

PRESTORMING™ 2020

MOCK TEST VI - EXPLANATION

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PRESTORMING™ 2020

MOCK TEST VI - EXPLANATION

1. Which of the following are the functions of an Environment?

- 1. Assimilation of biological wastes.**
- 2. Enhancing the quality of social relations.**
- 3. Offering resources for economic production.**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

The environment can be defined as a sum total of all the living and non-living elements and their effects which influence human life. While all living or biotic elements are animals, plants, forests, fisheries, and birds, etc. The non-living or abiotic elements include water, land, sunlight, rocks, and air, etc.

Functions of Environment

(1) Supply of Resources

- The environment offers resources for production.
- It includes both renewable and non-renewable resources.
- **Example:** Wood for furniture, soil, land, etc.

(2) Sustains Life

- The environment includes the sun, soil, water, air which are essential for human life.
- It sustains life by providing genetic and biodiversity.

(3) Assimilation of Waste

- Production and consumption activities generate waste.
- This occurs mostly in the form of garbage.
- The environment helps in getting rid of the garbage.

(4) Enhances Quality of Life

- Environment enhances the quality of life.
- Man enjoys natural beauty like rivers, mountains, deserts, etc.
- These add to the quality of life.

2. Which of the following types of Natural Vegetation forms part of India's International boundary?

- 1. Alpine Forest**
- 2. Desert vegetation**
- 3. Mangroves**

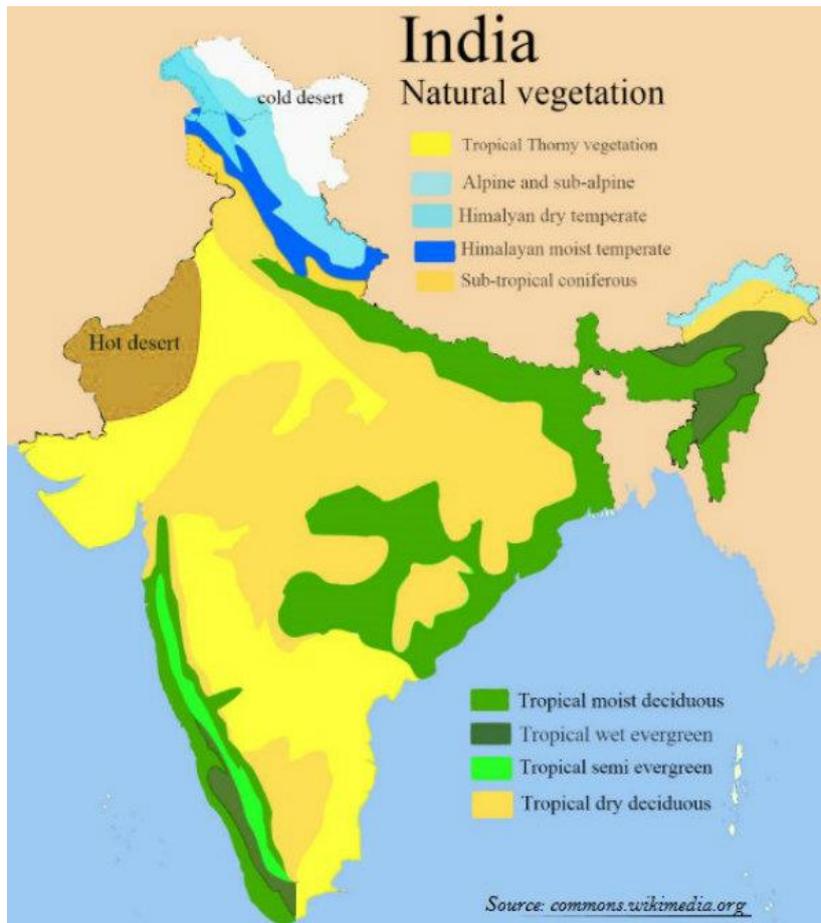
Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

Alpine Forest is in Jammu and Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh.
Desert vegetation in Thar Desert
Mangrove is present in all coastal states except Kerala. So option (d) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:



3. “Mandana paintings”, sometimes seen in the news recently, is the most popular art form of

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) **Rajasthan**
- (d) Kerala

EXPLANATION:

About Mandana Paintings:

One of the oldest forms of tribal art in India. Practiced in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh



- Practiced by Meena Community. Done predominantly by women, and learnt by observation and emulation.
- Mandana Paintings are of two types. The First, where elements of nature such as varieties of flowers and plants, birds and animals are drawn. While the second are motifs inspired by architecture.
- Paintings indicate special or festive occasions like communal religious worship, festivals and fasts and auspicious days in the life of the community such as birth or marriage.
- The paintings serve two purposes; a) the deity of the festival is invoked through the paintings b) the pictures were also a symbolic representation of the god or goddess.
- This art is done on walls and floors, both within and surrounding the house, as a way to ward off evil and welcome the blessings of gods into the home. (While in Rajasthan they are painted on walls and on the floor, in Madhya Pradesh painting is usually restricted to the floor.)

4. If a person attained 22 years of age, then

- 1. She/he can be a part of the Gram Sabha.**
- 2. She/he can become Chairperson of the Panchayat at the district level.**
- 3. She/he can become a member of the Panchayat at all three levels.**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

Persons, those who are above 18 years of age and living in the village and whose names are included in the electoral rolls for the Panchayat at the village level are members of the Gram Sabha. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

All the members of panchayats at the village, intermediate and district levels shall be elected directly by the people. Further, the chairperson of panchayats at the intermediate and district levels shall be elected indirectly—by and from amongst the elected members thereof. However, the chairperson of a panchayat at the village level shall be elected in such manner as the state legislature determines. If person being 22 years old then he can be Chairperson of the Panchayat at the district level or can be a member of the Panchayat at all three levels only by elected directly by the people. **So, statements 2 and 3 are correct.**

SOURCE:

Indian Polity by M Lakmikanth

5. Which of the following processes played a significant role in the formation of the present-day atmosphere?

- 1. Photosynthesis**
- 2. Degassing**
- 3. Volcanic eruption**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

Photosynthesis is a process used by plants and other organisms to convert light energy into chemical energy that can later be released to fuel the organisms' activities. This chemical energy is stored in carbohydrate molecules, such as sugars, which are synthesized from carbon dioxide and water – hence the name photosynthesis. In most cases, oxygen is also released as a waste product. Photosynthesis is largely responsible for producing and maintaining the oxygen content of the Earth's atmosphere, and supplies most of the energy necessary for life on Earth. Hence, it played a significant role in the formation of the present day atmosphere.

During the cooling of the earth, gases and water vapour were released from the interior solid earth. This started the evolution of the present atmosphere. The early atmosphere

largely contained water vapour, nitrogen, carbon dioxide, methane, ammonia and very little of free oxygen. The process through which the gases were outpoured from the interior is called **degassing**. Hence, it played a significant role in the formation of the present day atmosphere.

Continuous **volcanic eruptions** contributed water vapour and gases to the atmosphere. As the earth cooled, the water vapour released started getting condensed. The carbon dioxide in the atmosphere got dissolved in rainwater and the temperature further decreased causing more condensation and more rains. The rainwater falling onto the surface got collected in the depressions to give rise to oceans. Hence, it played a significant role in the formation of the present day atmosphere. **So, option (d) is correct.**

6. In the context of Economy, “Casualisation of the workforce” is associated with

- (a) Gig economy
- (b) Organised workforce
- (c) **Contract workers**
- (d) Underemployment

EXPLANATION:

Gig economy labour market characterized by the prevalence of short-term contracts or freelance work as opposed to permanent jobs. **So statement 1 is not correct.**

Platform workers are individuals who use an app (such as Uber) or a website (such as Amazon Turk) to match themselves with customers, in order to provide a service in return for money. They offer a diverse range of services including transport, coding and writing product descriptions. **So statement 2 is not correct.**

Workforce casualisation is the process in which employment shifts from a preponderance of full-time and permanent positions to casual and contract positions. **So statement 3 is correct.**

Underemployment is the underuse of a worker because a job does not use the worker's skills, is part-time, or leaves the worker idle. **So statement 4 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Apprentices

Typically, apprenticeships are training periods for skilled tradesmen. Apprentices work under the guidance of journeymen and masters who teach skills necessary to gain licenses for independent working. Upon completion, apprentices become journeymen and eventually master tradesmen.

Freelancers

Freelance workers are typically individuals hired as independent contractors to perform a specific duty.

Subcontractors

Subcontractors are, in most cases, companies or individuals contracted to perform part or all of another person or company's contractual duties.

Temporary Employees

Temps are employed only for a specified period of time. They may work part-time or full-time hours, but they generally are not eligible to receive employee benefits. Many are hired through temporary employment agencies, and some are hired as "temp to permanent," which allows for permanent hire after a probationary period.

At-Will Employees

The majority of American workers are at-will employees. At-will employees can work part-time or full-time hours, but they can be dismissed for any reason and without warning (except in Montana). Likewise, at-will employees have the right to quit or strike at their convenience without notice.

Leased Employees

Leased employees are employed by professional employer organizations (PEOs) and are offered to outside companies to perform HR work. Lease terms can be relatively short or may last more than a year. Management of leased employees is the job of the company, while payroll, taxes and other fees are obligations handled by the PEO.

Job-Share Employees

Job-share employees are two or more employees who share one full-time job. They typically split 40-hour work weeks and enjoy employee benefits prorated by share.

7. If you want to see the species of Lion Tailed Macaque naturally in India, then you must visit

- (a) Evergreen Forests of Northeastern part of India
- (b) **Tropical Moist Evergreen Forests of the Western Ghats**
- (c) Coniferous Forests of the Himalayan region
- (d) Mangrove Forests of the coastal region

EXPLANATION:

The magnificent Lion-tailed macaque is an Old World monkey, named due to its lion-like, long, thin and tufted tail. This adorable primate is unfortunately among most endangered of the macaques around the globe. In the meantime, this animal is one of the smallest macaque species in the world. The Lion-tailed macaque is endemic and native exclusively to Tropical Moist Evergreen Forests of Western Ghats. It's a living proof of the amazing diversity of its mountain rainforest habitat. As a result of its shy and solitary nature, this animal doesn't tend to venture from its usual range, travelling only within its rainforest habitat. **So, option (b) is correct.**

8. With reference to the Constitution (Fifty-second Amendment) Act, 1985, which of the following situations would not attract disqualification under the Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution?

- 1. If the Deputy Speaker of the House of the People voluntarily gives up the membership of the Political Party to which he/she belonged immediately before the election to that office and rejoins the same political party after he/she ceases to hold such office.**
- 2. If the Deputy Chairman of the Council of States voluntarily gives up the membership of the Political Party to which he/she belonged immediately before the election to that office and rejoins the same political party after he/she ceases to hold such office.**
- 3. If the Chairman of the Council of States voluntarily gives up the membership of the Political Party to which he/she belonged immediately before the election to that office and rejoins the same political party after he/she ceases to hold such office.**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

If the Deputy Speaker of the House of the People voluntarily gives up the membership of the Political Party to which he/she belonged immediately before the election to that office and rejoins the same political party after he/she ceases to hold such office. It does not

amount to disqualification under the Constitution (Fiftysecond Amendment) Act, 1985. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

If the Deputy Chairman of the Council of States voluntarily gives up the membership of the Political Party to which he/she belonged immediately before the election to that office and rejoins the same political party after he/she ceases to hold such office. It does not amount to disqualification under the Constitution (Fiftysecond Amendment) Act, 1985. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

If the Chairman of the Council of States voluntarily gives up the membership of the Political Party to which he/she belonged immediately before the election to that office and rejoins the same political party after he/she ceases to hold such office. It does not amount to disqualification under the Constitution (Fiftysecond Amendment) Act, 1985. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Tenth Schedule includes the following provisions with regard to the disqualification of MPs and MLAs on the grounds of defection:

Grounds for disqualification:

- 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.

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.

SOURCE:

Indian Polity by M Lakmikanth

9. In the context of Economics, which of the following can be categorised as “public good”?

1. **Air**
2. **Sewer system**
3. **Public Air transport**
4. **Public parks**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

In economics, a public good refers to a commodity or service that is made available to all members of a society. Typically, these services are administered by governments and paid for collectively through taxation.

Examples of public goods include law enforcement, national defense, and the rule of law. Public goods also refer to more basic goods, such as access to clean air and drinking water.

SOURCE:

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/p/public-good.asp>

10. Which one of the following statements is correct about the Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds or SWAYAM program, recently seen in the news?

- (a) It is a platform to provide skill development for the rural tribal people
- (b) It is an Indian Massive Open Online Course platform**
- (c) It is an awareness platform about the Indian culture to the Non-Resident Indians
- (d) It is a special initiative to increase the literacy of women among the Minority Community

EXPLANATION:

Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), was launched on July 9, 2017 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to provide one integrated platform and portal for online courses. This will enable students to do part of their course through Massive open online courses (MOOC) and part in various colleges. **So option (b) is correct**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SWAYAM

- Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM), was launched on July 9, 2017 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to provide one integrated platform and portal for online courses.
- This covers all higher education subjects and skill sector courses.
- The objective is to ensure that every student in the country has access to the best quality higher education at the affordable cost.
- Academicians from hundreds of institutions throughout the country are involved in developing & delivering Massive open online courses (MOOCs) through SWAYAM in almost all disciplines from senior schooling to Post Graduation.

SOURCE:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/streamed-education-is-diluted-education/article31816279.ece>

11. With reference to the temple architecture during Ancient India, consider the following statements:

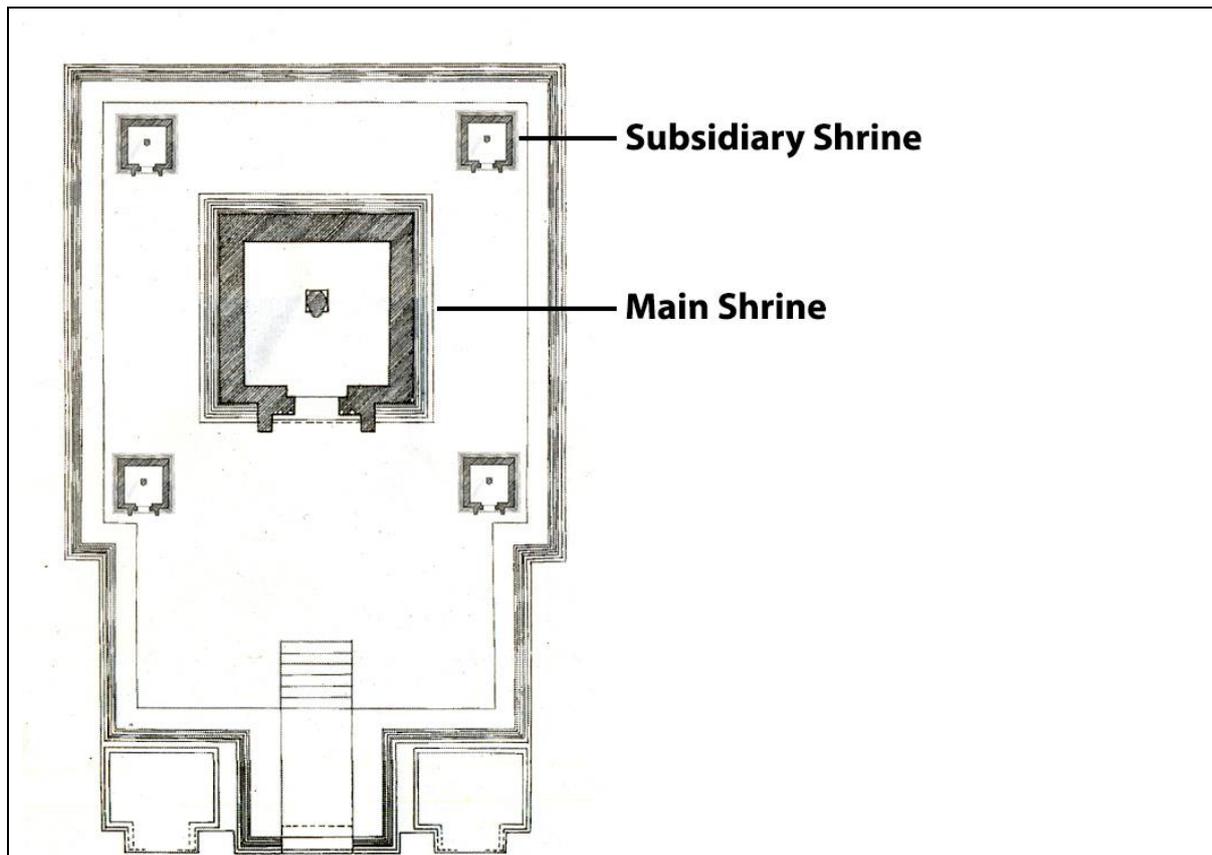
- 1. The temple premise was laid out in the Panchayatan style with a principal temple and four subsidiary shrines.**
- 2. The subsidiary shrines do not have Shikara.**
- 3. The temples were generally built on upraised platforms.**

Which of the above statements mentions the features of “Dravidian style of architecture”?

(a) 1 only

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

EXPLANATION:



The temple premise was laid out in the panchayatana style with a principal temple and four subsidiary shrines. **So statement 1 is correct.**

The subsidiary shrines have shikaras (Gopuram). **So statement 2 is not correct.**

The temples were generally built on upraised platforms in Nagara architecture. **So statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Nagara or North Indian Temple Style

- In North India it is common for an entire temple to be built on a stone platform with steps leading up to it.
- Further, unlike in South India it does not usually have elaborate boundary walls or gateways.
- While the earliest temples had just one tower, or shikhara, later temples had several.
- The garbhagriha is always located directly under the tallest tower.
- There are many subdivisions of nagara temples depending on the shape of the shikhara.
- There are different names for the various parts of the temple in different parts of India; however, the most common name for the simple shikhara which is square at the base and whose walls curve or slope inward to a point on top is called the 'latina' or the rekha-prasada type of shikara.
- The second major type of architectural form in the nagara order is the phamsana, which tends to be broader and shorter than latina ones.
- Their roofs are composed of several slabs that gently rise to a single point over the centre of the building, unlike the latina ones which look like sharply rising tall towers.
- The third main sub-type of the nagara building is generally called the valabhi type.
- These are rectangular buildings with a roof that rises into a vaulted chamber

Dravida Or South Indian Temple Style

- Unlike the nagara temple, the dravida temple is enclosed within a compound wall.
- The front wall has an entrance gateway in its centre, which is known as a gopuram.
- The shape of the main temple tower known as vimana in Tamil Nadu, is like a stepped pyramid that rises up geometrically rather than the curving shikhara of North India.
- It is common to find a large water reservoir, or a temple tank, enclosed within the complex.
- Subsidiary shrines are either incorporated within the main temple tower, or located as distinct, separate small shrines beside the main temple.
- Kanchipuram, Thanjavur or Tanjore, Madurai and Kumbakonam are the most famous temple towns of Tamil Nadu, where, during the 8th-12th centuries, the role of the temple was not limited to religious matters alone.
- Temples became rich administrative centres, controlling vast areas of land.

Indian culture NCERT

12. Consider the following statements about Rajya Sabha election:

- 1. Only elected members of the State Legislative Assemblies can vote in a Rajya Sabha election.**
- 2. Cross-voting by a Member of State Legislative Assembly in this election amounts to defection.**
- 3. Postal voting can never be done in the election to the seat of Rajya Sabha.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

No. The Supreme Court, while declining to interfere with the open ballot system, ruled that not voting for the party candidate will not attract disqualification under the anti-defection law. As voters, MLAs retain their freedom to vote for a candidate of their choice. However, the Court observed that since the party would know who voted against its own candidate, it is free to take disciplinary action against the legislator concerned. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

Postal voting can be done in the election to the seat Rajya sabha. Recently, EC issued a notification granting facility of postal ballot paper for electors who are hospitalized on account of COVID-19. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Tenth Schedule includes the following provisions with regard to the disqualification of MPs and MLAs on the grounds of defection:

Grounds for disqualification:

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- If he votes or abstains from voting in the House, contrary to any direction issued by his political party.
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- 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.

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.

SOURCE:

Indian Polity by M Lakmikanth

13. Which of the following body/bodies is/are formed under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 of India?

- 1. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau**
- 2. National Board for Wildlife**
- 3. National Biodiversity Authority**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

The following statutory bodies are formed under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972?

- Wildlife Crime Control Bureau
- National Board for Wildlife
- Central Zoo Authority (CZA)
- National Tiger Conservation Authority

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, option (c) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

National Board for Wildlife

- The National Board for Wildlife was constituted as a statutory organisation under the provisions of Wildlife Protection Act. This is an advisory board that offers advice to the central government on issues of wildlife conservation in India. It is also the apex body to review and approve all matters related to wildlife, projects of national parks, sanctuaries, etc. The chief function of the Board is to promote the conservation and development of wildlife and forests. It is chaired by the Prime Minister.

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) :

- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, is the umbrella legislation for wildlife conservation and protection in the country. The implementation of the provisions of the Act is done by States mainly through forest & wildlife departments and police department. However, due to inadequate infrastructure in the States for combating organized wildlife crime and also keeping in view the inter-state and international ramification of the crimes, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) was constituted by Government of India under Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change, as a sub-component of the on-going Central Scheme 'Strengthening of Wildlife Divisions and Consultancies for Special Tasks'; to complement the efforts of the State agencies and coordinate the actions of Central & State agencies in enforcement of the provisions of the Act.

The Central Zoo Authority (CZA):

- CZA is the statutory body of the government of India responsible for oversight of zoos. It is an affiliate member of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA). The CZA was formed to bring Indian zoos up to international standards.
- The Central Zoo Authority has been constituted under the Wild Life (Protection) Act. The Authority consists of a Chairman, ten members and a Member Secretary. The main objective of the authority is to complement the national effort in conservation of wild life. Standards and norms for housing, upkeep, health care and overall management of animals in zoos has been laid down under the Recognition of Zoo Rules, 1992. Every zoo in the country is required to obtain recognition from the Authority for its operation. The Authority evaluates the zoos with reference to the parameters prescribed under the Rules and grants recognition accordingly. Zoos which have no potential to come up to the prescribed standards and norms may be refused recognition and asked to close down.

National Tiger Conservation Authority / Project Tiger

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority is a statutory body under the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change constituted under enabling provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006, for strengthening tiger conservation, as per powers and functions assigned to it under the said Act.
- The National Tiger Conservation Authority has been fulfilling its mandate within the ambit of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for strengthening tiger conservation in the country by retaining an oversight through advisories/normative guidelines, based on appraisal of tiger status, ongoing conservation initiatives and recommendations of specially constituted Committees. 'Project Tiger' is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of the Environment, Forests and Climate Change, providing funding support to tiger range States, for in-situ conservation of tigers in designated tiger reserves, and has put the endangered tiger on an assured path of recovery by saving it from extinction, as revealed by the recent findings of the All India tiger estimation using the refined methodology.

SOURCE:

<http://cmscop13india.nic.in/Contents.aspx?langid=1&lev=2&lsid=1090&pid=1073&lid=82>

14. Why do Southern states of India produce less Wheat?

- (a) Wheat requires Alluvial soil for cultivation
- (b) The Great Plains have copious rainfall
- (c) Southern states lie below the Tropic of Cancer**
- (d) Northern states have better technology inputs

EXPLANATION:

Temperature: Between 10-15°C (Sowing time) and 21-26°C (Ripening & Harvesting) with bright sunlight. Southern states are south of tropic of cancer, southern states have tropical climate and wheat is a temperate crop. Southern states are influenced by sea so 10-15 degree temperature is not reached. **So option (c) is correct.**

Rainfall: Around 75-100 cm.

Soil Type: Well-drained fertile loamy and clayey loamy (Ganga-Satluj plains and black soil region of the Deccan)

Top Wheat Producing States: Uttar Pradesh > Punjab > Madhya Pradesh > Haryana > Rajasthan.

15. Consider the following statements about “bank rate” in India:

1. It is the minimum rate below which banks are not allowed to lend to their customers.
2. It is determined by the respective banks.
3. When it is increased, the money supply in the economic system decreases.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Bank rate is the rate charged by the central bank for lending funds to commercial banks. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

Reserve Bank of India is the central bank of India. Hence, the bank rate is determined by RBI. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

When it is increased, the cost of borrowing for banks rises and this credit volume gets reduced leading to decline in supply of money. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Bank rate is the rate charged by the central bank for lending funds to commercial banks. Bank rates influence lending rates of commercial banks. Higher bank rate will translate to higher lending rates by the banks. In order to curb liquidity, the central bank can resort to raising the bank rate and vice versa.

16. Which of the following is/are the possible reason(s) for the decline in the population of Gharials in India?

1. Use of synthetic fertilizers and other chemicals fertilizers in the agricultural fields in the vicinity of rivers.
2. Getting trapped in fishing nets accidentally.
3. Manipulating the flow of rivers by the people.

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

(d) 1, 2 and 3

EXPLANATION:

According to experts the drastic decline in the gharial population can be attributed to a variety of causes including

- over-hunting for skins and trophies,
- egg collection for consumption,
- killing for indigenous medicine, and
- killing by fishermen.

However, the wild population of gharials, as per the IUCN, has undergone a drastic decline of about 58% within nine years between 1997 and 2006 due to increase in intensity of fishing and the use of gill nets which kills a number of adults and sub-adults along with the excessive **(statement 2 is correct)**, irreversible loss of riverine habitat due to development projects, sand mining and agriculture.

Use of synthetic fertilizers and other agricultural chemicals in crop-fields in the vicinity of rivers does not lead to the decline in the population of Gharials in India. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

The other major reason is the loss of riverine habitat as dams, barrages, irrigation canals and artificial embankments were built; siltation and sand-mining changed river courses; and land near rivers is used for agriculture and grazing by livestock. This can be seen as the manipulating the flow of rivers by the people. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Gharial is a river crocodile endemic to the Indian sub-continent.
- It was found in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Burma and Bhutan, but is now extinct in these countries.
- Today, it is seen in a few places in Nepal. In India the major population of Gharials is found in the Girwa and Chambal rivers.
- Even though pockets of isolated Gharial population exist along the borders of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, it has all but disappeared from the river Yamuna.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has listed the Gharial as a critically endangered and is the most threatened species that is native to UP.
- The Gharial Conservation Alliance (GCA) notes that despite a large-scale restocking program for thirty years, resulting in over 5,000 young gharials being released into India's river systems, only around 200 breeding adults still survive.

17. Consider the following statements about the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996 and Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006:

- 1. PESA is a law enacted for ensuring self-governance through traditional Gram Sabha for people living in any area brought under Fifth and Sixth Schedule of Indian Constitution.**
- 2. While the scope of PESA is limited only to Scheduled Areas, the scope of FRA extends to all forests in the country.**
- 3. Under both these Acts, Gram Sabha is empowered to the position of the decision-making body.**

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:

Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) Act, 1996 is a law enacted for ensuring self-governance through traditional Gram Sabha for people living in the 5th Scheduled Areas of India. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

While the scope of PESA is limited to Scheduled Areas only, the scope of FRA extends to all forests in the country. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

Under both these Acts, Gram Sabha is empowered to the position of decision-making body. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 or PESA is a law enacted by the Government of India for ensuring self governance through traditional Gram Sabhas for people living in the Scheduled Areas of India.
- Scheduled Areas are areas identified by the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution of India. Scheduled Areas are found in ten states of India which have predominant population of tribal communities.
- The Scheduled Areas, were not covered by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment or Panchayati Raj Act of the Indian Constitution as provided in the Part IX of the Constitution.
- PESA was enacted on 24 December 1996 to extend the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution to Scheduled Areas, with certain exceptions and modifications.

- PESA sought to enable the Panchayats at appropriate levels and Gram Sabhas to implement a system of self-governance with respect to a number of issues such as customary resources, minor forest produce, minor minerals, minor water bodies, selection of beneficiaries, sanction of projects, and control over local institutions.
- PESA is an Act to provide for the extension of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution relating to the Panchayats and the Scheduled Areas.
- PESA was viewed as a positive development for tribal communities in Scheduled Areas who had earlier suffered tremendously from engagement with modern development processes and from the operation of both colonial laws and statutes made in independent India.
- The loss of access to forest, land, and other community resources had increased their vulnerability. Rampant land acquisition and displacement due to development projects had led to large scale distress in tribal communities living in Scheduled Areas.
- PESA was seen as a panacea for many of these vulnerabilities and sought to introduce a new paradigm of development where the tribal communities in such Scheduled Areas were to decide by themselves the pace and priorities of their development.

SOURCE:

<https://pesadarpan.gov.in/en>

18. With reference to the working-class movements during the latter half of 19th and early half of the 20th Century, consider the following statements:

- 1. Moderates of Indian National Congress supported the factories act passed by the British government India.**
- 2. Trade Union Act, 1926 recognized the ‘trade unions’ as legal associations.**
- 3. Mahatma Gandhi played a very important role in the formation of Ahmadabad Textile Labour Association.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only

(a) 1 and 3 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

EXPLANATION:

Moderates of Indian national congress did not support factories act. They thought that it would affect the competitiveness of Indian industries. **So statement 1 is not correct.**

It gives legal and corporate status to the registered trade unions. **So statement 2 is correct.**

Gandhiji played a very important role in the formation of Ahmedabad Textile labor association. **So statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926

The legislation regulating the trade unions is the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926.

The Act deals with the registration of trade unions, their rights, their liabilities and responsibilities as well as ensures that their funds are utilized properly.

It gives legal and corporate status to the registered trade unions.

It also seeks to protect them from civil or criminal prosecution so that they could carry on their legitimate activities for the benefit of the working class.

The Act is applicable not only to the union of workers but also to the association of employers and extends to whole of India.

Also, certain Acts, namely, the Societies Registration Act, 1860; the Co-operative Societies Act, 1912; and the Companies Act, 1956 shall not apply to any registered trade union, and that the registration of any such trade union under any such Act shall be void.

Trade Unions in India

The credit for the first association of Indian workers is generally given to the Bombay Mill-Hands Association founded by N.M. Lokhande in 1890.

This was in the period just after the passing of the 'First' Factories Act in 1881 by the British Government of the time.

The following years saw the formation of several labour associations and unions.

The first clearly registered trade-union is considered to be the Madras Labour Union founded by B.P. Wadia in 1918.

SOURCE:-

Spectrum

19. Which one of the following countries has only one Time Zone?

- (a) **China**
- (b) Australia
- (c) USA
- (d) Brazil

EXPLANATION:

China-1 time zone. So option (a) is correct.
Australia -3 time zone
USA - 9 time zone
Brazil has 4 time zone

20. 'Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2020', sometimes seen in the news recently, is released by

- (a) World Wide Fund for Nature
- (b) United Nations Environment Programme
- (c) International Union for Conservation of Nature
- (d) **Food and Agriculture Organization**

EXPLANATION:

Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020 has been released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). So option (d) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Key findings:

- Forest area has declined all across the world in the past three decades. The world lost 178 mha of forest since 1990, an area the size of Libya.
- The rate of forest loss has also declined due to the growth of sustainable management. 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.
- The area of naturally regenerating forests worldwide decreased since 1990, but the area of planted forests increased by 123 mha.

Highest loss and highest gains:

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.

Geographical extent:

1. 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.
2. The largest proportion of the world's forests were tropical (45 per cent), followed by boreal, temperate and subtropical.
3. 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.
4. The highest per cent of plantation forests were in South America while the lowest were in Europe

21. With reference to the functioning of the Indian Parliament, consider the following statements about the “Short Duration Discussions”:

- 1. The Presiding Officer of the House has no role in the admissibility of a notice of short duration discussion.**
- 2. It is a procedural device to enable Members of that House to raise discussion without a formal motion on a matter of urgent public importance.**
- 3. The member who raises the discussion has no right of reply.**

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 Presiding officers can allot two days in a week for short duration discussions. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

There is no formal motion before the House nor is there any voting. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

The member who raises the discussion has no right of reply. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Short Duration Discussion

- It is also known as two-hour discussion as the time allotted for such a discussion should not exceed two hours.
- The members of the Parliament can raise such discussions on a matter of urgent public importance.
- The Speaker can allot two days in a week for such discussions.
- There is neither a formal motion before the house nor voting.
- This device has been in existence since 1953.

SOURCE:

Indian polity by M Laxmikanth

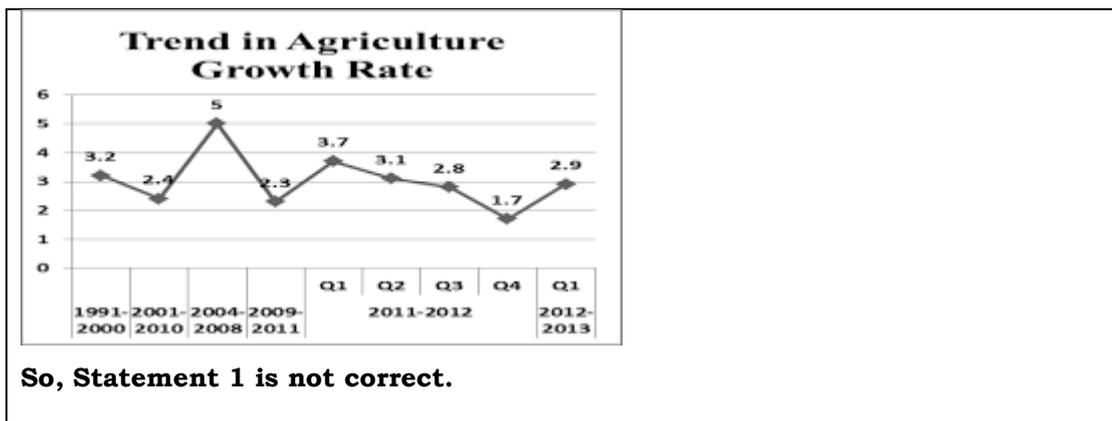
22. With reference to the period after Liberalisation of the Indian economy in 1991, consider the following statements:

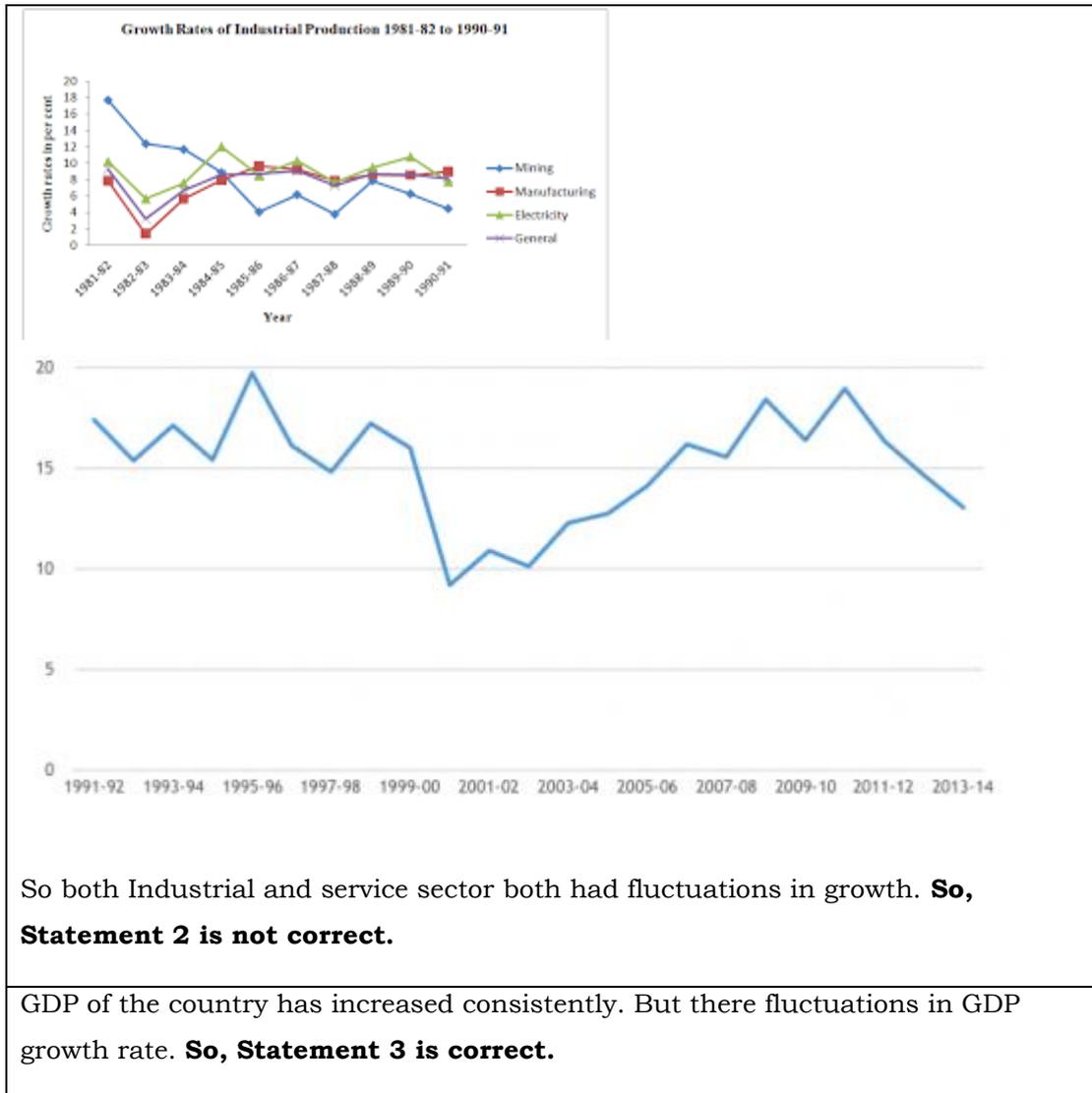
- 1. The growth rate of agriculture has never crossed the four percentages.**
- 2. The growth rate of the industry and service sector has consistently improved.**
- 3. Gross Domestic Product of the country has grown consistently.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:





23. According to the recent studies, which of the following pollutants are found in the groundwater in India?

1. Nitrate
2. Fluoride
3. Lead
4. Iron
5. Uranium

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:

The following pollutants are found in the ground waters in India as per recent studies

- Nitrate
- Fluoride
- Lead
- Iron
- Uranium
- manganese
- radon
- strontium
- selenium and
- chromium

So, option (d) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Water pollution is a major environmental issue in India.
- The largest source of water pollution in India is untreated sewage.
- Other sources of pollution include agricultural runoff and unregulated small-scale industry.
- Most rivers, lakes and surface water in India are polluted due to industries, untreated sewage and solid wastes.

SOURCE:

<http://cgwb.gov.in/WQ/Geogenic%20Final.pdf>

24. With reference to recent studies on the impact of cosmic rays on Earth's climate, which one of the following statements is correct?

- (a) Cosmic rays can weaken the Siberian High atmospheric pressure
- (b) Cosmic rays can reduce the frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones
- (c) Cosmic rays can increase the low-lying cloud cover in the atmosphere**
- (d) Cosmic rays can significantly increase global warming

EXPLANATION:

Increase in cosmic rays was accompanied by an increase in low-cloud cover, the umbrella effect of the clouds cooled the continent, and Siberian high atmospheric pressure became stronger. **So, option (a) is not correct.**

It increases the frequency and intensity of tropical cyclones. **So, option (b) is not correct.**

New evidence suggests that high-energy particles from space known as galactic cosmic rays affect the Earth's climate by increasing cloud cover, causing an 'umbrella effect'. **So, option (c) is correct.**

It can significantly decrease the global warming. **So, option (d) is not correct.**

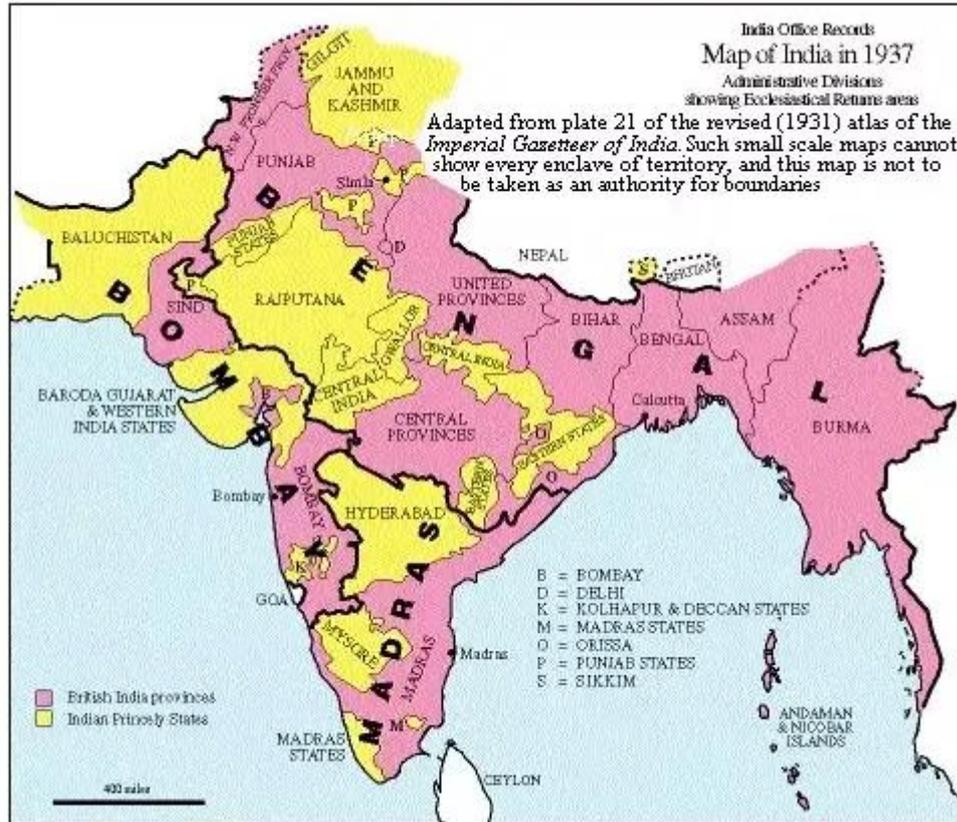
SOURCE:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/07/190703121407.htm#:~:text=Revealing%20the%20impact%20of%20cosmic%20rays%20on%20the%20Earth's%20climate,-Date%3A%20July%203&text=Summary%3A,causing%20an%20'umbrella%20effect'>

25. Which one of the following modern-day cities has never been under the direct control of the Colonial government in India?

- (a) Hyderabad**
- (b) Peshawar
- (c) Panipat
- (d) Both (a) and (b)

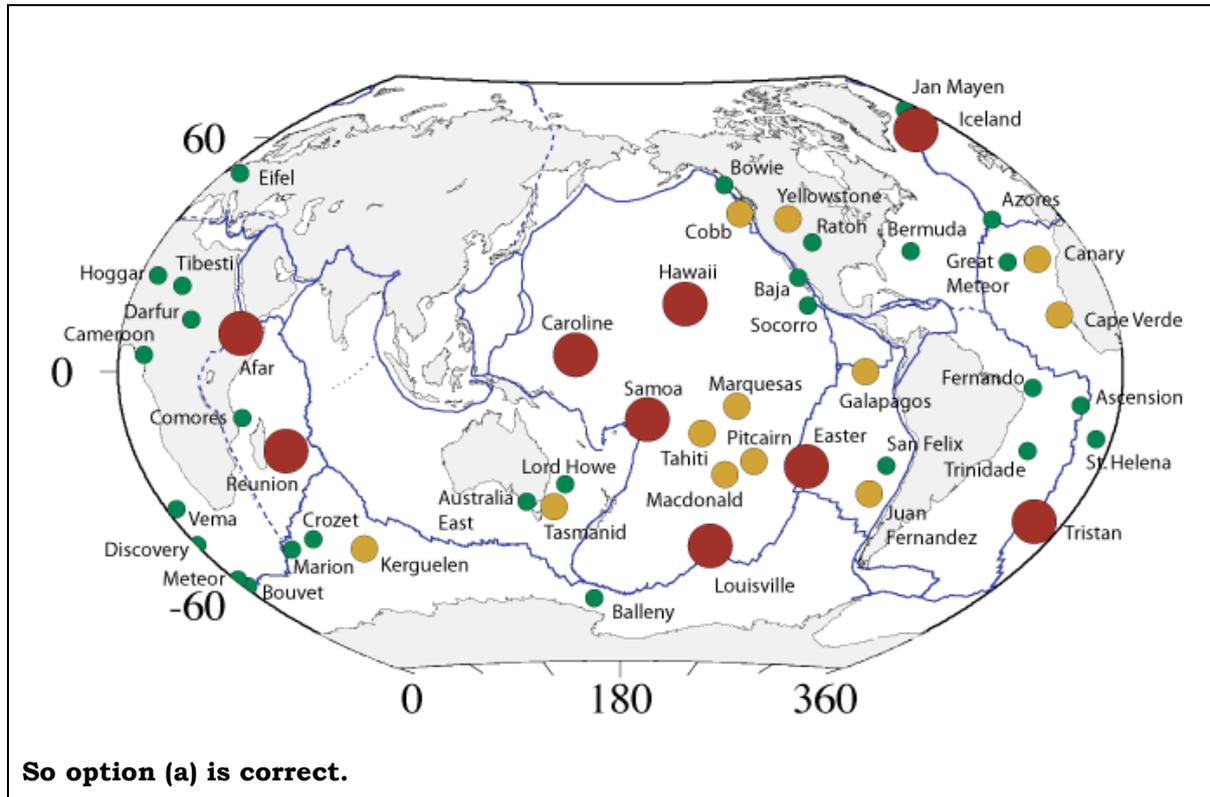
EXPLANATION:



26. In the context of Geology, which of the following countries does *not* have hotspots?

- (a) Australia
- (b) Ethiopia
- (c) USA
- (d) Iceland

EXPLANATION:



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Hotspot Volcanism

- Hotspot volcanism is a type of volcanism that typically occurs at the interior parts of the lithospheric plates rather than at the zones of convergence and divergence (plate margins).
- The Iceland Hotspot and Afar Hotspot which are situated at the divergent boundary are exceptions.
- Hotspot volcanism explains the so-called anomalous volcanism — the type that occurs far from plate boundaries, like in Hawaii and Yellowstone, or in excessive amounts along mid-ocean ridges, as in Iceland.
- Well known hotspots include the Hawaiian Hotspot, the Yellowstone Hotspot, the Reunion Hotspot.
- Hotspot volcanism occurs due to abnormally hot centres in the mantle known as mantle plumes.
- Most of the mantle plumes lie far from tectonic plate boundaries (e.g. Hawaiian Hotspot), while others represent unusually large-volume volcanism near plate boundaries (e.g. Iceland Hotspot).

27. Consider the following statements about the Drug Controller General of India (DGCI):

- 1. It is a department of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization of the Government of India.**
- 2. It is responsible for the approval of licences of specified categories of drugs such as Vaccines.**
- 3. It functions under the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**

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:

Drugs Controller General of India is a department of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization of the Government of India. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

It is responsible for approval of licences of specified categories of drugs such as blood and blood products, IV fluids, vaccines, and sera in India. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

Drug Controller General of India, comes under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. DCGI also sets standards for manufacturing, sales, import, and distribution of drugs in India. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Function of DCGI

DCGI lays down the standard and quality of manufacturing, selling, import and distribution of drugs in India.

- Acting as appellate authority in case of any dispute regarding the quality of drugs.
- Preparation and maintenance of national reference standard.
- To bring about the uniformity in the enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.
- Training of Drug Analysts deputed by State Drug Control Laboratories and other Institutions
- Analysis of Cosmetics received as survey samples from CDSCO (central drug standard control organisation)

28. Which of the following is/are involved in the Nitrogen fixation on Earth?

- 1. Bacteria**
- 2. Blue-green algae**
- 3. Thunder and lighting**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

Nitrogen fixation on earth is accomplished in three different ways:

- By microorganisms (**bacteria** and **blue-green algae**)
- By man using industrial processes (fertilizer factories) and
- To a limited extent by atmospheric phenomenon such as **thunder and lighting**

So, option (d) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Nitrogen fixation is a process by which molecular nitrogen in the air is converted into ammonia (NH₃) or related nitrogenous compounds in soil.
- Atmospheric nitrogen is molecular dinitrogen, a relatively nonreactive molecule that is metabolically useless to all but a few microorganisms.
- Biological nitrogen fixation converts N₂ into ammonia, which is metabolized by most organisms.
- Nitrogen fixation is essential to life because fixed inorganic nitrogen compounds are required for the biosynthesis of all nitrogen-containing organic compounds, such as amino acids and proteins, nucleoside triphosphates and nucleic acids.
- As part of the nitrogen cycle, it is essential for agriculture and the manufacture of fertilizer. It is also, indirectly, relevant to the manufacture of all nitrogen chemical compounds, which includes some explosives, pharmaceuticals, and dyes.
- Nitrogen fixation is carried out naturally in soil by microorganisms termed diazotrophs that include bacteria such as Azotobacter and archaea.
- Some nitrogen-fixing bacteria have symbiotic relationships with plant groups, especially legumes.
- Looser non-symbiotic relationships between diazotrophs and plants are often referred to as associative, as seen in nitrogen fixation on rice roots. Nitrogen fixation occurs

between some termites and fungi. It occurs naturally in the air by means of NOx production by lightning.

SOURCE:

Environment by Shankar IAS academy

29. With reference to the Parliamentary committees in India, consider the following statements about the “Public Accounts Committee”:

- 1. It has been in existence since 1921.**
- 2. Its members from the Lok Sabha are nominated by the Presiding Officer of the Lok Sabha.**
- 3. It has equal membership from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.**
- 4. It examines the annual audit report on Public Undertakings prepared by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India.**

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:

Public Accounts Committee was set up first in 1921 under the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1919 and has since been in existence. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

The members are elected by the Parliament every year from amongst its members according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. Thus, all parties get due representation in it. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

At present, it consists of 22 members i.e 15 from the Lok Sabha and 7 from the Rajya Sabha. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

The function of the committee is to examine the annual audit reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), which are laid before the Parliament by the President. It examines the appropriation accounts and the finance accounts of the Union government and any other accounts laid before the Lok Sabha. Committee on Public Undertakings examines the audit report on Public Undertakings as prepared by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. **So, statement 4 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The functions of the committee are:

- To examine the appropriation accounts and the finance accounts of the Union government and any other accounts laid before the Lok Sabha. The appropriation accounts compare the actual expenditure with the expenditure sanctioned by the Parliament through the Appropriation Act, while the finance accounts shows the annual receipts and disbursements of the Union Government.
- In scrutinising the appropriation accounts and the audit report of CAG on it, the committee has to satisfy itself that (a) The money that has been disbursed was legally available for the applied service or purpose (b) The expenditure conforms to the authority that governs it (c) Every re-appropriation has been made in accordance with the related rules
- To examine the accounts of state corporations, trading concerns and manufacturing projects and the audit report of CAG on them (except those public undertakings which are allotted to the Committee on Public Undertakings)
- To examine the accounts of autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies, the audit of which is conducted by the CAG
- To consider the report of the CAG relating to the audit of any receipt or to examine the accounts of stores and stocks
- To examine the money spent on any service during a financial year in excess of the amount granted by the Lok Sabha for that purpose

SOURCE:

Indian polity by M Lakmikanth

30. With reference to Ancient Indian history, consider the following statements:

- 1. Some Satavahana rulers were polygynous.**
- 2. All Satavahana rulers strictly followed Dharmashastras.**
- 3. Generally, the Satavahana ruling family followed matrilineal succession to the throne.**

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:

Some of the Satavahana rulers were polygynous (more than one wife). So, Statement 1 is correct.
Most of the Satavahana rulers were staunch followers of the Vedic religion with its rituals and Varna system but not all of them. So, Statement 2 is not correct.
Generally Satavahana succession to throne was patrilineal. So, Statement 3 is not correct.

31. Which of the following statements is correct about “capital goods industries”?

(a) **They produce machine tools which are, in turn, used for producing articles for consumption**

(b) They offer financial services to develop the social infrastructure of the country

(c) They produce goods which are, in turn, used to develop the physical infrastructure of the country

(d) They produce goods only for export from the country

32. Consider the following features in the Preamble of the Indian Constitution:

1. Social, economic and political justice

2. Unity and integrity of the Nation

3. Equality of status and opportunity

4. Liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship

Which one of the following is the correct order in which they appear in the Preamble?

(a) 1-2-3-4

(b) 1-4-3-2

(c) 4-3-1-2

(d) 4-1-2-3



EXPLANATION:

**THE CONSTITUTION OF
INDIA**

PREAMBLE

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a ¹**[SOVEREIGN SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC]** and to secure to all its citizens :

JUSTICE, social, economic and political;

LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

EQUALITY of status and of opportunity and to promote among them all;

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the ²[unity and integrity of the Nation];

IN OUR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY this twenty-sixth day of November, 1949 do **HEREBY ADOPT, ENACT AND GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION.**

1. Subs. by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, Sec.2, for "Sovereign Democratic Republic" (w.e.f. 3.1.1977)

2. Subs. by the Constitution (Forty-second Amendment) Act, 1976, Sec.2, for "Unity of the Nation" (w.e.f. 3.1.1977)

33. Which one of the following best explains the reason for the high salinity of the Red Sea?

- (a) The water body experiences high rainfall
- (b) It is located in mid-latitudes
- (c) The sea is surrounded by landmass**
- (d) Warm ocean currents increase salinity

EXPLANATION:

When the sea is surrounded by land mass it is not connected to open ocean so due to evaporation effect salinity will increase with time. **So option (c) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Factors Affecting Ocean Salinity

- The salinity of water in the surface layer of oceans depend mainly on evaporation and precipitation.
- Surface salinity is greatly influenced in coastal regions by the fresh water flow from rivers, and in polar regions by the processes of freezing and thawing of ice.
- Wind, also influences salinity of an area by transferring water to other areas.
- The ocean currents contribute to the salinity variations.
- Salinity, temperature and density of water are interrelated. Hence, any change in the temperature or density influences the salinity of an area.

SOURCE:-

Physical Geography NCERT

34. Consider the following statements about Chhau dance:

- 1. The costumes and dance movement of Chhau is similar to that of the serpents.**
- 2. It is one of the nine classical dances recognized by the Union Ministry of Culture in India.**
- 3. It is inscribed in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the UNESCO.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Its vocabulary of movement includes mock combat techniques, stylized gaits of birds and animals and movements modelled on the chores of village housewives. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

It is one of the nine classical dances recognized by the Ministry of culture in India **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

It is inscribed in the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by the UNESCO **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Chhau dance is a tradition from eastern India that enacts episodes from epics including the Mahabharata and Ramayana, local folklore and abstract themes. Its three distinct styles hail from the regions of Seraikella, Purulia and Mayurbhanj, the first two using masks. Chhau dance is intimately connected to regional festivals, notably the spring festival Chaitra Parva. Its origin is traceable to indigenous forms of dance and martial practices. Its vocabulary of movement includes mock combat techniques, stylized gaits of birds and animals and movements modelled on the chores of village housewives. Chhau is taught to male dancers from families of traditional artists or from local communities. The dance is performed at night in an open space to traditional and folk melodies, played on the reed pipes *mohuri* and *shehnai*. The reverberating drumbeats of a variety of drums dominate the accompanying music ensemble. Chhau is an integral part of the culture of these communities. It binds together people from different social strata and ethnic background with diverse social practices, beliefs, professions and languages. However, increasing industrialization, economic pressures and new media are leading to a decrease in collective participation with communities becoming disconnected from their roots.

SOURCE:

<https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/chhau-dance-00337>

35. Consider the following statements:

- 1. It is included in the list of 'wetlands of international importance', as defined by the Ramsar Convention.**
- 2. The Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary is located on the east coast of this lake.**
- 3. It is the longest lake in India.**

The above statements mention about which one of the following wetlands?

- (a) Ashtamudi Wetland
- (b) **Vembanad-Kol Wetland**
- (c) Sasthamcotta Lake
- (d) Kolleru Lake

EXPLANATION:

Ashtamudi Lake (AshtamudiKayal), in the Kollam District of the Indian state of Kerala, is the most visited backwater and lake in the state. It possesses a unique wetland ecosystem and a large palm-shaped (also described as octopus-shaped) water body, second only in size to the Vembanad estuary ecosystem of the state. Ashtamudi means 'eight braids' (Ashta : 'eight'; mudi : 'hair braids') in the local Malayalam language. The name is indicative of the lake's topography with its multiple branches. The lake is also called the gateway to the backwaters of Kerala and is well known for its houseboat and backwater resorts. Ashtamudi Wetland was included in the list of wetlands of international importance, as defined by the Ramsar Convention for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands. **So option (a) is not correct.**

Vembanad (VembanadKayal or VembanadKol) is the longest lake in India, and the largest lake in the state of Kerala [Mangrove with area 2114 sq. Km is the second largest Ramasar site in India only after Sunderbans in West Bengal] Spanning several districts in the state of Kerala, it is known as Vembanadu Lake in Alappuzha, Punnamada Lake in Kuttanad and Kochi Lake in Kochi. Several groups of small islands including Vypin, Mulavukad, Vallarpadam, Willingdon Island are located in the Kochi Lake portion. Kochi Port is built around the Willingdon Island and the Vallarpadam island. **So option (b) is correct.**

Sasthamcotta Lake or Sasthamkotta Lake, also categorized as a wetland, is the largest fresh water lake in Kerala, a state of India on the south of the West Coast. The lake is named after the ancient Sastha temple (a pilgrimage centre) located on its bank. It meets the drinking water needs of half million people of the Quilon district and also provides fishing resources. The purity of the lake water for drinking use is attributed to the presence of large population of larva called cavaborus that consumes bacteria in the lake water. The lake is a designated wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention since November 2002. **So option (c) is not correct.**

Kolleru Lake is one of the largest freshwater lakes in India located in state of Andhra Pradesh and forms the largest shallow freshwater lake in Asia, 15 kilometers away from the Eluru and 65km from Rajamahendravaram. Kolleru is located between Krishna and Godavari deltas. Kolleru spans into two districts – Krishna and West Godavari. The lake is fed directly by water from the

seasonal Budameru and Tammileru streams, and is connected to the Krishna and Godavari irrigation systems by over 67 major and minor irrigation canals. This lake is a major tourist attraction. **So option (d) is not correct.**

36. Who among the following introduced a new Mauludi lunisolar calendar in India?

- (a) Aurangzeb
- (b) Shah Jahan
- (c) Tipu Sultan**
- (d) Bahadur Shah

EXPLANATION:

The Mauludi year was started by Tipu Sultan in his 5th regnal year. It was started by him due to the difference between the solar and the lunar calendars. The Lunar Calendar is the Hijri Calendar, followed by the Muslims and the Solar Calendar is the Christian or Gregorian calendar was used by Non-Muslims.

Prior to the equaling of calendar, the revenue was collected according to the lunar calendar and the harvest was according to the solar calendar. This created huge problems as the farmers had to pay extra taxes as the Hijri Calendar depended on the motion of the moon and was 11 days shorter than the Christian Calendar.

Citing this problem Tipu sultan introduced the Mauludi calendar in his fifth regnal year which contained twelve Luni-Solar years of twelve lunar months. Mauludi is derive from Arabic word 'Maulud-i-Muhammad' meaning 'Birth of Muhammad'. With the help of this new calendar problem of solar and lunar calendar was solved.

This is evident from the fact that the coins which come before 1215 bear the date 1200 With regnal year 4. The coins which were stuck in his fifth Regnal year has the date 1215, which signifies that he had introduced the new calendar during the fifth year of his reign.

37. Consider the following statements about the Heat Waves:

- 1. The heatwave is considered when the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C for Plains and at least 30°C for Hilly regions**
- 2. The National Disaster Management Act, 2005 considers heatwave as a natural disaster**

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:

Heat wave is considered if the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C or more for plains, 37°C or more for coastal stations and at least 30°C or more for hilly regions. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

The National Disaster Management Act, 2005, and the National Policy on Disaster Management, 2009, do not include heat wave in the list of natural calamities. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Heat Wave

- A Heat Wave is a period of abnormally high temperatures, more than the normal maximum temperature that occurs during the summer season in the North-Western and South Central parts of India.
- Heat Waves typically occur between March and June, and in some rare cases even extend till July. The extreme temperatures and resultant atmospheric conditions adversely affect people living in these regions as they cause physiological stress, sometimes resulting in death.
- Higher daily peak temperatures and longer, more intense heat waves are becoming increasingly frequent globally due to climate change.

Criteria for Heat Waves

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has given the following criteria for Heat Waves:

- Heat Wave need not be considered till the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C for Plains and at least 30°C for Hilly regions.
- When the normal maximum temperature of a station is less than or equal to 40°C, Heat Wave Departure from normal is 5°C to 6°C and Severe Heat Wave Departure from normal is 7°C or more.
- When the normal maximum temperature of a station is more than 40°C, Heat Wave Departure from normal is 4°C to 5°C and Severe Heat Wave Departure from normal is 6°C or more.
- When the actual maximum temperature remains 45°C or more irrespective of normal maximum temperature, heat waves should be declared.

SOURCE:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/imd-warns-of-severe-heatwave-conditions-for-next-five-days/story-wwE4izgLERVb89ySc824XN.html#:~:text=Heat%20wave%20is%20considered%20if,or%20more%20for%20hilly%20regions.>

38. Which one of the following statements is *not* correct about the Emergency declared under Article 352 of the Indian Constitution?

- (a) During the emergency, State legislatures will not be suspended
- (b) The normal term of Lok Sabha may be extended during an emergency by a motion passed by the Parliament of India**
- (c) During the emergency, Article 20 and 21 of the Indian Constitution cannot be suspended under any case
- (d) When an emergency was declared and if the Lok Sabha disapproves it, then on the same day of disapproval the emergency revokes even without the Presidential order for revocation

EXPLANATION:

During a national emergency, the Centre becomes entitled to give executive directions to a state on 'any' matter. Thus, the state governments are brought under the complete control of the Centre, though they are not suspended. **So, option (a) is correct.**

While a proclamation of National Emergency is in operation, the life of the Lok Sabha may be extended beyond its normal term (five years) by a law of Parliament for one year at a time (for any length of time). However, this extension cannot continue beyond a period of six months after the emergency has ceased to operate. **So, option (b) is not correct.**

Article 20 and 21 of the Indian Constitution cannot be suspended under any case. **So, option (c) is correct.**

If the Lok Sabha disapproves it, then on the same day of disapproval the emergency revokes. **So, option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

National Emergency:

- Article 352 says that if the president is satisfied that a grave emergency exists whereby the security of India or any part of the territory of India is threatened by war or external aggression or armed rebellion, he may proclaim an emergency.
- This emergency may be with respect to whole or part of India.

The article 352 puts certain conditions which are very important to understand:

- The proclamation or formal declaration of emergency can be revoked by further proclamation.
- The proclamation of a war emergency cannot be made by the president unless the Union cabinet gives him in written that such proclamation should be made.
- If a proclamation is NOT revoked subsequently, it should be laid before the parliament. The both houses of parliament must approve such proclamation within two months. If the parliament does not approve the proclamation, it will become ineffective.
- It may be that at the time of the proclamation, the house of people has been dissolved or its dissolution takes place within the period of two months after the proclamation. In these cases, the proclamation shall be laid before Rajya Sabha. If Rajya Sabha passes it, it must be approved by Lok Sabha within the 30 days of the new meeting of the Lok Sabha. However, if Rajya Sabha itself does not pass the proclamation, the proclamation would cease to be valid.
- Power of President to declare an Emergency may be made use of even before the actual occurrence of aggression or disturbance.

SOURCE:

Indian polity by M Laxmikanth

39. Which of the following statements is/are correct about the “Biochar”?

- 1. It helps in increasing soil fertility.**
- 2. It helps in improving soil texture.**
- 3. It reduces the activity of soil microbes.**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

Biochar is recognized as offering a number of soil health benefits. The extremely porous nature of biochar is found to be effective at retaining both water and water-soluble nutrients. The extreme suitability of biochar as a habitat for many beneficial soil micro organisms (**statement 3 is not correct.**) when pre-charged with these beneficial organisms biochar becomes an extremely effective soil amendment promoting good soil and, in turn, plant health.

Biochar has also been shown to reduce leaching of E-coli through sandy soils depending on application rate, feedstock, pyrolysis temperature, soil moisture content, soil texture, and surface properties of the bacteria.

For plants that require high potash and elevated pH, biochar can be used as a soil amendment to improve yield.

Biochar can improve water quality, reduce soil emissions of greenhouse gases, reduce nutrient leaching, reduce soil acidity, and reduce irrigation and fertilizer requirements. **So, statement 1 and 2 are correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Biochar is charcoal used as a soil amendment for both carbon sequestration and soil health benefits.
- Biochar is a stable solid, rich in carbon, and can endure in soil for thousands of years.
- Like most charcoal, biochar is made from biomass via pyrolysis.
- Biochar is under investigation as a viable approach for carbon sequestration, as it has the potential to help mitigate global warming and climate change.
- It results from processes related to pyrogenic carbon capture and storage (PyCCS).
- Biochar may increase soil fertility of acidic soils (low pH soils), increase agricultural productivity, and provide protection against some foliar and soil-borne diseases.
- Regarding its definition in production, biochar is defined by the International Biochar Initiative as "The solid material obtained from the thermochemical conversion of biomass in an oxygen-limited environment"

Agricultural Benefits of Bio char

- It increases crop yields, sometimes substantially if the soil is in poor condition.
- It helps to prevent fertilizer runoff and leaching, allowing the use of less fertilizers.
- It retains moisture, helping plants through periods of drought more easily.
- Most importantly, it replenishes exhausted or marginal soils with organic carbon
- It fosters the growth of soil microbes essential for nutrient absorption, particularly mycorrhizal fungi.
- Bio char can increase soil fertility of acidic soils. (The most fertile soils are slightly acidic)
- Bio-char reduces the acidity of the soil, protects the plants from diseases, promotes growth of friendly microorganisms, and reduces the loss of micro nutrients apart from increasing water retain-ability.

SOURCE:

<https://theprint.in/science/biochar-could-be-the-solution-to-crop-burning-that-indian-farmers-were-waiting-for/296494/>

40. “The Blue Dot Network”, which was recently in the news, is referred to which one of the following?

- (a) It is an International Goods Parcel service
- (b) **It aims to promote high-quality, trusted standards for global infrastructure development**
- (c) It is a certified network for the clean beaches across the country
- (d) It is a new network created for the development of new vaccines

EXPLANATION:

The Blue Dot Network will bring together governments, the private sector, and civil society under shared standards for global infrastructure development. The network will certify infrastructure projects that demonstrate and uphold global infrastructure principles. Certification by the Blue Dot Network will serve as a globally recognized symbol of market-driven, transparent and financially sustainable development projects. By proposing a common standard of project excellence, the Blue Dot Network will attract private capital to infrastructure projects in developing and emerging economies. **So, option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Blue Dot Network

- The BDN was formally announced on 4th November, 2019 at the Indo-Pacific Business Forum in Bangkok, Thailand. It will be led by the US along with Japan and Australia.
- It is a multi-stakeholder initiative to bring together governments, the private sector and civil society to promote high-quality, trusted standards for global infrastructure development.
- It is expected to serve as a globally recognised evaluation and certification system for roads, ports and bridges with a focus on the Indo-Pacific region.
- Infrastructure projects would be graded on debt, environmental standards, labour standards etc.
- This system would apply to projects in any citizen-centric country where citizens would like to evaluate such projects.
- It seems to be planned as a direct counter to China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). However, unlike the BRI, the BDN would not offer public funds or loans for the project. BDN will serve as a globally recognized seal of approval for major infrastructure projects, letting people know that projects are sustainable and not exploitative.

- Till 2019, China's investment in BRI projects in various countries exceeds US\$90 billion. Instead of trying to match China's scale of spending, the US through Blue Dot Network is arguing that the quality of investments in infrastructure is just as important as the quantity.
- The new Blue Dot Network, therefore, is best seen as part of the U.S.A.'s strategy of trying to persuade developing countries in Asia-Pacific not rely on Chinese funds for infrastructure.

SOURCE:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/2020-will-be-an-important-year-for-indo-us-relations-american-official/article30579088.ece>

41. According to the Population Census of India, which one of the following states has the lowest Sex ratio?

- (a) Tamil Nadu
- (b) Maharashtra**
- (c) Meghalaya
- (d) Odisha

EXPLANATION:

Tamil nadu-911
Maharashtra- 878. So option (b) is correct.
Meghalaya-986
Odisha- 979



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

State	2013-15	2012-14	2011-13	2010-12	2009-11	2008-10	2007-09	2006-08	2005-07
Andhra Pradesh	918	919	916	914	915	920	919	917	915
Assam	900	918	920	922	926	928	931	933	939
Bihar	916	907	911	909	910	912	917	914	909
Chhattisgarh	961	973	970	979	991	985	980	975	969
Delhi	869	876	887	884	880	884	882	877	871
Gujarat	854	907	911	909	909	903	904	898	891
Haryana	831	866	864	857	854	848	849	847	843
Himachal Pradesh	924	938	943	939	938	942	944	938	931
Jammu & Kashmir	899	899	902	895	880	873	870	862	854
Jharkhand	902	910	913	918	915	919	921	922	927
Karnataka	939	950	958	950	945	943	944	935	926
Kerala							958		
Madhya Pradesh							913		
Maharashtra							871		
Odisha							933		
Punjab							837		
Rajasthan							865		
Tamil Nadu							944		



Uttar Pradesh								881
Uttarakhand								-
West Bengal								936
India								901
967	974	966	966	965	966	968	964	
919	927	920	921	920	921	926	919	
878	896	902	896	893	895	896	884	
950	953	956	948	946	938	941	937	
889	870	867	863	841	832	836	836	
861	893	893	893	878	877	875	870	
911	921	927	928	926	927	929	936	
879	869	878	874	875	870	874	877	
844	871	-	-	-	-	-	-	
951	952	943	944	941	938	944	941	
900	906	909	908	906	905	906	904	

SOURCE:-

<https://niti.gov.in/content/sex-ratio-females-1000-males>

42. Which one of the following statements denotes the significance of “Azamgarh Proclamation”?

(a) It denoted the religious unity during the First War of Independence in 1857

(b) It denoted the mass participation of Muslim from the northwestern frontier in the Civil Disobedience Movement

- (c) It is a proclamation issued by Mundas to reclaim their land from the British by violent struggle
- (d) It is a proclamation given by Lord Wellesley before the construction of Fort William College

EXPLANATION:

Called the Azamgarh Proclamation (Azamgarh Ishtahār) this declaration was issued (most probably) by Firoz Shah, a grandson of the Mughal Emperor who fought in Awadh, and aims to set out a manifesto for what the rebels were fighting for.

SOURCE:

<http://ncert.nic.in/ncerts/1/lehs302.pdf>

43. Consider the following statements about the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) plan of the Reserve Bank of India:

- 1. PCA is intended to help alert the regulator as well as investors and depositors if a bank is heading for trouble.**
- 2. The PCA framework deems banks as risky if they slip in capital to risk-weighted assets ratio, net NPA, Return on Assets and Tier 1 Leverage ratio.**
- 3. The PCA framework applies to all the banks present in India.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

PCA is intended to help alert the regulator as well as investors and depositors if a bank is heading for trouble. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

The PCA framework deems banks as risky if they slip some trigger points - capital to risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR), net NPA, Return on Assets (RoA) and Tier 1 Leverage ratio. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

The PCA framework is applicable only to Scheduled commercial banks and not to co-operative banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and other non scheduled banks. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Prompt Corrective Action (PCA)

- PCA is a framework under which banks with weak financial metrics are put under watch by the RBI.
- The RBI introduced the PCA framework in 2002 as a structured early-intervention mechanism for banks that become undercapitalised due to poor asset quality, or vulnerable due to loss of profitability.
- It aims to check the problem of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in the Indian banking sector.
- The framework was reviewed in 2017 based on the recommendations of the working group of the Financial Stability and Development Council on Resolution Regimes for Financial Institutions in India and the Financial Sector Legislative Reforms Commission.
- PCA is intended to help alert the regulator as well as investors and depositors if a bank is heading for trouble.
- The idea is to head off problems before they attain crisis proportions.
- Essentially PCA helps RBI monitor key performance indicators of banks, and taking corrective measures, to restore the financial health of a bank.
- The PCA framework deems banks as risky if they slip some trigger points - capital to risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR), net NPA, Return on Assets (RoA) and Tier 1 Leverage ratio.
- Certain structured and discretionary actions are initiated in respect of banks hitting such trigger points.
- The PCA framework is applicable only to commercial banks and not to co-operative banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).

SOURCE:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/opinion/columns/slate/all-you-wanted-to-know-about/article25656136.ece>

44. Consider the following statements about the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act (CAMPA Act):

- 1. According to this Act, a company diverting a forest land must provide alternative land to take up compensatory afforestation.**
- 2. This law establishes the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Public Account of India and a State Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Public Account of each state.**

3. Under this law, the National Fund will receive 10% of the funds, and the State Funds will receive the remaining 90%.

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:

Under the Act, a company diverting forest land must provide alternative land to take up compensatory afforestation and should pay to plant new trees in the alternative land provided to the state. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

The law establishes the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Public Account of India, and a State Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Public Account of each state. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

Under this law, The National Fund will receive 10% of the funds, and the State Funds will receive the remaining 90%. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016 (CAF):

- It seeks to establish the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Public Account of India, and a State Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Public Account of each state.
- It extends to the whole of India.
- The payments into the funds include compensatory afforestation, Net present value (NPV), reforestation and any project specific payments.
- e. to collect funds from user agencies—any person, organization, company or department of the central or state government making a request for diversion or de-notification of forest land for non-forest purposes.
- The National Fund will get 10% of funds collected and the remaining 90% will go to respective State Fund.
- The act also seeks to establish National and State Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authorities (CAMPA) to manage the funds.
- The determination of NPV will be delegated to an expert committee constituted by the central government.

45. Which one of the following is *not* a provision under the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) of the Indian Constitution?

- (a) Opportunities for the healthy development of children
- (b) Organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines
- (c) Protect and improve the environment and to safeguard forests and wildlife
- (d) Preserve the rich heritage and composite culture of India**

EXPLANATION:

Opportunities for the healthy development of children- To secure opportunities for healthy development of children (Article 39)
Organise agriculture and animal husbandry on modern and scientific lines- Article 48
Protect and improve the environment and to safeguard forests and wildlife- Article 48 –A
Preserve the rich heritage and composite culture of India- Not in DPSP

46. “Perfluoroalkyl acids”, sometimes seen the news recently, is

- (a) one of the major non-biodegradable pollutants that get stored in the glaciers**
- (b) one of the major herbicides used in the cultivation of Bt cotton
- (c) a poisonous form of fluoride used in fluorescent lights and batteries
- (d) an organochlorine insecticide and acaricide used in the Cashew Plantations in Kerala

EXPLANATION:

Due to global warming, Himalayan glaciers are melting at an unprecedented rate, releasing decades of accumulated pollutants into ecosystems downstream. To better understand this cycle, the research group measured the concentrations of a class of chemicals used in pesticides called perfluoroalkyl acids (PFAAs) in glacial ice and snow, meltwater runoff, rain and lake water in Nam Co Basin.

PFAAs are known for having a very long lifespan. The chemicals don't regularly biodegrade and are readily passed through organisms and ecosystems while being continually concentrated through various biogeochemical processes. **So, option (a) is correct.**

SOURCE:

<https://phys.org/news/2019-08-decades-old-pollutants-himalayan-glaciers.html>



47. Consider the following statement:

1. Annual average temperatures are largely similar across the latitudes.
2. Annual rainfall largely similar across the latitudes.
3. Coriolis force is largely the same throughout longitude.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

The map given below shows hot pressure varies across latitude and longitude:-

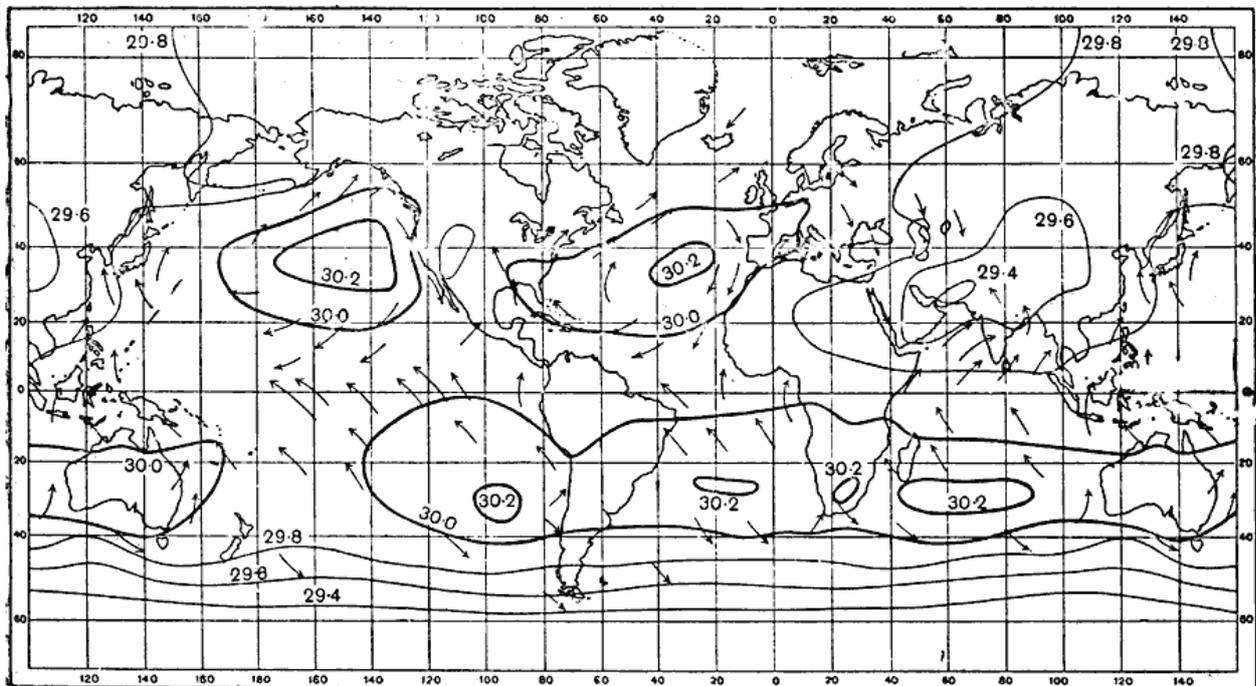


Fig. 6.—JULY ISOBARS

SOURCE:-

Geography NCERT

48. Who among the following wrote “Gatha saptasati”, an ancient collection of Indian poems in Maharashtri Prakrit language?

- (a) Hala
- (b) Kalidasa
- (c) Ashvaghosha
- (d) Kautilya

EXPLANATION:

The name *Gathasaptashati* means 700 verses written in the *gatha* form. They were compiled probably between 1,800 and 1,500 years ago, though we have no specific date like we do for the texts of the Greeks and Romans which often find mention in this column.

Lovely and rare

The text was compiled by an individual named Hala. Sometimes he is referred to (in other writings) as a king, but it is not known for sure who he was and when he lived, although the Deccan seems to come up often when the text is referred to.

There is reference to the river Tapi, which cuts through Surat, almost in the centre of India.

It was written in a form of Prakrit that had its origins in what is today Maharashtra. We know that because there are words in its vocabulary that are Dravidian in origin. Kalidasa also wrote in Maharashtri Prakrit.

One of the more remarkable things about the *Gathasaptashati* is that it is written from the perspective almost wholly of women. I say this because we are a patriarchal society where family honour is reposed in the body of the woman.

SOURCE:

<https://www.thehindu.com/books/a-scorpions-bitten-her-halas-gathasaptashati/article25567965.ece>

49. The 15th Finance Commission of India uses which of the following criteria when deciding the devolution to states?

1. Population in 2011
2. Forest and ecology
3. Demographic performance

4. Infrastructural Development

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

The 15th Finance Commission uses the following criteria when deciding the devolution to states

- Population in 2011
- Forest and ecology
- Demographic performance
- Area
- Income Distance between states
- Tax Effort taken by states

Infrastructural Development is not taken into account when deciding the devolution to states. **So, option (c) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Key recommendations of 15th Finance Commission

- Reduction in share of states in divisible pool of central taxes to 41% from prevailing 42%. Newly formed Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh, will now get funds from Centre's share.
- Reintroduced performance-based incentives to states on 2 parameters – demographic performance (based on Total Fertility Rate) and taxation efforts.
- Rationalise centrally sponsored schemes and Centre and states should fully reveal their offbudget borrowings.
- An overarching fiscal framework for Centre & states, on lines of FRBM Act, to lay down accounting, budgeting and auditing standards to be followed at all levels of government.
- Enhanced devolution to local bodies compared to 14th FC.

50. With reference to the Constitutional Office-Holders in India, consider the following statements about the Governor:

- 1. She/he can frame rules concerning the recruitment of the subordinate judiciary in the state in consultation with that state legislature.**
- 2. She/he can reserve an ordinary bill, passed by that state legislature, for the consideration of the President of India if he/she deems it necessary.**

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 practice, the appointment of subordinate and district court judges are done by High Courts concerned in consultation with state public service commission. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

Governor can reserve both a money bill and an ordinary bill for the consideration of the president. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

With Regard to Ordinary Bills

- Every ordinary bill, after it is passed by the legislative assembly in case of a unicameral legislature or by both the Houses in case of a bicameral legislature either in the first instance or in the second instance, is presented to the governor for his assent. He has four alternatives:
 - He may give his assent to the bill, the bill then becomes an act.
 - He may withhold his assent to the bill, the bill then ends and does not become an act.
 - He may return the bill for reconsideration of the House or Houses. If the bill is passed by the House or Houses again with or without amendments and presented to the governor for his assent, the governor must give his assent to the bill. Thus, the governor enjoys only a 'suspensive veto'.
 - He may reserve the bill for the consideration of the President.
- When the governor reserves a bill for the consideration of the President, he will not have any further role in the enactment of the bill. If the bill is returned by the President for the reconsideration of the House or Houses and is passed again, the bill must be

presented again for the presidential assent only. If the President gives his assent to the bill, it becomes an act. This means that the assent of the Governor is no longer required

With Regard to Money Bills

- Every money bill, after it is passed by the state legislature (unicameral or bicameral), is presented to the governor for his assent. He has three alternatives:
 - He may give his assent to the bill, the bill then becomes an act.
 - He may withhold his assent to the bill, the bill then ends and does not become an act.
 - He may reserve the bill for the consideration of the president.
- Thus, the governor cannot return a money bill for the reconsideration of the state legislature. Normally, the governor gives his assent to a money bill as it is introduced in the state legislature with his previous permission. When the governor reserves a money bill for the consideration of the President, he will not have any further role in the enactment of the bill. If the President gives his assent to the bill, it becomes an Act. This means that the assent of the governor is no longer required.

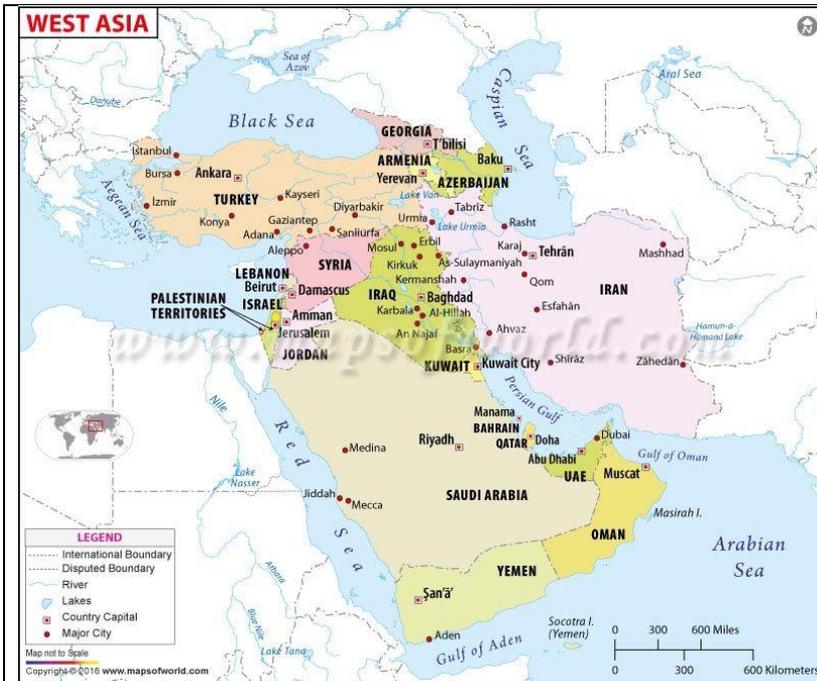
SOURCE:

Indian polity by M Laxmikanth

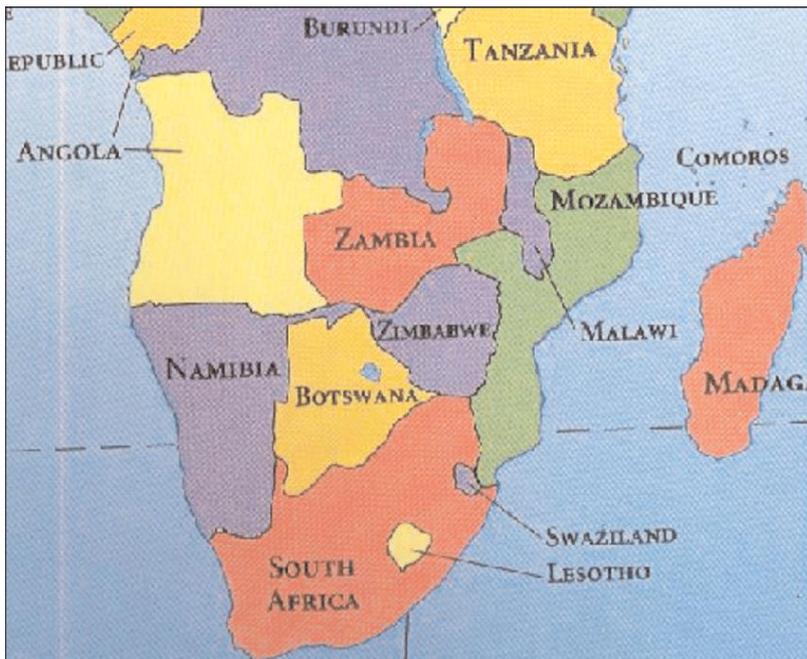
51. Which one of the following set of countries does *not* share a border?

- (a) Iraq and Jordan
- (b) Angola and Zambia
- (c) **Paraguay and Uruguay**
- (d) Ukraine and Belarus

EXPLANATION:



So option (a) is not correct.



So option (b) is not correct.



So option (c) is correct.



So option (d) is not correct.

52. Which of the following is/are the initiative(s) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)?

- 1. Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative**
- 2. Global Platform for Sustainable Cities**
- 3. Sustainable Social Housing Initiative**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative (UNEP-SBCI) aims to promote the worldwide adoption of sustainable buildings and construction practices, UNEP-SBCI's activities are guided by four key goals: provide a common platform for dialogue and collective action among building sector stakeholders; develop tools and strategies for achieving greater acceptance and adoption of sustainable building policies and practices worldwide; establish baselines which are globally recognized and based on a life-cycle approach; and demonstrate through pilot projects the important role buildings have to play in mitigation and adaptation to climate change. This is an initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Led by the World Bank, the Global Platform for Sustainable Cities (GPSC) is a forum for knowledge sharing and partnership to achieve urban sustainability. The GPSC promotes an integrated approach to urban development, focusing on urban sustainability indicators, planning, and financing. **This is not an initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme.**

The Sustainable Social Housing Initiative (SUSHI) seeks to enhance the capacities of the stakeholders to integrate sustainable solutions in the design, construction and operation of social housing units, delivering environmental, social and economic benefits to low-income populations and to the society as a whole and promote sustainability in social housing programmes, responding to local challenges and priorities. This is an initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme. **So, option (b) is correct.**

SOURCE:

[https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/technology/what-we-do/technology-portfolio/technology-portfolio-initiatives#:~:text=UNEP%20Finance%20Initiative%20%2D%20\(UNEP%20FI,mission%20to%20promote%20sustainable%20finance.&text=Achim%20Steiner%20in%202015%2C%20serves,UN%20Environment's%20work%20on%20trade.](https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/technology/what-we-do/technology-portfolio/technology-portfolio-initiatives#:~:text=UNEP%20Finance%20Initiative%20%2D%20(UNEP%20FI,mission%20to%20promote%20sustainable%20finance.&text=Achim%20Steiner%20in%202015%2C%20serves,UN%20Environment's%20work%20on%20trade.)

53. Which of the following condition(s) is/are necessary for the money to function effectively as a 'store of value'?

- 1. Sufficiently stable money value**
- 2. Higher rates of inflation**
- 3. Cheap loans**

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:

A major disadvantage of using commodities — such as wheat or salt or even animals like horses or cows — as money is that after a time they deteriorate and lose economic value. They are, thus, not at all satisfactory as a means of storing wealth. To realise the problems of saving in a barter economy let us consider a farmer. He wanted to save some wheat each week for future consumption. But this would be of no use to him in his old age because the 'savings' would have gone off.

Again, if a coal miner wanted to set aside a certain amount of coal each week for the same purpose, he would have problems of finding enough storage space for all his coal. By using money, such problems can be overcome and people are able to save for the future. Modern form of money (such as coins, notes and bank deposits) permit people to save their surplus income.

Thus money is used as a store of purchasing power. It can be held over a period of time and used to finance future payments. Moreover, when people save money, they get the assurance that the money saved will have value when they wish to spend it in the future. However, this statement holds only if there is no severe inflation (or deflation) in the country.

In other words, it is quite obvious that money can only act effectively as a store of value if its own value is stable. If, for example, most people feel that their savings would become worthless very soon, they would spend them at once and save nothing.

54. With reference to the qualifications for contesting in political elections in India, consider the following statements:

- 1. If a person is on bail, after the conviction and his appeal is pending for disposal, he/she is qualified for contesting elections in India.**
- 2. If a person is a registered voter in Delhi, he/she can contest an election to Lok Sabha from any constituency in the country.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Even if a person is on bail, after the conviction and his appeal is pending for disposal, he is disqualified from contesting an election as per the guidelines issued by the Election Commission of India. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

If you are a registered voter in Delhi, you can contest an election to Lok Sabha from any constituency in the country except Assam, Lakshadweep and Sikkim, as per Section 4 (c), 4 (cc) and 4 (ccc) of the R. P. Act, 1951. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

SOURCE:

<https://eci.gov.in/faqs/elections/contesting-for-elections/faqs-contesting-for-elections-r4/>

<http://www.ceodelhi.nic.in/eLearningv2/admin/EnglishPDF/Qualification.pdf>

55. Consider the following statements about the Vijayanagara Empire:

- 1. Abdur Razzaq and Afanasi Nikitin were the foreign travellers who visited the Vijayanagara Empire.**
- 2. The irrigation system was very well developed during the Vijayanagara Empire.**
- 3. The capital city of Hampi was developed on the banks of river Krishna.**

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:

The Italian traveller Nicolo and Persian traveller Abdul Razaq visited Vijayanagara empire towards the middle of the 15th century A.D. The Portuguese travellers Dominigos Pius, Barbosa and Nuniz came to India in the early part of the 16th century. Afanasy Nikitin who lived in the second part of the 15th century was the first Russian to record his unique experiences in India. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

In southern India, irrigation was very well developed during the Vijayanagara empire which has been evidenced from various archeological investigations. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Hampi is situated on the banks of the Tungabhadra River in the eastern part of central Karnataka near the state border with Andhra Pradesh. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

56. Which one of the following Island is closest to the Equator?

- (a) Greenland
- (b) Iceland
- (c) Tasmania
- (d) Madagascar**

EXPLANATION:

Greenland is situated beyond the tropic of cancer. Hence, it is not closest to the equator as per the given options. **So, option (a) is not correct.**

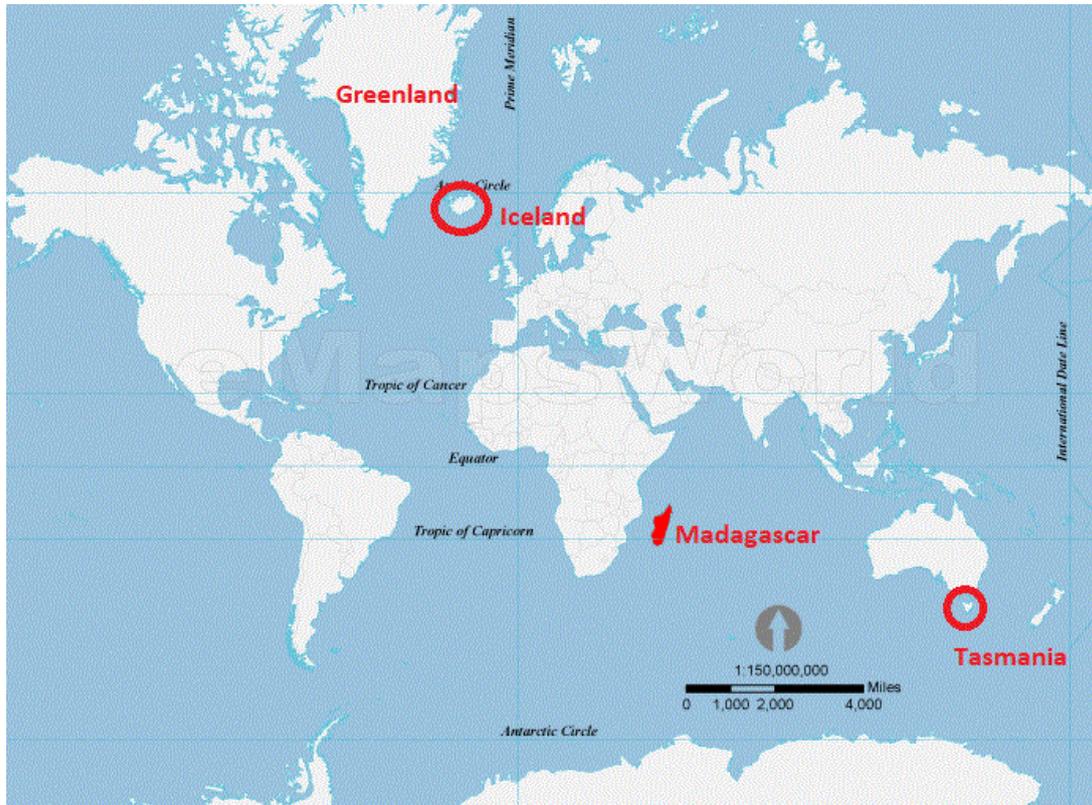
Iceland is situated beyond the tropic of cancer. Hence, it is not closest to the equator as per the given options. **So, option (b) is not correct.**

Tasmania is situated beyond the tropic of Capricorn. Hence, it is not closest to the equator as per the given options. **So, option (c) is not correct.**

Madagascar is situated between the equator and tropic of cancer. Hence, it is closest to the equator as per the given options. **So, option (d) is correct.**



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:



57. Consider the following statements about the “World Economic Outlook”:

- 1. It is an annual publication released by the International Monetary Fund.**
- 2. It projects developments in the global financial markets and economic systems.**
- 3. It ranks the countries based on their Forex reserves.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

World Economic Outlook is a survey by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that is usually published twice a year in the months of April and October. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

It projects developments in the global financial markets and economic systems. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

It does not rank the countries based on their Forex reserves. The World Economic Outlook (WEO) is an IMF report that provides analysis and forecasts of economic developments and policies in its member countries. The report encapsulates state of the global economy and highlights risks and uncertainty that threaten growth. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

SOURCE:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/coronavirus-imf-projects-19-growth-for-india-in-2020/article31340201.ece>

58. “The Global Energy Review 2020” has been released by which one of the following organization?

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

EXPLANATION:

International Energy Agency (IEA) has released a report namely, Global Energy Review:2020 which also includes the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on global energy demand and CO₂ emissions. **So, option (b) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Covid-19 shock global energy demand

- The IEA’s Global Energy Review studies the impacts of the Covid-19 crisis on global energy demand and CO emissions.
- The projections of energy demand and energy-related emissions for 2020 are based on assumptions that the lockdowns implemented around the world.
- It projects a 6 per cent fall in energy demand in 2020 — seven times the decline after the 2008 global financial crisis.
- Electricity demand is set to decline by 5 per cent in 2020, the largest drop since the Great Depression in the 1930s.

Global Energy Demands

- The countries in full lockdown are experiencing an average decline of 25% in energy demand per week, while in those with a partial lockdown, the fall in energy demand is about 18% per week.
- Global energy demand declined by 3.8% in the first quarter of 2020 compared to the first quarter of 2019.
- Further, it is expected that the impact of Covid 19 on energy demand in 2020 would be more than seven times larger than the impact of the 2008 financial crisis on global energy demand.
- Considering the above scenario the global demand of various energy sources can be analysed as given below

Coal Demand:

- It has been declined by 8% compared with the first quarter of 2019.
- The reasons for such decline include, China – a coal-based economy – was the country hardest hit by Covid 19 in the first quarter and cheap gas and continued growth in renewables elsewhere challenged coal.

Oil Demand:

- It has declined by 5% in the first quarter, majorly due to curtailment in mobility and aviation, which account for nearly 60% of global oil demand.
- The report also estimates that the global demand for oil could further drop by 9% on average in 2020, which will return oil consumption to 2012 levels.

Gas Demand:

- The impact of the pandemic on gas demand has been moderate, at around 2%, as gas-based economies were not strongly affected in the first quarter of 2020.

Renewables Energy Resources Demand:

- It is the only source that has registered a growth in demand, driven by larger installed capacity.
- Further, the demand for renewables is expected to rise by 1% by 2020 because of low operating costs and preferential access for many power systems.

Electricity Demand:

- It has been declined by 20% during periods of full lockdown in several countries.
- However, the residential demand is outweighed by reductions in commercial and industrial operations.

Indian scenario

- The declines in electricity and transport demand in India have been among the deepest globally, but the contractions over the full year are likely to be smaller than the global average.
- The impact of the crisis on energy demand is heavily dependent on the duration and stringency of measures to curb the spread of the virus.
- At the same time, lockdown measures are driving a major shift towards low-carbon sources of electricity including nuclear, hydropower, wind and solar PV.

SOURCE:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/covid-19-lockdown-impact-global-energy-sector-demand-explained-6386515/>

59. Consider the following pairs:

<i>National Park</i>	<i>Natural Habitat of</i>
1. Velavadar National Park	- Blackbuck
2. Sanjay Gandhi National Park	- Yellow-footed Green Pigeon
3. Nagarhole National Park	- Phayre's Langur

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

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

EXPLANATION:

Velvadore Blackbuck National Park is situated in the Bhavnagar District of Gujarat state, India. Black buck is the most dominant species in this national park. **So, pair 1 is correct.**

Sanjay Gandhi National Park is a 87 km² (34 sq mi) protected area in Mumbai, Maharashtra State in India. It was established in 1996 with headquarters at Borivali. Yellow-footed green pigeon is found in this National Park. **So, pair 2 is correct.**

Nagarhole National Park is a national park located in Kodagu district and Mysore district in Karnataka, India. It is one of India's premier Tiger Reserves along with the

adjoining Bandipur Tiger Reserve and Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary. Phayre's Langur is not found in this park. **So, pair 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Phayre's leaf monkey (*Trachypithecus phayrei*), also known as Phayre's langur, is a species of lutung native to Southeast Asia including India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and China.
- It is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List and is threatened by hunting and loss of habitat.
- The species epithet commemorates Arthur Purves Phayre.
- It is mostly arboreal and feeds on leaves of many tree species.
- In India, it is found in Tripura.

60. Consider the following statements about the Solicitor General of India:

- 1. The Solicitor General assists the Law Minister of India and is a part of the Law Commission of India.**
- 2. Unlike the Attorney General, the Solicitor General does not give legal advice to the Government of India.**
- 3. The Solicitor General is appointed by the President of India.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Law Commission of India is an executive body established by an order of the Government of India. Its major function is to work for legal reform. Its membership primarily comprises legal experts, who are entrusted a mandate by the Government. The commission is established for a fixed tenure and works as an advisory body to the Ministry of Law and Justice. The Solicitor General does not assist the Law Minister of India and is not a part of the Law Commission of India. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

Unlike the Attorney General, the Solicitor General does not give legal advice to the government. The main role/duty of the Solicitor General is to appear in courts on behalf of the Government of India. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) recommends the appointment and president officially appoints the Solicitor General. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Solicitor General of India is subordinate to the Attorney General for India.
- He/She is the second law officer of the country, assists the Attorney General, and is himself/herself assisted by Additional Solicitors General for India.
- Like the Attorney General for India, the Solicitor General and the Additional Solicitors General advise the Government and appear on behalf of the Union of India in terms of the Law Officers (Terms and Conditions) Rules, 1972.
- However, unlike the post of Attorney General for India, which is a Constitutional post under Article 76 of the Constitution of India, the posts of the Solicitor General and the Additional Solicitors General are merely statutory.
- Appointments Committee of the Cabinet(ACC) recommends the appointment and president officially appoints the Solicitor General.
- The proposal for appointment of Solicitor General, Additional Solicitor General is generally moved at the, level of Joint secretary/Law Secretary in the Department of Legal Affairs and after obtaining the approval of the Minister of Law & Justice, the proposal goes to the ACC and then to the president.

Duties of Solicitor General are laid out in Law Officers (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1987:

- to give advice to the Government of India upon such legal matters, and to perform such other duties of a legal character, as may from time to time, be referred or assigned to him by the Government of India.
- to appear, whenever required, in the Supreme Court or in any High Court on behalf of the Government of India in cases (including suits, writ petitions, appeal and other proceedings) in which the Government of India is concerned as a party or is otherwise interested;
- to represent the Government of India in any reference made by the President to the Supreme Court under Article 143 of the Constitution; and
- to discharge such other functions as are conferred on a Law Officer by or under the Constitution or any other Law for the time being in force.

61. Which one of the following place in India is *not* associated with the life of Buddha or Buddhism?

- (a) Nasik
- (b) Karle
- (c) **Manda**
- (d) Barabar

EXPLANATION:

Manda is a village and an archaeological site in Jammu in the Indian union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. It was excavated by Archaeological Survey of India during 1976-77 by J. P. Joshi. The site contains ruins of an ancient Indus Valley Civilization

62. “2020 CD3”, which was recently seen in the news, is

- (a) **A tiny asteroid orbiting the Earth**
- (b) a recently approved antibody test kit for rapid COVID-19 testing
- (c) an asteroid from which NASA took a sample to study about the origin of the solar system
- (d) a space-based observatory built by European Space Agency

EXPLANATION:

In Arizona (USA), the astronomers of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)-funded Catalina Sky Survey (CSS) have observed a small object orbiting Earth. It is actually an asteroid with a diameter of about 1.9-3.5 m. It has been named 2020 CD3. It is also called “mini-moon” or the planet’s “second moon”. It is orbiting at a distance farther from Earth. **So, option (a) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Astronomers have observed a small object orbiting Earth, which they have dubbed a “mini-moon” or the planet’s “second moon”.
- It is actually an asteroid, about the size of a car; its diameter is about 1.9-3.5 m. And unlike our permanent Moon, the mini-moon is temporary; it will eventually break free of Earth’s orbit and go off on its own way.
- Dubbed 2020 CD3, the mini-moon was discovered by Kacper Wierzchos and Teddy Pruyne of the NASA-funded Catalina Sky Survey (CSS) in Arizona.

- When an asteroid's orbit crosses Earth's orbit, it can sometimes be captured into the latter orbit. This is what happened with 2020 CD3. It is now orbiting at a distance farther from Earth. Such an asteroid is called a Temporarily Captured Object (TCO).
- The orbit of such objects is unstable. They have to contend with the gravitational influence of our permanent Moon as well as that of the Sun. Once caught in Earth's orbit, such objects usually remain for a few years before they break free and go into independent orbit around the Sun.
- According to the researchers, 2020 CD3 was captured into Earth's orbit over three years ago. For CSS, it is only the second such discovery. It previously discovered 2006 RH120, which orbited Earth for some time that year, before it escaped in 2007.

SOURCE:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/express-explained-what-is-mini-moon-6290115/>

63. Which of the following is *not* an effective measure to control inflation in an economy?

- (a) Reducing the wages of the employees
- (b) **Decreasing the income tax and corporate tax**
- (c) Increasing the repo rate
- (d) Policies to increase the competitiveness and efficiency of the economy

EXPLANATION:

By reducing the wages of the employees, they have less money to spend. This leads to less amount of money circulation in the economy. Hence, it can control inflation in the economy. **So, option (a) is not correct.**

By decreasing the income tax and corporate tax, the public will have more money to spend. This leads to more amount of money circulation in the economy. Hence, it cannot control inflation in the economy. **So, option (b) is correct.**

Repo rate is the rate at which the central bank of a country (lends money to commercial banks in the event of any shortfall of funds. Repo rate is used by monetary authorities to control inflation. In the event of inflation, central banks increase repo rate as this acts as a disincentive for banks to borrow from the central bank. This ultimately reduces the money supply in the economy and thus helps in arresting inflation. **So, option (c) is not correct.**

Policies to increase the competitiveness and efficiency of the economy can help to control inflation in the economy. The government of a country takes several measures and formulates policies to control economic activities. Monetary policy is one of the most commonly used measures taken by the government to control inflation.

Apart from monetary policy, the government also uses fiscal measures to control inflation. The two main components of fiscal policy are government revenue and government expenditure. In fiscal policy, the government controls inflation either by reducing private spending or by decreasing government expenditure, or by using both. **So, option (d) is not correct.**

64. Which one of the following statements is *not* correct about the Government of India Act, 1935?

- (a) It extended franchise and about 10 per cent of the total Indian population got the voting right
- (b) The British Parliament retained its supremacy over the Indian legislatures both at the provincial and federal level
- (c) Both Houses of the central legislature had representatives from the princely states
- (d) The reserved subjects under the federal lists were controlled by the Governor-General with the help of Federal Assembly**

EXPLANATION:

The reserved subjects were controlled by the Governor-General who administered them with the help of three counsellors appointed by him. They were not responsible to the legislature. These subjects included defence, ecclesiastical affairs (church-related), external affairs, press, police, taxation, justice, power resources and tribal affairs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Government of India Act, 1935 – Background

1. There was a growing demand for constitutional reforms in India by Indian leaders.
2. India's support to Britain in the First World War also aided in British acknowledgement of the need for the inclusion of more Indians in the administration of their own country.
3. The Act was based on:
 - Simon Commission Report
 - The recommendations of the Round Table Conferences
 - The White Paper published by the British government in 1933 (based on the Third Round Table Conference)

- Report of the Joint Select Committees.

Creation of an All India Federation

1. This federation was to consist of British India and the princely states.
2. The provinces in British India would have to join the federation but this was not compulsory for the princely states.
3. This federation never materialised because of the lack of support from the required number of princely states.

How Government of India Act 1935 divided powers?

1. This Act divided powers between the centre and the provinces.
2. There were three lists which gave the subjects under each government.
 - Federal List (Centre)
 - Provincial List (Provinces)
 - Concurrent List (Both)

The Viceroy was vested with residual powers.

Certain changes that were brought through the government of India Act, 1935 are mentioned in the table below, followed by details:

Government of India Act, 1935 – Changes Brought by the Act	
S.No	Features
1.	Provincial autonomy
2.	Diarchy at the centre
3.	Bicameral legislature
4.	Federal court
5.	Indian Council
6.	Franchise

7.

Reorganisation

Provincial autonomy

1. The Act gave more autonomy to the provinces.
2. Diarchy was abolished at the provincial levels.
3. The Governor was the head of the executive.
4. There was a Council of Ministers to advise him. The ministers were responsible to the provincial legislatures who controlled them. The legislature could also remove the ministers.
5. However, the governors still retained special reserve powers.
6. The British authorities could still suspend a provincial government.

Diarchy at the centre

1. The subjects under the Federal List were divided into two: Reserved and Transferred.
2. The reserved subjects were controlled by the Governor-General who administered them with the help of three counsellors appointed by him. They were not responsible to the legislature. These subjects included defence, ecclesiastical affairs (church-related), external affairs, press, police, taxation, justice, power resources and tribal affairs.
3. The transferred subjects were administered by the Governor-General with his Council of Ministers (not more than 10). The Council had to act in confidence with the legislature. The subjects in this list included local government, forests, education, health, etc.
4. However, the Governor-General had 'special powers' to interfere in the transferred subjects also.

Bicameral legislature

1. A bicameral federal legislature would be established.
2. The two houses were the Federal Assembly (lower house) and the Council of States (upper house).
3. The federal assembly had a term of five years.
4. Both houses had representatives from the princely states also. The representatives of the princely states were to be nominated by the rulers and not elected. The representatives of British India were to be elected. Some were to be nominated by the Governor-General.

5. There were to be separate electorates for the minority communities, women and the depressed classes.
6. Bicameral legislatures were introduced in some provinces also like Bengal, Madras, Bombay, Bihar, Assam and the United Provinces.

Federal court

1. A federal court was established at Delhi for the resolution of disputes between provinces and also between the centre and the provinces.
2. It was to have 1 Chief Justice and not more than 6 judges.

Indian Council

1. The Indian Council was abolished.
2. The Secretary of State for India would instead have a team of advisors.

Franchise

1. This Act introduced direct elections in India for the first time.

Reorganisation

1. Sindh was carved out of Bombay Presidency.
2. Bihar and Orissa were split.
3. Burma was severed off from India.
4. Aden was also separated from India and made into a Crown colony.

Other points

1. The British Parliament retained its supremacy over the Indian legislatures both provincial and federal.
2. A Federal Railway Authority was set up to control Indian railways.
3. The act provided for the establishment of Reserve Bank of India.
4. The Act also provided for the establishment of federal, provincial and joint Public Service Commissions.
5. The Act was a milestone in the development of a responsible constitutional government in India.
6. The Government of India Act 1935 was replaced by the Constitution of India after independence.
7. The Indian leaders were not enthusiastic about the Act since despite granting provincial autonomy the governors and the viceroy had considerable 'special powers'.
8. Separate communal electorates were a measure through which the British wanted to ensure the Congress Party could never rule on its own. It was also a way to keep the people divided.

65. Consider the following statements about “Environmental Impact Assessment” (EIA) in India:

1. **EIA is statutorily backed by the Environment Protection Act, 1986.**
2. **EIA is a systematic process of identifying future consequences of current or proposed action.**
3. **It is mandatory only for the new Greenfield Projects not for the existing Brownfield projects.**

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:

Environment Impact Assessment in India is statutory backed by the Environment Protection Act in 1986, which contains various provisions on EIA methodology and process. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

EIA is a systematic process of identifying future consequences of a current or proposed action. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

EIA is mandatory for the new Greenfield Projects and also for the existing Brownfield projects. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a process of evaluating the likely environmental impacts of a proposed project or development, taking into account inter-related socio-economic, cultural and human-health impacts, both beneficial and adverse.
- Environment Impact Assessment in India is statutorily backed by the Environment Protection Act, 1986 which contains various provisions on EIA methodology and process

EIA involves the steps mentioned below. However, the EIA process is cyclical with interaction between the various steps.

- Screening: The project plan is screened for scale of investment, location and type of development and if the project needs statutory clearance.
- Scoping: The project's potential impacts, zone of impacts, mitigation possibilities and need for monitoring.
- Collection of baseline data: Baseline data is the environmental status of study area.

- Impact prediction: Positive and negative, reversible and irreversible and temporary and permanent impacts need to be predicted which presupposes a good understanding of the project by the assessment agency.
- Mitigation measures and EIA report: The EIA report should include the actions and steps for preventing, minimizing or by passing the impacts or else the level of compensation for probable environmental damage or loss.
- Public hearing: On completion of the EIA report, public and environmental groups living close to project site may be informed and consulted.
- Decision making: Impact Assessment Authority along with the experts consult the project-in-charge along with consultant to take the final decision, keeping in mind EIA and EMP (Environment Management Plan).
- Monitoring and implementation of environmental management plan: The various phases of implementation of the project are monitored.
- Assessment of Alternatives, Delineation of Mitigation Measures and Environmental Impact Assessment Report: For every project, possible alternatives should be identified, and environmental attributes compared. Alternatives should cover both project location and process technologies. Once alternatives have been reviewed, a mitigation plan should be drawn up for the selected option and is supplemented with an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to guide the proponent towards environmental improvements.
- Risk assessment: Inventory analysis and hazard probability and index also form part of EIA procedures.

SOURCE:

<https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=78936>

66. In the Parliament of India, for which of the following Bill(s) a Joint Sitting of the two Houses can be summoned to resolve a deadlock?

- 1. Constitutional Amendment Bill under Article 368**
- 2. Money Bill under Article 110**
- 3. Financial Bill (I) under Article 117(1)**
- 4. Financial Bill (II) under Article 117(3)**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

(d) 4 only

EXPLANATION:

The provision of joint sitting is applicable to ordinary bills or financial bills only and not to money bills or Constitutional amendment bills. In the case of a **money bill**, the Lok Sabha has overriding powers, while a **Constitutional amendment bill** must be passed by each House separately.

A financial bill (I) under Article 117(1) is a bill that contains not only any or all the matters mentioned in Article 110, but also other matters of general legislation. A financial bill (I) is governed by the same legislative procedure applicable to an ordinary bill. In case of a disagreement between the two Houses over **Financial Bill (I) under Article 117(1)**, the president can summon a joint sitting of the two Houses to resolve the deadlock.

A **financial bill (II) under Article 117(3)** contains provisions involving expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India, but does not include any of the matters mentioned in Article 110. It is treated as an ordinary bill and in all respects, it is governed by the same legislative procedure which is applicable to an ordinary bill. 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. **So, option (c) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Joint sitting is an extraordinary machinery provided by the Constitution to resolve a deadlock between the two Houses over the passage of a bill. A deadlock is deemed to have taken place under any one of the following three situations after a bill has been passed by one House and transmitted to the other House:
 - if the bill is rejected by the other House;
 - if the Houses have finally disagreed as to the amendments to be made in the bill; or
 - if more than six months have elapsed from the date of the receipt of the bill by the other House without the bill being passed by it.

SOURCE:

Indian polity by M Lakmikanth

67. As per the recent changes, which of the following criteria are applicable to determine the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in India?

- 1. Investment Limit**
- 2. Annual Turnover**
- 3. Annual Export Limit**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

As per the revised criteria, a unit with Rs 50 crore of investment and Rs 250 crore of turnover will fall under the 'medium' enterprise category.

Besides, a manufacturing and services unit with Rs 1 crore of investment and Rs 5 crore of turnover will be classified as 'micro' whereas a unit involving Rs 10 crore of investment and Rs 50 crore of turnover will be categorised as a 'small' enterprise.

Also, a new composite formula of classification for manufacturing and services units has been notified. Now, there will be no difference between the manufacturing and service sectors.

So, option (a) is correct.

SOURCE:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/sme-sector/msmes-to-be-classified-based-on-new-criteria-from-july/articleshow/76175735.cms?from=mdr>

68. Consider the following statements about the Sal Forest Tortoise:

- 1. In India, it is legally protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.**
- 2. It is widely distributed over the eastern and northern part of India and Southeast Asia.**

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:-

Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972: Schedule IV. **So statement 1 is not correct.**

Habitat: It is widely distributed over eastern as well as northern India and Southeast Asia. **So statement 2 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

- Sal Forest Tortoise is also known as the elongated tortoise (Indotestudoelongata).
- Habitat: It is widely distributed over eastern as well as northern India and Southeast Asia.
- IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered.
- CITES: Appendix II
- Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972: Schedule IV
- Threat: Hunted for food, local use such as decorative masks and international wildlife trade.

SOURCE:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/sal-forest-tortoise-habitat-stretches-over-unprotected-areas/article31544837.ece>

69. With reference to the Ancient History of India, consider the following statements:

- 1. Ajanta and Ellora caves are designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.**
- 2. Both FaHien and Hieun Tsang mentioned about Ajanta caves and Ellora caves in their travel accounts.**
- 3. Majority of Ajanta and Ellora caves are developed during the rule of Guptas.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

70. Consider the following statements about the Cabinet Committees in India:

- 1. They are mentioned in the Constitution.**
- 2. They are set up by the President of India from time to time.**

3. They can include Ministers of State also.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The Cabinet Committees are extra-constitutional in emergence. In other words, they are not mentioned in the Constitution. However, the Rules of Business provide for their establishment. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

They are set up by the Prime Minister according to the exigencies of the time and requirements of the situation. Hence, their number, nomenclature, and composition varies from time to time. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

Their membership varies from three to eight. They usually include only Cabinet Ministers. However, the non-cabinet Ministers are not debarred from their membership. Hence, they can include Ministers of State also. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The following are the features of Cabinet Committees:

- They are extra-constitutional in emergence. In other words, they are no mentioned in the Constitution. However, the Rules of Business provide for their establishment.
- They are of two types—standing and ad hoc. The former are of a permanent nature while the latter are of a temporary nature. The ad hoc committees are constituted from time to time to deal with special problems. They are disbanded after their task is completed.
- They are set up by the Prime Minister according to the exigencies of the time and requirements of the situation. Hence, their number, nomenclature, and composition varies from time to time.
- Their membership varies from three to eight. They usually include only Cabinet Ministers. However, the non-cabinet Ministers are not debarred from their membership.
- They not only include the Ministers in charge of subjects covered by them but also include other senior Ministers.

- They are mostly headed by the Prime Minister. Some times other Cabinet Ministers, particularly the Home Minister or the Finance Minister, also acts as their Chairman. But, in case the Prime Minister is a member of a committee, he invariably presides over it.
- They not only sort out issues and formulate proposals for the consideration of the Cabinet, but also take decisions. However, the Cabinet can review their decisions.
- They are an organisational device to reduce the enormous workload of the Cabinet. They also facilitate in-depth examination of policy issues and effective coordination. They are based on the principles of division of labour and effective delegation

SOURCE:

Indian polity by M Lakmikanth

71. Which of the following states in India have drought-prone areas?

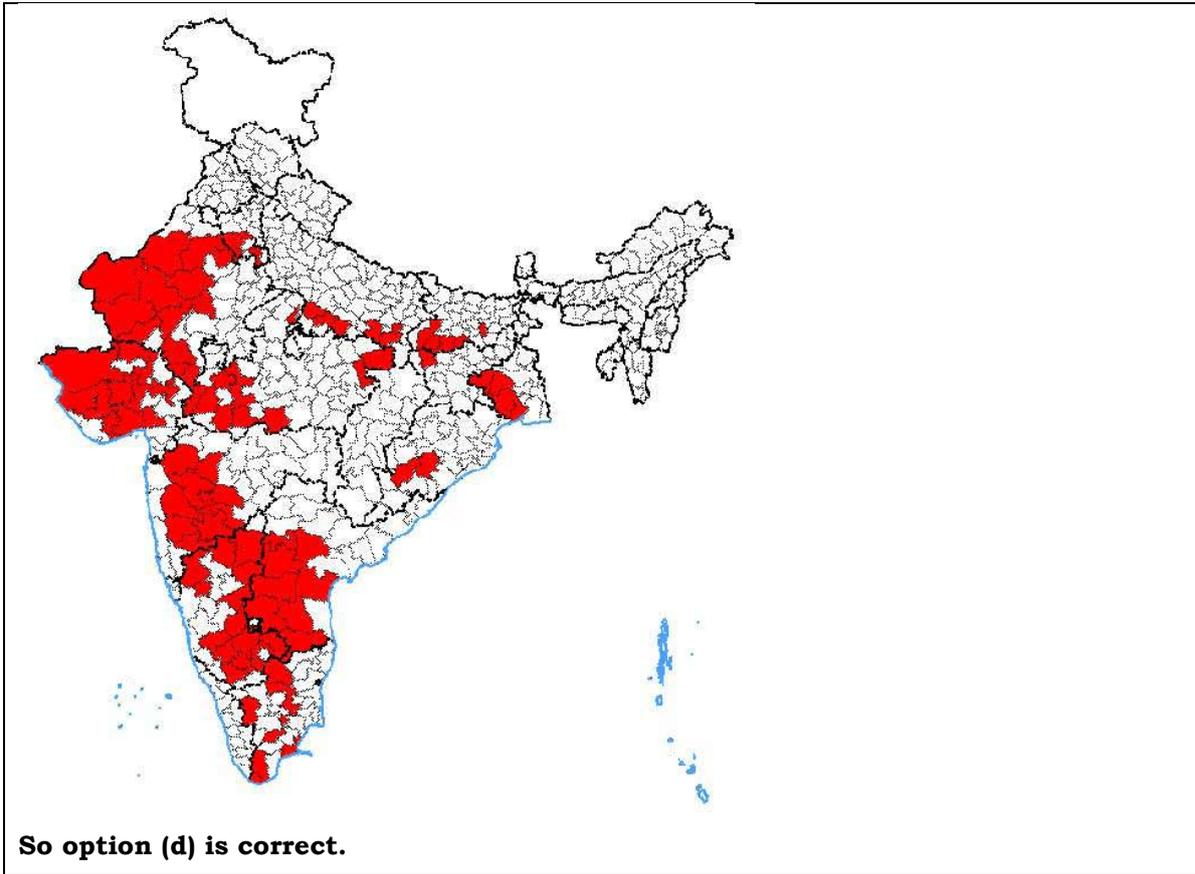
- 1. Karnataka**
- 2. Tamil Nadu**
- 3. Madhya Pradesh**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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



EXPLANATION:-



72. Consider the following pairs:

<i>Pollutant</i>		<i>Natural Source</i>
1. Benzene	-	Volcanoes
2. Radon	-	Soil
3. Nitrogen oxide	-	Lightning

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:

When volcanoes and forest fires erupt, benzene is produced. Benzene is also found in crude oil and gasoline and is discharged in car exhaust. Other petroleum-based

products using benzene are Styrofoam, plastics, nylon, rubber, lubricants, dyes and pesticides. Manufacturers emit benzene during production. **So, pair 1 is correct.**

Radon is produced from the natural radioactive decay of uranium, which is found in all rocks and soil. Radon can also be found in water. Radon escapes easily from the ground into the air, where it decays and produces further radioactive particles. **So, pair 2 is correct.**

A natural source of nitrogen oxides occurs from a lightning stroke. The very high temperature in the vicinity of a lightning bolt causes the gases oxygen and nitrogen in the air to react to form nitric oxide. **So, pair 3 is correct.**

73. River Jhelum runs between which one of the following pairs of mountain ranges?

- (a) Ladakh and Zaskar
- (b) **Zaskar and Pirpanjal**
- (c) Zaskar and Karakoram
- (d) Ladakh and Karakoram

EXPLANATION:

The river Jhelum rises from Verinag Spring situated at the foot of the Pir Panjal in the southeastern part of the Kashmir Valley. It flows northwards into Wular Lake (north-western part of Kashmir Valley). From Wular Lake, it changes its course southwards. At Baramulla the river enters a gorge in the hills. The river forms steep-sided narrow gorge through Pir Panjal Range below Baramulla. At Muzaffarabad, the river takes a sharp hairpin bend southward. Thereafter, it forms the India-Pakistan boundary for 170 km and emerges at the Potwar Plateau near Mirpur. After flowing through the spurs of the Salt Range it debouches (emerge from a confined space into a wide, open area) on the plains near the city of Jhelum. It joins the Chenab at Trimmu. The river is navigable for about 160 km out of a total length of 724 km. Hence, it runs between Zaskar and Pirpanjal mountain ranges. **So, option (b) is correct.**

74. Consider the following statements about the “International Plant Protection Convention”:

- 1. It is a multilateral treaty overseen by the International Union for Conservation of Nature.**
- 2. This Convention is recognized by the World Trade Organization's ‘Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures’.**
- 3. India is not a contracting party to this convention.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is a 1951 multilateral treaty overseen by the Food and Agriculture Organization. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

The Convention is recognized by the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement) as the only international standard setting body for plant health. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

India is a contracting party to this convention. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) is a 1951 multilateral treaty overseen by the Food and Agriculture Organization that aims to secure coordinated, effective action to prevent and to control the introduction and spread of pests of plants and plant products.
- The Convention extends beyond the protection of cultivated plants to the protection of natural flora and plant products. It also takes into consideration both direct and indirect damage by pests, so it includes weeds.
- The Convention created a governing body consisting of each party, known as the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures, which oversees the implementation of the Convention. As of August 2017, the Convention has 183 parties, which includes 180 United Nations member states, the Cook Islands, Niue, and the European Union.
- The Convention is recognized by the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (the SPS Agreement) as the only international standard setting body for plant health.
- While the IPPC's primary focus is on plants and plant products moving in international trade, the Convention also covers research materials, biological control organisms, germplasm banks, containment facilities, food aid, emergency aid and anything else that can act as a vector for the spread of plant pests – for example, containers, packaging materials, soil, vehicles, vessels and machinery.
- The IPPC was created by member countries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.
- The IPPC places emphasis on three core areas: international standard setting, information exchange and capacity development for the implementation of the IPPC and associated international phytosanitary standards.

- The Secretariat of the IPPC is housed at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, and is responsible for the coordination of core activities under the IPPC work program.

SOURCE:

<https://www.ippc.int/en/structure/>

75. Consider the following statements about the nominated members in the Rajya Sabha:

- 1. Criteria for their nomination include practical experience in the field of art, literature, science and social service.**
- 2. They are not entitled to vote in the elections of the President and Vice-President.**
- 3. They are exempted from filing assets under the Representation of the People's Act, 1951.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Twelve members are nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the President of India for six-years term for their contributions towards arts, literature, sciences, and social services. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

The electoral college for the election of the vice president consists of both elected and nominated members of the Parliament (both lok sabha and rajya sabha). The electoral college for the election of the President consists of elected members of the Parliament only. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

A nominated member has also been exempted from filing his assets and liabilities under Section 75A of the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951 which requires the elected member to do so within 90 days of his making or subscribing oath/affirmation. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

SOURCE:

Indian polity by M Lakmikanth

76. With reference to the Indian freedom struggle, consider the following statements about the events that happened during the Non-cooperation Movement:

- 1. Jawaharlal Nehru encouraged the formation of Kisan Sabhas to take up the cause of the peasants exploited by government policies.**
- 2. The Oudh Kisan Sabha was formed in 1920 and headed by Mahatma Gandhi and Baba Ramachandra.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:-

Jawaharlal Nehru encouraged the formation of Kisan Sabhas during NCM. **So statement 1 is correct.**

In 1919 he led the first peasant protest against the landlords and by 1920 had organised all the farmers associations in Oudh, forming the Oudh Kisan Sabha (Oudh Farmers' Association). It was not headed by Gandhi ji. **So statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

Features of the Non-Cooperation Movement

- The movement was essentially a peaceful and non-violent protest against the British government in India.
- Indians were asked to relinquish their titles and resign from nominated seats in the local bodies as a mark of protest.
- People were asked to resign from their government jobs.
- People were asked to withdraw their children from government-controlled or aided schools and colleges.
- People were asked to boycott foreign goods and use only Indian-made goods.
- People were asked to boycott the elections to the legislative councils.
- People were asked not to serve in the British army.
- It was also planned that if the above steps did not bring results, people would refuse to pay their taxes.
- The INC also demanded Swarajya or self-government.
- Only completely non-violent means would be employed to get the demands fulfilled.

- The non-cooperation movement was a decisive step in the independence movement because, for the first time, the INC was ready to forego constitutional means to achieve self-rule.
- Gandhiji had assured that Swaraj would be achieved in a year if this movement was continued to completion

SOURCE:-

Spectrum

77. In the context of the Solar system, which of the following statements explains the term “Sunspots”?

- (a) They are the areas that appear in light white on the surface of the Sun
- (b) They are permanent phenomena on the Sun's Photosphere
- (c) They are hotter areas on the surface of the sun
- (d) **They form due to strong magnetic field lines coming up from within the Sun**

EXPLANATION:

Sunspots are areas that appear dark on the surface of the Sun. They appear dark because they are cooler than other parts of the Sun's surface. So, option (a) is not correct.
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Sunspots are temporary phenomena on the Sun's photosphere that appear as spots darker than the surrounding areas. So, option (b) is not correct.

Sun spots are cooler than other areas on the surface of the sun. It's because they form at areas where magnetic fields are particularly strong. These magnetic fields are so strong that they keep some of the heat within the Sun from reaching the surface. So, option (c) is not correct.

Sunspots form on the surface of the Sun due to strong magnetic field lines coming up from within the Sun through the solar surface. So, option (d) is correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Sunspots form on the surface of the Sun due to strong magnetic field lines coming up from within the Sun through the solar surface and appear visibly as dark spots compared to their surroundings.
- These sunspots which can become many times bigger than the Earth are always dark because they are much cooler than the surrounding surface of the Sun itself.

- A big sunspot can have a temperature of 3700°C. This sounds like much but if we compare this with the temperature of the photosphere of the Sun which is about 5500°C, then you see that there is a considerable difference.
- As a matter of fact, if we could take a sunspot out of the Sun and place it into our night sky it would only be as bright as the full moon, a very big contrast with the bright Sun itself.
- Sunspots are a common sight on our Sun during the years around solar maximum. Solar maximum or solar max is the period of greatest solar activity in the solar cycle of the Sun, where one solar cycle lasts about 11 years. Around solar minimum, only very few or even no sunspots can be found.
- Sunspots form where magnetic field lines come up from the Sun's interior through the solar surface meaning that every sunspot has its own polarity.

SOURCE:

<https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/solar-activity/en/>

78. Chief Whip of the Government of India in Parliament is

- (a) Minister of Home Affairs
- (b) Any Minister nominated by the Prime Minister
- (c) Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions
- (d) **Minister of Parliamentary Affairs**

EXPLANATION:

The chief whip is a Member of Parliament (MP) drawn from the party in power and also from the party that sits in opposition. The whip is also an important party office-bearer in the House. In India, the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is the Chief Whip of the Government. He is assisted by assistant whips also. There are also regional whips who are in liaison with the party members of the states. **So, option (d) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- As per the Tenth Schedule i.e. anti-defection law, a political party has a constitutional right to issue a whip to its legislators.
- The term 'whip' is derived from the conventional British parliamentary procedure of ordering the legislators both ruling and opposition parties to following the party line.
- A whip is a directive from a political party that binds the members of that political party in a House to obey the line of the party. In India, the concept is a remnant of

the British colonial rule. Most parties appoint a whip whose job it is to ensure discipline among the party members at the floor of the House.

- Although the concept of the whip has no official sanction and is not mentioned in the Constitution, it is a convention that is followed in the Indian Parliament. Any party that finds representation in the House can issue a whip, regardless of its strength in that chamber.
- However, there are some cases where the whip stands non-applicable. At the time of presidential elections, whip cannot direct a member of legislative assembly i.e. MLA or a member of Parliament i.e. MP on whom to vote.
- The chief whip is a Member of Parliament (MP) drawn from the party in power and also from the party that sits in opposition. The whip is also an important party office-bearer in the House.

Functions of Whip

- The chief whip of the party has a crucial role to play in parliamentary democracy. The whip keeps the party together and also ensures smooth and efficient functioning of the business of the House. The chief functions of the whip are:
 - To ensure discipline among party members in the House.
 - To ensure the attendance of the party members.
 - To make sure the MPs vote according to the party line.
 - To ensure that the MPs are informed of the party opinion on the moods of the members.
 - To identify the signs of discontent among MPs and inform the same to respective leaders.
 - To supply the list of speakers on Bills and other businesses in the House.
 - He or she is responsible for maintaining the internal party organization in the Parliament and acts as a binding force in the party.
 - He or she also acts as a counselor to the party members in the House and as an advisor to the party leaders.

79. Consider the following statements about Lala Lajpat Rai:

- 1. He founded the Indian Home Rule League of America in New York City.**
- 2. He was actively associated with the Hindu Mahasabha.**
- 3. He was elected as the President of Indian National Congress at Nagpur Session in 1920.**

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:

In America he had founded the Indian Home Rule League in New York. **So, Statement 1 is correct.**

He was actively associated with the Hindu Mahasabha. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

Viraragavachariar was the President of the Nagpur Indian National Congress Session in 1920. **So, Statement 3 is not correct.**

80. Consider the following passage:

“It is a wildlife sanctuary situated along the eastern coast of India; it is the estuary of Dakshin Ganga; some critically endangered species like the white-backed vulture and the long-billed vulture are present in this sanctuary.”

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

- (a) **Coringa Wildlife sanctuary**
(b) Jaldapara Wildlife sanctuary
(c) Bhitarkanika Wildlife sanctuary
(d) Nelapattu bird sanctuary

EXPLANATION:-

Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary and estuary situated in Andhra Pradesh, India. It is the second largest stretch of mangrove forests in India with 24 mangrove tree species and more than 120 bird species. It is home to the critically endangered white-backed vulture and the long billed vulture. In a mangrove ecosystem the water bodies of the ocean/sea and the river meet together at a certain point. **So option (a) is correct.**

Jaldapara National Park situated at the foothills of the Eastern Himalayas in Alipurduar District of northern West Bengal and on the banks of the Torsa River. Jaldapara is situated at an altitude of 61 m and is spread across 216.51 km² (83.59 sq mi) of vast grassland with patches of riverine forests. It was declared a sanctuary in 1941 for protection of its great variety flora and fauna. Today, it has the largest population of the Indian one horned rhinoceros in the state, an animal threatened with extinction, and is a Habitat management area (Category IV). The nearby Chilapata Forests is an elephant corridor between Jaldapara and the Buxa Tiger Reserve Near by is

the Gorumara National Park, known for its population of Indian rhinoceros. **So option (b) is not correct.**

Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary is located in the estuarial region of Bramhani-Baitarani, in the north-eastern place of Kendrapara district of Odisha (Orissa), the sanctuary covers an area of 672 square kilometers of Mangrove Forests and Wetland. **So option (c) is not correct.**

Nelapattu Bird Sanctuary is a bird sanctuary in Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh, India, near the village of Nelapattu. It has an area of 458.92 hectares. It is an important breeding site for spot-billed pelicans (*Pelecanus philippensis*). Nelapattu has two major plant communities, Barringtonia swamp forests and southern dry evergreen scrub. Southern dry evergreen scrub covers most of the sanctuary, including the 288 hectares of Kalluru Reserved Forest and 88 hectares of unreserved forest. The dominant tree and shrub species are *Manilkara hexandra*, *Mababuxifolia*, *Memecylon edule*, *Buchanania angustifolia*, *Zizyphus xylopyrus*, and others. **So option (d) is not correct.**

SOURCE:-

http://wiienvs.nic.in/Database/npa_8231.aspx

81. With reference to the British era in India, consider the following statements about Paharias:

- 1. They are settled agriculturalist lived in the region of Rajmahal hills.**
- 2. Many paharia chiefs accepted the policy of pacification proposed by the English East India Company.**
- 3. They followed the brutal policy of extermination against the Santhals.**

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

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

EXPLANATION:

Paharias are settled agriculturalist who lived in the region of Rajmahal hills
So, Statement 1 is not correct.

In the 1770s the British embarked on a brutal policy of extermination, hunting the Paharias down and killing them. Then, by the 1780s, Augustus Cleveland, the Collector of Bhagalpur, proposed a policy of pacification. Paharia chiefs were given an annual allowance and made responsible for the proper conduct of their men. They were expected to maintain order in their localities and discipline their own people. Many Paharia chiefs refused the allowances. **So, Statement 2 is not correct.**

British followed the brutal policy of extermination against the santhals.

So, Statement 3 is not correct.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

As settled agriculture expanded, the area under forests and pastures contracted. This sharpened the conflict between hill folk and settled cultivators. The former began to raid settled villages with increasing regularity, carrying away food grains and cattle. Exasperated colonial officials tried desperately to control and subdue the Paharias. But they found the task difficult. In the 1770s the British embarked on a brutal policy of extermination, hunting the Paharias down and killing them. Then, by the 1780s, Augustus Cleveland, the Collector of Bhagalpur, proposed a policy of pacification. Paharia chiefs were given an annual allowance and made responsible for the proper conduct of their men. They were expected to maintain order in their localities and discipline their own people. Many Paharia chiefs refused the allowances. Those who accepted, most often lost authority within the community. Being in the pay of the colonial government, they came to be perceived as subordinate employees or stipendiary chiefs. As the pacification campaigns continued, the Paharias withdrew deep into the mountains, insulating themselves from hostile forces, and carrying on a war with outsiders. So when Buchanan travelled through the region in the winter of 1810 -11 the Paharias naturally viewed him with suspicion and distrust. The experience of pacification campaigns and memories of brutal repression shaped their perception of British infiltration into the area. Every white man appeared to represent a power that was destroying their way of life and means of survival, snatching away their control over their forests and lands. By this time in fact there were newer intimations of danger. Santhals were pouring into the area, clearing forests, cutting down timber, ploughing land and growing rice and cotton. As the lower hills were taken over by Santhal settlers, the Paharias receded deeper into the Rajmahal hills. If Paharia life was symbolised by the hoe, which they used for shifting cultivation, the settlers came to represent the power of the plough. The battle between the hoe and the plough was a long one.

SOURCE:

<http://ncert.nic.in/ncerts/1/lehs301.pdf>

82. With reference to the Sufism, consider the following statements:

- 1. Chishti tradition of Sufism followed absolute isolation from political power.**
- 2. It emphasized seeking salvation through intense devotion and love for God.**
- 3. Sufis sought an interpretation of the Quran based on their personal experience.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

A major feature of the Chishti tradition was austerity, including maintaining a distance from worldly power. However this by no means is absolute separation of power. Even Sufis had good relations with Mughals. **So, Statement 1 is not correct.**

They were critical of the dogmatic definitions and scholastic methods of interpreting the Qur'an and sunna (traditions of the Prophet) adopted by theologians. Instead, they laid emphasis on seeking salvation through intense devotion and love for God by following His commands, and by following the example of the Prophet Muhammad whom they regarded as a perfect human being. **So, Statement 2 is correct.**

The sufis thus sought an interpretation of the Qur'an on the basis of their personal experience. **So, Statement 3 is correct.**

83. Suppose, if the elections to a municipality were held in June 2019. Later in the same year, the Municipality was dissolved. Another municipality was constituted in June 2020. When will the term of that newly constituted Municipality expire?

- (a) June 2023
(b) June 2025
(c) June 2021
(d) **June 2024**

EXPLANATION:

74th amendment act of 1992 The act provides for a five-year term of office for every municipality. However, it can be dissolved before the completion of its term. Further, the

fresh elections to constitute a municipality shall be completed (a) before the expiry of its duration of five years; or (b) in case of dissolution, before the expiry of a period of six months from the date of its dissolution.

But, where the remainder of the period (for which the dissolved municipality would have continued) is less than six months, it shall not be necessary to hold any election for constituting the new municipality for such period. Moreover, a municipality constituted upon the dissolution of a municipality before the expiration of its duration shall continue only for the remainder of the period for which the dissolved municipality would have continued had it not been so dissolved. In other words, a municipality reconstituted after premature dissolution does not enjoy the full period of five years but remains in office only for the remainder of the period.

Elections to a municipality were held in June 2019. Later in the same year the Municipality was dissolved. Another municipality was constituted in June 2020. Hence, a municipality constituted upon the dissolution of a municipality before the expiration of its duration shall continue only for the remainder of the period for which the dissolved municipality would have continued had it not been so dissolved, then the term of the newly constituted Municipality expire in June 2024. **So, option (d) is correct.**

SOURCE:

Indian polity by M Lakmikanth

84. Consider the following statements about the “International Fund for Agricultural Development” (IFAD):

- 1. It is an international financial institution and a specialised agency of the United Nations.**
- 2. It provides expertise in the agricultural sector and supports innovation.**
- 3. It works to address poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries.**

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:

The International Fund for Agricultural Development is an international financial institution and a specialised agency of the United Nations. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

IFAD also provides expertise in the agricultural sector and supports innovation. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

It also works to address poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a specialised agency of the United Nations mandated to enable poor rural women and men to improve their food security and nutrition, raise their incomes and strengthen their resilience.
- Its mandate therefore aligns with the priorities of Switzerland's development policy.
- Established in 1977 in response to the food crisis of the 1970s, IFAD is today the only multilateral organization with a mandate specialized on smallholder agriculture.
- Its work focuses on poor rural people, including poor smallholder farmers, fishermen and pastoralists, as well as landless and indigenous people.
- Its programmes aim at improving poor rural people's access to financial services, markets, technology, land and natural resources.
- As an international financial institution, IFAD provides grants and loans on favourable terms to countries affected by widespread rural poverty.
- IFAD also provides expertise in the agricultural sector and supports innovation

SOURCE:

<https://www.ifad.org/en/about>

85. In the Indian context, consider the following statements about the “parliamentary privileges”:

- 1. A member of either House of the Parliament cannot be forced to give jury service without the permission of the Presiding officer of that House.**
- 2. In general, if there is any conflict between privileges of the Parliament and Fundamental Rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution, the latter shall prevail.**

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 member cannot be forced to give judicial service without the permission of the speaker or chairman. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

If there is any conflict between the privileges of the parliament and fundamental rights of a citizen, the former shall prevail in general. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- Parliamentary privileges are special rights, immunities and exemptions enjoyed by the two Houses of Parliament, their committees and their members.
- They are necessary in order to secure the independence and effectiveness of their actions.
- Without these privileges, the Houses can neither maintain their authority, dignity and honour nor can protect their members from any obstruction in the discharge of their parliamentary responsibilities.
- The Constitution has also extended the parliamentary privileges to those persons who are entitled to speak and take part in the proceedings of a House of Parliament or any of its committees.
- These include the attorney general of India and Union ministers.
- It must be clarified here that the parliamentary privileges do not extend to the president who is also an integral part of the Parliament.

SOURCE:

Indian polity by M Laxmikanth

86. In India, which among the following pairs forms the Northern-most and the Southern-most National Parks?

- (a) Rajaji National Park and Mudumalai National Park
(b) Hemis National Park and Periyar National Park
(c) **Dachigam National Park and Kalakkad Mundanthurai National Park**
(d) Great Himalayan National Park and Point Calimere National Park

EXPLANATION:-

Daichigam National Park – jammu and kashmir- 34.1372° N, 75.0377° E
KalakkadMundanthurai National Park – Tamil Nadu - 8°41'N 77°19'E

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-



87. Consider the following statements about the “Solvency Ratio” which was recently in the news:

- 1. It refers to an enterprise's ability to pay short-term obligations.**
- 2. It also refers to a company's capability to sell assets quickly to raise cash.**

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:

Liquidity refers to the ability of a company to pay off its short-term debts; that is, whether the current liabilities can be paid with the current assets on hand. Liquidity also measures how fast a company is able to convert its current assets into cash. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

Liquidity refers to both an enterprise's ability to pay short-term obligations and a company's capability to sell assets quickly to raise cash. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- A solvency ratio measures the extent to which assets cover commitments for future payments, the liabilities. The solvency ratio of an insurance company is the size of its capital relative to all risks it has taken.
- The solvency ratio is a key metric used to measure an enterprise's ability to meet its debt obligations and is used often by prospective business lenders. The solvency ratio indicates whether a company's cash flow is sufficient to meet its short-and long-term liabilities. The lower a company's solvency ratio, the greater the probability that it will default on its debt obligations.

88. Consider the following rivers in India:

- 1. Penneru**
- 2. Subarnarekha**
- 3. Krishna**

Arrange the rivers in the increasing order of their catchment area.

(a) **1-2-3**

(b) 2-1-3

(c) 3-2-1

(d) 1-3-2

EXPLANATION:-

Pennar- 1,424 square miles

Subarnarekha- 7,317 sq mi

Krishna- 99,980 sq mi.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:-

The principal tributaries joining Krishna are the Ghataprabha River, Malaprabha River, Bhima River, Tungabhadra River and Musi River.

89. Consider the following pairs :

<i>Folk music</i>	-	<i>State</i>
1. Maand	-	Rajasthan
2. Dollu Kunitha	-	Karnataka
3. Khubaeshei	-	Mizoram

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

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

EXPLANATION:

Mand or **Maand** is a style of singing in **Rajasthan**, used in folk songs. It is similar to the thumri and the ghazal.

DolluKunitha , is a major popular drum dance of **Karnataka**.

Khubakeshei is a kind of song accompanied entirely by clapping in Manipur

90. With reference to the legislative bodies in India, consider the following statements about the state legislatures:

1. State legislatures, by law, can create additional privileges for its members.
2. Except for Money bills, Legislative Council of a state can move amendments to a bill passed by the Legislative Assembly of that State

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:

State legislatures by law cannot create any new additional privileges for itself. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

Legislative council of a state may move amendments to a bill passed by Legislative assembly. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

When a bill is passed by the legislative assembly and transmitted to the legislative council, the latter has four alternatives before it:

- it may pass the bill as sent by the assembly (i.e., without amendments);
 - it may pass the bill with amendments and return it to the assembly for reconsideration;
 - it may reject the bill altogether; and
 - it may not take any action and thus keep the bill pending.
- If the council passes the bill without amendments or the assembly accepts the amendments suggested by the council, the bill is deemed to have been assent. On the other hand, if the assembly rejects the amendments suggested by the council or the council rejects the bill altogether or the council does not take any action for three months, then the assembly may pass the bill again and transmit the same to the council. If the council rejects the bill again or passes the bill with amendments not acceptable to the assembly or does not pass the bill within one month, then the bill is deemed to have been passed by both the Houses in the form in which it was passed by the assembly for the second time.

SOURCE:

Indian polity by M Laxmikanth

91. Consider the following statements about the effects of Nanoparticles on the environment:

- 1. It influences dust cloud formation and ozone depletion.**
- 2. It shall lead to the reduction of water vapour in the stratosphere.**

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:

Nanoparticles in the environment influences dust cloud formation and ozone depletion. Effects of Nanoparticles on dust cloud formation and decrease in sunlight intensity were found to be important environmental changes with direct and indirect implication in various human health problems. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

Nanoparticles lead to the increase of water vapour in the stratosphere. Because Nanoparticles can hold water vapour in the stratosphere. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- A nanoparticle or ultrafine particle is usually defined as a particle of matter that is between 1 and 100 nanometres (nm) in diameter. The term is sometimes used for larger particles, up to 500 nm, or fibers and tubes that are less than 100 nm in only two directions. At the lowest range, metal particles smaller than 1 nm are usually called atom clusters instead.
- Being much smaller than the wavelengths of visible light (400-700 nm), nanoparticles cannot be seen with ordinary optical microscopes, requiring the use of electron microscopes. For the same reason, dispersions of nanoparticles in transparent media can be transparent, whereas suspensions of larger particles usually scatter some or all visible light incident on them. Nanoparticles also easily pass through common filters, such as common ceramic candles, so that separation from liquids requires special nanofiltration techniques.
- Nanoparticles occur widely in nature and are objects of study in many sciences such as chemistry, physics, geology and biology.
- Being at the transition between bulk materials and atomic or molecular structures, they often exhibit phenomena that are not observed at either scale.
- They are an important component of atmospheric pollution, and key ingredients in many industrialized products such as paints, plastics, metals, ceramics, and magnetic articles. The production of nanoparticles with specific properties is an important branch of nanotechnology.

92. With reference to the Earthquake waves, consider the following statements:

- 1. The primary waves create crests and troughs in the material through which they pass.**
- 2. The secondary waves create density differences in the material through which they pass.**
- 3. The surface waves are first to report on the seismograph.**

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

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

EXPLANATION:

The Primary waves or P-waves creates density differences in the material leading to stretching (rarefaction) and squeezing (compression) of the material. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

The Secondary waves or S-waves are also called as transverse waves or shear waves or distortional waves. They are analogous to water ripples or light waves. Transverse waves or shear waves mean that the direction of vibrations of the particles in the medium is perpendicular to the direction of propagation of the wave. Hence, they create troughs and crests in the material through which they pass (they distort the medium). **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

The primary wave is the fastest kind of seismic wave, and, consequently, the first to 'arrive' at a seismic station. Hence it is first to report on the seismograph. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

SOURCE:

11th NCERT Fundamentals of Physical Geography

93. Which of the following statement is/are the reason(s) for “gravitational anomaly”?

- 1. The difference in the distribution of mass in the interior of the earth.**
- 2. The difference in the distance between the core and the surface of the earth from the Equator to Poles.**
- 3. The difference in the distribution of vegetation throughout the earth.**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

Gravity anomaly maps show how much the Earth's actual gravity field differs from the gravity field of a uniform, featureless Earth surface. The anomalies highlight variations in the strength of the gravitational force over the surface of the Earth. Gravity anomalies are

often due to unusual concentrations of mass in a region. It may be due to the difference in the distribution of mass in the interior of the earth and due to the difference in the distance between the core and the surface of the earth. **So, option (a) is correct.**

94. With reference to the Constitution of India, consider the following statements about the Grants-in-Aid given to the Indian states:

- 1. Article 282 provides for Statutory Grants while Article 275 provides for Discretionary Grants.**
- 2. Statutory Grants are provided to states on the recommendation of the Finance Commission.**
- 3. Discretionary grants are provided to states on the recommendation of NITI Aayog.**

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

Article 275 makes provisions for statutory grants to needy states. These are charged on Consolidated Fund of India. Such grants also include specific grants for promoting the welfare of the scheduled tribes in a state or for raising the level of administration of the scheduled areas in a state including the State of Assam. Under article 282, both centre and states are able to make any grants for public purpose even if they are not within their legislative competence. Since such grants are discretionary, there are no obligations to make such grants. During the planning commission era, these discretionary grants were in fact bigger than statutory grants and that is why planning commission had assumed very important role. **So, statement 1 is not correct.**

Statutory Grants are provided to states on the recommendations of the finance commission. **So, statement 2 is correct.**

Discretionary grants are provided to states not on the recommendation of NITI Aayog. **So, statement 3 is not correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Statutory Grants

- Article 275 empowers the Parliament to make grants to the states which are in need of financial assistance and not to every state.
- Also, different sums may be fixed for different states. These sums are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India every year.
- Apart from this general provision, the Constitution also provides for specific grants for promoting the welfare of the scheduled tribes in a state or for raising the level of administration of the scheduled areas in a state including the State of Assam.
- The statutory grants under Article 275 (both general and specific) are given to the states on the recommendation of the Finance Commission.

Discretionary Grants

- Article 282 empowers both the Centre and the states to make any grants for any public purpose, even if it is not within their respective legislative competence. Under this provision, the Centre makes grants to the states.
- These grants are also known as discretionary grants, the reason being that the Centre is under no obligation to give these grants and the matter lies within its discretion. These grants have a two-fold purpose: to help the state financially to fulfil plan targets; and to give some leverage to the Centre to influence and coordinate state action to effectuate the national plan.
- Notably, the discretionary grants form the larger part of the Central grants to the states (when compared with that of the statutory grants).

SOURCE:

Indian Polity by M Lakmikanth

95. With reference to the numismatics of Ancient India, consider the following statements:

- 1. Vima Kadphises issued coins bearing the image of Shiva, Nandi and the trident.**
- 2. Kanishka issued coins bearing the term 'Wudo' which denotes Buddha.**
- 3. Huvishka issued Chaturbhuja coins which contain four armed God Vishnu.**

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**

96. With respect to the term “cess”, in the context of Public Finance of India, which of the following statements is *not* correct?

- (a) It is a variant of tax charged over the basic tax liability of a taxpayer
- (b) It can be levied only by the Central Government in India
- (c) **It can be levied only on Direct taxes such as Income tax and Corporate Tax**
- (d) It is imposed to raise funds for specific purposes

EXPLANATION:

Cess is a variant of tax charged over the basic tax liability of a taxpayer. So, option (a) is correct.
Cess is a form of tax and an additional levy by the Central Government to raise funds for a specific purpose. Cess is resorted to only when there is a need to meet the particular expenditure for public welfare. So, option (b) is correct.
Cess can be levied on both indirect and direct taxes such as Income tax and Corporate Taxes. So, option (c) is not correct.
A cess is imposed when the government looks to raise funds for specific purposes. Cess is not the same as any other tax collected by the government such as income tax, goods and services tax, and excise duty. So, option (d) is correct.

97. Which of the following Bill(s) can be considered as Money Bill under Article 110 of the Indian Constitution?

1. **A bill declaring any expenditure as charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.**
2. **A bill regulating the borrowing of money by the Union Government.**
3. **A bill making payment of money into the Contingency Fund of India.**

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

EXPLANATION:

A bill declaring any expenditure as charged on the Consolidated Fund of India is a money bill. So, statement 1 is correct.
A bill regulating the borrowing of money by the Union Government is a money bill. So, statement 2 is correct.

A bill making payment of money into or the withdrawal of money from the Contingency Fund of India is a money bill. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Article 110 of the Constitution deals with the definition of money bills. It states that a bill is deemed to be a money bill if it contains 'only' provisions dealing with all or any of the following matters:

- The imposition, abolition, remission, alteration or regulation of any tax;
- The regulation of the borrowing of money by the Union government;
- The custody of the Consolidated Fund of India or the contingency fund of India, the payment of moneys into or the withdrawal of money from any such fund;
- The appropriation of money out of the Consolidated Fund of India;
- Declaration of any expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India or increasing the amount of any such expenditure;
- The receipt of money on account of the Consolidated Fund of India or the public account of India or the custody or issue of such money, or the audit of the accounts of the Union or of a state; or
- Any matter incidental to any of the matters specified above.

SOURCE:

Indian polity by M Lakmikanth

98. Consider the following mountain passes:

- 1. Mintaka pass**
- 2. Lipulekh pass**
- 3. Dipher pass**
- 4. Nathu La**

Which of the pass/passes given above is/are located at the geographical tri-junction point?

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

EXPLANATION:

Mintaka means “thousand goats” in Kyrgyz language. Mintaka pass is located in the Karakoram range near the trijunction of India-China and Afghanistan border.

Lipu Lekh, it's situated near the trijunction of India, Tibet and Nepal borders. Pilgrims use this pass to reach Kailash-Mansarowar. Landslides during rainy season and avalanches during winter season makes this pass difficult to use.

Dipher pass lies on the trijunction of India, China and Myanmar. Its altitude is 4353 meters. It provides easy access between Arunachal Pradesh and Mandalay in Myanmar. It's an important trade route between India and Myanmar and remains open throughout the year.

Nathu La is situated at an altitude of 4310 meters on the India China border. It was the part of ancient Silk Route. Nathu La connects Sikkim with Tibet region. This pass was closed after Indo-China war in 1962 but was reopened in 2006. It is not at a tri-junction point. **So, option (c) is correct.**

99. Amendment to which of the following are not deemed to be an amendment of the India Constitution under Article 368?

- 1. Election of the President of India.**
- 2. The number of puisne judges in the Supreme Court.**
- 3. Conferment of more jurisdictions on the Supreme Court.**

Select the correct answer using the code given below.

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

EXPLANATION:

Number of puisne judges in the Supreme Court and Conferment of more jurisdiction on the Supreme Court can be amended by a simple majority of the two Houses of Parliament outside the scope of Article 368.

Election of the President which is related to the federal structure of the polity can be amended by a special majority of the Parliament and also with the consent of half of the state legislatures by a simple majority. It is deemed to be an amendment of the Constitution for the purposes of Article 368. **So, option (c) is correct.**

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

A number of provisions in the Constitution can be amended by a simple majority of the two Houses of Parliament outside the scope of Article 368. These provisions include:

- Admission or establishment of new states.
- Formation of new states and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing states.
- Abolition or creation of legislative councils in states.
- Second Schedule—emoluments, allowances, privileges and so on of the president, the governors, the Speakers, judges, etc.
- Quorum in Parliament.
- Salaries and allowances of the members of Parliament.
- Rules of procedure in Parliament.
- Privileges of the Parliament, its members and its committees.
- Use of English language in Parliament.
- Number of puisne judges in the Supreme Court.
- Conferment of more jurisdiction on the Supreme Court.
- Use of official language.
- Citizenship—acquisition and termination.
- Elections to Parliament and state legislatures.
- Delimitation of constituencies.
- Union territories.
- Fifth Schedule—administration of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes.
- Sixth Schedule—administration of tribal areas.

The following provisions can be amended by a special majority of the Parliament and also with the consent of half of the state legislatures by a simple majority:

- Election of the President and its manner.
- Extent of the executive power of the Union and the states.
- Supreme Court and high courts.
- Distribution of legislative powers between the Union and the states.
- Any of the lists in the Seventh Schedule.
- Representation of states in Parliament.
- Power of Parliament to amend the Constitution and its procedure (Article 368 itself).

SOURCE:

Indian Polity by M Lakmikanth

100. Which one of the following is *not* correct about the Nehru Report of 1928?

- (a) It recommended nineteen fundamental rights including the right to vote for men and women above 21 years of age
- (b) It has a proposal for the creation of a Supreme Court
- (c) It recommended for a federal form of government with residual powers with the provinces**
- (d) It recommended for dominion status for India within the British Commonwealth

EXPLANATION:

The Nehru Report had the primary motive of assigning Dominion status to India within the British Commonwealth.

The major components of the Nehru Report are:

1. Bill of Rights
2. Assigning Equal rights to men and women as citizens
3. Formation of a federal form of government with residuary powers in the hands of Centre
4. Proposal for the creation of Supreme Court