Act, 1935.

According to Article 356, President's Rule can be imposed on any state of India on the grounds of the failure of the constitutional machinery. This is of two types:

1. If the President receives a report from the state's Governor or otherwise is convinced or satisfied that the state's situation is such that the state government cannot carry on the governance according to the provisions of the Constitution.
2. Article 365: As per this Article, President's Rule can be imposed if any state fails to comply with all directions given by the Union on matters it is empowered to.

In simple words, President's Rule is when the state government is suspended and the central government directly administers the state through the office of the governor (centrally appointed).

It is also called 'State Emergency' or 'Constitutional Emergency'.

President's Rule

Parliamentary approval is necessary for the imposition of President's Rule on any state. The proclamation of President's Rule should be approved in both Houses of the Parliament within two months of its issue. The approval is through a simple majority.

The President's Rule is initially for a period of six months. Later, it can be extended for a period of three years with parliamentary approval, every six months.

The 44th Amendment to the Constitution (1978) brought in some constraints on the imposition of the President's Rule beyond a period of one year. It says that President's Rule cannot be extended beyond one year unless:

1. There is a national emergency in India.



2. The Election Commission of India certifies that it is necessary to continue the President's Rule in the state because of difficulties in conducting assembly elections to the state.

What happens after President's Rule is imposed?

- The governor carries on with the administration of the state on behalf of the President. He or she takes the help of the state's Chief Secretary and other advisors/administrators whom he or she can appoint.
- The President has the power to declare that the state legislature's powers would be exercised by the Parliament.
- The state legislative assembly would be either suspended or dissolved by the President.
- When the Parliament is not in session, the President can promulgate ordinances with respect to the state's administration.

When is President's Rule imposed?

It has been seen that the President's Rule has been imposed when any one of the following circumstances have occurred:

1. The state legislature is not able to elect a leader as the Chief Minister for a time prescribed by the state's governor.
2. Breakdown of a coalition in the state government, that leads to the CM having minority support in the legislature, and the CM is unable to prove his majority within the time prescribed by the governor.
3. A no-confidence vote in the legislative assembly leading to a loss of majority.
4. Postponement of elections owing to unavoidable reasons such as a natural disaster, epidemic or war.
5. Article 365 (explained above)

Revocation of President's Rule

President's Rule can be revoked anytime after such a proclamation has been made by a subsequent proclamation by the President. A proclamation of revocation does not require approval by the Parliament.

This occurs when the leader of a political party produces letters indicating majority support for him in the assembly and stakes his claim to form the state government

SOURCE:-

Indian Polity - Laxmikanth



51. With reference to the social welfare legislations in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. According to the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act of 1979, the principal employer is prohibited from employing inter-State workmen without a certificate of registration from the relevant state authorities.**
- 2. According to the Unorganized Workers Social Security Act 2008, the wage rates, number of holidays, working hour and other conditions of recruitment of a migrant worker must be same as those extended to other local workmen in the same establishment provided that nature of their work is same.**
- 3. Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, will apply to every establishment in which five or more inter-State migrant workmen are employed.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

As per Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, the principal employer is prohibited from employing inter-State workmen without a certificate of registration from the relevant authority. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

As per Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, the wage rates, number of holidays, working hour and other conditions of recruitment of a migrant worker must be same as those extended to other local workmen in the same establishment provided that nature of their work is same. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, will apply to every establishment in which five or more inter-State migrant workmen are employed on any day of the preceding twelve months. It will also apply to every contractor who employs or employed five or more inter-State migrant workmen on any day of the preceding twelve months. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Interstate Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment And Conditions of Service) Act, 1979



- This law is applicable to all the establishments employing five or more migrant workmen from other states. In addition to this, this law is also applicable to contractors who have employed five or more inter-State workmen.
- The establishment must be registered with the local authority while employing migrant workers. This means that if an establishment is prohibited from employing migrant workers from other states if they do not have a certificate from the concerned authority. The same law applies to the contractors too who employ workers from one state and deploy them in other states.

How this law helps the migrant workers?

- The registration of the establishments deploying the migrant labours creates a system of accountability and acts as the first layer of formalising the utilization of their labour.
- It also helps the government to keep a track about the number of workers employed by the establishments and provide a legal basis for improving the conditions of the migrant workers.
- As per this law, the contractors deploying the migrant workers must provide terms and conditions of the recruitment to the workers. These are-- the remuneration payable, hours of work, fixation of wages and other essential amenities.
- The wage rates, number of holidays, working hour and other conditions of recruitment of a migrant worker must be same as those extended to other local workmen in the same establishment provided that nature of their work is same.
- The wages of the migrant workers must not be lower than the wages mentioned in the Minimum Wages Act.

SOURCE:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/analysis/address-the-gaps-to-help-migrant-workers-during-this-crisis-opinion/story-1TTIFickk6Ix5L4nGYDZBN.html>

52. How many states in India neither border a neighbouring country nor has a coastal area?

- (a) 2
- (b) 3
- (c) 4
- (d) 5**

EXPLANATION:-

The states which neither borders a neighbouring country nor has a coastal area are



1. Chhattisgarh,
2. Telangana,
3. Haryana,
4. Jarkhand,
5. Madhya Pradesh. **So option (d) is correct.**

53. With reference to the economy of Mauryan Empire, consider the following statements:

1. There was no evidence of sea-borne foreign trade during that period.
2. The trade was regulated by the state and traders must get a license to carry out trading activities.
3. Tax evasion was considered a very serious crime and offenders were severely punished.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

There is some evidence as to the sea-borne foreign trade of those days, though it is scanty. We read of Prince Mahajanaka sailing from Champa for Suvannabhumi of Mahinda from Pataliputra to Tamalitti and thence to Ceylon. A whole-village of defaulting wood-rights is described as escaping at night down the Ganges in a "mighty ship" from Benares out to the sea. We read of traders coasting round India from Bharukachchha to Suvannabhumi, touching at a port of Ceylon on the way. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

Every trader had to get a license for sale. A trader from outside had to obtain a passport in addition. The trade was regulated by the state. The Superintendent of Commerce (Panyadhyaksha) fixed the whole-sale prices of goods as they were entered in the Customs House. He allowed a margin of profit fix the retail prices. Smuggling and adulteration of goods were severely punished. Speculation and cornering to influence prices were not allowed. Strikes of workmen to raise wages were declared illegal. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

The State had to undertake a heavy and irksome responsibility in protecting the public, customers and consumers, against unauthorised prices and fraudulent transactions. It had to post an army of spies or market inspectors on the trade-routes to detect false declarations as to goods and apprise merchants of same. Apart from the State control of prices was the State control of weights and Measures. Tax evasion was considered a very serious crime and offenders were severely punished. **So, statement 3 is correct.**



54. In India, the Red Panda can be naturally seen in which of the following places?

1. **Namdapha National Park, Arunachal Pradesh**
2. **Nokrek National Park, Meghalaya**
3. **Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim**
4. **Neora Valley National Park, Darjeeling**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

Red Panda is also known as red cat bear, found mostly in the sub Himalayan states of North East. In India, Red Pandas are only found in the states of Sikkim, northern West Bengal (Darjeeling and Kalimpong), Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh. They are seen in

- Singalila National Park, Darjeeling
- Nokrek National Park, Meghalaya
- Neora Valley National Park, Darjeeling
- Namdapha National Park, Arunachal Pradesh
- Khangchendzonga National Park, Sikkim

So, option (d) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) is a mammal species native to the eastern Himalayas and southwestern China.
- It is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List because the wild population is estimated at fewer than 10,000 mature individuals and continues to decline due to habitat loss and fragmentation, poaching, and inbreeding depression. Despite its name, it is not closely related to the giant panda
- The animal has been hunted for meat and fur, besides illegal capture for the pet trade.
- An estimated 14,500 animals are left in the wild across Nepal, Bhutan, India, China and Myanmar.
- About 5,000-6,000 red pandas are estimated to be present in four Indian states – Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim and West Bengal.



- The diminishing habitat is a major threat to the species which is a very selective feeder and survives on selected species of bamboos.

55. Who among the following introduced the “Batter system” of architecture in India?

- (a) Khilji Dynasty
- (b) Tughlaq Dynasty**
- (c) Lodi Dynasty
- (d) Mughal Empire

EXPLANATION:

Tughlaqs introduced the "batter" system of construction- sloping walls to give more strength to building. Architectural styles that often include battered walls as a stylistic feature include Indo-Islamic architecture, where it was used in many tombs and some mosques, as well as many forts in India.

Tughlaqabad Fort in Delhi is a good example, built by Ghiyath al-Din Tughluq, whose tomb opposite the fort also has a strong batter. In Hindu temple architecture, the walls of the large Gopurams of South India are usually battered, often with a slight concave curve. **So, option (b) is correct.**

56. Recently, Union Government had issued a draft notification that seeks to regulate the Reverse Osmosis (RO) water purifiers. Consider the following statements about the RO water purifier:

1. It is a naturally occurring phenomenon that takes place either with or without a semi-permeable membrane.
2. It involves in migrating strong saline solution towards the area of weak saline solution.

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:

Reverse osmosis is not a naturally occurring phenomenon that takes place with a semi-permeable membrane. Reverse osmosis (RO) is a water purification process that uses a partially permeable



membrane to remove ions, unwanted molecules and larger particles from drinking water. In reverse osmosis, an applied pressure is used to overcome osmotic pressure, a colligative property that is driven by chemical potential differences of the solvent, a thermodynamic parameter. Reverse osmosis can remove many types of dissolved and suspended chemical species as well as biological ones (principally bacteria) from water, and is used in both industrial processes and the production of potable water. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

It involves in migrating strong saline solution towards the area of weak saline solution. Reverse osmosis is most commonly known for its use in drinking water purification from seawater, removing the salt and other effluent materials from the water molecules. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Union Environment Ministry has issued a draft notification that seeks to regulate membrane-based water filtration systems in areas where the source of water meets drinking water norms of the Bureau of Indian Standards.
- This primarily affects reverse osmosis (RO)-based water filtration systems and the rules, at least in letter, effectively prohibit homes from installing domestic RO systems.
- RO was originally a technology devised to desalinate sea water. The idea exploits the principle of osmosis.
- Take a tube, twist it into a 'U'-shape and insert a semi-permeable membrane (a material with very small holes that will allow only certain molecules to filter through) at the point where the tube curves.
- Fill half the tube with salt water and the other with freshwater. Over time, fresh water will cross over into the salty arm until the proportion of salt and water in both arms is the same.
- This is due to osmotic pressure which dilutes a region with a higher concentration of solute (in this case, the salt).
- It would need to create some external pressure that will counter the osmotic pressure and suck all the water from the salty arm into the freshwater arm while leaving the salt behind. This is the essential principle of an RO system.
- To create external pressure, RO relies on a pump and electric motors. It uses "activated carbon" components, such as charcoal and carbon black that can filter out contaminants as well as organic substances such as bacteria.



- It all depends on the filtering material and the number of filters that incoming tap water must pass through.
- However, it is possible to deploy a wide array of membranes and multiple stages of filters to filter a wide variety of solutes — arsenic, fluoride, hexavalent chromium, nitrates, bacteria — that come mixed in water.

SOURCE:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/why-does-the-environment-ministry-want-to-regulate-ro-based-water-filtration-systems/article30772351.ece>

57. Consider the following pairs:

<i>Religious town</i>	<i>Located in</i>
1. Dwaraka	- Gulf of Khambat
2. Tirupati	- Seshachalam hill
3. Dilwara	- Mount Abu
4. Kamakhya	- Nilachal hill

Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 1, 2 and 3

(c) 2, 3 and 4 only

(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

EXPLANATION:

Dwarka is an ancient city and a municipality of Devbhoomi Dwarka district in the state of Gujarat in northwestern India. It is located on the western shore of the Okhamandal Peninsula on the right bank of the Gomti River. Dwarka is one of the Chardhams, four sacred Hindu pilgrimage sites, and is one of the SaptaPuri, the seven most ancient religious cities in the country. Dwarka is at the mouth of the Gulf of Kutch, on the western shore of the Okhamandal Peninsula, is on the right bank of the Gomti River. **So, pair 1 is not correct.**

Tirupati is a city in Chittoor district of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. The city is home to most famous and important Vaishnavite shrine of Tirumala Venkateswara Temple and other historic temples and is referred to as the "Spiritual Capital of Andhra Pradesh". It is one of the seven Swayam vyakthakshetras dedicated to Vishnu. It lies at the foot of Seshachalam Hills of Eastern Ghats. **So, pair 2 is correct..**

The Dilwara Temples or Delvada Temples are located about 2 1/2 kilometres from the Mount Abu



settlement, Rajasthan's only hill station. These Jain temples were built by Vimal Shah and designed by Vastupala, Jain minister of Dholka, between the 11th and 16th centuries and are famous for their use of white marble and intricate marble carvings. They are a pilgrimage place of the Jains, and a popular general tourist attraction. **So, pair 3 is correct.**

The Kamakhya Temple also known as Kamrup-Kamakhya temple, Kamakhya Devalaya, is a Hindu temple dedicated to the mother goddess Kamakhya. It is one of the oldest of the 51 Shakti Pithas. Situated on the Nilachal Hill in western part of Guwahati city in Assam, India, it is the main temple in a complex of individual temples dedicated to the ten Mahavidyas of Saktism : Kali, Tara, Sodashi, Bhuvaneshwari, Bhairavi, Chhinnamasta, Dhumavati, Bagalamukhi, Matangi and Kamalatmika. Among these, Tripurasundari, Matangi and Kamala reside inside the main temple whereas the other seven reside in individual temples. It is an important pilgrimage destination for Hindus and especially for Tantric worshipers. **So, pair 4 is correct.**

58. Government of India plans to raise a portion of its gross borrowing from overseas markets which possibly can

- 1. lead to Rupee Appreciation.**
- 2. have positive impact on prospects of Rupee Internationalization.**
- 3. get access to cheaper loans as US Dollar and Yen interest rates are usually lower than rupee interest rates.**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

When Government raise a portion of its gross borrowing from overseas markets it will lead to the increase in the availability of foreign currency in the Indian Economy. Since, supply exceeds demands, value of foreign currency decreases. Hence will lead to Rupee Appreciation. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

Rupee will be an international currency if non-residents are willing and able to trade in it and invest in rupee-denominated assets. The willingness and ability to transact and invest in a currency depend on three prerequisites. First, the issuing country must have sufficient scale, both in terms of nominal gross domestic product and volume of international transactions. Second, the value of the currency must be stable over time. Third, the currency must be liquid. When Government plans to raise a portion of its gross borrowing from overseas markets it will have a negative impact on prospects of Rupee Internationalization. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

The dollar or yen interest rates are lower than rupee interest rates and hence government can get



access to cheaper loans when it plans to raise a portion of its gross borrowing from overseas markets. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

SOURCE:

<https://www.livemint.com/Opinion/SrMrQGbCKT4F5vB345fteO/To-internationalize-the-rupee-or-not.html>

59. With reference to the Constitution of India, a Member of Parliament or State legislature can be disqualified under which of the following grounds?

1. When a member voluntarily resigned from his/her party.
2. When a member voted in contrast from the directives of his/her party's whip.
3. When a member contested as an independent candidate in the election joins the ruling party.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:-

Grounds for disqualification: under 10th schedule

- If an elected member gives up his membership of a political party voluntarily.
- If he votes or abstains from voting in the House, contrary to any direction issued by his political party.
- If any member who is independently elected joins any party.
- If any nominated member joins any political party after the end of 6 months.
- The decision on disqualification questions on the ground of defection is referred to the Speaker or the Chairman of the House, and his/her decision is final.
- All proceedings in relation to disqualification under this Schedule are considered to be proceedings in Parliament or the Legislature of a state as is the case.

So option (d) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

Exceptions under the Anti Defection Law



- In the situation where two-thirds of the legislators of a political party decide to merge into another party, neither the members who decide to merge, nor the ones who stay with the original party will face disqualification.
- Any person elected as chairman or speaker can resign from his party, and rejoin the party if he demits that post.
- Earlier, the law allowed parties to be split, but at present, this has been outlawed.

Deciding Authority

- Any question regarding disqualification arising out of defection is to be decided by the presiding officer of the House

SOURCE:-

Indian Polity - Laxmikanth

60. In which one of the following Indian states, Benog Wildlife Sanctuary is located?

- (a) Nagaland
- (b) Arunachal Pradesh
- (c) Uttarakhand**
- (d) Maharashtra

61. With reference to the Compulsory Licensing in Intellectual Property Rights, consider the following statements:

1. Patent owner loses his/her right over patent once compulsory license is granted for a different company.
2. In India, it can be invoked only during health emergencies.
3. Both Indian Patent Act, 1970 and TRIPS agreement of World Trade Organization has provisions for compulsory licensing.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Compulsory licensing is when a government allows someone else to produce a patented product



or process without the consent of the patent owner or plans to use the patent-protected invention itself. But patent owner wont lose his/her right over patent. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

It is upto the national government to use this policy. It can be used even during normal times.

So, statement 2 is not correct.

Both Patent Act 1970 and TRIPS agreement has provisions for compulsory licensing. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Compulsory licensing is when a government allows someone else to produce a patented product or process without the consent of the patent owner or plans to use the patent-protected invention itself.
- It is one of the flexibilities in the field of patent protection included in the WTO's agreement on intellectual property — the TRIPS (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) Agreement.
- For compulsory licensing, it's when the generic copy is produced mainly for the domestic market, not for export.
- The patent owner still has rights over the patent, including a right to be paid compensation for copies of the products made under the compulsory licence.
- The TRIPS Agreement does not specifically list the reasons that might be used to justify compulsory licensing. However, the Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health confirms that countries are free to determine the grounds for granting compulsory licences, and to determine what constitutes a national emergency.

SOURCE:

https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/trips_e/public_health_faq_e.htm

62. “United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative” (UNEP-FI), sometimes seen in the news recently, was emerged at

- (a) The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, 1992**
- (b) The Earth Summit on Sustainable Development, 2002**
- (c) The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, 2012**
- (d) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2015**

EXPLANATION:-

United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP-FI) was outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development 1992. **So option (a) is correct.**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) is a partnership between UNEP and the global financial sector to mobilize private sector finance for sustainable development. UNEP FI works with more than 300 members – banks, insurers, and investors – and over 100 supporting institutions – to help create a financial sector that serves people and planet while delivering positive impacts. We aim to inspire, inform and enable financial institutions to improve people's quality of life without compromising that of future generations. By leveraging the UN's role, UNEP FI accelerates sustainable finance.

SOURCE:-

<https://www.unepfi.org/about/>

63. Which one of the following best explains term “Inverted Duty Structure”?

- (a) A product is imposed with various taxes from its production to output stage
- (b) Tariff structure where the customs duty on finished goods is lower than the customs duty on raw materials**
- (c) A duty structure where tax avoidance strategies adopted by the multinational corporations is encouraged
- (d) Foreign nationals channelizing their investment in India through a tax haven to avoid taxes by taking advantage of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement

EXPLANATION:-

Inverted duty structure refers to taxation of inputs at higher rates than finished products that results in build-up of credits and cascading costs. **So option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

The term ‘Inverted Tax Structure’ refers to a situation where the rate of tax on inputs purchased (i.e. GST Rate paid on inputs received) is more than the rate of tax (i.e. GST Rate Payable on outward supplies) on outward supplies.

Products		GST on	
Finished Goods (Output)	Raw Materials (Input)	Finished Goods	Raw Materials
Fabric Bag	Non-Woven Fabric	5%	12%



SOURCE:-

<https://cleartax.in/s/gst-inverted-duty-structure>

64. With reference to the Vedic Literatures, consider the following statements:

1. The earliest mention of the Varna system was found in the “Purusha Sukta” verse of the Rig Veda.
2. Shukla Yajur Veda mentions about ploughing rituals and the concept of rebirth.
3. Rajasuya yagya, a consecration of a king, is explained in Chandogya Upanishad.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The first mention of Varna is found in the Purusha Suktam verse of the ancient Sanskrit Rig Veda. Purusha is the primordial being, constituted by the combination of the four Varnas. Brahmins constitute its mouth, Kshatriyas its arms, Vaishyas its thighs, and Shudras its feet. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

The Yajurveda is the Veda primarily of prose mantras for worship rituals. The Yajurveda is broadly grouped into two 1) Shukla Yajurveda 2) Krishna Yajurveda. The Krishna Yajurveda is characterised by mixture of mantra and brahma whereas the Shukla Yajurveda maintains the clear separation of the two. Shukla Yajurveda does not mention about ploughing rituals and the concept of rebirth. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

The Chaandogya Upanishad is a Sanskrit text embedded in the Chandogya Brahmana of the Sama Veda. It is one of the oldest Upanishads. It is one of the most cited texts in later Bhasyas (reviews and commentaries) by scholars from the diverse schools of Hinduism. It has gained importance as one Upanishad for which Adi Shankara has cited Chandogya Upanishad 810 times in his Vedanta Sutra Bhasya, more than any other ancient text.

Its importance is due to the fact that it directly deals with the true nature of Brahman, the Supreme Self, or Advaita without a second, and its identity with the Individual Self. This Upanishad though mainly deals with the Science of Non-Duality, yet in it are described the forms of Upasana (meditation and worship) as the means of the attainment of good results; for, these bring about results which are as good as Liberation itself. Upanishads won't mention about



yagyas]. So, statement 3 is not correct.

65. Which one of the following country shares its coastline with the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean?

(a) Costa Rica

(b) Namibia

(c) Brazil

(d) Australia

EXPLANATION:-



On the west it has pacific ocean and on the east it has Atlantic ocean. **So option (a) is correct**



It shares border only with atlantic ocean



It shares border only with atlantic ocean



Australia is present entirely in pacific



66. Consider the following statements about the “National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions” of India:

- 1. It is the constitutional body established under Article 350B of the Indian Constitution.**
- 2. It regulates the certification of minority educational institutions all over the country.**
- 3. It does not have the authority to cancel the ‘minority status’ granted to the institutions.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

National Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities (NCLM) is established under Article 350B of the Constitution. National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions was established to protect and safeguard the educational institutions which are established by the religious minorities in India. It is a statutory body established by National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act (NCMEI Act), 2004. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

NCMEI is a quasi-judicial body, regulates the certification of minority educational institutions all over India. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

It can also cancel the minority status granted to institutions if they are found to have violated the conditions of the grant. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- NCMEI, a quasi-judicial body, regulates the certification of minority educational institutions all over India.
- Its Chairman should be who has been a Judge of the High Court and three members are to be nominated by Central Government.
- It has the powers of a Civil Court. It has both original and appellate jurisdiction in such matters, as laid down by the SC in Joseph of Cluny v/s The State of West Bengal case.
- Commission has adjudicatory functions and recommendatory powers.
- It decides on disputes regarding affiliation of a minority educational institution to a university.
- It has power to enquire, suo motu, into complaints regarding deprivation or violation of rights of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.



- It specifies measures to promote and preserve the minority status and character of institutions of their choice established by minorities.
- It can also cancel the minority status granted to institutions if they are found to have violated the conditions of the grant.

SOURCE:

<http://ncmei.gov.in/index1.aspx?lsid=33&lev=2&lid=29&langid=1>

67. Consider the following statements about the “Chilika Lake” of India:

1. It was the first water body in India to be designated as “wetland of international importance” under the Ramsar Convention.
2. It is the largest brackish water lagoon in Asia.
3. River Daya drains its water in this lake.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Chilika lake in Odisha, was designated the first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

Chilika lake is the largest brackish water lagoon in Asia. It spreads over the Puri, Khurda and Ganjam districts of Odisha state on the east coast of India, at the mouth of the Daya River, flowing into the Bay of Bengal, covering an area of over 1,100 km. It is the largest coastal lagoon in India and the second largest brackish water lagoon in the world after The New Caledonian barrier reef. It has been listed as a tentative UNESCO World Heritage site. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

Chilika lake is located at the mouth of the Daya River, flowing into the Bay of Bengal. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Chilika Lake is a brackish water lagoon, spread over the Puri, Khurda and Ganjam districts of Odisha state on the east coast of India, at the mouth of the Daya River, flowing into the Bay of Bengal, covering an area of over 1,100 km. It is the largest coastal lagoon in India and



the second largest brackish water lagoon in the world after The New Caledonian barrier reef. It has been listed as a tentative UNESCO World Heritage site.

- It is the largest wintering ground for migratory birds on the Indian sub-continent. The lake is home to a number of threatened species of plants and animals.
- The lake is an ecosystem with large fishery resources. It sustains more than 150,000 fisher-folk living in 132 villages on the shore and islands.
- The lagoon hosts over 160 species of birds in the peak migratory season. Birds from as far as the Caspian Sea, Lake Baikal, Aral Sea and other remote parts of Russia, Kirghiz steppes of Kazakhstan, Central and southeast Asia, Ladakh and Himalayas come here. These birds travel great distances; migratory birds probably follow much longer routes than the straight lines, possibly up to 12,000 km, to reach Chilika Lake.
- In 1981, Chilika Lake was designated the first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.
- According to a survey, 45 percent of the birds are terrestrial in nature, 32 percent are waterfowl, and 23 percent are waders. The lagoon is also home to 14 types of raptors. Around 152 rare and endangered Irrawaddy dolphins have also been reported. Plus, the lagoon supports about 37 species of reptiles and amphibians.
- Microalgae, marine seaweeds, sea grasses, fish and crab also flourish in the brackish water of the Chilika Lagoon. Especially the recovery of seagrass beds in recent years is a welcoming trend which may eventually result in re-colonization of endangered dugongs.

68. Consider the following statements about the All India Kisan Sabha:

1. **It was founded in 1936 at Lucknow by Sahajanand Saraswati as its president.**
2. **It is the peasant front of the Congress Socialist Party.**
3. **It took active participation in the Quit India Movement in 1942.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

All India Kisan Sabha was formed at the Lucknow session of the Indian National Congress in April 1936, with Swami Sahajanand Saraswati elected as its first president. The other prominent members of this Sabha were N.G. Ranga, Ram Manohar Lohia, Jayaprakash Narayan, Acharya Narendra Dev and Bankim Mukerji. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

It is the peasant front of Communist Party of India. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**



It boycotted Quit India Movement. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The All India Kisan Congress/Sabha

- This sabha was founded in Lucknow in April 1936 with Swami Sahjanand Saraswati as the president and N.G. Ranga as the general secretary.
- A kisan manifesto was issued and a periodical under Indulal Yagnik started.
- The AIKS and the Congress held their sessions in Faizpur in 1936.
- The Congress manifesto (especially the agrarian policy) for the 1937 provincial elections was strongly influenced by the AIKS agenda.

SOURCE:

A Brief History of Modern India by Spectrum

69. As per the “India State of Forest Report, 2019”, which of the following species is/are included under the forest cover?

1. Bamboo
2. Mangrove
3. Orchard

Select the correct answer from the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

As per the report, “forest cover” includes all tree patches which have canopy density more than 10 percent and area of one hectare or more in size, irrespective of their legal status and species composition. It includes bamboo, orchards and palm. It does not include mangroves. **So, option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

India State of Forest Report 2019

- 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 assessments have been completed so far. ISFR 2019 is the 16th report in the series.
- 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:
 - Mizoram (85.41%)
 - Arunachal Pradesh (79.63%)
 - Meghalaya (76.33%)
 - Manipur (75.46%)
 - Nagaland (73%)
- 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://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/total-tree-forest-cover-in-country-increases-by-5188-sq-km-forest-report/article30431835.ece>

70. Who among the following foreign travellers described, in detail, about the feudal “Nayankara system” of Vijayanagara’s military organization and the annual royal Durga festival in the city of Vijayanagara?

- (a) Marco Polo
- (b) Ibn Battuta
- (c) Domingo Paes**
- (d) Nicolao Manucci

EXPLANATION:

Macro Polo (1292-1294 AD) was a Venetian traveller, visited South India in 1294 A.D. His work 'The Book of Sir Marco Polo' gives an account of the economic history of India. **So, option (a) is not correct.**

Ibn Batuta (1333-1347 AD) was a Morish traveller, his book 'Rehla' (the Travelogue) throws a lot of light on the reign of Muhammad-bin-Tughlaq and the geographical, economic and social conditions of that time. **So, option (b) is not correct.**

The report of Domingo Paes (1520-1522 AD) who visited Vijayanagar during Krishnadeva's reign describes in detail the so-called feudal nayankara system of Vijayanagara's military organisation and the annual royal Durga festival. **So, option (c) is correct.**



Nicolao Manucci (1653-1708 AD) was an Italian traveller, got service at the court of Dara Shikoh.
So, option (d) is not correct.

71. Which of the following statements is *not* correct about the benefits of the “Employee Stock Ownership Plan” (ESOP) in Public Sector Banks?

- (a) ESOP will incentivise employees to embrace risk-taking and innovative decisions
- (b) ESOP will enable employees of the bank to become owners of the banks
- (c) In this plan, a portion of the government stakes can be transferred to employees exhibiting good performance across all levels thereby boosting productivity
- (d) This scheme is open to prime customers of the banks like corporate sector**

EXPLANATION:

Employee stock ownership plans (ESOPs) will incentivise the bank employees to embrace risk-taking and innovation decisions. **So, option (a) is correct.**

It will enable employees of the bank to become owners of the banks. This is because employees who own shares are incentivized to increase market value of equity, since their direct compensation depends on share values. **So, option (b) is correct.**

In this plan, a portion of the government stakes can be transferred to employees exhibiting good performance across all levels thereby boosting productivity. **So, option (c) is correct.**

The scheme is open to employees of the banks not customers like corporate sector. **So, option (d) is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Providing ESOPs to public sector bank employees to enable them to become owners in the banks.
- Employee stock ownership plans (ESOPs) will incentivise the bank employees to embrace risk-taking and innovation continually.
- The economic survey suggests that a portion of the government stakes can be transferred to employees exhibiting good performance across all levels of the organisation through ESOPs.
- Part-ownership of PSBs by employees will reduce agency problems. This is because employees who own shares are incentivized to increase market value of equity, since their direct compensation depends on share values.
- Employees paid largely in salaries-as PSBs employees currently are-have claims that resemble debt contracts in the sense that they are fixed pay-outs made by banks. Employees paid through such fixed compensation contracts rely on implicit promise by the state to make good on their salaries (and post-retirement pensions) in the event of bank distress. Given the current flat compensation contracts of employees and the pressures from ex-post



monitoring by the vigilance agencies, it is hardly surprising that bank employees of state-owned banks prefer safety and conservatism over risk-taking and innovation.

- The Survey explains that there are several benefits of giving out ESOPs to the PSB employees. These benefits include
 - the possible change of the mind-set that of an employee to that of an owner.
 - Employees can constitute one of the blocks of new owners of PSBs through an ESOP that is conditioned on employee performance.
 - Ownership by motivated, capable employees across all levels in the organisation could give such employees tangible financial rewards for value enhancement, align their incentives with what is beneficial to the PSB, and create a mind-set of enterprise ownership for employees a long-term solution to case for employee stakes in PSBs.

SOURCE:

[https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/wealth/personal-finance-news/offer-esops-to-public-sector-bank-staff-suggests-economic-survey/articleshow/73799308.cms?from=mdr#:~:text=Employee%20stock%20ownership%20plans%20\(ESOPs,of%20the%20organisation%20through%20ESOPs.](https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/wealth/personal-finance-news/offer-esops-to-public-sector-bank-staff-suggests-economic-survey/articleshow/73799308.cms?from=mdr#:~:text=Employee%20stock%20ownership%20plans%20(ESOPs,of%20the%20organisation%20through%20ESOPs.)

72. With reference to the Copper production in India, consider the following statements:

1. India turned a net importer of the refined copper in the recent times.
2. Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand are the only states involved in production of copper in the country.
3. During the Copper smelting process, the Sulfur dioxide and Particulate Matter are predominantly released into the atmosphere.

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:

India became a net importer of copper for the first time in 18 years in 2018-19 as the closure of Vedanta's copper smelter in Tuticorin wiped out more than 46% of the country's production of the base metal. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand are the only states involved in production of copper



ore in the country. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

During the Copper smelting process, the sulfur dioxide and particulate matter are predominantly released into the Air. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

SOURCE:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/sterlite-copper-smelting-plant-tuticorn-protests-5193832/>

73. Consider the following passage about a wildlife sanctuary in India:

"This wildlife sanctuary is present in a land locked state. It receives a rainfall above 200 cm and it has a sub-tropical rainforest often linked to Amazon forest. It is a part of an Elephant Reserve. Coal mining activities are carried out in this wildlife sanctuary."

Which one of the following wildlife sanctuary is described in the above passage?

- (a) Ghatigaon Wildlife Sanctuary
- (b) New Amarambalam Wildlife Sanctuary
- (c) Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary
- (d) Intanki Wildlife Sanctuary

EXPLANATION:

Ghatigaon Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary in India. Ghatigaon covers 511.0 km² in Madhya Pradesh state, west of the city of Gwalior. It extends to Tigray Dam, and includes part of the reservoir. It was established in 1981 to protect habitat of the great Indian bustard. It is home to many other birds, as well as, chital, wild boar, and striped hyena. The sanctuary is in the Khathiar-Gir dry deciduous forests ecoregion. The predominant vegetation is low shrubland and woodland. The predominant tree species is khair, with tendu, reonjha, and others. **So, option (a) is not correct.**

New Amarambalam Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary in the Western Ghats, situated in the Malappuram District of Kerala state in South India. It extends till Silent Valley National Park of the Palakkad District to the south and to Nadugani in the Nilgiri District of Tamil Nadu to the North. The New Amarambalam Wildlife Sanctuary is the largest wildlife sanctuary of Kerala in South India. Amarambalam continues with the Silent Valley National Park, and also forms a part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve. Amarambalam comprises almost all mammals found in the Western Ghats: 25 mammals, including the endemic and threatened Lion-tailed macaque and Nilgiritahr. **So, option (b) is not correct.**

Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary is part of an Elephant reserve. It receives a rainfall of more than



4,000 mm. Being a completely virgin rainforest, this sanctuary is very rich in biodiversity. It is an ideal habitat for non-human primates. It has a sub tropical rainforest often linked to Amazon as Amazon of the east. Coal mining is done on this wild life sanctuary. It is present in a land locked state of assam. **So, option (c) is correct.**

Ntangki National Park is a national park located in Peren district of Nagaland, India. Among the species that inhabit the park are the rare hoolock gibbon, golden langur, hornbill, Asian palm civet, black stork, tiger, white-breasted kingfisher, monitor lizard, python and sloth bear. The name "Ntangki" is derived from the Zeme dialect of the Zeliangrong tribe. **So, option (d) is not correct.**

SOURCE:

<https://www.indiatimes.com/trending/environment/coal-mining-approved-protest-save-dehing-patkai-in-assam-the-amazon-of-the-east-513556.html>

74. “Tax Inspector without Borders” is launched by which one of the following organizations?

- (a) Group of Twenty (G20)
- (b) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- (c) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- (d) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**

EXPLANATION:-

The Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) Programme which is jointly launched by UNDP and OECD. **So option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

About Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) Programme

The Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB) Programme which is jointly launched by UNDP and OECD is intended to support developing countries to strengthen national tax administrations through building audit capacity and to share this knowledge with other countries.

The TIWB Programme aims to strengthen tax administrations of developing countries by transferring technical know-how and skills to their tax auditors, and through the sharing of general audit practices and dissemination of knowledge products with them.



The TIWB Programme complements the efforts of the international community to strengthen cooperation on tax matters and contribute to domestic tax mobilisation efforts of developing countries.

India has been supportive in capacity building in tax matters in developing countries. India being a global leader in this respect has a very important role to play in South-South Cooperation in tax matters

SOURCE:-

<http://www.tiwb.org/>

75. With reference to the pre-historic period of India, “Paiyampalli”, “Sanganakallu” and “Golbai Sasan” sites are associated with

- (a) Chalcolithic age
- (b) Neolithic age
- (c) Mesolithic age
- (d) Paleolithic age

76. Consider the following statements about the “ASCENT” propellant which got used for the first time during the recent Falcon Heavy spacecraft launch:

- 1. It is a kind of monopropellant which does not require a separate oxidizer.
- 2. It had replaced the existing Hydrazine propellant.
- 3. It remains less toxic and holds shorter launch processing times.

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

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



EXPLANATION:

ASCENT (Advanced Spacecraft Energetic Non-toxic Propellant), is a hydroxyl ammonium nitrate fuel/oxidiser blend unlike the traditional fuel used in satellites, which is hydrazine. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

ASCENT is green fuel and is safer rocket fuel. Unlike the traditional fuel used in satellites, which is hydrazine, which is extremely toxic to humans as well as the environment. However, it does not replace the existing Hydrazine propellant. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

First developed by the US Air Force and now launched as part of a NASA-led collaboration, ASCENT is described as a fuel with significantly reduced toxicity levels compared to hydrazine, and potentially shorter launch processing times, resulting in lower costs. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

SOURCE:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/nasa-spacex-atomic-clock-green-fuel-ashes-whats-aboard-falcon-heavy-5799793/>

77. Consider the following pairs:

Tiger Reserve	State
1. Indravati Tiger Reserve	Jharkhand
2. Dampa Tiger Reserve	Manipur
3. Kawal Tiger Reserve	Telangana

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

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

EXPLANATION:-

Indravati Tiger Reserve	-	Chhattisgarh. So pair 1 is not correct.
Dampa Tiger Reserve	-	Mizoram. So pair 2 is not correct.
Kawal Tiger Reserve	-	Telangana. So pair 3 is correct.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

Andhra Pradesh	Nagarjunsagar Srisailam	
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Namdapha National Park
3	Arunachal Pradesh	Kamlang Tiger Reserve
4	Arunachal Pradesh	Pakke Tiger Reserve
5	Assam	Manas Tiger Reserve
6	Assam	Nameri National Park
7	Assam	Orang Tiger Reserve
8	Assam	Kaziranga National Park
9	Bihar	Valmiki National Park
10	Chhattisgarh	Udanti-Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuary
11	Chhattisgarh	Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary
12	Chhattisgarh	Indravati Tiger Reserve
13	Jharkhand	Palamu Tiger Reserve
14	Karnataka	Bandipur Tiger Reserve
15	Karnataka	Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary
16	Karnataka	Dandeli-Anshi Tiger Reserve
17	Karnataka	Nagarahole National Park
18	Karnataka	Biligiri Ranganatha Temple Tiger reserve



19	Kerala	Periyar Tiger reserve
20	Kerala	Parambikulam Tiger reserve
21	Madhya Pradesh	Kanha Tiger reserve
22	Madhya Pradesh	Pench Tiger reserve
23	Madhya Pradesh	Bandhavgarh Tiger reserve
24	Madhya Pradesh	Panna Tiger reserve
25	Madhya Pradesh	Satpura Tiger reserve
26	Madhya Pradesh	Sanjay-Dubri Tiger reserve
27	Maharashtra	Melghat Tiger reserve
28	Maharashtra	Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve
29	Maharashtra	Pench Tiger Reserve
30	Maharashtra	Sahyadri Tiger Reserve
31	Maharashtra	Nagzira Tiger Reserve
32	Maharashtra	Bor Tiger Reserve
33	Mizoram	Dampa Tiger Reserve
34	Odisha	Similipal Tiger Reserve
35	Odisha	Satkosia Tiger Reserve
36	Rajasthan	Ranthambore Tiger Reserve
37	Rajasthan	Sariska Tiger Reserve
38	Rajasthan	Mukandra Hills Tiger Reserve
39	Tamil Nadu	Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger



		Reserve
40	Tamil Nadu	Anamalai Tiger Reserve (Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park)
41	Tamil Nadu	Mudumalai Tiger Reserve
42	Tamil Nadu	Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve
43	Telangana	Kawal Tiger Reserve
44	Telangana	Amrabad Tiger Reserve
45	Uttar Pradesh	Dudhwa Tiger Reserve
46	Uttar Pradesh	Pilibhit Tiger Reserve
47	Uttar Pradesh	Amangarh Tiger Reserve (buffer zone of Corbett Tiger Reserve)
48	Uttarakhand	Jim Corbett National Park
49	Uttarakhand	Rajaji Tiger Reserve
50	West Bengal	Sunderban National Park
51	West Bengal	Buxa Tiger Reserve

SOURCE:-

http://wiienvis.nic.in/Database/trd_8222.aspx

78. Which one of the following city of India is farthest from the Tropic of Cancer?

- (a) Guwahati
- (b) Kolar**
- (c) Haridwar
- (d) Nashik



EXPLANATION:-

Tropic of Cancer. Tropic of Cancer, latitude approximately 23°27' N of the terrestrial Equator.

Guwahati- 26.1445° N, 91.7362° E

Kolar-13.1362° N, 78.1291° E. **so option (b) is correct.**

Haridwar-29.9457° N, 78.1642° E

Nashik-19.9975° N, 73.7898° E

79. Consider the following statements:

1. **The Constitution of India does not specify eligibility requirements for the post of Governor of states or Lieutenant Governor of Union Territories.**
2. **The term of office of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor is not subject to the pleasure of President of 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:-

A governor must:

Be a citizen of India.

Be at least 35 years of age.

Not be a member of the either house of the parliament or house of the state legislature.

Not hold any office of profit.

So statement 1 is not correct.

The term of the Governor is subject to pleasure of the President. **So statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

Constitutional Provisions related to Governor

- The appointment and powers of government can be derived from Part VI of the Indian constitution. Article 153 says that there shall be a Governor for each State. One person can be appointed as Governor for two or more States.
- The governor acts in 'Dual Capacity' as the Constitutional head of the state and as the representative.



- He is the part of federal system of Indian polity and acts as a bridge between union and state governments.
- Article 157 and Article 158 of the Constitution of India specify eligibility requirements for the post of governor. They are as follows:

A governor must:

- (a) Be a citizen of India.
- (b) Be at least 35 years of age.
- (c) Not be a member of the either house of the parliament or house of the state legislature.
- (d) Not hold any office of profit.

The term of governor's office is normally 5 years but it can be terminated earlier by:

- Dismissal by the president on the advice of the council of minister headed by the prime minister of the country.
- Dismissal of governors without a valid reason is not permitted. However, it is the duty of the President to dismiss a governor whose acts are upheld by courts as unconstitutional and malafide.
- Resignation by the governor.

SOURCE:-

Indian Polity - Laxmikanth

80. Which among the following event happened earliest?

- (a) Gandhi started publishing Harijan weekly newspaper
- (b) The Poona was signed between B.R. Ambedkar and Gandhi
- (c) Gandhi was sentenced to six years in prison for sedition**
- (d) Gandhi established All India Village Industries Association

EXPLANATION:

Mahatma Gandhi began publishing Harijan, a weekly newspaper, in English in **1933**. It lasted until 1948. During this time, he also published HarijanBandu in Gujarati, and Harijan Sevak in Hindi. All three papers focused on India's and the world's social and economic problems during the freedom struggle. **So, option (a) is not correct.**

The Poona Pact refers to an agreement between Mahatma Gandhi and Babasaheb Ambedkar on behalf of depressed classes and upper caste Hindu leaders on the reservation of electoral seats for the depressed classes in the legislature of British India government. Contrary to popular belief, Gandhi was not involved in signing the pact. It was made on 24 September **1932** at Yerwada



Central Jail in Poona, India. It was signed by Ambedkar on behalf of the depressed classes and Madan Mohan Malviya on behalf upper caste Hindus and Gandhi as a means to end the fast that Gandhi was undertaking in jail as a protest against the decision by British prime minister Ramsay MacDonald to give separate electorates to depressed classes for the election of members of provincial legislative assemblies in British India. **So, option (b) is not correct.**

Gandhi was sentenced to 6 years in **1922**. **So, option (c) is correct.**

In **1934** Gandhiji resigned from the Indian National Congress over his differences with other leaders on the purity of ends and means. He established the "All India Village Industries Association" at Wardha and devoted most of his time towards the reorganization of Indian villages. Gandhiji started experiments in rural life-style such as the revival of village crafts and agro-processing industries, village cleanliness, diet reforms, etc., so that villages could be developed as ideal surroundings to live in. **So, option (d) is not correct.**

SOURCE:

A Brief History of Modern India by Spectrum

81. Which of the following species is/are included in Appendix I of the Bonn Convention on migratory species?

- 1. Bengal Florican**
- 2. Great Indian Bustard**
- 3. Asian Elephant**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

COP 13, proposes to include ten new species for protection under CMS viz.: Three Indian Species: Asian Elephant, Bengal Florican, Great Indian Bustard.

Other 7 from around the world: Jaguar (proposed by Costa Rica, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay), Whitetip shark (Brazil), Little Bustard (EU Nations), Urial (Tajikistan, Iran, Uzbekistan), Antipodean Albatross (New Zealand, Australia, Chile), Smooth Hammerhead Shark (Brazil), and Tope Shark (EU Nations). **So, option (d) is correct.**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- 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.
- Signed in 1979 in Bonn, Germany, the Convention entered into force in 1983. As of September 2019, there were 129 Member States to the Convention. The depositary is the government of the Federal Republic of Germany.
- The CMS is the only global, and United Nations-based, intergovernmental organization established exclusively for the conservation and management of terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species.
- The CMS, and its daughter Agreements, determine policy and provide further guidance on specific issues through their Strategic Plans, Action Plans, resolutions, decisions and guidelines.
- Under this convention, migratory species threatened with extinction are listed on Appendix I and Parties strive towards strictly protecting these animals, conserving or restoring the places where they live, mitigating obstacles to migration and controlling other factors that might endanger them.
- Migratory species that need conservation and management or would significantly benefit from international co-operation are listed in Appendix II of the Convention
- The Logo of COP 13 was inspired by 'Kolam'- a traditional art form Southern India used to depict key migratory species in India like Amur Falcon, and Marine Turtles.
- It highlighted the importance of ecological connectivity (unimpeded movement of species and flow of natural processes) to better protect migratory wildlife and their habitats

SOURCE:

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

82. Consider the following statements about the “RapidGen” facility, that got unveiled in the recent time by ICRISAT for promoting the plant breeding cycle:

1. It accelerates the plant life in light, temperature and humidity conditions.
2. It is highly suitable for promoting the breeding cycle for photosensitive crop.

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 state-of-the-art RapidGen (Rapid Generation Advancement) facility is a first for any public sector agricultural research institution, will accelerate plant lifecycle in light, temperature and humidity-controlled conditions. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

The breeding a new crop variety takes about a decade or more, with six or seven years spent in seasonal generational advancements to arrive at the elite lines that go for testing and release as varieties. RapidGen will shorten the six-seven year window significantly. When used with the full suite of breeding acceleration techniques, RapidGen can reduce the breeding cycle by an estimated 40% for most crops. But it is not suitable for promoting the breeding cycle for photosensitive crop. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Efforts to modernize crop breeding took a giant leap today with the unveiling of ICRISAT's new facility, which is projected to significantly lower time and cost of crop varietal development. The state-of-the-art facility is a first for any public sector agricultural research institution.
- Called RapidGen, a moniker for Rapid Generation Advancement, the facility will accelerate plant lifecycle in light-, temperature- and humidity-controlled conditions. Presently, breeding a new crop variety takes about a decade or more, with six or seven years spent in seasonal generational advancements to arrive at the elite lines that go for testing and release as varieties. RapidGen will shorten the six-seven year window significantly. When used with the full suite of breeding acceleration techniques, RapidGen can reduce the breeding cycle by an estimated 40% for most crops.
- With facilities like RapidGen, crop breeders can overcome the limitations of seasons and photoperiod to develop the elite generations in fraction of the time and cost it would take if done in fields.
- RapidGen, is comprised of three installations—testbed optimization chambers, lighting controlled greenhouse bays, and a temperature-regulated light deprivation polyhouse. Depending on the crop and the requirements of breeding programs, researchers can scale-up their activities in either controlled greenhouse bays or in the polyhouse facility after using the testbeds for protocol development. Largest of the three installations, the polyhouse can be used for over 30,000 crosses in one go. Each of the installations are equipped to finely regulate temperature, light and humidity.



- The light deprived polyhouse facility with overhead automated canopy drawn across to mimic night-time conditions for plants.

SOURCE:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/icrisat-facility-to-cut-seed-breeding-time/article30824837.ece>

83. With reference to the medieval history of India, which one of the following statements is not correct about Amir Khusrow?

- (a) He was a spiritual disciple of Nizamuddin Auliya
- (b) He was the first person to translate Sanskrit stories into Persian**
- (c) He was the originator of the Khayal and Tarana styles of music
- (d) He created a new literary style in Persian known as Sabaq-i-Hindi

EXPLANATION:

Amir Khusrau was a Sufi mystic and a spiritual disciple of Nizamuddin Auliya. **So, option (a) is correct.**

Zia Nakshabi was an ethnic Persian physician and sufi saint who is credited with the first translation of an ancient Sanskrit text containing stories narrated by a parrot into Persian in 14th century. This text translated by Nakshabi was called Tutinama and was later converted into a collection of miniature paintings under Akbar. **So, option (b) is not correct.**

Amir Khusro was patronized by three Khilji rulers successively. **So, option (c) is correct.**

Amir Khusro created a new literary style in Persian, which came to be known as Sabaq-i-Hindi. **So, option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Amir Khusro lived for 72 years, out of which 60 years he lived in the courts of as many as ten different rulers of the Delhi Sultanate.
- He was a poet as well as prolific musician.
- His primary language to write poems was Persian but he composed almost half a million verses in Persian, Turkish, Arabic, Braj Bhasha, Hindavi as well as the Khadi Boli.
- His Khaliq-e-bari, which is known as oldest printed dictionary of the world deals with Hindi and Persian words.
- He is regarded as the “father of qawwali”.
- He is also credited with enriching Indian classical music by introducing Persian and Arabic elements in it, and was the originator of the khayal and tarana styles of music.



- Khayal later reached to its zenith during the times of Mohammad Shah Rangile and today is integral part of Hindustani classical music.
- His association with various sultans enabled him to travel and stay in various parts of India and this gave him exposure to various local traditions. This helped him to assimilate diverse musical influences.

84. Which among the following Indian cities is located in highest elevation?

- (a) Shimla
- (b) Bangalore
- (c) Guwahati
- (d) Darjeeling

EXPLANATION:

Shimla is the capital and the largest city of the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. It has an average altitude of **2,206 metres (7,238 ft)** above mean sea level. **So, option (a) is correct.**

Bangalore is the capital of the Indian state of Karnataka. It has a population of over ten million, making it a megacity and the third-most populous city and fifth-most populous urban agglomeration in India. It is located in southern India, on the Deccan Plateau at an elevation of over **900 m (3,000 ft)** above sea level. **So, option (b) is not correct.**

Guwahati is the largest city in the Indian state of Assam and also the largest metropolis in northeastern India. A major riverine port city along with hills is one of the fastest growing cities in India, Guwahati is situated on the south bank of the Brahmaputra. The city is situated on an undulating plain with varying altitudes of **49.5–55.5m (182 ft)** above mean sea level. **So, option (c) is not correct.**

Nashik is an ancient city in the northern region of the Indian state of Maharashtra. Situated on the banks of river Godavari, Nasik is well known for being one of the Hindu pilgrimage sites, that of Kumbh Mela which is held every 12 years. It lies at **584 m (1,916 ft)** from the mean sea level. **So, option (d) is not correct.**

85. Consider the following statements about the “Rangpur Rebellion” of 1783:

1. The reason for this revolt was transfer the powers of village headman from the tribal heads to the outsiders.
2. It became the main reason for the impeachment proceedings against Lord Warren Hastings in the Parliament of Great Britain.

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 Rangpur Dhing (rebellion) erupted in the district of Rangpur, Bengal in 1783. It was a protest by the peasants and the Zamindars against the very high demands of revenue by the government.

So, statement 1 is not correct.

The Rangpur Rebellion is not the main reason for the impeachment proceedings against Warren Hastings. He was impeached by the House of Commons for alleged acts of oppression and corruption. Some of them were: 1) He was accused for oppression in the Rohilla war. 2) The oppression and deposing Chait Singh of Banaras and accepting bribes. 3) General corruption in the company. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Rangpur Dhing – The Uprising

- Debi Singh practised extremely harsh measures against the peasants.
- When the peasants sent a petition to the company asking for relief, it did not pay any heed to the farmers' grievances. This led to the farmers taking things into their own hands.
- The uprising started on January 18, 1783, when peasants and zamindars took control of the Parganas of Kakina, Kazirhat and Tepa in district Rangpur.
- They attacked the courts, looted grains and released prisoners. For a whole 5 weeks, these areas were under the control of the rebels who appointed a nawab and other officials for running a parallel government.
- One of the main leaders of the revolt was Kena Sarkar.
- They forbid all revenue payments to the company. The uprising spread to Dinajpur also.
- Ultimately, the uprising was put down by the British and many rebels were killed.

86. Which one of the following best explains term “Embedded Tax”?

- (a) The taxes imposed to discourage the exports of essential goods
- (b) The taxes imposed on a imported product to protect domestic industries
- (c) The taxes imposed on software and hardware products using the embedding technology
- (d) **The taxes which increase the base price of a product without being directly visible to the final buyer**



EXPLANATION:

Embedded Taxes is the tax which increases the base price of a product without being directly visible to the final buyer. For example, say you go to an electronics store to buy a new laptop. If the display in the laptop was imported from China and the importer paid \$50 in import taxes, that will result in the final price of the laptop is roughly \$50 higher. When you buy the laptop, you are paying that \$50 import tax as an embedded tax. **So, option (d) is correct.**

SOURCE:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/budget/eliminate-embedded-taxes-to-boost-exports/article22561073.ece>

87. With reference to religious history of India, “Siddhachakra” is a popular yantra or a mystical diagram used for worship in

- (a) Buddhism
- (b) Jainism
- (c) Vaishnavism
- (d) Shaivism

EXPLANATION:

Siddhachakra is a popular yantra or mandala (mystical diagram) used for worship in Jainism. It is also known as Navapada in the Svetambara tradition and Navadevta in the Digambara tradition. In the Svetambara tradition it is associated with the Namokar Mantra. It is related to the legend of King Shripala and his wife Mayanasundari. It is depicted as a Kalasha with the core of a blossomed lotus representing Navapada in the centre surrounded by guarding deities on petals. It is used in some rituals. **So, option (b) is correct.**

88. Which of the following shall the benefits of Gold Exchange Traded Funds?

1. It will drastically reduce the demand for the physical gold in the domestic markets.
2. Gold imports of the country will reduce significantly.

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:



A Gold ETF is an exchange-traded fund (ETF) that aims to track the domestic physical gold price. Earlier schemes like Gold Monetisation and Sovereign Gold bonds reduced the demand for physical gold. But drastic reduction of import of gold and drastic reduction of demand for gold is not possible as capital market is not well developed in India. **So, statements 1 and 2 are correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

GOLD ETF

- A Gold ETF is an exchange-traded fund (ETF) that aims to track the domestic physical gold price. They are passive investment instruments that are based on gold prices and invest in gold bullion.
- In short, Gold ETFs are units representing physical gold which may be in paper or dematerialised form. One Gold ETF unit is equal to 1 gram of gold and is backed by physical gold of very high purity. Gold ETFs combine the flexibility of stock investment and the simplicity of gold investments.
- Gold ETFs are listed and traded on the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) and Bombay Stock Exchange Ltd. (BSE) like a stock of any company. Gold ETFs trade on the cash segment of BSE & NSE, like any other company stock, and can be bought and sold continuously at market prices.
- Buying Gold ETFs means you are purchasing gold in an electronic form. You can buy and sell gold ETFs just as you would trade in stocks. When you actually redeem Gold ETF, you don't get physical gold, but receive the cash equivalent. Trading of gold ETFs takes place through a dematerialised account (Demat) and a broker, which makes it an extremely convenient way of electronically investing in gold.
- Because of its direct gold pricing, there is a complete transparency on the holdings of a Gold ETF. Further due to its unique structure and creation mechanism, the ETFs have much lower expenses as compared to physical gold investments.
- Gold ETFs are subject to market risks impacting the price of gold. Gold ETFs are subject to SEBI Mutual Funds Regulations. Regular audit of the physical gold bought by fund houses by a statutory auditor is mandatory.
- Gold ETFs are ideal for investors who wish to invest in gold but do not want to invest in physical gold due to the storage hassles / doubt about purity of gold and are also looking to get tax benefits. There is no premium or making charge, so investors stand to save money if their investment is substantial. What's more, one can purchase as low as one unit (which is 1 gram).
- Advantages of buying gold etf units?



- Purity of the gold is guaranteed and each unit is backed by physical gold of high purity.
- Transparent and real time gold prices.
- Listed and traded on stock exchange.
- A tax efficient way to hold gold as the income earned from them is treated as long term capital gain.
- No wealth tax, no security transaction tax, no VAT and no sales tax.
- No fear of theft - Safe and secure as units held in Demat. One also saves on safe deposit locker charges.
- ETFs are accepted as collateral for loans.
- No entry and exit load.

SOURCE:

<https://www.amfiindia.com/investor-corner/knowledge-center/gold-etf.html#accordion3>

89. Which of the following species is/are the endemic species of India?

1. Himalayan Boar
2. Pygmy Hog
3. Malabar Civet
4. Sangai Deer

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:-

Malabar civet and sangai deer are endemic to india. **So option (a) is correct.**

Pygmy hog is found in Bhutan also. **So statement 2 is not correct.**

Himalayan boar is found in entire Himalayan range so it is not endemic to india. **So statement 1 is not correct.**

SOURCE:-

Shankar Environment Book



90. According to the 2018 Tiger Census in India, in which one of the following states, the National animal is *not* found in its natural habitat?

- (a) Assam
- (b) Mizoram**
- (c) Goa
- (d) Jharkhand

EXPLANATION:

As per the All India Tiger Estimate-2018, No tiger was recorded in

- Buxa (West Bengal) tiger reserves
- Dampa (Mizoram) tiger reserves
- Palamu (Jharkhand) tiger reserves

So, option (b) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Findings of All India Tiger Estimate-2018

- According to the census, Madhya Pradesh saw the highest number of tigers at 526, closely followed by Karnataka at 524 and Uttarakhand at number 3 with 442 tigers.
- While Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of tigers, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu registered the “maximum improvement” since 2014.
- Chhattisgarh and Mizoram saw a decline in their tiger numbers while tiger numbers in Odisha remained constant. All other states witnessed a positive trend.
- No tiger was recorded in Buxa (West Bengal), Dampa (Mizoram) and Palamu (Jharkhand) tiger reserves.

SOURCE:

<https://bigcatsindia.com/tiger-census-2018/>

91. With reference to the functioning of Indian legislature, which one of the following statements is correct about the Financial Bills?

- (a) All Financial Bills must be introduced only in the Lok Sabha
- (b) All Financial Bills must be passed by both Houses of the Parliament**



(c) All Financial Bills cannot be introduced without prior recommendation of the President

(d) All Financial Bills can contain some matters mentioned in Article 110 of the Indian Constitution

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

The Constitution defines financial legislation into two categories: Money Bills and Financial Bills.

Money Bills –Article 110

- **Financial Bills (I)**– Article 117 (1)
- **Financial Bills (II)**– Article 117 (3)

All Money bills are Financial bills but all Financial bills are not Money bills.

Only those financial bills are Money bills which contain exclusively those matters which are mentioned in Article 110 of the Constitution.

- Money bills are **certified by the Speaker of Lok Sabha.**

Financial Bills (I)

A financial bill (I) contains not only any or **all the matters mentioned in the Money Bill, but also other matters of general legislation.** It is dealt under Article 117 (1) of the Constitution.

It is **similar to a money bill in two respects–**

- Both of them can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha and not in the Rajya Sabha.
- Both of them can be introduced only on the recommendation of the President.

In all other respects, a financial bill (I) is treated as an ordinary bill. ie.

- it can be either rejected or amended by the Rajya Sabha.
- In case of a disagreement between the two Houses over such a bill, the President can summon a joint sitting of the two Houses to resolve the deadlock.
- When the bill is presented to the President, he can either give his assent to the bill or withhold his assent to the bill or return the bill for reconsideration of the Houses.

Financial Bills (II)



A financial bill (II) contains provisions involving **expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India**, but does not include any of the matters mentioned in Article 110. It is dealt under Article 117 (3) of the Constitution.

It is governed by the **same legislative procedure which is applicable to an ordinary bill**.

Such Bills can be introduced in either House of Parliament. However, recommendation of the President is essential for consideration of these Bills by either House and unless such recommendation is received, neither House can pass the Bill.

- In other words, the recommendation of the President is not required at the introduction stage but is required at the consideration stage.

SOURCE:-

Indian Polity - Laxmikanth

92. Which of the following indicator(s) is/are used for deciding the ‘quota’ of a country under International Monetary Fund?

1. Size of its Gross Domestic Product
2. Openness of that Economy
3. Foreign-exchange reserves of that country

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

On joining the IMF, each member country contributes a certain sum of money, called a quota subscription, which is based on the country's wealth and economic performance (Quota Formula).

- It is a weighted average of GDP (weight of 50 percent)
- Openness (30 percent),
- Economic variability (15 percent),
- International reserves (5 percent).

GDP of member country is measured through a blend of GDP—based on market exchange rates (weight of 60 percent) and on PPP exchange rates (40 percent). **So, option (d) is correct.**



SOURCE:

[https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/Sheets/2016/07/14/12/21/IMF-Quotas#:~:text=Quotas%20determine%20the%20maximum%20amount,to%20provide%20to%20the%20IMF.&text=Quotas%20are%20a%20key%20determinant,\(same%20for%20all%20members\).](https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/Sheets/2016/07/14/12/21/IMF-Quotas#:~:text=Quotas%20determine%20the%20maximum%20amount,to%20provide%20to%20the%20IMF.&text=Quotas%20are%20a%20key%20determinant,(same%20for%20all%20members).)

93. With reference to the Indian classical dance, which one of the following refers to the basic dance steps performed rhythmically but devoid of any expression or mood?

- (a) Nritta
- (b) Shringara
- (c) Lasya
- (d) Tandava

EXPLANATION:

Nritta refers to the basic dance steps, performed rhythmically but devoid of any expression or mood. **So, option (a) is correct.**

Sringara is one of the nine rasas, usually translated as erotic love, romantic love, or as attraction or beauty. Rasa means "flavour", and the theory of rasa is the primary concept behind classical Indian arts including theatre, music, dance, poetry, and sculpture. Much of the content of traditional Indian arts revolves around the relationship between a man and a woman. The primary emotion thus generated is Sringara. The romantic relationship between lover and beloved is a metaphor for the relationship between the individual and the divine. **So, option (b) is not correct.**

Mohiniattam is an Indian classical dance form that evolved in the state of Kerala. Mohiniattam adheres to the Lasya type that showcases a more graceful, gentle and feminine form of dancing.

So, option (c) is not correct.

Tandavam (also known as Tandavanatyam) is a divine dance performed by the Hindu gods. The Bhagavata Purana talks of Krishna dancing his Tandava on the head of the serpent Kaliya. According to Jain traditions, Indra is said to have performed the Tandava in honour of Rishabha (Jain tirthankar) on the latter's birth. **So, option (c) is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- As per Abhinaya Darpan, Nandikeshwara's famous treatise on dance, an act has been broken into three basic elements:
 - Nritta - It refers to the basic dance steps, performed rhythmically but devoid of any expression or mood.



- Natya - It means dramatic representations and refers to the story that is elaborated through the dance recital.

Nritya - Nritya refers to the sentiment and the emotions evoked through dance. It includes the mime and the different methods of expression including mudras in the dance.

94. Consider the following statements about the “Thirty Meter Telescope”:

1. It's a kind of X-ray telescope involves in studying the blackholes.
2. Powehi is the first ever blackhole that got imaged by it.
3. It incorporates adaptive optic technology for obtaining high resolution images.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Thirty Meter Telescope is a new class of extremely large telescopes that will allow us to see deeper into space and observe cosmic objects with unprecedented sensitivity. With its 30 m prime mirror diameter, TMT will be three times as wide, with nine times more area, than the largest currently existing visible-light telescope in the world. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

The first-ever black hole to be photographed has been named "Powehi". The name Powehi, meaning embellished dark source of unending creation, was deliberated upon by astronomers and renowned Hawaiian language professor, Larry Kimura. The image comes from the Event Horizon Telescope, a network of 10 radio telescopes spread across the planet and functioning as if it were a single receiver, one tuned to high-frequency radio waves. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

TMT will be a unique tool for probing many outstanding open questions in astronomy. Its adaptive optics and spectroscopic capabilities will allow astronomers to explore the mysterious period in the life of the universe when the first stars and galaxies were formed, providing information about the nature of "first-light" objects and their effects on the universe's evolution. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:



Thirty Metre Telescope

- The TMT is a proposed astronomical observatory with an extremely large telescope (ELT) that has become the source of controversy over its planned location on Mauna Kea on the island of Hawaii in the US state of Hawaii.
- It is being built by an international collaboration of government organisations and educational institutions, at a cost of \$1.4 billion.
- “Thirty Metre” refers to the 30-metre diameter of the mirror, with 492 segments of glass pieced together, which makes it three times as wide as the world’s largest existing visible-light telescope.
- The larger the mirror, the more light a telescope can collect, which means, in turn, that it can “see” farther, fainter objects.
- It would be more than 200 times more sensitive than current telescopes and would be able to resolve objects 12 times better than the Hubble Space Telescope.

Utility of the telescope

- One of its key uses will be the study of exoplanets, many of which have been detected in the last few years, and whether their atmospheres contain water vapour or methane — the signatures of possible life.
- For the first time in history, this telescope will be capable of detecting extraterrestrial life.
- The study of black holes is another objective.
- While these have been observed in detail within the Milky Way, the next galaxy is 100 times farther away; the TMT will help bring them closer.

SOURCE:

<https://www.tmt.org/page/about>

95. With reference to the Citizenship in India, consider the following statements:

1. **The Constitution of India does not define the term ‘citizen’.**
2. **Citizenship is listed under the Concurrent List in Schedule VII of the Indian Constitution.**

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:-

Article 5, 6, 7, 8 has said who all can become the citizen of india. Nut it has not defined the term citizenship. **So statement 1 is correct.**

Citizenship is listed in the Union List under the Constitution of India. **So statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

ARTICLE 5 : CITIZENSHIP AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

At the commencement of this Constitution, every person who has his domicile in the territory of India and --

- (a) who was born in the territory of India; or
- (b) either of whose parents was born in the territory of India; or
- (c) who has been ordinarily resident in the territory of India for not less than five years immediately preceding such commencement, shall be a citizen of India.

ARTICLE 6: RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP OF CERTAIN PERSONS WHO HAVE MIGRATED TO INDIA FROM PAKISTAN

Notwithstanding anything in article 5, a person who has migrated to the territory of India from the territory now included in Pakistan shall be deemed to be a citizen of India at the commencement of this Constitution if --

- (a) he or either of his parents or any of his grand-parents was born in India as defined in the Government of India Act, 1935 (as originally enacted); and
 - (b)(i) in the case where such person has so migrated before the nineteenth day of July, 1948, he has been ordinarily resident in the territory of India since the date of his migration, or
 - (ii) in the case where such person has so migrated on or after the nineteenth day of July, 1948, he has been registered as a citizen of India by an officer appointed in that behalf by the Government of the Dominion of India on an application made by him therefor to such officer before the commencement of this Constitution in the form and manner prescribed by that Government:
- Provided that no person shall be so registered unless he has been resident in the territory of India for at least six months immediately preceding the date of his application.

ARTICLE 7: RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP OF CERTAIN MIGRANTS TO PAKISTAN

Notwithstanding anything in articles 5 and 6, a person who has after the first day of March 1947, migrated from the territory of India to the territory now included in Pakistan shall not be deemed to be a citizen of India:

Provided that nothing in this article shall apply to a person who, after having so migrated to the



territory now included in Pakistan, has returned to the territory of India under a permit for resettlement or permanent return issued by or under the authority of any law and every such person shall for the purposes of clause (b) of Article 6 be deemed to have migrated to the territory of India after the nineteenth day of July, 1948.

ARTICLE 8: RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP OF CERTAIN PERSONS OF INDIAN ORIGIN RESIDING OUTSIDE INDIA

Notwithstanding anything in article 5, any person who or either of whose parents or any of whose grandparents was born in India as defined in the Government of India Act, 1935 (as originally enacted), and who is ordinarily residing in any country outside India as so defined shall be deemed to be a citizen of India if he has been registered as a citizen of India by the diplomatic or consular representative of India in the country where he is for the time being residing on an application made by him therefor to such diplomatic or consular representative, whether before or after the commencement of this Constitution, in the form and manner prescribed by the Government of the Dominion of India or the Government of India.

ARTICLE 9: PERSONS VOLUNTARILY ACQUIRING CITIZENSHIP OF A FOREIGN STATE NOT TO BE CITIZENS

No person shall be a citizen of India by virtue of article 5 or be deemed to be a citizen of India by virtue of article 6 or article 8 if he has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of any foreign State.

ARTICLE 10: CONTINUANCE OF THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP

Every person who is or is deemed to be a citizen of India under any of the foregoing provisions of this Part shall, subject to the provisions of any law that may be made by Parliament, continue to be such citizen.

ARTICLE 11: PARLIAMENT TO REGULATE THE RIGHT OF CITIZENSHIP BY LAW

Nothing in the foregoing provisions of this Part shall derogate from the power of Parliament to make any provision with respect to the acquisition and termination of citizenship and all other matters relating to citizenship.

SOURCE:-

Indian Polity - Laxmikanth.

96. Consider the following pairs:

Folk Music	State
1. Wanawan	- Haryana
2. Alha	- Uttar Pradesh



3. Panihari - Rajasthan

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

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

EXPLANATION:

Wanawan is a folk music from Kashmir which is sung during wedding ceremonies. Rouf or Wanawan is a traditional dance form usually performed by girls on certain important occasions like Eid, Marriage and other functions. Rouf includes dancing and singing simultaneously. No musical instrument is required in this. Girls arrange themselves in two or three rows, each row has 5-6 girls. Each row of girls then move one step forward and then back in swaying motion while singing the Rouf song or Wanwun. Usually Rouf is called Wanwun when played in marriages. **So, pair 1 is not correct.**

Alhai is a typical ballad from Bundelkhand of Madhya Pradesh. The folk song narrates the heroic deeds of Alha and Udal, the two warrior brothers who served Raja Parmal of Majoba. This is the most popular regional music of Bundelkhand which is popular elsewhere in the country as well. The Alha is full of tales of feudal chivalry, which have appeal to common men. It highlights the high principles of morality, chivalry and nobility prevalent in those times. **So, pair 2 is not correct.**

Panihari form of folk music is believed to have been developed a very long time ago by the women of Rajasthan. Due to the scarcity of water, they used to go far off places to fetch water, which is known as Panihari. As the women used to get tired and exhausted from fetching water, they developed their own tunes and used to hum sounds. These talked about the water flowing in the rivers and the splashing waves. This is why most of the songs in Panihari of music are based on the theme of rain. From talking about the struggles of daily life to expressing love and disappointment, these songs became an inseparable part of rajasthani folk music. **So, pair 3 is correct.**

97. Arrange the following mountain passes located in the Himalayas from West to East:

1. Lipulekh Pass
2. Nathu La
3. Karakoram Pass
4. Rohtang Pass

Select the correct answer using the code given below.



(a) 3-1-4-2

(b) 3-4-1-2

(c) 2-4-1-3

(d) 2-1-4-3

98. Recently, which of the following species is/are changed from the ‘Critically Endangered’ to ‘Endangered’ status in the IUCN Red List?

1. Forest Owlet
2. Leatherback Turtle
3. Pygmy Hog

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

99. With reference to the disinvestment process in India, consider the following statements:

1. Government of India sells its share in the Public Sector Company in the stock exchanges of India or in the stock exchanges of foreign countries.
2. Money from sale of shares goes to Consolidated Fund of India.
3. Money from the disinvestment process is used only for capital expenditure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

National Investment Fund (NIF) was constituted in November, 2005, into which the proceeds from disinvestment of Central Public Sector Enterprises were to be channelized. This fund was kept out of CFI. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

Earning of NIF will be used for Central Social Welfare Schemes. (Not just capital expenditure). **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Disinvestment means sale or liquidation of assets by the government, usually Central and state public sector enterprises, projects, or other fixed assets.
- The government undertakes disinvestment to reduce the fiscal burden on the exchequer, or to raise money for meeting specific needs, such as to bridge the revenue shortfall from other regular sources.
- Strategic disinvestment is the transfer of the ownership and control of a public sector entity to some other entity (mostly to a private sector entity). Unlike the simple disinvestment, strategic sale implies a kind of privatization.
- The disinvestment commission defines strategic sale as the sale of a substantial portion of the Government shareholding of a central public sector enterprises (CPSE) of upto 50%, or such higher percentage as the competent authority may determine, along with transfer of management control.
- Strategic disinvestment in India has been guided by the basic economic principle that the government should not be in the business to engage itself in manufacturing/producing goods and services in sectors where competitive markets have come of age.
- The Department for investment andpublic asset management (DIPAM) underMinistry of finance is the nodal agencyfor disinvestment
- National Investment Fund (NIF) was constituted in November, 2005, into which the proceeds from disinvestment of Central Public Sector Enterprises were to be channelized.

SOURCE:

<https://www.economicsdiscussion.net/india/public-enterprises/disinvestment-of-public-sector-enterprises-in-india/11029>

100. Which of the following is/are the India's indigenous anti-tank guided missile(s)?

1. NAG
2. AMOGHA
3. SPIKE
4. STRUM ATAKA
5. MILAN-2T

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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



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

EXPLANATION:

The Nag missile also called "Prospina" for the land-attack version, is an Indian third-generation, all-weather, fire-and-forget, lock-on after launch, anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) with an operational range of 500 m to 20 km. It has a single-shot hit probability of 90% and a ten-year, maintenance-free shelf life.

The Amogha-1 is a guided anti-tank missile with a range up to 2.8 km (1.7 mi). It is under development by Bharat Dynamics at Hyderabad. It is the first missile designed and tested by Bharat Dynamics. It is being built in Israel for the Indian military. **So, option (b) is correct.**

Spike is an Israeli fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile and anti-personnel missile with a tandem-charge HEAT warhead, currently in its fourth-generation. It was developed and designed by the Israeli company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems. It is available in man-portable, vehicle-launched, and helicopter-launched variants. So, it is not an indigenous anti-tank guided missile.

Seeking to keep itself battle-ready in situations like the one post-Balakot aerial strikes, India has signed a deal to acquire 'Strum Ataka' anti-tank missile from Russia for its fleet of Mi-35 attack choppers. So, it is not an indigenous anti-tank guided missile.

MILAN is a Western European anti-tank guided missile. Design of the MILAN started in 1962, it was ready for trials in 1971, and was accepted for service in 1972. It is a wire guided SACLOS (semi-automatic command to line-of-sight) missile, which means the sight of the launch unit has to be aimed at the target to guide the missile. The MILAN can be equipped with a MIRA or MILIS thermal sight to give it night-firing ability. So, it is not an indigenous anti-tank guided missile.

SOURCE:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-signs-rs-200-crore-anti-tank-missile-deal-with-russia/articleshow/70019412.cms?from=mdr>