

Q1. The governments of Albania, Burkina Faso, **India**, Montenegro, and Uganda have recently joined for a new initiative, led by UN Environment Programme aims to:

- a. To combat desertification and restore degraded lands
- b. to reduce the burden of AMR on societies and tackle the triple planetary crisis: the crisis of climate change, the crisis of nature and biodiversity loss, and the crisis of pollution and waste.
- c. Phasing out mercury measuring devices in healthcare
- d. to address equity, sustainability, and human rights across value chains of critical energy transition minerals

Solution: c

Explanation:

**Taken from UNEP site:**

**We will majorly focus on questions, jo chupe ke baithe h. Use dhundne main waqt kaafi lgega aur wo aapke paas ni h.. So we are doing this work for you. Aap bus yhan ache se practice kijye..**

News:

**Geneva, 14 May 2024** – The Governments of Albania, Burkina Faso, **India**, Montenegro and Uganda have united to combat chemical pollution today, launching a \$134-million project to eliminate the use of mercury in medical devices.

Used in health-care settings for centuries, mercury is a toxic metal that poses a threat to human health and the environment.

**Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, with funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and executed by the World Health Organization (WHO), the **Phasing out mercury measuring devices in healthcare project** will develop and implement nation-wide strategies to stop the import, export and manufacture of thermometers and sphygmomanometers, encourage the adoption of accurate, affordable and safe mercury-free alternatives, while improving the management of mercury-containing medical waste.

Q2. Among the following countries India maintains **trade surplus** with:

1. Iraq
2. UAE
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Iran

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

Look at four below images from Ministry of Commerce site. Authentic information is must to read anything with confidence.

Department of Commerce  
Export Import Data Bank  
Country - wise

Dated: 16/05/2024  
Values in Rs Lacs

Country / Region: **IRAQ**

S.No.	Year	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
1.	<b>EXPORT</b>	1,328,659.79	1,110,518.18	1,796,957.80	2,177,664.26	2,776,676.46
2.	%Growth		-16.42	61.81	21.19	27.51
3.	India's Total Export	221,985,418.10	215,904,322.13	314,702,149.28	362,154,987.57	361,929,187.01
4.	%Growth		-2.74	45.76	15.08	-0.06
5.	%Share	0.60	0.51	0.57	0.60	0.77
6.	<b>IMPORT</b>	16,835,448.07	10,565,526.45	23,841,803.59	27,520,214.51	24,855,610.66
7.	%Growth		-37.24	125.66	15.43	-9.68
8.	India's Total Import	336,095,445.61	291,595,770.04	457,277,458.91	574,980,127.11	559,287,670.24
9.	%Growth		-13.24	56.82	25.74	-2.73

Country / Region: **U ARAB EMTS**

S.No.	Year	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
1.	<b>EXPORT</b>	20,423,782.22	12,333,391.82	20,915,828.49	25,385,238.28	29,509,524.29
2.	%Growth		-39.61	69.59	21.37	16.25
3.	India's Total Export	221,985,418.10	215,904,322.13	314,702,149.28	362,154,987.57	361,929,187.01
4.	%Growth		-2.74	45.76	15.08	-0.06
5.	%Share	9.20	5.71	6.65	7.01	8.15
6.	<b>IMPORT</b>	21,444,701.89	19,635,053.70	33,446,980.04	42,740,563.67	39,776,370.94
7.	%Growth		-8.44	70.34	27.79	-6.94
8.	India's Total Import	336,095,445.61	291,595,770.04	457,277,458.91	574,980,127.11	559,287,670.24

Country / Region: **SAUDI ARAB**

S.No.	Year	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
1.	<b>EXPORT</b>	4,426,685.97	4,335,888.56	6,531,013.73	8,627,137.38	9,574,899.22
2.	%Growth		-2.05	50.63	32.09	10.99
3.	India's Total Export	221,985,418.10	215,904,322.13	314,702,149.28	362,154,987.57	361,929,187.01
4.	%Growth		-2.74	45.76	15.08	-0.06
5.	%Share	1.99	2.01	2.08	2.38	2.65
6.	<b>IMPORT</b>	19,024,522.86	11,975,862.07	25,467,767.01	33,757,186.91	26,335,441.85
7.	%Growth		-37.05	112.66	32.55	-21.99

Country / Region: **IRAN**

S.No.	Year	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
1.	<b>EXPORT</b>	2,385,428.68	1,321,185.17	1,083,117.95	1,327,244.14	1,011,729.00
2.	%Growth		-44.61	-18.02	22.54	-23.77
3.	India's Total Export	221,985,418.10	215,904,322.13	314,702,149.28	362,154,987.57	361,929,187.01
4.	%Growth		-2.74	45.76	15.08	-0.06
5.	%Share	1.07	0.61	0.34	0.37	0.28
6.	<b>IMPORT</b>	976,201.73	244,797.12	346,335.49	540,715.30	517,655.21
7.	%Growth		-74.92	41.48	56.12	-4.26

Q3. According to IMD the **favourable conditions for Heatwaves** are:

1. Transportation / Prevalence of hot dry air over a region (There should be a region of warm dry air and appropriate flow pattern for transporting hot air over the region).
2. Absence of moisture in the upper atmosphere (As the presence of moisture restricts the temperature rise).
3. The sky should be practically cloudless (To allow maximum insulation over the region).
4. Large amplitude anti-cyclonic flow over the area.

How many of the above conditions is/are correct?

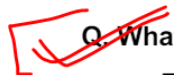
- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. Only three
- d. All four

Solution: d

Explanation:

Yaad kr lo:

From the IMD website:



**Q. What are favorable conditions for Heat wave?**

- a. **Transportation / Prevalence of hot dry air over a region** (There should be a region of warm dry air and appropriate flow pattern for transporting hot air over the region).
- b. **Absence of moisture in the upper atmosphere** (As the presence of moisture restricts the temperature rise).
- c. **The sky should be practically cloudless** (To allow maximum insulation over the region).
- d. **Large amplitude anti-cyclonic flow over the area.**

Heat waves generally develop over Northwest India and spread gradually eastwards & southwards but not westwards (since the prevailing winds during the season are westerly to northwesterly). But on some occasions, heat wave may also develop over any region in situ under the favorable conditions.

Q4. Consider the following statements.

1. India is the world's largest producer of castor seeds.
2. Gujarat leading the production of castor seeds in the country.
3. There is no MSP for castor seeds production.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two

- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: c

Explanation:

Read:

### ~~Castor~~ secures income for farmers

India is the [world's largest producer](#) of castor seeds, with [Gujarat](#) leading the production in the country. According to Government of India's [Crop Production Statistics Information System](#), castor was cultivated on 133,589 hectares in Kachchh in 2019-2020, the highest area under castor cultivation in Gujarat.

**There is no MSP for castor.**

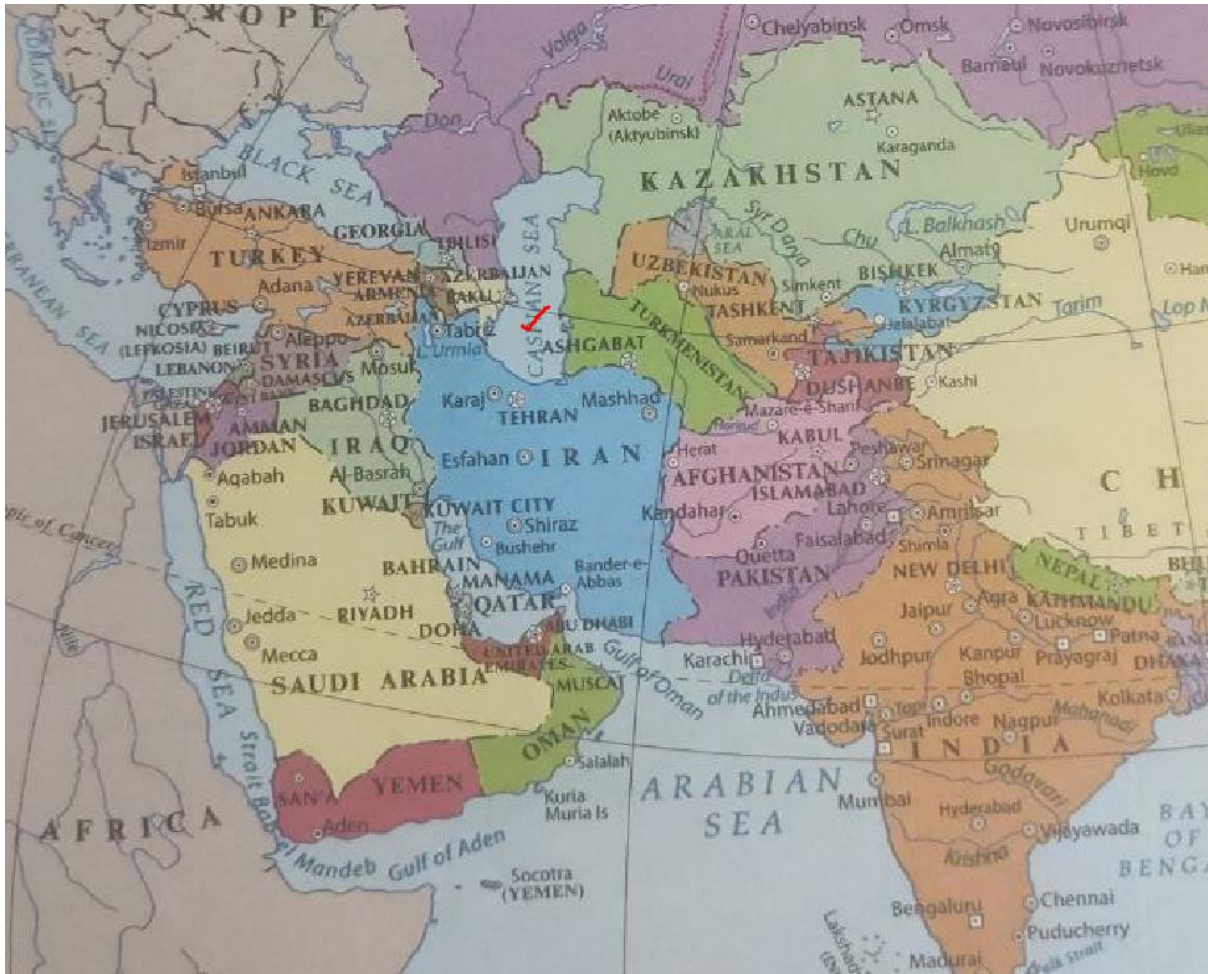
Q5. If you draw a vertical straight line at any point on Caspian Sea on world map, it will always cross:

- a. Kazakhstan
- b. Iran
- c. Saudi Arabia
- d. Turkmenistan

Solution: b

Explanation:

Draw krke check kro. I am asking you such small questions so that dimag main map print ho jaaye. I don't want that you do mistakes in map.



Q6. Consider the following statements REGARDING Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.

1. FRA is not applicable to Municipal Areas.
2. FRA is also applicable to National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Tiger Reserves.
3. A provision of conversion of forest villages to revenue villages has been mentioned under this Act.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: b

Explanation:

**First statement is incorrect.**

Is FRA applicable in Municipal areas?

A plain reading of Section 1(2) of the FRA demonstrates that it extends to the whole of India and no part is exempted from its application<sup>4</sup>.

Section 2(d) of the FRA defines the term 'forest land' widely to mean "land of any description falling within any forest areas..." This definition of forest land reflects that law adopted by the Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated 12.12.1996<sup>5</sup> in the Godavarman case. Clearly, the FRA is applicable to claimants in respect of forest lands wherever they may be located; no exception is made for municipal areas.

**Second statement is correct:**

Is FRA applicable in National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Tiger Reserves?

Yes, FRA is applicable in National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Tiger Reserves, as is apparent from the definition of 'forest land' under Section 2 (d) which describes forest land as "land of any description falling within any forest area and includes..... Sanctuaries and National Parks".

FRA only recognises pre-existing rights which are already being exercised by the eligible persons in the National Parks and Sanctuaries. Other than securing the tenure of the existing forest dwellers on the land, no new rights are being created which might potentially impact the ecological balance inside the protected areas.

**Third statement is correct:**

**There is a provision for conversion of forest villages to revenue villages in 2019, as stipulated under the provisions of the Forest Rights Act, 2006.** Forest villages were villages set up by the British Indian government to settle workers inside forests and procure resources like timber more efficiently. There are around 2,500 forest villages across the country.

(h) rights of settlement and conversion of all forest villages, old habitation, unsurveyed villages and other villages in forests, whether recorded, notified or not into revenue villages;

Q7. Consider the following statements.

1. CBI to obtain the consent of the state government before conducting investigation in a particular state thereby limiting its jurisdiction.
2. CBI is a statutory body.
3. Prime Minister, Speaker of Lok Sabha and CJI are the members of appointment committee to appoint a director of CBI.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: A

Explanation:

**Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act 1946 requires the CBI to obtain the consent of the state government** before conducting investigation in a particular state thereby limiting its jurisdiction.

~~<sup>1</sup>16. **Consent of State Government to exercise of powers and jurisdiction.**—Nothing contained in section 5 shall be deemed to enable any member of the Delhi Special Police Establishment to exercise powers and jurisdiction in any area in <sup>2</sup>[a State, not being a Union territory or railway area], without the consent of the Government of that State.]~~

What is the concept of “General Consent”?

In case of 'general consent' **the CBI does not have to obtain the prior permission of the state government before investigation. When a state withdraws general consent, CBI officers lose the powers to conduct investigation in the concerned state.** In order to register a new case, the agency has to seek specific consent from the State government. As a result, it stalls registration of new cases. And over the years, **general consent has been used as a tool of political rivalry between the centre and state.**

**Second Statements is incorrect:**

Origins of CBI can be traced back to the **Special Police Establishment (SPE) set up in 1941** in order to cases of bribery and corruption in War & Supply Department of India during World War II.

The need of a Central Government agency to investigate cases of bribery and corruption was felt even after the end of World War II. So, DSPE (Delhi Special Police Establishment) Act, 1946 was brought that gave legal power of investigating cases to CBI.

**CBI is not a statutory body as it is not established by an Act of the Parliament.**

Third Statement is incorrect:

**Members are:**

- a. **Prime Minister of India**
- b. **Leader of Opposition**
- c. **CJI.**

Q8. How many of the following statements about Preamble is **incorrect**?

1. The Preamble sets out the ideals of identifying the nature of the State of the Constitution.
2. In Berubari Union and Exchange of Enclaves, the Court ruled that the Preamble is not a part of the Constitution.
3. The word 'Secular' inscribed in Preamble after 42<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Amendment means that the State will be anti-religious or an atheistic State.
4. Preamble can be amended under Article 368 of the Constitution.

Select the correct code.

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. Only three
- d. None

Solution: a

Explanation:

**First statement is correct.**

The **Preamble to our Constitution** (in brief, 'Preamble') is more than **just 63 words** perfectly arranged and catalogued (in a certain way) in some normative sentences; most importantly, it is all about the democratic aspirations and ideals of the people of India (I. C. Golaknath & Ors vs State of Punjab & Anrs. 1967 SCR ).

It **encapsulates the characteristics of the aspirations of the people and sets out the ideals of identifying the nature of the State of the Constitution** intends to have and further epitomizes the fundamental philosophy of an egalitarian society and a progressive nation. The words of the Preamble are simultaneously metaphysical and practical and lay down the objectives upon which the foundation of this country was laid.

**Second Statement is correct.**

In **1960, in Re: Berubari Union and Exchange of Enclaves**, the Court ruled that the **Preamble is not a part of the Constitution**. When the Court said that the Preamble is not a part of the Constitution, they stated that it is the key to open the mind of the Constitution makers meant for general purpose and does not confer anything else.

However, in the case of **Kesavananda Bharti v. State of Kerala**, the Supreme **Court rightly rejected this idea and held that the Preamble is very much a part of the Constitution**. This Judgment implies that through the route of Article 368 of the Constitution, the Parliament can amend the Preamble. However, in the same case, it was further propounded that through the route of Article 368, the basic structure of the Constitution cannot be altered. **Fourth statement is correct.**

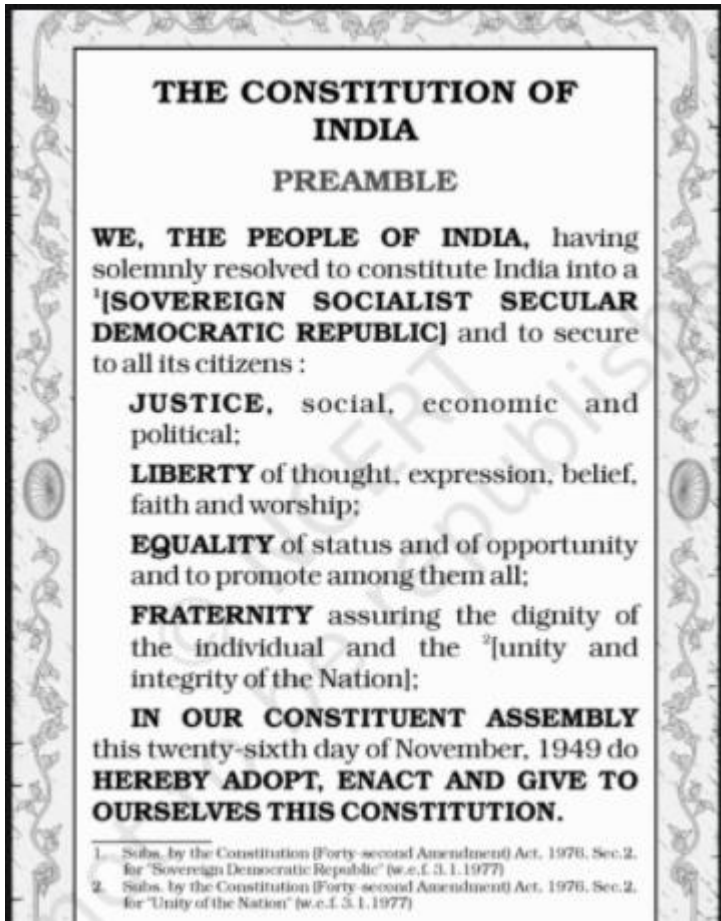
As of now, the preamble is only amended once through the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976.

The term **'Socialist', 'Secular', and 'Integrity'** were added to the preamble through **42nd Amendment Act, 1976**.

'Socialist' and 'Secular' were added between 'Sovereign' and 'Democratic'.

'Unity of the Nation' was changed to 'Unity and Integrity of the Nation'.





Third statement is wrong.

The term 'Secular' is not defined anywhere in the Constitution of India. **The word 'Secular' does not mean that the State will be anti-religious or an atheistic State. It means that the State has no religion.**

In S.R. Bommai case, it has been ruled: "*the concept of Secularism was very much embedded in our Constitutional philosophy. The term 'Secular' is not defined as it is a very elastic term not capable of precise definition and perhaps best left undefined.*"

Q9. Which of the following correctly defines the term **Social Forestry**?

- land-use systems and technologies where woody perennials (trees, shrubs, palms, bamboos, etc.) are deliberately used on the same land-management units as agricultural crops and/or animals
- Forestry outside the conventional forests which primarily aim at providing continuous flow of goods and services for the benefit of people
- It is an applied science that studies ecological processes applied to agricultural production systems.
- It is the science and technology of producing and using plants in agriculture for food, fuel, fiber, and land restoration.

Solution: b

Explanation:

## Social forestry

The National Commission on Agriculture, Government of India, first used the term 'social forestry' in 1976. It was then that India embarked upon a social forestry project with the aim of taking the pressure off the forests and making use of all unused and fallow land. Government forest areas that are close to human settlement and have been degraded over the years due to human activities needed to be afforested. Trees were to be planted in and around agricultural fields. Plantation of trees along railway lines and roadsides, and river and canal banks were carried out. They were planted in village common land, Government wasteland and Panchayat land.

Social forestry also aims at raising plantations by the common man so as to meet the growing demand for timber, fuel wood, fodder, etc, thereby reducing the pressure on the traditional forest area. This concept of village forests to meet the needs of the rural people is not new. It has existed through the centuries all over the country but it was now given a new character.

With the introduction of this scheme the government formally recognised the local communities' rights to forest resources, and is now encouraging rural participation in the management of natural resources. Through the social forestry scheme, the government has involved community participation, as part of a drive towards afforestation, and rehabilitating the degraded forest and common lands.

Q10. Consider the following statements regarding Pandrethan temple.

1. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva.
2. It is situated near the river Jhelum in Kashmir region.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is situated near the river Jhelum.

The Karkota period of Kashmir is the most significant in terms of architecture. One of the most important temples is Pandrethan, built during the eighth and ninth centuries. In keeping with the tradition of a water tank attached to the shrine, this temple is built on a plinth built in the middle of a tank. Although there are evidences of both Hindu and Buddhist followings in Kashmir, this temple is a Hindu one, possibly dedicated to Shiva. The architecture of this temple is in keeping with the age-old Kashmiri tradition of wooden buildings. Due to the snowy conditions in Kashmir, the roof is peaked and slants slowly outward. The temple is moderately ornamented, moving away from the post-Gupta aesthetics of heavy carving. A row of elephants at the base and a decorated doorway are the only embellishments on the shrine.

Q11. In reference to **reservations in India**, arrange the following into chronological order.

1. 27 percent reservation for OBC in central government employment introduced based on the recommendation of Mandal Commission.
2. An amendment inserted Article 15 (5) that provides reservation for OBC, SC, ST in central educational institutions.
3. 10 percent category for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) in educational institutions.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

Read the chronology:

Year	Key development
1950 & 1951	Commencement of Constitution and First Amendment - Enabling provisions in Articles 15 and 16 to make special provisions for advancement of OBC, SC and ST
1982	Reservation for SC and ST fixed at 15% and 7.5% respectively, in central educational institutions and public sector undertakings
1990	27% reservation for OBC in central government employment introduced based on the recommendation of the Mandal Commission
2005	93rd Constitutional amendment inserted Article 15(5) that enabled reservation for OBC, SC and ST in educational institutions including private institutions
2019	103rd Constitutional amendment inserted Articles 15(6) and 16(6) that enabled up to 10% reservation for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) among the unreserved category in educational institutions and public employment

Q12. Consider the following statements regarding practice of **Carbon Farming**?

1. Some of the practices of the carbon farming includes agroforestry, crop rotation and cover cropping.
2. Carbon Farming is challenging in hot and dry areas where availability of water is limited.
3. Himalayan and coastal areas are less suited to adoption of carbon farming practice as compared to Indi-Gangetic Plains and Deccan Plateau.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: c

Explanation:

*Abhi se seekho kaise padhna h Prelims ke liye. Last year I taught, jisne follow kiya, wo aaj acha perform kr rhe.*

See below. I have taken all explanation from the Hindu:

**First statement is correct:**

Carbon farming combines these two concepts by implementing regenerative agricultural practices that restore ecosystem health while improving agricultural productivity and soil health, and mitigating climate change by enhancing carbon storage in agricultural landscapes and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The practice is easy to adopt across various agro-climatic zones. It can also help ameliorate soil degradation, water scarcity, and challenges related to climate variability.

**How can carbon farming help?**

A simple implementation of carbon farming is rotational grazing. Others include agroforestry, conservation agriculture, integrated nutrient management, agro-ecology, livestock management, and land restoration.

Agroforestry practices – including silvopasture and alley cropping – can further diversify farm income by sequestering carbon in trees and shrubs. Conservation agriculture techniques such as zero tillage, crop rotation, cover cropping, and crop residue management (stubble retention and composting) can help minimise soil disturbance and enhance organic content, particularly in places with other intense agricultural activities.



Second statement is correct:

### What are the challenges to carbon farming?

While carbon farming does offer numerous benefits, its effectiveness varies depending on multiple factors – geographical location, soil type, crop selection, water availability, biodiversity, and farm size and scale. Its usefulness also depends on land management practices, sufficient policy support, and community engagement.

Regions with long growing seasons, sufficient rainfall, and substantial irrigation are best suited to practise carbon farming because they provide the best conditions in which to sequester carbon, through vegetation growth. In regions with adequate rainfall and fertile soil, the potential for carbon sequestration through practices like agroforestry (integrating trees and shrubs with crops) and conservation agriculture (minimising soil disturbance) may be particularly high.

On the other hand, carbon farming can be challenging in hot and dry areas where the availability of water is limited, and prioritised for drinking and washing

hinder the growth of plants, thus restricting the potential for sequestration through photosynthesis. For example, practices like cover cropping, which require additional vegetation between main crop cycles, may not be viable due to the added water demand. Moreover, selecting which plants to grow also becomes crucial because not all species trap and store carbon in the same amounts or in an equally effectively manner. Fast-growing trees and deep-rooted perennial grasses tend to be better at this task – but on the flip side, these types of plants may not be well-suited to arid environments.

Further, the adoption of carbon farming practices may require financial assistance for farmers to overcome the costs of implementing them. In the context of developing countries like India, small-scale farmers may lack the resources to invest in sustainable land management practices and environmental services. In sum, while carbon farming holds promise as a mitigation strategy, addressing these challenges is essential to realise its full potential in combating climate change.

Third statement is correct:

Regions with extensive agricultural land, such as the Indo-Gangetic plains and the Deccan Plateau, are well suited to adopt carbon farming whereas the mountainous terrain of the Himalayan region is less so. Coastal areas are prone to salinisation and have limited access to resources, thus limited the adoption of traditional farming practices.

Further, carbon credit systems can incentivise farmers by providing additional income through environmental services. Studies have shown agricultural soils can absorb 3-8 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-equivalent every year over 20-30 years. This capacity can bridge the gap between feasible emissions reductions and the indispensable stabilisation of the climate. So carbon farming could also be a sustainable strategy to mitigate climate change and enhance food security in India.

Q13. Consider the following statements about **direct seeding of rice (DSR)**:

1. DSR uses less water per irrigation
2. As compared to conventional transplanting, DSR is a labor-saving technology.
3. CH<sub>4</sub> emissions were higher in DSRs compared to conventional transplanted rice.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: B

Explanation:

**DSR refers to the process of establishing a rice crop from seeds sown in the field rather than by transplanting seedlings from the nursery. It has been recognized as the principal method of rice establishment since 1950's in developing countries.**

News:

Article | [Open access](#) | Published: 06 May 2024

## **Ecological weed management and square planting influenced the weed management, and crop productivity in direct-seeded rice**

Compared with conventional puddled transplanted rice (CT-PTR), DSR is a labor-saving technology.

Example:

Table 5: Labour use (person-days /ha ) in direct-seeded and transplanted rice.

Location	Tillage & crop establishment methods	Total labour use (person-days /ha )	% labour saving	Reference
Uttar Pradesh	CT-PTR	66	0	[11]
	Bed-dry-DSR	47	29	
	ZT-dry-DSR	47	28	

Flooded rice culture with puddling and transplanting is considered one of the major sources of CH<sub>4</sub> emissions because of prolonged flooding resulting in lack of oxygen (anaerobic) soil conditions.

DSR main low hota h. Jada detail main ni jaayee..

Ye table yaad kr lijiye.

#### Actual advantages from DSR

Direct-seeding of rice has the potential to provide several benefits to farmers and the environment over conventional practices of puddling and transplanting. The various benefits are enumerated below:

1. Saves labour (1-2 v/s 25-30 for PTR).
2. Sowing can be done in stipulated time frame because of easier and faster planting.
3. Early crop maturity by 7-10 days which allows timely planting of subsequent crops.
4. More efficient water use and higher water stress tolerance.
5. More profitability especially under assured irrigation facilities.
6. Better soil physical conditions.
7. Less methane emission: DDS (dry direct seeding) < WDS (wet direct seeding) < PTR (Transplanted rice).

Q14. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently referred to the Uttaramerur inscription in Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu, while discussing India's democratic history.

It provides details of:

- a. Water harvesting technique
- b. Arts and sculptures of wars
- c. Local self-governance
- d. Philosophies of Buddhism

Solution: c

Explanation:



Uttaramerur is located in the Kanchipuram district, about 90 kilometres southeast of Chennai. It is a small town with a population of around 25,000 according to the 2011 census. It is well-known for its historic temples constructed during the Pallava and Chola periods.

**The Uttaramerur inscription gives details of local self-governance. The inscription gives details of the functioning of the local Sabha, i.e. the village assembly.**

**Q15.** In reference India- Africa Trade, consider the following statements.

1. Nigeria is the largest trading partner of India in the African region for the last three years.
2. Total trade between India-Africa region is declining at rapid pace.

Consider the following statements.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

Dono images ko dhyan se dekh le. Bilkul set ho jaana chahye aaj.

Both are incorrect:

Value in USD Billion

Year	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	CAGR(5 Years)
INDIA'S EXPORT	22.65	23.55	22.93	33.08	42.85	17.27
INDIA'S IMPORT	35.4	32.15	23.89	41.77	39.27	2.62
<b>TOTAL TRADE</b>	58.05	55.7	46.82	74.86	82.13	9.06
TRADE BALANCE	-12.75	8.6	-0.96	-8.69	3.57	

The Bilateral Trade Figures for the last two years (i.e. 2021-22 & 2022-23) in respect of countries of Sub Saharan Africa region are as follows

Values in US \$ Millions

S.No.	Country	2021-2022				2022-2023				% Growth	
		Exports	Imports	Total Trade	Trd.Bal.	Exports	Imports	Total Trade	Trd.Bal.	Exports	Imports
1	<b>SOUTH AFRICA</b>	6,085.29	10,965.81	17,051.10	-4,880.52	8,474.44	10,397.83	18,872.26	-1,923.39	39.26	-5.18
2	NIGERIA	4,663.17	10,291.58	14,954.75	-5,628.40	5,159.44	6,692.65	11,852.09	-1,533.21	10.64	-34.97
3	TOGO	3,012.08	376.85	3,388.93	2,635.23	6,048.07	540.81	6,588.88	5,507.27	100.79	43.51
4	TANZANIA REP	2,300.88	2,279.18	4,580.06	21.7	3,935.49	2,541.31	6,476.80	1,394.17	71.04	11.5
5	MOZAMBIQUE	1,975.76	1,879.49	3,855.25	96.27	2,506.47	2,521.96	5,028.43	-15.49	26.86	34.18
6	ANGOLA	452.45	2,725.08	3,177.53	-2,272.63	621.78	3,599.31	4,221.09	-2,977.53	37.43	32.08

**On 15<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2024, NOTIFICATION FOR 2025 PRELIMS WILL BE RELEASED. If you are preparing for 2025, 100 percent join and practice from scratch. I will teach you everything.**

**Q16.** India and Maldives are separated by which of the following channels?

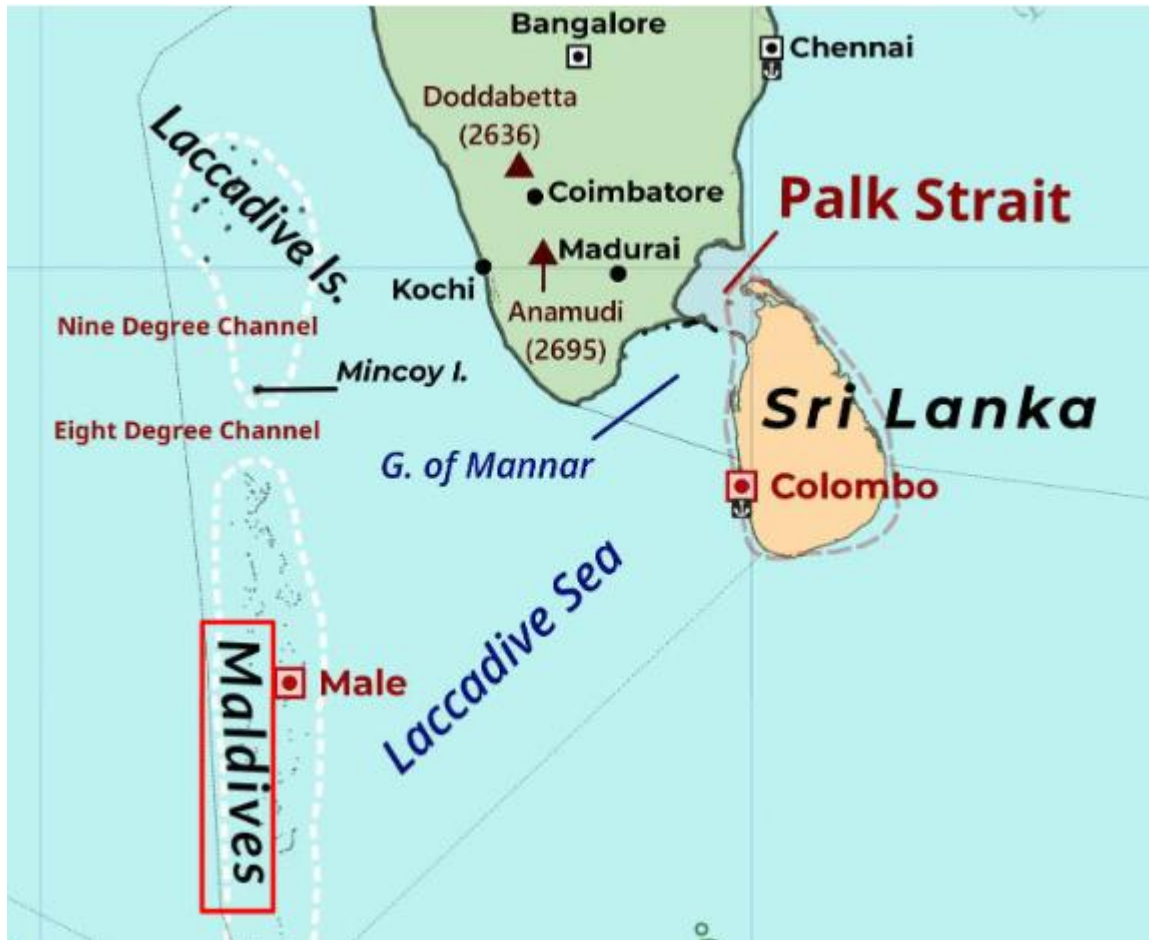
- a. Seven Degree Channel
- b. Eight Degree Channel
- c. Nine Degree Channel
- d. Ten Degree Channel

Solution: b

Explanation: b

Explanation:

Read:



Q17. Why India Federations is called as “flexible Federation”?

1. It can be both unitary as well as federal according to the requirements of time and circumstances.
2. There is a provision of amendment to Constitution in Indian Constitution.
3. Parliament to legislate on exclusively state subjects if such situation arrives.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: c

First statement is correct:

All federal systems including the American are placed in a tight mould of federalism. No matter what the circumstances, it cannot change its form and shape. It can never be unitary. **On the other hand, the Indian Federation can be both unitary as well as federal according to the requirements of time and circumstances. In normal times, it is framed to work as a federal system.**

the whole scene can become transformed and the State becomes a unitary state. The Union under the Proclamation can claim if it wants (1) the power to legislate upon any subject even though it may be in the State list, (2) the power to give directions to the States as to how they should exercise their executive authority in matters which are within their charge, (3) the power to vest authority for any purpose in any officer, and (4) the power to suspend the financial provisions of the Constitution. Such a power of converting itself into a unitary State **no federation possesses.** This is one point of difference between the Federation proposed in the Draft Constitution, and all other Federations we know of.

Second statement is correct:

The second means adopted to avoid rigidity and legalism is the provision for facility with which the Constitution could be amended. The provisions of the Constitution relating to the amendment of the Constitution divide the Articles of the Constitution into two groups. In the one group are placed Articles relating to (a) the distribution of legislative powers between the Centre and the States, (b) the representation of the States in Parliament, and (c) the powers of the Courts. All other Articles are placed in another group. Articles placed in the second group cover a very large part of the Constitution and can be amended by Parliament by a double majority, namely, a majority of not less than two thirds of the members of each House present and voting and by a majority of the total membership of each House. The amendment of these Articles does not require ratification by the

Third statement is correct:

Parliament to legislate on exclusively provincial subjects in normal times. I refer to Articles 249, 250 and 252.

Under Article 249 Parliament can legislate when a subject becomes a matter of national concern as distinguished from purely Provincial concern, though the subject is in the State list, provided a resolution is passed by the Upper Chamber by 2/3rd majority in favour of such exercise of the power by the Centre. Article 250 gives the similar power to Parliament in a national emergency. Under Article 252 Parliament can exercise the same power if states consent to such exercise.

**249. Power of Parliament to legislate with respect to a matter in the State List in the national interest.**—(1) Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this Chapter, if the Council of States has declared by resolution supported by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting that it

**250. Power of Parliament to legislate with respect to any matter in the State List if a Proclamation of Emergency is in operation.**—(1) Notwithstanding anything in this Chapter, Parliament shall, while a Proclamation of Emergency is in operation, have power to make laws for the whole or any part of the territory of India with respect to <sup>2</sup>[goods and services tax provided under article 246A or] any of the matters enumerated in the State List.

**252. Power of Parliament to legislate for two or more States by consent and adoption of such legislation by any other State.**—(1) If it appears to the Legislatures of two or more States to be desirable that any of the matters with respect to which Parliament has no power to make laws for the States except as

Q18. Consider the following statements.

1. United States of America introduced a 'preamble' in its Constitution for the first time.

2. The ideals of 'liberty, equality and fraternity' in the preamble is inspired by Gandhian thoughts.
3. Till date, preamble to the Constitution of India amended twice.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only 1
- b. Only 2
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: a

Explanation:

**First is correct statement. Second and third are incorrect.**

**United States of America introduced a 'preamble' in its Constitution for the first time.**

The ideals of 'liberty, equality and fraternity' in the preamble is inspired by **French Revolution**.

As of now, **the preamble is only amended once** through the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976.

The term 'Socialist', 'Secular', and 'Integrity' were added to the preamble through 42nd Amendment Act, 1976.

Q19. While deciding the repo rate, Monetary Policy Committee may keep in mind the following factors:

1. Inflation
2. Economic Growth
3. Rupee appreciation/depreciation

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: A

Explanation:

**Question has been taken from RBI's interview.**

economy

RBI monetary policy: Repo rate hiked by 50 bps, here is what it tells us

How will the RBI's repo rate hike impact your home loan?

RBI policy: How inflation, repo rate and demand are linked to each other

MPC hikes repo rate by 50 bps to 5.40%; Covid-era cuts reversed entirely

management, including Governor **Shaktikanta Das** and Deputy Governor **Michael Patra**, spoke to the media on various issues. Edited Excerpts:

**What is going to be your approach with the rupee as volatility increases going forward?**

Das: The MPC decisions continue to be guided, and will be guided by domestic factors. There are two components in the MPC framework: inflation; and the requirements of growth in mind. The decisions are based on these twin objectives, with primacy being given to price stability.

Currency market fluctuations, depreciation, or appreciation of the rupee is not a factor for consideration for the MPC. And for dealing with

those situations, the RBI has other instruments that will be deployed as per requirements. Currency movements are not the factors driving monetary policy decisions, which are based on the domestic inflation-growth dynamics.

Q20. Concerning Indian history, who among the following described as “**Buddha of the Present**”?

- a. Shakyamuni
- b. Rishabhdeva
- c. Maitreya
- d. Dipankara

Solution: a

Explanation:

Read:



Dipankara

Buddha of the past



Shakyamuni

Buddha of the present



Maitreya

Buddha of the future

Q21. In reference to **parliamentary elections**, consider the following statements.

1. As per the Act, a candidate can contest elections from any number of seats, but at a time, he or she can hold only one if elected in all seats.
2. To contest in a Lok Sabha election, a candidate must be a voter in a state from which he or she is contesting election.
3. If a person is convicted of an offence and he or she is out on bail after the conviction, he is disqualified from contesting an election.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: a

Explanation:

**Read below entire paragraph:**

**First is incorrect:**

is a contestant from Wayanad too. According to the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951, a candidate is permitted to contest an election from up to two constituencies, but he or she can hold only one seat at a time if elected from both.

### **Is there a cap?**

A sub-section, 33 (7), of the RPA, allowing a candidate to contest from two seats, was introduced through an amendment in 1996, prior to which there was no bar on the number of constituencies from which a candidate could contest. However, Section 70 of the same Act stipulates that a candidate can hold only one seat at a time, regardless of whether he or she has been elected from more than one seat. Thus, if a candidate wins from two seats, a byelection is necessary from the seat he or she vacates.

Second statement is incorrect:

one seat

Moreover, a person has to be a voter in a particular State to contest Assembly polls from there. But to contest in a Lok Sabha election, a person can be registered as a voter in any constituency of the country. If a person is a registered voter in any constituency, he or she can contest from any seat in India, except Assam, Lakshadweep and Sikkim.

Third statement is correct:

Under the RPA Act, if a person is convicted of any offence and sentenced to an imprisonment of two years or more, this will lead to his disqualification to contest elections. Even if this person is out on bail, after the conviction and his appeal is pending for disposal, he or she is disqualified from contesting an election. For some categories of serious offences, one may incur disqualification for any conviction, regardless of the quantum of punishment.

Q22. In reference to 'Booth Capturing During Elections'. Consider the following statements.

1. As per the Act, any person who is convicted of the offence of booth capturing shall be disqualified of membership to the Parliament.
2. The time period for being disqualified for such above mentioned offence is determined by the President.
3. As per the Act, if booth capturing takes place, EC can declare the poll void and appoint a day for fresh poll.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?



- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: c

Explanation:

**First and second are correct statements.**

**As per sub-section (8) of this Section 123, booth capturing by a candidate, his agent or other person is a "corrupt practice".**

Under Section 8 of the RPA, **any person who is convicted of the offence of booth capturing (under Section 135A) shall be disqualified of membership to the Parliament and State Assemblies/Councils, if he is sentenced to -**

- (i) only fine, for a period of 6 years from the date of conviction;
- (ii) imprisonment, from the date of such conviction until expiry of a period of 6 years since his release.

**The question whether a person shall be disqualified upon being found guilty, and if so, for what period, is determined by the President.** The President is bound to consult the EC in this regard and shall act based on the opinion received (Ref: Section 8A of RPA).

<sup>3</sup>[**8A. Disqualification on ground of corrupt practices.**—(1) The case of every person found guilty of a corrupt practice by an order under section 99 shall be submitted, <sup>4</sup>[as soon as may be within a period of three months from the date such order takes effect], by such authority as the Central Government may specify in this behalf, to the President for determination of the question as to whether such person shall be disqualified and if so, for what period.]

Third statement is also correct:

✓ As per Section 58A of RPA, if booth capturing takes place at a polling station or at a place fixed for the poll/counting of votes, in such a manner that result cannot be ascertained, the concerned Returning Officer shall immediately report the matter to the Election Commission (EC).

On receiving such a report from a Returning Officer, and after taking all material circumstances into account, the EC has two options -

- ✓ (i) Either it can declare the poll void and appoint a day (as well as fixed hours) for fresh poll, which shall be notified in manner deemed fit, or
- ✓ (ii) If it is satisfied that in view of large number of polling stations/counting places being captured, the result of the election is likely to be affected, it can countermand the election in the relevant constituency.

Q23. Consider The following statements about **Integrated full electronic Propulsion System** in India.

1. Recently, Indian and the UK government are discussing regarding collaboration on the development of an electric propulsion system in India.
2. At present, Indian warships do not have electric propulsion systems.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

News:

## India, UK closer to pact on electric propulsion system for warships

Indian warships are currently powered by diesel engines, gas turbines or steam turbines. The electric propulsion capability is meant to power larger warships with a displacement of over 6,000 tonnes.

**Recently, discussions have been underway between the Indian government and the UK government** regarding a potential agreement to collaborate on the development of an electric propulsion system in India.

**At present, Indian warships do not have electric propulsion systems. They are currently powered by diesel engines, and gas or steam turbines.**

Q24. Consider the following pairs (places in news: location).

1. Bahia state (in news due to deforestation, land grabbing and human rights violations): Brazil
2. Mafia Island (Cyclone Hidaya makes landfall): Indonesia

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

AFRICA

## Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's largest city, escapes major damage as Cyclone Hidaya makes landfall on Mafia Island near it



Q25. In reference to **United Nations Trust Fund for Counter-Terrorism**, consider the following statements.

1. The Fund accepts contributions from Governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, private institutions, and individuals.
2. The fund is managed by United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT).
3. Qatar and Saudi Arabia are the largest contributors to United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) in 2023.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: c

Explanation:

News:

Recently, India contributed \$5,00,000 to UN Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund, reaffirming unwavering commitment to global fight against terrorism.

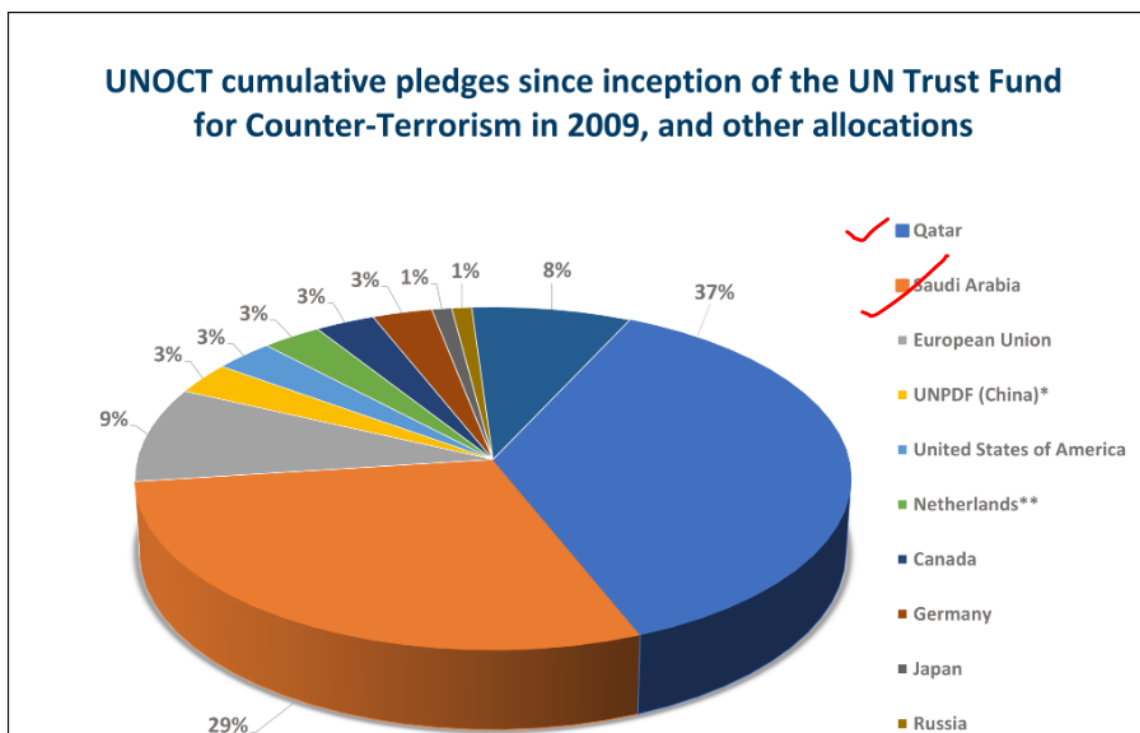
## India contributes \$5,00,000 to U.N. Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund

India contributes \$5,00,000 to UN Counter-Terrorism Trust Fund, reaffirming unwavering commitment to global fight against terrorism

Published - May 08, 2024 04:16 pm IST - United Nations

The Fund was established in 2009 by the Secretary-General and transferred to United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) when it was created in 2017 following General Assembly resolution 71/291 PDF. The Fund accepts contributions from Governments, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, private institutions, and individuals.

UNOCT top 10 funding partners (data as of 31 March 2024):



Q26. Consider the following statements regarding Spice Board of India.

1. It is not a statutory body.
2. Currently, only 12 spices are listed under the purview of the Board.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

***The below information is taken from Ministry of Commerce annual report 2022-23. So you can 100 learn with confident.***

**Both statements are incorrect.**

**Spices Board, the statutory organization constituted on 26th February 1987, under the Spices Board Act 1986 with the merger of the erstwhile Cardamom Board and Spices Export Promotion Council under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.**

## **A/ Constitution of Spices Board**

The Spices Board Act 1986, (No.10 of 1986) enacted by the Parliament provides for the constitution of a Board for the development of export of spices and for the control of cardamom industry including control of cultivation of cardamom and matters connected therewith. The Central Government by notification in the official gazette constituted the Spices Board, which came into being on 26<sup>th</sup> February, 1987.

## **B. The Spices Board consists of:**

- a) A Chairman to be appointed by the Central Government;
- b) Three members of Parliament of whom two shall be elected by the House of the People and one by the Council of States;
- c) Three members to represent the Ministries of the Central Government dealing with:
  - (i) Commerce;
  - (ii) Agriculture; and
  - (iii) Finance;

**D. Spices under the purview of the Board**

The following 52 spices are listed in the schedule of the Spices Board Act:

1	Cardamom	19	Kokam	37	Juniper berry
2	Pepper	20	Mint	38	Bayleaf
3	Chilli	21	Mustard	39	Lovage
4	Ginger	22	Parsley	40	Marjoram
5	Turmeric	23	Pomegranate seed	41	Nutmeg
6	Coriander	24	Saffron	42	Mace
7	Cumin	25	Vanilla	43	Basil
8	Fennel	26	Tejpat	44	Poppy seed
9	Fenugreek	27	Pepper long	45	All-Spice
10	Celery	28	Star anise	46	Rosemary
11	Aniseed	29	Sweet flag	47	Sage
12	Bishop's weed	30	Greater Galanga	48	Savory
13	Caraway	31	Horseradish	49	Thyme
14	Dill	32	Caper	50	Oregano
15	Cinnamon	33	Clove	51	Tarragon
16	Cassia	34	Asafoetida	52	Tamarind
17	Garlic	35	Cambodge		
18	Curry leaf	36	Hyssop		

Indian spice export basket contains 225 spices and spice products which were exported to more than 180 destinations globally during the period under report. During 2022-23, the major contributors in spice export basket in terms of value were Chilli(33%), Cumin(13%), Spice oil & Oleoresins (13%), Mint products (11%), Turmeric (5%), Curry powder (4%), Small Cardamom (3%) and Pepper (2%) which altogether contributed more than 80 per cent to the total export earnings of spices.

Q27. In the context Preamble of India, arrange the following in chronological order of their occurrence in Preamble.

1. EQUALITY of status and of opportunity
2. LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship
3. FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the unity and integrity of the Nation
4. JUSTICE, social, economic and political

Select the correct code.

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

d. 4-2-1-3

Solution: d

Explanation:

**Start the test just to check if you know Preamble or not.**

## THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

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

✓ 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 <sup>2</sup>[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.

Q28. Ladakh shares boundary with:

1. Pakistan
2. Afghanistan
3. China
4. Turkmenistan

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

**Ladakh shares boundary with Pakistan, China and Afghanistan.**





Q29. Which of the following officer has the power to disqualify a Member of the Legislature for occupying an 'Office of Profit'?

- a. The Chief Election Commissioner
- b. The President
- c. The Speaker of the Lok Sabha
- d. The Leader of the House concerned whose member is to be disqualified

Solution: b

Explanation:

Article 102(1)(a) of the Constitution of India recognizes "holding any Office of Profit under the government" a ground for disqualification from being a Member of Parliament (MP) as well as contesting parliamentary elections to be chosen as an MP.

**102. Disqualifications for membership.**—(1) A person shall be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament—

<sup>1</sup>[(a) if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State, other than an office declared by Parliament by law not to disqualify its holder;]

(b) if he is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court;

(c) if he is an undischarged insolvent;

(d) if he is not a citizen of India, or has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of a foreign State, or is under any acknowledgment of allegiance or adherence to a foreign State;

(e) if he is so disqualified by or under any law made by Parliament.

<sup>4</sup>[103. **Decision on questions as to disqualifications of members.**—(1) If any question arises as to whether a member of either House of Parliament has become subject to any of the disqualifications mentioned in clause (1) of article 102, the question shall be referred for the decision of the President and his decision shall be final.

Q30. Which of the following aspects can lead to appreciation in the exchange rate of the Rupee?

1. Increase in foreign tourists coming to India.
2. Indian citizens investing abroad.
3. A decrease in crude oil prices.
4. Increase in exports by Indian pharmaceutical companies.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

Increase in foreign tourists coming to India **would increase the demand for Rupee**. This would lead to an appreciation in the rupee value. **So, Statement (1) is correct.**

Indian citizens investing abroad **would demand foreign currency** in exchange for Rupee. This would lead to the **price of the foreign currency increasing relative to the rupee**, leading to a **depreciation in the value of the rupee**. **So, Statement (2) is not correct.**

A decrease in crude oil prices would **reduce the import bill** of India as India imports about 70 per cent of its crude requirements. This would **reduce the demand for foreign currency**, which in turn would lead to **an increase in the value of the rupee**. **So, Statement (3) is correct.**

Increase in exports by Indian pharmaceutical **companies would bring foreign exchange in India**. The price of foreign currency would reduce in terms of the rupee. This would lead to a depreciation in the value of the foreign currency and **an appreciation in the value of the rupee**. **So, Statement (4) is correct.**

Q31. In reference to **National Lok Adalat**, consider the following statements.

1. National Level Lok Adalats are held in all the courts right from the Supreme Court till the Taluk Levels.
2. Presently, National Lok Adalats are conducted every month throughout the country.
3. The National Lok Adalats across the country are organized as per the provisions of the Legal Service Authority Act 1987.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: b

Explanation:

News:

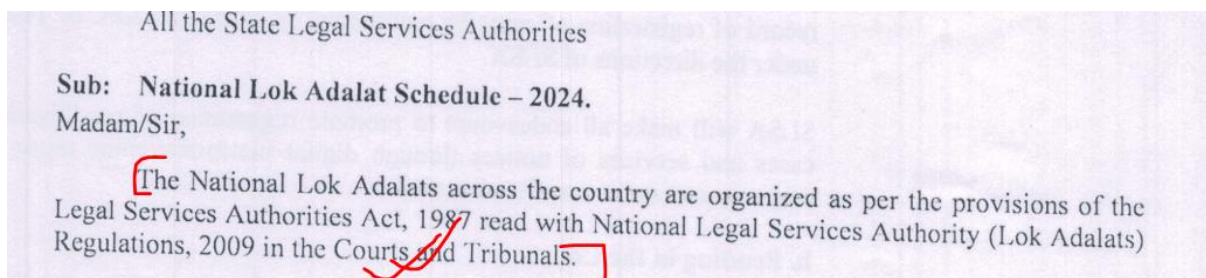
## 7.7 Lakh Cases Settled In 2nd National Lok Adalat Of 2024

**Gyanvi Khanna**

13 May 2024 5:43 PM

All information is taken from original document. No need to worry.

**National Level Lok Adalats are held for at regular intervals in all the courts right from the Supreme Court till the Taluk Levels wherein cases are disposed of in huge numbers.**



It has been the practice to conduct 4 National Lok Adalats in a year. Outcome of the National Lok Adalats organised during the years 2021, 2022 and 2023 has been encouraging with respect to pending and pre-litigation cases. The statistical figures of the cases disposed of in the National Lok Adalats held in last three years is as under:

Year	No. of Lok Adalats held	Pre-litigation Cases disposed of	Pending Cases disposed of	Total Cases disposed of
2021	4	72.06 lacs	55.82 lacs	127.88 lacs
2022	4	310.15 lacs	109.11 lacs	419.26 lacs
2023	4	673.78 lacs	136.52 lacs	810.30 lacs

3. Approved schedule of the National Lok Adalats in the year 2024 is as under:

1 <sup>st</sup> National Lok Adalat	09/03/2024
2 <sup>nd</sup> National Lok Adalat	11/05/2024
3 <sup>rd</sup> National Lok Adalat	14/09/2024
4 <sup>th</sup> National Lok Adalat	14/12/2024

Q32. In reference to 'appointment of additional judges in the High Court', consider the following statements.

1. No person appointed as an additional Judge of a High Court shall hold office after attaining the age of sixty-two years.
2. The President can appoint additional judges of a high court for a temporary period not exceeding two years.
3. Additional judge is appointed by the Chief Justice of High Court.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: b

Explanation:

**Additional Judges can be appointed by the President under clause (1) of Article 224 of the Constitution.**

<sup>4</sup>[224. Appointment of additional and acting Judges.—(1) If by reason of any temporary increase in the business of a High Court or by reason of arrears of work therein, it appears to the President that the number of the Judges of that Court should be for the time being increased, <sup>5</sup>[the President may, in consultation with the National Judicial Appointments Commission, appoint] duly qualified persons to be additional Judges of the Court for such period not exceeding two years as he may specify.

The President can appoint duly qualified persons as additional judges of a high court for a temporary period not exceeding two years when:

- there is a temporary increase in the business of the high court; or
- there are arrears of work in the high court.

**No person appointed as an additional or acting Judge of a High Court shall hold office after attaining the age of sixty-two years.**

(3) No person appointed as an additional or acting Judge of a High Court shall hold office after attaining the age of <sup>2</sup>[sixty-two years].]

Q33. In reference to **Memory of the World (MOW) Programme**, consider the following statements.

1. It is a UNICEF's initiative for preservation of the world's documentary heritage, particularly in areas affected by conflict and/or natural disaster.
2. Recently, Ramcharitmanas included in the/Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register'.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

News:

Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahṛdayāloka-Locana enter 'UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register'

Posted On: 13 MAY 2024 8:56PM by PIB Delhi

UNESCO launched the Memory of the World (MoW) Programme in 1992.

The Memory of the World Programme aims to:

- Facilitate preservation of the world's documentary heritage, particularly in areas affected by conflict and/or natural disaster
- Enable universal access to documentary heritage worldwide
- Enhance public awareness about the significant of documentary heritage among the wider public

The 20 successfully inscribed items to the Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Committee (MOWCAP) Regional Register for Asia-Pacific: **We will see only India:**

• India – The Illustrated Manuscripts of Rāmacaritamānasa of Tulasīdāsa

• India – The Manuscript of the Sahṛdayāloka-Locana: Seminal Text of Indian Poetics

• India – The 15th Century Manuscript of the Pañcatantra Fables

Q34. Consider the following statements with reference to Lok Sabha elections in India?

1. From 1951 to 2019, India has held 17 Lok Sabha elections.
2. The 2014 election was historic as it was the first time since 1951 that a party achieved an absolute majority.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

**Since 1951, India has held 17 Lok Sabha elections**, mobilizing hundreds of millions of voters each time. Voter turnout has steadily increased over the years, peaking in 2019 at over 67 per cent – a marked rise from the 44 per cent voter turnout in 1951.

**Hence, statement 1 is correct.**

The 2014 election was historic as it was the first time since 1984 that a party achieved an absolute majority. The polls saw 66.4 per cent turnout.

**Hence, statement 2 is not correct.**

Q35. Saudi Arabia have coastlines on three bodies of water. Which body of water being longest?

- a. Persian Gulf
- b. Red Sea
- c. Arabian Sea
- d. Gulf of Aqaba

Solution: b

Explanation:



Q36. What factors affect the Indian summer monsoon?

1. Indian Ocean Dipole
2. Equatorial Indian Ocean Oscillation
3. Atlantic sea surface temperature variability
4. Mascarene High

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

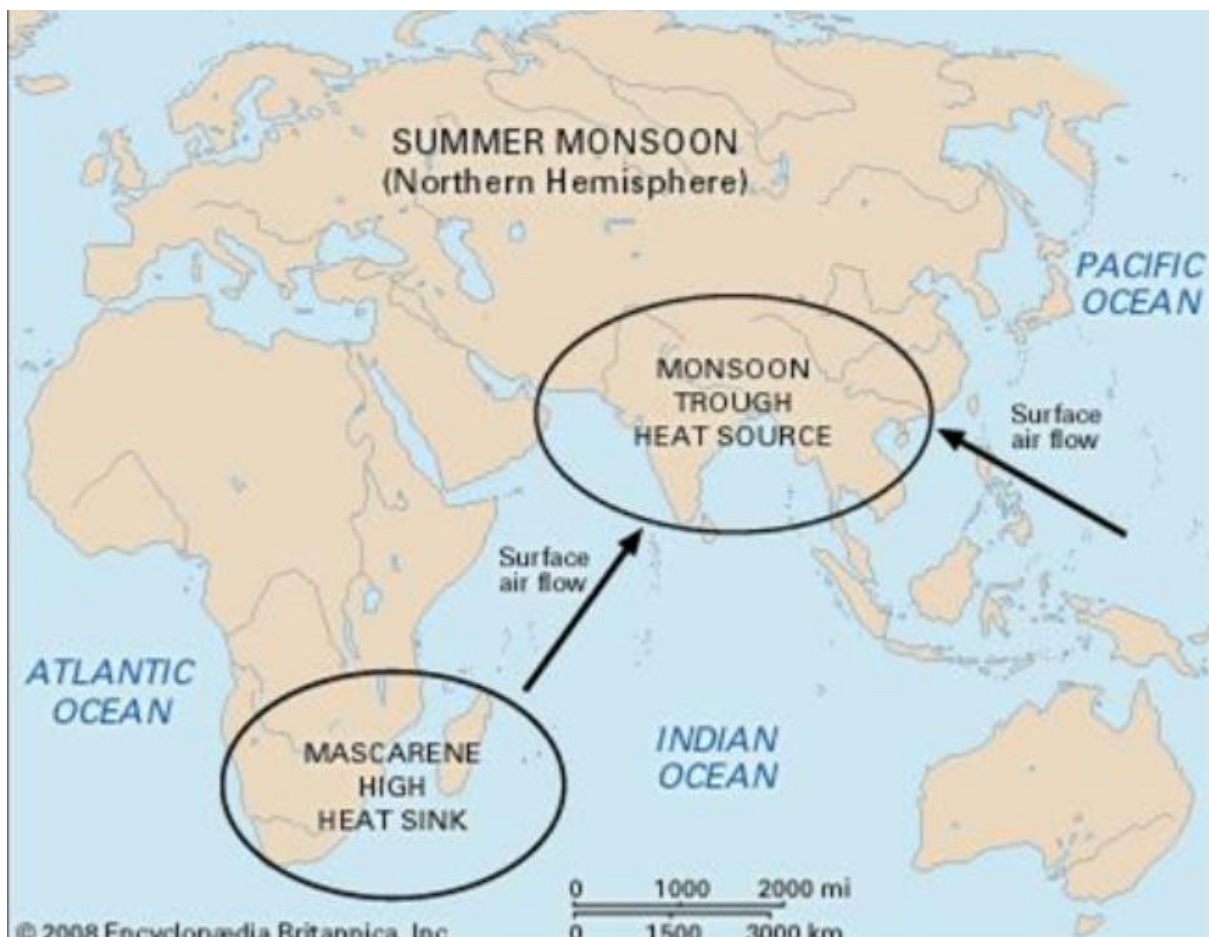
The **Indian Ocean Dipole or IOD** is caused by alternate warming and cooling in the Indian Ocean along the Equator from west to east, much like the ENSO.

The **Equatorial Indian Ocean Oscillation (EQUINOO)** is thought to arise as an effect of the IOD and refers to increased and decreased cloud formation between the western and eastern equatorial Indian Ocean.

Although the IOD was discovered only in 1999, and the EQUINOO in 2002, both have been recognised as important modulators of the Indian summer monsoon. **Positive IOD and EQUINOO events are associated with more rainfall as these events increase moisture transport from the southeastern parts of the Indian Ocean.**

The **Atlantic SST variability** affects the Indian summer monsoon in the same way that the ENSO does. A **warming of the surface of the Atlantic Ocean weakens the monsoon, just as cooling of the ocean's surface has the opposite effect.** The effects of this phenomenon, also known as the Atlantic Niño, on the Indian summer monsoon, is thought to be mediated through perturbations in the jet streams above India.

The **Mascarene High** is a semi-permanent high-pressure zone in the south Indian Ocean, about 4,000 km from India, near the Mascarene Islands. The Mascarene High begins developing in mid-April and is a major factor in driving the circulation between the northern and southern hemispheres that powers the summer monsoon winds towards the Indian subcontinent from the Indian Ocean.





Q37. Consider the following statements regarding

1. The reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India relating to the accounts of the Indian states shall be submitted to the Governor.
2. As per the Constitution, CAG is also responsible for the audit and accounts of Panchayats and Municipalities.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

**The reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India** relating to the accounts of the Union shall be **submitted to the President**, who shall cause them to be **laid before each House of Parliament**.

151. Audit reports.—(1) The reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India relating to the accounts of the Union shall be submitted to the President, who shall cause them to be laid before each House of Parliament.

(2) The reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India relating to the accounts of a State shall be submitted to the Governor<sup>3\*\*\*</sup> of the State, who shall cause them to be laid before the Legislature of the State.

The **Legislature of a State may**, by law, make provisions with respect to the maintenance of accounts by the Panchayats and the auditing of such accounts.

243J. Audit of accounts of Panchayats.—The Legislature of a State may, by law, make provisions with respect to the maintenance of accounts by the Panchayats and the auditing of such accounts.

Q38. Which of the following is/are the agencies of United Nations?

- a. The International Fund for Agricultural Development,
- b. World Intellectual Property Organization
- c. International Monetary Fund

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

The UN specialized agencies are autonomous international organizations working with the United Nations.

**FAO**

**Headquarters: Rome, Italy**

The Food and Agriculture Organization leads international efforts to fight hunger. It is both a forum for negotiating agreements between developing and developed countries and a source of technical knowledge and information to aid development.

**ICAO**

**Headquarters: Montreal, Canada**

The International Civil Aviation Organization develops standards for global air transport and assists its 192 Member States in sharing the world's skies to their socio-economic benefit.

**IFAD**

**Headquarters: Rome, Italy**

The International Fund for Agricultural Development, since it was created in 1977, has focused exclusively on rural poverty reduction, working with poor rural populations in developing countries to eliminate poverty, hunger and malnutrition; raise their productivity and incomes; and improve the quality of their lives.

**ILO**

**Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland**

The International Labor Organization promotes international labor rights by formulating international standards on the freedom to associate, collective bargaining, the abolition of forced labor, and equality of opportunity and treatment.

**IMF**

**Headquarters: Washington, DC, USA**

The International Monetary Fund fosters economic growth and employment by providing temporary financial assistance to countries to help ease balance of payments adjustment and technical assistance. The IMF currently has \$28 billion in outstanding loans to 74 nations.

**IMO**

**Headquarters: London, United Kingdom**

The International Maritime Organization has created a comprehensive shipping regulatory framework, addressing safety and environmental concerns, legal matters, technical cooperation, security, and efficiency.

**ITU**

**Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland**

The International Telecommunication Union is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies. It is committed to connecting all the world's people - wherever they live and whatever their means. Through our work, we protect and support everyone's fundamental right to communicate

**UNESCO**

**Headquarters: Paris, France**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization focuses on everything from teacher training to heliostats

**UNIDO**

**Headquarters: Vienna, Austria**

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization is the specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and environmental sustainability.

**UNWTO**

**Headquarters: Madrid, Spain**

The World Tourism Organization is the United Nations agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.

**UPU**

**Headquarters: Bern, Switzerland**

The Universal Postal Union is the primary forum for cooperation between postal sector players. It helps to ensure a truly universal network of up-to-date products and services.

**WHO**

**Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland**

The World Health Organization is the directing and coordinating authority on international health within the United Nations system. The objective of WHO is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health. Health, as defined in the WHO Constitution, is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

**WIPO**

**Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland**

The World Intellectual Property Organization protects intellectual property throughout the world through 23 international treaties.

**WMO**

**Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland**

The World Meteorological Organization facilitates the free international exchange of meteorological data and information and the furtherance of its use in aviation, shipping, security, and agriculture, among other things.

**WORLD BANK**

**Headquarters: Washington, DC, USA**

The World Bank focuses on poverty reduction and the improvement of living standards worldwide by providing low-interest loans, interest-free credit, and grants to developing countries for education, health, infrastructure, and communications, among other things. The World Bank works in over 100 countries.

- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID)\*
- International Development Association (IDA)
- International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)\*

\* International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) are not

Q39. Consider the following statements regarding Biomining.

1. It is the process of using microorganisms (microbes) to extract metals of economic interest from rock ores or mine waste.
2. The use of this technique is limited to metals which can be oxidized by the microbes.
3. This technique is not suitable for metals like iron and copper, which are dissolved easily in water, for such minerals other techniques are used.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

News is:

Biomining is the process of using microorganisms (microbes) to extract metals of economic interest from rock ores or mine waste. Biomining techniques may also be used to clean up sites that have been polluted with metals.

Valuable metals are commonly bound up in solid minerals. Some microbes can oxidize those metals, allowing them to dissolve in water. This is the basic process behind most biomining, which is used for metals that can be more easily recovered when dissolved than from the solid rocks. A different biomining technique, for metals which are not dissolved by the microbes, uses microbes to break down the surrounding minerals, making it easier to recover the metal of interest directly from the remaining rock.

What metals are currently biominated?

Most current biominating operations target valuable metals like copper, uranium, nickel, and gold that are commonly found in sulfidic (sulfur-bearing) minerals. Microbes are especially good at oxidizing sulfidic minerals, converting metals like iron and copper into forms that can dissolve more easily. Other metals, like gold, are not directly dissolved by this microbial process, but are made more accessible to traditional mining techniques because the minerals surrounding these metals are dissolved and removed by microbial processes. When the metal of interest is directly dissolved, the biominating process is called "bioleaching," and when the metal of interest is made more accessible or "enriched" in the material left behind, it is called "biooxidation." Both processes involve microbial reactions that can happen anywhere the microbes, rocks, and necessary nutrients, like oxygen, occur together.

Q40. Consider the following statements.

1. The G20 is an international group initially founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis.
2. G-7 was formed after G-20.
3. All members of G-7 are part of G-20.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

The **G20 is an international group initially founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis** as a forum for the finance ministers and central bank governors of 19 countries and the European Union.

G-7 was formed in 1975. **Second statement is correct.**

G-7 members: United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, Japan, France and Italy.

G:20 members: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, **Canada**, China, **France**, **Germany**, India, Indonesia, **Italy**, **Japan**, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the **United Kingdom**, **the United States**, and the European Union.

Q41. In reference to '**Paris Principles' (Relating to the Status of National Human Rights Institutions)** consider the following statements.

1. The above-mentioned Paris Principles led to the formation of Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) for the protection of human rights.

2. Today, the UN strongly encourages all States to establish or strengthen an NHRI in compliance with the Paris Principles.
3. India is a member of GANHRI.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: c

Explanation:

News:

## Geneva-based UN-related body to review India's human rights accreditation status this week

India's processes under scanner after **GANHRI** deferred the country's rating in 2023; criticism included lack of pluralism, appointing police officials, ruling party members to NHRC

April 28, 2024 08:12 pm | Updated April 29, 2024 06:31 am IST - NEW DELHI:



1991

In 1991, the first international workshop on National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights took place in Paris. A key outcome was the Paris Principles relating to the status of national institutions.

When National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) met in Tunis for their second international workshop, **they decided to establish the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI).**

Since then, the UN General Assembly has adopted numerous resolutions calling for the strengthening of NHRIs.

**Today, the UN strongly encourages all States to establish or strengthen an NHRI in compliance with the Paris Principles.** These calls are found in resolutions of the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, in recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review and the treaty monitoring bodies, and in the reports of the special procedures.

As of December 2023, GANHRI is composed of 120 members:

**India is a member.**



Q42. The year 2024 commemorates 50 years since the launch of the **Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI)**.

Consider the following statements.

1. The Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), an initiative launched by the World Health Organization.
2. Presently, EPI programme only focuses on protecting children against small pox and tuberculosis.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

Read:

**Vaccines have emerged as a cornerstone of public health, preventing the spread of deadly diseases and saving countless lives.**

The Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI), an initiative launched by the World Health Organization in 1974, stands as a global endeavor to ensure equitable access to life-saving vaccines for every child, regardless of their geographic location or socioeconomic status. Over the past five decades, EPI has evolved and achieved remarkable milestones that reshaped the global health landscape.

The 50th anniversary of EPI in 2024 provides a pivotal occasion to celebrate the programme's achievements, highlight its impact on lives saved, and catalyze renewed efforts to strengthen routine immunization initiatives.

At its inception, EPI focused on protecting all children against six childhood illnesses, including tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, and measles. **Today, today, this number has grown to 13 universally recommended vaccines across the life course, and 17 additional vaccines with context dependent recommendations.**

Q43. Consider the following statements regarding **Niligiri Tahr**.

1. Niligiri Tahr is endemic to the Western Ghats mountains in south India.
2. It is listed as an endangered species by the IUCN and protected under Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. Niligiri Tahr is the state animal of Tamil Nadu.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: c

Explanation:

News:

## Synchronised estimation of Niligiri Tahr begins in Tamil Nadu, parts of Kerala

More than 700 field staff will be involved in the survey to be held from April 29 to May 1

April 29, 2024 09:04 pm | Updated April 30, 2024 02:18 pm IST - COIMBATORE

**All statements are correct. Remember.**

Q44. Consider the following statements.

1. The term 'microplastics' refers to plastic particles that are no larger than 5 millimeters.
2. Common additives released from microplastics include heavy metals, bisphenol A and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.
3. As per the report, in 2024, India will be the second country after China that pollutes waterways the most due to microplastics and chemical additives.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: c

Explanation:

**According to Plastic Overshoot Day (POD) Report:**

After China, India will be the second country that pollutes waterways the most due to microplastics and chemical additives.

Search in table

Page 1 of 11

Country	Microplastics in waterways (in tons)	Chemical additives pollution in waterways (in tons)
China	787,069	59,208
India	391,879	31,483
United States	267,248	6,797
Japan	156,482	854
Indonesia	78,625	7,830

The term 'microplastics' refers to plastic particles that are no larger than 5 millimetres. The release of primary microplastics from sources such as tyre abrasion, shedding of textile fibres, pellets production and paint pollute the environment, along with improper waste disposal, the researchers flagged in the report.

The chemical additives in the microplastics accumulate in waterbodies and have serious impacts on human health. "Common additives released from microplastics include heavy metals, polyamidoamine-epichlorohydrins, bisphenol A, brominated flame retardants and per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances,"

Q45. With respect to **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**, consider the following statements.

1. It has been constituted under Environment Protection Act, 1986.
2. Prime minister is the chairperson of the Authority.
3. It ensures that the tiger reserves are not diverted for ecologically unsustainable uses.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

**First and second statements are incorrect.**

The **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)** has been constituted under section 38 L (1) of **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.

Further, as per the section 38 L, sub section 2 of the said Act, the authority consists of the Minister in charge of the **Ministry of Environment and Forests (as Chairperson)**, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Forests (as Vice-Chairperson), three members of Parliament, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests and other members.

Powers and functions of the National Tiger Conservation Authority as prescribed under section 38O (1) and (2) of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, as amended in 2006. One of it says:



7. ensure that the tiger reserves and areas linking one protected area or tiger reserve with another protected area or tiger reserve are not diverted for ecologically unsustainable uses, except in public interest and with the approval of the National Board for Wild Life and on the advice of the Tiger Conservation Authority

Q46. Right to fly the National Flag is a:

- a. Legal Right
- b. Fundamental Duty
- c. Fundamental Right under Article 21
- d. Fundamental Right under Article 19

Solution: d

Explanation:

Read:

*The conclusions of the Supreme Court in Union of India vs Naveen Jindal :*

*(i) Right to fly the National Flag freely with respect and dignity is a fundamental right of a citizen within the meaning of Article 19(1) (a) of the Constitution of India being an expression and manifestation of his allegiance and feelings and sentiments of pride for the nation;*

*(ii) The fundamental right to fly National Flag is not an absolute right but a qualified one being subject to reasonable restrictions under clause 2 of Article 19 of the Constitution of India;*

*(iii) The Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950 and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 regulate the use of the National Flag ;*

*(iv) Flag Code although is not a law within the meaning of Article 13(3)(a) of the Constitution of India for the purpose of clause (2) of Article 19 thereof, it would not restrictively regulate the free exercise of the right of flying the national flag. However, the Flag Code to the extent it provides for preserving respect and dignity of the National Flag, the same deserves to be followed.*

**If you have marked Fundamental Duty, please look into the chapter what FD says about Indian flag:**

✓ FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES

**51A. Fundamental duties.**—It shall be the duty of every citizen of India—

(a) to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem;

(b) to cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;

(c) to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India;

(d) to defend the country and render national service when called upon to do so;

(e) to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women;

(f) to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture;

Q47. As per the Constitution, 'Unsound mind' is one the way for the disqualification from membership of which of the following?

1. Member of Legislative Council.
2. Finance Commission
3. Member of Parliament
4. A Judge of the Supreme Court

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

**102. Disqualifications for membership.**—(1) A person shall be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament—

<sup>1</sup>[(a) if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State, other than an office declared by Parliament by law not to disqualify its holder;]

(b) if he is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court;

**191. Disqualifications for membership.**—(1) A person shall be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being, a member of the Legislative Assembly or Legislative Council of a State—

<sup>2</sup>[(a) if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State specified in the First Schedule, other than an office declared by the Legislature of the State by law not to disqualify its holder;]

(b) if he is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court;]

**Finance Commission:**

**The term 'unsound mind' is mentioned not in Constitution, but Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951.**

**5. Disqualifications for being a member of the Commission.**—A person shall be disqualified for being appointed as, or for being, a member of the Commission,—

- (a) if he is of **unsound mind**;
- (b) if he is an **undischarged insolvent**;
- (c) if he has been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude;
- (d) if he has such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his functions as a member of the Commission.

**For SC judge, the criteria is not "unsound mind".**

(4) A Judge of the Supreme Court shall not be removed from his office except by an order of the President passed after an address by each House of Parliament supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting has been presented to the President in the same session for such removal on the ground of **proved misbehaviour or incapacity.**

Q48. Which one of the following is **NOT** the most likely measure the Government/RBI takes to control rupee weakening?

- A. Increasing tariffs on imported goods and promoting exports
- B. Easing Foreign Direct Investment Rules
- C. Increase in the issue of rupee dominated Masala Bonds
- D. Following an expansionary monetary policy

Solution: d

Explanation:

**Rupee depreciation means that Indian rupee is losing its value against foreign currencies. In simple terms, you will remember:**

**Rupee depreciates when more rupee in market compared to dollar. More rupee in market means, its value will decrease. So, to prevent depreciation, we have to keep dollars in our economy.**

**Now back to question.**

**First statement is correct. It will reduce CAD. Less dollar will now go outside.**

**Second statement is correct.**

The FDIs are driven in the form of purchase of government bonds and corporate bonds. Foreign investors buy these bonds by shelling out foreign currency. Thus, the value of the foreign currency with respect to the Indian Rupee drops as the demand for Indian rupee has increased against the Dollar. **This increase in demand for INR causes the rupee to appreciate against the Dollar.**

**Thus, FDIs certainly help any country (India is no exception) to appreciate its currency.**

**Third statement is correct.**

It will help by reducing the demand of dollars in loan-repayment.

**Fourth statement is wrong.**

**because rupee currency supply will increase without corresponding increase in the supply of dollars and as a result: dollar will strengthen, Indian Rupee will weaken further. So D is the answer.**

Q49. Which of the following is/are the **goals of the convention on Biological Diversity?**

1. Conservation of biological diversity
2. Sustainable use of its components
3. Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources
4. Conservation of the natural resources

Select the correct answer using code given below.

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), known informally as the Biodiversity Convention, is a multilateral treaty. **The Convention has three main goals:**

- a. *conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity);*
- b. *sustainable use of its components; and*
- c. *fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources*

In other words, its objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity. It is often seen as the key document regarding sustainable development.

**The Convention was opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro on 5 June 1992 and entered into force on 29 December 1993.**

Q50. Considering between *Equator and Tropic of Cancer*, **which of the following places is nearest to the Tropic of Cancer?**

- a. Jaipur
- b. Agartala
- c. Kolkata
- d. Raipur

Solution: c

Explanations:

Similar question has been already asked in our previous Quizzes. You can easily eliminate Agartala and Jaipur as they lie above Tropic of Cancer.

Between Kolkata and Raipur, you can easily predict right answer if you remember the map of India. Right answer is Kolkata.



Q51. In reference to **Bacterial Priority Pathogens List (BPPL)**, consider the following statements.

1. Bacterial Priority Pathogens List (BPPL) 2024 is the first such edition developed by World Health Organization.
2. Since its launch, the BPPL has been used to analyse antibacterials, and the results have been published in annual WHO reports.

Which of the above statements is/is/are correct?

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

Solution: B

Explanation:

News:

## WHO updates Bacterial Pathogens Priority List as critical priority pathogens continue to present major global threat

The list features 15 families of antibiotic-resistant bacteria grouped into critical, high and medium categories for prioritisation.

Updated - May 19, 2024 08:57 pm IST Published - May 19, 2024 08:08 pm IST - NEW DELHI

### About Bacterial Pathogens Priority List:

It is an important tool in the global fight against antimicrobial resistance.

**Background**

- a. In 2017, WHO developed the first BPPL to guide investment into the R&D of new antibacterials and it listed 13 bacterial pathogens (phenotypes).
- b. It was developed with the multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) method (15).
- c. MCDA is a decision-making scientific method that mounts and evaluates alternatives based on multiple criteria, facilitating systematic and transparent decision-making in complex options.

The 2024 WHO BPPL covers 24 pathogens, spanning 15 families of antibiotic-resistant bacterial pathogens.

**The 2024 list categorizes these pathogens into critical, high, and medium priority groups to inform research and development (R&D) and public health interventions.**

**In 2017, WHO developed the first BPPL to guide investment into the R&D of new antibacterials.**

Q52. Consider the following statements.

1. All registered political parties are either national party or state party.
2. Registered political parties enjoy the tax exemption over donations received under Income Tax Act 1961.
3. As per the Act, if any registered political party fails to conduct elections for 3 consecutive years, ECI is empowered to de-list the party.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: b

Explanation:

**All statements are taken from the Article:**

**Third statement is incorrect:**

**What are the issues?**

It has been noticed that less than a third of RUPPs contest elections. The RP Act does not confer explicit powers on the ECI to de-register any political party if it fails to contest elections, conduct inner-party elections or lodge requisite returns. The Supreme Court in *Indian National Congress versus Institute of Social Welfare & Ors* (2002) had held that the ECI does not have power to de-register any political party under the RP Act. It may de-register only under exceptional circumstances like registration being obtained by fraud or the political party ceasing to have allegiance to the Constitution or if it is declared unlawful by the Government. The RUPPs that don't

First is incorrect:

**Registered Unrecognized Political Parties (RUPP):**

Either newly registered parties or those **which have not secured enough percentage of votes in the assembly or general elections to become a state party**, or those which have never contested elections since being registered are considered unrecognized parties.

Such parties don't enjoy all the benefits extended to the recognised parties.

**Recognised Political Party:**

**A recognised political party shall either be a National party or a State party if it meets certain laid down conditions.**

# Can parties be de-recognised or de-registered?



Does the Election Commission have the power to de-recognise a political party for violation of the MCC?

**Rangarajan R**

**The story so far:**

The Election Commission of India (ECI) in its report on enforcement of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) has stated that it expects star campaigners to lead by example and not vitiate the fabric of society. This has raised a debate about ECI powers to rein in MCC violations.

**What are registered parties?**

Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act) lays down the requirements for registration of a political party with the ECI. Any political party that seeks registration should submit a copy of its memorandum/constitution. Such document should declare that the party shall bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India. It should also bear allegiance to the principles of socialism, secularism and democracy, and uphold the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India. Registered political

parties enjoy the following legal benefits - (a) tax exemption for donations received under Section 13A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, (b) common symbol for contesting general elections to the Lok Sabha/State Assemblies, and (c) twenty 'star campaigners' during election campaign. As per the ECI, there are 2,790 active registered political parties in India.

**What are recognised parties?**

A registered party is referred to as a Registered Unrecognised Political Party (RUPP). Political parties are recognised as a 'national' or 'State' party under the provisions of The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 (Symbols Order) by the ECI. The criteria for recognition at the 'national' or 'State' level consists of winning requisite number of seats and/or obtaining required percentage of votes in a general election to Lok Sabha or State Assembly. At present, there are six 'national' parties, and sixty-one 'State' parties that have been recognised. These recognised

parties enjoy additional concessions of having a reserved symbol during elections and forty 'star campaigners'.

**What are the issues?**

It has been noticed that less than a third of RUPPs contest elections. The RP Act does not confer explicit powers on the ECI to de-register any political party if it fails to contest elections, conduct inner-party elections or lodge requisite returns. The Supreme Court in *Indian National Congress versus Institute of Social Welfare & Ors* (2002) had held that the ECI does not have power to de-register any political party under the RP Act. It may de-register only under exceptional circumstances like registration being obtained by fraud or the political party ceasing to have allegiance to the Constitution or if it is declared unlawful by the Government. The RUPPs that don't contest elections raise concerns over the possible misuse of income tax exemption and donations collected being used for money laundering.

The MCC prohibits using caste and communal feelings to secure votes, and bribing or intimidation of voters. Recognised political parties are guilty of violating the MCC on various occasions. However, it has been observed that the ECI on such occasions at best bars leaders from campaigning for a short period of two to three days.

**What needs to be done?**

The ECI in its memorandum for electoral reforms (2016) has suggested amendment to the law that would empower the ECI to deregister a party. The Law Commission in its 255th report (2015) on 'Electoral reforms' has also recommended amendments for de-registration of a political party if it fails to contest elections for 10 consecutive years. These recommendations should be implemented. Under Paragraph 16A of the Symbols order, the ECI has the power to suspend or withdraw recognition of a recognised political party for its failure to observe MCC or follow lawful directions of the Commission. It has probably been used only once for three weeks in 2015 when the recognition of National People's Party was suspended for failure to follow the directions of the ECI. Strict action under this provision would have a salutary effect in ensuring adherence to the MCC.

Rangarajan R is a former IAS officer and author of 'Polity Simplified'. He trains civil-service aspirants at 'Officers IAS Academy'. Views expressed are personal.

**THE GIST**

Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act) lays down the requirements for registration of a political party with the ECI.

The Supreme Court in *Indian National Congress versus Institute of Social Welfare & Ors* (2002) had held that the ECI does not have power to de-register any political party under the RP Act.

The ECI in its memorandum for electoral reforms (2016) has suggested amendment to the law that would empower the ECI to deregister a party.

Q53. Consider the following statements.

1. Tamil Nadu is the largest producer of lignite in the country.
2. Coal contributes nearly 50 percent of the total installed power generation in India.
3. Nuclear power generation contributes less than 2 percent in India.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: c

Explanation:

All statements are correct.

Look at the latest data:



**Power Sector at a Glance ALL INDIA**

**Updated on 12-06-2023**  
**Source: OM SECTION**

**1.Total Installed Capacity (As on 31.05.2023) - Source : Central Electricity Authority (CEA)**

INSTALLED GENERATION CAPACITY (SECTOR WISE) AS ON 31.05.2023

Sector	MW	% of Total
Central Sector	1,00,055	24.0%
State Sector	1,05,726	25.3%
Private Sector	2,11,887	50.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,17,668</b>	

Installed GENERATION CAPACITY(FUELWISE) AS ON 31.05.2023

CATAGORY	INSTALLED GENERATION CAPACITY(MW)	% of SHARE IN Total
<b>Fossil Fuel</b>		
Coal	205,235	49.1%
Lignite	6,620	1.6%
Gas	24,824	6.0%
Diesel	589	0.1%
<b>Total Fossil Fuel</b>	<b>2,37,269</b>	<b>56.8 %</b>
<b>Non-Fossil Fuel</b>		
<b>RES (Incl. Hydro)</b>	<b>173,619</b>	<b>41.4%</b>
Hydro	46,850	11.2 %
Wind, Solar & Other RE	125,692	30.2 %
Wind	42,868	10.3 %
Solar	67,078	16.1 %
BM Power/Cogen	10,248	2.5 %
Waste to Energy	554	0.1 %
Small Hydro Power	4,944	1.2 %
<b>Nuclear</b>	6,780	<b>1.6%</b>
<b>Total Non-Fossil Fuel</b>	<b>179,322</b>	<b>43.0%</b>

First statement is correct:

Coal and lignite have been the mainstay of energy security. As India pushes to transition to renewable energy, public sector undertakings are under pressure to diversify.

**T**amil Nadu is the largest producer of lignite in the country. According to statistics released by the Union Ministry of Coal for 2022-23, Tamil Nadu accounted for 49.97% of the production, followed by Gujarat at 27.37% ,and Rajasthan at 22.67%.

NLC India Ltd., headquartered at Neyveli in Tamil Nadu, contributes a lion's share of lignite production. The public sector undertaking (PSU) lists, as among its performance highlights, the all-time high coal and lignite production of 36.32

chairman and the first Centre energy capacity target an increase of 6 GW including 6 GW

The environment can be harsh. undertaken for resources but aspect. At present, the reclamation of will be efforts

Q54. If Malacca strait is blocked, which of the alternative straits will be available for vessel carrying goods from Africa to reach Japan?

1. Through Sunda Strait
2. Through Lombok Strait
3. Through Taiwan Strait

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

If the Strait of Malacca were blocked, nearly half of the world's shipping fleet would be required to reroute around the Indonesian archipelago, such as through the **Lombok Strait between the Indonesian islands of Bali and Lombok or through the Sunda Strait** between the Indonesian islands of Java and Sumatra.



Vessel can skip Taiwan strait.



Q55. With reference to the funds under Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS), which of the following statements are correct?

1. MPLAD Scheme was announced during priministership of Rajiv Gandhi.
2. District Authority shall mandatorily maintain inspection registers for works carried out for trusts and societies.
3. MPLADS funds can be used for rehabilitation and reconstruction works in areas affected by natural "calamity of severe nature" declared by the Government of India.


How many of the above statements is/are **incorrect**?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: a

Explanation:

**First statement is incorrect:**





- 2.1  The MPLAD Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme, fully funded by the Government of India. This Scheme was announced on December 23, 1993 by the then Prime Minister of India in the Parliament.
- 2.2 The main objective of the Scheme is to enable each Member of Parliament to recommend works of developmental nature with emphasis on the creation of durable community assets based on the locally felt needs of the people.

**Initially the administration of MPLADS was with the Ministry of Rural Development. However, since October 1994, the administration of the Scheme has been vested with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.**

**Second statement is correct:**

**Role of District Authority:**

4.5.2 has already been asked in UPSC Prelims 2020 exam. Here I have asked 4.5.5.

- 4.5.2  They shall inspect at least 10% of the works under implementation every year, and would involve the Member of Parliament concerned in such inspections to the extent feasible.
- 4.5.3  They shall maintain the work-registers, for each Member of Parliament and for each of their tenure, indicating the position of each work recommended by them. This register will also contain the photographs of the work, when completed.
- 4.5.4  They shall inspect all works executed for societies and trusts under MPLADS and ensure that the conditions of agreement are being complied with. They should initiate action in case of violation, if any, of the terms of the agreement.
- 4.5.5  They shall mandatorily maintain inspection registers for works carried out for trusts and societies as per the provisions of Chapter 6 of these Guidelines.

**Third statement is correct:**

# MPLADS WORK FOR CALAMITIES AFFECTED AREAS

8.1 Any Member of Parliament from anywhere in the country can consent their MPLADS funds upto Rs. One Crore per annum for rehabilitation and reconstruction works in areas affected by natural "calamity of severe nature" declared by the Government of India in any part of the country, subject to other provisions of these Guidelines.

Q56. How many of the following statements is correct regarding **Agroforestry**?

1. India had adopted the National Agroforestry Policy in 2014.
2. Some of the frequently grown tree species in agroforestry are neem, teak, eucalyptus, poplar, bamboo, amla, etc.
3. The atmospheric carbon fixation of agroforestry is more than 10 times than fixation by cropping systems such as rice-wheat.

Select the correct code.

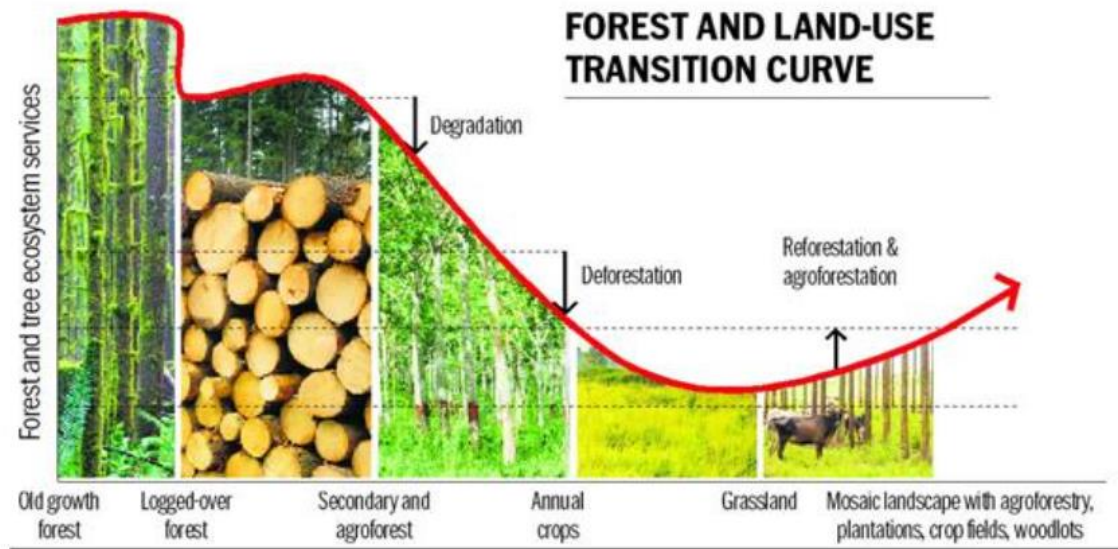
- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: c

Explanation:

**First and second are correct:**

**India had adopted the National Agroforestry Policy in 2014.** It defined agroforestry as a land-use system which integrates trees and shrubs on farmlands and rural landscapes to enhance productivity, profitability, diversity and ecosystem sustainability. With an appropriate mix of species, agroforestry enables agricultural land to withstand extreme weather events such as floods and droughts and enhance farmers' income.



The National Forest Policy (1988) was aimed at forest coverage of 33 per cent of the total geographical area; as of now, only around 22 per cent of the area is under forest cover. There is little scope for increasing the area under forests; hence, that gap can be filled by expanding the area under agroforestry.

Some of the frequently grown tree species in agroforestry are neem, teak, eucalyptus, poplar, bamboo, amla, drumstick, banyan, peepal and acacia. These species are useful for medicinal purposes and repelling insects; they also provide timber and plywood.

**Third statement is correct:**

Agroforestry plays a significant role in mitigating climate change and increasing land fertility and productivity by carbon fixation. Trees absorb carbon dioxide through photosynthesis and act as carbon sinks. Agroforestry contribute to carbon sequestration and can offset greenhouse gas emissions. The atmospheric carbon fixation of agroforestry is on an average more than 15 tonnes of carbon/hectare/year, while cropping systems such as rice-wheat fix only less than 0.3 tonnes. Hence, carbon fixation can be achieved by shifting from lower biomass land use (e.g. grasslands) to tree-based systems such as agroforestry. Carbon sequestration in Indian agroforests varies from 19.56 tonnes/hectare/year in Uttar Pradesh to 23.46-47.36 tonnes in tree-bearing arid agro-ecosystems of Rajasthan.

Q57. Consider the following statements regarding **Finance Commission**.

1. Till now, 15 Finance Commissions has been appointed.
2. The chairman of the Finance Commission shall be qualified to be appointed as Judges of a High Court.
3. The tenure of Fiance Commission is specified as per the order of President, it is not fixed.

How many of the above pairs is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: b

Explanation:

First statement is correct.

So far 15 Finance Commissions have been appointed which are as follows:<sup>[7]</sup>

Finance Commission	Year of establishment	Chairman	Operational duration
First	1951	K. C. Neogy	1952–57
Second	1956	K. Santhanam	1957–62
Third	1960	A. K. Chanda	1962–66
Fourth	1964	P. V. Rajamannar	1966–69
Fifth	1968	Mahaveer Tyagi	1969–74
Sixth	1972	K. Brahmananda Reddy	1974–79
Seventh	1977	J. M. Shelat	1979–84
Eighth	1983	Y. B. Chavan	1984–89
Ninth	1987	N. K. P. Salve	1989–95
Tenth	1992	K. C. Pant	1995–00
Eleventh	1998	A. M. Khusro	2000–05
Twelfth	2002	C. Rangarajan	2005–10
Thirteenth	2007	Dr. Vijay L. Kelkar	2010–15
Fourteenth <sup>[8]</sup>	2013	Dr. Y. V Reddy	2015–20
Fifteenth <sup>[9]</sup>	2017	N. K. Singh	2020–25

Second statement is incorrect:

**3. Qualifications for appointment as, and the manner of selection of, members of the Commission.** [The Chairman of the Commission shall be selected from among persons who have had experience in public affairs,] and the four other members shall be selected from among persons who—

- (a) are, or have been, or are qualified to be appointed as Judges of a High Court; or
- (b) have special knowledge of the finances and accounts of Government; or
- (c) have had wide experience in financial matters and in administration; or
- (d) have special knowledge of economies.

Ok now this (1+4) is written where?? See below:

**280. Finance Commission.**—(1) The President shall, within two years from the commencement of this Constitution and thereafter at the expiration of every fifth year or at such earlier time as the President considers necessary, by order constitute a Finance Commission which shall consist of a Chairman and four other members to be appointed by the President.

Third is correct: As per Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951.

**6. Term of office of members and eligibility for reappointment.**—Every member of the Commission shall hold office for such period as may be specified in the order of the President appointing him, but shall be eligible for reappointment:

Provided that he may, by letter addressed to the President, resign his office.

Q58. Consider the following statements regarding Deputy Chairman of India.

1. Deputy Speaker finds itself mentioned in the second schedule of Indian Constitution.
2. There is no Constitutional provision to remove Deputy Speaker from the office.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

**Second statement is also wrong.** As you can see below, **there is a provision mentioned to remove Deputy Speaker.**

**Removal of Deputy Chairman:**

**90. Vacation and resignation of, and removal from, the office of Deputy Chairman.**—A member holding office as Deputy Chairman of the Council of States—

- (a) shall vacate his office if he ceases to be a member of the Council;
- (b) may at any time, by writing under his hand addressed to the Chairman, resign his office; and
- (c) may be removed from his office by a resolution of the Council passed by a majority of all the then members of the Council:

Provided that no resolution for the purpose of clause (c) shall be moved unless at least fourteen days' notice has been given of the intention to move the resolution.

**First statement is correct.**

#### SECOND SCHEDULE

PART A— Provisions as to the President and the Governors of States.

PART B— [Omitted.]

PART C— Provisions as to the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the House of the People and the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Council of States and the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman of the Legislative Council of a State.

PART D— Provisions as to the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts.

PART E— Provisions as to the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

Q59. With respect to **Artemis Accord**, consider the following statements.



1. Artemis Accords are a non-binding set of principles designed to guide civil space exploration.
2. India is part of the Artemis Accord.
3. Artemis Accords signatories are committed for providing information regarding their respective national space policies in accordance with their national rules and regulations.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None


Solution: c

Explanation:

**All three are correct statements.**



# Overview

Grounded in the **Outer Space Treaty of 1967** (OST), the Artemis Accords are a non-binding set of principles designed to guide civil space exploration and use in the 21st century. Co-led for the United States by the Department of State and the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** , the Artemis Accords were launched on October 13, 2020 with Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States. As of May 2023, there are 25 signatories, and we continue bring together nations with a common vision for peaceful, sustainable, and transparent cooperation in space.

## 2. Transparency

Transparency is a key principle for responsible civil space exploration and use. Artemis Accords signatories are committed to the broad dissemination of information regarding their respective national space policies and space exploration plans in accordance with their national rules and regulations.

**Q60. Kalpasutra and Kalakacharya-Katha** are two very important texts depicts paintings belongs to:

- a. Buddhism
- b. Vijaynagar Empire
- c. Pala school
- d. Jainism

Solution: d

Explanation:

**They are Jain Texts.** When you will read Western School of Painting, you will find these texts. Click on the link given below:

<http://ccrtindia.gov.in/miniaturepainting.php>

**Q61.** In comparison to **India and China**, consider the following statements.

1. India has become the world's most populous country, overtaking China as per the latest UN reports.
2. India's consumption expenditure is characterized by high spending on food, clothing and transport, whereas China's expenditure is high on housing, white goods and education.
3. India maintains trade deficit with China, but import from China has reduced consistently in last 5 years.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: b

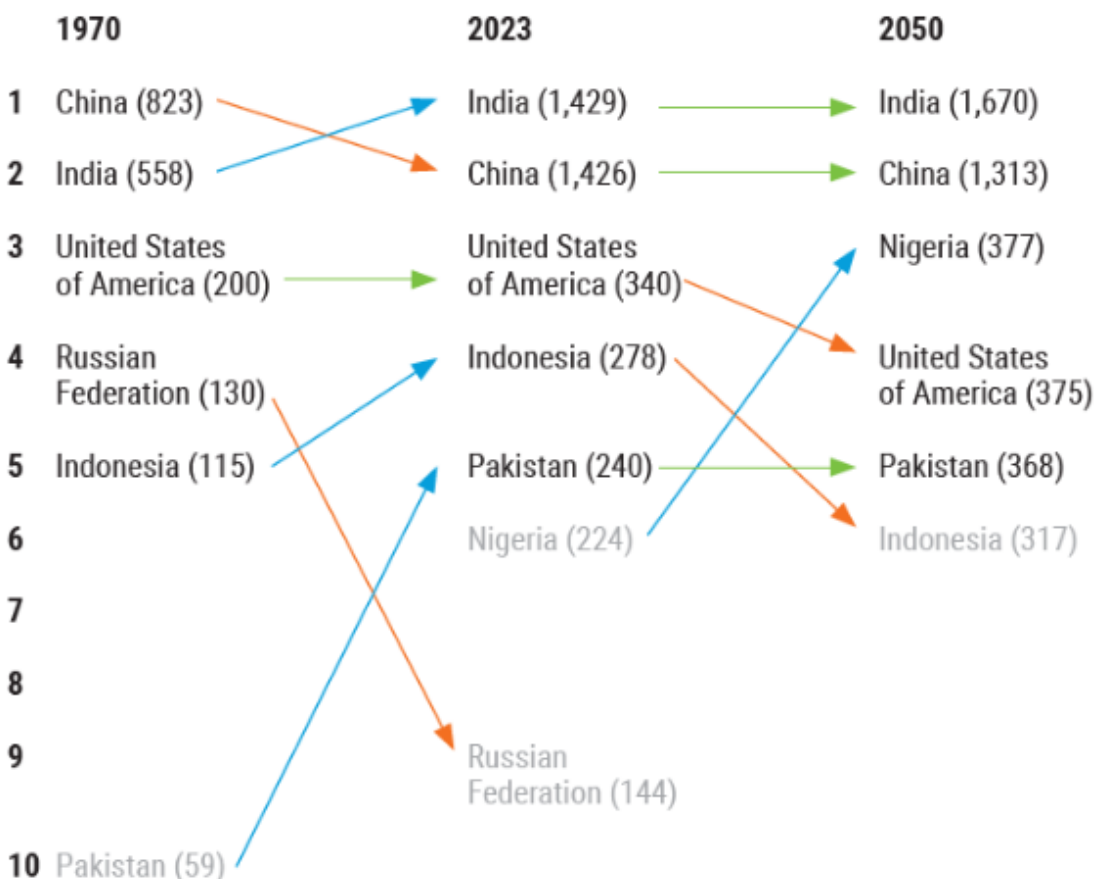
Explanation:

**First and second are correct.**

India has become the world's most populous country, overtaking China, shows latest data released by the United Nations.

Figure 2

### Top five most populous countries, estimates for 1970 and projections for 2023 and 2050



However, in PPP terms, China witnessed a marginal increase of -\$0.7 trillion owing to improved yuan-dollar PPP exchange rates. On the other hand, India added a trillion dollars to its consumption expenditure (PPP) in 2022 despite a worsening exchange rate.

#### Expenditure by categories

India's consumption expenditure is characterised by higher spending on food, clothing, footwear, and transport and low spending on education, culture, recreation, and healthcare, typical of an underdeveloped or developing market.

China's consumption basket, on the other hand, represents a relatively developed market. Even as food and beverages constitute the biggest chunk of China's consumption, it is declining as a percentage of its total consumption expenditure – a sign of a maturing market. Additionally, it spends a substantially higher percentage of its expenditure on housing, white goods, recreation, education, and healthcare than India. To put things in context, in advanced economies like the U.S., Japan, EU, Germany and the U.K., expenditure on food isn't the highest bracket.

In aggregate terms, India spends around half of what China spends on food, transport and communication, and

T  
▼  
Bo  
lar  
cor  
spe  
per  
Pa  
▼  
Pri  
Exp  
me  
exp  
noi  
ho

Third statement is incorrect:

Dated: 21/05/2024  
Values in Rs Lacs

Country / Region: CHINA P RP

S.No.	Year	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
1.	EXPORT	11,767,331.48	15,720,159.04	15,821,547.51	12,277,398.94	13,796,645.41
2.	%Growth		33.59	0.64	-22.40	12.37
3.	India's Total Export	221,985,418.10	215,904,322.13	314,702,149.28	362,154,987.57	361,929,187.01
4.	%Growth		-2.74	45.76	15.08	-0.06
5.	%Share	5.30	7.28	5.03	3.39	3.81
6.	IMPORT	46,152,476.82	48,249,579.90	70,512,313.21	79,093,162.64	84,246,728.16
7.	%Growth		4.54	46.14	12.17	6.52
8.	India's Total Import	336,095,445.61	291,595,770.04	457,277,458.91	574,980,127.11	559,287,670.24
9.	%Growth		-13.24	56.82	25.74	-2.73
10.	%Share	13.73	16.55	15.42	13.76	15.06
11.	TOTAL TRADE	57,919,808.29	63,969,738.94	86,333,860.72	91,370,561.58	98,043,373.57

Q62. In reference to recent **Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM)**, consider the following statements.

1. India has been a Consultative Party to the Antarctic Treaty since 1983.
2. India has the right to propose and vote on decisions and resolutions made during the ATCM in matters of administration and logistical cooperation.
3. India does not (no statute) has a legal framework to regulate India's activities in Antarctica, including tourism.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: b

Explanation:

News:

India to facilitate the first-ever focused working group discussions on Antarctic tourism at the 46th Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM) in Kochi

Posted On: 21 MAY 2024 2:36PM by PIB Delhi

**All three statements taken from PIB:**

**India has been a Consultative Party to the Antarctic Treaty since 1983.** With the other 28 Consultative Parties, India has a crucial role in governing Antarctica's scientific exploration and environmental protection.

**It has the right to propose and vote on decisions and resolutions made during the ATCM in matters of administration, scientific research, environmental protection, and logistical cooperation.**

India has a legal framework to regulate India's activities in Antarctica, including tourism, through the Indian Antarctic Act enacted in 2022.

Q63. Which of the following country has announced **Mobility Arrangement for Talented Early-professionals Scheme (MATES)** for Indian Nationals?

- Bangladesh
- Unites States
- Australia
- United Kingdom

Solution: c

Explanation:

News:

## Australian 'MATES' scheme to facilitate mobility of Indian early-career professionals: Eligibility and other key components explained

TOI Education / May 14, 2024, 20:54 IST



**On May 23, 2023, Australia and India entered into a Migration and Mobility Partnership Arrangement (MMPA).**

The MMPA is a bilateral framework that supports and promotes two-way migration and mobility between our two countries while addressing issues pertaining to illegal and irregular migration.

**The Mobility Arrangement for Talented Early-Professionals Scheme, or 'MATES', is a new scheme established under the MMPA to enable the temporary mobility of Indian university graduates and early career professionals.**

Q64. Muria tribal farmer recently seen practice '**deda method**'. This method is for:

- Harvesting groundwater
- Seeds preserving method
- Grazing animal and planting on very small area of land.
- Salt production using coal and firing technique

Solution: b

Explanation:

News:

## Muria tribes' own eco-friendly, foolproof seed preservation method

The internally displaced tribal families in Godavari Valley continue to practice the 'deda method to preserve seeds of pulses and food crops which were handed over to them by their ancestors in Chhattisgarh

Published - May 15, 2024 08:09 pm IST - CHUKKALAPADU (ASR DISTRICT)

**It is a method of preserving seeds that his ancestors handed over to his family.**

### Advantages

- The deda method guarantees the protection of seed from pests and worms.
- In this method, the stored seeds can be used for cultivation of up to five years.
- It helps in preserving the seeds of pulses like the green gram, red gram, black gram and beans.

Q65. Consider the following countries.

- West Bank
- Jordan
- Gaza Strip
- Lebanon

Which of the above share/s boundary with **Mediterranean Sea**?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2, 3 and 4 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 3 and 4 only

Solution: d

Explanation:



Q66. The Himalayan Range is very rich in species diversity. Which one among the following is the most appropriate reason for this phenomenon?



1. It has a high rainfall that supports luxuriant vegetative growth.
2. It is a confluence of different bio geographical zones.
3. Exotic and invasive species have not been introduced in this region.
4. It has less human interference.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: a

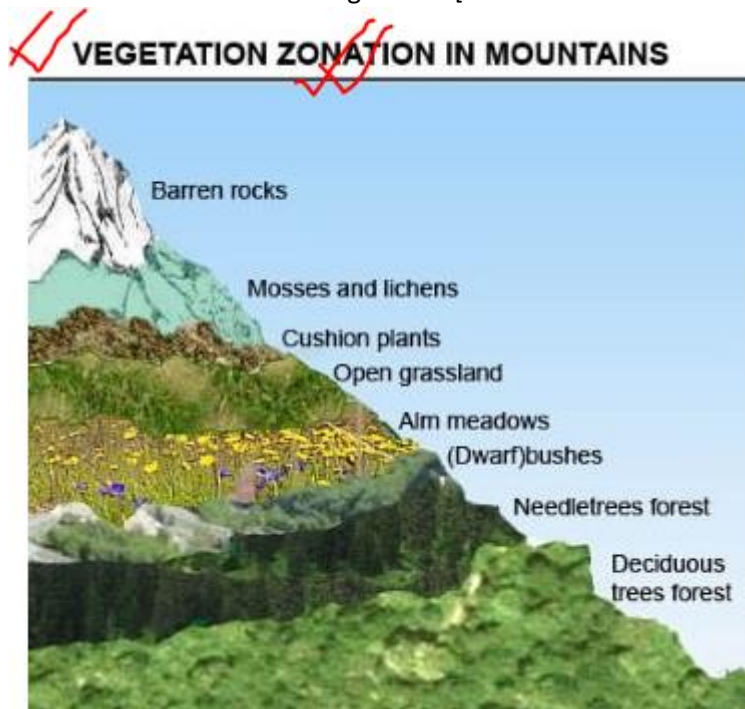
Explanation:

**Fourth Statement is incorrect:** You have read many news how encroachments are taking place, how diversity is destroyed, so you can easily eliminate fourth option.

**Third statement is incorrect:** If you have bit sense, you can eliminate such statements.

**Greater Diversity is due to:**

- a. various types of forests found along the Himalayas Ranges [Shivalik, Himachal and Himadri].
- b. Vertical zonation of vegetation [chief characteristic of Himachal and Himadri].



Q67. Consider the following statements.

1. There should not be a gap of more than six months between two sessions of Parliament.
2. A notice of the motion to remove President shall be accepted by Speaker after it is signed by 100 members of Lok Sabha.

Which of the following provisions **are mentioned in the Constitution?**

- a. 1 only
- b. 2 only

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

Article 85 only requires that **there should not be a gap of more than six months between two sessions of Parliament.** This is part of Constitution.

### Central Government Act

#### Article 85 in The Constitution Of India 1949

##### 85. Sessions of Parliament, prorogation and dissolution

- (1) The President shall from time to time summon each House of Parliament to meet at such time and place as he thinks fit, but six months shall not intervene between its last sitting in one session and the date appointed for its first sitting in the next session
- (2) The President may from time to time
  - (a) prorogue the Houses or either House;
  - (b) dissolve the House of the People

Parliament enacted **The Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.** There it is mentioned that it should be signed by 100 members of Lok Sabha. Read below. It is not mentioned in the Constitution.

#### THE JUDGES (INQUIRY) ACT, 1968

ACT No. 51 OF 1968

[5th December, 1968.]

An Act to regulate the procedure for the investigation and proof of the misbehaviour or incapacity of a judge of the Supreme Court or of a High Court and for the presentation of an address by Parliament to the President and for matters connected therewith.

#### What does the Act say:

**3. Investigation into misbehaviour or incapacity of Judge by Committee.**—(1) If notice is given of a motion for presenting an address to the President praying for the removal of a Judge signed,—

(a) in the case of a notice given in the House of the People, by not less than one hundred members of that House;

(b) in the case of a notice given in the Council of States, by not less than fifty members of that Council;

then, the Speaker or, as the case may be, the Chairman may, after consulting such persons, if any, as he thinks fit and after considering such materials, if any, as may be available to him, either admit the motion or refuse to admit the same.

Q68. Consider the following statements regarding **Monetary Policy Committee.**

1. It is a statutory body under RBI Act, 1934.
2. It determines the inflation target in terms of the Consumer Price Index, once in every five years.
3. The decision of the Committee would be binding on the RBI.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

**First statement is correct.**

**The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (RBI Act) has been amended by the Finance Act, 2016**, to provide for a **statutory** and institutionalized framework for a Monetary Policy Committee, for maintaining price stability, while keeping in mind the objective of growth. The Monetary Policy Committee would be entrusted with the task of fixing the benchmark policy rate (repo rate) required to contain inflation within the specified target level.

### Open and Transparent Monetary Policy Making

Under the amended RBI Act, the monetary policy making is as under:

The MPC is required to meet at least four times in a year.

The quorum for the meeting of the MPC is four members.

Each member of the MPC has one vote, and in the event of an equality of votes, the Governor has a second or casting vote.

Under the Monetary Policy Framework Agreement, the RBI will be responsible for containing inflation targets at 4% (with a standard deviation of 2%) in the medium term (For more details see here). **Under Section 45ZA (1) of the RBI Act, 1934,**

**Second statement is incorrect.**

the **Central Government determines the inflation target in terms of the Consumer Price Index, once in every five years in consultation with the RBI. See below:**

#### **45ZA Inflation target.**

- (1) The Central Government shall, in consultation with the Bank, determine the inflation target in terms of the Consumer Price Index, once in every five years.
- (2) The Central Government shall, upon such determination, notify the inflation target in the Official Gazette.

**Third statement is correct.**

- (2) The Monetary Policy Committee shall consist of the following Members, namely: —
- (a) the Governor of the Bank—Chairperson, *ex officio*;
  - (b) Deputy Governor of the Bank, in charge of Monetary Policy—Member, *ex officio*;
  - (c) one officer of the Bank to be nominated by the Central Board—Member, *ex officio*; and
  - (d) three persons to be appointed by the Central Government—Members.
- (3) The Monetary Policy Committee shall determine the Policy Rate required to achieve the inflation target.
- (4) The decision of the Monetary Policy Committee shall be binding on the Bank.

Q69. Consider the following statements regarding Environment Protection Act, 1986.

1. The Act empowers the Government of India to lay down procedures and safeguards for the handling of hazardous substances.
2. If an offence is committed under EPA Act as well as under any other Act, the offender will be liable to be punished under the other Act, not under EPA.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

**Under section 3 of EPA, 1986,**

**3. Power of Central Government to take measures to protect and improve environment.**—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government shall have the power to take all such measures as it deems necessary or expedient for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of the environment and preventing, controlling and abating environmental pollution.

(iv) laying down standards for emission or discharge of environmental pollutants from various sources whatsoever;

Provided that different standards for emission or discharge may be laid down under this clause from different sources having regard to the quality or composition of the emission or discharge of environmental pollutants from such sources;

(v) restriction of areas in which any industries, operations or processes or class of industries, operations or processes shall not be carried out or shall be carried out subject to certain safeguards;

(vi) laying down procedures and safeguards for the prevention of accidents which may cause environmental pollution and remedial measures for such accidents;

(vii) laying down procedures and safeguards for the handling of hazardous substances;

(viii) examination of such manufacturing processes, materials and substances as are likely to cause environmental pollution;

(ix) carrying out and sponsoring investigations and research relating to problems of

**Now, if you relate first statement with UPSC Prelims question:**

(Pre19-SetA) Q58. Consider the following statements :

The Environment Protection Act, 1986 empowers the Government of India to

1. State the requirement of public participation in the process of environmental protection, and the procedure and manner in which it is sought.
2. Lay down the standards for emission or discharge of environmental pollutants from various sources.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

**Second statement of UPSC question was directly from the Act. See image given above.**

**Second statement is correct:**

**This is biggest flaw in EPA, 1986. That's why we took this statement.**

EPA 1986 is a comparatively weak Act, thanks to its Section 24. This section states specifically that if an offence is committed under this Act as well as under any other Act, the offender will be liable to be punished under the other Act, not under EPA.

**24. Effect of other laws.**—(1) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (2), the provisions of this Act and the rules or orders made therein shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any enactment other than this Act.

(2) Where any act or omission constitutes an offence punishable under this Act and also under any other Act then the offender found guilty of such offence shall be liable to be punished under the other Act and not under this Act.

Q70. The **Abhinaya Darpana** by **Nandikesvara** is one of the main sources of textual material, for the study of the technique and grammar of body movement of which dance form?

- a. Bharatanatyam
- b. Kuchipudi
- c. Sattriya Dance
- d. Kathak

Solution: a

Explanation:



*Araimandi, Basic standing position*

#### **Bharatanatyam Dance**

Bharatanatyam Dance is considered to be over 2000 years old. Several texts beginning with Bharata Muni's *Natya Shastra* (200 B.C.E. to 200 C.E.) provide information on this dance form. The **Abhinaya Darpana** by **Nandikesvara** is one of the main sources of textual material, for the study of the technique and grammar of body movement in Bharatanatyam Dance. There is also a great deal of visual evidence of this dance form in paintings and stone and metal sculptures of ancient times. On the gopurams of the Chidambaram temple, one can see a series of Bharatanatyam poses, frozen in stone as it were, by the sculptor. In many other temples, the **charis** and **karanas** of the dance are represented in sculpture and one can make a study of the dance form.

Q71. With reference to the **cantonment board**, consider the following statements:

1. Presently, cantonments are notified as per the Cantonments Act, 2006.
2. Cantonments are areas which comprise of both military and civil population.
3. The Board has equal representation of the elected and nominated members.
4. It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only two
- b. Only three
- c. All four
- d. None

Solution: c

Explanation:

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, NOT HOME AFFAIRS.**

Hum bilkul original document pe jayenge, and see all information:

## Cantonments

In terms of Entry 3 of Union List (Schedule VII) of the Constitution of India, Urban Self Governance of the Cantonments and the Housing Accommodation therein is the subject matter of the Union of India. There are 61 Cantonments in the country which have been notified under the Cantonments Act, 1924 (succeeded by the Cantonments Act, 2006). The overall municipal administration of the notified Cantonments is the function of the Cantonment Boards which are democratic bodies. The Station Commander of the Cantonment is the ex-officio President of the Board and an officer of the IDES or Defence Estates Organisation is the Chief Executive Officer who is also the Member-Secretary of the Board. The Board has equal representation of the elected and nominated/ex-officio members to balance the official representation with the democratic composition. This unique structure of Cantonment Boards is being maintained successfully keeping in view the fact that the Cantonment areas were and are primarily meant to accommodate the military population and their installations. Cantonments are different from the Military Stations in that the Military Stations are purely meant for the use and accommodation of the armed forces and these are established under an executive order whereas the Cantonments are areas which comprise of both military and civil population.

There are four categories of Cantonments which depend on the size of population residing inside a Cantonment. The Cantonments, despite having financial and land constraints especially towards their permissible use for residential and commercial activities, today represent the green areas which strive to maintain ecological balance while at the same time providing better civic facilities to the residents.

DGDE is an Inter Services Organisation of the Ministry of Defence which directly controls the Cantonment Administration. Some of the functions performed by DGDE towards the Cantonment Administration are as

Q72. Consider the following pairs (region in news: Location)

1. New Caledonia: located in France
2. Province of Baghlan: Iran

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

- a. 1 only

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

New Caledonia is a French territory comprising dozens of islands in the South Pacific.



Q73. In reference to Prime Minister **Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) Scheme**, consider the following statements.

1. It aims to enhance the proliferation of public Wifi hotspots to create robust digital communications infrastructure in the country, especially in rural areas.

2. The scheme encourages local shops and small establishments to become Wi-Fi providers.
3. Under this scheme, last-mile Public Wi-Fi providers require no license, no registration and will not need to pay any fees.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: c

Explanation:

Read:

## Introduction of PM-WANI Framework

The Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the proposal of Department of Telecom (DoT) to proliferate Broadband through Public Wi-Fi networks under the framework of the Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) on 9th December 2020.

This framework takes forward the goal of National Digital Communications Policy, 2018 (NDCP) of creating a robust digital communications infrastructure. The PM-WANI framework envisages provision of Broadband through Public Wi-Fi Hotspot providers. It will consist of elements such as Public Data Office (PDO), Public Data Office Aggregator (PDOA), App Provider and Central Registry.

## Importance of PM-WANI Framework

**"To facilitate ease of doing business and encourage local shops and small establishments to become Wi-Fi providers, it has been approved that the last-mile Public Wi-Fi providers require no license, no registration and will not need to pay any fees to DoT."**

In fact, PDOAs, who will aggregate the last-mile providers will also not require any license. These PDOAs will only have to register, for which no fees will be charged. The registration process will be completed within 7 working days of the receipt of applications.

PM-WANI framework will also encourage App Providers who will offer services for registering and authenticating users. It is expected that with Public Wi-Fi Broadband, the user experience and Quality of Service for Broadband will be improved significantly. This service will be specially useful in rural areas where Public Wi-Fi Hotspots are also being created under BharatNet. Proliferation of Public Wi-Fi

Q74. Consider the following statements.

1. Age of consent under POCSO Act is 18.
2. The major aim of POCSO to criminalize consensual relationships among adolescents.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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



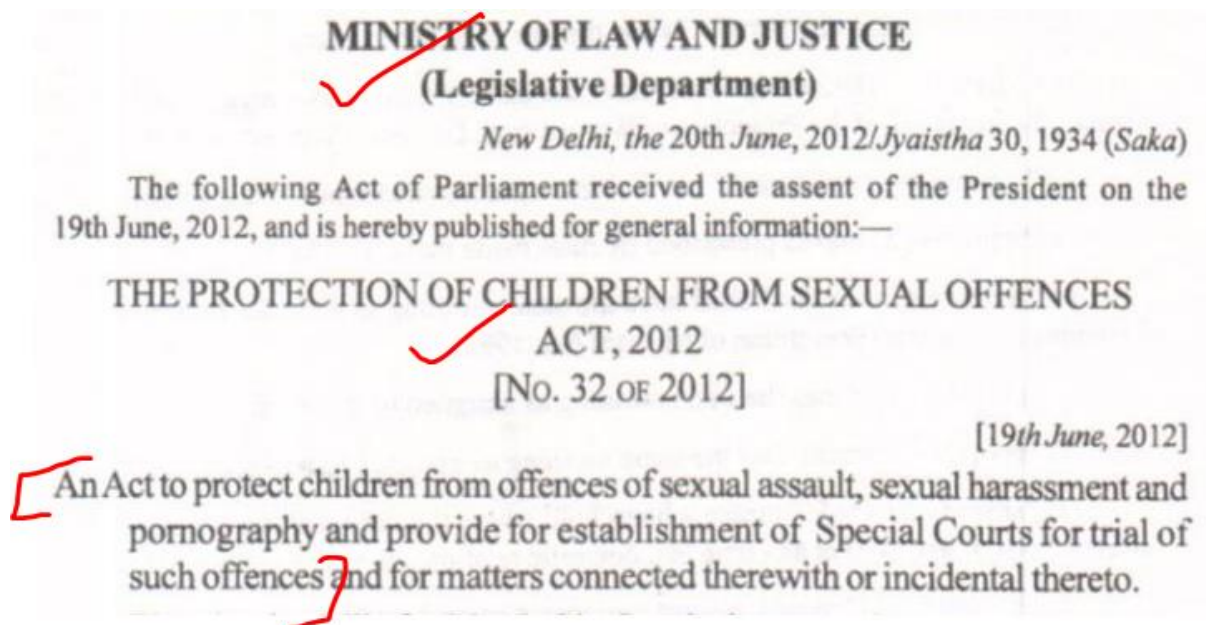
Solution: a

Explanation:

*You need to develop the art of learning the actual meaning of any Act or scheme. Gradually it will come with Goaltide. No need to worry once you are part of Goaltide Platform.*

**The POCSO Act (Prevention of Sexual Offences Act), 2012, criminalises all sexual activities for those under 18**, even if there is consent between the two minors. The minimum age of consent for sexual intercourse was raised from 16 to 18 years in November 2012, when the law came into force. The law says any sexual activity with or without the woman's consent when she is below 18 constitutes rape. **Anyone below 18 is considered incapable of giving consent.**

POCSO Act was meant to **combat sexual exploitation of children** and **was never meant to criminalize consensual relationships among adolescents**. It emphasized that sexual autonomy encompasses the right to engage in desired sexual activities while also being protected from unwanted sexual aggression.



Q75. With reference to the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, consider the following statements:

1. It has a provision for establishing a Central Pollution Control Board.
2. Any air pollutant released into the atmosphere by a ship or an aircraft is not covered under the purview of this Act.
3. This Act does include noise as an air pollutant.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

The **Central Pollution Control Board** of India is a statutory organization established in 1974 under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act**. Though, the CPCB is also entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. **However, it is established under the Water Act. So, the statement (1) is not correct.**

One of the significant drawbacks of the Act is that any air pollutant released into the atmosphere by a **ship or aircraft does not come** under the purview of the **Act. So, the statement (2) is correct.**

The **Act was amended in 1987** to include noise as an air pollutant. **So, the statement (3) is not correct.**

CHAPTER I  
PRELIMINARY

**1. Short title, extent and commencement.**—(1) This Act may be called the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

(3) It shall come into force on such date<sup>1</sup> as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

**2. Definitions.**—In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “air pollutant” means any solid, liquid or gaseous substance **[(including noise)]** present in the atmosphere in such concentration as may be or tend to be injurious to human beings or other living creatures or plants or property or environment;

(b) “air pollution” means the presence in the atmosphere of any air pollutant;

Q76. Consider the following **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**.

1. Every country has equal voting share.
2. AIIB is headquartered in Beijing, China.
3. AIIB was granted Permanent Observer status in the United Nations.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: b

Explanation:

**First is incorrect.**

**The bank was proposed by China in 2013 and the initiative was launched at a ceremony in Beijing in October 2014.**

MEMBERS	MEMBERSHIP DATE	TOTAL SUBSCRIPTIONS	VOTING POWER
China	Dec 25, 2015	Amount (million USD): Percent of Total:	29,780.4 30.7728% Number of Votes: Percent of Total:
			299,944 26.5650%

India	Jan 11, 2016	Amount (million USD):	8,367.3	Number of Votes:	85,813
		Percent of Total:	8.6461%	Percent of Total:	7.6002%

**Where is AIIB headquartered?**

AIIB is headquartered in Beijing, China.

## Permanent Observer Status in the United Nations

In 2018, AIIB was granted **Permanent Observer status** in the deliberations of both the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, the two development-focused principal organs of the global body.

Q77. Which of the following are categorized as 'Nationalized Bank' as per the RBI?

1. State Bank of India
2. Indian Bank
3. Central Bank of India
4. Bank of Baroda

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

I know everyone will be confused for SBI. There is a small interpretation. You may also get confused but try to understand. *(If this question appears in exam, there will be different answers in keys.)*

Here is the list of Nationalized banks recognized by RBI.

Reserve Bank of India India's Central Bank		Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav	
<a href="#">About Us</a> <a href="#">Useful Information</a> <a href="#">FAQs</a> <a href="#">Financial Education</a> <a href="#">Complaints</a> <a href="#">Important Websites</a>			
<b>SBI and its Associate Banks</b>			
1.	The Chairman State Bank of India, Central Office Chairman's Secretariat, P.B.No.12, Nariman Point Mumbai-400 021.		
<b>Head Offices of Nationalised Banks</b>			
1.	The Chairman Bank of Baroda, Head Office, Baroda House, Mandvi, Vadodara- 390006, Gujarat.	2.	The Chairman Bank of India, C-5 G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai 400051, Maharashtra, India.
3.	The Chairman Bank of Maharashtra, Lok Mangal 1501, Shivaji Nagar, Post Box No.919 Pune-411 005.	4.	The Chairman Canara Bank, 112, Jayachamarajendra Road Post Box No.6648 Bangalore-560 002.
5.	The Chairman Central Bank of India, Central Office Chander Mukhi, Nariman Point Mumbai-400 021.	6.	The Chairman Indian Overseas Bank, Central Office 762, Anna Salai, P.B.No.3765 Chennai-600 002.
7.	The Chairman Indian Bank Building P.B.No.1384, 31, Rajaji Road Chennai-600 001.	8.	The Chairman Punjab National Bank 7, Bhikaji Cama Place, Africa Avenue New Delhi-110 066.
9.	The Chairman Union Bank of India, Head Office & Central Office Union Bank Bhavan, 239, Vidhan Bhavan Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021.	10.	The Chairman Punjab & Sind Bank, Bank House 4th floor - 21, Rajendra Place New Delhi-110 008.
11.	The Chairman UCO Bank, Head Office 10, Biplabi Trailokya Maharaj, Sarani Kolkata-700 001.		

**Now why RBI mentions SBI separately in list?**

**Nationalization means (forceful) acquisition of a private entity by Government.**

Imperial Bank was created in 1921 by merging three Presidency banks viz. Bank of Bengal, Bank of Bombay and Bank of Madras. This Imperial Bank was converted into State Bank of India [Through State Bank of India Act 1955] where Govt. of India owned majority of the stake/shares through RBI. So, SBI ownership was transferred to RBI and RBI was owned by Govt. of India.

In 2007-08, the entire shareholding (around 60%) of RBI in SBI was transferred to Govt. of India so as to remove any conflict of interest as the RBI is the country's banking regulatory authority.

So, SBI is a Public Sector Bank, but RBI does not list it under 'Nationalized Banks', rather it writes it separately may be because Govt. of India **did not directly acquired SBI, rather RBI took control of the SBI in 1955**. Although we generally say that SBI is a nationalized Bank and it is also mentioned on SBI website, **but RBI declares only those banks as 'Nationalized Banks' which were acquired by Govt. through the Bank Nationalization Act.**

Q78. With respect to National Human Rights Commission of India, consider the following statements.

1. As per the Act, the Commission is not authorized to investigate complaints against armed forces.
2. Chairperson of the Commission is the person who has been Chief justice or judge of Supreme Court.
3. The financial expenditure of Commission is approved by the Parliament annually.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three

d. None

Solution: b

Explanation:

**First statement is correct.**

**The Commission is not authorized to look into complaint against armed forces. It can only seek report from Central Government.**

**19. Procedure with respect to armed forces.**—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, while dealing with complaints of violation of human rights by members of the armed forces, the Commission shall adopt the following procedure, namely:—

(a) it may, either on its own motion or on receipt of a petition, seek a report from the Central Government;

(b) after the receipt of the report, it may, either not proceed with the complaint or, as the case may be, make its recommendations to that Government.

(2) The Central Government shall inform the Commission of the action taken on the recommendations within three months or such further time as the Commission may allow.

(3) The Commission shall publish its report together with its recommendations made to the Central Government and the action taken by that Government on such recommendations.

**Second statement is correct: As per the latest 2019 Amendment:**

### SECTION 3- CONSTITUTION OF A NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

(1) The Central Government shall constitute a body to be known as the National Human Rights Commission to exercise the powers conferred upon, and to perform the functions assigned to it, under this Act.

(2) The Commission shall consist of:

(a) a Chairperson who has been a Chief Justice or Judge of the Supreme Court;

(b) one Member who is or has been, a Judge of the Supreme Court;

(c) one Member who is, or has been, the Chief Justice of a High Court;

(d) three Members to be appointed from amongst persons having knowledge of, or practical experience in, matters relating to human rights, of which at least one should be a woman.

(3) The Chairperson of the National Commission for Backward Classes, the National Commission for Minorities, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes, the National Commission for the Scheduled Tribes and the National Commission for Women and the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities shall be deemed to be Members of the Commission for the discharge of functions.

**Third statement is incorrect: It has to depend on Central Government.**

### FINANCE, ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

**32. Grants by the Central Government.**—(1) The Central Government shall, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, pay to the Commission by way of grants such sums of money as the Central Government may think fit for being utilised for the purposes of this Act.

Q79. In the context of Indian Constitution, consider the following statements.

1. The discretion has been given to President to extend the jurisdiction of High Court to Union Territories.
2. Parliament by law can establish a common High Court for two or more states.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

The discretion has been given to **Parliament** to extend the jurisdiction to **Union Territories**.

### Central Government Act

#### Article 230 in The Constitution Of India 1949

230. Extension of jurisdiction of High Courts to Union territories

(1) Parliament may by law extend the jurisdiction of a High Court to, or exclude the jurisdiction of a High Court from, any Union territory

According to Article 231, Parliament may by law establish a common High Court for two or more States or for two or more States and a Union territory.

### Central Government Act

#### Article 231 in The Constitution Of India 1949

231. Establishment of a common High Court for two or more States

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in the preceding provisions of this Chapter, Parliament may by law establish a common High Court for two or more States or for two or more States and a Union territory

Q80. With respect to Leprosy, consider the following statements.

1. Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by a type of bacteria.
2. Leprosy is non-curable, irreversible.
3. It spread via droplets from the nose and mouth during close and frequent contact with untreated cases.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

From WHO site.

27 January 2023

## Key facts

- ✓ Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by a type of bacteria, *Mycobacterium leprae*.
- ✓ The disease predominantly affects the skin and peripheral nerves. Left untreated, the disease may cause progressive and permanent disabilities.
- ✓ The bacteria are transmitted via droplets from the nose and mouth during close and frequent contact with untreated cases.
- ✓ Leprosy is curable with multidrug therapy (MDT).
- Leprosy is reported from all the six WHO Regions; the majority of annual new case detections are from South-East Asia.

Q81. 'Greening Education Partnership' (GEP) is an initiative of:

- a. World Economic Forum
- b. UNESCO Secretariat
- c. UNEP Secretariat
- d. European Union

Solution: b

Explanation:

These topics are very difficult to find. Aasani se ni milte h. Its ok, I am doing for you people. Bus aap solve kijye..ho jyga sab..

**The Greening Education Partnership is a global initiative that takes a whole-of-system approach to support countries to tackle climate crisis by harnessing the critical role of education**

News:

PRESS RELEASE

## Building Generation of Climate Champions: Mahindra University Joins UNESCO's Greening Education Partnership

CXOtoday News Desk
1 week ago

✓ The Greening Education Partnership is structured around four key pillars of transformative education

Greening schools

Greening curriculum

Greening teacher training and education systems' capacities

Greening communities

Q82. In reference to **markhor** (wild goat species), consider the following statements.

1. The UN General Assembly celebrated for the first time, International Day of the Markhor in 2024.
2. In India, Gujarat is the home to Markhor.
3. The markhor was categorized as "near threatened" in the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: b

Explanation:

Ek baar markhor ko dekh lijiye, cute h.



The UN General Assembly proclaimed 24 May the International Day of the Markhor, A/RES/78/278, and we celebrate it for the first time in 2024.



**United  
Nations**

**International Day of the Markhor  
24 May**



## ✓ The iconic markhor

The markhor (*Capra falconeri*) is an iconic and ecologically significant species found across the mountainous regions of Central and South Asia, including Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The greatest threats to the survival of the markhor are habitat loss, illegal hunting, including poaching, and climate change.

✓ The markhor was categorized as “near threatened” in 2014 and is on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species, and has been included in Appendix I to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora since 1992.

**Like Hangul, Kashmir is the home to Markhor, largest mountain goat in the world. NOT GUJARAT.**

Q83. How many of the following is/are chaired by Union Home Minister?

1. National Disaster Management Authority
2. Zonal Councils created under State Reorganization Act, 1956.
3. Inter State Council under Article 263 of Indian Constitution.

Select the correct code.

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: a

Explanation:

Only zonal councils are chaired by Hime Ministry.

Other two are chaired by Prime Minister.

Q84. **Phanigiri** — a renowned heritage site was recently in news due to the excavation of lead coins. It is a:

- a. Buddhist site
- b. Indus Valley site
- c. Hindu site
- d. Jain site

Solution: a

Explanation:

News:

## Ikshvaku-era coins unearthed at Telangana's Buddhist heritage site

3,730 lead coins were found in an earthen pot on March 29 at Phanigiri, a renowned Buddhist heritage site located 110 km away from Hyderabad.

Telangana's Department of Heritage has recently unearthed a coin hoard at Phanigiri, a renowned Buddhist heritage site located 110 km away from the state capital of Hyderabad.

Q85. **Global Species Action Plan (GSAP)** was recently launched, designed to support implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) by:

- a. UNDP Secretariat
- b. IUCN
- c. UNEP Secretariat
- d. UNFCCC Secretariat

Solution: b

Explanation:

News:

News | 22 May, 2024

## IUCN launches GSAP SKILLS - the Global Species Action Plan Online Knowledge Platform

**2** 2 May 2024, Nairobi - An important component of the **Global Species Action Plan (GSAP)**, *the Species Conservation Knowledge, Information, Learning, Leverage and Sharing (SKILLS) platform* was launched at the Fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, Convention on Biological Diversity.

In response to the escalating biodiversity crisis, the **Global Species Action Plan (GSAP)** is designed to support implementation of the **Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)**.

Developed collaboratively by IUCN, its Commissions, Members, and Partners, the GSAP emphasizes strategic interventions to achieve species conservation outcomes for each of the GBF targets.

Q86. With respect to the **appointment of Enforcement Directorate (ED)**, consider the following statements.

1. The Centre appoints the director of ED on recommendation of a committee chaired by Union Home Minister.
2. The committee to appoint ED consists members form Judiciary and Leader of opposition.

3. no person below the rank of Additional Secretary to the Government of India shall be eligible for appointed as Director of Enforcement.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

**The ED director is appointed as per provisions of the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003.**

- (a)* the Central Government shall appoint a Director of Enforcement in the Directorate of Enforcement in the Ministry of Finance on the recommendation of the Committee consisting of—
- (i)* the Central Vigilance Commissioner — Chairperson;
  - (ii)* Vigilance Commissioners — Members;
  - (iii)* Secretary to the Government of India in-charge of the Ministry of Home Affairs in the Central Government — Member;
  - (iv)* Secretary to the Government of India in-charge of the Ministry of Personnel in the Central Government — Member;
  - (v)* Secretary to the Government of India in-charge of the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance in the Central Government — Member;
- (b)* while making a recommendation, the Committee shall take into consideration the integrity and experience of the officers eligible for appointment;
- (c)* no person below the rank of Additional Secretary to the Government of India shall be eligible for appointment as a Director of Enforcement;

Q87. Consider the following statements.

1. Spiders can build webs in space.
2. Spider can be both, carnivores, or herbivores.
3. Spider venoms contains proteins and polypeptides that perform various functions including antimicrobial functions.

How many of the above statement sis/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: b

Explanation:

**First and third are correct.**

A new paper has now noted that the webs built by ~~spiders~~ in space were quite symmetric. But when the light was on, they built asymmetric webs with the centre near the light source. The results were published in the journal *Science of Nature*.

**Spider venoms are known to contain proteins and polypeptides that perform various functions including antimicrobial, neurotoxic, analgesic, activities.**

**Second is incorrect:**

**Spiders are carnivores. One two exceptions cannot describe them herbivores.**

Q88. As per the rules, who is the leader of Houses in Parliament?

- Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
- Leader of House is decided by Speaker, rules don't specify any position
- Person nominated by prime Minister
- Person elected by members in House.

Solution: c

Explanation:

As per the Rules of House, see for both the Houses,

Lok Sabha:

~~“Leader of the House”~~ means the Prime Minister, if Prime Minister is a member of the House, or a Minister who is a member of the House and is nominated by the Prime Minister to function as the Leader of the House;

**Rajya Sabha:**

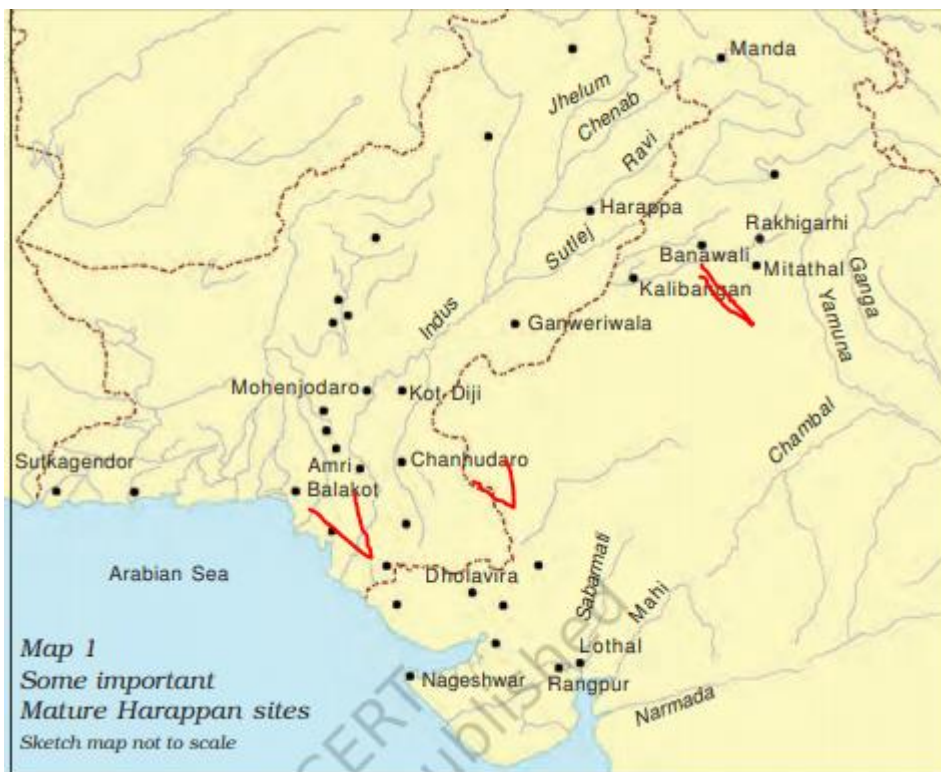
~~“Leader of the Council”~~ means the Prime Minister, if he is a member of the Council, or a Minister who is a member of the Council and is nominated by the Prime Minister to function as the Leader of the Council];

Q89. Which of the above Harapan sites located near the coast?

- Chanhudaro
- Balakot
- Banawali
- Rakhigarhi

Solution: b

Explanation:



If you locate Nageshwar and Balakot on Map 1, you will notice that both settlements are near the coast. These were specialised centres for making shell objects – including bangles, ladles and inlay – which were taken to other settlements. Similarly, it is likely that finished products (such as beads) from Chanhudaro and Lothal were taken to the large urban centres such as Mohenjodaro and Harappa.

Q90. Consider the following statements.

1. In case of depreciation of the Rupee, the borrower under the ECB benefits the most.
2. Government borrowings under External Commercial Borrowings has consistently increased for last three years.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

Simple question just needs your attention. Don't be in hurry.

An external commercial borrowing (ECB) is an instrument used in India to facilitate Indian companies to raise money outside the country in foreign currency. The government of India permits Indian corporates to raise money via ECB for expansion of existing capacity as well as for fresh investments.

**It's a commercial borrowing. Government has nothing to do with Commercial entity. Second statement is incorrect. No need to know anything more.**

Under ECB, Indian entities borrow in dollar and pay in dollar. Suppose an entity borrowed 100 dollars at 1\$ = 60. Now, as per the question, rupee depreciates.

Suppose rupee depreciates to 1\$ = 70 Rs. Now, borrower has to give 7000 Rs instead of 6000 (when it borrowed at 1\$- 60 Rs). So, borrower doesn't benefit when rupee depreciates.

Q91. When for the **first time, international community recognized and formally declared Small Island Developing States (SIDS) a special case both for environment and development?**

- World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002
- Paris Climate, UNFCCC, COP 21
- 1992, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
- First Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 1994

Solution: c

Explanation:

Recently, Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) took place. The deputy UN chief declared that the adopted outcome, known as the **Antigua and Barbuda Agenda (ABAS)**, presented a "vision for the future that SIDS want and need".

The very first paragraph of the document says:

## **Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States**

### **The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) – a Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity - *Agreed ad ref***

#### **I. The SIDS Story**

- In 1992, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, we, the international community formally declared Small Island Developing States (SIDS) a special case both for environment and development and committed to assist them to meet their sustainable development objectives. This was further promulgated in the first decennial United Nations conference on SIDS in Barbados in 1994 and was subsequently reiterated at the second SIDS conference in Mauritius in 2005 and the third SIDS conference in Samoa in 2014.

Q92. The purpose of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme is to:

1. Aims to ensure every household has access to tap water and sewage facilities
2. Increase the value of cities by developing greeneries and well-maintained open spaces such as parks
3. Reduce pollution by switching to public transportation

Select the correct code.

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: c

Explanation:

**From the original website of AMRUT:**

**The Mission**

The Government of India has launched the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) with the aim of providing basic civic amenities like water supply, sewerage, urban transport, parks as to improve the quality of life for all especially the poor and the disadvantaged. The focus of the Mission is on infrastructure creation that has a direct link to provision of better services to the citizens.

The purpose of "AMRUT" mission is to (i) ensure that every household has access to a tap with assured supply of water and a sewerage connection (ii) increase the amenity value of cities by developing greenery and well maintained open spaces e.g. parks and (iii) reduce pollution by switching to public transport or constructing facilities for non-motorized transport e.g. walking and cycling.

**One more thing you should know:**

**AMRUT Mission has been subsumed under AMRUT 2.0**, which was launched on 01st October, 2021 and ongoing projects of AMRUT 1.0 will be funded with CA till 31st March, 2023.

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 scheme, which has been launched on 01 October, 2021 for the period of 05 years i.e. from the financial year 2021-22 to the financial year 2025-26, is designed to provide universal coverage of water supply through functional taps to all households in all the statutory towns in the country and coverage of sewerage/septage management in 500 cities covered in first phase of the AMRUT scheme.

Q93. 'One Person, One File' Surveillance Escalation Programme, recently suggested by:

- a. European Union
- b. South Korea
- c. China
- d. Unites States

Solution: c

Explanation:

Read:

# China's 'One Person, One File': Road to digital totalitarianism

Chaudhury, ET Bureau • Last Updated: May 28, 2024, 10:00:00 PM IST

FOLLOW US SHARE FC

Q94. Consider the following statements regarding District Mineral Foundations in India.

1. It shall be set up by Central Government in any district affected by mining related operation.
2. Its major function is to authorize State Governments to issue licenses for mineral exploration.
3. Gram Sabhas has been specified for identification of DMF beneficiaries.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: a

Explanation:

**DMF is a trust set up as a non-profit body under the Ministry of Mines through the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Act, (MMDRA) 2015.**

**Now, coming back to our question:**

**First and second statement is incorrect:**

Insertion of new sections 9B and 9C. **9.** After section 9A of the principal Act, the following sections shall be inserted, namely:—

District Mineral Foundation.

“9B. (1) In any district affected by mining related operations, the State Government shall, by notification, establish a trust, as a non-profit body, to be called the District Mineral Foundation.

(2) The object of the District Mineral Foundation shall be to work for the interest and benefit of persons, and areas affected by mining related operations in such manner as may be prescribed by the State Government.

(3) The composition and functions of the District Mineral Foundation shall be such as may be prescribed by the State Government.

**Third statement is correct:**

**Gram Sabhas has been specified for deciding on projects, monitoring of work and identification of DMF beneficiaries.**

Q95. Consider the following statements.

1. The majority of reef building corals are found within tropical and subtropical waters.
2. Algal bloom on coral ridges is a sign of good coral health.
3. Corals can reproduce asexually and sexually.
4. Pacific Ocean has a greater number of coral species than Antarctic Ocean.



Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

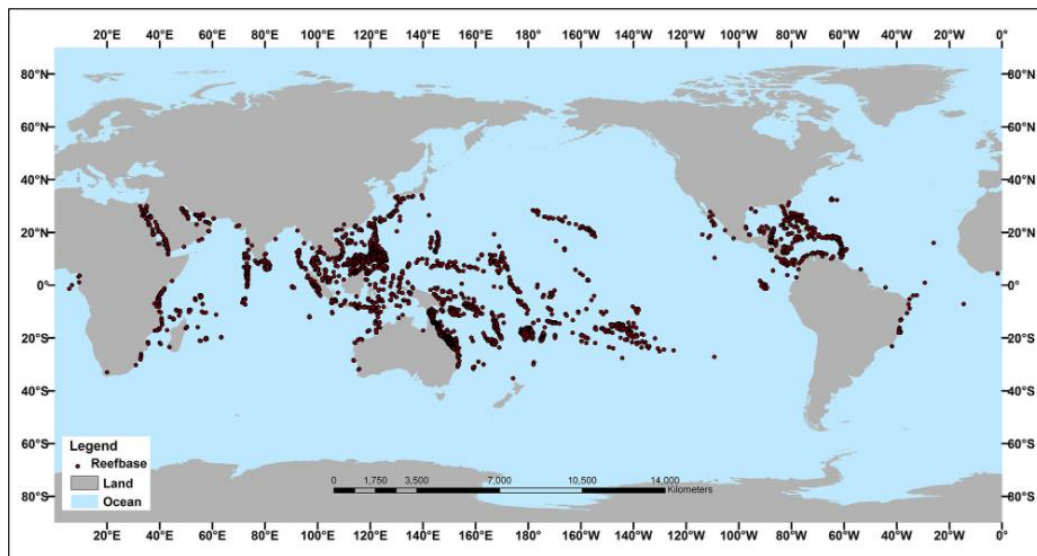
Solution: c

Explanation:

**First statement is correct.**

Reef-building corals are restricted in their geographic distribution by factors such as the temperature and the salinity (salt content) of the water. The water must also be clear to permit high light penetration.

**Because of these environmental restrictions, reefs generally are confined to tropical and semitropical waters.** The diversity of reef corals (the number of species), decreases in higher latitudes up to about 30° north and south, beyond which reef corals are usually not found.



**Second statement is incorrect.**

The analysis found that since 2010, the number of algae on the world's coral reefs has increased by about 20 per cent. **Algal bloom on coral ridges are a sign of stress on the structures.** This transition from live hard coral to algae-dominated reef communities impacts marine habitats, rendering them less biodiverse and also affects the ecosystem services provided by them.

**Third statement is correct.**

**Corals can reproduce asexually and sexually.** In asexual reproduction, new clonal polyps bud off from parent polyps to expand or begin new colonies. This occurs when the parent polyp reaches a certain size and divides. This process continues throughout the animal's life.

**Fourth statement is correct:**

**Generally, there are about twice as many coral species in Pacific Ocean reefs as in Atlantic Ocean reefs.**

Q96. Consider the following statements.

1. The Constitution provides provision for the disqualification of the members of Rajya Sabha.
2. If a candidate is elected from both of the Houses of Parliament and state legislature and if he doesn't resign from one of the seats within prescribed time, then seat in Parliament will become vacant.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

Those who have started preparing now, please follow us regularly. These questions will give you lot of understanding and confidence in Polity subject. Ok, coming back to question.

**First Statement is correct. Article 102.**

**102. Disqualifications for membership.**—(1) A person shall be disqualified for being chosen as, and for being, a member of either House of Parliament—

<sup>1</sup>(a) if he holds any office of profit under the Government of India or the Government of any State, other than an office declared by Parliament by law not to disqualify its holder;]

(b) if he is of unsound mind and stands so declared by a competent court;

(c) if he is an undischarged insolvent;

(d) if he is not a citizen of India, or has voluntarily acquired the citizenship of a foreign State, or is under any acknowledgment of allegiance or adherence to a foreign State;

(e) if he is so disqualified by or under any law made by Parliament.

**Second statement is also correct. We will see Article 101 along with section 70 of the RPA, 1951.**

*Disqualifications of Members*

**101. Vacation of seats.**—(1) No person shall be a member of both Houses of Parliament and provision shall be made by Parliament by law for the vacation by a person who is chosen a member of both Houses of his seat in one House or the other.

(2) No person shall be a member both of Parliament and of a House of the Legislature of a State <sup>2\*\*\*</sup>, and if a person is chosen a member both of Parliament and of a House of the Legislature of <sup>3</sup>[a State], then, at the expiration of such period as may be specified in rules<sup>4</sup> made by the President, that person's seat in Parliament shall become vacant, unless he has previously resigned his seat in the Legislature of the State.

Q97. Consider the following statements.

1. As per the Act, Director of Enforcement (ED) is appointed for three years from the date on which he assumes office.
2. Central Government appoints ED on the recommendations of committee headed by Prime Minister.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

See below:

(a) the Central Government shall appoint a Director of Enforcement in the Directorate of Enforcement in the Ministry of Finance on the recommendation of the Committee consisting of—

(i) the Central Vigilance Commissioner — Chairperson

(ii) Vigilance Commissioners — Members;

(iii) Secretary to the Government of India in-charge of the Ministry of Home Affairs in the Central Government — Member;

(iv) Secretary to the Government of India in-charge of the Ministry of Personnel in the Central Government — Member;

(v) Secretary to the Government of India in-charge of the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance in the Central Government — Member;

(b) while making a recommendation, the Committee shall take into consideration the integrity and experience of the officers eligible for appointment;

(c) no person below the rank of Additional Secretary to the Government of India shall be eligible for appointment as a Director of Enforcement;

(d) a Director of Enforcement shall continue to hold office for a period of not less than two years from the date on which he assumes office;

Q98. Consider the following.

1. Djibouti
2. Yemen
3. Qatar
4. Bahrain

Arrange the above nations from North to South

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

Solution: c

Bahrain-Qatar-Yemen-Djibouti



Q99. Which of the following measures can help in tackling rupee appreciation?

1. Purchase of Government securities from the public by the Central Bank.
2. Lowering interest rates in commercial banks.
3. Buying of foreign currency by the Central Bank.
4. Sale of government securities to the public by the Central Bank.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

Currency appreciation is an increase in the value of one currency in relation to another currency. A strong currency makes imports cheaper and can improve living standards. However, it can also make exports less competitive and lead to lower economic growth. So, to stabilise the currency, various measures are adopted to increase the quantum of domestic currency and reduce the volume of foreign currency. **Statements (1), (2) and (3) lead to an infusion of domestic currency among the public and reduces the foreign currency in the market; thus, it helps in tackling rupee appreciation** (a feature of managed floating currency). However, the sale of Government securities to the public reduces the amount of currency held by the public. So, it cannot tackle rupee appreciation. **So, statement (4) is incorrect.** Hence, option b is the correct answer.

Q100. In most of the accounts, Ashoka has been referred to as 'Devanampiya Piyadassi'. In which place does the name 'Ashok' find its mention?

- a. Maski edicts, Karnataka
- b. Ujjain edicts, Madhya Pradesh

- c. Palkigundu edicts, Andhra Pradesh
- d. Nittur edicts, Karnataka

Solution: a

Explanations:

The name 'Ashok' was discovered for the first time on a minor rock edict. In 1915, **Maski in Karnataka, the name Ashoka was mentioned along with his title – Ashoka Devanampiya Piyadassi.** (Devanampiya – dear to Gods; Piyadassi – Good looking).

**Otherwise in all other edicts only the title – 'Devanampiya Piyadassi' is mentioned.**

Q101. Twelve nations have recently signed the '**Zero Debris Charter**' solidifying their commitment to the long-term sustainability of human activities in Earth orbit.

The '**Zero Debris Charter**' is an initiative of:

- a. Unites States
- b. European Union
- c. France
- d. Russia

Solution: b

Explanation:

Read:

Twelve nations have signed the **Zero Debris Charter at the ESA/EU Space Council today**, solidifying their commitment to the long-term sustainability of human activities in Earth orbit. In addition to the 12 countries, the European Space Agency also signed the Zero Debris Charter as an International Organisation (IGO).

The Zero Debris Charter is a world-leading effort to become debris neutral in space by 2030 that was unveiled at the ESA Space Summit in Seville meeting in November 2023.

It is the first time that countries have subscribed at national level, boosting Europe as a leader in clean space while demonstrating widespread acceptance of the charter.

Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden and the United Kingdom have all pledged to adhere to the charter.



Q102. Consider the following statements.

1. China has emerged as India's largest trading partner in 2023-24, surpassing the US.
2. India maintains trade deficit with top 5 trading partners in 2023-2024.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

**First statement is correct. Second statement is incorrect.**

**Check data for the last two financial years:**

**Department of Commerce**  
Export Import Data Bank  
Total Trade :: Top countries

Dated: 27/05/2024  
Values in Rs Crore

✓ Year: 2023-2024

Rank	Country / Region	Export	Import	Total Trade	Trade Balance
1.	CHINA P RP	137,966.45	842,467.28	980,433.74	-704,500.83
2.	U S A	641,766.35	337,490.98	979,257.33	304,275.37
3.	U ARAB EMTS	295,095.24	397,763.71	692,858.95	-102,668.47
4.	RUSSIA	35,288.03	508,643.51	543,931.54	-473,355.47
5.	SAUDI ARAB	95,748.99	263,354.42	359,103.41	-167,605.43

**Department of Commerce**  
Export Import Data Bank  
Total Trade :: Top countries

Dated: 27/05/2024  
Values in Rs Crore

Year: 2022-2023

Rank	Country / Region	Export	Import	Total Trade	Trade Balance
1.	U S A	630,151.51	408,620.95	1,038,772.46	221,530.56
2.	CHINA P RP	122,773.99	790,931.63	913,705.62	-668,157.64
3.	U ARAB EMTS	253,852.38	427,405.64	681,258.02	-173,553.25
4.	SAUDI ARAB	86,271.37	337,571.87	423,843.24	-251,300.50
5.	RUSSIA	25,462.70	374,003.31	399,466.00	-348,540.61

Q103. The two countries have filed lawsuits against each other at the ICJ. One country has accused another of violating international law by breaching the embassy, while the other accuses the North American country of illegally granting asylum.

**The countries mentioned in the above statements are:**

- a. France and Germany
- b. Mexico and Ecuador
- c. Canada and Peru
- d. Mexico and Guatemala

Solution: d

Explanation:

News:

## Top UN court to give preliminary ruling in dispute between Mexico, Ecuador over Quito embassy raid

AP / Updated: May 23, 2024, 13:46 IST

SHARE PRINT AA FOI



Q104. With respect to **Child Welfare Committee** in India, consider the following statements.

1. A Child Welfare Committee is an autonomous institution in India formed under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences, or POCSO Act.
2. As per the demand by states, Central Government shall constitute SWC in every district.
3. The District Magistrate shall conduct a quarterly review of the Committee.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: a

Explanation:

**First and second statements are incorrect. Third is correct:**

A Child Welfare Committee is an autonomous institution in India formed under the **Juvenile Justice Act, 2015**:

THE JUVENILE JUSTICE (CARE AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN)  
ACT, 2015

No. 2 OF 2016

[31st December, 2015.]

An Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to children alleged and found to be in conflict with law and children in need of care and protection by catering to their basic needs through proper care, protection, development, treatment, social re-integration, by adopting a child-friendly approach in the adjudication and disposal of matters in the best interest of children and for their rehabilitation through processes provided, and institutions and bodies established, hereinunder and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

Child Welfare  
Committee.

27 (1) The State Government shall by notification in the Official Gazette constitute for every district, one or more Child Welfare Committees for exercising the powers and to discharge the duties conferred on such Committees in relation to children in need of care and protection under this Act and ensure that induction training and sensitisation of all members of the committee is provided within two months from the date of notification.

(2) The Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, and four other members as the State Government may think fit to appoint, of whom at least one shall be a woman and another, an expert on the matters concerning children.

(3) The District Child Protection Unit shall provide a Secretary and other staff that may be required for secretarial support to the Committee for its effective functioning.

(4) No person shall be appointed as a member of the Committee unless such person has been actively involved in health, education or welfare activities pertaining to children for at least seven years or is a practicing professional with a degree in child psychology or psychiatry or law or social work or sociology or human development.

(5) No person shall be appointed as a member unless he possesses such other qualifications as may be prescribed.

(6) No person shall be appointed for a period of more than three years as a member of the Committee.

(7) The appointment of any member of the Committee shall be terminated by the State Government after making an inquiry, if—

(i) he has been found guilty of misuse of power vested on him under this Act;

(ii) he has been convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude and such conviction has not been reversed or he has not been granted full pardon in respect of such offence;

(iii) he fails to attend the proceedings of the Committee consecutively for three months without any valid reason or he fails to attend less than three-fourths of the sittings in a year.

(8) The District Magistrate shall conduct a quarterly review of the functioning of the Committee.



Q105. In the context of Parole (release of prisoner) in India, consider the following statements.

1. As per the Act, only Central Government (Home Ministry) can make rules regarding the release of prisoners on parole.
2. When a prisoner is on parole his period of release does not count towards the total period of the sentence.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

**First statement is incorrect:**

'Prisons' is a State subject under the State List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.

**The management and administration of prisons fall exclusively in the domain of state governments and are governed by the Prisons Act, 1894, and the Prison Manuals of the respective state governments.**

The Prisons Act further says that **only states can make rules regarding the release of prisoners on furlough, parole and remission, as part of the correctional process in jail reforms.** However, the Centre too can put out non-binding guidelines.

**Second statement is correct:**

Also, as laid down by the Supreme Court in the State of Haryana vs Mohinder Singh (2000), **"when a prisoner is on parole his period of release does not count towards the total period of the sentence,** while when he is on furlough, he is eligible to have the period of release counted towards the total period of his sentence undergone by him".

Section 432 of Cr.P.C deals with Power to Suspend or Remit Sentences. However, Supreme Court, in Sunil Fulchand Shah v. Union of India, reported in AIR 2000 SC 1023, has categorically observed that **"parole does not amount to suspension of sentence"**.

**There is no uniform legislation to deal with furlough or parole. Different states have their own acts governing the two forms of release.**

Q106. Arrange the following from west to east.

1. Sea of Azov
2. Black Sea
3. Caspian Sea

Select the correct code.

- a. 1-2-3
- b. 2-1-3

c. 1-3-2

d. 2-3-1

Solution: b

Explanation:



Q107. Which of the following are tributaries of Godavari River?

1. Bhima
2. Malaprabha
3. Tungabhadra
4. Musi

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

All are tributaries of Krishna River.

Basin features	
<b>Tributaries</b>	
• left	Bhima, Dindi, Peddavagu, Musi, Paleru, Munneru
• right	Kudali (Niranjna) Venna, Koyna, Panchganga, Dudhaganga, Ghataprabha, Malaprabha, Tungabhadra

Q108. Consider the following statements.

1. The constitution has bestowed power in Supreme Court to see matters related to election of Vice President.
2. The oath/affirmations of Vice President in the Constitution mention to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

As per the Article 71, all doubts and disputes arising out of or in connection with the election of a **president or vice President** shall be inquired into and **decided by the Supreme court whose decision shall be final.**

<sup>1</sup>[71. **Matters relating to, or connected with, the election of a President or Vice-President.**—(1) All doubts and disputes arising out of or in connection with the election of a President or Vice-President shall be inquired into and decided by the Supreme Court whose decision shall be final.

The oath/affirmations of only two bodies, **President and Governor**, mentions to **preserve, protect and defend the Constitution**, *Therefore, statement 2 is wrong. The oath of Governor reads as:*

#### 69. Oath or affirmation by the Vice-President.-

Every Vice-President shall, before entering upon his office, make and subscribe before the President, or some person appointed in that behalf by him, an oath or affirmation in the following form, that is to say—swear in the name of God" I, A.B., do ----- that solemnly affirm will bear true faith, and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established and that I will faithfully discharge the duty upon which I am about to enter."

#### 60. Oath or affirmation by the President.-

Every President and every person acting as President or discharging the functions of the President shall, before entering upon his office, make and subscribe in the presence of the Chief Justice of India or, in his absence, the senior most Judge of the Supreme Court available, an oath or affirmation in the following form, that is to say—swear in the name of God.

"I, A.B., do ----- that I solemnly affirm will faithfully execute the office of President (or discharge the functions of the President) of India and will do the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law and that I will devote myself to the service and well-being of the people of India."

**159. Oath or affirmation by Governor.-**

Every Governor and every person discharging the functions of the Governor shall, before entering upon his office, make and subscribe in the presence of the chief Justice of the High Court exercising jurisdiction in relation to the State, or, in his absence, the senior most Judge of that court available, an oath or affirmation in the following form, that is to say-swear in the name of God "I, A.B., do ----- that I solemnly affirm will faithfully execute the office of Governor (or discharge the functions of the Governor) of ..... (name of the State) and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law and that I will devote myself to the service and well-being of the people of ..... (name of the State)."

Q109. Consider the following statements.

1. The creation up of a Legislative Council is not exclusively in the hands of the state government.
2. Like Rajya Sabha, Legislative Council cannot be abolished.
3. Creation of Legislative Council needs an amendment to Constitution under Article 368.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

**First statement is correct:**

**The setting up of a second chamber is not exclusively in the hands of the state government.**

**169. Abolition or creation of Legislative Councils in States.**—(1) Notwithstanding anything in article 168, Parliament may by law provide for the abolition of the Legislative Council of a State having such a Council or for the creation of such a Council in a State having no such Council, if the Legislative Assembly of the State passes a resolution to that effect by a majority of the total membership of the Assembly and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Assembly present and voting.

**Second statement is incorrect: You can clear see in above mentioned Article, we can abolish Legislative Council.**

**Third statement is incorrect:**

**169. Abolition or creation of Legislative Councils in States.**—(1) Notwithstanding anything in article 168, Parliament may by law provide for the abolition of the Legislative Council of a State having such a Council or for the creation of such a Council in a State having no such Council, if the Legislative Assembly of the State passes a resolution to that effect by a majority of the total membership of the Assembly and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Assembly present and voting.

(2) Any law referred to in clause (1) shall contain such provisions for the amendment of this Constitution as may be necessary to give effect to the provisions of the law and may also contain such supplemental, incidental and consequential provisions as Parliament may deem necessary.

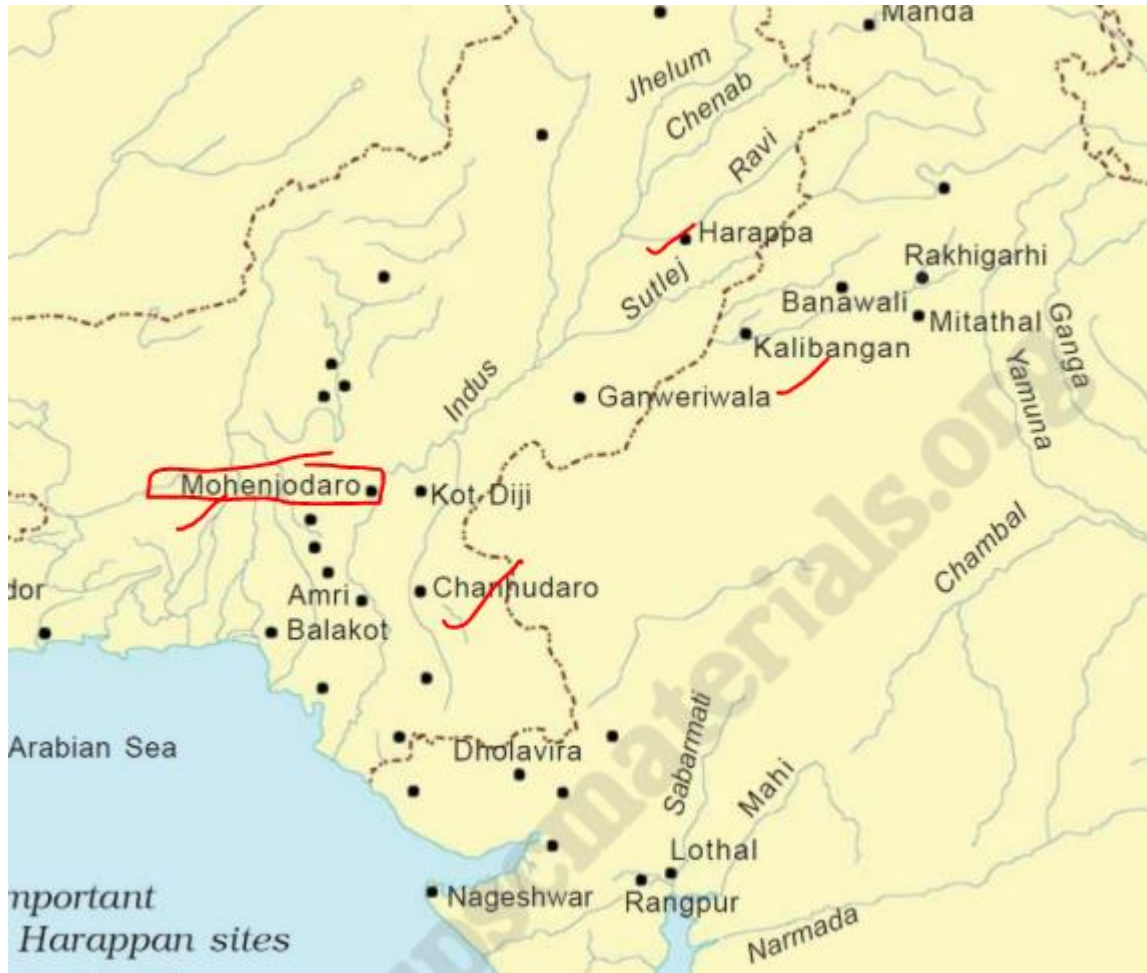
(3) No such law as aforesaid shall be deemed to be an amendment of this Constitution for the purposes of article 368.

Q110. The western most Harappan site amongst the following is:

- a. Chanhudaro
- b. Kalibangan
- c. Mohenjo-Daro
- d. Harappa

Solution: c

Explanation:



Q111. Observed under the theme “Fit for the future, building better together,” this year’s International Day of UN Peacekeepers (29 May) highlights the invaluable contributions military, police and civilian peacekeepers have made over the last seven decades. **On this day, we will solve one question.**

Consider the following statements.

1. It is for the Security Council to determine when and where a UN peace operation should be deployed.

2. The Security Council can vote to extend, amend or end mission mandates as it deems appropriate.
3. The first UN peacekeeping mission was established in 1948 to monitor the Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbors.


How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: C

EXPLANATION:

**All statements are correct.**

 **The Security Council has primary responsibility, under the United Nations Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security.**

It is for the Security Council to determine when and where a UN peace operation should be deployed.

The Security Council responds to crises around the world on a case-by-case basis and it has a range of options at its disposal. It takes many different factors into account when considering the establishment of new peace operation, including:

- Whether there is a ceasefire in place and the parties have committed themselves to a peace process intended to reach a political settlement;
- Whether a clear political goal exists and whether it can be reflected in the mandate;
- Whether a precise mandate for a UN operation can be formulated;
- Whether the safety and security of UN personnel can be reasonably ensured, including in particular whether reasonable guarantees can be obtained from the main parties or factions regarding the safety and security of UN personnel.

**The Security Council establishes a peace operation by adopting a Security Council resolution. The resolution sets out that mission's mandate and size.**

**The Security Council can vote to extend, amend or end mission mandates as it deems appropriate.**

**The first UN peacekeeping mission was established in May 1948**, when the UN Security Council authorized the deployment of a small number of UN military observers to the Middle East to form the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) **to monitor the Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbors.**

Q112. With reference to Lithium, consider the following statements:

1. India and Argentina have signed for the first ever lithium exploration and mining project.
2. Lithium reserves were recently found in Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan.
3. The lithium Triangle comprises Argentina along with Brazil and Ecuador.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: b

Explanation:

India and Argentina have inked the first lithium exploration and mining deal by a government company in India. Hence, statement 1 is correct.

## India signs an agreement to acquire five lithium mines in Argentina

*This is the first ever lithium exploration and mining project by a government company of India*

Second statement is also correct.

## After ~~J&K~~, lithium reserves found in Rajasthan, can meet 80% of India's demand

Lithium reserves were discovered on Revant hill in Degana in Rajasthan's Nagaur district during a survey conducted by the Geological Survey of India (GSI). It is believed that these reserves can meet 80% of the country's demand.

Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia form the "Lithium Triangle" and account for more than half of the world's total lithium resources. Hence, statement 1 is not correct.



Q113. Which of the following correctly defines NASA'S PREFIRE Mission?

- First mission to gather seismic data from moon
- aimed at enhancing our understanding of the Earth's polar regions, specifically the Arctic and Antarctic.
- detecting water and ice on the MARS planet, as well as studying its composition.
- This mission will be placed at Lagrange point L2 to study thousands of exoplanets, ranging from rocky planets to gas giants in visible and infrared wavelengths.

Solution: b



Explanation:

**PREFIRE: Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-InfraRed Experiment**

<p>A mission designed for a pair of tiny satellites to measure a little-studied portion of the radiant energy emitted by Earth, for clues about sea ice loss, ice-sheet melting, and a warming Arctic – the region that behaves like our planet’s thermostat, as it regulates the climate by venting excess energy received in the tropics.</p>	<p>TYPE <b>CubeSat</b></p> <p>TARGET <b>Earth</b></p>	<p>LAUNCH <b>May 2024</b></p> <p>OBJECTIVE <b>Study Arctic Heat Emissions</b></p>
---	---	---

Q114. With reference to the Phage therapy, consider the following statements:

1. It uses bacterial viruses to treat bacterial infections.
2. It treats people suffering from chronic or antibiotic-resistant infections.
3. Phages are living biological entities that do not consist of DNA or RNA.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: b

Explanation:

Read:

## Enter: Bacteriophage Therapy

Bacteriophages, or phages, are viruses that specifically target bacteria. Phage therapy involves using phages to treat bacterial infections. Phages are everywhere. From the soil to our guts, there are thousands of different types. In contrast to many antibiotics, which obliterate harmful bacteria, while simultaneously decimating the microbiota (thus triggering a new set of problems), each phage has evolved to more narrowly target bacterial strains or species. This specificity makes phage therapy an attractive alternative for managing infections, especially those caused by multi-drug resistant (MDR) bacteria.

Phage therapy is a treatment for people suffering from chronic or antibiotic-resistant infections. Hence, **statement 2 is correct.**

Phage treatment is the method of treating bacterial illnesses with bacterial viruses (phages). Hence, **statement 1 is correct.**

Phage treatment is increasingly being studied as an alternative to antibiotics.

Phages are non-living biological organisms made up of DNA or RNA contained in a protein capsid. Hence, **statement 3 is not correct.**

Q115. Consider the following statements regarding National Green Tribunal.

1. NGT was established during priministership of Rajiv Gandhi.
2. The Chairperson has to a Judge of the Supreme Court of India or Chief Justice of a High Court.
3. The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down by the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 but shall be guided by the principles of natural justice.
4. Any person aggrieved by order of the Tribunal can file an appeal to the Supreme Court.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. All four

Solution: c

Explanation:

**Read this before proceeding to explanation: Purpose of setting up of NGT.**

**THE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL ACT, 2010**  
ACT NO. 19 OF 2010

[2nd June, 2010.]

An Act to provide for the establishment of a National Green Tribunal for the effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources including enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

AND WHEREAS India is a party to the decisions taken at the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held at Stockholm in June, 1972, in which India participated, calling upon the States to take appropriate steps for the protection and improvement of the human environment;

AND WHEREAS decisions were taken at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held at Rio de Janeiro in June, 1992, in which India participated, calling upon the States to provide effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy and to develop national laws regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage;

AND WHEREAS in the judicial pronouncement in India, the right to healthy environment has been construed as a part of the right to life under article 21 of the Constitution;

AND WHEREAS it is considered expedient to implement the decisions taken at the aforesaid conferences and to have a National Green Tribunal in view of the involvement of multi-disciplinary issues relating to the environment.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-first Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

**First statement is wrong, as you can see it was established in 2010.**

**Second statement is correct:**

**5. Qualifications for appointment of Chairperson, Judicial Member and Expert Member.—(1)** A person shall not be qualified for appointment as the Chairperson or Judicial Member of the Tribunal unless he is, or has been, a Judge of the Supreme Court of India or Chief Justice of a High Court:

Provided that a person who is or has been a Judge of the High Court shall also be qualified to be appointed as a Judicial Member.

**Third statement is correct.**

**19. Procedure and powers of Tribunal.—(1)** The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down by the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908) but shall be guided by the principles of natural justice.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Tribunal shall have power to regulate its own procedure.

(3) The Tribunal shall also not be bound by the rules of evidence contained in the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 (1 of 1872).

Fourth statement is correct:

~~22.~~ **Appeal to Supreme Court.**—Any person aggrieved by any award, decision or order of the Tribunal, may, file an appeal to the Supreme Court, within ninety days from the date of communication of the award, decision or order of the Tribunal, to him, on any one or more of the grounds specified in section 100 of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908):

Q116. As per the provisions mentioned in the Constitution, consider the following statements.

1. An election to fill a vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office of President shall be completed before the expiration of the term.
2. The person elected to fill the vacancy of the President shall be entitled to hold office for the full term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

~~62.~~ **Time of holding election to fill vacancy in the office of President and the term of office of person elected to fill casual vacancy.**—(1) An election to fill a vacancy caused by the expiration of the term of office of President shall be completed before the expiration of the term.

(2) An election to fill a vacancy in the office of President occurring by reason of his death, resignation or removal, or otherwise shall be held as soon as possible after, and in no case later than six months from, the date of occurrence of the vacancy; and the person elected to fill the vacancy shall, subject to the provisions of article 56, be entitled to hold office for the full term of five years from the date on which he

Q117. Consider the following Nations.

1. Turkmenistan
2. Syria
3. Pakistan
4. Afghanistan

Which of the above nations **share boundaries with Iran?**

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

There are seven countries that Iran shares this long land border with. **These countries are Iraq, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkey, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.** Of these countries, Turkmenistan shares the longest border with Iran.



Q118. Consider the following statements.

1. The Supreme Court should mandatorily report to President if President has asked for an opinion related to public importance.
2. The Constitution has given power to Parliament to increase the number of judges of High Court.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

It is **not mandatory for Supreme Court** to respond for such opinion. See article 143 below. The Constitution has given power to **President** to increase the number of judges of High Court. Refer article 216 below.

### Central Government Act

#### ✓ Article 143 in The Constitution Of India 1949

143. Power of President to consult Supreme Court ( 1 ) If at any time it appears to the President that a question of law or fact has arisen, or is likely to arise, which is of such a nature and of such public importance that it is expedient to obtain the opinion of the Supreme Court upon it, he may refer the question to that Court for consideration and the Court may, after such hearing as it thinks fit, report to the President its opinion thereon

Central Government Act

Article 216 in The Constitution Of India 1949

216. Constitution of High Courts Every High Court shall consist of a Chief Justice and such other Judges as the President may from time to time deem it necessary to appoint

Q119. Consider the following statements regarding **Treasury Bills**.

1. They are the short- term debt instruments issued by the Government of India.
2. Interest rate is decided by the government only.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

Treasury bills or T-bills, which are **money market instruments, are short term debt instruments issued by the Government of India** and are presently issued in three tenors, namely, 91-day, 182 day and 364 days.

Treasury bills are **zero coupon securities and pay no interest**. Instead, they are issued at a discount and redeemed at the face value at maturity. For example, a 91-day Treasury bill of ₹100/- (face value) may be issued at say ₹ 98.20, that is, at a discount of say, ₹1.80 and would be redeemed at the face value of ₹100/-. **Interest rates are not used here. Therefore, second statement is wrong.**

Q120. In the context of the cultural history of India, a mudra called “Katakamukha Hasta” has been a favourite of most of the classical dances. Which one of the following statements best describes it?

- a. The fingers are held in such a manner as if to ask ‘why’
- b. Three fingers are joined to symbolize ‘Om’
- c. The fingers are held straight and close together like the ‘stop sign’
- d. All the fingers are held straight and together except the thumb finger

Solution: b

Explanation:



Katakaamukha means “Opening in a Bracelet”. Its done by bringing together the index finger, middle finger and thumb. The ring finger and the little finger are raised at angles. Katakaamukha is generally used to express the following

- a. Plucking or picking flowers
- b. Holding a necklace or a garland
- c. Pulling the bow string
- d. Talking and Seeing
- e. To show preparing a paste of sandal or musk
- f. Offering Beetle leaves

**Here, it best describes Three fingers are joined to symbolize ‘Om’. So, option (b) is correct.**

Q121. With reference to the **India-Australia trade**, consider the following statements:

1. India maintains trade surplus with Australia in last 5 years.
2. India and Australia are part of QUAD and the Indo-Pacific Economic Forum (IPEF).
3. After signing Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (AI-ECTA) in 2022, India export to Australia has increased and import from Australia has declined.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: b

Explanation:

**First is incorrect.**

See image from Ministry of Commerce:

Dated: 30/05/2024  
Values in Rs Lacs

Country / Region: AUSTRALIA		2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024
1.	EXPORT	2,019,788.66	2,992,763.87	6,184,104.67	5,555,482.59	6,566,764.17
2.	%Growth		48.17	106.64	-10.17	18.20
3.	India's Total Export	221,985,418.10	215,904,322.13	314,702,149.28	362,154,987.57	361,929,187.01
4.	%Growth		-2.74	45.76	15.08	-0.06
5.	%Share	0.91	1.39	1.97	1.53	1.81
6.	IMPORT	6,918,324.06	6,097,078.89	12,502,983.17	15,200,282.02	13,378,356.66
7.	%Growth		-11.87	105.07	21.57	-11.99
8.	India's Total Import	336,095,445.61	291,595,770.04	457,277,458.91	574,980,127.11	559,287,670.24
9.	%Growth		-13.24	56.82	25.74	-2.73
10.	%Share	2.06	2.09	2.73	2.64	2.39
11.	TOTAL TRADE	8,938,112.72	9,089,842.76	18,687,087.84	20,755,764.61	19,945,120.84
12.	%Growth		1.70	105.58	11.07	-3.91
13.	India's Total Trade	558,080,863.71	507,500,092.17	771,979,608.19	937,135,114.68	921,216,857.25
14.	%Growth		-9.06	52.11	21.39	-1.70
15.	%Share	1.60	1.79	2.42	2.21	2.17
16.	TRADE BALANCE	-4,898,535.40	-3,104,315.02	-6,318,878.50	-9,644,799.42	-6,811,592.49
17.	India's Trade Balance	-114,110,027.52	-75,691,447.91	-142,575,309.63	-212,825,139.54	-197,358,483.23

Australia is an important strategic partner of India. They are also part of the four nation **QUAD**, **Trilateral Supply Chain Initiative** and the **Indo-Pacific Economic Forum (IPEF)**.

**The Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (AI-ECTA) entered into force on December 29, 2022.**

Notably, in the first six months of the AI-ECTA coming into force, the trade gap between Australia and India has shrunk by 15 percent. **This has come on the back of increased Indian exports of pharmaceutical goods, electrical machinery, and iron and steel products. While Australian exports to India have declined by 25 percent from last year. (You can also see in the above mentioned data).**

Q122. Recently KAZA countries decided to pull out of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (or CITES) which has repeatedly denied them permission to sell off their abundant ivory and other wildlife products.

These **KAZA countries** are:

- Gabon, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Egypt, and Gambia
- Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe
- Liberia, Ghana, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia
- Congo, Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa, and Botswana

Solution: b

Explanation:

News:



AFRICA

## KAZA Summit 2024: Delegates renew calls to leave CITES

They cited an unreasonableness on part of the convention to maintain a blanket ban on ivory trade, thereby denying the 5 KAZA countries the benefit of monetising their huge elephant resources



NEXT NEWS >

By Cyril Zenda  
Published: Thursday 30 May 2024

The Kavango-Zambezi Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (KAZA-TFCA) is a 520,000-square kilometre wildlife sanctuary straddling five southern African nations that share common borders along the Okavango and Zambezi River basins.

These nations — Angola, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe



Q123. Consider the following statements.

1. In 2024, UN celebrated first International Day of Potato by focusing on the contribution of the potato to the lives of producers and consumers.
2. India is second largest producer of potato after China.
3. There is no MSP for onion, potato, and tomato in India.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three

d. None

Solution: c

Explanation:

From the UN website:

## Harvesting diversity, feeding hope

Potatoes are an important component of strategies to provide accessible and nutritious food and improved livelihoods in rural and other areas where natural resources, especially arable land and water, are limited and inputs expensive. The crop's versatility and ability to grow in a variety of conditions make it an advantageous crop choice. In 2024, we celebrate the first International Day of Potato (30 May) by focusing on the contribution of the potato to the lives of producers and consumers with the theme: Harvesting diversity, feeding

**There is no MSP for onion, potato and tomato.**

China is the world's largest potato grower and it cultivated 95 million tonnes in 2022. In the same year, India the second largest potato grower, produced 56 million tonnes.

The Netherlands, France and Germany are the largest exporters. Belgium, U.S.A. and Spain were the largest importers of the crop in 2022.

Q124. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched the PRAVAAH portal for:

- Digital infrastructure innovation
- Individuals and entities to apply online for various regulatory approvals from the RBI

- c. Hassle free and seamless banking transactions
- d. Any individual or entity to participate in the government securities (G-Secs) market.

Solution: b

Explanation:

News:

## RBI unveils Pravaah portal, Retail Direct Mobile App and FinTech Repository

Published - May 28, 2024 10:41 pm IST - MUMBAI

The central bank launched the PRAVAAH portal for any individual or entity to apply online for various regulatory approvals in a seamless manner.

This portal will also enhance the efficiency of various processes related to granting regulatory approvals and clearances by the Reserve Bank, the central bank said in a statement.

'PRAVAAH' (Platform for Regulatory Application, VALidation and AutHorisation) portal is a secure and centralised web-based portal for any individual or entity to seek authorisation, license or regulatory approval on any reference made by it to the Reserve Bank.

Q125. Which of the following countries is/are part of Amazon basin?

- 1. Bolivia
- 2. Chile
- 3. Ecuador
- 4. Peru

How many of the above location falls under correct option?

- a. Only 1
- b. Only 2
- c. Only 3
- d. All four

Solution: c

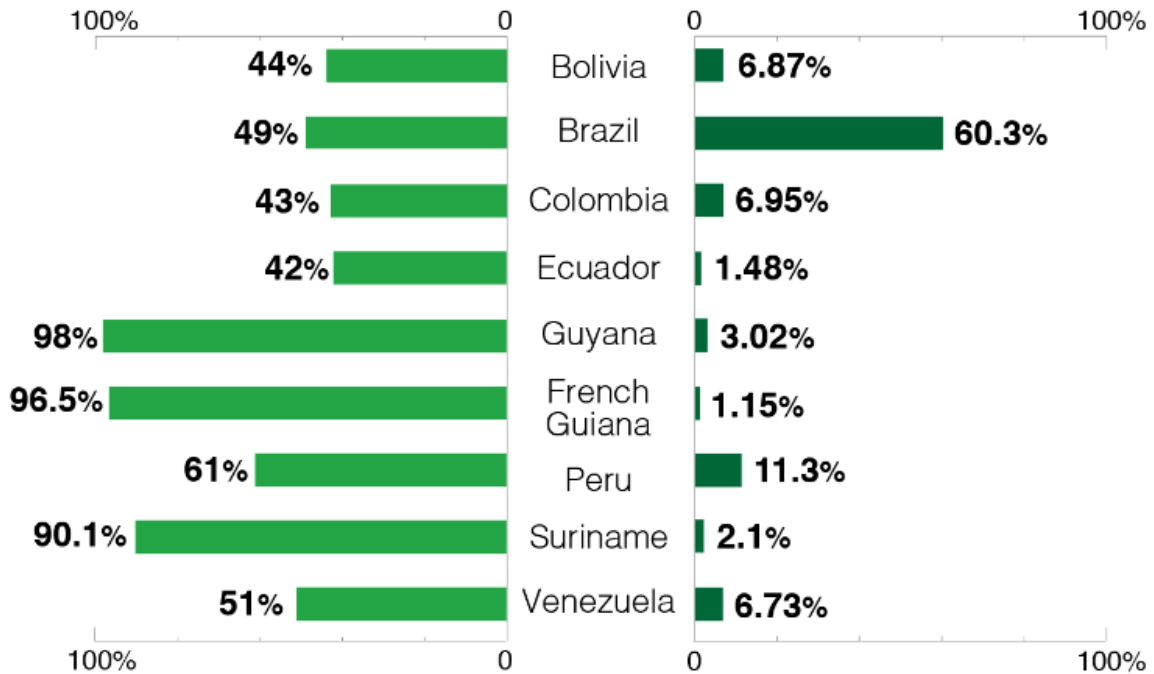
Explanation:

See two beautiful images below.



## Who does the Amazon belong to?

■ % of country in the Amazon ■ % of the Amazon in each country



Source: Raisg, mongabay.com, ONU, OTCA

BBC

Q126. In reference to bye-elections in India, consider the following statements.

1. As per the Constitution, Election Commission is mandated to fill the vacancies in the Houses of Parliament through bye elections within six months from the date of occurrence of the vacancy.
2. A by-poll need not be held, if the remainder of the term of a member in relation to a vacancy is less than one year.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

**First is incorrect: Constitution doesn't mention that.**

**Section 151A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 mandates the Election Commission to fill the casual vacancies in the Houses of Parliament and State Legislatures through bye elections within six months from the date of occurrence of the vacancy, provided that the remainder of the**

term of a member in relation to a vacancy is one year or more.

<sup>1</sup>[151A. Time limit for filling vacancies referred to in sections 147, 149, 150 and 151.— Notwithstanding anything contained in section 147, section 149, section 150 and section 151, a bye-election for filling any vacancy referred to in any of the said sections shall be held within a period of six months from the date of the occurrence of the vacancy:

Provided that nothing contained in this section shall apply if—

- (a) the remainder of the term of a member in relation to a vacancy is less than one year; or
- (b) the Election Commission in consultation with the Central Government certifies that it is difficult to hold the bye-election within the said period.

Q127. What are the 'major' objectives of National Food Security Act, 2013?

1. To provide adequate quantity of food to people to lead life with dignity
2. To provide free quality food to people.
3. To provide subsidies to farmers growing crops.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: a

Explanation:

Just see the objective of Act, sab samjh aa jyga.

### THE NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY ACT, 2013

ACT No. 20 OF 2013

[10th September, 2013.]

An Act to provide for food and nutritional security in human life cycle approach, by ensuring access to adequate quantity of quality food at affordable prices to people to live a life with dignity and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

**At affordable prices, NOT FREE. No mention of any subsidies to farmers. So, second and third are incorrect.**

Q128. Consider the following.

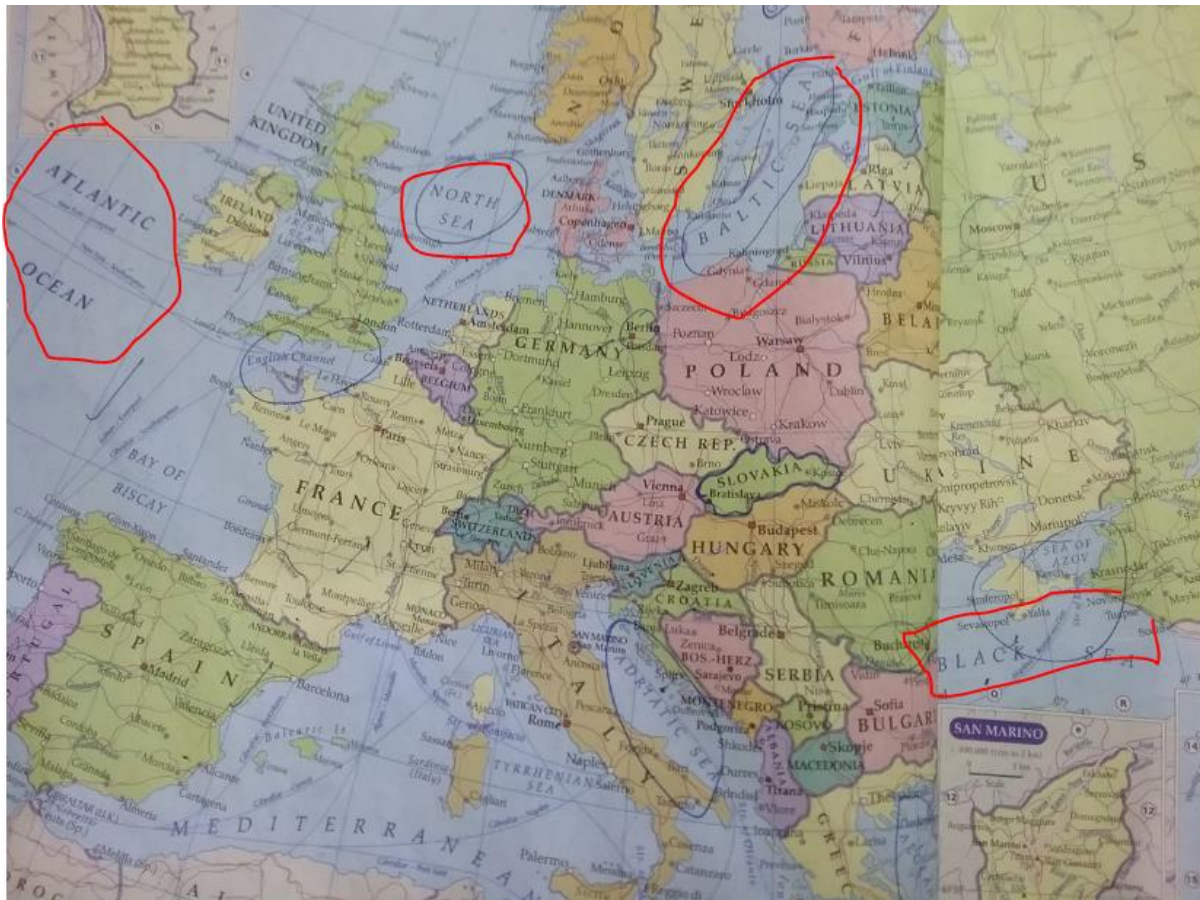
1. North Sea
2. Baltic Sea
3. Atlantic Ocean
4. Black Sea

Arrange the above seas from **West to East**.

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

Solution: b

Explanation:



Q129. In the context of temple architectures, **Keralantakam, Rasarasan and Tiruanukkam** represents:

- a. Separate kitchen areas for different group of people inside Virupaksha Temple
- b. different religious places in the temple to perform different religious activities during Guptas
- c. Places dedicated for waste management of Temple during the reign of Vijayanagar
- d. Three Main entrances to the shrine in Brihadisvara Temple

Solution: d

Explanation:

**Brihadishvara Temple: some important features of temple.**



**The Brihadeshvara Hindu Temple**

The sacred monument of Brihadeshvara Temple of Tanjore, Tamilnadu, south India (1010 AD) is listed on the UNESCO's World Heritage Sites (1987) as part of the three Chola temples of Southern India. They represent an outstanding creative achievement in the architectural conception of the pure form of the Dravida temples. This style, originally known as Dravidadesha style, was practiced during several dynasties only in the state of Tamilnadu in South India. The Brihadeshvara Temple (or Rajarajeshvara) was built in the capital of the Chola dynasty Tanjore by Rajaraja the Great (985-1014 AD) and has been dedicated to Shiva. It was built of granite stone during a span of six years, and reflects the prosperity and opulence of the Chola kingdom.

This monument not only expresses the Chola power but also is considered as one of the finest architectural examples of intricate craftsmanship in stone (Michell 1989) (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Brihadeshvara Hindu Temple (1010 AD), Tanjore, Tamilnadu, India: view from the east (based on Harle 1986).

Q130. Consider the following statements.

1. Constitution prescribed that the Supreme Court shall comprise of a Chief Justice of India and not more than seven other judges.
2. The maximum number of judges could be increased by Parliament by law.
3. A person is eligible to be appointed as Judge of the Supreme Court if in the opinion of the President, a distinguished jurist.

How many of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. Only one
- b. Only two
- c. All three
- d. None

Solution: c



Explanation:

**First statement is correct.**

**Article 124(1) of the Constitution** prescribed that the Supreme Court shall comprise of a Chief Justice of India and not more than seven other judges.

**Second statement is correct.**

**The maximum number of judges could be increased by Parliament by law.** Accordingly, the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 provided for a maximum of eleven judges. Thereafter this number was increased to 13 in 1960; to 17 in 1977; to 25 in 1986, and to 30 in 2009. With the appointment of recent nine judges, **we will have 33 judges including the CJI.**

**124. Establishment and constitution of Supreme Court.**—(1) There shall be a Supreme Court of India consisting of a Chief Justice of India and, until Parliament by law prescribes a larger number, of not more than seven other Judges.

**Third statement is correct:**

(3) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as a Judge of the Supreme Court unless he is a citizen of India and—

(a) has been for at least five years a Judge of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession; or

(b) has been for at least ten years an advocate of a High Court or of two or more such Courts in succession; or

(c) is, in the opinion of the President a distinguished jurist.

**Till date, no 'distinguished jurist' (category (c)) has been appointed as judge of Supreme Court.**