

QUIZ COMPILATIONS

– MARCH PART 2

Q1. What is the relevance of Sixty-Ninth Amendment) Act, 1991?

1. It provided Legislative Assembly and a Council of Ministers responsible to the Assembly.
2. It provided that the elected member of Legislative Assembly of Delhi will take part in election of President.
3. The Legislative Assembly of Delhi shall have power to make laws for the whole or any part of the National Capital Territory with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the State List only.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

Ok, before proceeding just read a small timeline.

When the Constitution came into force on January 26, 1950, Delhi became a Part C State and in 1951, a law was enacted for a Legislative Assembly in Delhi.

An amendment in the Constitution was passed on October 19, 1956 to implement the provisions of the States Re-organization Act, 1956 to do away with Parts A, B, C and D States.

Only two categories -- states and union territories -- remained then and Delhi became a Union Territory (UT) to be administered by an administrator appointed by the President.

The Legislative Assembly of Delhi and the Council of Ministers also stood abolished.

Later, the Government of Union Territories Act, 1963 was enacted to provide for legislative assemblies and council of ministers for various UTs but the provisions of the Act were not made applicable to Delhi.

The purpose of enacting the Delhi Administration Act, 1966 was to provide a limited representative Government for Delhi through a Metropolitan Council comprising 56 elected members and five nominated members.

On August 20, 1966, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued an order that the Lieutenant Governor/Administrator/Chief Commissioner shall be subject to the control of the President and exercise such powers and discharge the functions of a State Government under the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952 within the UTs.

The Balakrishnan Committee was set up in 1987 to submit its recommendations on the status to be conferred on Delhi. The report studied different aspects connected with the administration of Delhi as the national capital.

The committee recommended that Delhi should continue to be a UT but there must be a Legislative Assembly and a Council of Ministers responsible to the Assembly with appropriate powers.

It also said that in order to ensure stability, appropriate constitutional measures should be taken to confer the National Capital a "special status".

It was in 1991, that the 69th amendment was done in the Constitution and Articles 239AA (special provisions with respect to Delhi) and 239AB (provision in case of failure of constitutional machinery) were inserted.

Second statement is incorrect:

THE CONSTITUTION (SEVENTIETH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1992

THE CONSTITUTION (SEVENTIETH AMENDMENT) ACT, 1992

Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Constitution (Seventy-sixth Amendment) Bill, 1992 (Bill No. XXX of 1992) which was enacted as THE CONSTITUTION (Seventieth Amendment) Act, 1992

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

While considering the Constitution (Seventy-fourth Amendment) Bill, 1991 and the Government of National Capital Territory Bill, 1991, views were expressed in both the Houses of Parliament in favour of including also the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of Union territories in the electoral college for the election of the President under article 54 of the Constitution. At present article 54 relating to the election of the President provides for an electoral college consisting of only the elected Members of Parliament as well as the Legislative Assemblies of the States (not Union territories).

Third statement is incorrect:

Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Legislative Assembly shall have power to make laws for the whole or any part of the National Capital Territory with respect to any of the matters enumerated in the **State List or in the Concurrent List** in so far as any such matter is applicable to Union territories

except matters with respect to Entries 1, 2 and 18 of the State List and Entries 64, 65 and 66 of that List in so far as they relate to the said Entries 1, 2 and 18.

The government of Delhi, currently led by CM Arvind Kejriwal of AAP and his council of ministers, has the power to formulate laws on all matters mentioned in the State and Concurrent Lists of Seventh Schedule, except matters pertaining to:

Police Law and order, Municipal services like water, drainage, electricity, transport etc., Land, Jurisdiction of courts

Q2. Consider the following statements.

1. The Election to the office of President is conducted through secret ballot.
2. A president is eligible for re-election.
3. The President can resign by writing under his hand addressed to the Vice president.

Which of the above statements is/are correct **as per the provisions mentioned in the Constitution?**

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

All the three above statements are correct.

Central Government Act

Article 55(3) in The Constitution Of India 1949

(3) The election of the President shall be held in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote and the voting at such election shall be by secret ballot: ~~Explanation to this article, the expression population means the population ascertained~~

Central Government Act

Article 57 in The Constitution Of India 1949

57. Eligibility for re election A person who holds, or who has held, office as President shall, subject to the other provisions of this Constitution, be eligible for re election to that office

Central Government Act**Article 56 in The Constitution Of India 1949****56. Term of office of President**

(1) The President shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office: Provided that

(a) the President may, by writing under his hand addressed to the Vice President, resign his office;

Q3. Recently, the promulgated bill which led to formation 'Commission on Air Quality Management' (CAQM) got lapsed. Just learn what was the basic of CAQM.

Consider the following statements.

1. One of the functions was - providing a framework for identification of air pollutants.
2. The order of the commission was made to prevail over the orders of state governments and CPCB.
3. It was made to be chaired by Prime Minister.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance, 2020

Promulgated

Oct 28, 2020

Last week, the **commission ceased to exist because the ordinance that created it lapsed**. Under Article 123 of the Indian Constitution, an ordinance issued by the President of India is required to be laid before Parliament within six weeks of the house's reassembly or that it will cease to operate. The reason is simple: an ordinance is an exercise of executive power, vested in our ministers and bureaucrats, to respond to an extraordinary situation, and which does not go through the normal legislative process of being approved by members of the legislature. Therefore, an ordinance needs to be 'laid' before the legislature within six weeks of its promulgation or it will lapse.

As the commission, no longer exists, we will just see basics:

Functions of the Commission include: (i) co-ordinating actions taken under the Ordinance by concerned state governments (Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh), (ii) planning and executing plans to prevent and control air pollution in the region, (iii) **providing a framework for identification of air pollutants**, (iv) conducting research and development through networking with technical institutions, (v) training and creating a special work force to deal with issues related to air pollution, and (vi) preparing various action plans such as increasing plantation and addressing stubble burning.

The **Commission will be the sole authority** with jurisdiction over matters defined in the Ordinance (such as air quality management). In case of any conflict, the **orders or directions of the Commission will prevail over the orders of the state governments (of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh), the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), state PCBs, and state-level statutory bodies.**

The **appointment of the Chairperson and members of the Commission** will be done by the central government on the recommendations of a Selection Committee. The Committee will be headed by the Minister in-charge of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change as the Chairperson.

Q4. Consider following statements regarding Development finance institution (DFI).

1. Currently India don't have any DFIs. Its constitution has been recently announced in 2021-22 budget.
2. Unlike commercial banks, DFIs do not operate with the primary objective of maximising profits. They combine profit-making with meeting development objectives.

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':

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman while presenting the Union Budget 2021-22 stated that India will set up a **new DFI called the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development**.

The DFI will be set up on a capital base of Rs. 20,000 crores and will have a lending target of Rs. 5 lakh crores in three years. Debt financing through the infrastructure investment trust (InvIT) and real estate investment trust (REIT) routes will be enabled through necessary amendments in the rules.

First statement is incorrect:

DFIs, also known as development banks, are **not new in India. In independent India**, three national-level DFIs –Industrial Finance Corporation of India (now known as IFCI), Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI), and Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) – were established during 1948-64 to provide long-term financing in the industrial sector.

In the 1970s and 80s, some sector-specific DFIs — such as EXIM Bank, National Housing Bank, and Housing and Urban Development Corporation — were established. Besides, state-level DFIs were set up by state governments to provide concessional lending to small and medium enterprises.

Second statement is correct:

Why DFIs?

As compared to commercial banks, DFIs and development banks offer numerous advantages, some of which are listed below.

First, unlike commercial banks, DFIs do not operate with the primary objective of maximising profits.

They combine profit-making with meeting development objectives. DFIs can remain commercially viable while fulfilling their non-commercial objectives. Their ability to look beyond profit-and-loss considerations makes them unique to pursue and deliver on broader societal goals. In comparison, commercial banks focusing on short-term financial returns may undermine the pursuit of societal goals.

Second, DFIs have a public policy mandate that enables them to finance public health systems and other socially desirable projects, support small businesses and local communities, and provide funds to long-term projects linked to the UN's sustainable development goals. As discussed elsewhere, DFIs are widely considered the best policy instruments to mobilise long-term resources for socially desirable projects with high social returns.

Q5. Consider following statements related to geography of India:

1. Except China, all countries with which India shares land border are member of SAARC.
2. India shares land boundary with 6 countries.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

SAARC has eight member countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. **Myanmar with which India shares 1643 KM of land boundary is not a member of SAARC.**

India shares the largest land boundary with Bangladesh (4096.7 KM), followed by China (3488 KM) and Pakistan (3323 KM).

India shares its border with seven countries- **Afghanistan and Pakistan** to the North-West, **China, Bhutan and Nepal** to the north, **Myanmar** to the far East and **Bangladesh** to the east.



Q6. Consider the following statements.

1. The recommendation of B. Sivaraman committee report led to the formation of NABARD.
2. NABARD Act was Passed during the primeministership of Indira Gandhi.
3. NABARD provides only short- term refinance for investment credit activities for giving a boost to private capital formation in agriculture.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

It's important now-a-days that you should know history of important topics. No worries for new students. We will go through every such topics sooner or later. Just you need to follow regularly.

History:

The importance of institutional credit in boosting rural economy has been clear to the Government of India right from its early stages of planning. Therefore, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) at the insistence of the Government of India, constituted a Committee to Review the Arrangements for Institutional Credit for Agriculture and Rural Development (CRAFICARD) to look into these very critical aspects. **The Committee was formed on 30 March 1979, under the Chairmanship of Shri B. Sivaraman, former member of Planning Commission, Government of India. First statement is correct.**

The Committee's interim report, submitted on 28 November 1979, outlined the need for a new organizational device for providing undivided attention, forceful direction and pointed focus to credit related issues linked with rural development. **Its recommendation was formation of a unique development financial institution which would address these aspirations and formation of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was approved by the Parliament through Act 61 of 1981.**

It was dedicated to the service of the nation by the late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi on 05 November 1982. **Second statement is correct.** Set up with an initial capital of Rs.100 crore, its' paid- up capital stood at Rs.14,080 crore as on 31 March 2020. Consequent to the revision in the composition of share capital between Government of India and RBI, NABARD today is fully owned by Government of India.

Now, learn the history of Refinance.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) set up the Agricultural Refinance Corporation (ARC) in 1963 to work as a refinancing agency in providing medium term and long-term agricultural credit to support investment credit needs for agricultural development. In 1975, ARC was renamed as Agriculture Refinance and Development Corporation (ARDC) to give focussed attention to credit offtake, development and promotion of the agricultural sector.

Upon its formation in 1982, NABARD took over the functions of the erstwhile Agricultural Credit Department (ACD) and Rural Planning and Credit Cell (RPCC) of RBI and ARDC.

The Department of Refinance (DOR) deals with the short term and long- term refinance functions of NABARD. **Third is not correct statement.**

 **Core Functions of the Department**

DOR mainly deals with

- Short-term refinance for production credit activities contributing to food security
- Medium-term and long-term refinance for investment credit activities for giving a boost to private capital formation in agriculture
- DOR also acts as a subsidy channelizing agency for various Government of India schemes

Q7. Which of the following texts contains the Sanskrit phrase “*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*”?

- a. Manusmriti
- b. Vishnu Puran
- c. Maha Upanishad

d. Bhagavat Puran

Solution: c

Explanation:

“Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” is a Sanskrit Phase which means that the whole world is one single family.

The concept originates in Vedic Scripture Maha Upanishads.

Q8. Consider the following statements regarding **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)**.

1. The CVC is a statutory body and derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
2. The Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners are appointed by the President on the recommendations of a Committee consisting of the Prime Minister, the Speaker of Lok Sabha and the Leader of the Opposition in the House of the People.

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:

Very simple question. Very simple explanations. If you haven't done revision, you can do mistakes. So, its ok. Just learn now again.

The CVC is a statutory body and derives its powers from the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003. The CBI derives its power from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.

The Central Vigilance Commission

- a. Multi-member Commission consists of a Central Vigilance Commissioner (Chairperson) and **not more than two Vigilance Commissioners (Member)**.
- b. The Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners are appointed by the President on the recommendations of a Committee consisting of the **Prime Minister (Chairperson), the Minister of Home Affairs (Member) and the Leader of the Opposition in the House of the People (Member)**.
- c. The term of office of the Central Vigilance Commissioner and the Vigilance Commissioners is **four years** from the date on which they enter their office or till they attain the age of **65 years**, whichever is earlier.

Q9. In the context of India, which of the following is/are **Financial Inclusion schemes**?

1. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)
2. Atal Pension Yojana (APY)
3. Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana
4. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojna (PMSBY)
5. Stand up India scheme

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

“Financial Inclusion” is the way the Governments strive to take the common man along by bringing them into the formal channel of economy thereby ensuring that even the person standing in the last is not left out from the benefits of the economic growth and is added in the mainstream economy thereby encouraging the poor person to save, safely invest in various financial products and to borrow from the formal channel when (s) he need to borrow.

All above schemes are Financial Inclusion schemes. Read once the link given below.

Link: <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170445>

Q10. Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve was recently added to Ramsar Wetland List. It is in:

- a. Himachal Pradesh
- b. Punjab
- c. Arunachal Pradesh
- d. Uttarakhand

Solution: b

Explanation:

 **Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve**

Site number: 2,414 | Country: India | Administrative region: Gurdaspur district of Punjab

Area: 343.9 ha | Coordinates: 32°05'34"N 75°23'23"E | Designation dates: 26-09-2019

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Keshopur-Miani Community Reserve is located in the State of Punjab. The Reserve is a mosaic of natural marshes, aquaculture ponds and agricultural wetlands maintained by the annual rainfall runoff. It is heavily human-influenced, and includes a series of managed fishponds and cultivated crops such lotus and chestnut. This management helps support a variety of flora, with 344 species of plants recorded in the area. In this way, the Site is an example of wise use of a community-managed wetland, which provides food for people and supports local biodiversity. Threatened species present include the vulnerable common pochard (*Aythya ferina*) and the endangered spotted pond turtle (*Geoclemys hamiltonii*). The Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation, Punjab, forms the management committee.

Q11. Consider the following statements regarding Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs).

1. The D-SIB framework requires the Ministry of Finance to disclose the names of banks designated as D-SIBs.
2. Both Public and Private Sector Banks are eligible for this framework.
3. Framework for identifying Global Systemically Important Banks (G-SIBs) has been developed by International Monetary Fund.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

More banks likely to join RBI's list of 'systemically important banks'

Move result of change in pecking order post-mergers

Topics

Reserve Bank of India | Indian Banks | PSU bank merger

Raghu Mohan | New Delhi

Last Updated at March 18, 2021 06:10 IST

First statement is incorrect.

The Reserve Bank had issued the Framework for dealing with Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) on July 22, 2014. **The D-SIB framework requires the Reserve Bank to disclose the names of banks designated as D-SIBs starting from 2015 and place these banks in appropriate buckets depending upon their Systemic Importance Scores (SISs).**

Second statement is correct:

Till now, Reserve Bank had announced **State Bank of India, ICICI Bank Ltd. and HDFC Bank Ltd. as D-SIBs.**

The list of D-SIBs is as follows:

| Bucket | Banks | Additional Common Equity Tier 1 requirement as a percentage of Risk Weighted Assets (RWAs) |
|--------|-----------------------|--|
| 5 | - | 1% |
| 4 | - | 0.80% |
| 3 | State Bank of India | 0.60% |
| 2 | - | 0.40% |
| 1 | ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank | 0.20% |

Third statement is incorrect:

In October 2010, the Financial Stability Board (FSB) recommended that all member countries needed to have in place a framework to reduce risks attributable to Systemically Important Financial Institutions (SIFIs) in their jurisdictions. **The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS) came out with a framework in November 2011 for identifying the Global Systemically Important Banks (G-SIBs) and the magnitude of additional loss absorbency capital requirements applicable to these G-SIBs. The BCBS further required all member countries to have a regulatory framework to deal with Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs).**

Further the D-SIB framework requires that *"The assessment methodology for assessing the systemic importance of banks and identifying D-SIBs will be reviewed on a regular basis. However, this review will be at least once in three years."*

Q12. The Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) member countries have recently accepted the “Sinatra Doctrine”. It is related to:

- To counter increasing China's aggressiveness to undermine the unity of the European Union through the divide and rule policy.
- No policy of Divide and Rule in vaccination of COVID-19 such that no citizen is left.
- A new trade agreement among European Union.
- A policy of European Union in Asia Pacific Region.

Solution: a

Explanation:

EU adopts 'Sinatra Doctrine' to counter China's growing influence in Europe

ANI | Updated: Mar 18, 2021 01:46 IST

As China's increasing aggressiveness to undermine European unity through a '**divide and rule**' policy **continues**, the **Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) member countries** have responded by accepting their own way to deal with the increasing threat of Beijing's influence, known as the '**Sinatra Doctrine**'.

The doctrine would be based on two pillars: continuing cooperation with China in regards to address global challenges such as climate change, combating COVID-19 and regional conflicts, while also strengthening the European Union's (EU) strategic sovereignty by protecting technological sectors of its economy, according to EU Reporter.

This 'Sinatra Doctrine' is being seen by scholars as a threat and a blowback to China's growing influence in the CEE.

Link: <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/europe/eu-adopts-sinatra-doctrine-to-counter-chinas-growing-influence-in-europe20210318014632/>

Q13. Consider the following statements **IBSA Forum**.

- The IBSA forum was established in 2003 by Brasilia Declaration.
- All members of IBSA are members of BRICS.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

The Sixth India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Women's Forum meeting was held virtually on 16th March, 2021. Led by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, the event witnessed participation of Ministers and officials responsible for Women Affairs of IBSA Countries.

The India-Brazil- South Africa Forum was established in 2003 by the [Brasilia Declaration](#) and intends for South-South Co-operation.

The India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) Trilateral Cooperation Forum is a unique platform which brings together India, Brazil and South Africa, three large democracies and major economies from three different continents. All three partners are developing pluralistic, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-religious nations.

IBSA is committed to inclusive sustainable development, in pursuit of the well-being for their citizens and those from the other developing nations. The principles, norms and values underpinning the IBSA Dialogue Forum are participatory democracy, respect for human rights, the Rule of Law and the strengthening of multilateralism. IBSA lays efforts in the South-South cooperation beyond the conventional areas of exchange of experts and training.

Second statement is correct:

BRICS members are: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

Q14. Consider the following Pairs.

| Places in news | Location |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Lake Baikal | Western Europe |
| 2. Bhasan Char island | Myanmar |

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:

Russian scientists have launched one of the biggest underwater space telescopes of the world on March 13, 2021. This underwater space telescope was deployed deep into universe from pristine waters of Lake Baikal.





Q15. Consider the following.

1. Mt Toubkal: Africa region
2. Lake Victoria: Between Brazil and Chile
3. Altas Mountains: North-Western Africa

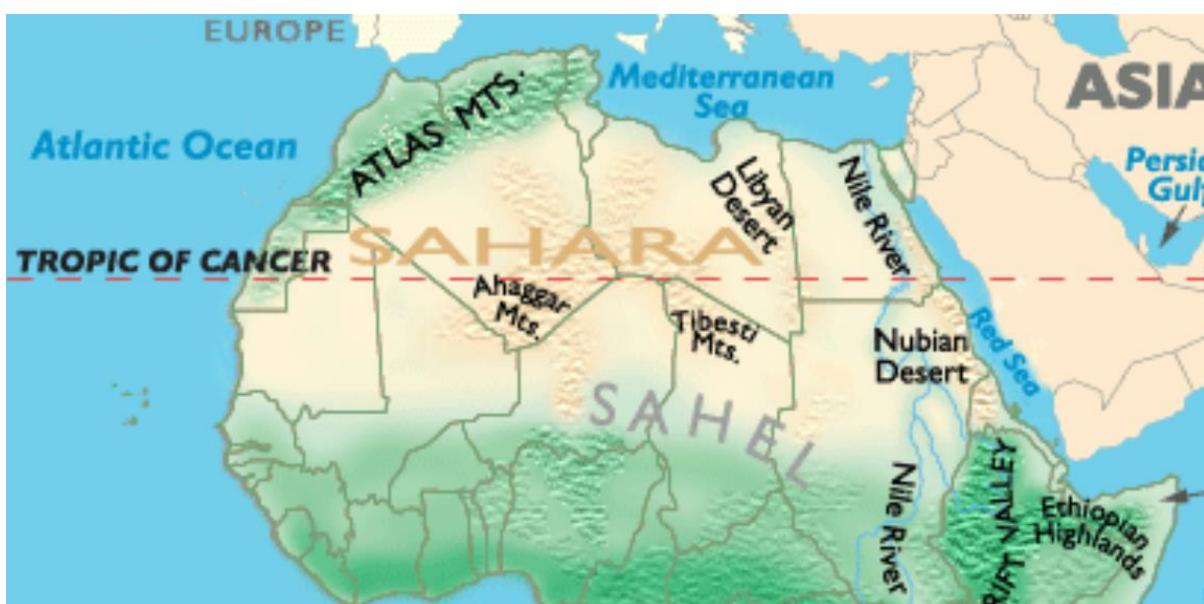
Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

Solution: d

Explanation:





Q16. The term **Political Justice** is mentioned in Indian Constitution under:

- Preamble and Fundamental Rights only
- Preamble and Directive Principles of State Policy only

- c. Preamble only
- d. Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles of State Policy

Solution: b

Explanation:

Article 38 of the Indian Constitution reads as: *The State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may a social order in which justice, social, economic and political, shall inform all the institutions of the national life.*

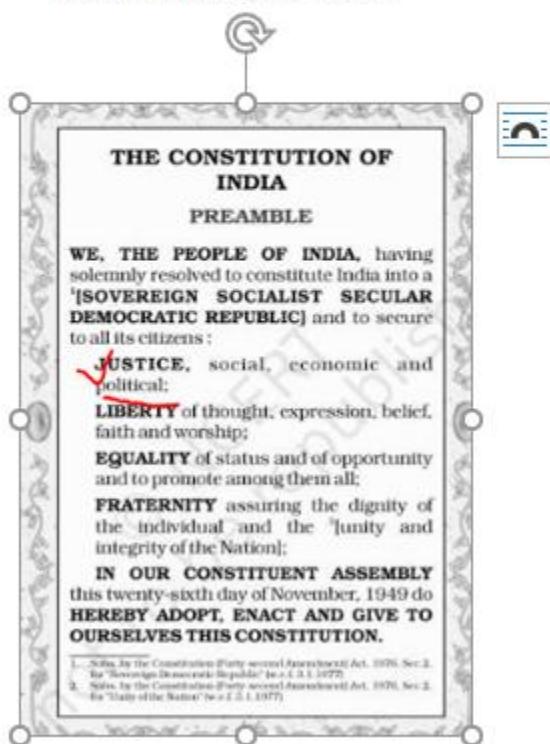
Preamble also talks about Political Justice.

Central Government Act

~~Article 38 in The Constitution Of India 1949~~

38. State to secure a social order for the promotion of welfare of the people

(1) The State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may a social order in which justice, social, economic and political shall inform all the institutions of the national life



The term Political Justice doesn't find mention in the Fundamental Rights.

Q17. Which among the following represents the **effective monetary policy transmission**?

- a. Banks increasing the lending rate, when RBI reduces the Repo rate.
- b. Banks reducing the lending rate, when RBI reduces the Repo rate.

- c. Banks increasing lending rate, when RBI reduces the Reverse Repo rate.
- d. Banks increasing the lending rate and deposit rates, when RBI reduces both Repo and Reverse Repo rate

Solution: b

Explanation:

Effective or complete monetary policy transmission implies banks passing on the benefits of RBI's policy to the borrowers/public.

It means that if RBI reduces the Repo rate, this will increase the money supply or banks can borrow from the RBI at lesser rates. This benefit of reduced Repo rate is transmitted to public by reducing the lending rates to borrowers. **Hence, only statement b is correct.**

Q18. 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 SC Judge 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:

First statement is correct.

By convention, Parliament meets for three sessions in a year. The Constitution does not specify when or for how many days Parliament should meet.

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

Second statement is incorrect.

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.

Q19. Consider the following statements.

1. The nomination paper of a candidate for the Presidential election has to be subscribed by at least fifty electors as proposers.

2. No President in India has been elected twice.
3. The President shall vacate his office immediately after expiry of his term.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

Under the Constitution of India, there shall always be a President of India (See Article 52 of the Constitution). He holds the highest elective office in the country and is elected in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the **Presidential and vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952. This Act you should know. UPSC has already asked Judges Inquiry Act, 1968. Be careful.**

As per the Presidential and vice-Presidential Election Act, 1952, **the nomination paper of a candidate for the Presidential election has to be subscribed by at least fifty electors as proposers and at least fifty electors as seconders.**

~~5B~~ **Presentation of nomination papers and requirements for a valid nomination.—(1)** On or before the date appointed under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 4, each candidate shall, either in person or by any of his proposers or seconders, between the hours of eleven o'clock in the forenoon and three o'clock in the afternoon, deliver to the returning officer at the place specified in this behalf in the public notice issued under section 5 a nomination paper completed in the prescribed form and subscribed by the candidate as assenting to the nomination, and

(a) in the case of Presidential election, ~~also by at least ³[fifty electors]~~ as proposers and at least ~~3~~
³[fifty electors] as seconders;

The President shall hold office for a term of 5 years from the date on which he enters upon his office. **He shall, however, continue to hold office notwithstanding the expiry of his term, until his successor enters upon his office. [Article 56 of the Constitution of India].**

Central Government Act**Article 56 in The Constitution Of India 1949****56. Term of office of President**

(1) The President shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office: Provided that

(a) the President may, by writing under his hand addressed to the Vice President, resign his office;

(b) the President may, for violation of the constitution, be removed from office by impeachment in the manner provided in Article 61;

(c) the President shall, notwithstanding the expiration of his term, continue to hold office until his successor enters upon his office

Dr Rajendra Prasad won the first two elections, in 1952 and 1957.

Q20. Consider the following statements.

1. The idea of bronze sculptures flourished during the Cholas rule.
2. Kalyanasundara Murti built during this period denotes the marriage of Vishnu and Lakshmi.

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 idea of bronze images came during the Pallavas, which flourished during the Cholas.

A wide range of Shiva iconography was evolved in the Thanjavur (Tanjore) region of Tamil Nadu. **The ninth century Kalyanasundara Murti is highly remarkable for the manner in which Panigrahana (ceremony of marriage) is represented by two separate statuettes. Shiva with his extended right hand accepts Parvati's (the bride's) right hand, who is depicted with a bashful expression and taking a step forward.**



Link: <http://ncert.nic.in/textbook/pdf/kefa107.pdf>

Q21. Consider the following statements regarding Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

1. It is a global partnership of national governments, UN agencies and private sector to promote the resilience of infrastructure systems to climate and disaster risks.
2. India is a member of this coalition.
3. The CDRI Secretariat is based in New Delhi, India.

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: d

Explanation:

What is the CDRI?

The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is a multi-stakeholder global partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and academic and knowledge institutions. It addresses the challenges of building resilience into infrastructure systems and development associated with it.

When was the idea for CDRI proposed?

The Prime Minister of India launched CDRI during his speech at the UN Climate Action Summit on 23 September 2019.

2. What is the need for the CDRI?

✓ Infrastructure systems are key drivers of economic growth. Between 2016 and 2040, the Global Infrastructure Hub pegs the global annual infrastructure investment needs at US\$3.7 trillion per year. A large part of this infrastructure will inevitably be exposed to a range of natural hazards. With the increasing demands of a growing global population and unpredictable hazard patterns, the existing infrastructure will be put under additional stress and new infrastructure will be built in hazardous areas.

Members of the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)

as of 02 March 2021

Countries

| | | | |
|---|----------------|--|--------------------------|
| | Afghanistan | | Australia |
| | Argentina | | Bhutan |
| | Chile | | Fiji |
| | France | | Germany |
|  | India | | Italy |
| | Jamaica | | Japan |
| | Maldives | | Mauritius |
| | Mongolia | | Nepal |
| | Netherlands | | Peru |
| | Sri Lanka | | Turkey |
| | United Kingdom | | United States of America |

Where is the Secretariat of CDRI?

The CDRI Secretariat is based in New Delhi, India.

Is CDRI an intergovernmental organization?

CDRI is a multi-stakeholder global partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and academic and knowledge institutions. **At present, it is not an intergovernmental organization**, which are ordinarily treaty-based organizations.

Q22. Consider the following statements Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

1. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change shall be responsible for overall monitoring the implementation of these rules in the country.
2. Sanitary pads, tampons, and other menstrual hygiene products are categorized as 'dry municipal waste' under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.
3. This was the first waste management rules introduced by India.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

Without solving such questions before exam, there can be big problem. Hope you also have joined Test Series.

First statement is correct.

5. Duties of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. (1) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change shall be responsible for over all monitoring the implementation of these rules in the country. It

Second statement is correct:

How is menstrual waste classified?

Sanitary pads, tampons, and other menstrual hygiene products are categorised as 'dry municipal waste' under the **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016**. "Dry waste" means waste other than bio-degradable waste and inert street sweepings; it includes recyclable and non-recyclable waste, combustible waste, sanitary napkin and diapers, etc., states the document. The document also states that sanitary waste includes "wastes comprising of used diapers, sanitary towels or napkins, tampons, condoms,

2.0 Provisions of Sanitary Wastes in Solid Waste Management Rules (SWM), 2016

According to the provision of 3(46) of **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016**, 'solid waste' was categorized as follows: solid or semi-solid domestic waste, **sanitary waste**, commercial waste, institutional waste, catering and market waste and other non-residential wastes, street sweepings, silt removed or collected from the surface drains, horticulture waste, agriculture and dairy waste, treated bio-medical waste excluding industrial waste, bio-medical waste and e-waste, battery waste, radioactive waste generated in the area under the local authorities. Further, as per the provision of 14(i) of

Third statement is incorrect: Such statement already asked in Prelims. So be careful!

These rules are the sixth category of waste management rules brought out by the ministry, as it has earlier notified plastic, e-waste, biomedical, hazardous and construction and demolition waste management rules.

SWMR, 2016 replaced Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000, which have been in place for the past 16 years.

Q23. Nanotechnology provides new agrochemical agents and new delivery mechanisms to improve crop productivity, and it promises to reduce pesticide applications. Nanotechnology can increase agricultural production, and its applications include:

1. nano formulations of agrochemicals for applying pesticides and fertilizers for crop improvement
2. the application of nano sensors in crop protection for the identification of diseases and residues of agrochemicals
3. nanodevices for the genetic engineering of plants
4. plant disease diagnostics
5. animal health, animal breeding, poultry production

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

Nanotechnology in agriculture has gained good momentum in the last decade with an abundance of public funding, but the stage of development is good, even though many methods became under the umbrella of agriculture. This might be attributed to a unique nature of farm production, which functions as an open system whereby energy and matter are exchanged freely.

Nanotechnology provides new agrochemical agents and new delivery mechanisms to improve crop productivity, and it promises to reduce pesticide applications. Nanotechnology can increase agricultural production, and its applications include: **(1) nano formulations of agrochemicals for applying pesticides**

and fertilizers for crop improvement; (2) the application of nano sensors in crop protection for the identification of diseases and residues of agrochemicals; (3) nanodevices for the genetic engineering of plants; (4) plant disease diagnostics; (5) animal health, animal breeding, poultry production; and (6) postharvest management.

Nanotechnology applications include nanoparticle-mediated gene or DNA transfer in plants for the development of insect-resistant varieties, food processing and storage and increased product shelf life. Nanotechnology may increase the development of biomass-to-fuel production. Experts feel that the potential benefits of nanotechnology for agriculture, food, fisheries and aquaculture need to be balanced against concerns for the soil, water and environment and the occupational health of workers.

Q24. National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) is implemented by:

- Department of Science & Technology (DST)
- NITI Aayog
- Ministry of Earth Sciences
- Ministry of Electronics and Communication

Solution: a

Explanation:

**National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS)
Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs)**

Cyber Physical Systems (CPS) are new class of engineered systems that integrate computation and physical processes in a dynamic environment. CPS encompasses technology areas of Cybernetics, Mechatronics, Design and Embedded systems, Internet of Things (IoT), Big Data, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and many more. The CPS systems are intelligent, autonomous and efficient and are expected to drive innovation in sectors as diverse as agriculture, water, energy, transportation, infrastructure, security, health and manufacturing. Thus, it is heralded as the next paradigm shift in technology that can exponentially spur growth and development.

To harness the potential of this new wave of technology and make India a leading player in CPS, the Union Cabinet approved the launch of National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) to be implemented by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) with a total outlay of Rs. 3660 Crore for a period of five years. The Mission aims to create a strong foundation and a seamless ecosystem for CPS technologies by coordinating and integrating nationwide efforts encompassing knowledge generation, human resource development, research, technology and product development, innovation and commercialization. The mission will be implemented through a network of 15 Technology Innovation Hubs (TIHs), 6 Sectoral Application Hubs (SAHs) and 4 Technology Translation Research Parks (TTRPs). Each hubs and technology parks will follow a technology life cycle approach, addressing all stages viz.

Q25. Which of the following places form border **only with China, but not India?**

1. Bangladesh
2. Myanmar
3. Thailand

4. Cambodia

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

Thoda put stress on brain and try to recall map. If you will just see solution, nothing you can do in life. From today make it a habit to recall map, if you get map question.

Bangladesh forms border only with India.

Myanmar forms border with India and China both.

Thailand and Cambodia forms border neither with China, nor with India.



Q26. 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.

Q27. Consider the following.

1. One-third of the total number of offices of Chairpersons in the Panchayats at each level shall be reserved for women
2. It is mandatory to have one woman as a member in National Human Rights Commission.
3. Currently, we have mandatory provision in national parliament to reserve 33% of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha seats for women.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

Whenever you read Panchayats and Municipalities, read with focus and understanding, its bit confusing. First statement is from Panchayats.

First statement is correct.

243D. Reservation of seats.—(1) Seats shall be reserved for—

- (a) the Scheduled Castes; and
- (b) the Scheduled Tribes,

in every Panchayat and the number of seats so reserved shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in that Panchayat as the population of the Scheduled Castes in that Panchayat area or of the Scheduled Tribes in that Panchayat area bears to the total population of that area and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat.

(2) Not less than one-third of the total number of seats reserved under clause (1) shall be reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes or, as the case may be, the Scheduled Tribes.

(3) Not less than one-third (including the number of seats reserved for women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes) of the total number of seats to be filled by direct election in every Panchayat shall be reserved for women and such seats may be allotted by rotation to different constituencies in a Panchayat.

(4) The offices of the Chairpersons in the Panchayats at the village or any other level shall be reserved for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and women in such manner as the Legislature of a State may, by law, provide:

Provided that the number of offices of Chairpersons reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the Panchayats at each level in any State shall bear, as nearly as may be, the same proportion to the total number of such offices in the Panchayats at each level as the population of the Scheduled Castes in the State or of the Scheduled Tribes in the State bears to the total population of the State:

Provided further that not less than one-third of the total number of offices of Chairpersons in the Panchayats at each level shall be reserved for women:

Second statement is also correct:

See first 1993 Act of NHRC, follow statement d.

THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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 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) two Members to be appointed from amongst persons having knowledge of, or practical experience in, matters relating to human rights.

Now, 2019 Amendment,

Amendment
of section 3.

3. In section 3 of the principal Act,—

(a) in sub-section (2),—

(i) in clause (a), for the words “Chief Justice”, the words “Chief Justice of India or a Judge” shall be substituted;

(ii) ~~in clause (d), for the words “two Members”, the words “three Members out of which at least one shall be a woman,” shall be substituted;~~

Third statement is incorrect.

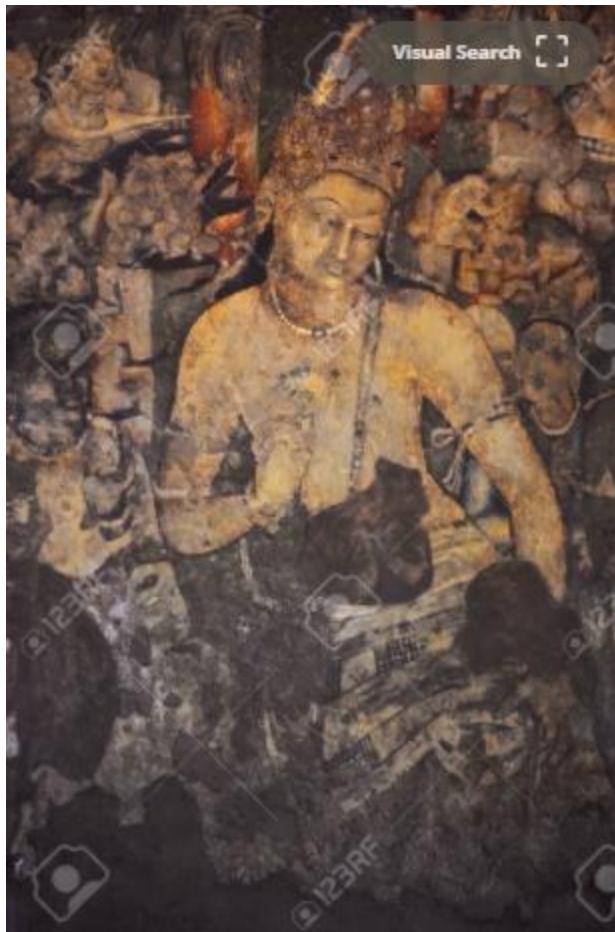
The Women’s Reservation Bill (108th amendment) has been introduced in the national parliament to reserve 33% of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha seats for women. **The bill has yet to be passed by Lok Sabha and signed into law.**

Q28. The painting of Bodhisattva Padmapani is one of the most famous and oft-illustrated paintings at

- a. Ajanta
- b. Badami
- c. Bagh
- d. Ellora

Solution: a

Explanation:



The Ajanta Caves caves have been described by the government Archaeological Survey of India as "the finest surviving examples of Indian art, particularly painting," and consists of about 30 rock-cut Buddhist cave monuments dating from approximately the 2nd century BCE to about 480 or 650 CE.

This segment from *Gardner's Art through the Ages: Non-Western Perspectives* (2009) describes the scene shown:

The bodhisattva Padmapani sits among a crowd of devotees, both princesses and commoners. With long, dark hair hanging down below a jeweled crown, he stands holding his attribute, a blue lotus flower, in his right hand. [...] The artist has carefully considered the placement of the painting in the cave. The bodhisattva gazes downward at worshipers passing through the entrance to the shrine on their way to the rock-cut Buddha image in a cell at the back of the cave.

Q29. The objective resolution was moved in the Constituent Assembly on:

- a. December 13, 1946
- b. January 26, 1946

- c. November 26, 1946
- d. November 26, 1950

Solution: a

Explanation:

This question has become very common everywhere, they may trick you with the date.

~~FRAMING THE CONSTITUTION~~

2. The Vision of the Constitution

On 13 December 1946, Jawaharlal Nehru introduced the "Objectives Resolution" in the Constituent Assembly. It was a momentous resolution that outlined the defining ideals of the Constitution of Independent India, and provided the framework within which the work of constitution-making was to proceed. It proclaimed India to be an "Independent Sovereign Republic", guaranteed its citizens justice, equality and freedom, and assured that "adequate safeguards shall be provided for minorities, backward and tribal areas, and Depressed and Other Backward Classes..." After outlining these objectives, Nehru placed the Indian experiment in a broad historical perspective. As he spoke, he said, his mind went back to the historic efforts in the past to produce such documents of rights.

Q30. Consider the following statements regarding Question Hour.

- 1. After zero hour, first hour of a sitting of Lok Sabha is called Question Hour.
- 2. Speaker of the House has the power to decide whether the question asked in Question Hour is to be treated as starred or unstarred.
- 3. Short Notice Question during question has to be mandatorily answered in written form.

Select the correct code.

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

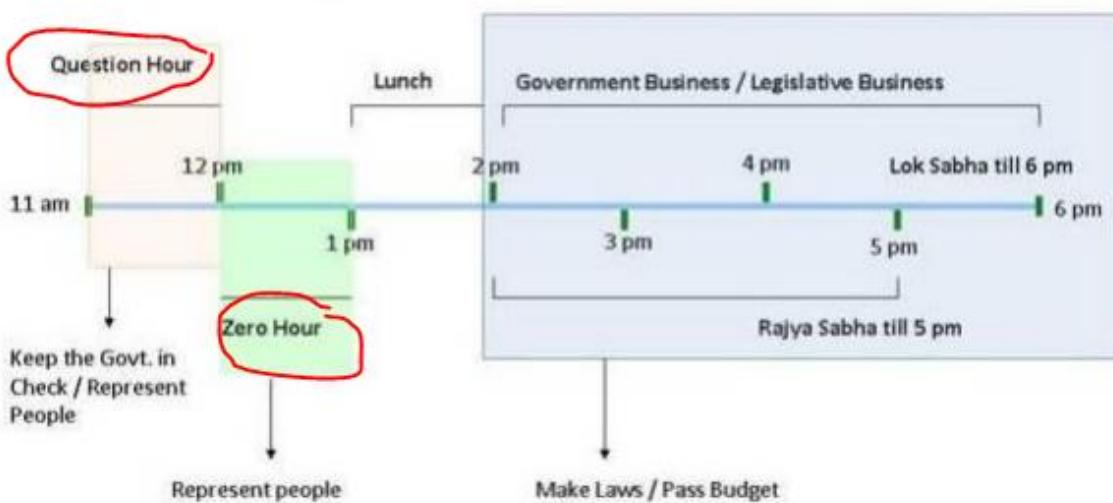
Solution: b

Explanation:

First statement is incorrect.

Zero hour is after Question Hour.

What happens in Parliament



Second statement is correct:

44. If in the opinion of the Speaker any question put down for oral answer is of such a nature that a written reply would be more appropriate, the Speaker may direct that such question be placed on the list of questions for written answer:

Speaker to decide if a question is to be treated as starred or unstarred.

Provided that the Speaker, if thinks fit, may call upon the member who has given notice of a question for oral answer to state in brief the reasons for desiring an oral answer and, after considering the same, may direct that the question be included in the list of questions for written answer.

Third statement is incorrect:

A Short Notice Question is one which relates to a matter of urgent public importance and can be asked with shorter notice than the period of notice prescribed for an ordinary question. Like a starred question, **it is answered orally followed by supplementary questions.**

Short
notice
questions.

54. (1) A question relating to a matter of public importance may be asked with notice shorter than ten clear days and the Speaker, if, is of the opinion that the question is of an urgent character, may direct that an enquiry may be made from the Minister concerned if such Minister is in a position to reply and, if so, on what date.

(2) If the Minister concerned agrees to reply, such question shall be answered on a day to be indicated by the Minister and shall be called immediately after the questions which have appeared on the list of questions for oral answer have been disposed of.

Q31. In the context of recent Rating mechanism for National Highways in India, consider the following statements.

1. The fundamental objective of highway rating is “Sustainable development of all highways and environment friendly for the users end”.
2. According to the Highway Rating report, the exercise is a first of its kind initiative in the world.
3. NH-48 section connecting Kashmir and Kanyakumari is ranked the best.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution : d

First statement is incorrect:

The fundamental objective of highway rating is '**minimum time with maximum safety in the stress-free environment from highway users' perspective so that all highway users' expectation to reach their destination safely in minimum possible time with pleasing experience on the road network can be met**'.

Read introduction. It is very important.

Highway users pay, Government decided Toll Fee, to use Highway networks in India and in return they expect quality services to be provided on highways with fast, efficient and safe mobility. Highway Sector is accountable to Road users as it is their money which is being used for Highway development. Accountability can be ensured only if we provide Highway network with world class services to Road users. This initiative of 'Benchmarking and Rating of Corridors' will help us in setting standards for quality highway services and with improved quality of Highways, Road users will get value for their money. Further, improved quality of Indian Highways will result in safer travel experience and consequently less accidents / deaths on Highways.

Bringing the quality of Indian Highways at par with highways in developed countries will result in decreased vehicle operating costs (less frequent repairs, less fuel use) and will result in modal shift of freight transport towards the Roads. This will improve the ranking of India in 'The Logistics Performance Index'.

This facilitates growth in the economy: as passenger and freight services are encouraged, there is a consequent boost to economic and social development opportunities. Improved quality of highways will promote job opportunity in remote areas.

Second statement is correct:

According to the Highway Rating report, the exercise is **a first of its kind initiative in the world**. NHAI is also planning to make this a regular exercise regular by carrying it out twice each year- once in the month of April and once in the month of October.

2. Objective

As on date highway rating has been completed for over 19,000 km of completed 4/6 lane NH/Expressways based on 39 parameters broadly categorised into three main criteria Highway Efficiency (45 marks), Highway Safety (35 marks) and User Services (20 marks) evaluated on a total score of 100 marks. The exercise of highway rating is a dynamic activity and is to be done twice in a year, preferable in the month of October and April, so as to give an opportunity to the stakeholders to improve of the parameters they lag behind in. It is first of its kind initiative in the world therefore the accuracy & precision levels are expected to improve with each successive iteration of this program.

Third statement is incorrect:

It is ok to not know the ranking, **but it is not ok** to not know the National Highway number of longest route.

NH 44 covers the North-South Corridor of NHDP and it is officially listed as running over 3,806 km (2,365 mi) **from Srinagar to Kanyakumari**. It is the longest national highway in India.

6. Section Wise Overall Rating & Ranking of National Highways Stretches

| Sr No. | Name of PIU | Name of Section | NH No. | Mode | Chainage From | Chainage To | Total Length | Total Score | Highway Efficiency (45) | Highway Safety (35) | User Services (20) | Name of Agency |
|--------|---------------|--|--------|----------|---------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 | PIU-Ahmedabad | 6 Laning of Ahmedabad - Vadodara Section | NH-48 | BOT Toll | 6.4 | 110 | 102.30 | 91.81 | 43.26 | 31.20 | 17.35 | IRB Infrastructure Developers Ltd. |

Link: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1701743>

Q32. The Reserve Bank of India has set up Standing External Advisory Committee (SEAC) for evaluating applications for Universal Banks as well as Small Finance Banks under the chairmanship of:

- a. Shyamala Gopinath
- b. T.N. Manoharan
- c. Nandan Nilekani
- d. Revathi Iyer

Solution: a

Explanation:

 (328 kb) Date : Mar 22, 2021

RBI announces Standing External Advisory Committee for evaluating Applications for Universal Banks and Small Finance Banks

The Reserve Bank of India today announced the names of the members of the Standing External Advisory Committee (SEAC) for evaluating applications for Universal Banks as well as Small Finance Banks. The composition of SEAC is:

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. Smt. Shyamala Gopinath, former Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India | Chairperson  |
|--|---|

Link: https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=51309

Q33. Consider the following statements regarding Indus Waters Treaty (IWT).

- 1. The treaty was signed during prime ministership of Indira Gandhi.
- 2. The IWT does not have a unilateral exit clause.
- 3. India was given control of the water from the other three rivers – Ravi, Beas, and Chenab.

Which of the above statement is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

First statement is Incorrect.

On September 19, 1960, the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) was signed between India and Pakistan to share waters from the Indus rivers system (IRS).

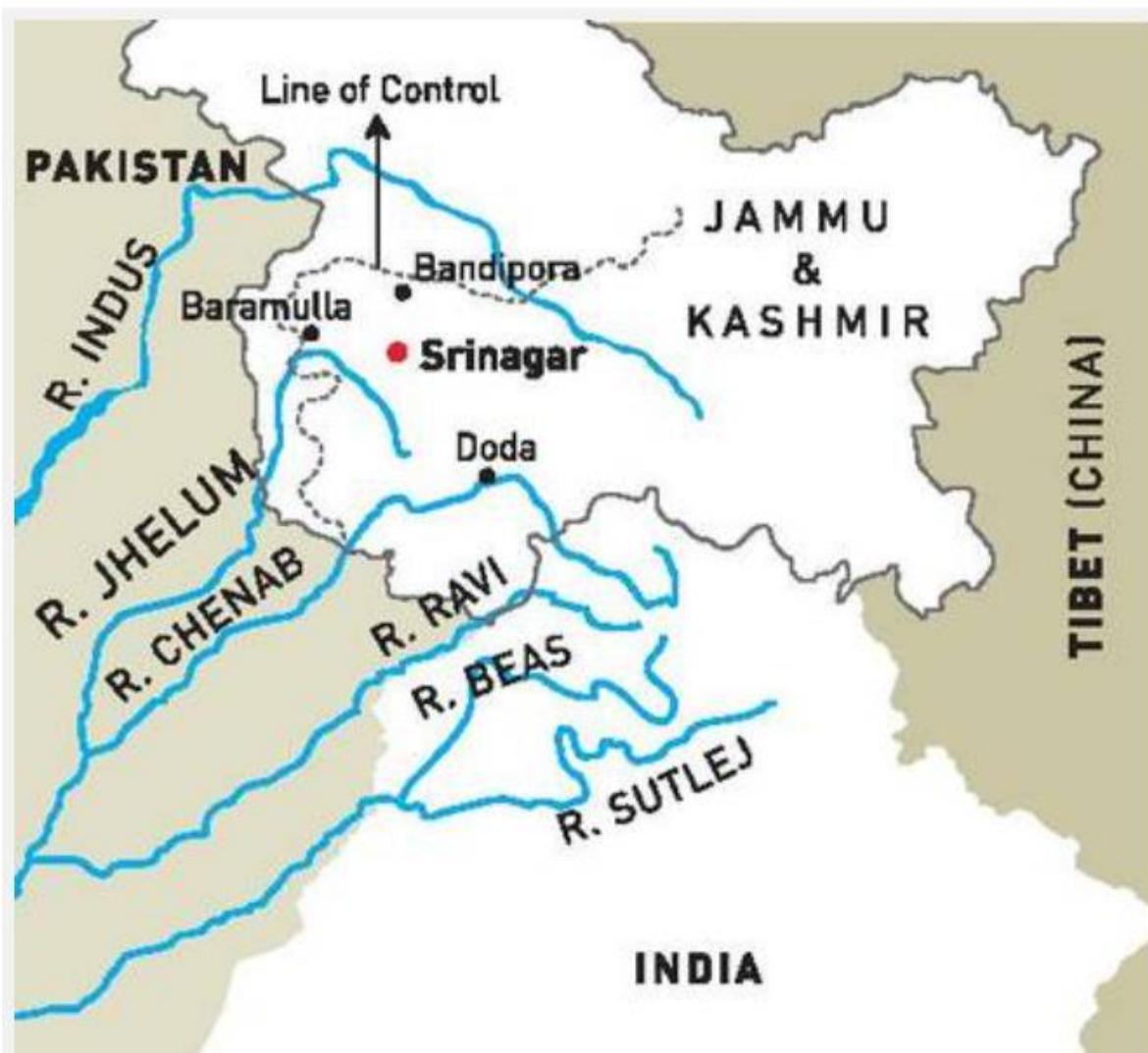
After years of negotiations between representatives from India and Pakistan, which were mediated by the World Bank, **Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru** went to Karachi, the then capital of Pakistan to sign the Indus Waters Treaty along with the Pakistani head of state, General Ayub Khan. The vice president of the World Bank, W.A.B. Iliff also signed the document.

Second statement is correct:

The IWT does not have a unilateral exit clause. Technically, under the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, there are provisions to sever and withdraw from the treaty. However, the provisions cannot be appropriately used to abrogate the IWT. Even the severance of diplomatic and consular relationships between India and Pakistan cannot terminate the IWT. Even if the IWT gets revoked in some way or the other, there are international conventions, rules and principles which secure the water interests of the lower riparian states.

Third statement is incorrect:

The IWT allocates waters from three western flowing rivers – Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab – to Pakistan barring some limited uses for India in Jammu & Kashmir. India was given control of the entire water from the other three rivers – **Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej**.



Map of the Indus Water Treaty system. Credit: Frontline

Q34. Consider the following statements regarding Ken-Betwa River Linking project.

1. The Ken River is one of the major rivers of the Bundelkhand region of central India.
2. Betwa rises in the Vindhya Range in Madhya Pradesh.
3. Interlinking of the rivers will destroy the Panna Tiger Reserve located in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

First statement is correct:

The Ken River is one of the major rivers of **the Bundelkhand region of central India**, and flows through two states, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The river originates in Jabalpur District of M.P. at an altitude of 550m above mean sea level and joins the Yamuna River in UP.

Tributaries of Ken River: The important tributaries of the Ken River are Sonar, Bearma, Kopra, Bewas, Urmil, Mirhasan, Kutni, Kail, Gurne, Patan, Siameri, Chandrawal, Banne, etc., among others. The longest tributary is Sonar which is 227 km in length and lies wholly in M.P.

Second statement is correct.

The Betwa or Betravati is a river in Northern India, and a tributary of the Yamuna. Also known as the Vetravati, the **Betwa rises in the Vindhya Range just** north of Hoshangabad in Madhya Pradesh and flows north-east through Madhya Pradesh and Orchha to Uttar Pradesh. Nearly half of its course, which is not navigable, runs over the Malwa Plateau. After traversing a distance of 590 km, the river **joins the Yamuna River near Hamirpur** at an elevation of 106.68 m.

Third statement is also correct:

Interlinking of the rivers will destroy the Panna Tiger Reserve located in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

Q35. Consider the following Pairs.

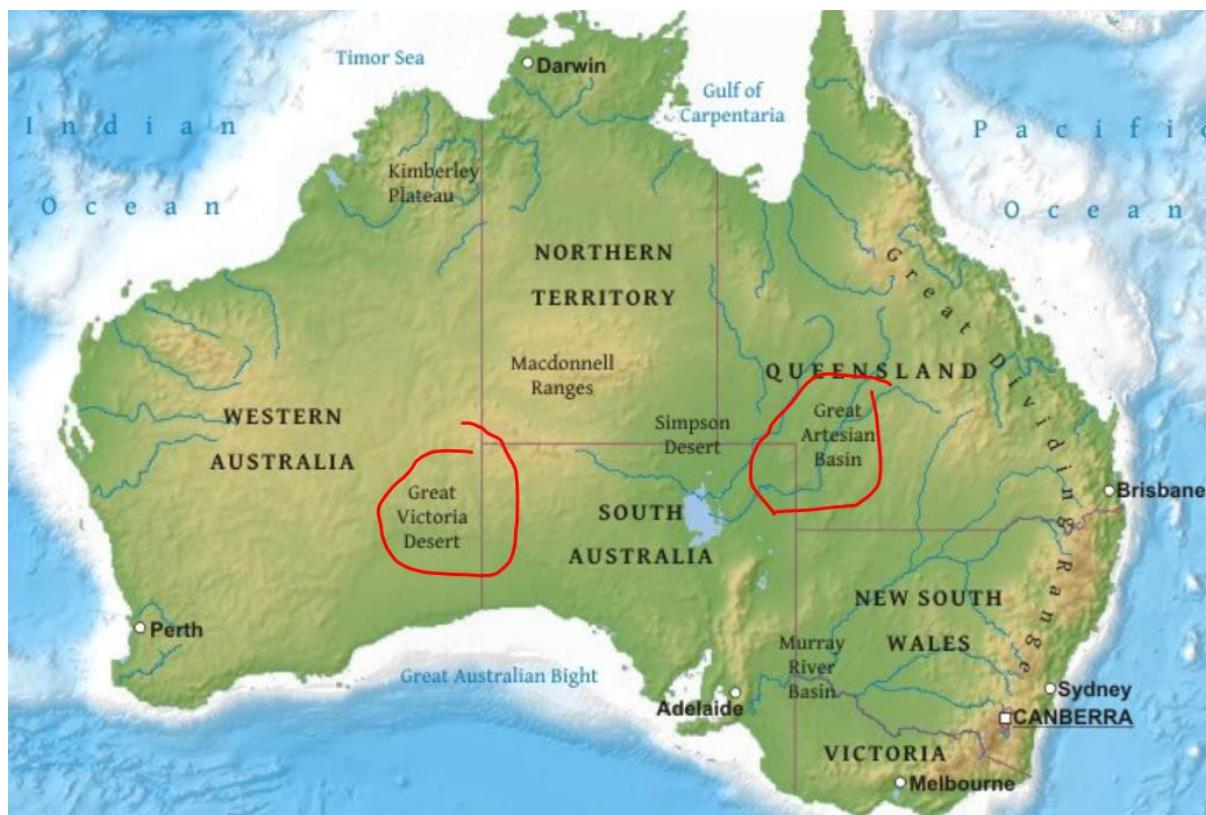
1. Great Victorian Desert: Western Africa
2. Great Artesian Basin: North America
3. Yucatan Peninsula: Central America

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:



Q36. 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.

Q37. Consider the following statements regarding Finance Commission (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1951.

1. It provides for the qualification and disqualification of the Finance Commission.
2. Along with composition of Finance Commission, it also provides for the term of office of the Finance Commission.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

Judicial Enquiry Act, 1968 already a part of UPSC in 2019. So, this is important to know.

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.

(2) Parliament may by law determine the qualifications which shall be requisite for appointment as members of the Commission and the manner in which they shall be selected.

As per the provisions (see above), we can see that Constitution only talks about Composition. The Qualifications of Finance Commission is provided by the law enacted by the Parliament, i.e., THE FINANCE COMMISSION (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1951. It also provides for Disqualification. Therefore statement 1 is incorrect.

Qualifications for appointment as, and the manner of selection of, members of the commission

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 economics.

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.

Second statement is incorrect:

As it doesn't provide Composition. It provides term of Office.

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.

Q38. Consider the following statements regarding **The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)**.

1. It is a statutory authority established under the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) Act, 2016.
2. Appeals against the decisions of UIDAI go before the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal

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:

~~About UIDAI~~

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is a statutory authority established under the provisions of the **Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016** ("Aadhaar Act 2016") on 12 July 2016 by the Government of India, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). The Aadhaar Act 2016 has been amended by the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Act, 2019 (14 of 2019) w.e.f. 25.07.2019.

Prior to its establishment as a statutory authority, UIDAI was functioning as an attached office of the then Planning Commission (now NITI Aayog) vide its **Gazette Notification No.-A-43011/02/2009-Admn.I** dated 28th January, 2009. Later, on 12 September 2015, the Government revised the Allocation of Business Rules to attach the UIDAI to the Department of Electronics & Information Technology (DeitY) of the then Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.

Section 11. Establishment of Authority.[Previous](#) | [Next](#)[Show Related Subordinates](#)

(1) The Central Government shall, by notification, establish an Authority to be known as the Unique Identification Authority of India to be responsible for the processes of enrolment and authentication and perform such other functions assigned to it under this Act.

(2) The Authority shall be a body corporate by the name aforesaid, having perpetual succession and a common seal, with power, subject to the provisions of this Act, to acquire, hold and dispose of property, both movable and immovable, and to contract, and shall, by the said name, sue or be sued.

(3) The head office of the Authority shall be in New Delhi.

(4) The Authority may, with the prior approval of the Central Government, establish its offices at other places in India.

Section 33C. Appeals to Appellate Tribunal.[Previous](#) | [Next](#)

1[33C. Appeals to Appellate Tribunal.]— (1) The Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal established under section 14 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 (24 of 1997), shall be Appellate Tribunal for the purposes of hearing appeals against the decision of the Adjudicating Officer under this Act.

(2) A person or entity in the Aadhaar ecosystem aggrieved by an order of the Adjudicating Officer under section 33B, may prefer an appeal to the Appellate Tribunal within a period of forty-five days from the date of receipt of the order appealed against, in such form and manner and accompanied with such fee as may be prescribed:

Provided that the Appellate Tribunal may entertain an appeal after the expiry of the said period of forty-five days if it is satisfied that there was sufficient cause for not filing it within that period.

Q39. Great Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros can be seen in:

- Kaziranga National Park
- Mudumalai National Park
- Nilgiri National Park
- Pench National Park

Solution: a

Explanation:

The Great one horned rhino is commonly found in Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan and in Assam, India. It is confined to the tall grasslands and forests in the foothills of the Himalayas.

The Indian state of Assam is home to the largest population of greater-one horned rhinos, with more than 90% in Kaziranga National Park.

Q40. Consider the following Committees of the Lok Sabha.

1. Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.
2. Rules Committee
3. General Purposes Committee

Which of the above committees does Speaker has its ex-officio chairman?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

(5) Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions. —The Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions is constituted after each general election to Lok Sabha and thereafter from time to time under rule 293. It consists of 15 members nominated by the Speaker. The Deputy Speaker is the ex-officio Chairperson of the Committee. The term of the Committee is one year. The functions of the Committee are: (a) to allot time to Private Members' Bills and Resolutions; (b) to examine Private Members' Bills seeking to amend the Constitution before their introduction in Lok Sabha; (c) to categorise Private Members' Bills according to their nature, urgency and importance into two categories, namely, category-A and category-B, after they have been introduced in Lok Sabha; (d) to examine every Private Member's Bill which is opposed in the House on the ground that the Bill initiates legislation outside the legislative competence of the House; and (e) to perform such other functions in respect of Private Members' Bills and Resolutions as may be assigned to it by the Speaker under Rule 294. The report of the

(12) Rules Committee. — (i) the Rules Committee is constituted under Rule 330. It consists of 15 members including the Speaker who is the ex-officio Chairperson of the Committee. The members of the Committee are nominated by the Speaker.

✓ (13) **General Purposes Committee.**—*The General Purposes Committee* consists of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, Members of the Panel of Chairpersons, Chairpersons of all Standing Parliamentary Committees of Lok Sabha, Leaders of recognised parties and groups in Lok Sabha and such other Members as may be nominated by the Speaker. ~~The Speaker is the *ex-officio* Chairperson of the Committee. The functions of the Committee are to consider and advise on such matters concerning the affairs of the House as may be referred to it by the Speaker from time to time.~~

Q41. Which of the following dormant volcanoes shown eruption recently?

1. La Soufrière (Caribbean volcano)
2. Volcano in Reykjanes peninsula
3. Kilauea volcano on Hawaii

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

These questions are very important for Prelim's exam. Make sure you don't even miss not even single day daily Quiz and Test Series.

Kilauea volcano on Hawaii is the world's most active volcano, followed by Etna in Italy. So, third is incorrect option.

La Soufrière is the highest point in St. Vincent and is located near the northern tip of the country but has remained dormant for decades before it suddenly became active.

Tens of thousands of people living in the Caribbean are on high alert as volcanoes come back to life after remaining dormant for decades

■ NAINA BHARDWAJ | JAN 2, 2021, 23:17 IST





A long dormant volcano on the Reykjanes Peninsula in southwestern Iceland flared to life, spilling lava down two sides in that area's first volcanic eruption in nearly 800 years.

Long dormant volcano comes to life in southwestern Iceland

March 20, 2021



Q42. Consider the following statements regarding National Biopharma Mission.

1. This Program would aid in enhancing India's innovation research and product development capabilities, especially by focusing on development of vaccines, biologics and medical devices for combating public health concerns.
2. The National Biopharma Mission is co-funded World Bank 50%.
3. It is to be implemented by Biotechnology Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)-a Public Sector Undertaking of DBT.

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: d

Explanation:

1.1. About the program

An Industry-Academia Collaborative Mission of Department of Biotechnology (DBT) for Accelerating Early Development for Biopharmaceuticals; to be implemented by Biotechnology Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)-a Public Sector Undertaking of DBT

The National Biopharma Mission was approved by the Cabinet for implementation in May 2017 with a total cost US\$ 250 million which is co-funded World Bank 50%.

1.2. The Aim and Objectives:

The Mission Programme is a Pan-India Programme with the main aim of making India a hub for design and development of novel, affordable and effective biopharmaceutical products and solutions. This Program would aid in enhancing India's innovation research and product development capabilities, especially by focusing on development of vaccines, biologics and medical devices for combating public health concerns. The Program would aid academic researchers (through enhancing their translation capability); empower bio-entrepreneurs and SMEs (by decreased cost and risk during early stages of product development) and the industry (by elevating their innovation quotient). Anticipated long term impact would benefit the Indian population at large benefit due to availability of affordable solutions and products relevant to Indian health needs.

Q43. Consider the following statements.

1. High ash content is observed in Indian coal.
2. Fly ash, a by-product of power generation with coal, is a source of micro and macro-nutrients in agriculture.
3. Coal ash contains arsenic, lead and nickel.

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: d

Explanation:

Such questions are very important for exam. Do follow us regularly and solve our Test Series. Almost all-important things will be covered.

First statement is correct.

Ash content of coal produced in the country is generally 25 to 45 % whereas average ash content of imported coal varies from 10 to 20 %. Indian Coal has comparatively higher ash content than imported coal due to drift theory of formation of coal deposits in India. Coal seams formed due to drift theory contains higher ash as compared to in-situ theory of formation. **Full paragraph is from PIB.**

Second statement is also correct:

The important areas for this utilization are cement industry, bricks industry, road embankment, mine filling, land development and ash dyke raising. It is also a source of micro and macro-nutrients in agriculture.

Third statement is also correct.

4.1 Toxic Heavy Metals Found in Coal Ash and their Associated Health Effects:

Coal ash is known to contain toxic chemicals like arsenic, aluminum, antimony, barium, cadmium, selenium, nickel, lead, molybdenum etc. [16](#) [17](#) [18](#) [19](#)

Q44. Consider the following statements regarding Lignite coal deposits in India.

1. The carbon content of lignite is low compared to Anthracite and Bituminous.
2. More than 50 percent of the lignite deposits is in Tamil Nadu.
3. Only Lignite coal is found in India, all other varieties are imported.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

First statement is correct and third is incorrect: **Below information is from Ministry of coal [website](#).**

Types of coal found in India

Anthracite: It is the highest grade of coal containing a **high percentage of fixed carbon**. It is hard, brittle, black and lustrous. It is found in smaller quantity in regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

Bituminous: It is a medium grade of coal having high heating capacity. **It is the most commonly used type of coal for electricity generation in India. Most of bituminous coal is found in Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh.**

Subbituminous: It is black in colour, dull (not shiny) and has a higher heating value than lignite.

Lignite: It is the lowest grade coal with the **least carbon content**. It is found in the regions of Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Jammu & Kashmir.

Second statement is correct.

A report from Indian Bureau of Mines 2020: **Authentic information.**

Lignite

Indian lignite deposits occur in the Tertiary sediments in the southern and western parts of peninsular shield particularly in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Gujarat & Rajasthan and also in Jammu & Kashmir. The total known geological resources of lignite as on 01.04.2019 is about 45.759 billion tonnes, of which 79% resources are located in Tamil Nadu with about 36.230 billion tonnes. Other States where lignite deposits have been located are Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, Rajasthan, West Bengal and the Union Territory of Puducherry. State-wise/District-wise

Q45. Global Economic Prospects Report is a publication of:

- International monetary Fund
- World Bank
- World Economic Forum
- UNCTAD

Solution: b

Explanation:

Global economic output is projected to grow by 4% in 2021 assuming widespread roll-out of a COVID-19 vaccine throughout the year, as per the World Bank's Global Economic Prospects (GEP) report released on Tuesday. This projection is still 5% below pre-pandemic levels. India is expected to grow at 5.4% in fiscal year 2021/22 and 5.2% in fiscal 2022/23 after an expected contraction of 9.6% in fiscal 2020/21.

Q46. Consider the following statements.

- Most of the world's coral reefs are in tropical waters.
- If you want to see atoll coral in India, one needs to visit Lakshadweep Island.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Solution: c

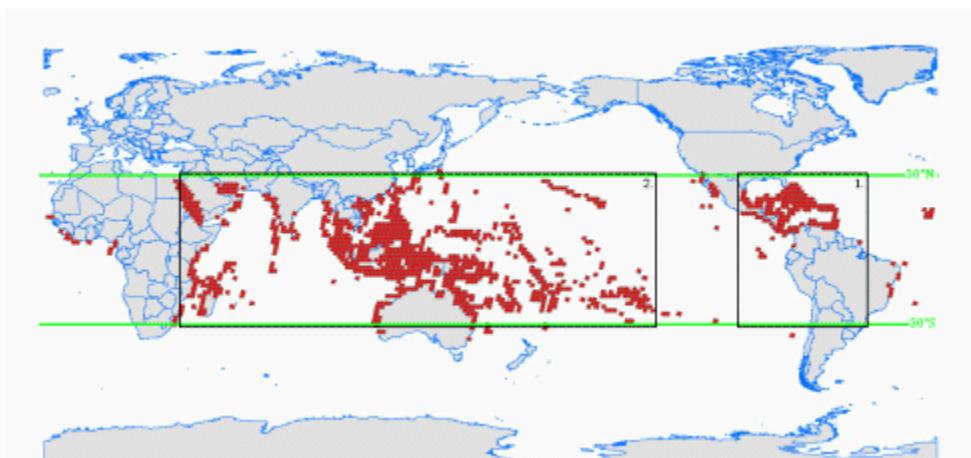
Explanation:

Very important question.

The mindset UPSC is searching that is missing and in market, test papers available will never prepare you for exam. **They will only complete your syllabus.** Still there is time. [Join our Test Series](#). Rest you people have to decide.

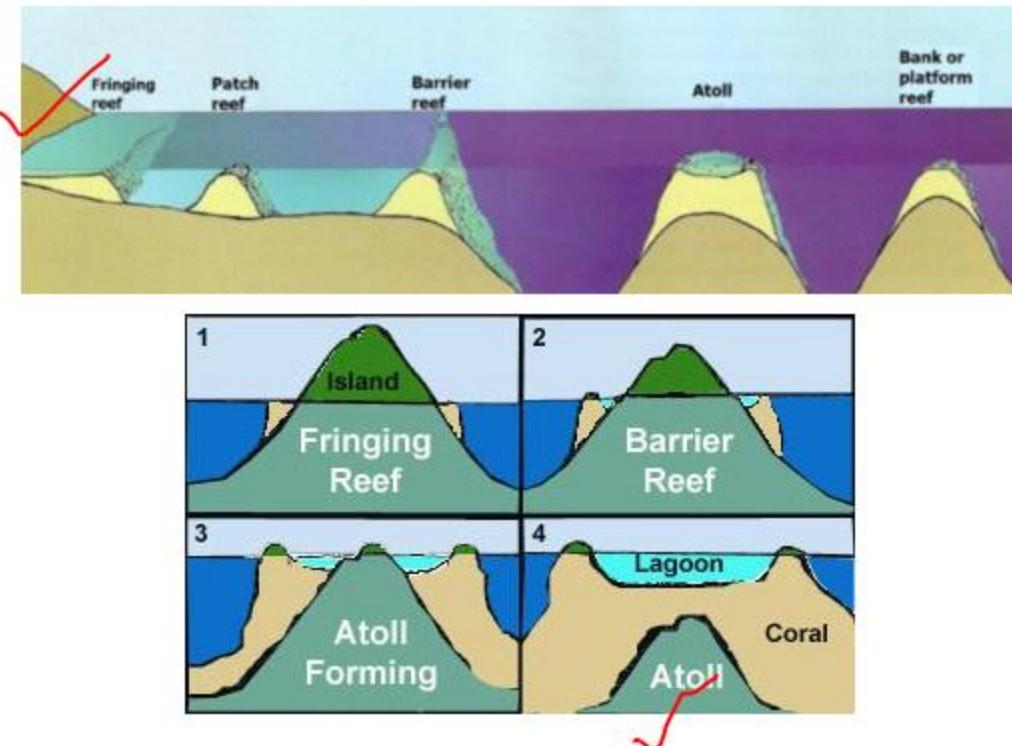
First statement is correct.

Coral reefs are found in tropical and subtropical regions.



Second statement is correct: Very important.

The major reef formations in India are restricted to the *Gulf of Mannar, Palk bay, Gulf of Kutch, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Lakshadweep islands*. While the Lakshadweep reefs are atolls, the others are all fringing reefs.



- ✓ 1. *Fringing reefs*: reefs that grow close to the shore and extend out into the sea like a submerged platform.
- ✓ 2. *Barrier reef*: reefs separated from the land by wide expanses of water and follow the coastline.
- ✓ 3. *Atoll*: a roughly circular ring of reefs surrounding a lagoon, a low lying island, common in the Indian and South Pacific oceans.

Q47. Consider the following Seas.

1. Aral Sea.
2. Red Sea
3. Caspian Sea.

Arrange the above seas from west to east.

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

Solution: b

Explanation:



Q48. Consider the following pairs.

| Temples | Situated On the banks of |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Srirangam Ranganathaswamy Temple | Kaveri River |
| 2. Kashi Vishwanath Temple | Yamuna River |
| 3. Omkareshwar Temple | Narmada |

Which of the above pairs is/are correctly matched?

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

| Temples | Situated On the banks of |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Srirangam Ranganathaswamy Temple | Kaveri River |
| 2. Kashi Vishwanath Temple | GANGA River |
| 3. Omkareshwar Temple | Narmada |

Q49. Which of the following groups is most likely to benefit from an appreciation of the Rupee?

- 1. Importers in India
- 2. Exporters in India
- 3. Borrowers through ECB
- 4. Exporters to India

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

Currency appreciation is an **increase in the value of one currency** in relation to another currency.

Currencies appreciate against each other for a variety of reasons, including the government policy, interest rates, trade balances and business cycles. A Rupee appreciation takes place when its value increases in relation to other currency, say US Dollar. **For instance, there would be an appreciation in the Rupee if the dollar/rupee exchange rate moves from ₹70/\$ to ₹65/\$.**

Importers in India would be benefitted as they would have to pay less in Rupee terms for the same amount of (say dollar) imports in case of Rupee appreciation. **So, statement 1 is correct.**

Exporters in India would stand to lose as they would receive less in Rupee terms for the same amount of (say dollar) exports in case of Rupee appreciation. **So, statement 2 is not correct.**

In the case of Rupee appreciation, entities in India borrowing under the ECB route would have their borrowing costs reduced as they would have to pay less in Rupee terms. They would benefit from the Rupee appreciation. **So, statement 3 is correct.**

Exporters to India would gain in case of the Rupee appreciation. For instance, a person exporting Rs. 10,000 worth of goods to India from, say, the US will receive more in terms of the US dollar if the Rupee appreciates from Rs. 70/\$ to Rs. 65/\$. **So, statement 4 is correct.**

Q50. Emperor Harsha was the contemporary of which of the following kings?

1. Pulakeshin II
2. Rajaraja Chola
3. Amoghavarsha

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

Pulakeshin II was the most famous ruler of the Chalukya dynasty of Vatapi. During his reign, the Chalukya kingdom expanded to cover most of the Deccan region in peninsular India. He defeated Harsha on the banks of Narmada and thwarted his southward march.

Rajaraja Chola I was a renowned king who ruled over the Chola kingdom of southern India between 985 and 1014 CE. During his reign, the Cholas expanded beyond South India with their domains stretching from Sri Lanka in the south to Kalinga in the north. Raja Raja Chola also launched several naval campaigns that resulted in the capture of the Malabar Coast as well as the Maldives and Sri Lanka. Raja Raja built the Brihadeeswarar Temple in Thanjavur, one of the largest Hindu temples. **He was not a contemporary of Harsha.**

Amoghavarsha I was a Rashtrakuta emperor, the greatest ruler of the Rashtrakuta dynasty, and one of the great emperors of India. His reign of 64 years is one of the longest precisely dated monarchical reigns on record. He reigned in the 9th century Deccan and **was not a contemporary of Harsha.**

Q51. Consider the following statements.

1. China to be the leading country with the highest number of Patents followed by the India in 2019.
2. The Patents Act 1970 & Patent Rules, 2003 govern the Patent system in India.
3. A major portion of the Patents filed in India are non-resident filings.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: b

Explanation:

First statement is correct.

Table 1. Ranking of total (resident and abroad) IP filing activity by origin, 2019

| Origin | Patents | Marks | Designs | Origin | Pat |
|-------------------|---------|-------|---------|----------------------|-----|
| China | 1 | 1 | 1 | Bulgaria | |
| U.S. | 2 | 2 | 4 | Morocco | |
| Germany | 5 | 4 | 2 | Chile | |
| Japan | 3 | 3 | 8 | Cyprus (b) | |
| Republic of Korea | 4 | 10 | 3 | Colombia | |
| France | 6 | 6 | 6 | Hungary | |
| U.K. | 7 | 7 | 9 | Pakistan | |
| Italy | 11 | 13 | 5 | Slovakia | |
| India | 10 | 8 | 13 | Belarus | |
| Switzerland | 8 | 14 | 10 | United Arab Emirates | |

Second statement is correct:

The Patents Act 1970 & Patent Rules, 2003 govern the Patent system in India. Amendments including – Patent (Amendment) Act, 2005 and the ones made to Patent rules in 2016, 2017 & 2019 have been instrumental in bringing in changes to the Patent system in the country in tune with the changing environment. The key purpose of these amendments is to bring in efficiency in the procedures followed for application, review, and disposal of the patents filed.

i. Amendments in Rules:

The Patents Rules have been amended in 2016, 2017 and 2019 while the Trademarks Rules have been amended in 2017 to achieve the objective of removing procedural inconsistencies and unnecessary steps in processing of applications to speed up grant/registration and final disposal. By amending the Rules, the procedures are made more compact, time-bound, user-friendly and compatible for e-transactions. In Trademarks, 74 Existing Forms replaced by 8 consolidated Forms;

Third statement is correct:

Apart from the comparatively lower numbers, another important aspect to consider is the origin of the application. As per WIPO's data, out of the around **53 thousand patent applications filed in India, 19 thousand are by residents and 34 thousand are by non-residents**. This information is further corroborated by the data available in Annual Reports of IPI.

In 2018-19, out of around **50 thousand patent applications, around 17 thousand are by Indians, and the rest of them by non-residents of various categories**. However, it has to be noted that there is a gradual increase in the applications filed by Indians. In the case of China, Japan, South Korea, etc., domestic applications occupy a larger share.

Q52. 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.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

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 application⁴.

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 12.12.1996⁵ 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;

Q53. Which of the following countries have legislation giving mothers and their partners the right to paid leave following a miscarriage or still birth?

- India and Sweden
- India and Norway
- India and Netherland
- India and New Zealand

Solution: d

Explanation:

INTERNATIONAL

New Zealand passes miscarriages bereavement leave law



REUTERS

WELLINGTON, MARCH 26, 2021 08:35 IST

UPDATED: MARCH 26, 2021 08:49 IST

India is the only other country with similar legislation, media said.

New Zealand's parliament has passed legislation giving mothers and their partners the right to paid leave following a miscarriage or still birth, becoming only the second country in the world to do so.

The bereavement allowance, passed unanimously in parliament late on Wednesday, gives employees three days leave when a pregnancy ends with a stillbirth without having to tap into sick leave.

“The passing of this bill shows that once again New Zealand is leading the way for progressive and compassionate legislation, becoming only the second country in the world to provide leave for miscarriage and stillbirth,” said Labour Party MP Ginny Andersen, who initiated the bill.

Q54. Consider the following pairs.

| Seas | between |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Dead Sea | Israel and Jordon |
| 2. Aral Sea | Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan |
| 3. Sea of Azov | Russia and Turkey |

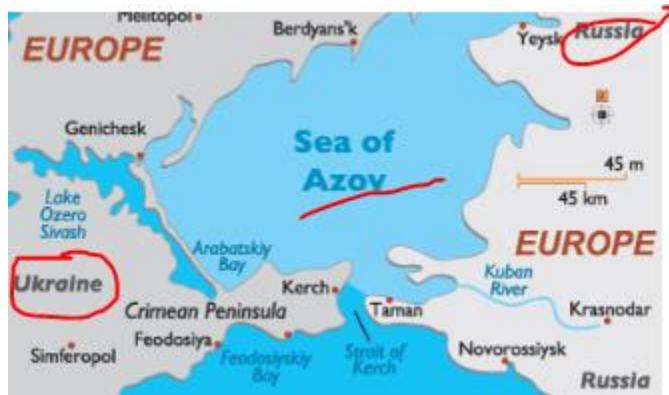
Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

| Seas | between |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Dead Sea | Israel and Jordan |
| 2. Aral Sea | Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan |
| 3. Sea of Azov | Russia and Ukraine |





Q55. Consider the following statements regarding Mangroves.

1. Mangroves can reduce the height of wind and reduce the water level of storm.
2. Currently, mangroves cover in India is around 10 percent of the total geographical area of country.
3. As per the 2019 state of forest report, West Bengal has the largest mangroves cover in India.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: a

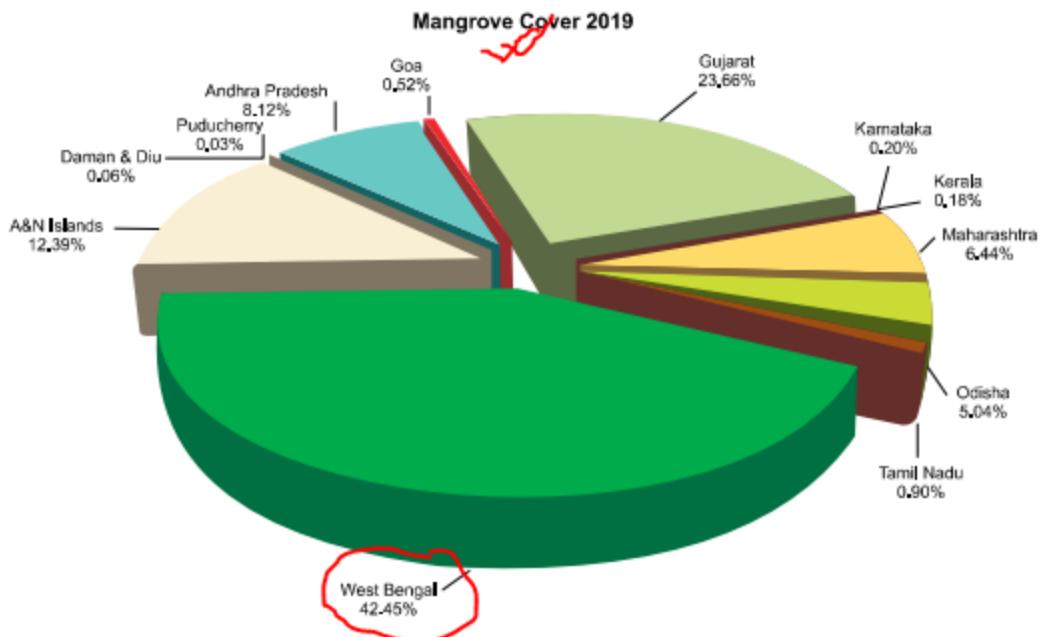
Explanation:

Statement 2 is wrong.

3.5 MANGROVE COVER: 2019 ASSESSMENT

Mangrove Cover assessment is part of the country-wide forest cover mapping. Forest cover given in chapter 2 includes mangrove cover, however because of their special ecological significance, district wise mangrove cover in different States/UTs are being presented in this chapter. The current assessment shows that mangrove cover in the country is 4,975 sq km, which is 0.15% of the country's total geographical area. Very Dense mangrove comprises 1476 sq km (29.66%) of the mangrove cover, Moderately Dense mangrove is 1479 sq km (29.73%) while Open mangroves constitute an area of 2020 sq km (40.61%). There has been a net increase of 54 sq km in the mangrove cover of the country as compared to 2017 assessment. The State/UT wise extent of mangrove cover in the three canopy

Statement 1 and 3 is correct.



3.2 IMPORTANCE OF MANGROVES

- a) Mangroves have a complex root system which is very efficient in dissipating the sea wave energy thus protecting the coastal areas from tsunamis, storm surge and soil erosion. Their protective role has been widely recognized especially after the devastating Tsunami of 2004.
- b) Mangrove roots slow down water flows and enhance sediment deposition. Therefore, they act as a zone of land accretion due to trapping of fine sediments including heavy metal contaminants. They also arrest coastal erosion and sea water pollution.
- c) They act as a fertile breeding ground for many fish species and other marine fauna.
- d) They act as an important source of livelihood for the coastal communities dependent on collection of honey, tannins, wax and fishing.
- e) Mangroves are important carbon sink.

Q56. 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:



Bharatnatyam Dance

Bharatnatyam 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 Bharatnatyam 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 Bharatnatyam 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.

Araimandi, Basic standing position

Q57. Which of the following lakes of India are Fresh water lakes?

1. Kolleru Lake
2. Pulicat Lake
3. Deepor Beel

Select the correct option.

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

Pulicat Lake is the second largest brackish water lagoon in India, after Chilika Lake.

Deepor Beel is located to the south-west of Guwahati city, in Kamrup district of Assam. It is a **permanent freshwater lake**, in a former channel of the Brahmaputra River, to the south of the main river.

Kolleru Lake (Andhra Pradesh) is a **fresh-water lake** in India, located between Krishna and Godavari delta.

Q58. Which of the following are conveyed through the Preamble to the Constitution of India?

1. Source of the authority of the Constitution
2. Nature of the Indian State
3. Objectives of the Constitution
4. Date of adoption of the Constitution

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

Very simple question.

The Preamble to the Constitution reveals the following information:

1. **Source of the authority of the Constitution:** The Preamble states that the Constitution derives its authority from the people of India. **Hence statement (1) is correct.**
2. **Nature of Indian State:** It declares India to be a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular Democratic and Republican polity. **Hence statement (2) is correct.**
3. **Objectives of the Constitution:** It specifies Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity as the objectives. **Hence statement (3) is correct.**
4. **Date of adoption of the Constitution:** It stipulates November 26, 1949 as the date of adoption. **Hence statement (4) is correct.**

Q59. Consider the following Pairs.

| National Parks | River Flowing through it. |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Silent Valley National Park | Kunthipuzha River |
| 2. Valmiki wildlife sanctuary | Gandak River |
| 3. Mukundra Hills National Park | Narmada River |

Which of the above pairs is not correctly matched?

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

It is a difficult question. In exam, attempt only if your other questions don't go well.

Sir, from where we can cover all rivers crossing National Parks? From here only. If you are making notes then till now, so many we have covered including temples, hills, etc. In coming days, more we will cover.

| National Parks | River Flowing through it. |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Silent Valley National Park | Kunthipuzha River |
| 2. Valmiki wildlife sanctuary | Gandak River |
| 3. Mukundra Hills National Park | Chambal River |

Q60. Which committee of parliament considers and advises on matters concerning the affairs of the house, which do not fall within the jurisdiction of any other parliamentary committee.

- General Purpose Committee
- Rules Committee of Lok Sabha
- Business Advisory Committee
- Committee on Subordinate legislation

Solution: a

Explanation:

*(13) General Purposes Committee.—The General Purposes Committee consists of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, Members of the Panel of Chairpersons, Chairpersons of all Standing Parliamentary Committees of Lok Sabha, Leaders of recognised parties and groups in Lok Sabha and such other Members as may be nominated by the Speaker. The Speaker is the *ex-officio* Chairperson of the Committee. The functions of the Committee are to consider and advise on such matters concerning the affairs of the House as may be referred to it by the Speaker from time to time.*

Q61. Consider the following statements.

- The Scheduled Castes (SC) reservation is only restricted to few religions, any member converted to other religions, cease to be members of the SC.
- The Mandal Commission report recommended 27% reservation for backward classes.
- Supreme Court in Indira Sawhney's case said reservation of any manner shall not exceed 50 percent.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

First statement is correct:

Only those who belong to Hindu, Sikhism & Buddhism faiths are considered as Dalits (Scheduled Castes), according to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order 1950.

According to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order 1950, only marginalized groups/communities that profess Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism can be members of the Scheduled Caste. Originally, only Hindus were eligible for reservation under the Scheduled Caste quota, but in 1956, Sikhs were included,

and in 1990, Buddhists. Communities/castes of other religions cannot be included in the list of Scheduled Castes. In other words, Muslim & Christian groups are effectively barred from being included in the list of SCs.

Difference in OBCs and SCs:

Unlike the SCs, caste groups & communities from any religion can be included in the OBC list of a particular state or states depending on their social, educational & economic backwardness. Hence Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Muslims, Christians can all be made part of the OBC list.

Second and third statements are correct:

How is the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) category defined?

Other Backward Classes (OBCs) is an official name given to caste/communities that are educationally or socially disadvantaged. The Constitution does not define Other Backward Classes. Successive governments in the 1980s expressed their intent to provide reservations to the backward classes. **The Mandal Commission report submitted in the 1980s recommended 27% reservation for backward classes.**

In the year 1990, the then government declared that it would provide 27% reservations to “socially and educationally backward classes” for jobs in central services and public undertakings. In order to this extent was also issued. However, the constitutionality of this order was challenged in the supreme court. **The Supreme Court in Indira Sawhney's case, upheld this order but made the following clarifications.**

- Since reservation under Article 16(4) could be for any class of citizens, the principle of identification of backward classes has to be of universal application so as to extend to every community & religion.
- Reservation being an extreme form of protective measure or affirmative action it should be confined to a minority of seats. Even though the Constitution does not lay down any specific bar but the constitutional philosophy being against proportional equality, **the principle of balancing equality ordains, reservation of any manner, not to exceed 50%.**
- Creamy layer amongst the backward class of citizens must be excluded by fixation of proper income, property, or status criteria.

Q62. Consider the following statements regarding Biosphere reserves.

- They are established by countries and recognized under UNEP's Programme to promote sustainable development based on local community efforts and sound science.
- There are 12 designated Biosphere Reserves in India.
- No UT in India has Biosphere Reserve designated under Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only

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

Solution: c

Explanation:

First statement is incorrect.

Biosphere reserves are sites established by countries and recognized under **UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme** to promote sustainable development based on local community efforts and sound science. The programme of Biosphere Reserve was initiated by UNESCO in 1971.

Second statement is correct:

| INDIA | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------|
| 12 biosphere reserves | Nilgiri | 2000 |
| | Gulf of Mannar | 2001 |
| | Sunderban | 2001 |
| | Nanda Devi | 2004 |
| | Nokrek | 2009 |
| | Pachmarhi | 2009 |
| | Simlipal | 2009 |
| | Achanakmar-Amarkantak | 2012 |
| | Great Nicobar | 2013 |
| | Agasthyamala | 2016 |
| | Khangchendzonga | 2018 |
| | Panna | 2020 |

Third statement is incorrect:

Great Nicobar is the southernmost island of the Nicobar Islands Archipelago. It covers 103 870 hectares of unique and threatened tropical evergreen forest ecosystems. It is home to a very rich ecosystems, including 650 species of angiosperms, ferns, gymnosperms, bryophytes, among others. In terms of fauna, there are over 1800 species, some of which are endemic to this area.

Q63. Consider the following Pairs.

| Biosphere Reserves | Features |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve | highest peak is the Dhoopgarh |
| 2. Nokrek Biosphere Reserve | Simsang originates in the north of the Biosphere Reserve |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 3. Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve | Three wildlife sanctuaries, Shendurney, Peppara and Neyyar, are located in the site |
|--------------------------------------|---|

Which of the above pairs is/are correct?

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

Every statement below has been taken from original site. So, whatever written, just learn. Don't google.

Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve

The Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve is located in the biogeographical region of the Deccan Peninsula and the Biotic Province of Central India. The Satpura mountain ranges cross India from west to east and Pachmarhi lies directly in its centre. The highest peak is the Dhoopgarh, which reaches 1,352 metres above sea level, while the Pachmarhi hills are characterized by steep slopes in the northern regions. The eastern boundary of the biosphere reserve lies along a road with cultivation farms, close to the Dudhi River, while the southern boundary borders the Tawa plateau.

Nokrek Biosphere Reserve

The Nokrek Biosphere Reserve is located in the northeast of India on the Tura Range, which forms part of the Meghalaya Plateau (average altitude: 600 metres). The entire area is mountainous and Nokrek is the highest peak of the Garo hills, rising up 1,412 metres. The biosphere reserve contains major rivers and streams that form a perennial catchment system. Examples include the Ganol, Dareng and Simsang rivers, of which the latter is the longest and largest. The Simsang originates in the north of the Biosphere Reserve, the Dareng from the southern peaks, and the Ganol flows westward into the Brahmaputra River, which supplies water to numerous towns.

Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve

Located in the state of Sikkim, bordering Nepal to the west and Tibet (China) to the north-west, this biosphere reserve is one of the highest ecosystems in the world, reaching elevations of 1,220 to 8,586 metres above sea level. The site is one of the world's 34 biodiversity hotspots. It includes vast natural forests that support high species diversity with high levels of endemism. The main economic activities are agricultural and horticultural crops, animal husbandry, fish, dairy and poultry farming.

In questions, third pair features belong to Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve

Located in the Western Ghats in the south of the country, the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve has peaks reaching 1,868 m above sea level. Consisting mostly of tropical forest, the site is home to 2,254

species of higher plants including about 400 that are endemic. It is also a unique genetic reservoir of cultivated plants, in particular cardamom, jamune, nutmeg, pepper and plantain. **Three wildlife sanctuaries, Shendurney, Peppara and Neyyar, are located in the site, as well as the Kalakad Mundanthurai Tiger reserve.**

Q64. World Development Report is published by:

- a. International Monetary Fund
- b. World Economic Forum
- c. UNCTAD
- d. International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Solution: d

Explanation:

The World Development Report is an annual report published since 1978 by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development or World Bank.

Q65. Consider the following Arab nations.

- 1. Saudi Arabia
- 2. Yemen
- 3. Oman
- 4. UAE

Which of the above nations **does Tropic of Cancer Passes?**

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

Solution: D

Many students will leave this question without attempting. Please don't be stupid to do that. You know very well UAE and Yemen are far from each other (many times we have covered in our daily quiz). So, a thin line of Tropic of Cancer won't pass both the countries. So, a and c option will be eliminated easily. Now, you can attempt. Now, you can blame luck but after eliminating two options, if wrong.

Tropic of Cancer passes through **Saudi Arabia, UAE and Oman** (for middle east nations).



Q66. Which of the following is/are part of Directive Principles of State Policy?

1. To encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration
2. To value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture
3. To protect Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes from all forms of exploitation
4. The State shall make provision for providing maternity relief for at least 24 weeks.

Select the correct code.

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

First is correct.

51. Promotion of international peace and security.—The State shall endeavour to—

- (a) promote international peace and security;
- (b) maintain just and honourable relations between nations;
- (c) foster respect for international law and treaty obligations in the dealings of organised peoples with one another; and
- (d) encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration.

Second is wrong as it is under Fundamental Duties.

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;

Third statement is correct.

46. Promotion of educational and economic interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections.—The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation.

Fourth statement is wrong. No such provision of 26 weeks.

47. Provision for just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief.—The State shall make provision for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief.

Q67. Consider the following statements regarding International Energy Agency.

1. It was born with the 1973-1974 oil crisis with a broad mandate on energy security and energy policy co-operation.
2. Crude oil and/or product reserves equivalent to 90 days of the previous year's net imports is an important criterion to become member of IEA.
3. India is a member of IEA.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

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

Solution: a

Explanation:

India has signed a Framework for strategic partnership agreement with the International Energy Agency (IEA).

We will go to IEA website and learn.

First statement is correct.

Creation

 The IEA was born with the 1973-1974 oil crisis, when industrialised countries found they were not adequately equipped to deal with the oil embargo imposed by major producers that pushed prices to historically high levels.

This first oil shock led to the creation of the IEA in November 1974 with a broad mandate on energy security and energy policy co-operation. This included setting up a collective action mechanism to respond effectively to potential disruptions in oil supply. The framework was anchored in the IEA treaty called the "Agreement on an International Energy Program," with newly created autonomous Agency hosted at the OECD in Paris.

Second statement is correct:

Criteria for membership

A candidate country to the IEA must be a member country of the OECD. In addition, it must demonstrate several requirements. These are:

- Crude oil and/or product reserves equivalent to 90 days of the previous year's net imports, to which the government has immediate access (even if it does not own them directly) and could be used to address disruptions to global oil supply;
- A demand restraint programme to reduce national oil consumption by up to 10%;
- Legislation and organisation to operate the Co-ordinated Emergency Response Measures (CERM) on a national basis;
- Legislation and measures to ensure that all oil companies under its jurisdiction report information upon request;
- Measures in place to ensure the capability of contributing its share of an IEA collective action. An IEA collective action would be initiated in response to a significant global oil supply disruption and would involve IEA Member Countries making additional volumes of crude and/or product available to the global market (either through increasing supply or reducing demand), with each country's share based on national consumption as part of the IEA total oil consumption.

Third statement is incorrect:

India is an associate member.

Association countries

 Brazil

 China

 India

 Morocco

 Singapore

 South Africa

Q68. 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:

Every question asked here is as per UPSC standard. Do solve all our quizzes and join Test Series for comprehensive preparation of Prelims exam. Link given in the end of this quiz. You must enroll it.

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.

Q69. Consider the following.

- A bill introduced to alter the boundaries of the state.
- Introduction of Money Bills
- A bill introduced by States to impose restrictions on the goods imported from other states

Which of the above Bills **need prior sanctions/recommendations of the President** before introduction into Parliament?

- 1 and 2 only

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

All given Bills need prior sanctions/recommendations of the President.

First option is correct.

3. Formation of new States and alteration of areas, boundaries or names of existing States.—
Parliament may by law—

- (a) form a new State by separation of territory from any State or by uniting two or more States or parts of States or by uniting any territory to a part of any State;
- (b) increase the area of any State;
- (c) diminish the area of any State;
- (d) alter the boundaries of any State;
- (e) alter the name of any State;

⁴[Provided that no Bill for the purpose shall be introduced in either House of Parliament except on the recommendation of the President and unless, where the proposal contained in the Bill affects the area, boundaries or name of any of the States⁵, the Bill has been referred by the President to the Legislature of that State for expressing its views thereon within such period as may be specified in the reference or within such further period as the President may allow and the period so specified or allowed has expired.]

Third option is correct.

304. Restrictions on trade, commerce and intercourse among States.—Notwithstanding anything in article 301 or article 303, the Legislature of a State may by law—

- (a) impose on goods imported from other States¹[or the Union territories] any tax to which similar goods manufactured or produced in that State are subject, so, however, as not to discriminate between goods so imported and goods so manufactured or produced; and
- (b) impose such reasonable restrictions on the freedom of trade, commerce or intercourse with or within that State as may be required in the public interest;

Provided that no Bill or amendment for the purposes of clause (b) shall be introduced or moved in the Legislature of a State without the previous sanction of the President.

Second option is correct. Article 110 mentioned below is Money Bill.

117. Special provisions as to financial Bills.—(1) A Bill or amendment making provision for any of the matters specified in sub-clauses (a) to (f) of clause (1) of article 110 shall not be introduced or moved except on the recommendation of the President and a Bill making such provision shall not be introduced in the Council of States.

Q70. In the context of Medieval History, the term *ziyarat* refers to:

- a form of pilgrimage associated with Sufi saints
- land tax associated to non-Muslims
- purdah system adopted during Aurangzeb and other Mughal rulers
- tax associated to non-Muslims to visit mosques

Solution: a

Explanation:

7.2 Chishti devotionalism: *ziyarat* and *qawwali*

Pilgrimage, called *ziyarat*, to tombs of Sufi saints is prevalent all over the Muslim world. This practice is an occasion for seeking the Sufi's spiritual grace (*barakat*). For more than seven centuries people of various creeds, classes and social backgrounds have expressed their devotion at the *dargahs* of the five great Chishti saints (see chart on p.154). Amongst these, the most revered shrine is that of Khwaja Muinuddin, popularly known as "Gharib Nawaz" (comforter of the poor).

Q71. Global ecosystem-based adaptation Fund launched by:

- UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- IUCN and World Bank
- IUCN and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- UNFCCC Secretariat.

Solution: a

Explanation:

Adaptation to climate change is about helping people and economies thrive in the face of a changing climate. As adaptation solutions can often be found in nature, this has given rise to the concept of ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA). EbA has grown in profile and importance since it was officially defined by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2009.

✓ As defined by the CBD, EbA is ‘the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall strategy to help people adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.’ This encompasses 4 core elements:

1. The use of biodiversity and ecosystem services
2. To help people
3. Adapt to climate change
4. As part of an overall adaptation strategy

Building on a decade of collaboration, **the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) have launched a Global Fund for Ecosystem-based Adaptation.** The Fund will “provide targeted and rapid support mechanisms through seed capital for innovative approaches to ecosystem-based adaptation.

Q72. Consider the following statements regarding Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (HoA-IP) initiative.

1. It is an initiative of US aims to promote regional security, economic and political cooperation centered on Afghanistan through dialogue and confidence building measures (CBMs).
2. India, China and US are part of this initiative.

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:

Recently, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar reached Tajikistan’s capital to attend the 9th Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process (HoA-IP) ministerial conference on Afghanistan. This conference is a part of the Istanbul Process.

First statement is incorrect.

The Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process is a regional initiative of Afghanistan and the Republic of Turkey, which was launched on 2 November 2011 in Istanbul, with the motto “İSTANBUL PROCESS ON REGIONAL SECURITY AND COOPERATION FOR A SECURE AND STABLE AFGHANISTAN”. The process aims to promote regional security, economic and political cooperation centered on Afghanistan through dialogue and confidence building measures (CBMs).

The Heart of Asia – Istanbul Process aims to promote and strengthen peace, security, stability and prosperity in Afghanistan and the region through Confidence building and regional cooperation amongst 15 regional countries.

1. ✓

Political
Consultation

2. ✓

Confidence Building
Measures (CBMs)

3. ✓

Cooperation with Regional
Organizations

Second statement is incorrect.

US is not a participating country. [Click here](#) to see all members.

Q73. The **Global Gender Gap Report 2021** was released by:

- World Economic Forum
- UNICEF
- UNDP
- WHO

Solution: a

Explanation:

The **15th edition of the Global Gender Gap Report** has been released one year after COVID-19 was officially declared a pandemic. Its index continues to benchmark the evolution of gender-based gaps and tracks countries' progress towards closing them over time.

Another generation of women will have to wait for gender parity, **according to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2021**. As the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be felt, closing the global gender gap has increased by a generation from 99.5 years to 135.6 years.

Q74. Consider the following Pairs.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Tribals/communities in news | Belong to |
|-----------------------------|-----------|

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Mankdia, Lodha and Hill Kharia | Southern India |
| 2. Matua community | West India |

Which of the following pairs is/are correct?

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

Solution: d

Explanation:

| Tribals/communities in news | Belong to |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Mankdia, Lodha and Hill Kharia | Central East India |
| Matua community | East India |

Several scheduled tribal communities live around the Simlipal reserve, including the Kolha, Santal, Bhumija, Bhatudi, Gond and Ho. The area is also home to three particularly vulnerable tribal groups: **Mankdia, Lodha and Hill Kharia**.

Matua Community in Bengal is in news due to election in Bengal.

Q75. Which of the below countries has the **southernmost point**?

- a. Syria
- b. Lebanon
- c. Jordan
- d. Israel

Solution: c

Explanation:

These small questions will make you perfect in maps. You will be able to image the shape and location of places.

Confusion should only be between Jordan and Israel. If you have confusion in more than two, then bit problem now. Try to work hard more.



Q76. Consider the following.

1. A new system of justice was established with each district was to have two courts – a criminal court and civil court.
2. Maulvis and Hindu pandits interpreted Indian laws for the European district collectors who presided over civil courts.
3. A new Supreme Court along with the court of appeal was set up.

The above changes in Justice system were under which Governor General?

- a. Lord Cornwallis
- b. Warren Hastings
- c. Lord Hardinge
- d. Lord Dalhousie.

Solution: b

Explanation:

We know most of you know this answer, but you have to read the entire paragraph below.

Setting up a New Administration

Warren Hastings (Governor-General from 1773 to 1785) was one of the many important figures who played a significant role in the expansion of Company power. By his time the Company had acquired power not only in Bengal, but also in Bombay and Madras. British territories were broadly divided into administrative units called Presidencies. There were three Presidencies: Bengal, Madras and Bombay. Each was ruled by a Governor. The supreme head of the administration was the Governor-General. Warren Hastings, the first Governor-General, introduced several administrative reforms, notably in the sphere of justice.

From 1772 a new system of justice was established. Each district was to have two courts – a criminal court (*saujdari adalat*) and a civil court (*diwani adalat*). Maulvis and Hindu pandits interpreted Indian laws for the European district collectors who presided over civil courts. The criminal courts were still under a *qazi* and a *mufti* but under the supervision of the collectors.

A major problem was that the Brahman pandits gave different interpretations of local laws based on different schools of the *dharmashastra*. To bring about uniformity, in 1775 eleven pandits were asked to compile a digest of Hindu laws. N.B. Halhed translated this digest into English. By 1778 a code of Muslim laws was also compiled for the benefit of European judges. Under the Regulating Act of 1773, a new Supreme Court was established, while a court of appeal – the *Sadar Nizamat Adalat* – was also set up at Calcutta.

The principal figure in an Indian district was the Collector. As the title suggests, his main job was to collect revenue and taxes and maintain law and order in his district with the help of judges, police officers and *darogas*. His office – the Collectorate – became the new centre of power and patronage that steadily replaced previous holders of authority.

Q77. Consider the following statements.

1. The Parliament has the power to formulate rules for the convenient transactions of business of the government of India.
2. Allocation and Transactions of Business rule 1961 is administered by Speaker and Chairman of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha respectively.

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:

According to article 77(3), the **President** has the power to formulate rules for the convenient transactions of business of the government of India. **Therefore, statement 1 is correct.**

Central Government Act

~~Article 77(3) in The Constitution Of India 1949~~

~~(3) The President shall make rules for the more convenient transaction of the business of the Government of India, and for the allocation among Ministers of the said business~~

Accordingly, the president has formulated government of India (Allocation of Business) rule 1961 and GOI (Transactions of Business) Rule 1961 as amended from time to time.

The Cabinet Secretariat is responsible for the administration of the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961 and the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules 1961, facilitating smooth transaction of business in Ministries/Departments of the Government by ensuring adherence to these rules. **Therefore, statement 2 is incorrect.**

Q78. 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**.

¹[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)."

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. Consider the following statements.

1. Forest Rights Act, 2006 defines the procedure by which a state government can declare an area a Reserved Forest.
2. The total forest cover in India is less than 30 percent of the total geographical area.

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:

Under Indian Forest Act, 1927, State Government is empowered to declare forests.

Indian Forest Act, 1927 defines the procedure by which a state government can declare an area a Reserved Forest, a Protected Forest or a Village Forest. It also defines what is a forest offence, what are the acts prohibited inside a Reserved Forest, and what penalties occur on violation of the provisions of the Act.

3. Power to reserve forests.—The State Government may constitute any forest-land or waste-land which is the property of Government, or over which the Government has proprietary rights, or to the whole or any part of the forest-produce of which the Government is entitled, a reserved forest in the manner hereinafter provided.

4. Notification by State Government.—(1) Whenever it has been decided to constitute any land a reserved forest, the State Government shall issue a notification in the Official Gazette—

- (a) declaring that it has been decided to constitute such land a reserved forest;
- (b) specifying, as nearly as possible, the situation and limits of such land; and
- (c) appointing an officer (hereinafter called “the Forest Settlement-officer”) to inquire into and determine the existence, nature and extent of any rights alleged to exist in favour of any person in or over any land comprised within such limits or in or over any forest-produce, and to deal with the same as provided in this Chapter.

See below procedure: Just have basic reading.

How a forest is formed

While the process is well defined under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, there is no time limit, which is the loophole behind the indefinite delays

STEP 2 Call for claims

Under Section 6, FSO informs the people, through the vernacular press, about the Section 4 notification and how it impacts their rights. The FSO then fixes a period of not less than three months for the people to submit their claims. If the claims are not submitted to FSO within the stipulated time, under Section 9, they stand extinguished. The FSO can receive claims for individual and common land, including areas used for shifting cultivation.

STEP 1 Expressing the intent

Under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the state government first issues a notification in the official gazette which broadly specifies the limits of the proposed reserve forest in terms of roads, rivers, ridges or other intelligible boundaries. It then appoints a forest settlement officer (FSO), who should not hold a forest office. Under Section 5, all rights of cultivation or other activities are suspended in the area, unless granted by the state government.

STEP 3 Inquiry

Under section 7, the FSO inquires into the claims received for individual rights and any other rights that s/he may find in the government records. Once the inquiry is completed, the FSO, under section 11, passes an order admitting or rejecting any individual rights. Under section 12,

STEP 4**Acquiring land**

In case the FSO admits these rights, the land in question is either excluded from the proposed reserve forest, the right holders could surrender the rights, or the land is acquired. Under sections 15 and 16, if the rights are settled then an order is passed to that effect, otherwise payment for land acquisition is made.

the FSO adjudicates common lands used for pasture or forest produce collection and either admits or rejects the claims. Under section 10, FSO records if there is shifting cultivation and any local rule or order permitting it. Only in the case of shifting cultivation, the FSO gives his opinion to the state government, which can take a call on whether to allow it, modify it or prohibit it.

STEP 5**Appeal**

The claimants or the forest department can appeal against the FSO order to a revenue official not below the rank of collector or to a forest court, if it has been established by the state government. The individual can do the same within three months of the order under Section 17.

STEP 6
Announcing a reserve forest

After all the rights are settled, appeals are disposed of and the land acquired, the state government publishes the exact boundary of the reserve forest and the date from which it was reserved in the official gazette under Section 20.

Source: Indian Forest Act, 1927

Second statement is correct.

As of 2019, the **total forest cover in India is 712,249 Sq km (71.22 million hectares), which is 21.67 percent of the total geographical area**. Whereas, the total forest and tree cover in India is 807,276 Sq km (80.73 million hectares), which is 24.56 percent of the total geographical area of the country.